

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



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NEWS CLIPPINGS

10 May 2017

Wednesday

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

10 MAY 2017



Mantle's back Magnandao

Naia on 'alert status'

Security expert sees Quiapo bombings as IS 'test runs'



It's possible that the bombings were a test run for the Islamic State group, according to a security expert. The expert, who is not named, said that the bombings were a test run for the Islamic State group. The expert said that the bombings were a test run for the Islamic State group. The expert said that the bombings were a test run for the Islamic State group.



P. Fernandez: Napoles' assistant, Gutierrez, named in report

That no answer to who's behind the bombings



Man in suit



Mantle's back Magnandao

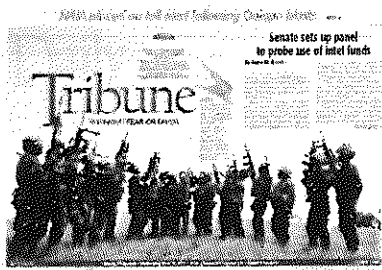
Napoles eyed as state witness in 'pork' cases



Enough proof on hand - lawyer




Man in suit



Tribune


45 nations back Callamard probe

ONLY CHINA OBJECTED




Callamard

Letia now swears Napoles unreliable




Letia

It's only lobby, no money - Abella



Abella

Sanigan steps 90-day suspension on DNH exec: 14 others over 'pork' scam



Sanigan



INQUIRER

CYBERSEX DEN BUSTED



Cybersex den busted



Man in suit



Man in suit



Man in suit



Man in suit

FBI-2 TAX EVASION CASE FILED AGAINST MIGHTY



Mighty

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MAY 10, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING SOUTHERN MINDANAO
AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY
(As of 5:00 PM - May 9, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:30 AM	6:15 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:49 PM	5:03 AM
FIRST QUARTER MAY 3 10:47 AM	FULL MOON MAY 11 5:42 AM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 4:52 PM	HIGH TIDE 0:44 AM
<p style="font-size: x-x-small;">Partly cloudy & at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms</p> <p style="font-size: x-x-small;">Cloudy skies with infrequent and/or thunderstorms</p>	

	MAY 9	MAY 10	MAY 11	MAY 12	MAY 13	MAY 14
METRO MANILA	25 - 36 °C	26 - 35 °C	23 - 32 °C	22 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	26 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 37 °C	25 - 37 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
LAOAG	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C
BAGUID	17 - 25 °C	17 - 24 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	26 - 35 °C	26 - 37 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C		
TAGAYTAY						
LEGAZPI						
TACLOBAN						
CAGAYAN DE ORO						
METRO DAVAO						
ILOILO/BACOLOD						
ZAMBOANGA						
METRO CEBU						

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SAGIT RD. PANDA MOI

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10 May 2017



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Napoles eyed as state witness in 'pork' cases

By EDU PUNAY and MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

From alleged pork barrel scam mastermind to state witness?

As her conviction for the serious illegal detention case was reversed, jailed businesswoman Janet Lim-Napoles is now being considered as a state witness in the government's planned reinvestigation of the multibillion-peso Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) or pork barrel anomaly.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II revealed this as he expressed belief that Napoles could be a credible key witness.

"Yes, we're actually planning to meet with her for our review of the PDAF cases," Aguirre said in a phone interview.

Legal experts have wondered whether Napoles can qualify as a state witness since she is not the least guilty and is in fact accused of being the mastermind of the PDAF scam.

Aguirre said he has started discussions about the reinvestigation of the pork barrel cases with former Manila councilor

Greco Belgica, an anti-pork barrel advocate who petitioned the Supreme Court (SC) to stop the PDAF during the previous administration.

"We're building up cases and we're really committed to get Janet Lim-Napoles if she will cooperate," Aguirre stressed.

He said, however, that the credibility of Napoles would still depend on her statements.

"She should have knowledge of everything because it all came from her. If what she would say will be coupled with documents, then there

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Napoles From Page 1

is no reason why she should not be credible," Aguirre explained.

Palace officials have given assurance there was no deal forged by the administration with Napoles and that there is also no policy shift with regard to the PDAF scam.

Detained Sen. Leila de Lima said yesterday she fears Napoles will be used to persecute President Duterte's opponents.

"It is not remote that Duterte will use Napoles to blackmail and threaten any remaining opposition in Congress," she said.

Aguirre said the Department of Justice (DOJ) respects the decision of the Court of Appeals (CA) to acquit Napoles in the case involving the serious illegal detention of pork barrel scam whistle-blower Benhur Luy.

He pointed out that there was nothing wrong with the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) pursuing the acquittal of Napoles.

"It was really the initiative of the OSG and they can really do that without any guidance or approval from the DOJ. In cases before the CA or the SC, the SolGen really has discretion on what to do," he explained.

Aguirre further pointed out that Napoles, despite her acquittal in the serious illegal detention case, would remain detained because of the pending non-bailable plunder cases against her in the Sandiganbayan.

In 2015, Napoles was sentenced to 40 years in prison by Makati City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 150 Judge Elmo Alameda for detaining Luy, her cousin and employee, from December 2012 until

March 2013.

Luy later blew the whistle on the pork barrel scam.

Napoles has since been serving her sentence at the Correctional Institution for Women (CIW) in Mandaluyong.

But in a 35-page decision penned by Associate Justice Normandie Pizarro and concurred with by Associate Justices Samuel Gaerlan and Josep Lopez, the CA's 12th division granted the appeal filed by Napoles and reversed the verdict of the RTC.

The CA said the prosecution failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the crime was committed. It said there was no indubitable proof that Luy was held against his will at the Bahay ni San Jose retreat house where Napoles' brother, Reynaldo "Jojo" Lim approached priests and suggested Luy's spiritual renewal.

Money talks?

An official of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) bewailed the latest development and said acquitting Napoles in her other "pork barrel" cases would be the "mother of all injustices."

CBCP-Public Affairs Committee executive secretary Fr. Jerome Secillano said following the CA decision, "Let's just hope that the acquittal (will) not have an impact (on) some of her other cases. If it does, then it's going to be the 'mother of all injustices'."

"With all the bogus foundations she put up, I guess those are overwhelming indication not only of an intent to steal from government coffers but of thievery itself with the connivance of some unscrupulous

politicians," he added.

Meanwhile, CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Migrants and Itinerant People chairman Bataan Bishop Ruperto Santos said he does not discount the possibility that "PDAF money" might have been paid to have Napoles acquitted.

"The decision fuels suspicion that PDAF money talks," said Santos.

He added the appellate court's decision "just adds to the mistrust of our people for our courts (and that) only the poor, the unknown and with no connection are convicted."

"We are waiting to see the moneyed and those in higher ups convicted by courts," Santos said.

Extremely happy

While her CA acquittal has fueled various speculations, Napoles claimed "truth has prevailed" in the serious illegal detention case filed against her by Luy.

Sources said Napoles' friends and family visited her at the CIW Monday night to celebrate the legal victory and described Napoles as "happy."

One of her visitors told **The STAR** that Napoles has been insisting from the very start that Luy was neither detained nor held against his will at the retreat house.

As regards Aguirre's statement that the DOJ is looking at using Napoles as a state witness in the PDAF scam, her lead defense counsel Stephen David said his client had always wanted to be one.

"If you remember, from the start, she has been saying that she wants the Filipino people to know what really happened but they didn't want it because there were administration al-

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lies who will be affected," he said, referring to the previous government.

"Why not, for the sake of the Filipino people?" David asked, stressing that it is unbelievable that a high school graduate could manipulate members of Congress.

If Napoles would be offered to turn state witness, David said his client would, in exchange, ask for security because she would be going against powerful people.

David said Napoles would also ask that she be dropped as a respondent in the pork barrel cases so that her testimony could be used against those really liable for misusing government funds.

David also told *dzMM* that they would work on her transfer back to Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

David maintained his client was absolved based on evidence and that there was no truth to claims that a sweetheart deal with the Duterte administration is being pushed.

He said the decision of the Makati City RTC convicting Napoles of serious illegal detention charges in April 2015 was obviously influenced by politics or forces that probably wanted to pin her down.

He stressed there were closed-circuit television (CCTV) footages and testimony from priests showing that Luy was never detained.

And contrary to the claims of the Office of the Ombudsman, David said the acquittal of Napoles in the serious illegal detention charges would have a big impact on the plunder, graft and other cases she and the lawmakers are facing before the Sandiganbayan.

