

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

01 May 2017

Monday

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

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

NEWS HEADLINES

01 MAY 2017

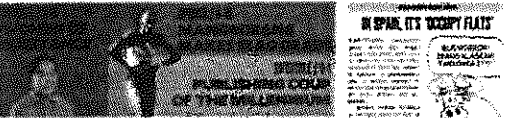


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TRUMP INVITES DUTERTE TO WASHINGTON

WORKERS SEEK PAY HIKE IN RALLIES TODAY

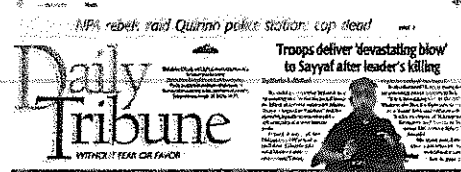
Labour Day rallies will be held nationwide today to demand higher wages and productivity. Workers in Metro and Pampanga are expected to participate.



WHAT does it mean when a politician is accused of being a 'dog' in a 'doghouse'? How is it different from a 'dog' in a 'doghouse'? WHY should food security be considered a fundamental right?

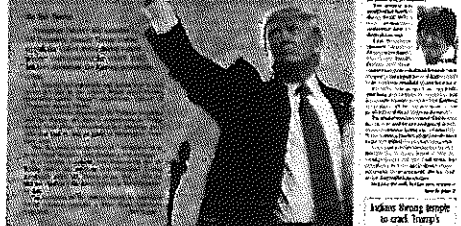


Duterte, Widodo open shipping route
Pope: Korea war to destroy humanity
Troops pursue NPA raiders, 14 held
PVL games start, but rumors persist



Duterte: Pressure on China not needed
Troops deliver 'devastating blow' to Sayayn after leader's killing

Duterte says yes to US visit 'soon'



Trump's 100-day rally: President launches attack on media, Obama
Solo vows 'Balo' on culture of impunity in PNP
De Lima asks dismissal of House leaders' raps
Ledesma brings hope to coal, Trump's visit



Trump invites Rody to White House

President Trump invited Rody Duterte to the White House for a meeting. Duterte is expected to arrive in Washington soon.



30 Rods attack cops; kill 1, abduct 3
Duterte holds punches on sea ray
'We lords out, to stop Rody's war'



Govt junks IS bombing tale

The government has rejected a report that Islamic State (IS) forces bombed a military base. The report was deemed unreliable.

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MAY 1, 2017 | MONDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON
(As of 5:00 AM - Apr. 30 2017)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:34 AM	6:13 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
10:01 AM	11:11 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
APR 29 8:18 AM	MAY 3 10:47 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
9:32 PM	12:47 PM
-0.19 Meter	1.16 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

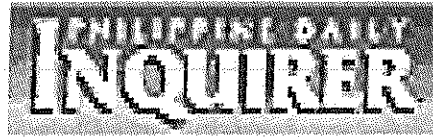
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	MAY 1	MAY 2	MAY 3	MAY 4	MAY 5
METRO MANILA	25-35°C	26-35°C	23-32°C	22-32°C	25-31°C
TAGAYTAY	25-35°C	26-35°C	23-32°C	22-32°C	25-31°C
TACLOBAN	25-31°C	25-31°C	25-31°C	25-31°C	25-31°C
TUGUEGARAO	25-34°C	25-35°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
LEGAZPI	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
LAOAG	25-33°C	25-33°C	26-34°C	26-33°C	26-33°C
PUERTO PRINCESA	26-34°C	26-33°C	26-34°C	26-33°C	26-33°C
METRO DAVAO	26-33°C	25-33°C	26-33°C	25-33°C	25-33°C
BAGUID	17-25°C	16-25°C	25-32°C	26-32°C	25-33°C
ILOILO/BACLOD	25-32°C	26-32°C	25-32°C	26-32°C	24-32°C
ZAMBOANGA	25-33°C	24-32°C	25-33°C	24-32°C	24-32°C
SBMA/CLARK	26-35°C	26-35°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
METRO CEBU	26-35°C	26-35°C	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

Watch PanahonTV on DZRH News Television from Monday to Friday at 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM, and via Pilipinas HD at 6:00 AM, 6:30 PM and 9:00 PM.

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WORKERS SEEK PAY HIKE IN RALLIES TODAY

STORY BY NESTOR P. BURGOS AND JEROME ANING

FROM A1

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
and Jerome Aning
@Team_Inquirer

Thousands of workers and other protesters, including at least 8,000 in Western Visayas, will join Labor Day rallies on Monday to press for higher wages, job security and an end to labor contractualization.

The rallies will be held in Metro Manila and other areas like the cities of Bacolod, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Tacloban and Davao as the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) will host 54 job and business fairs throughout the country that offer more than 200,000 jobs.

To allow workers to cope with rising cost of living, labor groups said they would seek from President Duterte substantial increases in the minimum wage.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III earlier announced that Mr. Duterte would present the surprise gift to workers at a Labor Day assembly in Davao City.

"We welcome the gesture of President Duterte to give a gift

to workers as the government's appreciation to those who build and sustain the country's high economic growth," said Alan Tanjusay, spokesperson for the Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP).

A financial package as a Labor Day surprise is good, but Filipino workers need a more substantial wage hike, according to the labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU).

Cash subsidy

ALU-TUCP has proposed an emergency P500 monthly cash subsidy for workers whose daily pay rate is below the 2015 government standard of P393 needed daily by a Filipino family of five to survive.

That proposal will apply to all workers outside Metro Manila, where the daily minimum wage is P491.

ALU-TUCP also plans to petition the regional wage boards to approve pay increases, including P157 across-the-board for workers in Metro Manila.

KMU is seeking a national daily minimum wage of P750 for workers in the private sector and

a monthly pay of P16,000 for government employees to bring the "current poverty wages closer to living standards."

On the eve of Labor Day, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV called on his fellow senators to pass a measure granting additional pay to government workers (whether permanent, contractual, temporary or casual) rendering service at night.

Besides demanding a wage increase, workers are expected to take to task Mr. Duterte on his promise to end labor contractualization or end of contract ("endo"), the widespread practice of continuously rehiring workers on contract instead of regularizing them after six months of continued work as mandated by law.

In Iloilo City, about 3,000 protesters are scheduled to assemble at 1 p.m. at Iloilo Freedom Grandstand.

Similar rallies are expected in Roxas City in Capiz province to be joined by 2,500; in Kalibo in Aklan province, 2,000, and in Estancia in Iloilo province, 500.

