

*Army Vision: By 2128, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



**TEAM ARMY**

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

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

**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**26 March 2017**

**Sunday**

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


**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**26 MARCH 2017**

<b>PAGE NR.</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>WRITER</b>	<b>NEWSPAPER</b>
1	Weather Forecast		PDI p.A17
<b>NATIONAL NEWS</b>			
2-4	Rody : Respect my mandate, also VP's	Christina Mendez	PhilStra p.1
5-6	Benham rise is ours		Mla Bulletin p.1
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
7	Police, Army foil another Kadamay 'invasion'	Frederick Silverio	Mla Times p.A7
8	10 NPA s killed in SCotabato encounter	Juimunir I Jannaral & Jerry N Adlaw	Mla Times p.A7
9	NPA releases two prisoners		Mla Bulletin p.20
10	Retired Army dakma sa arms cache	Gary Barbardo	Ngayon p.6
11	Police, army officials Maguindanao local execs' support for MASA MASID	Philippine News Agency	www. retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
12	Military foils NPA attempt to ambush humanitarian mission convoy in Surigao Norte town	Philippine News Agency	www. retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
13-14	Police, military uncover terrorist cell operating in Metro Manila Manhunt for Maute Group terrorits	Rene Acosta	BusinessMirror p.A1
15	China military ships' visit under discussion	Cristina Lee-Pisco	Peoples Journal p.6
16	2 Abu rebs slain, 1 hurt in encounter	Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca	Peoples Tonight p.12
17	Unidentified drone buzzes Phl Navy ship in Benham Rise	Jaime Laude	PhilStar p.3
18	Tugboat captain rescued from Abus	Roel Pareño	PhilStar p.17
19	Troops rescue kidnapped boat captain in Basilan	PNA	Daily Tribune p.3
20	6 na bagong fighter jets makukumpleto na-AFP	Jeff G	Remate p.2
21	Mga katutubo, welcome sa AFP	Pia	Tempo p.3
22	Duterte ikokonsulta muna sa NSC, AFP,PNP ang ceasefire pian ng CPP	Vanz Fernandez	Police Files p.2
23	CPP magdedeklara ng unilateral ceasefire		Police Files p.2
24	100 pamilya nagbakwet sa NPA encounter	JG Tumbado	Abante p.6
25	NPA official dinampot	Elsa R Navallo	Remate p.3
26	Nagpakilalang NPA, nagtangkang kikilan ang brgy. Kapitan sa Albay		Police Files p.3
27	3 container vans ng DOLE Phil. Sinunog ng NPA sa ComVal		Police Files p.3
28	Photo: Rescued	PNA	The Daily Tribune p.3
<b>EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY</b>			
29-30	Women are heroes, too	Christine Bernadette Almonte	PDI p.A11
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			
31	Tgalog news:AFP , hangad maging kasapi ang mga katutubo	Philippine News Agency	www. retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
32	Duterte recognizes PSG's involvement in the community	Philippine Information Agency	www. retiredanalyst.blogspot.com


26 March 2017



Page: A17



**PANAHON TV**  
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS • FREEDOM VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MARCH 26, 2017 | SUNDAY**

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN SECTION AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY (As of 5:40 AM - Mar 25, 2017)


<b>LAOAG CITY</b> 23 - 31 °C	<b>TUGUEGARAO CITY</b> 23 - 32 °C
<b>BAGUIO CITY</b> 15 - 25 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY CITY</b> 22 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b> 24 - 35 °C	<b>LEGAZPI CITY</b> 25 - 31 °C
<b>METRO MANILA</b> 24 - 35 °C	<b>TACLOBAN CITY</b> 24 - 31 °C
<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b> 26 - 32 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b> 24 - 32 °C
<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b> 24 - 32 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b> 23 - 31 °C
<b>ZAMBOANGA CITY</b> 24 - 33 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b> 24 - 34 °C

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
6:56 AM	6:08 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
3:37 AM	3:34 PM
<b>LAST QUARTER</b>	<b>NEW MOON</b>
MAR 25 10:05 PM	MAR 24 10:37 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
4:30 AM	9:06 PM
-0.04 Meter	0.8 Meter

Partly cloudy to a times cloudy with moderate to heavy rain. Light rain.

MAR 27	MAR 28	MAR 27	MAR 28	MAR 27	MAR 28
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	23 - 34 °C	23 - 34 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	21 - 30 °C	20 - 29 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	23 - 31 °C	22 - 29 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	25 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	23 - 31 °C	22 - 31 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	15 - 25 °C	15 - 25 °C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	26 - 31 °C	26 - 30 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	24 - 35 °C	24 - 33 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C
			<b>TACLOBAN</b>	24 - 30 °C	24 - 29 °C
			<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	23 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C
			<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	24 - 34 °C	24 - 33 °C
			<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C

**Watch PanahonTV daily on Pilipinas HD at 9AM, 12NN, 3PM, 6PM & 9PM.**



**PILIPINAS HD**

26 March 2017



Page: 1

# Rody: Respect my mandate, also VP's

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte reiterated yesterday his call on his political allies and the rest of the nation to respect the mandate given to him and Vice President Leni Robredo amid heated rhetoric and impeachment cases filed against them after only nine months in office.

He lamented that the impeachment moves, whether against him or Robredo, would not benefit the nation.

"We just had the elections and we go into ousting our officials, including me. We should forget politics," he said.

"Let the elected officials of this country do their work. You know, whatever happens, the leaders are elected by the people. If it turns out to be sons of a b\*\*ch, it's

for the people to decide what to do. For the meantime, let's stay on the right path and just work." Duterte said in an ambush interview in Bukidnon yesterday where he led the groundbreaking of a drug treatment and rehabilitation center.

Duterte said he has not given much thought to the filing of an impeachment complaint against him to avoid being distracted.

"I don't even answer the challenges and the charges. It's useless," he said.

"I would say 'let's stop it.' We just had elections, we just got here about nine months, and now we are into the thing of ousting elected leaders. *Mabigat 'yan* (That's heavy). They are elected leaders, the votes of the Filipinos are sacred," he said. "Let it remain this way."

Turn to Page 12

## Rody

From Page 1

Last Wednesday, Duterte told his congressional allies to drop impeachment efforts against Robredo, but on Thursday night he again accused her of plotting to bust him, along with detained Sen. Lilia de Lima and Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, who are his arch critics.

### Cool It

Sen. Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV, for his part, said the country should focus on bigger concerns to uplift the plight of Filipinos rather than on personalities amid the impeachment talks.

"I hope cooler heads will prevail," he said.

Aquino, who is from the Liberal Party that Robredo now leads as its highest elected official, also stressed "the top one and two leaders of the country have spoken. I hope that would be a sign to all."

Aquino was referring to the President's call to stop the impeachment moves against Robredo as he noted it was natural for her to be a critic, because they belong to different political groups.

