

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



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

17 March 2017

Friday

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

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BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MARCH 17, 2017 | FRIDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON (As of 5:00 PM - Mar. 16, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:03 AM	6:07 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
10:00 PM	9:08 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
MAR 16 10:54 PM	MAR 20 11:58 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
7:46 PM 0.08 Meter	12:54 AM 0.67 Meter

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

	MAR 16	MAR 17	MAR 18	MAR 19
METRO MANILA	22 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C	19 - 30 °C	20 - 29 °C
TUGUEGARAO	21 - 31 °C	22 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C
LAOAG	22 - 31 °C	23 - 31 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C
BAGUID	14 - 25 °C	15 - 25 °C	26 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C
SBMA/CLARK	23 - 32 °C	24 - 29 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Impeachment raps filed vs Duterte; unfazed, President vows to pursue war on drugs, crimes

By **BEN B. ROSARIO** and **GENALYN D. KABILING**

Magdalo Party-list Rep. Gary Alejano yesterday filed an impeachment complaint against President Duterte, saying that the Chief Executive should be ousted for culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust,

graft and corruption, and other high crimes.

In his complaint, Alejano accused Duterte of committing high crimes of bribery, multiple murder, and crimes against humanity for espousing ►8

Impeachment raps filed... ◀1

a policy of encouraging law enforcers and vigilante groups of committing extra-judicial killings to win a personal campaign against illegal drugs in the country

Unfazed, President Duterte is determined to press on with the campaign against illegal drugs, crime, and corruption.

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo said the impeachment complaint filed against the President was "utterly baseless" and would not prosper in Congress, adding Duterte's resolve to serve and protect the people will continue.

"Such filing will not deter his resolve to continue vigorously his war against the illegal drug trade, criminality and corruption as well as to bring economic prosperity to the country by demolishing the obstacles that shackle it," he added.

"We're all entitled to our own stupidity," was all what Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said in reaction to the complaint filed by Alejano.

"Kaya sinabi kong stupidity dahil nga hindi na kailangang pag-usapan, eh, dahil wala talagang basehan. At pagka walang basehan, eh, di walang patutunguhan di ba? (That's why I said it's stupidity,

we don't need to talk about it anymore. There's really no basis. And if there's no basis, then it has no future, right?)" he said

Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said all he can say is "good luck" to the proponents of the impeachment complaint as he lauded the group for following the constitutional process of removing a sitting president and not by launching a coup.

Deputy Speakers Gwendolyn Garcia of Cebu and Fredenil Castro of Capiz expressed confidence the impeachment complaint will not prosper.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said the impeachment complaint is just based on allegations.

"Mere allegations without proof are not evidence," Aguirre stressed.

"They must be dreaming. They are not even in the league of Don Quixote," Solicitor General Jose Calida said in a statement.

"Impeachment won't fly. It will crash like a rudderless plane flown by witless pilots," he assured.

"Impeachment is a constitutional process of ousting a sitting President," said Alejano, who cited an accusation aired by fellow putschist and Magdalo

Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, among the reasons why the Chief Executive should be ousted

"It is the last venue left for him (Duterte) to face the allegations against him," Trillanes said.

Sen Paolo "Bam" Aquino IV, Senate deputy minority leader, stressed that every Filipino has the right to utilize constitutionally mandated processes to hold their leaders accountable.

Trillanes' accusation of unexplained wealth against Duterte covered five pages of the 17-page impeachment complaint filed by Alejano.

Duterte became the third president to face impeachment.

Former President Joseph Estrada resigned before being ousted in a Senate impeachment trial while Arroyo was confronted with three complaints that were soundly rejected by her Lower House allies.

Duterte allies are confident Alejano's complaint that will pass through a political process in Congress will be defeated by the supermajority bloc headed by Speaker Alvarez.

The Chief Executive also enjoys a critical alliance with the minority bloc led by Minority Leader Danilo Suarez.

So far, only seven congressmen belonging to the so-called Magnificent Seven, are considered Duterte's fierce-

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est critics. Alejano is a member of this group.

Under the impeachment rules, a vote of one third or at least 97 of the 293 House members will elevate an impeachment resolution for Senate trial.

Trillanes' claim that Duterte acquired unexplained wealth stashed in secret bank accounts was cited as a violation of public trust.

According to the senator, Duterte did not report in his latest Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Networth properties under his name and that of his minor-child Veronica Duterte.

Alejano said the President also maintains a joint bank account with daughter, Sara Zimmerman Duterte with banks at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City, Greenhills in San Juan, and in Mandaluyong City.

"Sen. Trillanes asked the help of accountants and finance specialists to tally and figure out just how much money was actually deposited and/or transferred into the subject bank accounts. Their final tally shows that P2.207 billion more or less, flowed into the subject bank accounts from 2006 to 2015," the complaint read.

At least 8,000 drug personalities have died through a wave of violence when Duterte authorized the implementation of the Philippine National Police's "Oplan Tokhang" and "Oplan Double Barrel," said Alejano.

According to Alejano, the Chief Executive "made real his promise of exporting and expanding the dubious and gruesome work of his infamous Davao Death Squad" that allegedly sowed terror during Duterte's time as mayor of Davao City from 1998 to 2015.

"Contrary to his Oath of Office and to the Constitution and prevailing laws, Respondent Rodrigo Roa Duterte publicly adopted a policy of promoting, encouraging, as well as aiding and abetting in the extra-judicial killing of persons suspected of being drug pushers, drug users and/or committing other crimes," the complainant claimed.

The complaint cited as basis Duterte's speech on live television during the Solidarity Dinner held in Tondo, Manila on June 30, 2016.

"Yung mga adik ho diyan, kayo na lang

ho ang pumatay. Kung anak niya, ikaw ang pumatay. Kung anak niyang adik, kayo ang pumatay para hindi masyadong masakit. Unahin na lang muna niya kasi darating talaga yan. Mamamatay yan." Duterte was quoted as saying. (You have to kill the drug addicts. Kill your own child so that it won't hurt so much. You have to do it because it is bound to happen.)