"If you were able to follow

the plunder and graft cases, all testimony pinning down Mrs. Napoles was because Benhur said so. But the Commission on Audit (COA) admits that in the truckload of evidence that they are presenting, not one document shows the participation of Mrs. Napoles," David explained.

"The only reason she is there is because Benhur is saying that she is the mastermind. That's just what Benhur said. Benhur also said he was detained but that is not true. So how can you believe him now when he is not telling the truth in the issue of illegal detention? How can you now say that he is telling (the truth) here when other witnesses say that Benhur had transactions that Mrs. Napoles really did not know of?" he said.

Preventive suspension

As this developed, the Sandiganbayan has issued another preventive suspension order against Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Undersecretary for Operations Mario Relampagos and 14 other government officials and employees facing trial for alleged involvement in the pork barrel scam.

This time, the Office of the Ombudsman said the 90-day preventive suspension order stemmed from the cases filed against former Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives party-list lawmaker Edgar Valdez.

Also suspended were DBM officials Rosario Nuñez, Lalaine Paule and Marilou Bare; Marivic Jover and Consuelo Lilian Espiritu from the Technology Resource Center (TRC); Salvador Salacup and

Eduardo Nolasco from ZNAC Rubber Estate Corp. (ZREC); Romulo Relevo and Maria Ninez Guañizo from the National Agri-Business Corp. (Nabcor); and Gondelina Amata, Gregoria Buenaventura, Chita Jalandoni, Sofia Cruz and Ofelia Ordoñez from the National Livelihood Development Corp. (NLDC).

"Suspension *pendente lite* (awaiting litigation) is a measure imposed by the law to safeguard the state while the case is pending and the accused is not penalized *per se*," the Sandiganbayan order stated.

Based on Section 13 of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, suspension is a "preventive measure that arises from the legal presumption that unless the accused is suspended, he may frustrate his prosecution or commit further acts of malfeasance or do both."

Valdez, Relampagos and their co-accused are facing trial for graft after investigation showed that the former lawmaker siphoned more than P50 million in commissions or kickbacks when he channeled his 2007 to 2009 pork barrel allocations to questionable non-government organizations (NGOs) controlled by Napoles.

The same DBM, TRC, ZREC, Nabcor and NLDC officials, some of whom have already been dismissed from government service, have been previously issued preventive suspension orders because of the other cases they are facing in alleged connivance with various other former and incumbent lawmakers also accused of being involved in the pork barrel anomaly.

- With Evelyn Macairan, Paolo Romero

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10 May 2017



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CYBERSEX DEN BUSTED

AN EXCLUSIVE STORY BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The arrest of David Timothy Deakin shows one of the darkest corners of the internet, where foreign pedophiles pay facilitators in the Philippines to sexually abuse children, directing their moves through online livestreaming services

ATT

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FROM A1

MABALACAT, PAMPANGA

—The suspected pedophile could see people banging on his front door. But were they neighbors? Cops?

One had letters on her jacket.

As David Timothy Deakin googled "What is NBI?" from the laptop on his bed, National Bureau of Investigation agents smashed their way into his cybersex den.

Children's underwear, toddler shoes, cameras, bondage cuffs, meth pipes and stacks of hard drives cluttered the stuffy, two-bedroom town house.

Penciled on the wall, someone had scrawled "My Mom and Dad love me."

On his computer were videos and images of young boys and girls engaged in sex acts.

"Why is everyone asking about children coming into my house?" said Deakin, 53, bare-chested and slick with sweat, his breath sour and glasses foggy, his wrists bound with a zip tie.

Webcam sex tourism

Deakin's arrest on April 20 shows one of the darkest corners of the internet, where pedophiles in the United States, Europe and elsewhere pay facilitators in the Philippines to sexually abuse children, even babies, directing their moves through online livestreaming services.

This relatively new crime, webcam sex tourism, is spreading rapidly.

The United Nations describes "alarming growth of new forms of child sexual exploitation online."

The FBI says it's epidemic, and that at any given moment, 750,000 child predators are online.

Almost every case stems from the Philippines, where good English speakers, increased internet connections and widespread international cash transfer systems combine with widespread poverty and easy access to vulnerable kids.

There have been as many as three busts a week in the Philippines this spring. The youngest victim ever, rescued a few weeks ago, was an infant, 2 months old. Most are under 12.

'We will put them in jail'

This spring The Associated Press (AP) watched a raid, rescue and launch of a major investigation that continues to

play out on both sides of the world.

"This should serve as a warning," said NBI antihuman trafficking chief Janet Francisco, who led the case. "We will really put them in jail and they will die in jail."

Even as police burst in, Deakin was streaming illicit content through the anonymous Tor network.

Agents said he had a webpage open to wipe his phone clean.

They tied him up with an iPhone charging cord before he could hit the button.

AP and investigators asked him repeatedly why he had the obscene images stored on his computer.

"There was no children in front of the cam in my house, not even dressed, as far as I know, not even with their fringing mothers as far as I know," he said.

But he said the images and videos might have slipped in when he downloaded massive files using BitTorrent, a data tool used legitimately by academics and artists, but also by child pornographers.

FBI agents looking for abusers search BitTorrent to spot people sharing exploitative images.

Deakin's background

Deakin said he grew up in Peoria, Illinois, in a splintered family.

He was licensed as a roofing contractor in his 30s, seasonal work that left winters free; he used the time to study computers.

He moved to the Philippines in 2000 for a job setting up internet service providers and installing Blackmagic livestreaming production programs.

In recent years, Deakin said, he earned \$30 an hour as a systems administrator.

But his home was filled with junk, his refrigerator near empty. Stacks of used egg cartons fell from the shelves, and a half-eaten pot of cold rice sat on the stove.

"You know what you've done in this room," an investigator told Deakin.

She showed him a photo of several children.

Shrugging, he said one of them was probably a few doors away with her cousin.

Minutes later, two girls, 9 and 11 years old, were rescued by police.

AP did not interview the girls Deakin told police about; victims of such raids need immediate and long-term counseling and care.

Cybersex model

But in the tranquil garden of a shelter for sexual exploitation survivors 96 kilometers south of Deakin's town house, 19-year-old Cassie described her ordeal. AP did not use her whole name to protect her privacy.

The youngest daughter in an impoverished family, Cassie believed the man who came to her village promising a better life if she'd go to the city with him. She was 12.

Within months the man bleached her dark skin, straightened her hair, and began waking her at 4 a.m. to work.

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“He needed some girl to show her whole body in front of the camera,” she said.

The abuse ended when her older sister found out and went to the police.

Some buyers try to brush off the abuse, saying they’re not directly touching the children.

“It’s not just a virtual crime. It is an actual crime,” said human rights lawyer Sam Inocencio, who heads International Justice Mission’s Philippines office, which supports local law enforcement with investigators and lawyers.

“Online sexual exploitation is possibly the most evil thing that I’ve seen,” Inocencio added.

Global attention

In 2013, online sex exploitation of children gained global attention after researchers at the Netherlands-based non-profit Terre des Hommes launched a realistic-looking animation of a 10-year-old Filipino girl named Sweetie.

They took the fake girl on chat groups and online forums. Pedophiles swarmed.

In 10 weeks, analysts identified 1,000 men in 71 countries who had tried to get illegal images.

The proliferation of crimes, along with new mandatory reporting, led to 8.2 million reports last year to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s CyberTipline related to online child sexual exploitation.

That compares with 8.3 million reports in the 17 years prior.

Officials at both ends of the abuse agree they need to collaborate to stop it, and last month the United States committed \$3 million.

Deakin’s bust turned out to be one of the largest seizures of its kind in the Philippines.

His Cherry Mobile Touch HD tablet—which can be wiped clean and reset with a four digit code—had more than 4,000 contacts.

One computer had another 13 networked into it, from servers he said were around the world. There were 30 hard drives.

Neighbor Bessie Geronimo was teary-eyed. She’d seen children going in and out. Now, she wondered, could she have intervened?

“Oh, I pity those children,” she said.

Authorities from a village police substation said a housekeeper filed a complaint against Deakin last year. He wasn’t paying her, she said, and she was worried about what he was doing with children in the bedroom with the door closed.

They visited his house but had no authority for a raid.

“There are many such places,” said the security officer, Mike Wood. —AP

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10 May 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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2 NPA rebels killed in Bukidnon clash

TWO New People's rebels, one of them tagged in the killing of a town mayor, were killed in a firefight Friday with government forces in Malaybalay City in Bukidnon, the military reported yesterday.