"President Duterte has failed to fulfill his pronouncements that he will end contractualization. What his adminis-

tration has passed is a deceptive order that only worsens the practice," Elmer Porro, KMU coordinator for Western Visayas, told the Inquirer.

Venues in Metro Manila

Porro was referring to the Department Order No. 174 issued last month by the Dole, supposedly to end endo.

KMU marchers will converge on Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila. The rally will be joined by members of the urban poor group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap and agrarian reform beneficiaries from Tagum City, Davao del Norte province.

Members of the newly founded labor alliance Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawa (Paggawa) will converge on Plaza Miranda in Quiapo at 8 a.m. before marching toward Roces Bridge. The alliance is composed of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Association of Genuine Labor Organizations, National Federation of Labor Unions, Solidarity of Unions in the Philippines for Empowerment and Reform Federation, and Metro East Labor Federation.

Paggawa will be joined by

other groups, including Sanlakas, Partido Lakas ng Masa, Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang-Lungsod and Samahan ng Progresibong Kabataan.

The BPO Industry Employees Network will stage a march on Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati City to demand better working conditions.

Job fairs

Bello encouraged job seekers in Metro Manila to visit any of the Trabaho, Negosyo, Kabuhayan job and business fairs, where 34,145 local and overseas jobs would be offered by 170 employers.

The nine sites in Metro Manila are: Quezon City—Quezon City Hall and Fisher Mall, Quezon Avenue; Manila—Bonifacio Monument, Padre Burgos Drive, Muntinlupa City—Ayala Mall; Parañaque City—City Hall; Taguig City—Vista Mall; Las Piñas City—Robinsons Mall; Valenzuela City—Astrodome; and Pasay City—city hall.

Job applicants were advised to bring their resumé or curriculum vitae (extra copies for multiple job applications); 2 x 2 ID pictures; certificate of employment for those

formerly employed; diploma and/or transcript of records, and authenticated birth certificate.

The top local jobs with the biggest number of vacancies are: production machine operator—7,850; customer service representative/assistant—6,093; police officer—3,086; call center agent—2,490; office clerk—1,740; factory worker—1,520; production helper/technician—1,353; cashier—1,326; sales clerk—1,115; company driver—1,060; electronic assembler—900; technical support representative/assistant—855; service crew—572; sales and marketing assistant—460; and sales associate professional—459.

For those seeking overseas employment, the top vacancies are laborer—2,600; cleaner—1,207; service crew—1,180; electrician—1,080; professional nurse—940; production worker/factory worker—898; welder—725; waiter—724; foreman—550; waitress—522; plumber—442; assistant electrician—400; cook—394; company driver—354; and production machine operator—328.

—WITH REPORTS FROM TINA G. SANTOS AND MARLON RAMOS INQ

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Trump invites Rody to White House

By ALEXIS ROMERO

US President Donald Trump invited President Duterte to the White House during a "friendly" conversation that also tackled regional security issues including the threat posed by North Korea, officials said yesterday.

Trump called Duterte Saturday night after the closing ceremonies of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit hosted by the Philippines.

would be a "catastrophe" and Asia would be the first victim of a nuclear war.

He implored the US to show restraint toward North Korea, saying the two nations

Trump touts 100-day record, slams media. See Page 16.

A press statement from the White House said Trump is "visiting the Philippines in November to take part in the East Asian Summit and the US-ASEAN Summit."

A few hours before the phone call, Duterte said ASEAN was extremely worried about tensions between the US and North Korea, pointing out that one misstep

were "playing with their dangerous toys."

Duterte told reporters earlier that he would urge Trump to ensure that no war would break out over North Korea's threat as Asia would suffer "immensely" from its fallout.

"It was a very friendly conversation, in which the two leaders discussed the concerns

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Trump invites From Page 1

of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations regarding regional security, including the threat posed by North Korea," a White House statement read.

"President Trump also invited President Duterte to the White House to discuss the importance of the US-Philippines alliance, which is now heading in a very positive direction."

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella confirmed the invitation in a separate statement, adding that the two leaders also touched on the upcoming East Asia Summit in November "as well as matters of regional geopolitical concerns, especially on the situation in North Korea," which has been showing off its missile and nuclear capabilities, worrying neighbors who fear that the totalitarian state's activities could lead to a catastrophe.

"But details, understandably, are not forthcoming," Abella said.

Abella described the conversation between

Duterte and Trump as "warm." The White House said Trump had "enjoyed" the conversation with Duterte and was looking forward to his visit to the Philippines in November.

The US has had an uneasy relationship with the Philippines – its traditional ally – since Duterte assumed office last year. The tough-talking Duterte had chided former US president Barack Obama for supposedly interfering with his bloody campaign against illegal drugs and for imposing his views on a sovereign country.

He also claimed that the US has no moral ascendancy to lecture him on human rights because of its supposed transgressions in the Middle East and the alleged discrimination against African-Americans and Muslims.

When Trump assumed the presidency in January, Duterte said he was confident that he would get along well with the American leader, who has been likened to him because

of their penchant for frank and provocative statements.

Last Saturday's phone call was the second conversation between the two leaders. Duterte called Trump in December to congratulate him for winning the US presidency.

Abella said Trump had expressed commitment to the alliance between the Philippines and the US and has expressed interest "in developing a warm, working relationship with President Duterte."

The White House said the Philippines' crackdown on illegal drugs, which has earned Duterte both critics and admirers here and abroad, was also mentioned during the two leaders' phone conversation.

"They (Duterte and Trump) also discussed the fact that the Philippine government is fighting very hard to rid its country of drugs, a scourge that affects many countries throughout the world," the White House said.

Duterte previously claimed that Trump had expressed support for his war on narcotics, which has reportedly left about 7,000

suspected drug offenders dead.

"Thank you but if you are in Washington, give me a call and we'll have coffee. Or, if you are in New York. And besides, you are doing it (anti-drug campaign) right," Duterte quoted Trump as saying in a speech in Pasay City last April 19.

– With Pia Lee-Brago

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TERROR SUSPECT SIGHTED IN BOHOL FARMING TOWN

By **Leo Udtohan**
@leoudtohan

TAGBILARAN CITY—One member of the Abu Sayyaf group being hunted by authorities in Bohol has been sighted in the town of Tubigon, according to an Army official.

Capt. Jojo Mascariñas, spokesperson of the Army's 302nd brigade, said a farmer in the village of Buenos Aires in Tubigon town reported seeing a man, looking tired and pleading for food through hand gestures.

