

*Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



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

04 March 2017

Saturday


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

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

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**Manila Bay land sanctuary eyed to receive Abtao karst rock**

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**Manila Bay land sanctuary eyed to receive Abtao karst rock**

**Manila Bay land sanctuary eyed to receive Abtao karst rock**

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**Manila Standard**

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**Death bill debate: No restraints**

**Rice shortage feared**

**LOTTO 6/42 SATURDAY, 04 MARCH 2017 JACKPOT PRIZE: P 15,000,000.00**

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MARCH 4, 2017 | SATURDAY

**PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)**

**EASTERLIES AFFECTING THE EASTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO**  
**NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON**  
 (As of 5:00 PM - Mar. 3, 2017)

**CELEBES SEA**

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
6:11 AM	6:05 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
10:31 AM	11:31 PM
<b>NEW MOON</b>	<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>
FEB 26 10:58 PM	MAR 5 7:32 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
9:23 PM 0.05 Meter	2:06 PM 0.73 Meter

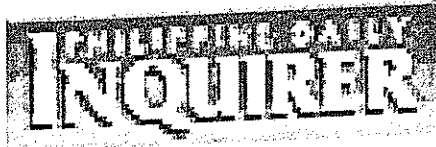
- Partly cloudy skies
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain/showers
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain/showers and/or thunderstorms
- Cloudy skies with rain/showers and/or thunderstorms

	MAR 5	MAR 6	MAR 5	MAR 6	MAR 5	MAR 6		
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	23-32 °C	23-32 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	21-28 °C	20-28 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	23-29 °C	23-28 °C
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<b>LAOAG</b>	22-31 °C	23-31 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25-32 °C	24-31 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	23-28 °C	23-27 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	15-23 °C	15-24 °C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	25-30 °C	25-30 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	24-31 °C	23-30 °C
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# Prosecutors want all of Leila's cases merged

**After filing 3 cases vs De Lima, DOJ now wants them tried by the judge who had her arrested**

## FROM A1

By Dexter Cabalza  
@dexcabalzaINQ

State prosecutors are trying to get only one judge to try all three cases they have brought against Sen. Leila de Lima and they want that judge to be the one who ordered her arrest.

In a motion they brought on Feb. 27, they asked Judge Juanita Guerrero of the Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 204 to consolidate the cases handled by Branches 205 and 206, and the case in her court into a single case that she alone would try.

Last month, the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed three separate charges against De Lima in the Muntinlupa RTC, in the first step toward the prosecution of the highest-profile critic of

President Duterte's bloody war on illegal drugs.

The RTC raffled off the cases to Branches 204, 205 and 206.

But the strategy put De Lima on three fronts where she stood a chance of beating the charges that she said Mr. Duterte's allies "manufactured" to silence her.

Without holding hearings on a motion brought by De Lima questioning her court's jurisdiction over the case, Guerrero, with whom De Lima, as justice secretary, tussled over a drug case in 2011, ordered the senator's arrest on Feb. 23.

De Lima surrendered on Feb. 24 and Guerrero ordered her detained at the Philippine National Police Custodial Center in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Judges Amelia Fabros-Corpus of Branch 205 and Patria Manalastas-de Leon of Branch 206 reset the hearings after the prosecutors asked for more time to

study the motions De Lima had brought questioning the regular courts' jurisdiction over the cases.

### Series of similar offenses

In their Feb. 27 filing, the state prosecutors said the three cases should be consolidated because they "arose from a similar set of facts."

They said there were "common parties and issues" and "interrelated evidence" that would be presented in court, as the cases were based on the same facts or were parts of a series of similar offenses.

Peter Ong, senior assistant state prosecutor at the justice department, said the cases against De Lima and her coaccused could be tried by just one court, citing a procedural rule that states consolidated cases should be assigned to the court that hears the case with the lowest docket number.

Consolidating the cases "is

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more practical ... and [means to] avoid unnecessary costs and prevent the issuance of conflicting resolutions, orders and decisions," the prosecutors said.

The court gave De Lima's lawyers 10 days to comment on the prosecution's motion.

Lorelee Granado, a lawyer for De Lima, said the defense would oppose the motion, as all the cases would be heard by Guerrero, who ordered the senator's arrest just three days after the justice department filed the complaint against the lawmaker.

De Lima's lawyers asked the Supreme Court on Monday to review the charges against her and to bar Guerrero from hearing the case.

They asked the high tribunal to order the inhibition of Guerrero from the case for prejudging it and for grave abuse of discretion in issuing the arrest warrant with "undue haste

and inordinate interest."

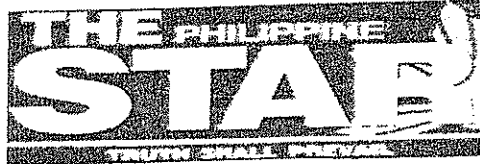
In the case in Guerrero's court, De Lima has her former driver and lover, Ronnie Dayan, and former Bureau of Corrections chief Rafael Ragos as coaccused.

De Lima's nephew Jose Adrian Dera is a respondent in the case handled by Corpuz.

In the case handled by De Leon, De Lima's coaccused are Dera, former corrections bureau chief Franklin Jesus Bucayu and his alleged bagman Wilfredo Elli, her former aide Joenel Sanchez and drug convict Jaybee Sebastian.