The soldiers from the Army's 8th Infantry Battalion were on a combat operation in the hinterlands of Sitio Lamana, Barangay Kilalabag when they clashed with an undetermined number of rebels, said 1Lt. Erwin Bugarin, civil military operations officer of the 8th IB.

After the firefight, soldiers recovered the body of one of the rebels, identified as Jimmy

Sante Ama. Bugarin said the military received reports that another rebel died in the encounter but his body was taken by his fleeing comrades.

Bugarin said Ama's family members confirmed that the body belonged to their loved one.

"The slain CT (communist terrorist) was tagged as one of the suspects in the murder of the late Mayor Mario T. Okinlay of Impasugong, Bukidnon...

Jimmy Ama has a warrant of arrest for this case," said Bugarin.

Okinlay was killed by a group of armed men in Impasugong in July 2014. The NPA later owned the killing. — *Victor Reyes*

p May 2017



Page. 4

NPA amazon, soldier dead in encounter

A New People's Army (NPA) amazon and a soldier were killed while two other government troops were wounded following two separate encounters in Occidental Mindoro and Quezon provinces on Monday.

The military identified the slain NPA amazon as one "Ka Bikke".

The identity of the killed and wounded soldiers were withheld pending notification of their relatives.

Major General Rhoderick

Parayno, the Commander of the Army's 2nd Division, said the NPA amazon was killed following an encounter with government troops at Sitio Tagbungan, Brgy. Barahan, Sta Cruz, Occidental Mindoro, at about 10 a.m. Monday.

It was learned that one section from the 76th Infantry Battalion were scouring the area when it clashed with more or less 30 armed NPA terrorists at around 10 a.m.

The firefight lasted for about 30 minutes when the rebels fled to

different directions.

Meanwhile, the soldier who was killed was from the 1st Infantry Battalion and died during an encounter against undetermined number of NPAs at Sitio Little Baguio, Brgy. Magsaysay, Infanta, Quezon. Two others were hurt in the clash.

Parayno said troops encountered more or less 30 armed rebels at about 11 a.m. Monday. Firefight lasted for about 15 minutes.

(Francis T. Wakefield)

10 May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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• **Slain amazon was
NPA leader's wife**

GALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Philippine Army (PA) said yesterday that the New People's Army (NPA) amazon who was killed in an encounter last Monday was the wife of a high-ranking NPA leader on the island of Mindoro. Col. Antonio G. Parlade, commander of the army's 203rd Brigade (Bantay Kapayapaan) stationed on the island, said the slain female rebel initially identified as Cerna, with the aliases "Pia," "Vicky," and "Kris," is reportedly the wife of Danilo de Lara, vice-platoon leader of Platoon Falcon of the NPA's Lucio de Guzman Command Sub-regional Military Area, Guerilla Unit 4. Cerna was killed when government troops belonging to the 76th Infantry (Victrix) Battalion encountered her group in Sitio Tagbungan, Barangay Barahan, Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro for 30 minutes last Monday morning. (Jerry J. Alcayde)

10 May 2017



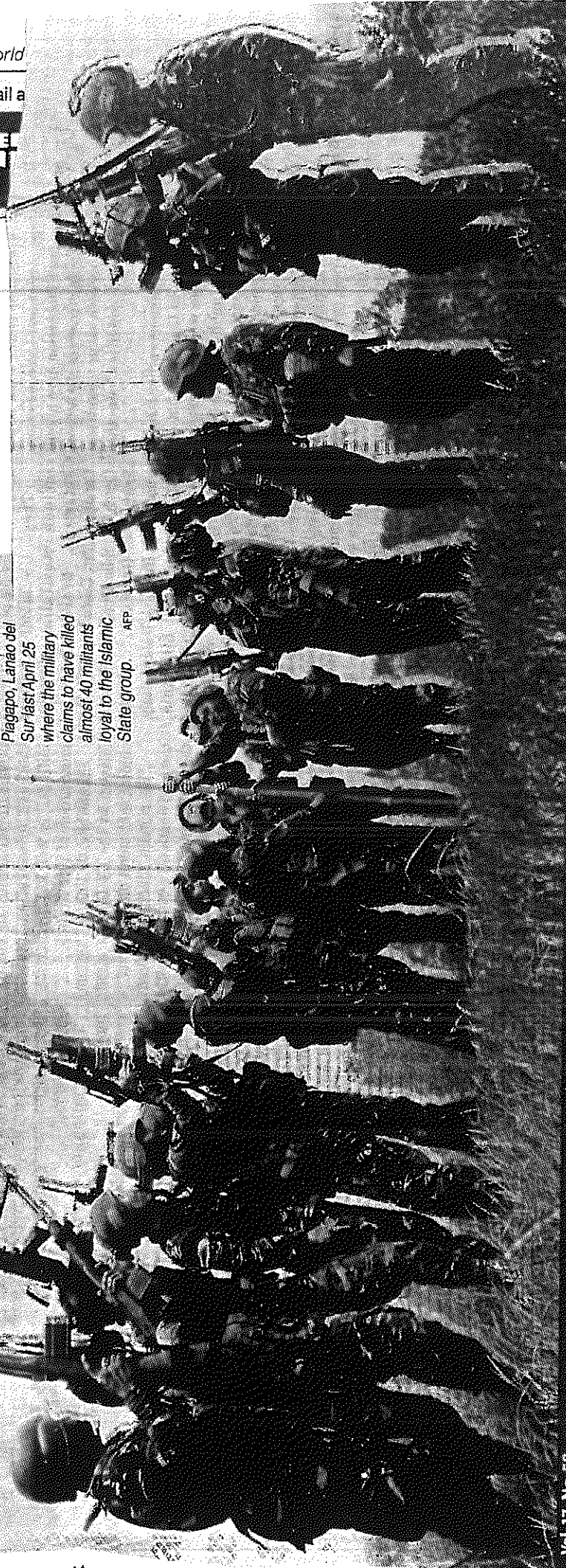
Mindanao: Cloudy with light to moderate rains and isolated thunderstorms
Metro Manila and the rest of the country: Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
Temperature range: 26°C to 34.8°C

V-Day

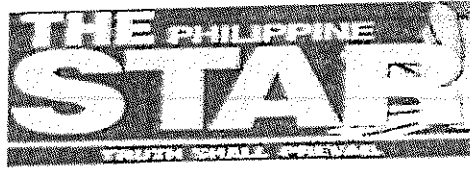
Army troopers hoist the Philippine national flag after clashes with Islamic State-affiliated extremists in the mountain area of Piagapo, Lanao del Sur last April 25 where the military claims to have killed almost 40 militants loyal to the Islamic State group. ^{AFP}

RAITROUPE

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR



10 May 2017



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7 Sayyaf men surrender

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Seven Abu Sayyaf bandits surrendered in Sitio Kanjawali, Barangay Tandu Bato in Luuk, Sulu on Monday.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, identified the bandits as Aminula Sakili, Saharijan Sakili, Hayden Sahidul, Sattar Sadjal and Orik Samsuraji, who are followers of slain Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya and Principal Abdan and Annu Asaraji, who are with the group of Tomas Idjas.

The bandits turned over an M14, M16 and M1 Garand rifles, a caliber .45 pistol and a caliber .38 revolver with ammunition.

– Roel Pareño

10 May 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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7 Abu Sayyaf men surrender in Sulu

SEVEN members of the Abu Sayyaf surrendered to the military in Luuk town in Sulu on Monday.

Their surrendered because of hardship and a leadership problem within the movement, according to Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the military's Joint Task Force Sulu.

Five of those who surrendered -- identified as Aminula Sakili, Saharijan Sakili, Hayden Sahidul, Sattar Sadjal and Orik Samsuraji -- were followers of notorious

Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya.

The two others, Princibal Abdan and Annu Asaraji, are under sub-leader Tomas Idjas.

Misaya, who is blamed by security officials for numerous kidnaping cases, was killed in firefight with government forces in Sulu on April 28.

Sobejana said the seven surrendered to his task force Monday in Sitio Kanjawali, Barangay Tandu Bato in Luuk town. The seven brought with them an M14

rifle, an M16 rifle, an M1 Garand rifle, a caliber .45 pistol, a caliber .38 revolver, and assorted ammunition.

"During our custodial debriefing, they admitted that life is difficult, plus there is leadership vacuum in the ASG (Abu Sayyaf group). They are suffering logistically and financially. What's happening, they said, is survival so they decided to return to the fold," said Sobejana.