Fearing for his life, the farmer gave the man food. Quoting the farmer, who was not identified for security reasons, Mascariñas said the suspect hurriedly left after eating.

The suspect was identified later as an alias Ubayda Mascariñas, quoting the farmer, said. Ubayda wore clean clothes, indicating that he had been able to change his attire somewhere.

At large

Mascariñas said three more Abu Sayyaf members were still on the loose. He identified them only by their aliases—Um Amara, Abu Omar and Ubayda.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces spokesperson, said he presumed one of the terrorists was already dead because of exhaustion and hunger.

But Mascariñas said soldiers hunting the terrorists would continue to believe that all of the terrorists were still alive "unless we see a body."

Soldiers and policemen continued to distribute flyers with pictures and names of Abu Sayyaf members who entered Bohol province. The list marked eight who had died in



Policemen in pursuit of Abu Sayyaf members in the town of Inabanga shortly after a clash with the terrorists on April 11.—**TONEE DESPOJO/CEBU DAILY NEWS**

gunfights with soldiers.

Stolen clothes

Mascariñas asked the public to report if they had lost clothes, which could have been stolen by the terrorists, or if they see suspicious-looking men. The brigade hotline is (+63) 905-4551543.

"We will finish them all," he said.

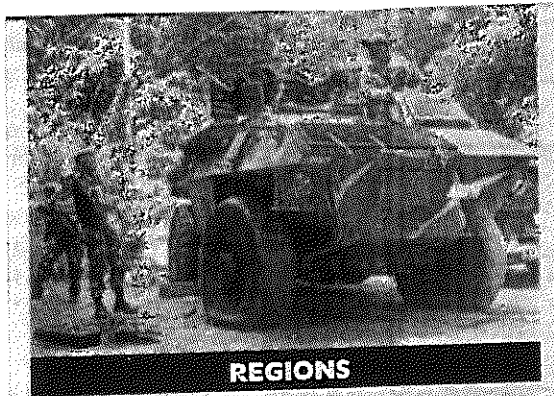
Although the hunt is not over, Bohol Gov. Edgar Chatto and lawyer Lucas Nunag, chair of the provincial tourism council, said in a joint statement that Bohol province was now free from terrorist threats.

The statement sought to allay fears that tourists would be unsafe in the province, saying the areas entered by Abu Sayyaf were far from known tourist areas like Panglao, Chocolate Hills and Loboc River. INQ

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REGIONS

Troops pursue NPA raiders; 14 held

DAVAO CITY—Law enforcement authorities are holding 14 people as they press a hunt for communist rebels who attacked facilities of companies in several areas in Davao del Norte province. The New People's Army said it staged the attacks to punish the companies for supposed crimes against the people. But one of the companies said the loss of jobs as a result of the raids was the bigger crime. —STORY BY FRINSTON LIM

A-12

DAVAO CITY—Fourteen persons, including a woman, have been arrested by authorities during operations to hunt down about 100 communist rebels who, on Saturday, attacked the facilities of at least three companies owned by the Lorenzo clan in Southern Mindanao, officials said on Sunday.

Soldiers conducting clearing operations also recovered what authorities said were two bodies of slain rebels in the upland district of Calinan, hours after the 3 a.m. simultaneous rebel attacks on the compound of Lapanday Foods Corp. (LFC) owned by the family of ex-agriculture chief Cito Lorenzo, in the village of Mandug, some 15 kilometers north of this city.

The rebels also attacked the Lorenzo farm in the village of Pangyan, also in Calinan, according to Capt. Rhyan Batchar, spokesperson of the Army's 10th infantry division.

Batchar said a wounded rebel was also captured and turned over to police. He said soldiers recovered an assault rifle and materials for making bombs in Pangyan village.

Civilian injuries

While the attack in Mandug was raging, another group of rebels also torched a factory of Macondray Plastic, another company owned by the Lorenzos, in Tagpore village, Panabo City in Davao del Norte.

A security guard of Lapanday, Reynaldo Talamaque, was wounded after a brief gunfight.

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A military armored vehicle suffers a flat tire after it was hit by an explosive device while it was on its way to facilities of Lapanday attacked by communist rebels in Davao del Norte. —ARJOY M. CENIZA

with the rebels.

A fish vendor was also wounded after a bomb meant for soldiers went off on a road in Mandug past 5 a.m. on the day of the attack, according to Senior

Insp. Teresita Gaspang, Davao City police spokesperson.

In a statement, LFC said the attackers ransacked the plant offices and stole employees' mobile phones, computers and

other pieces of company property.

"The company reported it was fortunate no employees who were working at the time of the incident were harmed or in-

jured," said the LFC statement.

"All of the company's personnel are safe," LFC said.

The firm said the rebels disarmed guards on duty before torching the firm's box and plastic plants.

'Vicious act'

The firm said it would cooperate with authorities in the investigation of the "criminal act" even as it called on the military and police to exert efforts to prevent the perpetrators from further "endangering the safety and security of people and inflicting damage to private property."

The banana firm also warned that the attack could adversely affect the livelihood of its hundreds of employees and disrupt others who have businesses with LFC.

"It is they who are now jobless and shall bear the brunt of the consequences of this vicious act," LFC said.

Batchar said 10 of the arrested persons had been released on

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Sunday after it was found they were indeed part of Lapanday's security force.

Armed guards

They had been apprehended earlier at an Army checkpoint aboard a pickup truck. Seven of them had been in guard uniforms and were armed with shotguns and pistols.

Four other "suspicious persons," with muddied clothes and rain boots on, were also arrested and still being held for further questioning, Batchar said.

Civilian and military leaders in the region condemned the attacks, calling these "senseless, selfish and desperate."

"Their acts clearly [show] utmost disregard for existing laws and human rights, contrary to what they are trying to project with their propaganda," said the Southern Mindanao police and military's Eastern Mindanao Command in a joint statement.

—FRINSTON LIM INQ

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Army edges IEM in men's volleyball

By KRISTEL SATUMBAGA

**Games Tomorrow
(The Arena, San Juan City)**
1 p.m. – Sta. Elena vs
Café Lupe (men's)
4 p.m. – BaliPure vs Power
Smashers (women's)
6:30 p.m. – Perlas vs Air Force

BaliPure recovered from a slow start to down Air Force, 21-25, 25-19, 25-19, 25-21, yesterday at the start of the women's division of the

Premier Volleyball League at The Arena in San Juan City.

The Water Defenders leaned on former three-time NCAA Most Valuable Player Grethcel Soltones, who sizzled with 16 points highlighted by 14 kills, for the team's first win in the revitalized league.