Duterte, however, echoed Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez's accusation that Robredo appeared to be in a hurry to replace him.

But Robredo said she was not behind the impeachment complaint that Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejano filed against Duterte on various grounds, and that her criticisms against the government's war on drugs and other issues should not be taken

as acts of destabilization or moves for her to become president right away.

It was Alvarez who accused Robredo of involvement in Alejano's impeachment complaint and said she herself must be impeached for the video she sent to the United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drugs criticizing the administration's war on drugs.

Alvarez said they would proceed with Robredo's impeachment despite the President's statements.

In an ABS-CBN News report, Trillanes was quoted as saying Duterte's defense of Robredo is mere drama and that the President is taking on the role of a "good cop" to distract the public from thinking he has something to do with impeachment plans against the Vice President.

"Be careful believing President Duterte. He is two-faced. This is all staged. You shouldn't be fooled, because we can see through him," Trillanes said.

If they proceed with it, Aquino said Robredo has stated that she is ready to face whatever it is she has to face. "So let's just wait and see," he said.

Aquino said they would act independently and fairly should the impeachment complaints reach the Senate.

"We are not robots that follow anything we're told to do," Aquino, who was at the Pangasinan State University in Lingayen, Pangasinan Friday afternoon, said.

"We are capable of seeing

what is right and what is not," Aquino said, adding, "What I hope to see is each congressman and senator, regardless of our political alliances, capable of discerning the truth."

### People's pulse

For Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III, the statements of Duterte about Robredo, De Lima and Trillanes being part of the destabilization efforts against his administration were mere reflections of the sentiments of the public.

Whether or not they actually are part of a destabilization plot against the administration, Sotto said the actions

of the three officials show that they want to remove the President.

Sotto said the public is disappointed at how the three officials have constantly criticized the President, who has not even enjoyed a full first year in office yet.

He pointed to members of the majority bloc, most of whom belong to different political parties not affiliated with the President, but who have given Duterte their support, at least in his first year in office.

"We are not his partymates but we show that we appreciate the good things his administration is doing," said Sotto

in an interview over dwIZ.

In a separate interview, Trillanes said that the President has become paranoid and is starting to see things which are not really there.

Trillanes explained that the legal actions that he and his fellow Magdalo group members have initiated against the President have nothing to do with the Vice President or even the LP.

He noted that what he has presented are serious allegations involving crimes against humanity, murder and corruption.

Trillanes said that he and his fellow Magdalo group members are merely availing

themselves of the legal options available to them in trying to make the country's officials accountable for their actions.

"Duterte is diverting the issue. He is insulting and maligning us but he is not answering the issues raised against him," Trillanes said.

He explained that the actions they have taken were not meant to destabilize or remove the President from power.

"We are just following the system of government wherein if you have done something wrong you will be held accountable, even if you are president," Trillanes said. - With Eva Visperas, Marvin Sy

March 2017

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

# Benham Rise is ours

## China assures it will never dispute PH's rights over the continental shelf

**B**ELJING (PNA) – China will not and will never dispute the Philippines' rights over the Benham Rise continental

shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the nation's shore.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry gave this assurance in the wake of a contro-

versy arising from reports that Chinese vessels were spotted at Benham Rise allegedly to conduct marine research.

"Since someone from the Philip-

pines are still playing it up, I'd like to say a few more words about it," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said when asked to

comment about persistent reports in Philippine media about the Chinese vessels' passage for marine scientific research across waters near ►14

## Benham Rise is ours ◀1

### Benham Rise

Hua said the Chinese Foreign Ministry has repeatedly expressed China's position since the issue came out in the Philippine media more than 10 days ago.

She said China recognized that the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf has approved the submission made by the Philippines in 2009 in respect to the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles.

"The Chinese side fully respects the Philippines' rights and interests over the Benham Rise region. There has never been and will not be any dispute over this region between China and the Philippines," Hua told the media last Thursday.

Hua clarified that while the Chinese vessels for maritime scientific research did sail across the relevant waters to the northeast of Luzon of the Philippines "they did not conduct any operations or other activities."

She said the international laws including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) do not prohibit foreign ships' navigation within the coastal state's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and on the high seas.

"Chinese vessels enjoy navigation freedom and the right to innocent passage," Hua said.

The Philippines and China relations have made big turnaround following a fruitful visit of President Rodrigo Duterte to Beijing in October last year.

"Since last year, thanks to the concerted efforts of China and the Philippines, the Sino-Philippine relations have witnessed all-round

improvement, which serves the common interests and meets the needs of the two countries and two peoples," Hua said.

She said China will continue to give great importance to the China-Philippine relations and cherishes the sound developing momentum of the bilateral relations.

"Going forward, China will remain committed to properly addressing relevant maritime issues together with the Philippines," Hua said.

In an effort to renew the Philippines-China relation, President Duterte has temporarily shelved an international tribunal decision favoring the Philippines' arbitration case against China's nine-dash line claim in the South China Sea.

The popular Filipino leader's move has resulted in over US\$24 billion investment pledges and funding from China and has improved a lot the bilateral trade between the two countries.

In previous media interview, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the Philippines and China had agreed to establish bilateral consultation on the issue of South China Sea.

Hua said China is creating favorable atmosphere for the healthy, stable and fast development of the China-Philippine relations as well as the progress of mutually beneficial and friendly cooperation in various fields.

"As neighbors facing each other across the sea, China and the Philippines have closely engaged in exchanges, and the two peoples have enjoyed friendship over generations," she said.

6



26 March 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

## Police, Army foil another Kadamay 'invasion'

POLICE and residents foiled the attempt of some 750 members of Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) to occupy another National Housing Authority (NHA) resettlement project in Barangay Bonga Mayor in Bustos, Bulacan on Friday night.

The Kadamay members arrived at Bulacan Heights Housing Project on board 30 passenger jeeps and tried to force their way into the housing units but elements from the Bulacan Provincial Police, soldiers from 48th Infantry Battalion – Philippine Army (IB-PA) and force multipliers blocked their way.

After a peaceful negotiation the Kadamay group voluntarily dispersed at about 2:50 a.m. on Saturday.

On March 8, some 6,000 Kadamay members illegally occupied six housing projects in Pandi, Bulacan and have not left since even after an eviction notice was served on March 20 and the NHA gave the occupants one week to vacate the houses or be ejected.

Militant partylist groups belonging to the "Makabayan block" in Congress on Wednesday announced their support to the Kadamay group and said they will join them in fighting their eviction.

The Kadamay members have occupied Villa Elise; Padre Pio housing project in Barangay Cacarong Bata; houses previously awarded to Bureau of Jail and Penology employees and Bureau of Fire Protection in Barangay Cacarong Matanda; Villa Louise housing site in Barangay Siling Matanda and the Pandi Heights 2 and 3 projects in Barangay Mapulang Lupa.

Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) partylist Rep. Antonio Tinio earlier said the "Makabayan block" is urging President Rodrigo Duterte and the NHA to recall the March 20 eviction notices and asked the government not to use military force to evict those occupying the housing units.

Tinio said the eviction notice is expected enforced on March 29.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Army Core Purpose

FREDERICK SILVERIO ring the land.

26 March 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

# 10 NPAs killed in SCotabato encounter

BY JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL AND JERRY N. ADLAW

**E**IGHTY families were evacuated when about 50 members of the New People's Army (NPA) attacked a para-military detachment of CAFGU (Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit) in Tampakan, South Cotabato on Friday morning.

A source of *The Manila Times* from the military estimated that about six to 10 rebels were killed when two 105 mm howitzer started bombarding the area. The rebels managed to retrieve their wounded comrades and fled at the height of heavy fighting.

Colonel Benjamin Leander, head of the Philippine Army's 27th Infantry Battalion, believed the attackers are from the NPA's 73 District Guerilla Unit of the Far South Mindanao Command front.

An evacuee identified only as Bert said prior to the skirmishes, they al-

ready sighted the presence of the group who surrounded the mining site of Sagittarius Mines Inc (SMI) which is heavily guarded by government soldiers.

The SMI had temporarily shut down its operation after the provincial government imposed its environment code that prohibits open pit mining.

Senior Supt Frank Alvero, police provincial director, said they have received intelligence report about the NPA's threat to carry out attacks in various parts of South Cotabato "and on Friday they attacked at 6 in the morning as we

made our effort to reinforce and help the 27th IB, PA joining the counter operation against the NPA," he said.

Two Huey helicopters of the Philippine Air Force transported Army and police reinforcements to the site during the height of the fighting in sitio Tablu, Barangay Liberty.

The area can only be reached by motorcycle or by foot since there is no access road.

The heavy firefight lasted for almost seven hours and families in the area were forced to abandon their houses for fear of being caught in the crossfire.

In spite of the heavy exchange of gunfire no casualty or injury was reported on the side of the government soldiers.

Meanwhile, a voice message from certain "Ka Efren" of the NPA Far South Mindanao command dispatched through a local radio claimed they were responsible in the ambush of Private Albino Bahian 3rd, a member of the Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT)-2, who was killed during the encounter with the NPA Guerilla Front 73 in Barangay Hinalaan, Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat last week.

He said the ambush done by their comrades was in response to the information they received that soldiers deployed at the SMI mining site have been serving as company guards and receiving salaries from the mining firm.

Alvero denied the allegation saying the soldiers were only safeguarding the area after the NPA's threat to attack police and military check points and outposts.

Central Mindanao was placed under heightened alert status following a series of ambushes and scale of hostilities perpetrated by the NPA rebels in various parts of the region.

A business tycoon who requested not to be named said eco-tourism business has also been affected by wide scale atrocities by the NPAs in the region.

26 March 2017

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 20

# NPA releases two prisoners

**D**AVAO CITY (PNA) — Two members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) previously captured by the New People's Army (NPA) rebels were released Friday afternoon in Barangay Limot, Tarragona town in Davao Oriental.

Paramilitary men Rene Doller and Carl Mark Nucos were forcibly taken on February 14 in Barangay Don Mariano Marcos, Lupon, Davao Oriental, at a checkpoint mounted by the communist rebels.

Doller, 34, and Nucos, 24, are members of the CAFGU under the 72nd Infantry Battalion.

They were released to the group Exodus for Justice and Peace (EJP) Davao Oriental board member Louie Rabat also witnessed the release on Friday.

Family members of the freed militiamen joined the EJP and Rabat during the official release in the area.

In a copy of the release order sent to the media here, the National Democratic Front (NDFP) Southern Mindanao Region said the release was NDFP's "favorable response" to the widespread appeal of the families of the paramilitary men.

The NDFP also earlier committed to release all its prisoners-of-war as part of the peace process. The release of the prisoners comes ahead of the resumption of formal peace negotiations between the NDFP and the Philippine Government (GRP), which had been derailed last month when both sides withdrew their respective unilateral ceasefires.

The fourth round of talks will be held April 2 to 6 in Noordwyk, The Netherlands.

9

26 March 2017



Pahina. 6

### Retired Army dakma sa arms cache

**PAMPANGA** – Rehas na bakal ang binagsakan ng 48-anyos na retiradong Philippine Army matapos itong makumpiskahan ng mga armas, bala sa inilatag na operasyon ng pulisya sa Barangay Sto. Rosario, Floridablanca, Pampanga noong Biyernes ng hapon. Base sa police report na nakarating kay P/Chief Insp. Rommel Labalan, hejje ng Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Region 3, kinilala ang suspek na si Ret. M/Sgt. Eric Solano y Noveno ng Phil. Army. Dakong alas-5:43 ng hapon nang isilbi ng mga operatiba ang search warrant na inisyu ni Judge Jonel S. Mercado ng Guagua Regional Trial Court sa Pampanga laban sa suspek. Nasamsam sa suspek ang isang M-16 Armalite rifle, 3 magazine ng rifle, mga bala, tatlong cal. 45 pistol at dalawang granada. Nahaharap ngayon sa mga kasong paglabay sa RA 10591 (Illegal Possession of Firearms and Ammunitions) at RA 9158 (Illegal possession of explosives) dahil sa walang kaukulang papeles ang suspek **Gary Bernardo**.

10

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

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

## Police, Army officials welcome Maguindanao local execs' support for MASA MASID

Philippine News Agency

Police and military officials in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have lauded local officials' readiness to help carry out the government's anti-drug, anti-corruption drive.

Chief Supt. Reuben Sindac, police director for ARMM, said he was elated that local officials vowed their all-out support for the "Mamamayang Ayaw Sa Anomalya, Mamamayang Ayaw sa Ilegal na Droga" (MASA MASID).

"We welcome local officials' commitment and willingness to help in the drive against illegal drugs and corruption in the local level," Sindac told reporters Saturday.

On Thursday, Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu, representatives of the police, the military, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), jointly launched MASA-MASID with the regional military officials in attendance.

Sindac said he personally thanked Mangudadatu for bringing in all 36 Maguindanao town mayors to support the anti-drug campaign of President Rodrigo Duterte. MASA MASID was officially launched in Buluan, capital of Maguindanao, on Thursday.

"Without the support of local officials, the anti-illegal drugs campaign of the government will not succeed," Sindac said.

In support of the anti-drug, anti-corruption campaign, a fun-run for a cause was launched Saturday in Shariff Aguak town where about 1,000 former drug dependents participated, along with leaders of various police and military units in Maguindanao's second district.

Shariff Aguak Mayor Marop Ampatuan provided prizes for fun run winners.

"The fun run is an indication that the grassroots participation in the campaign is gaining ground," Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, who joined officials of the 6th Infantry Division in the activity.