Duterte's vow to issue "automatic or pre-signed pardons" for policemen involved in extra-judicial killings was also cited as an impeachable offense.

"In encouraging, aiding/and or abetting in the violation of our laws, Respondent Rodrigo Roa Duterte has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute upon the Presidency and has betrayed public trust reposed upon him as President of the Republic," said Alejano.

The opposition lawmaker said the complaint warrants Duterte's "impeachment, trial and removal from office and his perpetual disqualification" in any public office.

Alejano also cited the Senate testimonies of Edgar Matobato and former SPO3 Arthur Lascañas in connection with staging by the so-called DDS of the murder of 1,400 suspected drug pushers, criminals and political and personal enemies of Duterte.

In accusing Duterte of committing graft, Alejano cited a Commission on Audit report that questioned the P708 million budget spent by then Mayor Duterte in hiring 11,000 contractual employees as Davao City chief executive in 2015.

"Having committed all of these acts, Respondent Rodrigo Roa Duterte has not only committed graft and corruption and other high crimes, which constitute specific grounds for his impeachment from office, he has also undermined the integrity of the office of the President, has brought disrepute on the presidency, and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice, to the manifest injury of the people of the Republic of the Philippines," Alejano stressed. (With reports from Ellson A. Quismorio, Charissa M. Luci, Jeffrey G. Damicog, Hannah L. Torregoza, and Mario B. Casayuran)

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• Tejeros Convention

ROSARIO, Cavite — Officials commemorated the 120th Tejeros Convention anniversary in a simple ceremony on Wednesday at Casa de Hacienda in this municipality. The historical event, which likewise marked the 120th founding anniversary of the Philippine Army and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), was set a week before the March 22 original date, which is also the birthday of revolutionary leader and country's first president, General Emilio F. Aguinaldo. The Tejeros Convention was deemed as the foundation of the government and starter of the transformation of the country into a republic which was the first in Asia. (Anthony Giron)

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Pahina. 2

**Wala
raw 'K'**

MOCHA USON KINUHANG SPEAKER NG AFP, PINALAGAN

DINEPENSAHAN ng Philippine Army ang hakbang nilang pag-imbiba sa kontrobersiyal na si Mocha Uson bilang isa sa mga speaker sa gaganaping army senior leaders' conference na itinakda sa huling linggo ng Marso.

Kasunod ito sa iba't ibang reaksiyon at sentimyento ng iba't ibang mamamahayag na kumokober sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), partikular ang Defense Press Corps sa na-

turang isyu.

Hindi umano maunawaan kung bakit si Mocha Uson, Margaux Uson sa tunay na buhay, ang kailangang gawing speaker o resource person sa event, sa harap ng tema na "embracing diversity, building a strong army"

Paliwanag naman ni Philippine Army Spokesman Col Benjamin Hao, hindi lang si Uson ang speaker kundi may dalawang ibang resource persons sa katauhan nina Pompee La

Vina at Abe Olandres.

Ayon kay Hao, imbibitahan nila si Uson para ibahagi nito ang kanyang mga karanasan bilang blogger na may 4.8 milyong likers para sa topic na "challenges of a social media personality"

Si Uson ay itinalaga ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte bilang Board member sa Movie Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB). *(Jeff Tombado)*

7 March 2017

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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Air strikes, troopers attack foreign terrorist-led group

By Francisco Tuyay

A GROUP of terrorists led by a Malaysian jihadist reportedly suffered several casualties after military fighter planes pounded their position at the hinterlands of Datu Salibo town in Maguindanao on Monday.

A two-hour air strike by rocket-firing attack planes hit a terrorist stronghold, followed by intense clashes between army troopers and the terrorists in Barangay Tee, which reportedly resulted in a still undetermined number of casualties.

Captain Arvin Encinas, Chief Public Affairs Office of the Ar-

my's 6th Infantry Division based in Camp Siongco, Maguindanao, said the assault was launched after reports indicated the presence of two terrorists—Salahudin Hassan, alias "Bungos," a local bomber and Abu Toraype, alias Muawiya, a foreign terrorist leader linked to the Jemaah Islamiya.

Encinas said that Bungos, a known Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighter leader, was responsible for several Improvised Explosive Device bombings in Central Mindanao that inflicted casualties on both civilians and government troops while damaging private properties.

Muawiya, on the other hand, was previously allied with the group of the late Abdul Basit Usman, a top bomber and head of the Special Operations Group of the BIFF and the now deceased Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan.

Marwan was killed on Jan. 15, 2015 after the police's Special Action Force assaulted his safe-house under Oplan "Exodus" in

the marshland of Guindalungan, Maguindanao which resulted in a bloody clash that killed 44 SAF members.

Encinas, however, said the two terrorist leaders were able to escape at the height of the air strikes and artillery shelling, but added that army troops are now in hot pursuit of the terrorist group.

Encinas said the terrorist group suffered an undetermined number of casualties based on civilian accounts.

"The civilians saw some of the casualties being carried away by the fleeing terrorists," Encinas said, but added that they have yet to validate the exact number of casualties on the terrorists' side. He said the government

side did not suffer any casualty or injury during the fighting.

The troopers later recovered four IEDs and three pressure-type bombs which were detonated by the military's Explosive Ordnance team.

The air strikes, Encinas said, was made to deter and weaken the capabilities of the enemies fighting government troops.

"The focus of the military operations has to do with the mandate of the 6th ID to protect the people and secure the community the best way they can against the local and foreign terror groups that would hamper peace and order situation in Central Mindanao," he said.

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Military regrets children casualties in offensives vs Abus

By ALI M. MACARAIG

COTABATO CITY — The military's Western Mindanao Command (WMC) leadership expressed regret over the deaths of two children in an operation against the Abu Sayyaf in Tabuan Lasa town in Basilan and would want utmost prudence by its combat troops in running after the bandits.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., WMC commander said collateral damage among civilians are usually inevitable in armed skirmishes but children casualties are something that they do not want to have.