National University standout Risa Sato and Jerrili Malabanan also stepped up for BaliPure with 12 points apiece, even as setter Jasmine Nabor silently contributed with 26 excellent sets on top of

five points.

The Water Defenders struggled with 33 errors but made it up with 45 attacks and nine service aces to topple the determined Lady Jet Spikers.

Jocemer Tapic topscored for Air Force with 14 points, while Joy Cases added 12 points, but they were not enough to regain the Lady Jet Spikers' fiery start.

In men's play, Army survived Instituto Estetico Manila, 25-19,

23-25, 20-25, 25-21, 16-14, to also jumpstart its title campaign on a bright note.

Skipper Benjaylo Labide took the spotlight for the Troopers with 19 points, even as Jayvee Sumagaysay and Anthony Arbasto also led the charge with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

Far Eastern University standout Greg Dolor fired 17 points in a losing effort for IEM, as well as Joeward Presnede, who chipped in 14 points.

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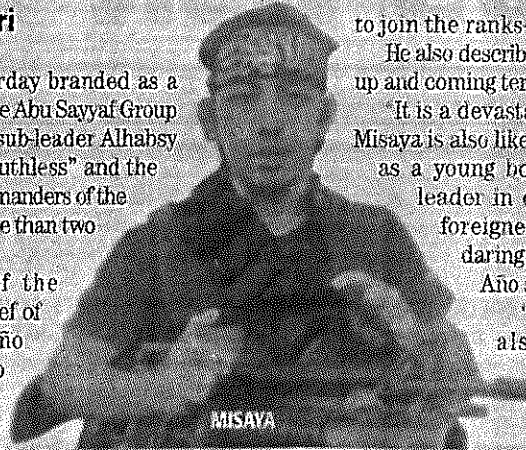
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Troops deliver 'devastating blow' to Sayyaf after leader's killing

By Mario J. Mallari

The military yesterday branded as a "devastating blow" to the Abu Sayyaf Group the killing of terrorist sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya — tagged as "ruthless" and the second high-profile commanders of the ASG neutralized in more than two weeks.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año noted Misaya's ability to entice young Tausugs



MISAYA

to join the ranks of Abu Sayyaf.

He also described Misaya as among the up and coming terrorist leaders in Sulu.

"It is a devastating blow to the ASG. Misaya is also like Abu Rami considered as a young bold and ruthless ASG leader in charge of kidnapping foreigners and known to be daring ASG terrorist fighter,"

Año said.

"His recruitment ability also contributed in radicalizing young

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From page 1

Tausugs. His death will surely diminished ASG's capability to conduct terrorism particularly kidnapping, stop the recruitment and would lead to the eventual defeat of the whole ASG organization," he added.

Misaya was killed on Saturday during an encounter with the Marines somewhere in Indanan, Sulu.

He was the second ASG leader killed in the past three weeks.

Abu Rami, also known as Muamar Askali, was killed in Inabanga, Bohol last April 12 during a clash with government forces. Askali's group allegedly plotted to conduct kidnapping in Bohol — a known tourist destination in Central Visayas.

Both Misaya and Askali have gained notoriety in recent years for staging in daring kidnapping of foreign hostages.

Tagged by the military as a bomb expert, Misaya was involved in many celebrated kidnapping and bombing incidents such as the October 2002 Malagutay bombing that killed American serviceman

Sgt. Mark Jackson and the wounding of 23 others, including another US serviceman, the January 2009 bombing of the Salaam Bridge in Barangay Bato-Bato, Indanan, Sulu, and the March 2011 bombing of Dennis Coffee Shop at the vicinity of Barangay San Raymundo, Jolo, Sulu, which killed four civilians and wounded 11 others.

He was the subject of warrant of arrest for kidnapping and serious illegal detention. Misaya was a native of Barangay Bunot, Indanan in Sulu where was considered among the sub-leaders of the Abu Sayyaf group.

According to Año, the military is continuously receiving surrender feelers from the ASG side but he stressed that government troops will proceed with its relentless efforts against the terrorists.

"We have received many surrender feelers from remaining ASG members. And we shall continue our relentless efforts until we neutralize the last ASG terrorist," he said.

Among those supposedly sending feelers is ASG top leader Radullian Sahiron, one of the

remaining senior commanders of the Abu Sayyaf. He is wanted by the United States with \$1-million reward.

For his part, Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, said Misaya's killing will bring people-loving people of Sulu closer to security development and would send a stern warning against his followers.

"The neutralization of Misaya adds a big plus on the AFP's timeline and brings the country a step closer to peace, progress and sustainable security. His followers hopefully get the message that the long arm of the law will eventually catch up with them and hence, motivate them to turn a new leaf and seriously consider surrendering," said Padilla.

"It also sends a clear message to the community that supporting criminals will not bring them a better life but only greater misery if they insist on providing them safe havens. The AFP, without doubt, communicated its serious intent in addressing the threat posed by this group and its dedication to serve and secure the people," he added.

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AFP: Death of sub-leader a big blow to Abu Sayyaf

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday described as a “devastating blow” to the Abu Sayyaf the death last Friday of the group’s notorious Abu Sayyaf sub-leader, Albhasy Misaya.

Año said Misaya’s killing is a step closer to ending the Abu Sayyaf problem. Año has set a military deadline to defeat the Abu Sayyaf within the first six months of year, or until June.

Misaya was killed by Marines in a firefight in Barangay Silangan, Indanan town in Sulu Friday night during a military operation. The Armed Forces declined to give other details due to ongoing operations.

“It is a devastating blow to the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group). Misaya is also like Abu Rami, considered as a young bold and ruthless ASG leader in charge of kidnapping foreigners and known to be a daring terrorist fighter,” said Año.

Rami, whose true name is

Muammar Askali, is also a sub-leader and served as spokesman of the Abu Sayyaf. He and his three men were killed in a clash with government forces on April 11 in Bohol where they planned to kidnap foreign and Filipino tourists.

Año said Misaya, who had arrest warrants for serious illegal detention with ransom, also played a role in the recruitment of Abu Sayyaf members and had contributed to “radicalizing young Tausugs.”

“His death will surely diminish the ASG’s capability to conduct terrorism, particularly kidnapping, stop the recruitment and would lead to the eventual defeat of the whole ASG organization,” said Año.

“We have received many surrender feelers from remaining ASG members,” said Año, without elaborating. “And we shall continue our relentless efforts until we neutralize the last ASG terrorist,” he added.