The cases arose from complaints brought by the National Bureau of Investigation and Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption based on testimonies during the House of Representatives' inquiry into the alleged illegal drug trade in New Bilibid Prison during De Lima's tenure as secretary of justice. INQ

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## Duterte visits wake of soldiers slain in clash

By GERRY LEE GORIT

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – President Duterte paid his respects yesterday to two soldiers killed in a recent clash with communist rebels during the wake of the victims here.

Duterte offered his condolences to the families of slain troopers Corporal Marzon Morales and Private Oshin Rosala at the Loyola Chapel at the Army's 4th Infantry Division (ID) headquarters at Camp Evangelista in Barangay Patag in this city.

The two soldiers were killed in action during the firefight between government forces and New People's Army (NPA) rebels in upland villages in Misamis Oriental early this week.

"I have to be with my soldiers when they suffer. *Kailangan nandoon ako* (I need to be there)," the President told the officers and trustees of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry during an assembly Thursday night in Mactan Cebu.

Duterte had earlier visited Camp Teodulfo Bautista station hospital in Jolo, Sulu to check on soldiers wounded during the latest encounters with Abu Sayyaf bandits.

He also extended cash assistance and awarded the injured soldiers in Jolo as well as those confined at the Camp Brig. Gen. Edilberto Evangelista Station Hospital when he proceeded to Cagayan de Oro City yesterday afternoon.

Duterte stressed that he feels the sufferings of his soldiers and policemen who fight to protect the country, that is why he has to be with them in trying times.

He had visited almost all the major military units as well as police headquarters all over the country since he assumed office last June

30, 2016.

### Wounded soldiers

Some 17 soldiers were wounded after fresh fighting erupted between government forces and the Abu Sayyaf on Friday morning in the mountains of Patikul, Sulu.

The firefight occurred hours before President Duterte visited Jolo in the afternoon to check on wounded soldiers in a military hospital inside Camp Teodulfo Bautista.

Col. Benjamin Hao Jr., Army spokesman, said fighting took place between members of the 32rd Infantry Battalion under Lt. Col. Ernesto Flores Jr. and over 100 Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Radullan Sahiron at sitio Kan Udong, Barangay Igasan, Patikul town.

He said 17 soldiers were wounded when they were hit by M203 grenades.

Military officials were not available to provide official details of the encounter as they were preoccupied with Duterte's visit.

Last Wednesday, at least 11 soldiers were also wounded in the encounter in the mountain range of Bud Taran in Indanan town against the Abu Sayyaf that beheaded 70-year old German Juergen Gustav Kantner last weekend.

At least five militants were killed in that assault launched by Army rangers.

The Abu Sayyaf beheaded Kantner last Feb. 26 after a deadline set to pay P30-million ransom lapsed.

Duterte, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año also visited the 4ID headquarters and talked with the relatives of Morales and Rosala.

Duterte also visited wounded soldiers confined at the division's hospital.

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### Relatives grieve

Rosala's father Reynaldo, 71, said his family didn't expect his son to be killed. He served only for eight months.

He said they were shocked when neighbors informed them that Oshin was killed in action. The neighbors heard the news on the radio.

The elder Rosala described his son, the youngest of nine children, as the silent type.

He said Oshin used to teach automotive at a technical school here, then briefly worked as a mechanic in a car company, before applying as a soldier.

The elder Rosala said it was some of his son's students, most of them former servicemen, who convinced him to join the military.

"He asked my permission saying he wants to be soldier, but I discouraged him. I told him there are only two things that could happen to you, either you live or you die. But he was persistent. There was nothing we could do about it. He is old enough to decide for himself," the elder Rosala said.

For her part, Morales' wife Izah, 31, said she had a premonition.

A few days before the encounter in Misamis Oriental, Izah said she dreamed about his death.

"I dreamed he died, but I just brushed it off because he was still alive then. I even told him about it. Three days later, he was dead," she said in an interview.

A soldier for 10 years assigned at the 58th Infantry Battalion, Izah said Marzon was a loving husband and a caring father to their two young children.

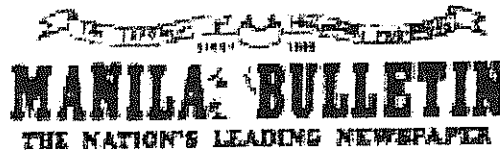
"He was never strict but always affectionate to our kids. They were his weakness," she said, adding that when he's at home he never talked about his work.

"When he's with us, his focus is on his family. We never discussed work," she added.

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## Family claims soldiers killed civilians in Capiz

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY – A family in Maayon town, Capiz, is claiming that soldiers of the Philippine Army's 61st Infantry Battalion (61st IB) wrongly killed two of its members who were mistaken for communist rebels.

The Borres family said 48-year-old Lorendo and 24-year-old Ian were civilians and not members of the New People's Army (NPA).

Government authorities said in official reports the two were killed in a firefight between 61st IB troops and NPA elements last February 24.

But an investigation led by the Karapatan group found that village officials backed the claims of the Borres family that Lorendo and Ian were not NPA rebels.

Karapatan also quoted Maayon Mayor Wilfredo Borres as saying the two were not insurgents and that they were his relatives.