Sobejana's task force has stepped up offensives against the

Abu Sayyaf in Sulu, in line with the military leadership's timetable to defeat the group within the first six months of the year.

Dozens of Abu Sayyaf men have surrendered in the past weeks in Sulu and in Basilan. Sobejana appealed to other Abu Sayyaf members to also surrender so they would be spared in the ongoing military offensive.

There are some 300 to 400 Abu Sayyaf members in Sulu and Basilan, their main area of operations: -- *Victor Reyes*

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Another ASG member surrenders in Basilan

By **NONGYE LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY - A member of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) under Furudji Indama surrendered to the military in Ungkaya Pukan last Sunday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Spokesman Army Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay identified yesterday the ASG bandit who surrendered as Hussin Asrap Wahid, alias Ottoh Wahid or Jay Pilmita, 28, and a resident of Sitio

Bato Maputi, Barangay Baguindan, Tipo-Tipo, Basilan.

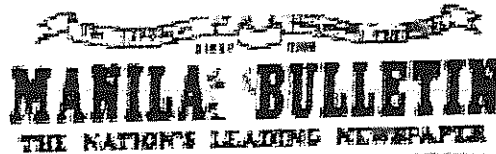
Petinglay said Wahid surrendered to soldiers of the 18th Infantry Battalion, First Infantry Division in Basilan at 3 p.m. last Sunday. He also surrendered to the troops his caliber-45 pistol.

Wahid has been subjected to custodial debriefing conducted by the Joint Task Force Basilan, under Col. Juvymax Uy, at the headquarters of the 18th Infantry Battalion in Sitio Camalig, Bohe Pahu, Ungkaya Pukan.

"We consider the recent surrender of another Abu Sayyaf member as a manifestation of the effective combat operations sustained by the Joint Task Force Basilan against the terrorist group in the province," said WestMinCom Commander Lt Gen Carlito G. Galvez, Jr.

"The AFP continues to encourage other members of the Abu Sayyaf to surrender to the troops as we continue to counter terrorism and sustain the internal peace in Mindanao," Galvez said.

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NPA attacks mining firm in Davao Oriental

By **YAS D. OCAMPO**
and **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

DAVAO CITY – The New People's Army (NPA) has claimed attacking, Saturday, a mining firm in Davao Oriental, which it has "punished" for being involved in "destructive" mining practices.

In a statement, Rigoberto F Sanchez, spokesperson of the Merardo Arce Command of the Southern Mindanao Regional Operations Command, NPA, said Communist guerillas raided Mil-Oro Mining Corporation, which is involved in open-pit mining in Sitio Salingkomot, Barangay Macambol, Mati City.

"The ComVal-Davao Gulf Sub-Regional Command of the New People's Army successfully meted out punitive action against Mil-Oro Mining Corp.," Arce said.

At around 5 a.m., Red fighters seized two carbine rifles, six shotguns, military radios, ammunitions and several gadgets. They also set on fire mining equipment, including five backhoes, four graders and company vehicles.

The open-pit mining company is

owned by transnational Austral-Asia Link Mining Corp., whose environmental compliance certificate was revoked last year by then Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Gina Lopez for its environmentally-destructive operations, according to Arce.

This developed as the military reported that troops foiled a land mine attack in a Surigao del Norte town by NPA rebels Monday.

Elements of the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion (30th IB) engaged the guerillas in a 10-minute gunbattle before the latter retreated.

The soldiers found improvised land mines planted near sitio (sub-village) Kauyangan, Barangay Camam-onan, Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte, a military report said.

Arce accused former Governor and current Congresswoman Corazon Malanyaon of allowing the incursion of "destructive" mining companies in the protected areas of the province.

Mil-Oro's nickel ore-mining operations straddle almost 5,000 hectares of the protected areas of Pujada Bay and

Mt. Hamiguitan range, declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a World Heritage Site in 2014, the NPA said.

"For almost three years now, masses in the surrounding barangays, especially poor fisherfolk whose livelihood depend on the area's rich marine biodiversity, have been complaining against the mining operation of Mil-Oro. Many lumad and peasant families have also been displaced to make way for the expansion of its operation," Arce said.

According to the NPA statement, the mining industry in the region has adversely affected the inhabitants and environment of Davao Oriental and the region despite the gains to the companies' owners.

"Worse, when their exploration permits expire or get cancelled, like in the case of Austral-Asia Link Mining Corp. which owns Mil-Oro, these companies skirt reactionary laws by simply using dummy corporations to continue their extensively extractive mining practices and further destroy the environment," Arce claimed.

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NPA owns up to attack on Mindanao mining firm

ZAMBOANGA CITY: The New People's Army (NPA) rebels owned up a daring attack on a nickel mining firm in Mati City in Davao Oriental over the weekend.

Rigoberto Sanchez, a rebel spokesman, said NPA forces swooped down on the compound of Mil-Oro Mining Corporation in the village of Macambol over the weekend and destroyed mining equipment, including five back-hoes and four road graders.

Rebels also seized two rifles, six shotguns and ammunition and several military radio sets from the firm's security force, including several company vehicles.

Chief Insp. Leonilo Lad, of Mati police force, said at least 15 gunmen were involved in the raid that destroyed some P100 million in properties.

The Mil-Oro operates an open-pit mining technique in Mati owned by transnational Austral-Asia Link Mining Corp., whose environmental compliance certificate was revoked last year by former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez for its alleged destructive operations, according to Sanchez.

"It has been operating since 2015 under the patronage and behest of current Davao Oriental Rep. Corazon Malanyaon, who was Davao Oriental governor at that time, and has continuously allowed the incursion of destructive mining companies in protected areas in the province," he said.

Sanchez said Mil-Oro's operations straddle almost 5,000 hectares of the protected areas of Pujada Bay and Mount Hamiguitan range, declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a World Heritage Site in 2014.

"For almost three years now, masses in the surrounding barangay (villages), especially poor fisher folk whose livelihood depend on the area's rich marine biodiversity, have been complaining against the mining operation of Mil-Oro. Many Lumad and peasant families have also been displaced to make way for the expansion of its operation," he said.

"For years, the so-called mining industry in Davao Oriental and elsewhere in the region has amassed billions in yearly profit for big compradors and their foreign partners but hardly made any difference to the lives and livelihood of poor peasants, *lumad* and workers where mining companies operate. Worse, when their exploration permits expire or get cancelled, like in the case of Austral-Asia Link Mining Corp. which owns Mil-Oro, these companies skirt reactionary laws by simply using dummy corporations to continue their extensively extractive mining practices and further destroy the environment," he added.

The rebel spokesman said the latest punitive action continues the NPA's duty in protecting the country's natural resources and an exercise of the political authority of the People's Democratic Government. **AL JACINTO**

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BOMBS SEIZED

5 NPA REBELS NABBED AFTER ATTACK ON MINING FIRM

TAGUM CITY—Five suspected communist rebels were arrested following Saturday's attack on a nickel mining firm in Mati City in Davao Oriental province, police said on Monday.

Senior Supt. Harry Espela, Davao Oriental police chief, however, declined to release the identities of the five suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA), but said lawmen seized explosives from them.

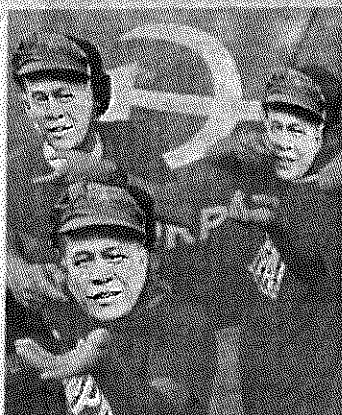
Espela said charges had been filed against the rebels, who were turned over to the Mati City police.

The arrests were made during police and military operations following the NPA attack on Asiaticus Mining Corp. in Barangay Macambol in Mati at 4:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Espela said some of the arrests were made in Barangay Dawan, an entry point to Barangay Macambol, where explosives were found in a safe house.

Fifteen heavily armed rebels attacked the compound of Mil-Oro Mining Corp. and its general contractor, Frasec Ventures Corp., on Saturday. They disarmed security guards there and torched several vehicles as they fled, said Chief Insp. Leonilo Lad, Mati City deputy police chief.

The nickel mining firm has a claim over 5,000 hectares of minerals-rich land between two ecologically protected areas—the marine sanctuary of Pujada



New People's Army supporters wearing masks of "Kumander Parago," join a rally in Davao City. —KARLOS MANLUPIG

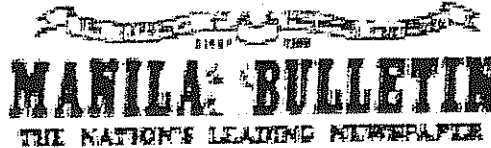
Bay and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization-recognized biodiversity haven, Mt. Hamiguitan.