"I feel very bad until now. I am really very sorry over the two. They were caught in the crossfire," Galvez said.

He said the military operation was meant to capture Mubin Kulin alias Mulawin, who has been indicted before a trial court for his alleged involvement in several kidnapping incidents.

Kulin is reportedly a cousin of

Isnilon Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf leader currently tagged as head of the jihadist Islamic State (IS) for South East Asia.

Gen. Galvez said they got information that some 100 Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf guerillas were sighted in Tapiantana Island in Tabuan Lasa, Basilan.

While government troops were on their way to serve the court warrant against Kulin on March 8, more than 30 bandits greeted them with bullets, Galvez said.

The ensuing firefight "allowed the escape of Kulin and his men" and it was only then that the troops learned about the deaths of the two children, said Galvez, who led the Maguindanao-based Army's 6th Infantry Division before his elevation to the Zamboanga City-based WMC leadership.

"We did not expect children in that place," Galvez said, adding that they would help the families of civilians caught in the crossfire.

The slain children were identified as Nurmida Alha Abbi, 7 and Ashab Tawallah Abuhaip, 12, in a report attributed to Dr. Arlyn Jumao-as, executive director of the Save the Children from Armed Conflict in Basilan.

The report also revealed the deaths of two adults - Hadji Billamin Hassan and Nuruddin Musaddul Muhlis in the March 8 operations.

Human rights group Suara Bangsamoro condemned the military operations, saying it considered the killing of Hassan as "a case of extrajudicial killing."

Suara Bangsamoro chair Amirah Lidasan, citing complaints from aggrieved kin, said Hassan was "still alive when the raiding team took him aboard the naval gun boat."

Lidasan said Hassan sustained two bullet wounds in the chest, a deep wound in his shoulder and bruises on his face.

During the raid, soldiers sprayed bullets on at least three adjoining houses, hitting residents who were either asleep or performing dawn prayers, she said.

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AFTER NPA ATTACKS

**BOMBING REPORTS
STOP GLASSES
IN ABRA TOWN**

Elementary and high school classes in Malibcong town in Abra province were suspended on Wednesday, following reports of alleged government bombing operations that targeted suspected communist lairs in the area.

Neither the Cordillera police nor the military had responded to queries on the operations that took place four days after New People's Army (NPA) rebels raided a police station in Malibcong on March 12.

On March 13, a convoy of Abra police officers, led by Senior Supt. Alexander Tagum, Abra police director, was attacked by armed men, leaving five policemen wounded.

But Insp. Marcy Grace Marron, Abra police information officer, said the police had not received information about bombing operations in Malibcong.

A plane dropped what appeared to be bombs near Barangay Lat-ey from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Wednesday, according to Antonio Ambalneg, a village councilman.

He said the plane returned and unloaded bombs on rice fields and forests from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Villagers counted 14 explosions, he said, adding that a blast triggered a fire in a communal forest near Sitio Cubcuba in Lat-ey.

Classes would be suspended until March 20, the Inquirer learned.

The NPA admitted raiding the Malibcong police station on Sunday. Rebels also engaged five policemen in a firefight that was later stopped by town elders.

In a statement, the Chadli Molintas Command operating in the Ilocos and Cordillera regions said the attack complied with the directives of its central committee in light of the all-out war stance taken by President Duterte in February.

Agusan clash

In Agusan del Norte province, more than 300 residents fled their homes in the remote village of Hinimbangan in Kitcharao town after the NPA attacked soldiers there on Wednesday.

The Army's 4th Infantry Division said NPA rebels fired at the soldiers who were patrolling the village.

The rebels, military reports said, forced school officials in the village to cancel classes that day. No one was reported wounded in the firefight.

"Our troops were there to help the (local government) in identifying the needs of the community in order to alleviate their living condition," said Lt. Col. Glenn Joy Aynera, commander of the 29th Infantry Battalion.

Aynera said the NPA, with the attack, violated the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect to Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, which was signed by negotiators of the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in the peace talks. —REPORTS FROM KIMBERLIE QUITASOL, JIGGER J. JERUSALEM AND CYNTHIA D. BALANA INQ

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17 March 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 45

ASG kidnapping, gumimbal sa mundo

NI JOY CANTOS

Gumimbal hindi lamang sa bansa kundi sa buong mundo ang serye ng kidnapping for ransom (KFR) na kinasangkutan ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), umano'y may ugnayan sa Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Itinuturo namang kahirapan ang ugat ng tala-mak na KFR ng mga bandido kung saan karamihan sa mga binibihag ay mga dayuhan na dinadala at itinatago sa Sulu na kapag hindi nakapagbayad ng ransom ay pinupugutan ng ulo. Ayon kay Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana nasa lalawigan ang mastermind ng mga kidnapers.

Sa loob ng mahabang panahon simula pa sa pamamayagpag ng mga bandidong ASG noong dekada '90 ay inihatid na sa mga masugid na mambabasa ng Pilipino Star NGAYON (PSN) ang mga kaso ng kidnapping na kinasangkutan ng naturang teroristang

grupo.

Sinasabing nasa 31 pa rin ang bihag ng mga bandido na target ng rescue operation ng mga puwersa ng pamahalaan.

Inilahad sa PSN ang rescue operations ng tropa ng militar sa mga hostages, hirap at gutom ang inabot ng mga nakalayang hostages sa kuko ng teroristang mga bandido, gayundin ang patuloy na pag-asa ng pamilya ng mga nalalabi pang bihag na buhay ang mga itong maailigtas.

Tunay na sinusubaybayan ng mga mambabasa kung kailan matutuldukan ng security forces at ng pamahalaan ang KFR sa Sulu, habang ipinangako naman ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Edgardo Año na sisikapig malipol ang puwersa ng mga bandido sa loob ng anim na buwang palugit o hanggang Hunyo ng taong ito.