The Borres family is lamenting that the Army has kept silent on the incident and refuses to talk to them.

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## 14 soldiers hurt as troops battle extremists who beheaded German

By Mario J. Mallari

Government troops clashed with the Abu Sayyaf Group behind the beheading of a German hostage in a gun battle on the insurgents' remote stronghold that left 14 soldiers wounded, the Army yesterday said.

According to the military report, elements of the Army's 32nd Infantry Battalion (IB) were conducting focused combat operations along Sitio Kan-Udong, Barangay Igasan in Patikul, Sulu around 9 a.m. when the encounter erupted.

It said the Abu Sayyaf band was composed of around 120 fighters under Radullan Sahiron, one of the senior

leaders of the terrorists in Sulu and believed to have in his captivity dozens of hostages, mostly foreigners.

Currently, there are at least 31 hostages still being held by the bandit group.

The military has intensified further its combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf group in the provinces of Sulu and Basilan following last Sunday's beheading of German hostage Juergen Gustav Kantner.

The band of ASG sub-leader Muamar Askali was tagged in the beheading of Kantner, whose remains are yet to be located.

Askali is operating under the band of **Turn to page 7**

From page 1

Sahiron, who is included in the United States list of most wanted terrorists with \$1-million reward.

President Rodrigo Duterte has apologized for failing to save the elderly German hostage and said the military had stepped up operations against Abu Sayyaf.

Military operations are also relentless in Tawi-Tawi and Lanao del Sur where ASG Basilan leader Isnilo Hapilon, the recognized Emir of leader of the Islamic State in southeast Asia.

Relatedly, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana underscored the important role of Muslim Mindanao traditional leaders in the government's efforts to combat extremism in the region.

Speaking before the assembled members and representatives of the different royal houses and sultanates in the opening of the First Mindanao Sultanate Summit

on Peace and Security on Thursday in Royal Mandaya Hotel, Davao City, Lorenzana said it was high time that government and traditional leaders sit down and talk about the real issues that confront Mindanao.

According to him, one of the problems that Mindanaoans face is the prevalence of violent extremism that leads to underdevelopment and poverty.

He called on the assembly to use their influence to help government address these problems.

Lorenzana also recognized that there has been little dialogue between the national government and traditional Mindanao leaders in the past, especially on the issue of violent extremism in the region.

"We want to get your inputs. We will listen to you...we will have this dialogue... and we will mesh our ideas together to improve our area," he stressed.

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The  
**Standard**  
DEFINING THE NEWS

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# Duterte visits wake of two slain soldiers in C. de Oro

**C**AGAYAN DE ORO CITY—President Rodrigo Duterte arrived at the Loyola Chapel inside the Camp Evangelista Army Camp here past 6 p.m. Friday to pay his last respects to two soldiers who were killed in the line of duty and also to condole with their families.

The slain soldiers were identified as Cpl. Marzon Morales, and Pvt. Oshin Rosala, both of the 58th Infantry Battalion, based in Claveria, Misamis Oriental.

The soldiers were killed and four others were wounded in a running gunbattle with the communist New People's Army in Sugbongcogon, Misamis Oriental last Monday.

President Duterte first talked

to Aiza, the grieving wife of Morales, inside the Chapel where the President extended financial assistance and awarded a posthumous medal to the fallen soldier.

After talking with the widow, he proceeded to the coffin of Rosala and talked to the soldier's mother. Rosala was still single.

The President also gave the posthumous medal to Rosala's mother and extended to her fi-

nancial assistance.

From the chapel, Duterte proceeded to the Army Station Hospital to confer the military wounded medal to four other soldiers identified as Private First Class Marquin Rother Variacion, Private First Class Vincent Nino L. Lopez, Private Regie Joy Duyan and Private Ramon B. Balibagon.

Three more wounded soldiers who were earlier confined in the Army hospital were also conferred the military wounded medals.

Military officials said that the wounded government troopers were already in stable condition.

The clashes came in the wake of the NPA attacks on a power plant site and a plantation last

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Saturday in Bukidnon.

A report from the 4th ID said about 15 NPA fighters entered the compound of the proposed site for the 10.6-megawatt Pulanai hydroelectric power plant Barangay Lumbayao in Valencia City, Bukidnon.

The military said the suspects confiscated the cellphones of workers, then fired several shots after planting a couple of improvised explosive device at the compound.

A team from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal from the 8th Infantry Battalion was sent to go after the rebels.

Last December, President Duterte visited the site for power plant's groundbreaking rites. In his speech, Duterte pleaded with

the NPA to spare the project from attacks.

The President said the Pulanai plant, owned and operated by Repower Energy Development Corp., is one of the power generation facilities seen to boost the economic activity in the area.

On the same day, another group of NPA rebels burned down two spray trucks owned by Davao Agricultural Ventures Corp. (Davco) in Barangay Merangiran, Quezon town, Bukidnon.

Police investigators said the motive for the torching of the Davco equipment could be due to the company's refusal to pay what the NPA called as "revolutionary tax" but what authorities considered as mere extortion. **PNA**

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The  
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# Army, ASG clash; 17 wounded

By Francisco Tuyay and  
Florante S. Solmerin

A GRANDSON of Abu Sayyaf Group leader Radullan Sahiron was critically wounded in a gun battle after security forces chanced upon a huge contingent of heavily armed bandits in the jungles in Sulu Friday morning, military officials said.