The campaign against illegal drug personalities and suspected drug lords continue in Maguindanao, according to Sr. Insp. Rasol Pandulo, Maguindanao PNP spokesperson.

Two Maguindanao town mayors publicly named by President Duterte as "narco-politicians" remain at large. They are Ampatuan town Mayor Rasul Sangki and Talitay Mayor Montasir Sabal.

Both denied they were into drugs but they have so far not surrendered.



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

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

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

## Military foils NPA attempt to ambush humanitarian mission convoy in Surigao Norte town

Philippine Information Agency

Army troopers conducting route security encountered the New People's Army (NPA) rebels around 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 in Barangay Jubgan, San Francisco, this province.

2Lt Jonel Castillo, spokesperson of the 30th Infantry Battalion (30IB), said these soldiers were deployed to secure the humanitarian team convoy composed of the Army's 30IB, Philippine Navy Naval Forces - Eastern Mindanao, Phil. Marine Reservists, Kiwanis Club members, LGU Malimono and Provincial Health Office personnel.

Castillo said the soldiers encountered the NPA rebels after the humanitarian team convoy has just finished the conduct of Medical-Dental and Relief Operations in commemoration of the Philippine Army's 120th Founding Anniversary.

The humanitarian convoy was able to extract safely after the Route Security Team defended the convoy led by 30th Infantry Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Rico Amaro.

"We are celebrating the Army's 120th Anniversary by reaching out to the farthest Barangay of the province, we offered Medical and Dental Service to our countrymen, we also gave relief goods while these NPAs offer us nothing but bullets and landmines," Castillo said.

"Last February while we were working and standing side by side to comfort our fellow Surigaonons traumatized by earthquake, they also ambushed our soldiers that delivered relief goods on the same southernmost barangay where we came from this morning. They have not changed at all. We are still looking for answers why are they doing these when it is our constituents from far flung areas that benefit from these activities," Lt. Col. Amaro said.

"We will not be cowed, we will face all threats just to make sure every Surigaonon is served by our government," Amaro added.

26 March 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. A1

POLICE, MILITARY UNCOVER TERRORIST CELL OPERATING IN METRO MANILA

# Manhunt for Maute Group terrorists

BY RENE ACOSTA

**T**HE Philippine National Police (PNP) is hunting down members of the Maute Group, three of whom have been identified, following the earlier arrest of their colleague during an operation by a combined police and military team in Quezon City.

The three—Isnadie Ibrahim, a certain Najib and Yusof Macoto—were reported members of the group's terror cell based in Metro

Manila, although the Armed Forces is still yet to categorically admit the existence of the Islamic State (IS)-allied group in Metro Manila

Police Director General Ronald M. dela Rosa said members of the Lanao del Sur-based Maute Group are currently the subjects of continuing operations by the police, although he did not discount the possibility that they could have already slipped back to Mindanao.

## Jihad 'teacher'

IBRAHIM, a subleader of the Maute Group, supposedly planned the foiled bombing on the US Embassy in Manila, while Macoto was the mastermind of the attempted attack. Macoto is an imam at the Tejeros Mosque in Tanza, Cavite.

According to a report prepared by the Quezon City Police District, under Chief Supi Guillermo Lorenzo T. Eleazar, Macoto has been facilitating the teachings of jihad at the mosque.

The presence of the terrorist group in Metro Manila, or at least the existence of a plot to attack, was first confirmed by dela Rosa immediately after the foiled embassy bombing on November 28 last year, which subsequently led to the arrest of four suspects who are members of the Ansar al Khilafa Philippines (AKP).

CONTINUED ON A2

13

CONTINUED FROM A1

The AKP and the Maute are two groups allied with the IS. Lately, however, all local terrorist groups in Mindanao have already joined together under the banner of ASG Basilan Commander Isnilon Hapilon as the ISIS-recognized leader in Mindanao.

The existence of a terror cell in Metro Manila was further confirmed by the arrest on Monday of Nasip Ibrahim, 35, a native of Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, and resident of 31-A Libyan Street, Salaam compound, Barangay Culiati, Quezon City.

Eleazar said a joint police and military team took in Ibrahim after his house yielded three firearms and a homemade bomb fashioned out of a 60mm mortar shell with a detonating device.

### Plot to bomb US Embassy

THE Quezon City police director said the operating team was actually attempting to serve a warrant of arrest against Jamil Baja Tawil for illegal possession of firearms.

"Tawil is a suspected ally of the Maute terrorist group believed being coddled by Nasip Ibrahim y Sarip and sheltered in his residence," the report prepared by the Quezon City Police said.

The arrest of Ibrahim, who was presented to dela Rosa by National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Chief Director Oscar Albayalde and Eleazar, completed the picture on the failed US Embassy bombing.

Ibrahim, Eleazar's report said, was the driver of the blue Toyota Revo with plate number XKT-424 that was used in the attempted bombing. It was reportedly driven all the way to Manila from Mindanao.

The report added that a few days before the foiled bombing, Ibrahim met with Najib, Rashid Kilala and his uncle, Isnadie Ibrahim, alias Bro Akh a.k.a. Inspire near SM department store in Marilao, Bulacan.

Ibrahim also facilitated the accommodation of the three at the Park Villa on Quezon Avenue, where they stayed for two nights.

After the failed bombing, the PNP arrested Kilala and three others, identified as Jiaher Guinar, Mohammad Jumao-as and Elmer Romero.

Dela Rosa said the arrest of Ibrahim prevented any other possible attack by the terrorist group in Metro Manila.

### ISIS-inspired

"THE PNP has foiled another sinister attempt by the ISIS-inspired Maute group to launch terrorist activities. I am glad that alert operatives of the NCRPO discovered and intercepted in time an improvised explosive device being prepared by the suspects even before it can be delivered to its possible target or used elsewhere," the PNP chief said.

"We are yet to uncover the circumstances surrounding this incident involving the Lanao-based

Maute Group, but this discovery leads us to believe that the Maute Group has already established presence in Metro Manila, as to what extent, that is the subject of our follow-up investigation and operations," he added.

In disclosing the presence of the Maute in the nation's capital, dela Rosa said he does not want to create an alarm, but wanted Metro residents to be vigilant.

"I do not want to sound alarmist or cause panic, but prudence, it has been said, is the better part of valor. I, therefore, urge our people to remain calm, yet alert and vigilant of the presence of threat groups in our midst," the PNP chief said.

The military is working with the PNP to validate the reported presence of a terror cell in Metro Manila, saying it does not still have the data on the report, while belying it was contradicting the police stand.

"There is no contradiction with the PNP headquarters on that account because, at that time of the media event of the PNP headquarters, the Armed Forces did not possess the information and the data that were necessary to make a more extensive statement...so, we could not link anything, or conclude anything until we have the information," military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto C. Padilla Jr. said.

Padilla added that whether there is a threat, what is important is the readiness of security forces, including the police, to deal with it.