Ayon kay Año hindi matutuldukan ng 'military solution' lamang ang

KFR ng Abu Sayyaf at ipinahiwatig na kailangan rin dito ng 'political will' partikular na sa mga opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Sulu.

Sa panayam naman kay Sulu Gov. Abdusakur "Totoh" Tan II, sinabi nito na ang mga hindi naihatid na pangunahing serbisyo ng gobyerno sa mabagal na mga 'development projects' sa kanilang lalawigan ang isa sa mga pangunahing dahilan kung bakit hindi pa rin maresolba ang nangyayaring kidnapping na kagagawan ng Abu Sayyaf sa loob ng mahabang panahon at nagpapatuloy ito.

Hindi rin aniya, makatwiran na paratangan ang mga lokal na opisyal sa Sulu na posibleng nakikipagsabwatan sa mga bandido lalo na kung walang basehan at walang ebidensya sa seryosong alegasyon.

Sa kasalukuyan, matapos ang karumdumal na pamumugot ng ulo ng mga bandido sa hostage na Aleman na si

Juergen Gustav Kantner, 70 anyos noong Pebrero 26 ng taong ito sa kagubatan ng Brgy Buanza, Indanan, Sulu ay ipinagutos ni Lorenzana na paigtingin pa ang all out war laban sa mga bandido na tinawag nitong mga hayop. Si Kantner na dinukot ngong Nobyembre 2016 ay nabigong makapagbayad ng P30 M ransom. Ang misis ni Kantner na si Sabine Merz, 56 anyos ay natagpuang hubo't hubad ang katawan sa loob ng kanilang yate sa karagatan ng Tawi-Tawi matapos gahasain at paslangin ng mga kidnapers.

"Make no mistakes. They will feel the wrath of the entire Filipino nation through the might of its armed forces. What we can assure them and the whole world is that we are going after these animals with the full force of the law" pahayag ni Lorenzana. Ang katawan ng pinugutan ng ulong si Kantner ay narekober ng tropa ng mga sundalo



noong Marso 4 ng hapon sa kagubatan ng Indanan, Sulu. Samantalang buong pagpapakumbaba namang inamin ni Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Spokesman ng AFP na nabigo ang militar na masagip ang buhay ni Kantner.

Aminado si Lorenzana na bagaman nakakahiya ay dumoble ang kidnapping sa Sulu sa panahon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte mula sa dating naitalang 18 kaso noong nakalipas na administrasyon ay nasa 31 pa sa kasalukuyan ang hostages na tar-

get maligtas ng security forces. Kabilang dito ay 12 Vietnamese, anim na Pinoy, isang Dutch, isang Indonesian at limang Malaysian.

Nangako naman si Gen. Año na bibigyang hustiya ang sinapit ni Kantner sa pamamagitan ng pagpapaigting pang operasyon ng militar laban sa ekstremistang grupo. Nabatid na nasa 14 batalyon ng tropa ng militar sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu Commander Col. Cirilito Sobejana ang tumutugis sa mahigit 400

pang mga armadong Abu Sayyaf sa lalawigan.

Nakipagpulong naman sina Lorenzana Año sa mga lokal na opisyal, ULAMA's (Muslim priest) at iba pang mga lider sa Sulu at nagkaisa sa hangaring tapusin ang KFR upang magkaroon ng peace and order sa lalawigan.

Sa pagdiriwang ng ika-31 taong anibersaryo ng PSN, kaisa ng netizens ang pahayagang ito sa pagdarasal na buhay na maligtas ng security forces ang nalalabi pang 31 hostages.

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The Manila Times

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Defense chief receives Albert Jones award

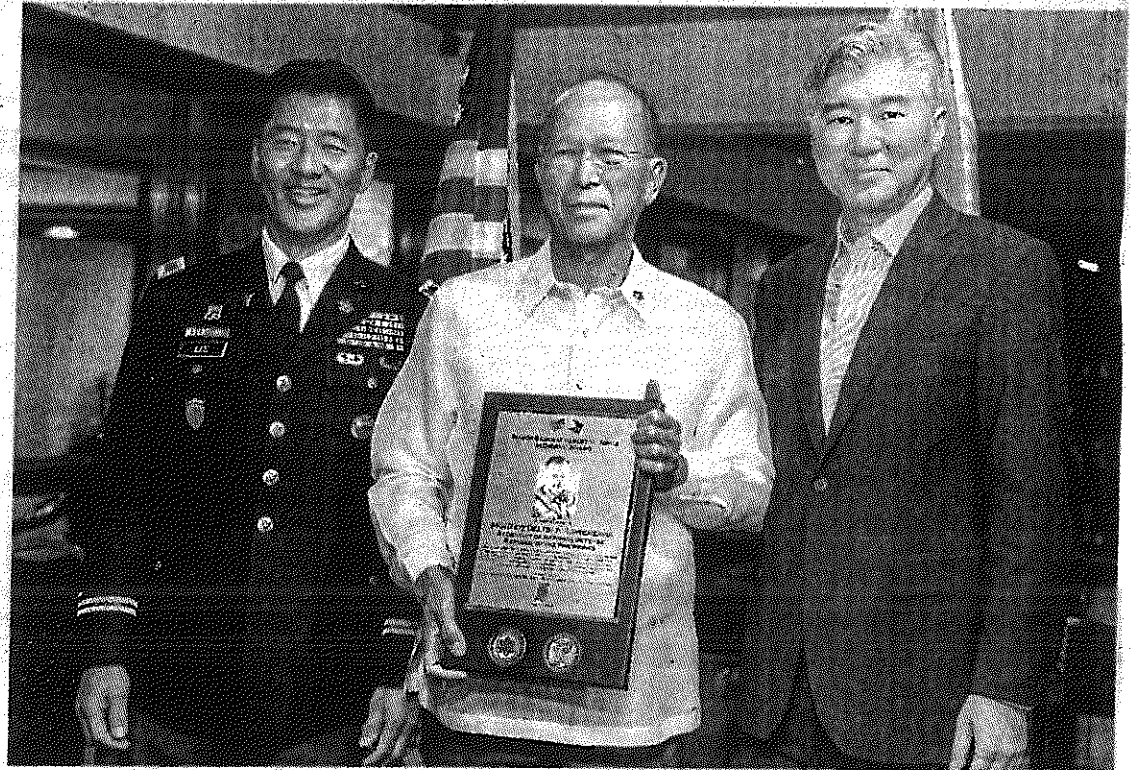
UNITED States Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim bestowed the Major General Albert Jones Memorial Award on Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana for his steadfast commitment and invaluable contributions to the alliance of the US and the Philippines.