The military earlier said Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf leader Radul-

lan Sahiron, who is in his 70s, expressed intention to surrender because of old age.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Misaya’s neutralization “adds a big plus to the AFP’s timeline and brings the community a step closer to peace, progress and sustainable security.”

Padilla said the military is hoping Misaya’s followers will “get the message that the long arm of the law will eventually catch up with them and hence, motivate them to turn a new leaf and seriously consider surrendering.”

Padilla also said Misaya’s demise “sends a clear message to the community that supporting criminals will not bring them a better life but only greater misery if they insist on providing them safe havens.”

“The AFP, without doubt, communicated its serious intent in addressing the threat posed by this group and its dedication to serve and secure the people,” Padilla said, referring to the Abu Sayyaf.

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'Abu leader's death major blow to bandits'

By **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

The death of Alhabsy Misaya, an Abu Sayyaf sub-leader known for kidnapping activities in Sulu, will cripple the bandit group, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año said yesterday.

"Misaya, who was killed in a firefight in Parang town on Friday night, was as bold and ruthless as Muamar Askali, alias Abu Rami," Año said.

He said both Misaya and Askali, who was killed in Bohol last month, were in charge of kidnapping foreigners

"Misaya's ability to radicalize young Tausugs was significant to the Abu Sayyaf. His death will diminish the bandit group's capability to sow terror," the AFP chief said, adding they have received surrender feelers from some Abu Sayyaf members.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Misaya's death would bring peace, progress and security to Sulu.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobajana, commander of the joint Task Force Sulu, said government security forces raided Misaya's hideout in Barangay Silangkan Proper and killed the bandit after a brief firefight.

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A backhoe digs a grave in Clarin town, Bohol province, for four members of Abu Sayyaf who were killed in a clash with soldiers. Officials attribute the success of the operation against the terrorists to tips from civilians who had been given cash rewards. —JUNJIE MENDOZA/CEBU DAILY NEWS

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Sayyaf tipsters get reward but amount unknown

By **Leo Udtohan**
@leoudtohanINQ

TAGBILARAN CITY—Top military officials turned over to tipsters an unspecified amount of cash promised by President Duterte for the capture, dead or alive, of Abu Sayyaf members who tried to set up a base in Bohol province.

While the officials refused to say how much was given, they confirmed that one of the recipients was the driver of a *habal-habal*, whose tip led authorities to the terrorists. *Habal-habal* is a motorcycle used as a public utility vehicle.

Authorities hunting Abu Sayyaf members, who had tried to establish a base in the Bohol town of Inabanga, were led to one of the terrorists by the *habal-habal* driver who became suspicious about one of his passengers who smelled like he hadn't taken a bath for some time.

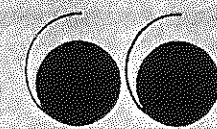
The driver ferried the passenger to a store in Clarin town, also in Bohol, where the passenger bought P400 worth of bread.

The passenger's inability to speak in Cebuano made the tipster more suspicious.

Important tip

Gen. Oscar Lactao, head of the Army's central command in the Visayas, said the tip given by the driver led to the killings of four Abu Sayyaf members, including convert Joselito Melloria.

Senior Supt. Felipe Natividad, Bohol provincial police chief, said the driver was now heavily guarded to protect him



**I am here
to deliver
the promise
of the
President...**

Gen. Oscar Lactao
Head, Army central
command in Visayas

from Abu Sayyaf retaliation.

Aside from the driver, Lactao also turned over the reward to several other tipsters who helped the military track down remnants of the Abu Sayyaf group that sowed terror in Inabanga.

"I am here to deliver the promise of the President," Lactao told reporters at the Governor's Mansion here.

He refused to say how much was given and how many people were rewarded.

Anonymous donor

But Bohol Gov. Edgar Chatto said on top of the cash that came from Mr. Duterte, an anonymous donor gave P100,000 to the tipsters.

Chatto said the provincial government also chipped in.

Lactao said the military hoped the rewards would encourage others to help track down Abu Sayyaf, a group that had been known to have

strongholds in the Mindanao provinces of Basilan and Sulu.

Cave hideout

On April 22, soldiers acting on the *habal-habal* driver's tip raided a cave in the village of Bacani in Clarin where seven Abu Sayyaf bandits were hiding.

The gunfight in Bacani killed Melloria and three other terrorists were slain in a pursuit operation that reached the village of Caboy.

The army also foiled the planned rescue of remaining Abu Sayyaf members in Clarin with the arrest of Supt. Ma. Cristina Nobleza and her boyfriend, suspected Abu Sayyaf operative and bomb expert Reenor Lou Dungon, alias Kudre.

Bohol plot

Nobleza arrived in Panglao with Dungon, Dungon's mother Judith and a 13-year-old boy on April 17, two days before the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meetings in the resort town.

Police said Nobleza and Dungon were in Bohol on a mission to rescue Abu Sayyaf members cornered in Bohol and who were in the province to conduct kidnapping missions.

Police filed several criminal charges against Nobleza at the prosecutor's office of Bohol.

Dungon's mother, Judith, returned to Mindanao after she was released, while the boy was turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Nobleza had claimed they were in Bohol for a tour. INQ

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AFP vows relentless drive vs Abu Sayyaf

BY FERNAN MARASIGAN

AS Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) leaders have started to fall one by one, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año vowed more intense operations until the terrorist group is decimated.

"We shall continue our relentless efforts until we neutralize the last ASG terrorist," the AFP chief said over the weekend.

The recent killing of Alhabsi Misaya, an ASG sub-leader, according to Año, is a blow to the bandit band and is expected to diminish its capability to sow further terror in Mindanao in southern Philippines.

The military chief said Misaya, like Muammar Askali alias Abu

Rami, who was killed recently in a clash with government forces in Bohol in the country's Visayas region, was considered a young, bold and ruthless ASG terrorist in charge of kidnapping foreigners and is known to be a daring fighter.

"His recruitment ability also contributed in radicalizing young Tausug [an indigenous group in Mindanao]. His death will surely diminish the ASG's capability to conduct terrorism particularly kid-

napping, stop the recruitment and would lead to the eventual defeat of the whole ASG organization," Año said.

Misaya was killed in Barangay Silangan in Parang town in Maguindanao, a known stronghold of the bandit group affiliated with the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria or ISIS.

A report branded the daring military operation as an "entrapment to neutralize" one of the Abu Sayyaf's notorious executioners.

Misaya was also linked to a spate of terrorism in southern Philippines and cross-border ransom kidnappings in Sabah, Malaysia and attacks on cargo ships off Tawi-Tawi province in Mindanao.

Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, said Misaya's killing was a big plus to the military's timeline to stamp out the terrorist

group by June 30 this year.

"It also brings the community a step closer to peace, progress and sustainable security. His followers hopefully get the message that the long arm of the law will eventually catch up with them and hence, motivate them to turn a new leaf and seriously consider surrendering," Padilla added.

"It also sends a clear message to the community that supporting criminals will not bring them a better life but only greater misery if they insist on providing them safe havens. The AFP, without doubt, communicated its serious intent in addressing the threat posed by this group and its dedication to serve and secure the people," he said.

The AFP disclosed that military officials have received many more surrender feelers from ASG leaders.

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NPA attacks overshadow release of soldier-captive

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD,
YAS D. OCAMPO,
and MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Eastern Mindanao Command and the Philippine National Police (PNP) condemned in the strongest terms the recent atrocities perpetrated by New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas against Lapanday, Macondray, and Lorenzo rubber plants in Davao City.

The attacks, which have displaced workers ahead ▶6

NPA attacks overshadow... ◀1

of Labor Day today, have somehow overshadowed the NPA's act of goodwill when it released last Saturday Private First Class (PFC) Erwin R. Salan of the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion (30th IB), who had been held captive by the rebel group for three months in Surigao del Norte province, also in Mindanao.

Army Major Ezra L. Balagtey, EastMinCom spokesman, and Police Chief Inspector Andrea dela Cerna, Police Regional Office-11 (PRO-11) spokesman, said their commands commiserate with all the innocent victims and families affected by "the senseless, selfish, and desperate attacks" committed by the communists.

"Their acts clearly show utmost disregard for existing laws and Human Rights, contrary to what they (NPA) are trying to project with their propaganda," the EastMinCom and PRO 11 said in a joint statement.

"The attack was also meant to embarrass government as it was staged at a time when the city is scheduled to host important events" it added.

Earlier, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte condemned the attack by the NPA and branded the organization as "terrorists" after a civilian was seriously injured Saturday morning.

The NPA burned a box plant and farming equipment owned by the Lapanday Group in what is seen as bold simultaneous attacks on three properties in Davao City.

"I take what happened today as a personal insult especially because the local government of Davao City has been supportive of the peace negotiations between the national government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP)," she said.

Norman Baloro, Buhangin district head of the City Social Services and Development Office, said the NPA attack on the Lapanday box plant in Barangay Mandug left five houses totally damaged and seven families homeless.

The area has been named the rice mill compound, having become the residential site for at least three former workers of Lapanday's operations in Mandug.

Five of the seven households owned the houses in the area, while two were renters. At present, the CSSDO is taking care of 12 dependents, four of whom are children.

"We condemn these acts committed by a group that pretends to champion social justice and equality. With its history of carrying out atrocities and its continued penchant for lawlessness and bloodbath, the NPA is an organization that is not worthy of our trust and respect," Mayor Duterte said.

Soldier released

In Surigao del Norte, the military confirmed that PFC Salan was set free by his NPA captors around 3 p.m. Saturday in Purok 1, Barangay Caman-an, Gigaquit town.

Before the turn-over event, Salan underwent a medical checkup that found him in good physical condition.

Salan was received by third-party facilitator led by Bishop Rey Timbang and provincial government officials from the custodial force of guerilla-Front Committee 16 of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee.

Certain "Ka Oto," spokesman of the NPA's Guerilla-Front Committee 16 said Salan's release was in support of the resumption of peace negotiations between the Philippine government and CPP-NDF. Salan's immediate kin was there to welcome him back.

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Sundalong bihag pinalaya na rin ng NPA

GIGAQUIT, Surigao del Norte - Pinalaya na ng New People's Army (NPA) nitong Sabado ng hapon ang miyembro ng Philippine Army na tatlong buwan nitong bihag sa Surigao del Norte.

Dakong 3:00 ng hapon nang palayain si Private First Class Erwin R. Salan, ng 30th Infantry Battalion (30th IB) ng Army, sa Purok 1, Barangay Caman-an, Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte.

Bago ang turn-over, sumailalim muna sa medical checkup si Salan at natuklasang maayos ang kanyang kalusugan.

Timanggap si Salan ng third-party facilitator, sa pangunguna ni Bishop Rey Timbang at ng mga opisyal ng pamahalaang panglalawigan mula sa Guerilla-Front Committee 16 ng NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee.

Sinabi ni "Ka Oto", tagapagsalita ng Guerilla-Front Committee 16, na pinalaya ng kilusan si Salan bilang suporta sa pagpapatuloy ng negosasyong pangkapayapaan ng gobyerno at ng Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic-Front (CPP-NDF)-NPA.

Emosyonal namang sinalubong si Salan ng kanyang pamilya.

Sa maikling pahayag, nagpasalamat si Salan sa local crisis management committee, sa mga lokal na opisyal, sa grupong relihiyoso at sa lahat ng tumulong upang ligtas siyang mapalaya ng NPA.

Sinabi rin ni Salan na maayos ang naging pagtrato sa kanya ng NPA at sabik na siyang magbalik-trabaho sa 30th IB.

Enero 29, 2017 nang dukutin si Salan ng nasa 15 armadong rebelde habang nagsasagawa ng forest clean-up drive kasama ng kabataang volunteers sa Lumondo Falls, sa Barangay Budlingin, Alegria, Surigao del Norte.

Mike U. Crismundo

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DND chief slams NPA for attacks despite peace talks

BY VICTOR REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday scored the New People's Army for its attacks on companies and a ranch in Davao and Panabo cities on Saturday, saying this proves a "disconnect" between the communist rebels and their officials who are representing them in peace talks with government.

"They continue these heinous acts even while their comrades in the NDF (National Democratic Front of the Philippines) and other fronts talks about peace," Lorenzana said.

On Saturday, NPA rebels launched three successive attacks, one of them at the Lapanday Box Plant in Barangay Mandug in Davao City, and burned several equipment.

In Quirino province, the NPA raided the Maddela town police station on Saturday night, ransacked the station's cabinet, and fled with an undetermined number of firearms.

PO2 Jerome Cardenas, who was among those who engaged the NPA group in a firefight, died upon arrival at the Maddela District Hospital.

The NPA rebels also commandeered two patrol cars which were later recovered. They also seized two policemen who were later rescued during a pursuit operation.