14



24 March 2017



Page. 6

## China military ships' visit under discussion

THE Philippines and China are "communicating" on the details of Chinese military vessels' visit to Manila.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying, in her regular press conference in Beijing, said military-to-military exchanges and cooperation is an important component of China-Philippines relations.

As for Chinese military vessels visiting the Philippines, the two sides are in communication," she said.

With the improvement of the Philippines-China bilateral relationship, Hua said China would like to enhance exchanges and cooperation

in relevant fields with the Philippines.

On Thursday, President Rodrigo Duterte, speaking at the 16th National Convention of Lawyers organized by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Pasay City, reiterated his invitation for China to send its battleship to visit the country.

Duterte said he told Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua that he would board their battleship when it visits the Philippines.

"China is sending one of its biggest ships. I told the Ambassador of China that I will board it," Duterte said.

Meanwhile last week,

the Philippine government deployed a Navy frigate off Benham Rise following China's illegal activities in the area, which the United Nations recognizes as Philippine territory northeast of Luzon.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the BRP Ramon Alcaraz, a newly acquired United States Coast Guard cutter, was cruising toward the coast of Benham Rise to drive away the Chinese ships from the area.

He said there will be regular navy patrols on Benham Rise in the wake of the past sightings of Chinese ships there.

**Cristina Lee-Pisco**

15

26 March 2017



Page. 12

## 2 Abu rebs slain, 1 hurt in encounter

By Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca

**TWO** members of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) were killed while another one was wounded in an encounter with government forces the other day in Basilan.

This was confirmed yesterday by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesperson Captain Jo-Ann Petinglay.

The encounter also led to the recovery of five motor boats believed to be used by the bandits in their kid-

nap for ransom activities and terrorist operations.

Petinglay identified the fatalities as Bisaban Nisalin alias Upang Upang and Jayda Salipuddin, both followers of ASG sub commander Mike Usman.

Accordingly, at around 7:45 a.m. the group of Nisalin shot the group of soldiers conducting hot pursuit operation in the area that triggered a brief encounter resulting to the death of the suspect.

At around 9 a.m. on the same day, elements of 64th Infantry Battalion of Philippine Army conducting air strike operation arrested

another bandit identified as Rolly Ikb, 47, who has pending warrant of arrest for the crime of robbery and arson.

Recovered from his possession was a caliber .45 pistol loaded with ammunition.

In a hot pursuit operation of government forces against the bandits involved in the seajacking and kidnapping of two boat crews in Sibago island on Thursday, Salipuddin was killed.

During the operation, the troops recovered 16 automatic rifles and one motor boat.

Authorities are now conducting follow-up investigation on the incident.

16

March 2017



Page: 3

## Unidentified drone buzzes Phl Navy ship in Benham Rise

By JAIME LAUDE

An unidentified aircraft, possibly an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or a drone, buzzed the Philippine Navy warship while the latter was conducting maritime and sovereignty patrol on Benham Rise Friday afternoon.

Navy officials, however, have yet to receive full details on the unexpected "encounter" between the unidentified AUV and BRP Ramon Alcaraz (FF16), a Navy warship sent by the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) to secure the country's maritime domain on the Pacific Ocean side.

"I'll check first with Nolcom because they have operational control of FF16," Navy spokesman Capt. Lued Lincuna said in reference to ABS-CBN's report that a possible drone suddenly appeared in the sky above the patrolling *Alcaraz* on Friday.

In a text message, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said that as of Saturday afternoon, the aircraft has remained unidentified. The buzzing of *Alcaraz* on Benham Rise has become viral in a defense blog maintained by defense and military observers.

Some questioned the defense capability of the warship for its failure to detect an approaching aircraft until crewmembers on board sighted it. As reported by ABS-CBN, the UAV was described by *Alcaraz* skipper Navy Commander Jeff Rene Nadugo as an "unidentified bogey" that hovered and flew sharply back and forth, staying in a spot in front of the patrolling navy ship for several minutes.

At one point, the drone flew 500 feet above the *Alcaraz*, highlighting the capabilities and limits of the Navy's most capable combat ship.

One defense observer said that had *Alcaraz* been installed with APS-77 Sea Giraffe radar, it could have tracked the target's movements and possibly determine its point of origin and destination.

Another defense blogger asked why *Alcaraz*, in this digital age, is still not equipped with powerful cameras that could produce quality photos to identify unknown contacts.

Some suggested that the drone is owned by China, while others said it could have come from one of the US

warships on patrol in the Pacific.

They said that if the drone is not

China's or the US's, it could belong to the Taiwanese armed forces.

17

26 March 2017



Page: 17

# Tugboat captain rescued from Abus

By ROEL PAREÑO

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** – The captain of a tugboat taken by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in the waters off Basilan was rescued yesterday.

Aurelio Agac-ac of M/Tug R9, tugboat of the cargo vessel Super Shuttle 9, was abandoned by his captors during military operations in Barangay

Basakan in Mohammad Ajul at around 5:30 a.m., said Col. Juvymax Uy, commander of the 104th Brigade and Joint Task Force Basilan

Uy said naval forces also seized two pump boats from the kidnapers while conducting a maritime blockade off the the coast of Al-Barka

Agac-ac was brought to the Camp Navarro General Hospital in Zamboanga City for checkup. He was also presented to Western Mindanao Command chief Maj

Gen. Carlito Calvez Jr and underwent debriefing

Agac-ac said he is happy that his ordeal is over. He said he would go home to Cebu to attend the graduation of his two sons.

He also expressed optimism that Laurencio Tiro, chief engineer of the tugboat, is still alive and would be

rescued.

Uy said operations to rescue Tiro are underway.

"Local officials asked their people to be on alert for the presence of the gunmen and the victim," he said.

On Thursday, military operatives seized an assault rifle and three speedboats following an encounter with the kid-

nappers. One of the suspects identified as Jaudi Sahupuddin, who was wounded and arrested in the offensive, died on the way to a hospital.

Agac-ac and Tiro were seized near Sibagu Island shortly after two Malaysian sailors were rescued in Sulu on Thursday after almost eight months in captivity.

March 2017



Page: 3

## Troops rescue kidnapped boat captain in Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Pursuing government troops yesterday rescued the skipper of the tugboat towing a cargo vessel hijacked by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits two days ago off Basilan province.

Col. Juvymax Uy, Joint Task Force Basilan commander, confirmed that Aurelio Agacac is now in the custody of the troops after he was rescued at about 5:30 a.m. yesterday in Barangay Basakan in the coastal town of Hadji Mohammad Ajul.

Agacac is the skipper of *M/T Tug R9* towing the cargo vessel, *Super Shuttle RoRo 9*.

"He (Agacac) was rescued. Of course, we are still looking for the other kidnapped victims. Operation continues relentlessly," Uy said.