Espela said the rebels also burned several structures in the firm's compound, including a staff dormitory.

In a statement, Rigoberto Sanchez, NPA Southern Mindanao spokesperson, said the attack was a "punitive action" for what he claimed as the company's "environmentally destructive operations."

"(This) is a stern warning against large-scale and foreign mining companies that not only exploit our nonrenewable resources but also victimize our people in the name of [profit]," Sanchez said. —FRINSTON LIM INQ

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Duterte's visits lift troops' morale

ZAMBOANGA CITY (PNA) – The frequent visits of President Duterte in military camps have boosted the morale of troops fighting the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and other terror groups in Mindanao, a military official said.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said the “high morale” of the troops is one of the reasons why they are “successful in the campaign against terror groups.”

“How the President comforted

the wounded soldiers is a big morale booster to the troops,” Galvez told the Philippines News Agency when asked what helps the troops successful in their combat operations.

“The leadership was able to give that motivation, especially by the

President,” he said, adding that “our commanders are so dedicated. The troops are inspired.”

Galvez said President Duterte usually chats with a wounded soldier for at least 10 minutes.

“They want to go out and fight again. They are not afraid to be killed because they have a President who will look at their welfare,” he added.

“We are in high morale because of the inspiration and motivation also given by the (field) commanders,” Galvez said.

On Monday, Galvez announced that

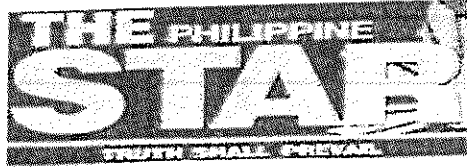
they are gaining ground in the campaign against the ASG and other terror groups in Mindanao as the death toll of the enemies have reached 128, most of them Abu Sayyaf bandits.

He made the report two months before the six-month deadline of President Duterte would lapse on June 30.

Galvez also noted the strong participation of the community in helping them eradicate the terror groups.

The military, he said, is employing “Oplan Kapayapaan,” the Duterte administration’s counter-insurgency program, in fighting the terrorist groups.

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AFP braces for entry of more ISIS members

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Government security forces have expressed concern over the possible entry of more members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) through the southern backdoor.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, said reports from their Indonesian counterparts indicate that many Indonesian and Malaysian ISIS members returning from the Middle East may pass through Sabah

“There are reports that some of around 1,000 Indonesian and Malaysian (ISIS fighters) will come here,”

Galvez said.

He said they also received reports on the presence of foreign terrorists in Central Mindanao.

“For now we have reports on the presence of Indonesian and Malaysian terrorists,” Galvez said.

He said the presence of foreign militants in the country had been confirmed in recent military offen-

sives. Six foreigners were among the 20 fatalities in air strikes and ground assaults that targeted a hideout of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in Datu Salibo, Maguindanao over the weekend.

Galvez said joint patrols with Indonesia and Malaysia are helping track the movement of terrorist groups.

The enforcement of joint maritime security patrols is seen to address the entry and exit of terrorists into the three countries as well as criminal activities on their respective maritime boundaries, including cross-border kidnapping by Abu Sayyaf bandits.

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Cimatu to allow responsible mining

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Yes, there will be mining in the country, but only responsible mining

Newly appointed Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu said that mining companies would be allowed to operate as long as they do not destroy the environment and are properly managed

"I will go to the areas personally. I will check those with evaluation that are not good," he told radio station *dzBB*.

Cimatu said he will be "moderate and calm" in implementing policies of the DENR since he has yet to fully understand the situation in the department.

He said he admires former environment secretary Gina Lopez, adding that he will try

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Cimatu From Page 1

to gain the respect of her supporters.

The Commission on Appointments (CA) recently rejected the appointment of Lopez.

"I admire the passion for the environment of the former secretary. I will be honored to meet her and try to get some insights from her about the environment," Cimatu said.

He added that he would try to review what's left on the table of the former DENR secretary, and determine the real situation, both of the mining companies allowed to operate and those suspended, and find the difference.

A graduate of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1970, Cimatu as a then junior officer spearheaded the military campaign against the communist insurgents operating in the tri-boundary of Antique, Capiz, Aklan and Iloilo in late 1970s.

From being an NPA hunter in Panay Island, Cimatu, whose unit was under direct supervision of the Cebu-based Central Command (CentCom), a key military unit then involved in the Mindanao campaign, later found himself leading his men against the Muslim secessionist movement in Central Mindanao.

"His new job would require skills of doing a balancing act, which I know he can handle well. When before he used to do combat with the rebels, this time he can apply the skills he learned when he was a diplomat," a senior military

officer said.

Senators urged Cimatu not to be intimidated by giant mining firms.

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito wished Cimatu the best as he has "big shoes to fill after Gina Lopez, who has opened the eyes of the Filipino people on the dangers of mining abuse."

"Hoping Cimatu will not be intimidated by mining giants," Ejercito said.

Sens. Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan welcomed Cimatu's appointment.

"He is definitely a good choice. I happen to know him all the way back to our PMA days," Lacson said. Referring to the Philippine Military Academy.

Honasan said Cimatu has the capacity to provide continuity to good long-term plans at the DENR.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said he expects Cimatu to have an easier time than Lopez in the CA.

"But we scrutinize all appointees. No issue is trivial in the CA," Sotto said.

Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers lauded President Duterte's decision to appoint Cimatu as DENR chief.

"A nationalist par excellence, I am confident that he will use the law to further the interests of the people and promote sustainable developments in the country," Barbers, chairman of the House of Representatives' committee on dangerous drugs, said.

Siquijor Rep. Rav Rocamo-

ra called on the new DENR chief to give his support to the institutionalization of the Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH-EITI).

Rocamora, author of House Bill 4116 that seeks to establish the PH-EITI, said that the proposed law is an important tool to ensure that the revenues from mining truly go to their intended recipients.

Farmers oppose Cimatu

Meanwhile, militant farmers yesterday condemned the appointment of Cimatu.

"Cimatu was among the pioneers and implementers of the counterinsurgency program Oplan Bantay Laya 1 during the Arroyo administration that killed hundreds of farmers, workers and activists, including anti-mining advocates," said the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) in a statement.

Cimatu will definitely defend and kill to protect the interests of large-scale local and foreign mining companies," said KMP secretary general Antonio Flores.

An official of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday said Cimatu is not a worthy replacement for Lopez.

"Cimatu is a neophyte to environmental issues compared to Gina Lopez. He might have management capacity given his military career but he has no track record in terms of his stand on social justice, environmental protection, indigenous people (IP)'s rights and pro-poor development," said

CBCP-National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA) executive director Fr. Edu Gariguez.

He also said the new DENR secretary should maintain a firm position and not enter into a compromise with mining firms.

IP group Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) dared Cimatu to do "a Gina, referring to Lopez.

"We challenge (Cimatu) to take on the environmental advocacy of the former DENR secretary Gina Lopez especially on mining," said CPA secretary general Abigail Anongos.

She said Cimatu should monitor and shut down large mining companies with clear track records of human rights violations, environmental destruction and abuses against indigenous communities.

Cimatu in an interview over a local radio station admitted he did not have complete knowledge on the mining industry and had to inspect mining companies to check on the real situation.

Last week, the CPA condemned the Committee on Appointments (CA) for rejecting the appointment of Lopez.

Environmental groups have been campaigning for the repeal of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and the enactment of the People's Mining Bill.

Lopez earned praise from environmentalists when she ordered the closure of large-scale mining firms.

- With Evelyn Macairan, Delon Porcalla, Paolo Romero, Jaime Laude, Artemio Dumlaog, Ding Cervantes

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Text messages on slain ASG's phone reveal kidnapping plots in Bohol

CEBU CITY - Text messages from mobile phones of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) members killed during the encounter in Bohol showed that the bandits were planning to conduct kidnapping activities in the province.

This was based on the initial gathering of evidence conducted by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) 7 on the mobile phones found on the encounter sites in the towns of Inabanga and Clarin.

CIDG 7 director Supt. Royina Marzan Garma said the forensic examination of mobile phones believed to be owned by the slain ASG members showed a number of messages that point to possible kidnapping plots in Bohol.

The plan, however, was thwarted when government troops clashed it out with the terrorists in Inabanga town.