In the Davao attacks, the NPA first targeted the Lorenzo Farm in Barangay Pangyan, also in Davao City, and disarmed a security guard. They also attacked and burned the Macondray Plastic Plant in Barangay Tagpore in Panabo City.

Capt. Rhyan Batchar, spokesman of the Army's 10th Infantry Division, said the rebels detonated an improvised explosive device on a Simba armored personnel carrier transporting reinforcing soldiers in Barangay Mandug, wounding a fish vendor.

He said two NPA rebels were killed in the subsequent firefight between the troops and the rebels.

Batchar also said 14 people were accosted by soldiers after the firefight for possible involvement in the violence. The 14 were turned over to the local police for investigation, said Batchar.

Batchar said an improvised bomb was also recovered at the scene of the firefight.

Batchar said the rebels attacked the companies and the ranch because their extortion demands were not heeded. "They are a bunch of bandits, extortionists and terrorists," Batchar also said.

Lorenzana condemned the attacks and questioned the sincerity of the communists in talking peace with the government.

Government and communist negotiators met in the Netherlands

early this month for the fourth round of the talks, and agreed on the declaration of a joint ceasefire. The mechanism of the interim joint ceasefire agreement is expected to be finalized this month when peace talks resume.

"The attacks in Davao and other crimes done by the NPA also make the Filipino people question the sincerity of the entire communist movement to push for peace, since it seems everything is just lip service and double talk," said Lorenzana.

"It also brings to light the disconnect and lack of communication between the NDF, the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines), and its cadres on the ground. We cannot stress enough that for the peace talks to succeed, government must be talking to the real representatives of the communist movement," he said.

Lorenzana said there must be assurance that the government is "dealing with the actual leaders of their organizations and not just some figureheads who are devoid of any control or influence."

Lorenzana said the attacks only show the true color of the NPA. "They just confirmed, without a doubt, their terrorist designation. They also confirmed my accusations that they are anti-progress, anti-development, and anti-people," he said.

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NPA raid: Cop seized briefly, another slair



When in urban areas, New People's Army guerrillas, like this group that went near Malacañang Palace on April 14, hold rallies to entice people to join their revolution. In remote rural areas, however, the guerrillas engage in tactics like abduction of enemy forces, including policemen and soldiers. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—New People's Army (NPA) rebels seized the police chief of Maddela town in Quirino province during a raid on a police station on Saturday night but released him unharmed early the next day, according to reports from the police and the military.

But a policeman was shot dead at 10:30 p.m. on Saturday when about 100 rebels stormed the police station in Barangay Poblacion Sur in Maddela.

PO3 Jerome Cardenas, who was posted at the station entrance, was shot in the initial gunfire, and died before reaching Maddela District Hospital in Barangay Diduyon.

The rebels abducted Maddela police chief, Chief Insp. Jhun-jhun Balisi, and two other policemen but they were re-

leased on Sunday morning, according to reports.

Other reports said Balist was rescued by the police, along with two other officers, identified as SPO4 Antonio Siriban and PO1 Albano.

In a statement, the NPA's Venerando Villacillo Command said it carried out the raid as a response to the government's all-out war against the NPA.

But the statement made no reference to the reported abduction.

The rebels rode in two vans and a mini-truck when they stormed the station. They retreated after a 45-minute gunfight with at least 10 police officers who were on duty that night, reports said.

The rebels commandeered Toyota Hi-Lux and Mahindra

patrol vehicles and escaped toward Barangay Cabua-an. They also seized 13 guns of various types and police intelligence documents.

The NPA said the Maddela raid was retaliation against attacks carried out allegedly by the Army's 86th Infantry Battalion and the police, which, the rebels said, led to "forced evacuations, food blockades and deployment of troops in schools and public buildings" in the villages of San Martin, Cabua-an and Ysmael.

At 2 a.m. on Sunday, the Isabela police reported intercepting a van carrying five "suspicious looking" men in Jones town near Maddela. The men were taken to the police station for questioning. —MELVIN GASCON AND VILLAMOR VISAYA JR. INQ

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New pension system for soldiers mulled

By Ben O. de Vera
@bendeveraINQ

The government plans to put in place a new pension system for uniformed personnel to arrest their ballooning pension benefits, possibly by including them under the coverage of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the pension fund for government employees.

"We are working closely together with the Department of Budget and Management to make sure that the uniformed personnel will have a secure retirement fund of their own. One of the ideas that we're ex-

amining is to include them in the GSIS," said Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez.

Budget Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno earlier said that the government allocated about P80 billion for military pensioners for 2017.

Dominguez said Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana had noted that the cost of retirees' pension would soon be almost equal to the Department of National Defense's (DND) operating budget.

The finance chief said the ongoing government study on reforming uniformed personnel's pension system was ex-

pected to be completed within the year.

"This is really quite complex and it requires a lot of work with actuaries. Usually those studies take quite a bit of time as they involve not only the current retirees but also the future ones," Dominguez explained.

Dominguez said the new pension system for uniformed personnel has to be legislated and would cover future retirees, while keeping the perks being enjoyed by current retirees.

He said the government may have to borrow additional capital for GSIS in case the proposal to also cover uniformed

personnel prospers.

According to Dominguez, the DND's leadership was amenable to a new pension system.

The Cabinet-level inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) has already flagged the ballooning military pension as a fiscal risk.

In 2016, the pension budget amounted to P71 billion. It is projected to reach more than double in eight years to P187.9 billion.

"In view of the foregoing, a reform must be effected for a more sustainable pension system," the DBCC said. INQ

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Study on military pension completed this year: DOF

THE Department of Finance (DOF) is hoping the study conducted on the pension system applied to the military and uniformed personnel will be completed within the year, with the review aimed at look at possible ways to revamp the system so that it will not eat up a significant portion of the budget.

"We are working closely together with the (Department of) Budget (and Management) to make sure that the uniformed personnel will have a retirement fund of their own," Carlos Dominguez III, DOF secretary, said.

"One of the ideas that (we're looking at) precisely is to include them in the Government Service Insurance System," he added.

According to the Fiscal Risks Statement 2015-2016 released by the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) last year, the pension costs of all uniformed services are rapidly increasing every year.

The report said that the problem is mainly attributable to the features present in all existing retirement laws of the uniformed services: a) pension entitlement of a retiree is automatically adjusted based on the prevailing scale of base pay for similarly ranked active personnel; b) pension is non-contributory in nature hence budget comes from the annual general appropriations of the government; and c) early entitlement to pension benefits even before attaining the compulsory retirement age of 56.

