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NEWS CLIPPINGS

11 May 2017

Thursday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS
11 MAY 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast		PDI p.A15
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	Cayetano is DFA head; Año is DILG secretary	Leila Salaverria	PDI p.A1
4	Sayyaf kidnap plan revealed	John Bencito	The Standard p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
5	Maguindanao security amid BIFF attacks	John Uson	The Phil Star p.11
6	NPA leader nabbed in Agusan del Sur	Mike Crismundo	Manila Bulletin p.12
7	20 BIFFs killed n Maguindanao	-	Manila Bulletin p.2
8	NPA leader arrested in Agusan del Sur	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B6
AFP RELATED NEWS			
9-10	Cayetano named DFA chief; Año to DILG	Christina Mendez	The Phil Star p.2
11	Shoot terrorists on sight, Duterte order troops	Genalyn Kabilig	Manila Bulletin p.1
12	Palawan security tightened amid US travel alert	Redempto Anda	PDI p.A5
13	Abu tipsters fears for life after getting reward	Leo Udtohan	PDI p.A9
14	Rody: Bomb terrorists	Alexis Romero	The Phil Star p.13
15	7 more Abus yield in Sulu	Nonoy Lacson	Manila Bulletin p.12
16	NPA beyond control	John Bencito	The Standard p.2
17	Navy's latest ship arrives in Manila	Michael Punongbayan	Phil. Star p.11
ONLINE NEWS			
18	Group urges Senate to probe possible links of Sulu officials to Abu Sayyaf		www.pna.gov.ph
19-20	Palawan safe from ASG threat, says provincial gov't		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
21	300 PMA cadets set to visit Zamboanga City		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
22	PAF to acquire PHP14.3-M worth of navigation spares for S-211 jet trainer		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
23	ARRIVAL AND WELCOME CEREMONY New PN Landing Dock Vessel Davao Del Sur (LD602) SYMPOSIUM Philippine Navy and Maritime Security Subject Matter Experts	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph

11 May 2017



Page: 15

www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MAY 11, 2017 | THURSDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN-MINDANAO EASTERLIES AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY (As of 5:00 PM, May 10, 2017)

CELEBES SEA

SUNRISE	SUNSET
 5:30 AM	 6:15 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
 6:37 PM	 5:44 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
 MAY 11 5:42 AM	 MAY 19 8:33 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
 MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 5:35 PM 0.02 Meter	 10:07 AM 0.96 Meter

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

	MAY 10	MAY 11	MAY 12	MAY 13	MAY 12	MAY 13
METRO MANILA	 26 - 35 °C	 26 - 34 °C	TAGAYTAY 23 - 32 °C	 22 - 31 °C	TACLOBAN 26 - 31 °C	 25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	 25 - 37 °C	 25 - 36 °C	LEGAZPI 26 - 33 °C	 26 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C
LAOAG	 26 - 33 °C	 26 - 33 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA 26 - 33 °C	 26 - 33 °C	METRO DAVAO 26 - 32 °C	 26 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	 17 - 25 °C	 17 - 24 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD 26 - 33 °C	 26 - 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	 26 - 36 °C	 26 - 37 °C	METRO CEBU 26 - 32 °C	 26 - 32 °C		

SAGOT KO, PADALA HO!

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|| May 2017



Page: 71

Cayetano is DFA head; Año is DILG secretary

President Duterte announced his latest Cabinet appointments before leaving for Cambodia on Wednesday

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

President Duterte has appointed Gen. Eduardo Año, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as the next secretary of the interior and local government and named his defeated running mate, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, as the new secretary of foreign affairs.

Mr. Duterte announced his new appointments before departing for Cambodia on Wednesday, the same day the yearlong ban on appointing losing candidates to government offices ended.

"You are now facing the next DILG secretary," Mr. Duterte said in a press briefing at the airport, with Año at his side.

Año will retire from the military on Oct. 26, when he turns 56 and he has to

wait until then before taking over the top post of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The former Philippine Army commander became AFP chief of staff last December. He received his fourth star in January.

Mr. Duterte said he wanted Año to finish his term because he had projects that he needed to complete.

In a phone interview later, Año said

he was surprised by the early announcement of his appointment.

He said there was still no definite date for his assumption of the top DILG post.

"I will still continue and focus on my job as chief of staff. We still have a lot of tasks to do," he said.

Año will replace former Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno, whom Mr. Duterte fired in April over alleged cor-

ruption involving the purchase of firetrucks from Austria.

Undersecretary Catalino Cuy is running the DILG as acting interior secretary.

Año's designation as interior secretary follows the appointment of Roy Cimatu, also a former AFP chief of staff, as environment secretary on Monday.

"There's another vacancy. I

A6

FROM A1

will add another from the military, and our junta is complete," Mr. Duterte joked.

The other former military officials in Mr. Duterte's administration are National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and National Irrigation Administration chief Ricardo Visaya.

Mr. Duterte said he needed a military man at the DILG because he had a problem with the police.

"It's difficult with the police now. I was reading coming here, another spot report of four policemen again kidnapping... these sons of bitches policemen," he said.

The country also faces a problem with terrorism, including the Islamic State (IS) group, he added.

The DILG exercises supervision over the Philippine National Police, which plays the lead role in Mr. Duterte's controversial war on drugs.

Top diplomatic post

Thousands of drug suspects have been killed by police and unknown assailants since Mr. Duterte launched the crack-down on drugs after taking of



Alan Peter Cayetano

vice at the end of June last year.

Cayetano, who had been traveling with Mr. Duterte in his many foreign trips, defended the war on drugs at the United Nations Human Rights Council's review of the Philippines' human rights record in Geneva on Monday.