Ground commanders in Sulu, however, said they were still verifying the report.

So far, at least 17 Army soldiers have been wounded in day-long fighting that erupted at 9 a.m. on the outskirts of Patikul, Sulu, a known lair of the terrorist group.

The fierce battle was still raging between some 120 members of the ASG terrorist led by its leader Sahiron and elite Army Scout Ranger forces in Sitio Kan Udong in Barangay Iligasan.

Army spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao Jr. said the intense

clashes broke out after troops from the Army's 32nd Infantry Battalion and 1st Infantry Division under Lt. Col. Ernesto Flores encountered about 120 ASG rebels under Sahiron and sub-leaders Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan and Almuher Yadah.

Some 14 soldiers were hurt and brought to Camp Teodulfo Bautista Trauma Hospital for treatment.

Hao said the soldiers suffered shrapnel wounds. **Next page**

The series of skirmishes with the Abu Sayyaf flared up after security forces launched a rescue mission for 70-year-old German hostage Jurgen Kantner, but the victim was beheaded by the bandits on Sunday after his family failing to come up with the P30-million ransom demanded for his release.

The beheading of Kantner prompted government forces to conduct a search and destroy operations against the ASG.

There were still no reports of casualties on the Abu Sayyaf side.

The encounter came after the Wednesday firefight in Indanan town where the military reported five terrorists killed and 11 soldiers wounded.

The military continues to search for a strategy to defeat the handful of Muslim terrorists that banded together towards the end of year 2000.

The military claims the ASG's strength could be more or less 400 men. The terrorists are involved in high-profile kidnapping of foreign and local tourists including tourists and sailors from Malaysia and Indonesia.

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# Troops, ASG clash; 14 hurt

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said that 14 soldiers were wounded in an encounter with the group of Abu Sayyaf Group leader Radullan Sahiron in Patikul, Sulu yesterday.

It was the second encounter between the Armed Forces and the Abu Sayyaf Group in three days and after the beheading of a German.

The first was on Wednesday in Patikul, Sulu in which five ASG members were killed and 11 soldiers on a mission to rescue 31 remaining hostages of the bandit group were wounded.

Army spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao Jr. said that based on initial reports they received from military commanders in the field, the fire-fight started at about 9 a.m.

Hao said troops from the Army 32nd Infantry Battalion and the 1st Infantry Division under Lt. Col. Ramon Flores were conducting field military operations in Kan Ugong,

Barangay Igasan when they encountered an estimated 120 ASG members under Sahiron and sub leaders Sawadjaan and Almuher Yadah, resulting into an intense encounter that wounded 14 soldiers. An undetermined number of ASG members were wounded.

It is still raging as of press time.

The wounded soldiers who sustained shrapnel wounds were taken to the Camp Teodoro Bautista Trauma Hospital in Zamboanga City.

A grandson of Sahiron who was converted into a child warrior was reportedly wounded in the encounter.

The military is verifying if there were ASG members who were killed in the encounter.

The Department of National Defense had vowed to use the full might of the AFP to once and for all defeat the ASG.

In a statement read by Defense Undersecretary Arsenio Andolong, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said they are pursuing "these animals" with the full force of the law.

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[www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com](http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com)

## **New marksman rifles in the pipeline for PHL Army**

From the Philippine News Agency (Mar 3): **New marksman rifles in the pipeline for PHL Army**

**Additional long-range marksman rifles are in the pipeline for special units of the Philippine Army (PA).**

This was confirmed by **Army spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao** in an interview with the Philippine News Agency (PNA).

**He declined to give the specific number of long-range markman rifles that are to be acquired but stressed it will be sufficient for all PA special units.**

"We can't say (the exact number) as they are still undergoing study and the procurement process," Hao added.

**The Army spokesperson disclosed that these new rifles will augment the Barrett sniper rifles that are in use.**

**Long-range marksman rifles provide Army units with the capability to neutralize terrorists or lawless threats at a distance beyond the range of the standard M-16 or M-4 rifles being used by Filipino military personnel.**

**These weapons are capable of engaging targets 800 meters to 5 km.**

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=968773>

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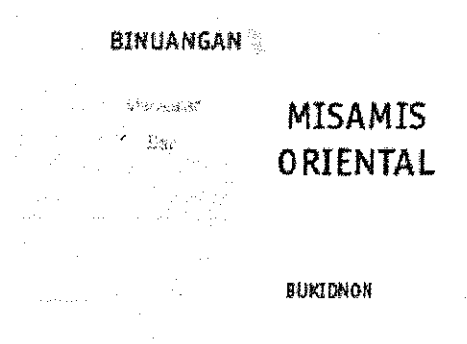
[www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net)

## Misamis Oriental stops mountain hikes as AFP, NPA clash

By: Jigger Jerusalem - @inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Mindanao / 01:42 AM March 03, 2017

CAMIGUIN



Binuangan, Misamis Oriental (Wikipedia map)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Misamis Oriental Gov. Yevgeny Emano has ordered a temporary ban on mountaineering activities in four of the province's 23 towns in the wake of recent skirmishes between Army troops and New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

In his order to the Provincial Tourism Office on Wednesday, Emano stopped all mountaineering-related activities in the towns of Sugbongcogon, Salay, Binuangan, and Kinoguitan as tourists might get caught in the crossfire if the skirmishes continued.