The awarding ceremony took place during the Joint US Military Assistance Group's (Jusmag) 70th anniversary celebration at the US Chief of Mission's residence.

The Major General Albert Jones Memorial Award recognizes a US or Philippine government official who has made significant contributions to the bilateral defense partnership.

General Jones first commanded the 51st Division of the Philippine Army in 1940, and then commanded the 1st Philippine Corps until his capture in Bataan in 1942.

Of the 76,000 Filipino and American soldiers, Jones was the only general officer on the infamous death march. He was held as a prisoner of war for over two years, and was among the many who endured torture



■ Ambassador Sung Y. Kim (right) and Col. Ernest C. Lee (left) present the Major General Albert Jones Memorial Award to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

and starvation.

In testament to his grit, tenacity, and courage, Jones returned to the Philippines in 1946 to lead the US military advisory mission in Ma-

nila, which evolved into Jusmag a year later.

Jusmag's initial mission was to advise and assist with training and equipping the Armed Forces

of the Philippines. Since then, the group has evolved to develop all US-Philippine military training activities.

JAIME R. PILAPIJL

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'Phl-US military alliance unshaken by sex-for-secrets'

By MARICHU VILLANUEVA

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana reaffirmed the Philippine government's commitment to honor and stand behind the country's traditional alliance with the US even as the Duterte administration has opened up to possible military arms deals with Russia and China.

Lorenzana reiterated this commitment on the sidelines of a reception hosted by US Ambassador Sung Kim for the 70th anniversary of the estab-

lishment of the Joint US Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG)

Lorenzana's reaffirmation came on the heels of the reported indictment by the US Justice Department of current and former American military officers allegedly involved in bribery and sex scandals while they were in Manila a few years ago.

"This would not happen in the Philippines, especially under the administration of President Duterte,"

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Phl-US From Page 1

Lorenzana told The STAR on Thursday.

Lorenzana, however, acknowledged the need for both governments to implement measures to prevent such incidents.

The Philippines and the US are bound by the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty. Under this treaty are the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

Lorenzana dismissed apprehensions of perceived redirection of Philippine military alliance with the US, given the policy pronouncements of President Duterte who has sought to pursue an "independent foreign policy" away from traditional ally the US.

Concerns were further aroused by Duterte's announcement of another official visit to China and Russia and the possible purchase of arms and weapons from both countries.

Lorenzana would be part of the official government delegation joining Duterte in his scheduled state visit to Russia this May.

As part of the JUSMAG anniversary program, Kim and JUSMAG chief in Manila Col. Ernest Lee presented Lorenzana with the Maj. Gen. Albert Jones Memorial Award.

The award recognizes individuals in the US or Philippine government officials who have greatly supported JUSMAG's security cooperation in the country.

The award was named after the American officer who was among thousands of US soldiers who went through the infamous Death March that marked the fall of Bataan during World War II.

After the war, Jones returned to the Philippines in 1946 to lead the US military advisory mission in Manila that is now called JUSMAG.

In brief remarks after being awarded the plaque, Lorenzana recalled his stint while he was still the Special Presidential Representative for Veterans Affairs at the Philippine embassy in Washington from 2004 to 2015, when he rallied the cause of Filipino war veterans for equity of benefits after having served in the US Army during World War II.

Prior to this, Lorenzana was the defense and Armed Forces attaché from 2002 to 2004 who supervised military bilateral relations that included the annual Balikatan war games between the two military allies.

While in Washington, Lorenzana said he was approached by a young man who he said looked like pop singer Tom Jones.

The man turned out to be the grandson of Gen. Jones who expressed his desire to retrace the path taken by his late grandfather in Bataan.

Lorenzana said he accepted the MG Jones Memorial Award not as an individual but in behalf of the "collective efforts of the alliance" of the two countries to face security challenges in this part of the world.

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Lorenzana was joined at the reception by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año and other Philippine and US officials

On the other hand, US embassy spokesperson Molly Koscina told **The STAR** "this question should be referred to the US Justice Department where the process is taking place already."

A JUSMAG official, however, said the US Justice Department is coordinating with concerned Philippine government agencies to help bolster the case against all the American military officials implicated

Former defense secretary Gilberto Teodoro said he was satisfied the case had been filed against Loveless. Teodoro headed the Defense department in 2008 when the scandal occurred

Teodoro was among the former defense chiefs invited to the JUSMAG reception held at the official residence of the US ambassador in North Forbes in Makati

"That's pending before US authorities. We don't have anything to do with it," Teodoro told **The STAR**.

He explained the alleged offenses did

not involve any transactions with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)

"It's called 'Chandlering' as it involved US military ships that passed through Southeast Asia and this guy Chandler made these shady deals," Teodoro said. "It's US disciplinary matters now"

Teodoro said the US Navy gets private contractors for port calls of their naval vessels and therefore does not go through the AFP

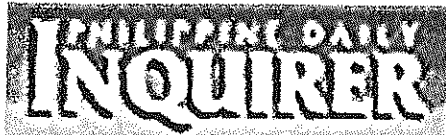
The militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said there is now more rea-

son for President Duterte to expel US troops from the country following the bribery scandal.