He blamed the perception of extrajudicial killings in the campaign on the "Commission on Human Rights, a senator and some local media," but 45 of the 47 members of the council demanded an end to the killings, with some urging an independent investigation.

After losing last year's vice presidential race to the Liberal



Eduardo Año

Party's Leni Robredo, Cayetano, 46, returned to the Senate, where he became a staunch defender of Mr. Duterte.

In announcing his choice of Cayetano for the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Mr. Duterte said he signed the senator's appointment before he left his room on Wednesday.

In an interview aired on radio from his flight back to Manila, Cayetano said Mr. Duterte's announcement of his appointment came as a surprise because he had thought he would no longer get the DFA portfolio, as the President once said he was needed more in the Senate.

"With the President you just

don't know. He has his own strategy," Cayetano said.

He will replace former Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay, whose nomination was rejected by the Commission on Appointments in March because of his uncertain citizenship.

"We look forward to working with him (Cayetano) and the department is now preparing to ensure a smooth institutional transition," Robespierre Bolivar, spokesperson for the DFA, said on Wednesday.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said he believed the Commission on Appointments would quickly approve the nominations of Año and Cayetano.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chair of the commission's foreign affairs committee, said he hoped the panel would quickly act on Cayetano's nomination so that he could assume the top DFA post soon. —WITH REPORTS FROM PHILIP C. TUBEZA, JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO INQ



WATCH THE VIDEO. AFP Chief Año, Sen.

Cayetano join Duterte Cabinet

<http://inq.news/AnoCayetanoAppointed>

|| May 2017

The Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: 1

Sayyaf kidnap plan revealed

Duterte: Shoot terrorists on sight

By John Paolo Bencito, Vito Barcelo and Francisco Tujay

AS THE United States, Canada and the United Kingdom warned their citizens against traveling to Palawan amid “credible information” that the Abu Sayyaf and other groups were planning to kidnap foreign nationals there, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered security forces to shoot terrorists on sight.

“My order to the security forces is to shoot them on sight; kill them... Expend your bullet to finish the problem; because it is really a problem,” Duterte said before leaving for working visits to Cambodia, Hong Kong and China. “We have problem with terrorism... What looms very big ahead is the IS, they are coming

in,” he added. An advisory from the US Embassy in Manila on Tuesday warned Americans to “carefully consider” going to Palawan, naming a World Heritage-listed underground river as one area of specific concern. “The US Embassy has received

Next page

Sayyaf...

From A1

credible information that terrorist groups may be planning to conduct kidnaping operations targeting foreign nationals in the areas of Palawan,” the advisory said.

The military on Wednesday said in a statement it “shared the same concerns” as the US government, and that it had increased security at Palawan’s tourism sites.

Despite the US travel alert, the Army’s Western Command said Palawan remained safe for locals and foreign nationals.

But Philippine National Police chief Ronald dela Rosa said his troops in Central Visayas monitored a terror threat in the region.

“I was brief by the regional director in the Police Regional Office-7 that they indeed monitored [a terrorist threat] but we have appropriate action to thwart such threats,” Dela Rosa said.

The US Embassy identified two locations—the capital city of Puerto Princesa and the nearby underground river that attracts thousands of visitors daily—as areas the kidnapers were targeting.

Puerto Princesa is about 400 kilometers northwest of southern is-

lands that are strongholds of the Abu Sayyaf, militants who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and frequently kidnap foreigners.

The Abu Sayyaf last month attempted a kidnaping raid on Bohol island, a popular tourist destination in the central Philippines, but were foiled after security forces became aware of the plot.

Security forces found the militants a day after they arrived on Bohol on speedboats, and engaged them in a gun battle.

Nine militants, three soldiers and one policeman were killed in the clashes, according to authorities. They said another militant died in police custody.

The Bohol raid occurred days after the US Embassy issued a warning of potential kidnappings there.

The British Embassy on Wednesday advised its citizens to take precautionary measures while in the Philippines.

It advised its citizens to “exercise heightened vigilance” in the areas mentioned in the US Embassy’s advisory.

The Canadian Embassy also updated its travel advisory on the Philippines, with the US Embassy’s advisory.

“If you are traveling to these areas,

maintain a high level of vigilance and personal security awareness at all times, report any suspicious behavior to security forces, follow the instructions of local authorities and ensure that your hotel or resort has adequate security measures in place,” it said.

The Abu Sayyaf has since its founding in the 1990s kidnaped dozens of foreigners and many more locals to extract ransoms.

It typically raids coastal areas after sailing from its southern island strongholds on speedboats, although in recent years it has also attacked cargo and merchant ships.

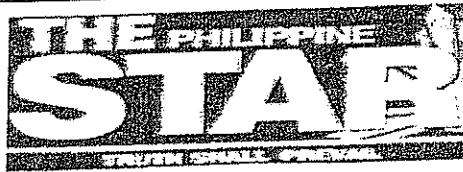
The militants beheaded two Canadians last year and an elderly German sailor in February after demands for millions of dollars were unmet.

The Abu Sayyaf raided a resort in Puerto Princesa’s Honda Bay in 2001, abducting three Americans and 17 Filipinos.

One of the Americans was beheaded, while one was killed in a military rescue attempt a year later. The third American was freed in the rescue effort.

The Abu Sayyaf has also kidnaped people from Malaysian coastal resorts, which are a short speedboat ride from its southern Philippine bases. With AFP, PNA

|| May 2017



Page: ||

Maguindanao tightens security amid BIFF attacks

By JOHN UNSON

MAGUINDANAO – Authorities have stepped up security in this province following attacks by members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

Senior Superintendent Agustin Tello, Maguindanao police director, said additional personnel were deployed in markets, terminals and other public places to foil bomb attacks and other atrocities.