On Thursday, the Abu Sayyaf bandits hijacked *M/T Tug R9* and forcibly took Agacac, along with his chief engineer, Laurencio Tiro, in the vicinity of Sibago Island, Hadji Mohammad Ajul town.

Uy did not provide further details on the circumstances that led to the rescue of Agacac, but said they beefed up their operation following the brazen attack of the Abu Sayyaf on Thursday.

Earlier, operating troops from the 19th Special Forces Company of the 4th Special Forces Battalion killed an Abu Sayyaf member, Jaudi Salupuddin, during a hot pursuit operation in Tuburan town following the hijack incident in the neighboring municipality of Hadji Mohammad Ajul.

"He was fatally wounded when he was turned over, prompting the military to evacuate him to the nearest medical station. However, he expired along the way," Capt. Joann Petinglay, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) information officer, said.

Petinglay said Salupuddin was among those involved in the hijack of *M/T Tug R9*.

The troops also recovered an M-16 rifle with two short magazines of ammunition and a motorized banca used by the Abu Sayyaf in

the kidnapping.

On Friday, the military also recovered one colored light blue motorboat locally known as "*bote-bote*" with a 10-person capacity, and one yellow outrigger-type motorboat with a four-person capacity at Sitio Kapago, Barangay Candus, Tuburan.

Both boats were positively identified as the ones used in the hijacking of *M/T Tug R9* and their engines were already removed.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Westmincom commander, said a pursuit operation is still ongoing in coordination with the police forces in Basilan province.

"WestMinCom is doing its best to rescue all the kidnap victims within our area of operations. However, this is one challenge that your Armed Forces cannot address alone. We need the help and the support of every peace-loving Filipinos in this fight," Galvez said.

"As of this report, Westmincom troops are working doubly hard to track and rescue the remaining sailor (Tiro) and the other kidnap victims. We will use all means to rescue the remaining hostages."

Prior to the hijack on Thursday, troops from the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion under the Joint Task Force Basilan and members of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) launched an assault against the Abu Sayyaf in Tuburan town.

At least one Abu Sayyaf member identified as Bistahan Nisalun, alias Upang-Upang, was killed during the assault in Barangay Lahi-Lahi, Tuburan. He was a known follower of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Abdullah Indanan alias Abdullah Jhovel or Guru, Petinglay said.

The Philippine military is operating on a six-month deadline imposed by President Rodrigo Duterte to finish off the Abu Sayyaf, which has carried out a string of maritime kidnappings over the past year.

The deadline will lapse on June 30.

26 March 2017



Pahina. 2

## 6 na bagong fighter jets makukumpleto na—AFP

MAKUKUMPLETO na ng Philippine Air Force sa katapusan ng Mayo ang anim na FA-50 fighter jets mula sa South Korea.

Apat na buwan na mas napaaga ang petsa ng pagdating ng mga bagong sasakyang panghirapapawid

Ayon kay AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, ang ika-apat na batch ng fighter jets ay inaasahang darating sa susunod na linggo habang ang ika-limang batch ay sa Abril.

Ang ika-anim at huling batch ng trainer planes mula sa Korean Aerospace Industries ay itinakdang dalhin ng South Korea sa Mayo.

Sa Setyembre pa sana dadalhin ang huling batch ng FA-50 pero agad itong natapos na gawin.

Plano rin umano ng AFP na bumili pa ng panibagong anim na trainer planes kung may sapat na pondo at maganda ang takbo ng mga biniling FA-50 jets.

Nauna nang pinondohan ang anim na fighter jets ng P18.9 bilyon kung saan ang naunang dalawang batch nito ay dinala na sa bansa noong Nobyembre. JEFF G

26

26 March 2017



Page. 3

## Mga katutubo, welcome sa AFP

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan (PIA) – Nagpapatuloy ngayon ang pangangalap ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ng mga katutubo sa mga pamayanan upang maging kasapi ng kanilang hanay.

Ito ang tinuran ni Kalihim Delfin Lorenzana ng Department of National Defense (DND) sa kanyang pagbisita sa Palawan kasabay ng ika-40 anibersaryo ng Western Command.

Ani Lorenzana, hangad nilang maging katuwang ang mga katutubo sa pagsawata sa mga rebeldeng grupo sa kanilang pamayanan lalo pa't ang mga katutubong komunidad ang madalas na hinihikayat ng grupo tulad ng New People's Army (NPA).

"Madalas unang pinupuntahan ng mga NPA ang mga katutubo sa mga butubundukin, kaya mas makabubuti kung sila ang magiging kabalikat natin sa pagsugpo sa masamang gawain", ani Lorenzana.

Aniya, maging ang WESCOM ay sinisimulan na sa kasalukuyan ang pagsasanay sa mga ito na inumpisahan sa bayan ng Roxas.

21

26 March 2017

**POLICE FILES**

Page. 2

## Duterte ikokonsulta muna sa NSC, AFP, PNP ang ceasefire plan ng CPP

**KOKONSULTAHIN** muna ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang National Security Council (NSC) lalo na ang militar at PNP kaugnay sa bajak ng Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) na magdeklara ng unilateral ceasefire bago o simula sa March 31.

Ayon kay Pangulong Duterte, nais din niyang malaman ang opinyon ng mga lider ng Kongreso kaugnay sa hakbang na ito ng mga komunista.

Pahayag pa ng Pangulo, dapat nitong malaman sa mga heneral ng Army at mga pulis dahil baka makaapekto lamang sa peace talks kung hindi sila susunod sa ceasefire declaration.

Nais daw munang matiyak ni Pangulong Duterte kung tama bang magdeklara ulit ng ceasefire lalo pa't nagalit siya noong unang nagbawi ng ceasefire declaration ang mga rebelde kamakailan lang.

(Vanz Fernandez)



26 March 2017

**POLICE FILES**

Page. 2

# CPP MAGDEDEKLARA NG UNILATERAL CEASEFIRE

NAKATAKDA umano ng maglabas ang Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) ng unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire bago mag-Mars, 31 para bigyang daan ang ika-apat na round ng peace talks sa pagitan ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) at Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) na isasagawa sa Abril 2 hanggang 6 sa The Netherlands.

Ang pahayag ng CPP ay kasunod ng pag-anunsiyo ng New People's Army (NPA) na kanilang pakakawalan ang dalawang prisoners-of-war

(POWs) sa Mati, Davao Oriental.

Umaasa ang CPP sa pamahalaan na magdeklara rin ng unilateral ceasefire na bahagi ng

backchannel talks noong March 10 hanggang Marso 11.

Kasabay nito, hinimok din ng CPP-NPA ang administrasyon ng Duterte na ipag-utos sa Armed Forces of the Philippines na "mag-slow down" muna sa isinasagawang all-out offensive military operations at aerial bombing at shelling campaigns sa

mga rural barangays para maging paborable ang isasagawang mutual ceasefire.