– With Rhodina Villanueva

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US military renews commitment to PH defense

By Jocelyn R. Uy
@mj_uyINQ

The US military on Wednesday renewed its commitment to the Philippines to fortify its bilateral and defense ties as it celebrated seven decades of the Joint US Military Assistance Group's (Jusmag) security cooperation mission in the country.

The occasion, hosted by the US Ambassador to Manila Sung Kim, also highlighted the inaugural Major General Albert Jones Memorial Award, which was ac-

corded to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana for his valuable support to the group throughout his military and diplomatic careers spanning four decades.

The award is given to a US or Philippine government official who has made significant contributions to the bilateral defense partnership.

Jones, the first chief of Jusmag-Philippines, was the only general officer on the infamous Bataan death march who endured two years of torture and starvation alongside other

soldiers.

In a speech on Wednesday night, Jusmag chief Col. Ernest Lee said the group's 70th year was a celebration of the "unbreakable bond" between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the United States.

"Relationships that last this long are very special. They are not relationship of convenience but based on mutual respect, common values and shared destiny," said Lee.

The celebration showed how both countries continued

to keep its relations warm despite earlier threats by President Duterte to diminish ties with American forces.

"This award is just reaffirming that good relationship. But with or without the award, our relationship is good," Lorenzana told the Inquirer.

The Jusmag was created through the 1947 Military Assistance Agreement in the aftermath of World War II to advise and assist the AFP in training, equipment and organization. It helped the AFP modernize and

build capabilities and interoperability that are mutually beneficial.

In his remarks, Kim encouraged both the Jusmag and the AFP to continue the legacy of selfless dedication and commitment in defending its freedom and promoting peace and stability.

"Jusmag-Philippines has carried on that tradition for the past 70 years and I am confident that it will continue to do so in the next 70 years and beyond," he said.

In his acceptance speech, Lorenzana said the award spoke of the "highest standard and higher value" of alliance between the Philippines and the United States.

"I hope this award will inspire our efforts beyond the bounds of mutual defense and security engagements for the challenges that confront us today are far different from those that we had to deal with from the past decades and they continue to unravel in various ways with new technologies," he said. INQ

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No incursion in Benham? Palace not sure

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Did President Duterte give permission to Beijing to explore Benham Rise?

Malacañang spokesman Ernesto Abella seemed confused when pressed about the Chief Executive's public statements on Benham Rise, which showed Duterte's confusion between the seismically active undersea plateau off Aurora province and the West Philippine Sea.

"Well, let me just refer you first to the President's statement where he said that... There was no incursion and the only agreement was research and

Turn to Page 14

there was no... In fact, he said, *'Inambita ko nga 'yung mga Russian battleships, so walang incursion'* (I even invited the Russian battleships. So there was no incursion)," Abella said.

Duterte met the National Security Council at Malacañang on Monday after a press briefing where he said he consented to a research mission by Chinese ships in Benham Rise.

This came after Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana disclosed last week several Chinese vessels had been plying the 13 million-hectare undersea region and biodiversity hotspot located east of Luzon, with one ship crisscrossing the area for about three months in an apparent surveying mission.

A few days later, Duterte claimed he had allowed the vessel to pass through Benham Rise, a statement that surprised his defense chief.

Duterte said he did not want to fight over Benham Rise to get economic aid from China.

In yesterday's press briefing, Abella scrambled for words on whether the President was referring to the disputed areas in the West Philippine Sea or to Benham Rise.

"That I cannot answer. There was no specific reference to that. But for all it's worth... it was not a formally written agreement. It was... Well, that would be speculation if I said so," he said.

Abella was responding to a query on whether Duterte was referring to the West Philippine Sea or Benham Rise when he said there were no incursions and that there was an agreement to allow China to conduct research activities.

Looking for a supposedly prepared statement, Abella went on to say that Duterte in fact was referring to Benham Rise in his statements during last Monday's press briefing.

"But basically they just talked about—you know, they were not talking about. The President was still very, very careful that he [was] protecting our sovereign rights over the—over the extended continental shelf) Benham, Benham, yes," Abella said.

Asked if the President may have confused the West Philippine Sea issue and Benham Rise, Abella said there was no confusion at all.

"There was no conflict, it was just a matter of referring to separate matters at the same time," he said.

The Philippines has lodged a diplomatic protest with Beijing after a Chinese survey vessel was tracked moving back and forth over Benham Rise, a vast area east of the Philippines declared by the United Nations in 2012 as part of its continental shelf.

The Philippine government has captured media attention in going on the offensive over the Benham Rise issue, underlining decades of mistrust of China over its activities in the West Philippine Sea.

Abella then accused newsmen of "framing" the issue differently when

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questions were raised on why Lorenzana and Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo issued the statements raising concerns over China's moves.

Abella reiterated the President will protect the country's sovereignty as regards Benham Rise.

"The President is very careful that he will protect our sovereign rights in the Benham Rise," he said.

In the same press briefing, Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said the President has given permission for China to conduct research in the area. "Well, I think the President has already answered that when he said that he gave permission," Jose said.

Jose refused to comment further, noting Manalo is set to have a press briefing later in the day. Jose said he would not want to preempt his superior.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian also sought inquiry over the details of the supposed agreement with China over Benham Rise.

"Suspicious activities on the part of Chinese authorities concerning the Benham Rise have underscored the urgent need for the Philippine government to invest significant resources in long-term strategies that will empower us to uphold our clear-cut sovereign rights in the area," Gatchalian said.

He stressed the need for a strategic plan to develop and protect Benham Rise from foreign exploitation.

With the continued threat of Chinese incursions in the area, Gatchalian said a Benham Rise development authority could help deter them from becoming even more aggressive in its presence there.

Gatchalian argued that having a permanent presence in the area would help the country exercise its rights over Benham Rise.

"The point here is to do initial activities to show everyone that we're maximizing this resource for our country," Gatchalian said.