Officials said four policemen were wounded in a roadside bombing perpetrated by BIFF men in Mamasapano on

Tuesday. BIFF gunmen led by Ismel Abubakar, alias Commander Bongos, were believed behind more than 20 roadside bombings in Central Mindanao in recent months.

Local officials in Datu Salibo, Datu Piang, Datu Saudi and Shariff Saidona expressed concern on retaliatory attacks after at least 20 BIFF members died in encounters with government troops over the weekend.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, public affairs chief of the 6th Infantry Division, said Abubakar and his cohorts are the targets of military operations in Datu Salibo.

5

|| May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 2

NPA leader nabbed in Agusan del Sur

By **MIKE O. CRISMONDO**
and **YAS D. OCAMPO**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - An alleged commander of the New People's Army (NPA) was arrested yesterday by government troops, Tuesday, in Purok 1, Barangay Libertad, in Prosperidad town, Agusan del Sur.

Capt. Jasper T. Gacayan, Civil Military Operations (CMO) officer of the Army's 401st Infantry (Unity) Brigade, identified the arrested NPA personality as Rany G. Undayon, 25, alias Ian or Abloy, commanding officer of Platoon 7, guerrilla-Front Committee 19 of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee.

The suspect had four warrants of arrest for murder and frustrated murder, Gacayan said.

Undayon allegedly operated in Prosperidad and San Francisco towns in Agusan del Sur and in Lianga and Barobo in Surigao del Sur, the 401st CMO officer said.

The suspect was subjected to tactical investigation in an Army camp in Agusan del Sur.

Meanwhile, an alleged NPA member,

who was a suspect in the killing of a town mayor, and his colleague were killed in an encounter with government troops in Lamana area, Barangay Kibalagbag, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon province, First Lieut. Erwin P. Bugarin, Civil Military Operations (CMO) officer of the Army's 8th Infantry Battalion (8th IB) yesterday said.

Bugarin identified the slain NPA members as Jimmy S. Ama, who was tagged as one of the suspects in the murder of Mayor Mario T. Okinlay of Impasugong town, in Bukidnon province last February 20, 2015.

Bugarin claimed that the family of the late mayor had positively identified the body of the slain suspect as Ama.

The other slain suspect, also believed to be an NPA member, remained unidentified.

In Davao City, 86 families were reported to have been evacuated from their homes following the outbreak of armed confrontations between government troops and NPA guerrillas in Barangay Dominga in Calinan District since last week.

Barangay Dominga Chairperson Ivy Marie Lumandas has sought assistance from City Mayor Sara Duterte for the basic needs of the evacuees, the City Information Office (CIO) said.

The City Social Services and Development (CSSDO) said relief goods were immediately sent to the villagers who are temporarily sheltered at the Dominga Barangay Hall.

Maria Luisa Bermudo, chief of CSSDO, said social workers were also sent to the village on Tuesday to evaluate the needs of the evacuated families.

11 May 2017



Page: 12

20 BIFFs killed in Maguindanao

CAMP STONGCO, Maguindanao (PNA) – The Army's Sixth Infantry Division (6ID) is validating reports that 20 members of the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) have been killed during aerial and artillery attacks in Maguindanao, an official said Tuesday.

Capt. John Arvin Encinas, 6th ID spokesperson, said the number of BIFF fatalities was reported by civilians and village officials.

"We are verifying the reports. Our ground troops found, using binoculars, many dead BIFF fighters still in the bandits' stronghold. (But

we could not exactly say how many," Encinas told the Philippine News Agency.

Since Saturday, the Army has been launching surgical aerial and artillery attacks on a BIFF stronghold in Barangay Tee, Datu Salibo town, after intelligence reports said the bandits were massing towards a military detachment in the municipality.

"There were no civilian casualties because the airstrikes were surgical, selective," Encinas said.

He said that on the first day of the military offensive, civilians were told to leave their homes.

The local government units are at-

tending to the needs of the displaced individuals, he added.

Abu Misri Mama, BIFF spokesperson, admitted that a BIFF member was killed – Commander Khalid, a sub-leader of the group. Khalid is the nephew of Ismael Abubakar alias Commander Bungos, currently the BIFF chieftain.

Since the bombardment started Saturday, at least four roadside bombings have taken place "as part of the BIFF's diversionary tactics," according to Encinas.

The latest was Tuesday morning, which left four police officers injured.

May 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 80

NPA leader arrested in Agusan del Sur

A LEADER of the New People's Army was arrested by military intelligence agents in Prosperidad town in Agusan del Sur on Tuesday for murder and frustrated murder, the military reported yesterday.

Reynaldo Gargar Undayon, who uses the aliases Ian and Abloy, was nabbed at around 1 p.m. while rest-

ing in his safehouse in Purok 1 in Barangay Libertad, said Capt. Jasper Gacayan, civil military operations officer of the Army's 401st Brigade. He did not resist arrest.

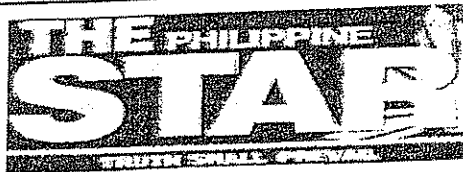
Gacayan said Undayon is the commanding officer of the NPA's Platoon 7 operating in Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur. Four arrest

warrants for murder and frustrated murder had been issued against him, and among his victims were soldiers.

Gacayan also said Undayon's arrest is a "big loss" to the NPA in Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur. "It will take time before they will find a replacement," he also said. – *Victor Reyes*

§

|| May 2017



Page: 2

Cayetano named DFA chief; Año to DILG

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

After defending the Duterte administration's war on drugs before the United Nations, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano has been designated Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) secretary.