Garma said her office sought the assistance of the Office of the Muslim Affairs to translate the text messages that were made in Tausug.

Results of the forensic examination on the cellphone recovered from Supt. Maria Cristina Nobleza also allegedly contained evidence of what could serve as proof of her affiliation to the ASG.

One of the videos found in her phone, depicted what looked like a minor shooting of a Syrian hostage to death. Also found on the phone was an inspirational message from Osama Bin Laden, the founder of Al-Qaeda who was responsible for terror attacks across the globe.

The pieces of evidence will be used in filing appropriate charges against the Nobleza and other ASG members, said Garma. (Mars W. Mosqueda Jr.)

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'Balikatan' begins in Luzon, Visayas

By Vito Barcelo

FILIPINO and American soldiers conducted live firing and counter-IED (improvised explosive devices) training during the first day of Balikatan 33-2017 in Luzon and Visayas regions, the US Embassy said Tuesday.

US Ambassador Sung Kim, Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Ariel Y. Abadilla, and representatives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the US military officially opened Balikatan 33 on Monday at Camp Aguinaldo.

The AFP and US forces "partnered to improve their counterterrorism capabilities to build safer communities and work towards the eradication of global terror networks," the embassy statement said.

During Balikatan, US and Philippine forces conduct operational and counterterrorism training exercises in diverse areas of expertise, including live fire advanced marksmanship, counter-IEDs, maritime interdiction, and amphibious raids.

"Balikatan 33-2017 incorporates high value training events designed to

enhance the capabilities of both AFP and US armed forces," Kim said.

The training also focuses on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and counterterrorism operations to improve response effectiveness and speed in the event of natural disasters and other crises that endanger public health and safety, the ambassador said.

"No nation can face today's challenges alone," said Kim. "Whether a natural disaster ravages part of the world or a man-made crisis shocks a community, our two militaries can deliver much stronger responses together."

In this year's Balikatan, the Philippines and the United States will continue to collaborate with regional partner nations, and the AFP has invited military forces from several other nations to be part of the International Observers Program, including South Korea, East Timor, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.

The 33rd iteration of Balikatan, scheduled from May 8 to 19, will take place at multiple locations in Luzon and the Visayas, according to the US Embassy.

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RP-US Balikatan exercises 2017 aprubado ni Digong

MAY basbas na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Balikatan exercises para sa taong ito.

Ayon kay AFP Central Command chief Lt. Gen. Oscar Lactao na siya ring co-director ng Balikatan 2017 na aprubado na ng pangulo ang nasabing joint exercises ng AFP at U.S. forces.

Ito ay sa harap ng naunang pahayag ni Duterte na ayaw na niyang makakita ng mga sundalong Amerikano sa bansa.

Sinabi ni Lactao na aprubado ng commander-in-chief ang Balikatan ngayong taon sa ilalim ng ilang polisiya.

Kamakalawa ay ginanap ang opening ceremony ng joint exercises.

Pahayag ni Lactao, sinunod nila ang gusto ng pangulo na bigyang prayoridad ang humanitarian and disaster response at anti-terrorism activities dahil ito ang kailangan ngayon ng bansa.

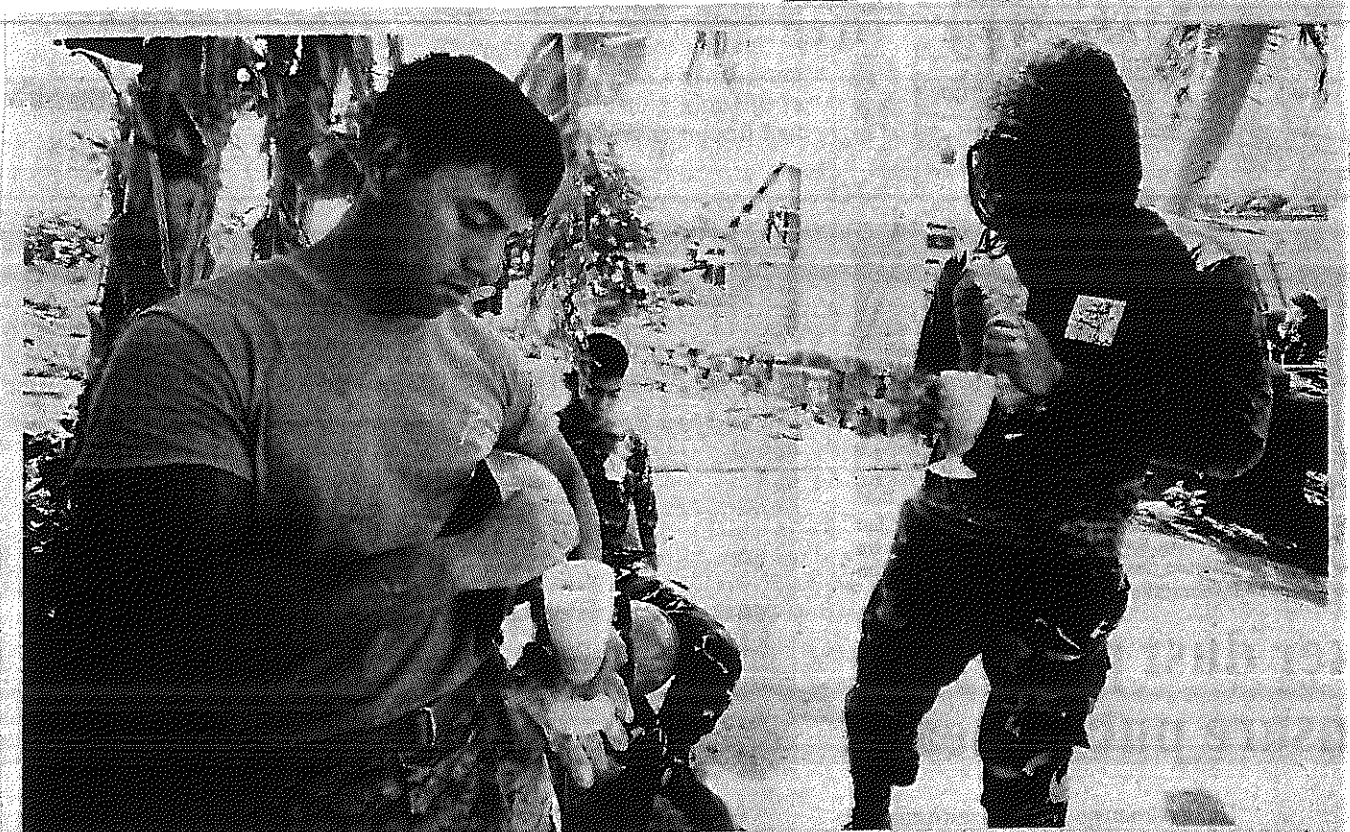
Bagaman ang pangunahing papel ng AFP ay bigyang seguridad ang bansa, ipinaliwanag ni Lactao na hindi lamang sa giyera sila dapat naghahanda kundi maging sa mga sitwasyon bunsod sa epekto ng kalamidad.

Dagdag pa ni Lactao na pinag-uusapan na rin ngayon ang mga susunod pang Balikatan exercises.

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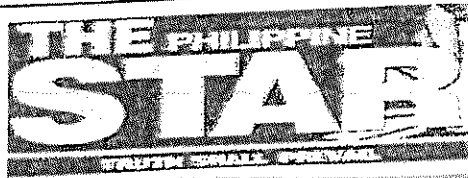
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HALO HALO, JOE — A US trooper and a Filipino soldier beat the heat with halo-halo, a popular Filipino dessert, as they take a break on Balikatan 2017 exercises. (Juan Carlo de Vela)

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Rody: I helped Gringo hide

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte revealed yesterday that Sen. Gringo Honasan, who was tagged in ouster plots during previous administrations, was with him in Davao City when the lawmaker was hiding from authorities.

Duterte said security forces failed to recognize Honasan when he was touring the city.

"He was wanted by the government, but he was in Davao with me and Rod, the guy from the Air Force. We were having a great time touring around the place. We were wearing helmets," the President said during the commissioning of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC)'s first humanitarian ship *Amazing Grace*.

"We were having a great time traveling the streets of Davao, eating *durian* on the sidewalks, and my God, nobody recognized Sen. Honasan and I said that's how good our Armed Forces is," Duterte said.

Duterte did not say when Honasan hid in Davao City.

Honasan was implicated in destabilization plots against former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

in 2003 and 2006.