He said hikers and mountain climbers have been discouraged from making the hinterlands of the four towns their destinations.

Earlier, classes in at least six hinterland barangays (villages) in Misamis Oriental were also suspended due to the renewed clashes between soldiers and NPA rebels.

Nicole Managbanag, the Misamis Oriental information officer, said the latest in the series of clashes took place on Tuesday, which prompted barangay officials to advise teachers not to conduct classes in the villages of Matampa in Salay town; Guinalaban, Membuahan and Ampiangna in Sugbongcogon town; and Kitambis and Veldeconcha in Binuangan town.

The three towns share common borders.

Managbanag said village officials suspended classes and instructed teachers to go home.

Some 662 pupils were affected by the class suspension, she said.

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Gerrymae Pasco of the provincial disaster risk reduction management office said no evacuation has taken place as of yet but the provincial government has readied relief goods for such an emergency.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, the commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based here, said one soldier was killed in the Misamis Oriental clashes, which started Monday.

He said the clashes were the result of military operations aimed at flushing the rebels out of the province.

"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 concerned civilians, who are already fed up with the lies and deceit of this terror group," Madrigal said.

Aside from Misamis Oriental, the NPA has been active in other Mindanao regions lately.

In a statement, Rigoberto Sanchez, the spokesperson of the NPA's Regional Operations Command in Southern Mindanao, said rebels conducted tactical offensives that resulted in armed engagements in the four Davao provinces and Compostela Valley, and in North Cotabato.

He claimed the military lost 20 soldiers in the clashes that started last week.

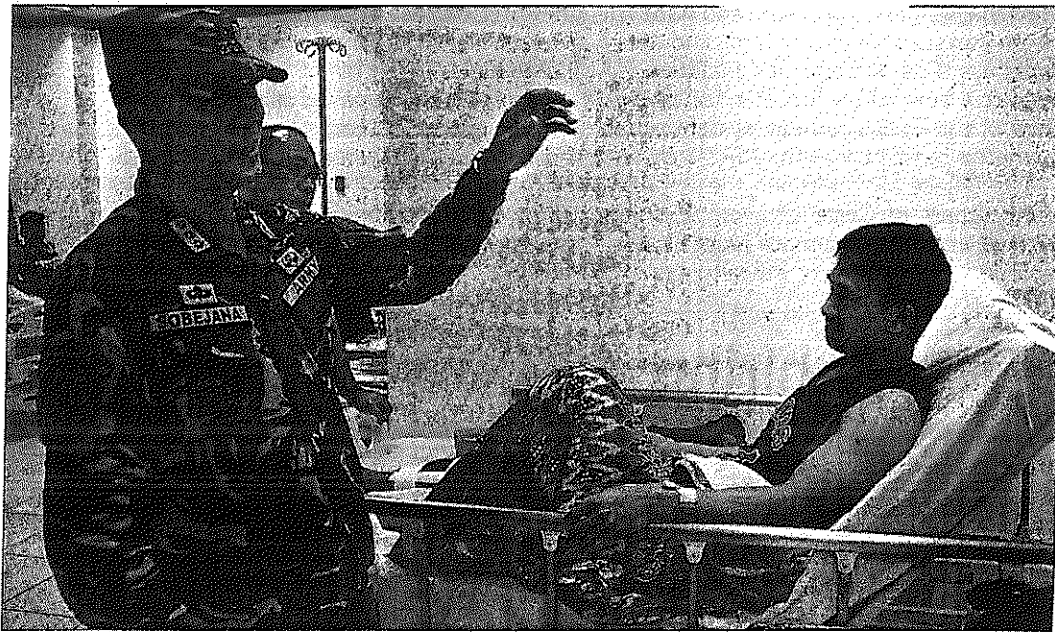
Capt. Rhyan Batchar, the spokesperson of the Army's 10th Infantry Division – which has jurisdiction over these areas – downplayed Sanchez's claims as part of NPA propaganda. **SFM**

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A military officer visits a soldier, who was wounded after a clash with the Abu Sayyaf, in a hospital in Jolo, Sulu on Thursday. APF

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# Record high female grads at PMA

By ARTEMIO DURLAO

BAGUIO CITY – The Philippine Military Academy (PMA) will send off a record high number of women to the Armed Forces on March 12.

PMA public affairs officer Lt.

Col. Reynaldo Balido said 63 of the 167 members of the graduating class are women, the highest number since the PMA began accepting females in 1993.

The women have also shown impressive performance while in the country's premier military

officer training institution, with several among the top 10 in their classes.

In 1999, Arlene de la Cruz, a former Mathematics major at the University of the Philippines in Baguio, emerged number one,

Turn to Page 4.

the first-ever female cadet topnotcher. She died in a mysterious car accident in 2008 in Bataan.

Last year, female cadet Christine Mae Naungayan Calima from Bolinao, Pangasinan graduated salutatorian.

Seven other female cadets

graduated with Naungayan while 14 of their female "mistahs" or batchmates would graduate on March 12.