In remarks before his departure yesterday for Cambodia for the World Economic Forum on ASEAN, President Duterte announced the appointment of Cayetano as well as of Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año as the new secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

"For the DFA, I remember I signed an appointment just before I left my room, I saw the name of Sen. Cayetano," Duterte told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The appointment came as the election ban on the appointment of defeated candidates to government posts lapsed.

Cayetano was the President's runningmate in the last presidential elections. He lost to Leni Robredo in the vice presidential race.

In appointing Año to the DILG, Duterte said he needs somebody in the military who exudes a strong leadership quality.

Año, who was also at the NAIA, was personally informed by the President of his appointment.

"Whatever job is given to us, if we can contribute, then we will, I will do my best to be able to contribute," he said, noting that the announcement was sudden and unexpected.

The AFP chief, who is retir-

ing in October, said he does not know yet if he would opt for early retirement.

"May I call upon my chief of staff General Año, can you come forward and be counted as one of the Filipinos?" Duterte said. "*Kailangan ko* (I need him), because I have a problem with the police," he said.

The President said reading about reports on the arrest of four policemen for kidnapping got him enraged.

"So you need one, somebody who knows the police," he said with expletives.

Apart from peace and order, Duterte expressed the belief Año would be useful in the administration's campaign against terrorism.

"What looms very big ahead is the IS, they are coming in, we are fighting in Mindanao *ngayon*. As a matter of fact, I've been using the F50A jets on bombing runs," he said.

Duterte said he would likely allow Año to reach retirement before asking him to formally assume the top DILG post, which now has former police general Catalino Cuy as officer-in-charge.

Cuy said he welcomed Año's appointment.

Duterte said he wanted Año to complete his term at the AFP because there are projects he has to implement.

"You know, at this time, you

cannot just pull out somebody in the Armed Forces, especially those who are tasked with programming, what will happen next and the remedies that we are supposed to be ready," Duterte said.

"The AFP's loss is the DILG's gain," AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said in reaction to Ano's impending move to the DILG.

"The AFP will not run out of competent and professional commanders who are ready to take the lead and the reign of command of the AFP," Arevalo said.

Defending appointments

The Chief Executive also defended his appointment of another military general – retired Armed Forces chief Roy Cimatu – to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and of Mocha Uson as an assistant secretary in his communications team.

Duterte recalled his relationship with Cimatu, who served in Davao when he was a congressman.

"He is a good officer, a true soldier and I am impressed with his industry," he said.

"He will remain loyal to his oath. I can assure you that everything, it would be all right and the DENR is in safe hands," the President said,

referring to Cimatu.

On Uson, Duterte said she is bright and that there's nothing wrong with her dancing as she was not doing it naked.

Duterte said his appointment of the controversial blogger and former sexy dancer was his idea and that her past "does not deprive her of the honor she deserves."

"Why? There's nothing wrong with the woman or the girl. She's bright. She's articulate. And if it is just a matter of dancing, she was not dancing naked," the President said.

"She was with me during the campaign. A little bit sexier than the others but that does not prevent anybody to deprive her of the honors that she deserves," he added.

Uson, whose real name is Margaux Justiniano Uson, was appointed assistant secretary of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) last May 8.

A former board member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, Uson will handle the PCOO's social media operations.

Before joining the Duterte administration, Uson led the female dance group Mocha Girls and appeared on sex instructional videos and daring flicks.

Duterte said Uson per-

formed sexy dances to earn a living. He admitted that debt of gratitude played a role in his decision to appoint her.

"There's no law which says that if you expose half of your body with shorts and a bra, you are disqualified from being the president of the Philippines," he said.

"*At utang na loob ko 'yan sa kanila* (That's my debt of gratitude to them) because they offered their services free at the time when I did not have money because they believed in me. Now, it's my time to believe in them," he added.

Duterte also praised Uson for having a "very structured mind."

"You can listen to her. You can debate with her. Look at her Facebook and she can have a very structured mind. So what's the problem?" the President said.

Uson had accused journalists of being "presstitutes" because of their alleged bias against Duterte.

She briefly had a show on radio station *dzRH* but it was suspended after she spouted invectives at Robredo.

Meanwhile, senators welcomed Cayetano's nomination, saying they expect him to easily hurdle the Commission on Appointments (CA). – With Alexis Romero, Marvin Sy, Edith Regalado

May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Shoot terrorists on sight, Duterte orders troops

By GENALYN D. KABING

President Duterte has authorized government troops to "shoot terrorists on sight" following reports that western governments

warned their citizens against traveling to Palawan due to possible kidnappings.

The President said the government has stepped up security in the province, adding the security forces have been

ordered to give the lawless elements no quarter.

"Well, we have spruced up the place, both physically and the strength of the security forces. My order to the security forces is to shoot them on sight. Patayin ninyo (Kill them)," he said before leaving Manila for his visits to Cambodia, Hong Kong and Beijing, China.

"Do not waste your bullet tapos we take care of them sa hospital," he added.

The commander-in-chief, who vowed terrorism would be dealt with harshly, told the security forces to "expend your bullet to finish the problem." "It is a problem of security, law, and order. Pag nag-engkwentro kayo, patayin mo na (If case of encounter, kill them)," he said.

The United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom had earlier issued travel alerts to Palawan, citing credible information that terror groups might kidnap foreign nationals in the province.

The US embassy in Manila told Americans in the country to review their personal security plans, avoid large crowds and remain vigilant at all

times. The embassies of UK and Canada also followed suit and released travel advisories.