Both Honasan and Arroyo were present during the commissioning of the *Amazing Grace*.

Honasan was the leader of the Reform the Armed Forces Move-

ment, which staged bloody coups against former president Corazon Aquino.

In the same event, Duterte called senator and PRC chairman Richard Gordon "Mr. President."

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Negotiators do not control NPA – Joma

By **ROCKY NAZARENO**

Prof. Jose Maria Sison said Monday night that although he is the founding chairman of

the 49-year-old Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), he does not exercise control over the leftist group's armed component, the New People's Army (NPA), which has con- ▶10

Negotiators do not control... ◀1

tinued to engage government forces in armed conflict despite ongoing peace negotiations.

In a rare and exclusive interview with the Manila Bulletin (MB) editors Monday night through Skype from Utrecht, Netherlands, where he has been in exile for 31 years, Sison said "no one in Utrecht has ever claimed to control the revolutionary forces and people in the Philippines."

"No one in Utrecht can give orders to the CPP, NPA, NDFP (National Democratic Front of the Philippines) in the Philippines," said Sison, who is the Senior Political Consultant of the NDFP

The Philippine Government (GRP) and NDFP are in the thick of peace negotiations that were resumed in Oslo, Norway, last August, and will be on the fifth round of formal talks in Noordwick ann-see in the Nether-

lands from May 26 to June 2.

"The collective leading organs of the CPP, NPA, NDFP, which are based in the Philippines, are the principal of the NDFP Negotiating Panel. They give orders and instructions to the NDFP Negotiating Panel," said Sison, who is more popularly known as "Joma."

And while many regard him and Leftist stalwarts Luis Jalandoni and Fidel Agcaoili as the senior leaders of Communist movement, the 78-year-old Sison said that the leaders of the CPP, NPA, and NDFP "give orders to the NDFP Negotiating Panel and to the NPA in the battlefield."

In fact, Sison pointed out, "there is nothing the NDFP Negotiating Panel can do if the order from its principal in the Philippines is to disengage from the peace negotiations."

Jalandoni, 81, stepped down as NDFP Peace Panel chairman in Oc-

tober last year and Agcaoili has taken over his post since then.

The NPA and government forces have figured in fierce, and often deadly, encounters since January after the two groups withdrew their respective unilateral ceasefires.

Both sides have also hurled accusations of violations of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Laws (CARHRIIL) because of the skirmishes.

Despite this, Sison said he was still optimistic about the results of the peace negotiations to end 49 years of armed struggle by the Communist insurgents.

At the moment, Sison said, reaching a Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (CASER) is the pivotal point in the negotiations.

Discussions on the CASER, which are currently being held in the country, include issues on agrarian reform, rural development, and national

industrialization

"Malaki na ang inabanteng (There has been much progress in the discussion on) CASER," Sison said, but much still has to be done to reconcile "87 pages of the drafts of the NDFP and 35 pages from the GRP"

But he expressed confidence that the CASER could be signed before the end of the year, together with another pillar of the negotiations - the Comprehensive Agreement on Political and Constitutional Reforms (CAPRC)

"By the first quarter of 2018, we may already have the foundations for a Joint Bilateral Ceasefire," he said.

In the meantime, Sison said, the Communist side continues to be open to "simultaneous and reciprocal unilateral ceasefire declarations" with the government as a "transitory measure" to put a stop to the armed conflict.

He underscored that this remains the position of the NDFP since a back-

channel agreement was reached last March 1 in Utrecht.

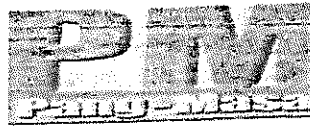
No to Cimatu

Sison also slammed the appointment of former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Roy Cimatu as replacement for Gina Lopez as Environment and Natural Resources secretary.

He charged that the appointment of Cimatu, a native of Bangi, Ilocos Norte, was only made possible because of the concession given by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to the Marcoses who helped him win in the 2016 presidential elections. Sison said Cimatu was a "very bad substitute, replacement" for Lopez.

"Kung ganyan ang Kongreso na di mo maasahan sa mga gustong ilagay ni Duterte sa kabineta, ano na ang maasahan mo sa (if Duterte cannot rely on Congress to approve the nomination of his choices for cabinet secretaries, what more with his priority) legislation?" Sison asked.

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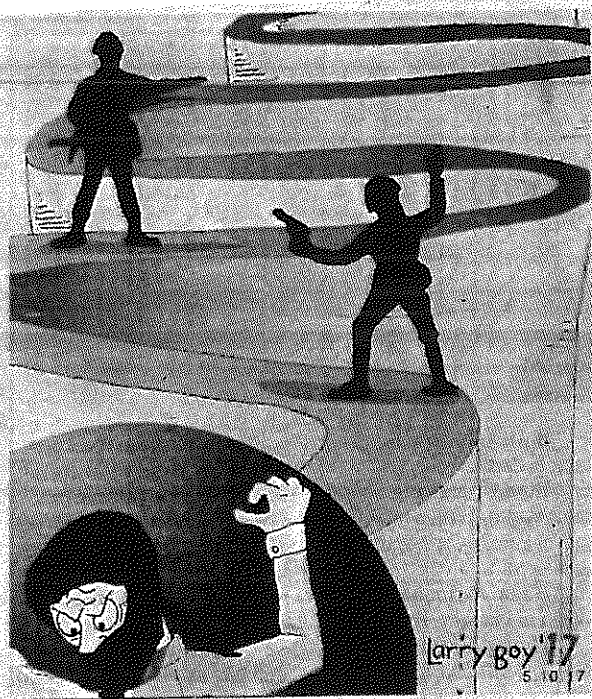


Pahina. 3

Editorial

Dakmain na ang 8 terorista

AT least, mas mahusay ang intelligence ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) kaysa sa Philippine National Police (PNP) sapagkat nalaman nila na walong teroristang dayuhan ang nasa bansa at kinukupkop ng Abu Sayyaf sa Basilan, Sulu at Central Mindanao. Ayon kay AFP Intelligence officer Maj. Gen. Felimon Santos Jr. ang walong terorista ay nagmula sa Indonesia, Malaysia at Singapore. Ginawa ni Santos ang pagkumpirma sa committee hearing ng House of Representatives noong Lunes.



Ngayong kumpirmado na narito na sa bansa ang walong terorista, dapat mag-double time ang AFP para madakma na ang mga ito. Hindi na dapat pagtagalin pa ang pamamalagi ng mga terorista sa bansa sapagkat magbubunga pa ito. Maaaring makapag-recruit pa ang mga ito at hindi na makontrol ang dami. Habang walo pa lamang ay lipulin na sila.

Naipakita ng AFP ang kanilang husay nang sunud-sunod na mapatay sa Bohol ang mga miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf. Umabot na sa 10 ang napatay na Sayyaf sa Bohol mula noong Abril. Nagtungo ang mga bandido sa Bohol para mangidnap ng mga dayuhan at turista. Hindi nangyari ang kanilang balak sapagkat natunugan sila ng AFP at agad binakbakan. Sa pagkakataong ding iyon nahuli ang isang babaing police official at kanyang nobyong Sayyaf. Tangkang i-rescue nina Supt. Cristina Nobleza at nobyo nito ang sugatang Sayyaf nang mahuli sila sa checkpoint ng mga sundalo.

Dalawang Sayyaf na lamang ang hinahanap sa Bohol at maaaring bumagsak na ito sa kamay ng militar. Ang huling napatay na Sayyaf ay si Alyas Saad na napatay ng mga pulis nang tangkang tumakas.

Ngayong nabubuwig na ang Sayyaf, dapat paigtingin ng AFP ang paghuli sa walong terorista. Huwag nang hayaang magtagal pa sila sa mundo.

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Pahina. 5



Dehado kahit sa sariling teritoryo

AYON sa isang analyst, kailangang palakasin ng Pilipinas ang mga depensa sa Benham Rise. Walang kalaban ang Pilipinas sa pag-aangkin ng anumang karapatan sa Benham Rise, kaya dapat protektahan ang mga karapatang iyon. Malaki ang maibibigay na tulong ng likas na kayamanan mula sa Benham Rise sa bansa. Dapat simulan na ang pagsusuri bago tayo maunahan.