Sa March 11 Joint Statement, inaasahan na rin umano ng CPP na palalayain ng Duterte government ang 19 na matatanda at may sakit nang mga bilanggo pati na rin ang pagpapalaya sa apat na nakadetineng NDFP consultants.

23

26 March 2017



Pahina. 6

## 100 pamilya nagbakwet sa NPA encounter

Imatayang nasa 100 bilang ng pamilya na nauipit sa giyera sa pagitan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) ang nagsilikas na dahil sa labis na takot na madamay sa kaguluhat sa Barangay Tabu, Tampakan, South Cotabato.

Ayon sa militar, nakapagtala na umaao ng mga sugatan sa panig ng rebeldeng grupo na kasapi ng NPA guerilla front 72 at 73 sa nabanggit na lugar.

Kasalukuyang nagpapatuloy pa ang beripikasyon ng mga awtoridad sa mga sugatan at apektadong indibidwal at kung may naitalang patay sa panig ng grupo.

Nagdagdag na rin ng puwersa ang 27th Infantry Battalion sa lugar upang tumulong sa pagtugis sa mga rebelde.

Ilang air assets na rin ng militar ang rumesponde upang makatulong sa paglikas sa mga residenteng nauipit sa bakbakan at upang mapigil ang teroristang grupo.

Kinondena naman ng mga opisyal sa probinsya ang nangyaring pang-aatake ng NPA dahil hindi na inalimnana ng mga ito ang buhay ng mga sibilyan.

Sa kabila ng patayan ng magkabilang panig, nakaamba naman ang susunod na unilateral declaration of interim ceasefire na binabalangkas ng Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) bago mag-Marso 31 para bigyan-daan ang ikaapat na peace talks sa pagitan ng gobyerno sa The Netherlands (JG Tumbado)

24

26 March 2017



Pahina. 3

### **NPA official dinampot**

**FORT MAGSAYSAY, Palayan City**-Isang mataas na opisyal ng New People's Army ang nadakip ng pinagsanib na pwersa ng mga operatiba ng Army at kapulisan, sa Carranglan, Nueva Ecija kamakalawa

Kinilala ni Maj. Gen. Angelito de Leon, commander ng 7th Infantry Division, ang naaresiyong rebelde na si alyas Isaac/ Moises, front secretary ng NPA platoon na nag-o-operate sa tri-boundaries ng Nueva Ecija-Nueva Vizcaya, at Eastern Pangasinan.

Ayon kay De Leon, natutop ang opisyal ng pinagsanib na pwersa ng 703rd Infantry (Agila) Brigade, 56th Infantry (TATAG) Battalion at Philippine National Police sa Barangay Gen. Luna, Carranglan habang nagsasagawa ng sombat operation sa tulong ng ilang residente.

Nasamsam sa suspek ang caliber 9mm, (2) hand grenades, improvised explosive device (IEDs) at mga communications equipment.

Dinala si Isaac sa Carranglan Police Station bago inilipat sa pangangalaga ng Provincial Public Safety Company na pinamumunuan ni PCI Edilmar Alvar.

**ELSA R. NAVALLO**

25

26 March 2017

**POLICE FILES**

Page. 3

### **Nagpakilalang NPA, nagtangkang kikilan ang brgy. kapitan sa Albay**

LEGAZPI CITY – Hindi napigilán ng isang punong barangay mula sa lalawigan ng Albay na magsumbong sa mga otoridad matapos na makatanggap ng banta mula sa umano'y kasapi ng rebeldeng grupo.

Personal na pumunta sa himpilán ng Rapu-rapu Municipal Police si Brgy. Kapitan Carmelita Asuncion ng Brgy. Malobago sa naturang bayan upang isumbong ang insidente.

Sa salaysay nito sa mga otoridad, nabatid na nakatanggap umano ito ng isang tawag at text mula sa nagpakilalang kasapi ng New People's Army (NPA) na nanghihingi ng pera para umano sa paparating na seleksyon ng ambersarvo ng CPP-NPA Binamira Command sa Marso 29.

Unang natanggap nito ang text message noonag Marso 17 ngunit nang binalewala ito, muling nakatanggap ng tawag dakong hatinggabi ng Marso 24 mula sa parehong numero na may kasatia ng pagbabanta kung keva gomawa na ng hakbang ang naturang opisyal. Patuloy ang imbesugasyon ng mga otoridad sa naturang insidente.

26

26 March 2017

**POLICE FILES**

Page. 3

### **3 container vans ng DOLE Phil. sinunog ng NPA sa ComVal**

**DAVAO CITY** – Pagtangga ng kompanyang DOLE Philippines na magbayad ng revolutionary tax sa New People's Army (NPA) ang pangunahin umanong dahilan sa ginawang pagsunog ng mga rebelde sa tatlong container vans sa Barangay Canlawig, Maragusan, Compostela Valley province kahapon ng umaga.

Nasa anim na kilometro lamang ang layo mula sa sentro sa bayan ng Maragusan nang maganap ang panununog.

Napag-alaman na ang nasabing mga container vans ay dadalhin na sana sa mga daungan ng lungsod ng Davao upang ibiyahin palabas ng bansa nang harangin ng mga rebelde at sunugin dakong 7:00 ng umaga.

Puno ng mga saging ang nasabing mga container vans nang sunugin ng mga NPA.

Una nang nagmatigas ang mga rebelde na hindi raw sila pwedeng pigilan ng pamahalaan na magpatipad ng sariling panimigil ng buwis mula sa mga kompanya sa loob ng kanilang mga teritoryo.

Daang milyong piso ang tinatayang iniwang danyos sa nasabing panununog.

27

26 March 2017



Page: 3



**Rescued** Tug boat skipper Aurelio Agac-ac (left) talks about his freedom at dawn yesterday following a 37-hour harrowing and tension-filled ordeal with the Abu Sayyaf Group in Basilan province. His right is Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Westmincom commander. PNA

28

26 March 2017



Page:   A11  

**YOUNG BLOOD**

# Women are heroes, too

CHRISTINE BERNADETTE F. ALMOITE

**F**or the longest time, women were not allowed in the military. Traditional, stay-at-home, and a too-safe sense of fashion—these have been the expectations. More often than not, the most dominant yet weakest representations of humankind were women.

Today women enjoy, or appear to enjoy, equality with men in many areas. Whether in the fields of business, media, engineering, or the military, women are now well-represented. Women now come across as more dynamic, confident, outspoken, inquisitive, unshakable in their convictions, uncompromising. Today a number of women are in the military, though they cannot be assigned to the frontline of battle. Or perhaps that is just the thinking of the Philippine Military Academy.