No valid terror threat

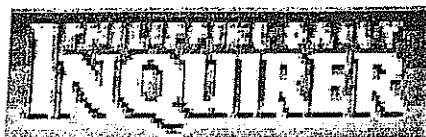
But AFP Western Command chief Lt. Gen. Raul del Rosario said they have not received any verified terror threats.

"Of course they (US) won't just issue anything without any basis. They have a large network but on our part, in our own intelligence monitoring, we can see that there is no large or big threat," Del Rosario said.

Del Rosario said following reports that Abu Sayyaf terrorists are planning to go to Coron, Palawan, to conduct kidnapping activities and the Bohol incident in which Abu Sayyaf terrorists were able to travel to that province, security in Palawan was tightened.

"What we did is we really tightened security around Palawan. We even created inter-agency task groups, deployed ships and personnel for target hardening so that they cannot enter the province," Del Rosario said. (With a report from Francis T. Wakefield)

|| May 2017



Page: 45

Palawan security tightened amid US travel alert

By Redempto D. Anda
@demptoandaINQ

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Security around the Puerto Princesa Underground River (PPUR) National Park was tightened on Wednesday following a US warning that terrorist groups might be planning to kidnap foreigners in one of the Philippines' most popular tourist spots.

The US Embassy on Tuesday said it had received "credible information" that terrorists may be targeting areas in Palawan province, including Puerto Princesa City and the PPUR.

The military foiled a kidnapping raid by the Abu Sayyaf in Bohol following a US Embassy warning in early April of such a plan by the bandits in the province and nearby Cebu.

President Duterte did not con-

has been tightened since late April after the military clashed with the Abu Sayyaf in Bohol.

The military's Western Command (Wescom) based in Puerto Princesa City had announced the formation of interagency task groups to conduct random checkpoints and mobile patrols in all major tourist areas in Palawan like Coron, El Nido, Sabang, Honda Bay, Balabac, Bataraza, Rio Tuba and Brooke's Point.

Impact on tourism

Wescom said in a statement on Wednesday that it had beefed up security for the tourist season even without any travel advisory.

"We see to it that we are always a step further on security," it said.

Travel agents are worried about the immediate and long-term effect of the terrorist

firm or deny the terrorist threat when asked to comment on the US travel advisory before he flew to Cambodia on Wednesday.

Instead, he said he had ordered security forces battling Abu Sayyaf bandits to "shoot them on sight."

"Do not waste your bullets [then] you take care of them in hospital," he said. "Expend your bullets to finish the problem because it is really a problem. It is a problem of security, law and order."

AFP: No specific threat

The Armed Forces spokesperson, Col. Edgard Arevalo, said the military had not monitored any "specific threat" to Palawan.

"Whether there indeed is a threat or not, our position is we take all reports seriously. We keep our monitoring and vigi-

lance, and are taking all precautions," Arevalo said.

The British Embassy in Manila cited the travel warning and like the US Embassy advised its citizens to "carefully consider travel plans and exercise heightened vigilance" in Palawan.

Canceled visit

The management of World Heritage-listed PPUR said in a statement that it had "coordinated with the authorities, both the [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and the police, to be [on] heightened alert."

The Philippine Military Academy on Wednesday canceled plans by cadets to visit the underground river and Honda Bay. The cadets were in the provincial capital for a silent drill exhibition.

Security around most of Palawan's tourist destinations

tourists visit Palawan yearly, according to the provincial government. About 1.4 million visitors were recorded in 2015.

Palawan was first targeted by the Abu Sayyaf in 2001, abducting three Americans and 17 Filipinos from a high-end resort on Honda Bay.

One of the Americans was beheaded by the bandits and another hostage was killed during a military operation in which the third hostage was rescued. —WITH REPORTS FROM

PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND AFP INQ



WATCH VIDEO: No threat in Palawan,
AFP says amid US travel advisory
<http://inq.news/ThreatinPalawan>

OFFICE OF

5295

May 2017



Page: 19

HUNT VS BANDITS

ABU TIPSTER FEARS FOR LIFE AFTER GETTING REWARD

By Leo Udtohan
@leoudtohanINQ

TAGBILARAN CITY—The driver of a motorcycle-for-rent who tipped off the military about the presence of Abu Sayyaf bandits in Clarin town in Bohol province last month has appealed to the government to protect him, saying he fears for his life after receiving his cash reward.

Joselito Tura, who received part of a P1-million reward for information that led to the killing of four Abu Sayyaf members in Bohol, had to go into hiding and move from place to place for fear that he would be killed by robbers, a source told the Inquirer.

The source said Tura, who received P450,000, had sought the help of someone close to the President about his situation. "He transfers from one house to another out of fear that he would be killed ... His neighbors thought he received at least P1 million from the government, but he only got about half of it," the source said.

Mr. Duterte earlier announced a bounty of P1 million on top of the P100,000 reward that the Bohol provincial government offered for the capture of each of the eight Abu Sayyaf members who arrived in a remote village in Bohol last month.

Tura got wind of the group's hiding place after he took one of the fugitives to Barangay Bacani in Clarin on April 22. The tip resulted in a clash that led to the death of Joselito Melloria, a native of Barangay Napo in Ina-

anga town.

Melloria had led the band of at least 10 Abu Sayyaf members to his hometown on April 10. Aside from Melloria, three other Abu Sayyaf members were killed in the ensuing firefight.

Top military officials turned over the cash reward to Tura on April 29 at the Bohol governor's mansion but they did not present him to reporters due to security reasons. The source said Tura learned that he was getting only P450,000 when the money was handed to him.

Officials said Tura had to share the total reward money with other people who also gave information to the military. Among them were a mother and son in Barangay Bacani and another tipster whose mobile phone was taken by one of the armed men and which was used to contact Supt. Maria Cristina Nobleza and her husband, suspected Abu Sayyaf bomber Reenor Lou Dungon, for a possible rescue.