"One of the reasons why the other countries are interested in the area is because we don't have any activity there. If we have research ships and an authority, an actual office there, then I don't think they will exert their influence," he added.

He said the government could consider conducting joint explorations in Benham Rise with other countries that have the capability for this type of undertaking.

Sen. Sonny Angara earlier filed a proposal to create a Benham Rise development authority under Senate Bill 312.

Under the bill, the Benham Rise development authority would be an attached agency of the National Economic and Development Authority and would be tasked to spearhead intensive scientific research and exploration in the Benham Rise, identify its economic potential and take the lead in formulating and implementing a development roadmap aligned with the country's Philippine Development Plan. – Marvin Sy

ONLINE NEWS

17 MARCH 2017

www.inquirer.net

Army invites Mocha to 'intellectual discourse,' 2 weeks from April Fools'

By: Cynthia D. Balana - Reporter / @cynchdbINQ

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:40 AM March 16, 2017



Mocha Uson ALMACEN/INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

Detractors might say that the Philippine Army was off by two weeks to April Fools' Day when it asked a controversial blogger and singer known for lewd performances onstage to join an "intellectual discourse" as a resource speaker.

But Mocha (Margaux Uson in real life) apparently took the invitation to heart and proudly described it in her blog as proof that she was a credible writer and not a purveyor of fake news as critics have claimed.

In his letter to Uson, Army acting chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda asked the recently appointed member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to be one of three resource persons during the 10th Senior Leaders Conference (SLC) on March 20. Also invited to speak about social media on the theme, "Embracing Diversity, Building a Strong Army" were Pompee La Vina and Abe Olandres.

The conference, Miranda said, will be the highlight of the Army's 120th anniversary celebration at its headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The SLC has 10 different topics meant to "promote awareness on security challenges through intellectual discourse with experts in various disciplines that impact on national security."

Among the topics to be tackled during the SLC are concerns on strategic security landscape, internal security, military capability and information domain. About 180 Army senior leaders and special guests are expected to attend the event.

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In her blog, Uson lashed out at bashers, including those from mainstream media, for underestimating her and accusing her of bringing "fake news" to the public.

"Let me show you one of the many invites (that I receive) proving my credibility on social media. Ayaw ko na sana ilabas ito pero gusto ko lang isampal sa inyo na for once mapahiya kayo diyan sa fake news issue ninyo (I didn't want to show it off, but let this be a slap on your face to shame you for your fake news claims)," Uson wrote.

The event will be "attended by commanders and top generals in the entire Philippines," she added. "I will be their guest speaker. Do you think I'd be given such opportunity if I were a fake news blogger? Sorry, fellow DDS (Diehard Duterte Supporters), I have to answer back the Yellow camp (referring to former President Aquino's allies). They're the ones spreading fake cheques (sic), and they had the gall to say I peddle fake news?"

www.dwdd.com.ph

NPA attacks Community: 89 Families Displaced

Posted by **Lui Claudio** on March 16, 2017 at 9:52 AM

DEL PILAR, CABADBARAN CITY – The New People's Army (NPA) attacked the community of Brgy. Hinimbangan, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte forcing eighty-nine (89) families to displace and evacuate at the Municipal gymnasium of Brgy. Crossing, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte on March 15, 2017.

The NPAs ruthlessly fired upon the community that has troops from 29th Infantry (MATATAG) Battalion who are conducting development support and security operations also known as Bayanihan Team Activities (BTA) in the area. After three (3) consecutive harassments by the NPA in the barangay, a total of 357 civilians were forced to evacuate because of the threat posed by the said terror group.

According to the residents, NPAs forced the school faculty to cancel their classes and some (NPAs) have indiscriminately fired upon the houses in the community.

LTC GLENN JOY U AYNERA, the Battalion Commander of 29th Infantry Battalion said that "Once again, the NPAs have violated the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect to Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) which is the only document that was duly signed by the GRP and NDF when they indiscriminately attacked the said community that caused the eventual and force evacuation of the people. Our troops were there to help the LGU in identifying the needs of the community in order to alleviate their living condition. However, this terroristic attack of the NPAs sowed fear among the people in that community. Rest assured that together with the PNP we will defend the community and will bring back the peace and order in the area."

On the other hand, the troops of 29IB coordinated with the Local Government Unit of Kitcharao to address the basic needs of the displaced families in the area.

Likewise, they also distributed relief goods and food packs together with the Municipal Social Welfare Development.

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"Despite the incident, we are still thankful that the people in that community still vows to fully support the development programs of the government especially that it will benefit their families. With this, the 29th Infantry Battalion will continue its efforts in solving the insurgency situation that hinders the peace and development in the area." Ltc Aynera concluded.

www.bomboradyo.com

Kagawad na dinukot ng NPA sa Davao Occidental, pinalaya na

Posted By: [Bombo Radyo Gensan](#)on: March 16, 2017 | 7:52 AM [No Comments](#)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Kinumpirma ni Lt. Daryl Cansancio, tagapagsalita ng 73rd Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army na pinalaya na ang Barangay Kagawad na si Luis Angos ng Brgy. Little Baguio, Malita, Davao Occidental na dinukot ng grupo ng New People's Army(NPA).

Una rito, noong nakaraang araw, habang nagsasagawa ng mga kasiyahan sa kanilang lugar, bigla umanong dumating ang mga 20 armadong kalalakihan na pinangunahan umano ni alyas Kokoy, sub-leader ni alyas Dong ng Guerilla Front 71.

Kaagad umanong dinala si Angos sa Lamsalu, Upper Suyan, Malapatan, Sarangani province.

Matapos nito, mayroon umanong sulat na ipinadala sa barangay mula sa mga rebelde at nag-demand na ang kapitan ang siyang kukuha kay Angos, kasabay nito ang hiling na mabigyan sila ng mga armas at salapi, kapalit ng pagpapalaya sa biktima.