In 2015, Caroline Jhoy Ramirez Nacional, 22, from Maitum, Sarangani placed fifth in the graduating class.

Also in the top 10 of the 2014 graduating class was Liza

Jumawid Dango from Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City.

Again in 2013, an Igorot (Kankanaey) lass from Beckel, La Trinidad, Benguet – Maryam Dinamling Balais – was salutatorian.

She was quoted as saying then that "the PMA is no longer a man's world."

"PMA training is never difficult for women," she enthused while encouraging more Filipino young women

to join the academy.

Four of the 19 graduating females in 2013 were in the top 10, including Joselyn Dimapilis Advincula from Tagaytay City (No. 5), Vanessa Pascual Factor from Antipolo City (No. 8) and Marila Agrabio Maniscan from South Cotabato (No. 10).

The 2013 PMA class "Pudang Kalis" had the largest number of females in the top 10 since the PMA opened enroll-

ment to women.

In 2012, in fourth place of the graduating class was Angeline Osorio Esmeria from Taguig City.

In 2011, Baguio lass Janice Matbagan landed sixth in the graduating class.

Karen Padayao from Ormoc City, Leyte, placed ninth in the 2010 graduating class.

Again in 2009, 22-year-old Cynthia Forteza from Urbiztondo, Pangasinan landed in

ninth place.

In 2008, Me-ann Singson of Ligao City in Albay landed third in the graduating class.

For this year, PMA will announce the top ten graduating cadets on Monday.

President Duterte is expected to formally welcome the PMA "Sangalang ay Lakas at Buhay Para sa Kalayaan ng Inang Bayan" ("Salaknib" or Iluko of defense)" class to the military fold.

04 March 2017

The Manila Times

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## Communities helping ASG kidnappers – ARMM gov

**SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao:** Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Mujiv Hataman told Muslim leaders to stop pretending that the terror acts of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) are without the knowledge of their host communities.

Hataman aired the call as he condemned the ASG's recent beheading of German hostage Juergen Kantner in Sulu as an act against the teachings of Islam and against the moral values of the Moro people.

The regional governor said this was the latest of a series of brutal, terrorist attacks meant to strike fear in the hearts of the people.

"Our condemnation against these acts have, time and again, fallen on deaf ears," he said in exasperation.

He called on his fellow Moros to cooperate with law enforcers by giving the necessary information on the whereabouts of the terrorist group, following fighting in Sulu between the military and the terrorists that resulted in five ASG men killed on Thursday.

Hataman, who has jurisdiction over five provincial governors and two city mayors, urged local officials to assert their mandates and authorities to stop terrorist activities.

"We call on the local government units to assert their authority and to exert all efforts to clamp down on terrorist groups within their jurisdiction," the ARMM regional governor said.

"We are counting on the local government units to assist and help the military and coordinate with each other. Our joint effort in maintaining peace and order is crucial in ensuring that the welfare and rights of the people are not compromised," he added.

Hataman said the regional government was committed to support local governments with whatever means necessary to stop terror.

Kantner was reportedly held hostage by men loyal to Muammar Askali, also known as Abu Rami, an ASG commander in Sulu.

The German was kidnapped almost two months ago when he and his wife, Sabine Merz, were cruising in their yacht through an area controlled by the Abu Sayyaf. Merz was reportedly killed when she tried to fight back with a shotgun.

Hataman, who hails from Basilan province, another ASG lair, pointed out this was not the first act of terror committed by the ASG.

"This will not be the last if we continue to turn a blind eye and deaf ear to the crimes of those who betray our faith and our people," Hataman warned.

He appealed to all ARMM residents to join forces and stop the ASG brutalities.

"Let us work together to end this culture of fear and impunity in which the ASG thrives – a culture in which the next murderous act could be the death of our families, our friends, or ourselves," Hataman warned.

**JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL**

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[www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net)

## **AFP lies through teeth to justify rights abuses—Karapatan**

By: Ed Margareth Barahan - @inquirerdotnet

INQUIRER.net / 03:52 PM March 03, 2017

Karapatan on Friday said that Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is lying through its teeth to justify its human rights abuses.

"As attacks of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) intensify against rural communities all over the country, their concoction of make-believe stories and alibis to cover up the rights abuses continue," Karapatan secretary general Cristina Palabay said in a statement.

According to the human rights group, the 73rd Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army (IBPA) dropped six bombs at Sitio Tangis in Sanrangani and in its nearby areas after a reported encounter between the AFP and the New People's Army (NPA) last February 11.

The next day, AFP confronted and illegally arrested eight civilians who were all from Kaolo tribe, planting guns in their huts and accusing them of being members of the NPA. Palabay said that the farmers only knew of the trumped up charges against them three days after their arrest, which also makes the case for arbitrary detention.

"Unfortunately, this is the story of many political prisoners in the country, mostly from the peasant sector," Palabay said.

"There is a long list of military ploys that have caused the endangerment of civilian communities," she added.

Karapatan cited several claims of AFP, such as having a run-in with the NPA, but a resident who lived across the alleged encounter site in Maddela, Quirino Province attested that there was no such confrontation, and that Gilbert Buyucan, Barangay (village) Captain of Cabua-an was taken hostage by the NPA, but the latter himself denied such allegations.