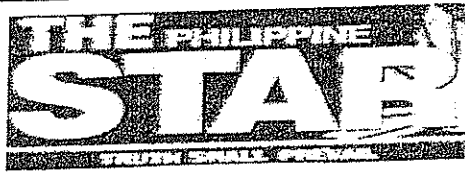
Nobleza and Dungon, however, were arrested when they refused to stop at a military checkpoint in Bohol on April 22.

In a text message to the Inquirer, Lactao confirmed it was not only Tura who received the cash reward from the government.

Bohol Gov. Edgar Chatto and Clarin Mayor Allen Piezas said they witnessed the handover of the reward but said they did not have a hand in its distribution.

—WITH A REPORT FROM CONNIE E. FERNANDEZ INQ

|| May 2017



Page: 13

Rody: Bomb terrorists

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte has ordered the military to conduct "bombing runs" against terrorists in Mindanao to prevent them from entering the Visayas and contain the influence of the Islamic State (IS) in the country.

"We have a problem with terrorism. What looms very big ahead is the IS. They are coming in," the President told a press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 before he left for a working visit to

Cambodia, Hong Kong and Beijing yesterday. "Fighting is ongoing in Mindanao. As a matter of fact, we've been using FA-50 jets in bombing runs."

Duterte, who previously said the purchase of FA-50

jets was a "waste of money," ordered the military to use its air assets to crush the Abu Sayyaf, which has about 300 members according to military estimates.

Duterte said he expects a long-drawn war against terrorism, noting that the problem is aggravated by the drug menace.

"Drugs are fueling terrorism in the south. That's why we see a lot of promising drug lords there again and

in the Visayas. *Doon pa-land-ing eh* (They intend to land there)," he said.

Duterte earlier said the Maute group, an armed group with alleged ties to IS, are being funded by the illegal drug trade. He said illicit drugs serve as the "gasoline" of terrorism in Mindanao.

The President had also warned terrorists that he could "eat them alive" and replicate their atrocities "50 times over."

May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 12

7 more Abus yield in Sulu

BY **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Seven more members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) surrendered to the Joint Task Force Sulu last Monday, as the all-out military offensives against the bandits continued to gain momentum in Sulu province.

WestMinCom Spokesman Capt Jo-Ann Petinglay said followers of sub-leaders Sansibar Bensio and Tomas Idjas, who were under the late sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya, surrendered to the military in Sitio Kanjawali, Barangay Tandu Bag, Luuk, Sulu at about 12:35pm last Monday.

Petinglay identified those that surrendered as Aminula Sakili, Saharijan Sakili, Haydel Sahidul, Sattar Sadjal, Orik Samsuraji, Princibal Abdan, and Annu Asaraji, alias Anwar.

They surrendered to the elements of the Philippine Marine Ready Fleet Sulu and the Marine Battalion Landing Team-1.

They also yielded to the troops M16 rifle, M14 rifle, and Garand rifles, and caliber-.38 and .45 pistols.

Petinglay said the seven ASG members were made to swear before the Qur'an that they will no longer involve themselves in any act of terrorism and lawlessness in the future.

On Sunday, a known follower of ASG top leader Furuji Indama also turned himself in to the military in Ungkaya Pukan, Basilan.

The bandit was identified as Husin Asrap Wahid, 28 years old and a resident of Sitio Bato Maputi, Barangay Baguindan.

WestMinCom reports that the latest batch of surrenderers brought to 47, the running total of Abu Sayyaf bandits that have so far turned themselves in to the government.

Of this number, 11 yielded to the government forces in Sulu; 25 in Basilan; and 11 in Tawi-Tawi.

WestMinCom Chief Lt Gen Carlito Galvez Jr., said "the combat operations continue to be launched by our ground troops to put more pressure on the Abu Sayyaf."

"We welcome the continuous surrender of Abu Sayyaf members as indicative of the sustained offensives to compel the bandits to yield to the troops and release the remaining hostages," he said.

Galvez also reiterated the government's "call for the remaining Abu Sayyaf bandits to surrender." "It will be a matter of time before soldiers will get you. Decide to do the right thing now before it is too late," he stressed.

|| May 2017

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: 2

NPA beyond control — Joma

By John Paolo Bencito

COMMUNIST Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison has admitted that the leaders of the National Democratic Front negotiating panel based in Utrecht do not have control over the rebels' movements despite the ongoing peace negotiations between the government and the communist rebels.

Sison made the statement as President Rodrigo Duterte met with top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines Benito and Wilma Tiamzon on Tuesday night who decried the alleged surveillance attempts

by the military who visited the displaced farmers encamped in Mendiola in Manila.

"Last night's incident (May 9), where NDFP Peace Panel member Benito Tiamzon and peace consultant Wilma Austria-Tiam-

zon were tailed by motorcycle-riding men after the two leaders visited the protesting MARBAI farmers in Mendiola, is a blatant violation of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees," Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary-general Renato Reyes said.

"The surveillance appears instigated by the AFP in another attempt to undermine the ongoing peace talks. We condemn such harassment."

In a roundtable interview with the newspaper *Manila Bulletin*, Sison said the leaders of the CPP based in the Philippines were the ones who were giving orders to the NDFP Negotiating Panel and to their armed wing, the New Peo-

ples' Army.

"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," Sison said.

"No one in Utrecht can give orders to the CPP, NPA, NDFP [National Democratic Front of the Philippines] in the Philippines," he added.

Should the forces in the Philippines decide to "disengage from the peace negotiations," Sison said, "there is nothing the NDFP Negotiating Panel can do" in the eventuality that these things happened.