Hindi nagtagal ay pinalaya rin ang biktima kaya malaki ang paniwala ng militar na nagbayad ang biktima ng mahigit-kumulang P80,000 bilang ransom sa NPA.

Kahit masaya na nakalaya na ang biktima, mahigpit namang kinondena ng militar ang nasabing insidente dahil ito umano ang ginagawa ng mga rebelde, upang madaling bantaan ang mga residente at maibigay ang kanilang mga hiling.

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Pananalakay ng NPA bahagi ng kanilang nalalapit na anibersaryo – Army official

Posted By: [Bombo Radyo Baguioon](#): March 16, 2017 | 4:16 AM [No Comments](#)

BAGUIO CITY – Nagpapatuloy ang hot pursuit operations ng Philippine National Police (PNP) at Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) na sumalakay sa temporary base ng mga pulis at nanambang sa convoy ng provincial director sa Abra PNP sa Malibcong, Abra.

Sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo kay Col. Henry Doyaoen, deputy brigade commander ng 503rd Infantry Brigade, ang nasabing pagsalakay ay posibleng may kaugnayan sa nalalapit na ika-48 na anibersaryo ng NPA sa Marso 29.

Aniya, dahil dito ay lalo pa nilang hinigpitan ang pagbabantay ng mga ito.

Sinabi niya na kapwa naka-heightened alert sila ngayon at ang PNP dahil pa rin sa nangyaring insidente at sa nalalapit na anibersaryo ng Komunistang rebelde.

Magugunitang noong Marso 29, 1969, ay binuo ni Bernabe Buscayno alyas Commander Dante ang NPA na armed wing ng Communist Party of the Philippines.

www.bomboradyo.com

NPA patay sa engkwentro sa CamNorte; baril, bala at mga gamit narekober

Posted By: [Bombo Radyo Nagaon](#): March 16, 2017 | 3:29 AM [No Comments](#)

NAGA CITY – Patay ang isang pinaniniwalaang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa engkwentro sa bayan ng Capalonga, Camarines Norte.

Sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo Naga kay Capt. Ronnie Madriñan, officer-in-charge (OIC) ng Division of Public Affairs Office (DPAO) ng 9th Infantry Division, Philippine Army, sinabi nitong nakatanggap aniya ng impormasyon ang kanilang tanggapan galing sa mga residente sa lugar hinggil sa umano'y mga pinaniniwalaang miyembro ng NPA na nananatili sa nasabing lugar.

Dahil dito, agad na rumisponde ang kanilang tropa kung saan naabutan ng mga ito ang nasa limang NPA na nauwi sa palitan ng putok na tumagal ng halos 15 minuto kung saan napuruhan ang isa sa mga rebelde.

Ayon kay Madrinian, narekober ng militar ang isang baril, magazines at backpack na pagmamay-ari ng naturang grupo.

Sa ngayon, nagpapatuloy pa aniya ang kanilang ginagawang validation para matukoy ang pagkakakilanlan ng nasabing bangkay na agad namang itinurn-over sa himpilan ng pulisya.

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Estudyante, Sugatan Sa Engkwentro ng Sundalo at Riding In Tandem sa Maguindanao

Posted By: [Star FM Cotabaton](#): March 16, 2017 | 12:36 AM [No Comments](#)

COTABATO CITY – Sugatan ang isang estudyante sa naganap na engkwentro sa pagitan ng mga sundalo ng 62nd Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army at riding-in-tandem sa Barangay Dugal, Buluan, Maguindanao.

Ayon kay Police Chief Inspector Gani Miro, ang hepe ng pulisya ng Buluan PNP, pauwi sa kanilang kampo sa Carmen, North Cotabato ang mga sundalo kaninang hapon ng makasalubong nila ang dalawang lalaking sakay ng isang motorsiklo sa bahagi ng Barangay Kagaya, Pandag, Maguindanao at sila ay pinaputukan.

Kaagad na tinugis ng mga sundalo ang dalawang suspek at na-corner sa Dugal, Buluan, Maguindanao kung saan naganap ang palitan ng putok at tinamaan ang nabanggit na estudyante na nakilalang si Muhalidin Buansay, 16 anyos.

Kaagad na dinala ng mga sundalo ang estudyante sa pagamutan na naging dahilan ng pagkakatakas ng mga suspek na iniwan na lamang ang kanilang motorsiklong walang plate number.

Hanggang sa ngayon ay patuloy pa ring pinaghahanap ang dalawang suspek.

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AFP, PNP, PDEA at NBI magsasanib pwersa para sa war on drugs ng pamahalaan

Posted By: [Analy Soberanoon](#): March 16, 2017 | 7:19 AM [No Comments](#)

Magsasanib pwersa ngayon ang PNP, AFP, PDEA at NBI para palakasin pa ang giyera kontra droga ng pamahalaan.

Mismong si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang nais na magsama sama ang apat para sa pagpapatupad ng operasyon laban sa mga bigtime drug syndicates.

Tiniyak naman ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na magiging aktibo ang partisipasyon ng militar sa kampanya ng pamahalaan kontra iligal na droga partikular sa mga high profile target.

Ito ang napagkasunduan, makaraang makipagpulong ang militar at PNP kamakailan kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Malakanyang.

Ayon kay AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Col. Edgard Arevalo ang pagnanais nitong tapusin ang problema ng bansa sa iligal na droga sa loob ng kaniyang termino.

Sinabi ni Arevalo na nais ng pangulo na kasama ng PDEA at PNP ang militar lalo na kapag high profile drug syndicate ang target.

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Hindi kasi aniya isinasa isantabi ng pangulo ang posibilidad na gumanti o manlaban ang mga sindikato dahil tiyak na armado ang mga ito at armado ng mga na high powered firearms.

Nilinaw naman ni Arevalo na hindi sila magsasagawa ng street level drug operations.

Siniguro rin nitong susunod sila sa lahat ng umiiral na batas sa karapatang pantao.

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