"In the AFP's record of rights abuses, including trumped-up cases against leaders and members of progressive organizations, there is no doubt that they have become notoriously prolific in manufacturing fictitious narratives that could rival the storytelling of fiction authors," Palabay said.

"Their acting may have earned them standing ovations from those who benefit from their fascist attacks, had it not meant injustice ... against the people," she added.

Karapatan earlier claimed that the military involvement in President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs will only worsen the human rights abuses. *irga*

And with this, "rights abuses sugarcoated with lies to put the blame somewhere else will continue to be fed to the public," Palabay said.

"As violations heighten, so will the deceitful excuses to justify the unjustifiable," she added. **RAM**  
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**POLICE FILES**

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## AFP gagamit na ng missiles sa pagpulbos sa Abu Sayyaf

**GAGAMIT** na ng surface-to-surface missiles ang militar laban sa mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group.

Ito ay matapos bumili ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ng mga gunboats na armado ng surface-to-surface missiles para sa Philippine Navy (PN).

Ayon kay Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana, ang pagbili ng mga nasabing surface-to-surface missiles ay bahagi ng modernization program ng AFP.

Hanggang ngayon ay nagpapatuloy pa rin ang open-siba ng Joint Task Force Sulu, na pinamumunuan ni Army Col. Cirilito Sobejana, laban sa Abu Sayyaf sa Sulu mula pa noong Lunes.

Inilunsad nila ang operasyong ito matapos pugutan ng ulo ng bandidong grupo ang dayuhang bihag nito na si Jurgen Kantner na dinukot nila noon pang November 2016.

Ayon pa kay Lorenzana, ang paggamit ng mga naval gunboats na may

surface-to-surface missiles ay nagpapakita lamang kung gaano ka-determinado si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na pulbusin ang Abu Sayyaf.

Base aniya sa pinakahuling intelligence report na kaniyang nanganggap, aabot sa 300 na miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf ang armado ng matataas na kalibre na mga armas.

Bago pa man ang ginawa ng grupo kay Kantner, sinasalakay na ng Joint Task Force ang mga kuta ng Abu Sayyaf gamit ang 105mm howitzers, helicopter gunships ng Philippine Airforce, air-to-ground rockets at M60 machine guns.

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## **ONLINE NEWS**

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[www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net)

### **10 Abu Sayyaf bandits killed, 17 soldiers wounded in Jolo clash**

**By: Julie Alipala - @inquirerdotnet**

Inquirer Mindanao / 11:28 PM March 03, 2017

ZAMBOANGA CITY — A clash between military troops and the Abu Sayyaf on Friday resulted in the death of 10 bandits, two of them grandsons of Radulan Sahiron, leader of the terrorist group. On the government side, 17 soldiers were injured in the encounter, the second this week since Sunday, when the bandits beheaded German hostage Jurgen Kantner.

The second encounter took place in Barangay Kanagi in Patikul town in Jolo Island, a few hours before President Rodrigo Duterte was set to arrive there, according to Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez, chief of the Western Mindanao Command.

The soldiers wounded in Friday's clash were among those whom Duterte had visited, Galvez said.

Galvez said the soldiers sustained varying degrees of injuries.

Since operations intensified following Kantner's beheading, a total of 28 soldiers had already been injured in Sulu.

On Wednesday, 11 soldiers were injured during a clash with the Abu Sayyaf in Barangay Babag in Indanan town. But five bandits were also reportedly killed in that clash.

Col. Cirilito Sobejana, the commander of Joint Task Force Sulu, said those involved in the Indanan clash were led by Abu Sayyaf sub-leaders Apo Mike Alhabsi, Ben Wagas, and Alden Bagadi.

The military has been conducting anti-Abu Sayyaf operations in Sulu in a bid to rescue some 33 hostages being held by the bandit group. It intensified its operations shortly after Kantner's beheading. /atm

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## **No peace talks as long as NPA rebels 'full of hate,' says Duterte**

By: Leila B. Salaverria - Reporter / @LeilasINQ

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 10:48 PM March 03, 2017



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte announces that he will suspend the peace talks with the National Democratic Front (NDF) as he answers queries from members of the media while visiting the grave of his mother Soledad 'Nanay Soling' Duterte at the Davao Catholic Cemetery in Davao City on Feb. 4, 2017. (Presidential photo by KARL NORMAN ALONZO)

The government cannot resume peace talks with communist rebels while their hearts are full of hate, President Rodrigo Duterte said Friday night.

Duterte his decision to scrap peace negotiations last month was partly based on an attack by the New People's Army (NPA) on three soldiers, which happened even before the rebels terminated their unilateral ceasefire.

The soldiers had 76 gunshot wounds, which Duterte said showed the communist rebels' level of hatred. That was why he got so angry.

"How can you do that to a Filipino?" he said. "You know, that indicates hatred. If they are like that, you are full of hate. Then we cannot talk about peace."

One bullet should be enough to bring down your enemy, he said.

Duterte made his statements to reporters after his visit to the wake in Cagayan de Oro of two slain soldiers.

The soldiers, who belonged to the 58th Infantry Battalion of the 4th Infantry Division were killed in combat with communist rebels in Misamis Oriental earlier in the week. Four other soldiers from the same unit were injured in that clash.

