

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

13 May 2017

Saturday

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

13 MAY 2017

PH NOTES UN WORRIES, MUM ON COMMITMENT





China urges UN to support Phil war on drugs

not safe for travel in PH — DTI chief



N. Korea says ready for 'shock and awe' airstrike kills 20 Abus





MANILA BULLETIN THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



Duterte backs new PDAF probe



Daily Tribune

Aquino claims no fault in DAP scandal







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

TABLE OF CONTENTS
13 MAY 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A10
NATIONAL NEWS			
2	China urges UN to support Phi war on drugs	Helene Flores	Phil Star p. 2
3-4	PH notes UN worries, mum on commitment	Philip C Tubeza	PDI p. 2
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
5	AFP's 'shock and awe' airstrike kills 20 Abus	Roel Pareño	Phil Star p. 1
6	20 Abu Sayyaf fighter slain in air, ground assaults	Francis Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p. 6
7	20 bandits 'killed' as fighter jets pound Abu Sayyaf camp	PNA	Tribune p. 2
8	20 Abu Sayyaf terrorist killed	Frankie Tuyay	The Standard p. A7
9	Army says top west Mindanao reb caught	Ryan Rosaura	PDI p. A5
10	Top NPA commander, bishop nabbed in Ozamiz	Froilan Gallardo	Mla Bulletin p. 13
11	Troops capture NPA leader in Ozamis City	Mario Mallari	Tribune p. 2
12	Military arrests NPA leader, bishop in Ozamiz	Al Jacinto	Mla Times p. A7
13	NPA leader, bishop laglag sa militar	Al Jacinto	Abante p. 6
14	Soldier, NPA rebel killed in Samar clash	Nestor Abrematea	Mla Bulletin p. 9
15	Soldier, 2 rebels slain in fresh E. Visayas clashes	PNA	Tribune p. 2
16	Thousands displaced in BIFF, AFP clashes	John Unson	Phil Star p. 13
17	NPA leader falls	Roel Pareño	Phil Star p. 13
18	'Adopts an IP Community' 'Tabak' needs more soldiers	Mile Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p. 13
19	Photo: Soldier Patrol	AFP	Phil Star p. 13
AFP RELATED NEWS			
20	Mindanao veteran new AFP chief	Florante Solmerin	The Standard p. A1
21	Phi-US Balikatan kicks off	Michael Ponungbayan	Phil Star p. 6
22	Photo: Balikatan	Michal Varcas	Phil Star p. 1
23	Pinay joins Israeli army unit that saved her lola	Reuters	Phil Star p. 1
24	Filipina joins Israeli army unit that rescued her grandmother	Reuters	Mla Bulletin p. 1
25	Photo: Passion to help	Reuters	Mla Bulletin p. 1
26	Photo: Balikatan	Mike De Juan	Mla Times p. A7
27	Duterte urged to put 6 Sulu town under martial law	Antonio Colina IV	Mla Bulletin p. 13
28	Terror threat won't hurt economy - DTI	John Paolo Bencito	The Standard p. A2

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

29	UK discourages travel to Sulu, S. Cebu over kidnap threats	Joyce Ann Rocamora	Tribune p. 3
30	Cabinet appointees should be competent - senator	Marvin Sy	Phil Star p. 4
31	Cabinet 'militarization', Mocha appointment hit	Jefferson Antiporda	Mla Times p. 13
32	LP expresses concern over Duterte's appointment of military men, Mocha	Mario Casayuran	Mla Bulletin p. 14
EDITORIAL			
33-34	Reviving the ROTC for emergency training	-	Mla Bulletin p. 10
35	Huwag maging kampante	-	Ngayon p. 2
36	Final solution to the Abu Sayyaf problem	Ramon Tulfo	PDI p. A14
ONLINE NEWS			
37-38	'Sulu execs conniving with Abus'	Julie S. Alipala	www.inquirer.net
	Groups concerned over 'creeping militarization' of Duterte Cabinet	Kristian Javier	www.philstar.com
39	Eastern Mindanao Command on heightened alert	Francis Wakefield	www.mb.com.ph
40	'Most wanted' Western Mindanao NPA commander captured – Army	Kaye Imson	www.interaksyon.com
41	"The long-term solution to end terrorism in Mindanao hinges on the success of the Bangsamoro peace process": WestMinCom Chief	AL ISKANDAR	www.luwaran.com
42	Eastern Mindanao Heightens alert	Lui Claudio	www.dwdd.com.ph

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

13 May 2017



Page: A10

PANAHON TV
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MAY 13, 2017 | SATURDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING MINDANAO EASTERLIES AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF LUZON AND VIAYAS (A. at 3:00 PM - MAY 12, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:29 AM	6:16 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
8:15 PM	7:11 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
MAY 13 5:42 AM	MAY 19 4:33 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
6:16 PM	10:32 AM
-0.03 Meter	1.01 Meter
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	
Cloudy starts with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	

	MAY 13	MAY 14	MAY 15	MAY 16	MAY 17	MAY 18
METRO MANILA	25-35°C	26-34°C				
TAGAYTAY			23-32°C	22-31°C		
TACLOBAN					25-31°C	25-31°C
TUGUEGARAO	25-37°C	25-37°C				
LEGAZPI			26-33°C	26-33°C		
CAGAYAN DE ORO					25-32°C	25-32°C
LAOAG	27-33°C	26-33°C				
PUERTO PRINCESA			26-33°C	26-33°C		
METRO DAVAO					26-33°C	26-33°C
BAGUIO	17-25°C	17-25°C				
ILDILLO/BACOLOD			26-33°C	26-33°C		
ZAMBOANGA					24-33°C	25-33°C
SBMA/CLARK	26-36°C	26-37°C				
METRO CEBU			26-32°C	26-32°C		

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

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

13

May 2017



Page: 2

China urges UN to support Phl war on drugs

By HELEN FLORES

China has called on the international community to respect the Philippines' sovereign prerogative in combating the drug menace in the country.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang issued the statement after 45 of 47 members of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) urged the Philippine government to end extrajudicial killings and withdraw its plan to revive the death penalty.