The commencement ceremony of the “Salaknib” (for “*Sang-gulang ay Lakas at Buhay Para sa Kalayaan Ng Inang Bayan*”) Class of 2017 of the country’s premier military institution was held on March 12. News about women truly breaking barriers was all over the trimedia and shared by thousands on social networking sites. The event was cause for celebration until the PMA issued a statement that shook my world. According to Chiara Zambrano’s report on TV Patrol, the number of women recruits will be lessened because in the end, it is still men who will be

sought in the world of war (“*Babawasan na sa susunod ang pagkuha ng babae dahil sa huli, lalaki pa rin ang hahanap-hanapin sa mundo ng digmaan*”).

As many as 63 female cadets are in the Salaknib class—the biggest number in PMA history. Among the top 10 graduates, 8 are women. The topnotcher? A woman!

Such a statement from the PMA is really disheartening; it is sexist and misogynistic as well. It was not too long ago—23 years, to be exact—when the PMA started accepting women into the military institution, in an acknowledgement of gender rights. While an important step toward equality in the military appears to have been made, there are still some major snags—such as the quoted statement from the PMA.

IF WOMEN ARE RELEGATED TO BYSTANDERS IN THE NARRATIVE OF OUR BATTLES, WE WILL GET STUCK IN THE PREFACE OF THAT STORY AND LOSE SIGHT OF THE VALUE OF THE NEXT CHAPTERS

Gone are the days when women were solely viewed as damsels in distress. Beyond the feminine exterior lies a modern and empowered hero. While in the past, society largely viewed a woman as a princess waiting to be swept off her feet by a prince, we now know that our strength lies, not in our gender, but in our bravery to step up and act on things we believe in. Armed with that knowledge, we cannot be stopped by external limitations.

With equal rights and empowerment, both men and women can be agents of change. And we women can be at the forefront of combat even with makeup on. If the PMA believes that it is men who are sought after in times of war, it is wrong. This nation and its people believe that women are an integral part of the PMA's capability to perform its mission. Let's face it. In times of war, there is no gender-protected environment in the battlefield. But bravery and endurance are not only reserved for male military personnel.

Some of the most applauded soldiers are defined by the awards they receive for courage in battle. Both men and women have demonstrated extraordinary bravery under conditions other than direct combat, and many have not been recognized for their deeds. This is common among women during the wartime resistance, those behind the wheel in convoys, in the cockpits of obsolete planes, and in field hospitals, patching up the injured with little more than a standard first-aid kit.

While women and girls are the first targets of attack, the promotion of our rights must be the first priority in response.

If men are always presented the opportunity to serve and protect this country, why can't women be given the same opportunity to serve, protect, and fight for this country, to the extent of making the ultimate sacrifice alongside their comrades in arms? If women are relegated to bystanders in the narrative of our battles, we will get stuck in the preface of that story and lose sight of the value of the next chapters.

Courage, integrity and loyalty are not just words for lip service. These are values deeply ingrained in the heart of a cadet, of whatever gender and sexuality.

Let us take a lesson from the words of then US President Barack Obama to his fellow Americans: that they should all be "proud that our military will grow even stronger, with our mothers, wives, sisters and daughters playing a greater role in protecting this country we love." We should empower our women to be the best drivers of growth and best hope for reconciliation. One should not belittle women's ability to do things society thinks we cannot do. We cannot defeat radical ideologies or build resilient families and communities if we continuously draw a red line and post a sign that reads "Men only." If we truly believe in equal opportunity for all, here's what has to change.

While we are not looking, stories of today's heroes become tomorrow's history. With women in uniform making life-and-death decisions on the frontline of ground combat, both offering and receiving praise and punishment, this history is about to surface for everyone to see.

Being in the military does not have anything to do with being female. It does not even come close. It is being able to perform one's duties as a soldier with unwavering commitment, breathing new life into antiquated story lines.

30



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

## ONLINE NEWS

26 MARCH 2017

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

# Tagalog news: AFP, hangad maging kasapi ang mga katutubo

Philippine Information Agency

Nagpapatuloy ngayon ang pangangalap ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ng mga katutubo sa mga pamayanan upang maging kasapi ng kanilang hanay.

Ito ang tinuran ni Kalihim Delfin Lorenzana ng Department of National Defense (DND) sa kanyang pagbisita sa Palawan kasabay ng ika- 40 anibersaryo ng Western Command .

Ani Lorenzana, hangad nilang maging katuwang ang mga katutubo sa pagsawata sa mga rebeldeng grupo sa kanilang pamayanan lalo pa't ang mga katutubong komunidad ang madalas na hinihikayat ng grupo tulad ng New People's Army (NPA).

"Madalas unang pinupuntahan ng mga NPA ang mga katutubo sa mga bulubundukin, kaya mas makabubuti kung sila ang magiging kabalikat natin sa pagsugpo sa masamang gawain", ani Lorenzana.

Aniya, maging ang WESCOM ay sinisimulan na sa kasalukuyan ang pagsasanay sa mga ito na inumpisahan sa bayan ng Roxas.

Sa kaniyang pananalita, nanawagan din ang Kalihim sa mga katutubo saan mang panig ng lalawigan na huwag padadala sa pangungumbinse ng makakaliwang grupo dahil sa hindi mabuti ang mga idudulot ng mga ito sa kanilang pamayanan.

3

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

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

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

## Duterte recognizes PSG's involvement in the community

Philippine Information Agency

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte gave due recognition to the members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) for their deeper involvement in the communities as they participate in activities that develop their social skills, promote a healthy lifestyle and encourage civilian engagement.

"These have made the PSG stronger, more dependable, more competent and encourage civilian engagement. These have made the PSG stronger and it will be so for all time," Duterte said during the change of command ceremony of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) at the Malacañang Park on Thursday, March 23.

President Duterte has appointed his senior military adviser, Army Col. Lope Dagoy as the new head of his security replacing Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista.

The Chief Executive opened his keynote speech by recognizing several members of the PSG who were wounded in an ambush last November in Marawi.

"Your government will ensure that their needs, your needs are taken care of as you rest and recover from your injuries. If this incident tells you anything it is that the risk and dangers of being a member of the Presidential Security Group are all too real," he said.

Duterte also said the reforms undertaken by his administration will ensure busy days for the prestigious unit.

"There are those who were upset by the administration's reforms. There are those whose lives have been affected by our people's war against crime, corruption, and the illegal drugs. These are the people who do not wish to see me or the Philippines succeed," he said.

He said he is fully convinced of the competence of the incoming PSG chief.

"The incoming PSG Commander Colonel Lope Dagoy will have his hands full. I am confident that his outstanding credentials and considerable experience will enable him to lead the PSG effectively," he said.

"I fully entrust the protection of myself and my family to him and to the entire PSG," he added.

The President, meanwhile, acknowledged the contribution of Bautista in improving the PSG.

He said the organization is "in good order" citing several upgrades and improvements such as procurement of equipment and vehicles and extensive training for troopers locally and abroad, which have been implemented during the past nine months.

In closing, he expressed confidence that the PSG will have his back and will stand by the government in pursuing task of bringing prosperity, order and security to the country.