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The National Democratic Front, the Communist Party of the Philippines, their allies, and other interest groups have been exhorting the President to return to the negotiating table, asking him not to waste the gains achieved in three rounds of discussions.

Duterte had said that he would only resume the peace talks if there would be a "compelling reason" to do so.

Commenting on another issue, his war on drugs, he said never ordered law enforcers to murder people. What he told them was to protect themselves if the suspects threaten them.

"But if they resist with violence, you place in danger the life of a police, you have no right to do that," he said.

Police officers, he pointed out, need not kill suspects because drug cases are non-bailable. /atm

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## **Defense chief Lorenzana vows 'full force of the law' vs ASG**

From the often pro-CPP online publication the Davao Today (Mar 2): Defense chief Lorenzana vows 'full force of the law' vs ASG

Following the beheading of German national Juergen Kantner on Sunday by the Abu Sayyaf Group in Sulu, the Department of National Defense has vowed once again to go after the ASG with the "full force of the law."

In a statement to the press, DND Sec. Delfin Lorenzana through DND Public SEDir. Arsenio Andolong, apologized to the family and loved ones of Kantner, along with the promise of retribution.

"What we can assure them and the whole world is that we are going after these animals with the full force of the law. Make no mistake, they will feel the wrath of the entire Filipino nation through the might of its armed forces," Lorenzana said in a press conference on Thursday.

The Army, however, has already deployed 8,000 soldiers since August of last year to the areas of Basilan and Sulu, the bailiwick of ASG's operations.

When asked why foreign nationals continue to be abducted despite the concentration of the Army in areas where the ASG operate, Andolong said many of these victims had been "persistent" despite advisories by the government.

"Most of them were in the area and naging target. Despite the advisories by the governments some of them are persistent in going there kaya na-tiempohan sila. Most of them were in the [areas of Basilan and Sulu] and became targets. Despite the advisories by the governments, some of them are persistent in going there that's why the [ASG] chanced upon them), Andolong said.

Andolong cited the case of Mr. Kantner, who had already been abducted once by Somali pirates in 2008 but had been freed after his ransom had been paid. Kantner was then sailing in his boat, the Rockall when he was abducted by Somali pirates.

"Itong nangyari kay Mr. Kantner, from what I understand, naging maswerte na sila at hindi sila hinabol eh, but I cannot go much farther than that" (What happened to Mr. Kantner, from what I understand, is that they were already lucky because they were not chased. But I cannot go much further than that), Andolong said.

Kantner was sailing in the same boat along the waters of Southern Philippines when he was abducted. His boat was found drifting on Nov. 7 of last year, with the body of his wife, Sabine Merz.

Kantner's body was yet to be found. Andolong said it could be the ASG was not yet able to dispose of the body.

"From what I understand, they are on the move and I think that it's problematic on their part to dispose of the body," Andolong said.

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There are currently 31 hostages, 12 of which are Vietnamese, six are Filipinos, seven Indonesians, a Dutch and five Malaysians.

Andolong also called on the communities to stop supporting the ASG and cooperate with the government's efforts to eliminate the group.

"The secretary is calling on the public, the community leaders to stop supporting these terrorist bandits, because from what we do understand may mga ibang tumutulong sa kanila (there are some who are helping them)," Andolong said.

"Without going into the details, yun' ang problema. May mga support structures din sila among the public. That has to be addressed," Andolong added.

<http://davaotoday.com/main/politics/defense-chief-lorenzana-vows-full-force-of-the-law-vs-asg/>

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## **NPA on Mayor Sara's peace offer: NDF still the negotiating entity**

From the often pro-CPP online publication the Davao Today (Mar 2): **NPA on Mayor Sara's peace offer: NDF still the negotiating entity**



*The New People's Army in Southern Mindanao Region says it would gladly discuss any matter that Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte would like to take up with the revolutionary movement. (davaotoday.com file photos)*

The New People's Army in Southern Mindanao emphasized that although it welcomed the talks with Mayor Sara Duterte, it stands by the national leadership of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines as the negotiating entity in the peace process.

NPA Southern Mindanao Spokesperson Rigoberto Sanchez issued a statement Wednesday to draw a clear line of its upcoming talks with the city's local chief executive.

This as Sanchez slammed the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Davao region for requesting an augmentation force that will be deployed in Davao City.

"To make certain its all-out war is sustained, the AFP in the region has already beefed up its infantry. Their arrival mocked the public statement made by GRP Mayor Sara Duterte to talk with the NPA in the wake of the tactical offensives in Calinan last week," he said.

Sanchez said the NPA's tactical offensives against state security forces in Davao region has resulted to 20 fatalities. He added that the communist fighters have also foiled a score of military assaults in Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, Davao City and North Cotabato, respectively.

"By its own account after two day-engagement, the AFP launched massive airstrikes and artillery bombardment in the two separate incidents. More than a total of 500 families in Bansalan and Asuncion towns have been displaced due to the AFP's indiscriminate shelling," Sanchez said.

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Meantime, the NPA said that it would "abide by their duty to defend the masses and the revolutionary movement by launching punitive actions against the AFP, PNP and their paramilitaries who are deaf to the call for peace by carrying on with a futile all-out war."

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