"In 2016, the pension budget amounts to P71 billion which is projected to reach more than double in eight years at P187.9

billion. In view of the foregoing, a reform must be effected for a more sustainable pension system," the DBCC document said.

The current study conducted by the government looks into the possible reforms for the pension scheme of the military and police force.

"We certainly want to complete it within the year. It is a very important measure. You know this is really quite complex, and it requires a lot of work with actuaries, and you know usually those studies take time, quite a bit of time, because (it will cover) not only the current retirees but the future so how will they determine that," Dominguez said.

In the previous administration, a Technical Working Group composed of the Departments of National Defense, Budget and Management, Finance, and Interior and Local Government, and the GSIS recommended the creation of a seed fund necessary for the purpose of generating sufficient interest income to fund the annual pension requirements of all uniformed services.

"According to the latest actuarial study conducted by GSIS, if no reforms are introduced to the existing pension system, the seed fund shall require an amount equivalent to P5.57178 trillion," the previous DBCC report said.

"However, if reforms are implemented, specifically the deletion of the automatic indexation feature, the formulation of a mandatory contribution and the designation of a minimum pensionable age—then the amount required for the seed fund is significantly lowered to P2.03588 trillion," it added.

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BaliPure beats Air Force in PVL opener

BALIPURE battled back strong from an early struggle and scored a 21-25, 25-19, 25-19, 25-21 victory over Air Force to kick off its title drive in the Premier Volleyball League Reinforced Conference before a big Sunday crowd at The Arena in San Juan.

The Purest Water Defenders cranked up their play in the second frame with Grethcel Soltones leading the attack and Jerrili Malabanan emerging as the team's surprise package, firing 12 hits, the last clinching the one-hour, 34-minute victory for BaliPure.

The power-hitting Soltones hammered in 14 kills and finished with 16 makers while Risa Sato matched Malabanan's output as the Water Defenders shrugged off a

tentative start that enabled the Jet Spikers to gain control early.

"They were still trying to feel their way around. Nagkakahiyaan kasi iba na ito," said BaliPure coach Roger Gorayeb, referring to his mix of aces from his San Sebastian and National U teams in the collegiate leagues.

Malabanan proved to be a revelation as she came off the bench to emerge one of the team's top scorers in the inaugurals of the 14th season of the league backed by Asics and Mikasa and organized by Sports Vision.

"She was not even in the first 6," said Gorayeb of the FEU mainstay, who grew up in the US. "But I think she can be a starter. She proved effective."

Jocemer Tapic had 14 points while veteran Joy Cases added 12 hits and Iari Yong, May Ann Pantino and Mae Antipuesto combined for 24 markers for the Jet Spikers.

BaliPure scored 45 attack points, eight more than Air Force, with the Water Defenders also coming up with seven blocks, including three from Aiko Urdas, as against their rivals' four courtesy of Tapic.

Meanwhile, no imports suited up in the opener pending the FIVB's release of their ITCs (International Transfer Certificate).

Earlier, Army battled from 1-2 down to stun Instituto Estetico Manila 25-19, 23-25, 20-25, 25-21, 16-14 in the lone match that kicked off the men's tournament.

Five players churned out double-digit scores for the Troopers, with skipper Benjaylo Labide firing 19 hits. Jayvee Suma-

gaysay added 14 markers while Anthony Arbasto and Romnick Rico chipped in 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Greg Dolor fired 17 points while Joeward Presnede added 14 hits for IEM.

GAMES TOMORROW

(The Arena, San Juan)

1 p.m. – Sta. Elena vs. Café Lupe (M)

4 p.m. – BaliPure vs. Power Smashers (W)

6:30 p.m. – Perlas vs. Air Force (W)

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www.pna.gov.ph

Misaya death to reduce ASG capability to conduct terrorism, kidnapping -- AFP chief

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año said the death of bandit sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya last April 28 will greatly reduce the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)'s capability to conduct acts of terror and kidnapping in Sulu and other parts of Mindanao.

"It's a devastating blow to the ASG. Misaya is also like" Abu Rami" (Muamar Askali killed in Inabanga, Bohol last April 11) considered as a young bold and ruthless ASG leaders in charge of kidnapping foreigners and known to be daring ASG terrorist fighter," he added.

Año said Misaya's recruitment ability also contributed in radicalizing young Tausugs.

"His death will surely diminished (the) ASG's capability to conduct terrorism particularly kidnapping, stop the recruitment and would lead to the eventual defeat of the whole ASG organization. We have received many surrender feelers from remaining ASG members. And we shall continue our relentless efforts until we neutralize the last asg terrorist," he added.

The operation which neutralized Misaya took place around 9:35 p.m. Friday at Barangay Silangkan, Indanan town, Sulu

No other details could be provided as follow-up operations are still ongoing.

Misaya is a Sulu-based ASG sub-leader and was a native of Barangay Bunot, Indanan, Sulu.

He has a standing warrant of arrest for kidnapping and serious illegal detention with ransom penalized (CC nos: 06-10; 1720-3 and 06-10; 1719-3) under Article 267 of the Revised Penal Code.

A bomb expert, Misaya was involved in many ASG bombing attacks such as the October 2002 Malagutay bombing that killed US serviceman Sgt. Mark Jackson and the wounding of 23 others including another US serviceman, the January 2009 bombing of the Salaam Bridge in Barangay Bato-Bato, Indanan, Sulu and March 2011 bombing of Dennis Coffee Shop at Barangay San Raymundo, Jolo, Sulu which killed four civilians and wounded 11 others to name a few. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

Engine spares needed for 4 of PAF's brand-new AW-109 attack helis

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) is looking for suppliers capable of supplying it with spare parts needed for the maintenance of the engine system of its four brand-new AgustaWestland AW-109 attack helicopters.

The above-mentioned aircraft are in the thick of the fight against lawless elements and terror groups in Mindanao, supporting the older McDonnell Douglas MG-520 "Defender" attack helicopters and Rockwell OV-10 "Bronco" light bombers in their closed-air support missions.

Budget for the project is placed at PHP11,155,000. Parts are for the AW-109 attack helicopters with tail numbers 816, 819, 820, and 821.

Pre-bid conference is slated on May 5, 1 p.m. at the PAF Procurement Center Conference Room, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

While bid opening is on May 23, 9 a.m. at the same venue.

The first two PAF attack AW-109s were commissioned last Aug. 17, 2015 while the remaining six were formally accepted for PAF service on Dec. 5 of that year.

The Philippines signed an eight-unit attack AW-109E order with AgustaWestland in 2013 for PHP3.44 billion. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)