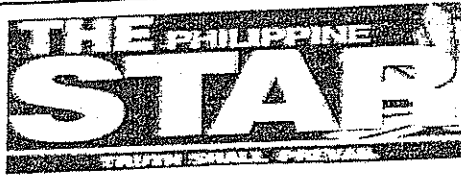
A younger generation of cad-

res recently took over the CPP's central committee when it disclosed that it held its Second Party Congress last October more than 48 years after the rebel group's founding.

Sison added that "no one in Utrecht has ever claimed to control the revolutionary forces and people in the Philippines."

Government negotiators led by Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza had earlier said while the fifth round of talks with the communists would push through in The Netherlands from May 27 to June 1, he said he was dismayed by the recent attacks by the NPA that led him to question their sincerity in pursuing peace negotiations with the government.

// May 2017



Page: //

Navy's latest ship arrives in Manila

The Philippine Navy's second landing dock vessel, the *BRP Davao del Sur*, which will be deployed to Benham Rise arrived in Manila from Surabaya, Indonesia yesterday.

Rear Admiral Gaudencio Collado Jr., commander of the Philippine Fleet, led the welcome ceremony at Manila's South Harbor.

Naval Public Affairs Office chief Lued Lincuna said *BRP Davao del Sur* is the Navy's second amphibious landing dock.

The Navy acquired *BRP Tarlac*, a Makassar-class landing platform dock of the Indonesian Navy in May last year.

The ships are expected to boost the Navy's maritime and territorial patrol capabilities.

– Michael Punongbayan

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ONLINE NEWS

11 MAY 2017

www.pna.gov.ph

Group urges Senate to probe possible links of Sulu officials to Abu Sayyaf

From the Philippine News Agency (May 10):

A group from Jolo, Sulu urged Wednesday the Senate to investigate the possible links of local government officials in Sulu province to the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

Speaking in a press conference at the Abreeza Mall here, Professor Octavio Dinampo of the Save Sulu Movement (SSM) said "the people in his province have been hostaged by the ASG for the past 10 years now."

"Terrorism is a menace that is threatening all of us in the country, not only in Sulu," said Dinampo, a professor at the Mindanao State University in Sulu.

"We want the Senate to investigate the backers of ASG, including politicians and businessmen in our area," he said.

He added that "Sulu nowadays is being controlled by one political clan," though he did not elaborate on the matter.

Dinampo, who was once abducted by the Abu Sayyaf, called on the government and private groups to help address the root cause of the extremism in Sulu, noting that the ASG cannot be defeated by military actions alone.

In a separate statement, SSM said that the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte, after 10 months into office, has yet to demonstrate and implement new and effective strategies to wipe out the ASG in Sulu and prevent its menace from spreading into the other parts of the country.

"Despite the declaration of the State of Lawlessness and the augmentation of military and police forces to reach 10,000 in Sulu, the ASG is still on a kidnapping rampage and even expanding its target to as far as the peaceful and tourist-rich island of Bohol," the SSM said.

Military offensives against the ASG are not enough to neutralize the terrorist group as the real situation in Sulu "unfolds a totally different story of kidnapping becoming a cottage industry with local officials acting as promoters, brokers and protectors," the group said.

Aside from calling for an investigation, SMM also asked Congress to criminalize the payment of ransom.

"It is sickening to keep on hearing the "no ransom" policy when everyone knows too well that ransom is actually being paid and brokered by the local government officials, thus perpetuating the business of the ASG," the group said.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php/articles/986538>

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Palawan safe from ASG threat, says provincial gov't

From the Philippine News Agency (May 10): Palawan safe from ASG threat, says provincial gov't

The provincial government assured the public on Wednesday that Palawan is safe to visit and is not under any threat from the bandit Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

On Tuesday, the U.S. Embassy issued a travel advisory telling its citizens to be careful when making their travel plans to Palawan due to perceived threat from the notorious kidnap and terror group.

In a media conference Wednesday morning, lawyer Teodoro Jose Matta, the Palawan Provincial Legal Officer (PLO) and chairman of the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC), said the province and this city have been ready with their contingencies in line with the military and the police's readiness against any threat by the ASG.

Matta represented Governor Jose Alvarez in an inter-agency security group (ISG) meeting at the Western Command (WESCOM) Headquarters in Barangay San Miquel, Puerto Princesa City.

"The readiness of the province is in line with the readiness of WESCOM and the PNP, and ever since the start of the tourist season, we've increased our alertness... when summer started, and when tourists came in, and even before then, we already have precautions like patrols; we have alerted Rescue 165, our barangays, especially coastal areas, and organized also the assets of the province," he said.

According to Matta, Puerto Princesa and Palawan do not want any bad publicity affecting its tourism industry, but reiterated that even before the U.S. Embassy Travel Advisory, both have been ready, and have their own contingencies that are harmonized with the security posture of WESCOM and the city and provincial police offices.

"We have been ready even before this advisory was released. It may or may not have any effect, but Palawan is safe. We have been keeping it safe for such a long time," Matta stated.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Luis Marcaida III, who admitted the city government got alarmed by the issuance of the travel advisory, said he was only comforted, when upon talking to the military and the police, was told and assured that troops and logistic assets have already been deployed since Tuesday afternoon by the WESCOM in key and vital sites here, specifically in the Puerto Princesa Underground River (PPUR) at Sitio Sabang, Barangay Cabayugan.

"Very much alerted because here in Puerto Princesa there are only two industries we are promoting, tourism and agriculture. But tourism is major, that is why last night I immediately called the City Police Office (CPO) and advised them to beef up and to augment the troops in Sabang because of the travel advisory," Marcaida said, adding an officer from the 3rd Marine Brigade also told him about the prompt reaction it implemented due to the travel advisory.