Biglang lumakas ang interes sa Benham Rise, nang malaman na may mga barko ng China roon. Ayon sa China, inosenteng pag-

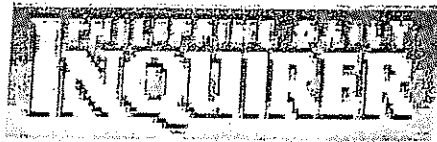
layag lang ang ginawa ng mga barko, at may paalam pa umano kay Duterte. Pero ano ba ang interes ng China sa lugar na nasa kabilang bahagi ng Pilipinas at napakalayo na sa China? Kung inosenteng paglayag, saan pala sila pupunta? Ang hinala ay sinuri na ang karagatan ng Benham Rise, para sa anumang dahilan na ang China lang ang nakaaalam.

Nanggaling na ang ilang opisyal sa Benham Rise noong Linggo. Ito ang pinakamalaking ekspedisyon na ginawa ng gobyerno. Naglagay ng mga pa-

latandaan na nagpapahiwatig na sa Pilipinas ang lugar. Sana magsimula nang pakinabangan ang lugar lalo't walang kalaban ang bansa tulad ng mga isyu sa South China Sea.

Nagsumbong naman ang mga Pilipinong mangingisda na malayo ang ganda ng mga bangka ng mga mangingisdang Taiwanese na madalas nilang makasabay sa Benham Rise. Kaya mahalaga na magtayo na ng mga istraktura ang Pilipinas sa Benham Rise, kung saan makapagpapahinga rin ang ating mga mangingisda roon. Dapat tulungan na rin ng gobyerno ang mga mangingisdang naghahanapbuhay na sa Benham. Kung sagana ang pangisda, dapat magaganda rin ang kanilang kagamitan. Nadedehado lagi tayo kahit sa sarili nating teritoryo.

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A study in schizophrenia

When Gina Lopez burst on the scene like some sort of environmental berserker, quite a few people applauded her passion and New Age enthusiasm. Keen watchers of the insider game in government viewed it as an interesting example of good cop, bad cop. A zealot can always be neutralized by the bureaucracy, as she quickly found out when the Executive Secretary, in typical bureaucratic style, blandly put the implementation of some of her decisions on hold.

In the end the Department of Finance weighed in, to the startling extent of Secretary Carlos Dominguez publicly picking a fight with Lopez not just in the papers but also before the Commission on Appointments. Congress, for its part, handled her inconvenient popularity in characteristic style. It instituted a long-delayed reform: the three-strikes-and-you're-out rule in the Commission on Appointments, to put an end to presidents simply reappointing bypassed Cabinet nominees; it placed a veil of secrecy over the votes taken in the commission itself; and its members took turns making pious speeches proclaiming fervent love for nature on one hand, and deep unease over the impact of too much environmentalism on the economy, on the other.

The result was death by a few dozen cuts. Slowly but surely, under the cover of entertaining chest-beating by the President, Lopez was bypassed once, twice, thrice—and declared to have struck out. Chest-beating in the Palace was replaced with a meek statement on the separation of powers, respect for Congress, the announcement that a replacement was being sought, and the designation of a new secretary within days.

The slow but sure removal of Gina Lopez



THE LONG VIEW

MANUEL L. QUEZON III

and her swift replacement with Roy Cimatu are a study in contrasts. Her appointment was trumpeted as the coming of radical change. His marks a return to business as usual. He will be a good security guard—bad news for the New People's Army and mixed news for miners and loggers, depending on how he is instructed to do his job.

That this possibility even exists is testimony to the nature of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources itself, a schizophrenic institution in which contrasting priorities—promoting and defending the environment or maximizing the profits that can be gained from extracting natural resources—will always be possible. The only remarkable thing is that it has happened so quickly, publicly, and ruthlessly in the same administration.

Prior to the creation of the DENR, natural resources were under the Department of the Interior in 1901-1916. Then, for decades, it formed part of the agriculture portfolio, hence the old Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources in 1917-1932 (renamed Department of Agriculture and Commerce in 1932-1947, with

commerce being added to its mandate, and gaining the Bureau of Mines established in 1938 along the way) and 1947-1974. In 1974, a separate Department, then Ministry (starting in 1978), of Natural Resources was put in place until January 1987, when the Department of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources, briefly came into being. Its current form was established in June of that year.

Shuffling portfolio responsibilities around during the Marcos years gave a bureaucratic sheen to things but papered over the acceleration of deforestation, with logging concessions being one of the keenly sought-after political patronage plums that the president could hand out. The same applied to mining, with established mining companies subjected to hostile takeovers by political allies and relatives. The result was rebellion in the Cordilleras, and competition among the military, police, and NPA for protection money from loggers and miners.

Separating the environment from natural resources during the dictatorship arguably didn't help the environment, but neither has combining the two since 1987.

It's entirely possible it has made things worse, since by its very nature a combined natural resources and environmental department will always be at the mercy of a legislature with members looking out for their—or their allies'—interests, and of a presidency that, by its very design, is held hostage by political parties in large part funded, if not actually owned, by business magnates. The environment can wait.

So perhaps it's time to consider what was proposed about a decade ago: Separate the two functions. It couldn't be worse than the status quo.

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

ONLINE NEWS 10 MAY 2017

SB NO. 1436 | Adjusting the Compulsory Retirement Age of Uniformed Services

Written by Alvin Santiago | May 10, 2017 | 10:20 AM

MANILA (DWDD) – The bill “AN ACT ADJUSTING THE COMPULSORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, AND OFFICERS AND NON-OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, TO SIXTY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 39 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990”; SECTION 5 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1638 ENTITLED “ESTABLISHING A NEW SYSTEM OF RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”, AS AMENDED; AND SECTION 17 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9993, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “PHILIPPINES COAST GUARD LAW OF 2009” aims to adjust the compulsory retirement age for officers and enlisted men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), uniformed officers and non-officers of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and members/officers of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BjMP), from 56 to 60 years old. Recognizing their indispensable role as protectors of the State and its citizens, the government has heavily invested in the training and development of the officers and members of these agencies. In light of recent scientific and technological advances and studies pointing to increased life expectancy rates, it is time that we revisit the statutorily-prescribed retirement age for our protectors.

Members of the AFP, PNP, PCG, BFP and BJMP, currently have a retirement age of fifty-six (56), which sets them apart from civilian government employees who are compulsorily retired at age sixty-five (65). At the age of 56, they can still fulfill the physical, mental and psychological demands and rigors of their position. They can still maximize their years of experience and wealth of knowledge, harness their leadership skills, and lend their professional competence until the age of sixty (60) or even sixty-five (65).

According to Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, the education, trainings, and professional development of the members of the AFP, PNP, PCG, BFP and BJMP were heavily subsidized by the government. Given recent scientific and technological advances, most people aged more than sixty years old are still capable of sharing their knowledge and expertise, thereby contributing to the development of the next generation of officers.

In the intensive campaign against illegal drugs, crime, and corruption. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has called on the active participation of the uniformed men and women. The tremendous number of drug users and surrenderees, and the need to further step up the campaign would require the leadership of officers who are more senior and experienced. Additional years in service would also allow these officers the chance to both serve their country more during these times of changes and reforms and opportunities of career advancement. **SENATE / MCAG**

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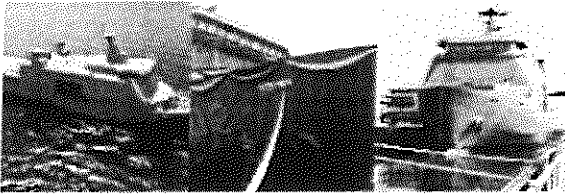
Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME CEREMONY | New PN Landing Dock Vessel Davao Del Sur (LD602)

Posted by Alvin Santiago on May 10, 2024 at 10:50 AM

NAVAL STATION JOSE V ANDRADA, Roxas Boulevard, Manila (DWDD) – The Philippine Navy (PN) will render an arrival and welcome ceremony to its second amphibious Landing Dock (LD), formerly known as Strategic Sealift Vessel, Davao Del Sur (LD602) tomorrow, Wednesday, May 10 at Pier 13, South Harbor, Manila.

The Commander of Philippine Fleet, Rear Admiral Gaudencio C. Collado Jr. will spearhead said ceremony as representative of the Flag Officer In Command, PN. Highlight of the event will be the tribute and recognition to the laudable efforts of the sailors who are instrumental for the ship's safe and successful voyage to the Philippines.



The second LD is exactly the same type of vessel as the BRP Tarlac (LD601), a Makassar-class Landing Platform Dock of the Indonesian Navy. Its delivery to the Philippines completes the two-unit SSV procurement project with an approved budget contract of PhP4 billion sourced from the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. **NPAO / MCAG**

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