Marcaida said despite the travel advisory, no cancellations have been recorded by the City Tourism Department (CTD), and operations in the PPUR continue.

"No, there is no operation stoppage in the underground river," Marcaida stated as a matter of fact.

He disclosed to the media that police visibility has now been increased by the CPO in areas frequented by the public, such as malls, parks, public markets, house of worships, and tourist-frequented sites in Puerto Princesa.

Earlier, the PPUR management issued a statement that says: "We have just received the information about the Travel Advisory issued today by the US Embassy in the Philippines instructing their citizens to exercise caution for a possible terrorist attack in areas within the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park. We have already coordinated with

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the authorities both the AFP and the police, to be in heightened alert. A Security Council Meeting has already been called to take place early tomorrow morning. We are taking this information seriously as we always consider the safety and security of our guests and the community in the paramount of our concern. May the good Lord keep us safe and secure us all in the mantle of his protection. Please pray with us," the statement said.

WESCOM, for its part, said that there are no members of the terrorist ASG in this city and anywhere in the province of Palawan. It said no way will it allow the bandit group entry to disturb the peace and order situation the residents are enjoying.

"I can tell you eye to eye that based on the intelligence reports, which covers the whole province... we have an intelligence net in the whole province... there is no presence of ASG in Palawan." said WESCOM commander Lt. General Raul del Rosario in the same media conference called following the ISG meeting with Marcaida and other key representatives of the city and provincial governments.

Asked if they think the ASG can enter Palawan, Marcaida, and the other members in attendance joined Del Rosario in replying with a resounding "No way!"

"I already said this morning before our meeting started that we should never allow terrorism in Palawan because it will destroy all our gains – in tourism, in economy, the reputation as Best Island in the World will be seriously affected. If a kidnapping or bombing is done here, even the masseuse or the tricycle driver will be affected. Do we want that? We should not allow the Dos Palmas incident to happen again in Palawan,"the WESCOM commander said.

Del Rosario added that even before the advisory came, the WESCOM has already "beefed up security of the underground river."

"We have previously postured security measures in PPUR, and we even gave it a boost just recently," Del Rosario disclosed, adding there are now two patrol boats by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) securing the area, a Philippine Navy fast craft, boats from the PPUR management, and troops from the Philippine Marines Corps.

"I also ordered the Philippine Air Force here and the Navy helicopter to conduct patrol this morning to see the security posture we implemented there," he furthered.

Brigadier General Nathaniel Casem, commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade and the Joint Task Force Peacock (JTFC) stationed in Palawan supplied too, that they have activated the Joint Task Force Central (JTFC) last Monday which will be responsible in law enforcement in the 3rd District of Palawan that covers Aborlan and Puerto Princesa.

"We have now a dedicated unit to support other law agencies here in the city and also Aborlan to beef up our security posture," Casem said.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php/articles/986566>

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300 PMA cadets set to visit Zamboanga City

From the Philippine News Agency (May 10): 300 PMA cadets set to visit Zamboanga City

Three hundred Philippine Military Academy (PMA) cadets are arriving here for a five-day tour starting tomorrow, Thursday, as part of the "PMA Southern Cruise."

The arriving PMA cadets are third year students or second class cadets who are scheduled to graduate in 2018.

A series of activities, including courtesy visits at the City Hall, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), Naval Forces Western Mindanao Command, Edwin Andrews Air Base, Task Force Zamboanga and Police Regional Office-9, have been lined up for the cadets during their visit in the city.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, Westmincom information officer, said there will be an interaction with students and silent drill when the PMA cadets will visit Camp Navarro on Friday, May 12.

There will be another silent drill to be held at the Paseo del Mar, where the cadets will showcase their finest movements in military marching and formation.

The cadets' other activities include the launching of "host parents" program, media guesting and booth displays in malls, among others.

The Southern Cruise is an annual activity intended to promote the PMA in the different areas of the country, as the academy seeks to recruit the best, brightest and fittest applicants for the military service.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php/articles/986591>

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PAF to acquire PHP14.3-M worth of navigation spares for S-211 jet trainer

From the Philippine News Agency (May 10): PAF to acquire PHP14.3-M worth of navigation spares for S-211 jet trainer

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has allocated PHP14.3 million for the installation of multi-function display and spares needed for the maintenance of the navigation system of one of its three SIAI-Marchetti S-211 jet trainers.

This was bared by **PAF bids and awards chief Brig. Gen. Nicolas Parilla** in an bid bulletin posted at the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System website.

Bid opening is scheduled on May 23, 9 a.m. at the PAF Procurement Center Conference Room, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

The S-211 is one of the PAF's two jet-powered aircraft after the Korea Aerospace Industries FA-50PH "Fighting Eagle".

It is primarily used for air-to-ground and surveillance missions.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php/articles/986541>

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

Posted by Alvin Santiago on May 10, 2017 at 10:00 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) today, 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**

SYMPOSIUM | Philippine Navy and Maritime Security Subject Matter Experts

Posted by Alvin Santiago on May 10, 2017 at 10:00 AM

NAVAL STATION JOSE V ANDRADA, Roxas Boulevard, Manila (DWDD) – The Philippine Navy (PN) will host the Maritime Security Symposium today, May 10, 2017 at the 27th Floor, Constellation Ballroom, Diamond Hotel in Manila.

Invited are subject-matter experts from the Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, University of South Wales, Australia and other experts from local research institutions.

This Maritime Security Symposium will also be attended by high-level government officials from various government agencies and will be focusing on with President Duterte's announcement of maritime security and cooperation in the region under the Philippines chairmanship of ASEAN earlier this year. **NPAO / MCAG**

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