"Drugs are the common enemy for all human beings, bringing pain to many developing countries, including China. China supports President Duterte and the Philip-

pine government in combating drug-related crimes in accordance with the law," Geng said in a press conference on Thursday night.

"We hope the international community can respect the judicial sovereignty of the Philippines and support its efforts in fighting drug-related crimes through cooperation," he added.

Geng also called on UNHRC member-states to be objective in reviewing human rights situations in other countries.

On May 8, the 27th session of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UNHRC assessed the human rights situation in the Philippines.

Several countries including China, Cuba, Russia and Venezuela made positive comments and lauded the efforts

and achievements made by the Philippines in eliminating poverty, promoting socioeconomic development as well as improving and protecting human rights.

Geng said the UPR was an important mechanism for UN member-states to conduct dialogue and cooperation on an equal footing in the area of human rights.

"We hope various parties can be objective and fair in viewing the human rights conditions in different countries and promote the human rights cause through dialogue and cooperation," he said.

The Philippines received a total of 257 recommendations – the highest – from among the participating states. Recommendations after review

averaged 220.

Extrajudicial killings, death penalty and human trafficking were the core issues on which the recommendations were based.

Around 8,000 suspected drug offenders have died since the Duterte administration launched a brutal campaign against illegal drugs last year.

Human rights advocates claimed that the drug war has encouraged summary executions and human rights violations, but officials have denied the allegation.

Cayetano appointment welcomed

Meanwhile, the Chinese government is looking forward to working closely with incoming secretary of the Department

of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano to further strengthen relations between the two nations.

"We welcome the appointment and congratulate Mr. Cayetano. China is ready to work with him to implement the high-level consensus and keep deepening practical cooperation to push forward China-Philippines relations for greater benefits to our peoples and regional peace and stability," Geng said.

Prior to his appointment as DFA secretary, Cayetano headed the Senate foreign relations committee. He was President Duterte's runningmate in last year's election.

Last week, Cayetano led the Philippine delegation to the UNHRC's UPR of the Philippines in Geneva, Switzerland

where he defended the Duterte administration's war on drugs.

Geng said that since last year, relations between the Philippines and China "have achieved all-round improvement and bilateral cooperation has entered a new stage."

"Cooperation across the board has recovered and yielded fruitful outcomes. Our relationship is making overall progress," he said.

Duterte is among 29 heads of state and government leaders who will attend the Belt and Road Forum on International Cooperation in Beijing from May 14 to 15.

During his first visit to Beijing in October last year, Duterte brought home \$24 billion worth of investment pledges and infrastructure projects.

13 May 2017



Page: 2

PH notes UN worries, mum on commitment

FROM A1

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Bella Cariaso
@Team_Inquirer

The Philippines said on Friday that it would review recommendations over killings in its war on drugs, but did not commit to make reforms or prosecute the police for excessive use of force after receiving criticism from UN rights council members.

President Duterte has been widely condemned in the West for failing to curtail the killings and address activists' allegations of systematic, state-sponsored murders by police of drug users and dealers, a charge which the authorities reject.

The United Nations Human Rights Council examined the Philippines' record this week, where the government delegation

insisted there had been no new wave of killings prompted by the campaign, and denounced what it branded as "alternative facts."

Since Mr. Duterte took office 10 months ago, there have been 9,432 homicide cases, including 2,692 deaths from "presumed legitimate law enforcement operations," it said.

The council adopted a report on Thursday comprising 257 recommendations from 95 states, roughly half voicing concern over the killings, and told the Philippines to report back "with a clear position" at its September session.

Among them was a recommendation from the United States to "ensure that all counternarcotics operations are conducted in conformity with constitutional protections and international human rights obligations."

Sen. Richard Gordon, a staunch ally of the president,

said the government should listen to the recommendations (See page 11)

"To the best of our ability we tried to explain the underlying reasons for this campaign. That is to protect the human rights of the majority of our people who stand to potentially suffer the dark consequences of unmitigated abuse of illegal drugs and to set an environment conducive to further social economic development," Menardo Guevarra, senior deputy executive secretary in Mr. Duterte's office, said on Thursday.

The Presidential Human Rights Committee would "review and determine what actions to take on your numerous recommendations," Guevarra told the forum.

"The international community sent out a very strong message to the Philippines government today ... Many of the recommendations did address the extrajudicial killings, arbitrary

detentions vis-a-vis the government's campaign to stamp out illegal drugs," council spokesperson Rolando Gomez said.

Nearly 50 states had voiced concerns, "so that obviously speaks volumes, and now of course it is up to the government to make good on the promises [to which they] committed here," Gomez told Reuters Television.

China, which during the debate congratulated Mr. Duterte's administration on its "remarkable achievements" in protecting human rights, suggested in its recommendation that it should "address the root cause of illegal drugs through development."

Philippine National Police Director General Ronald Dela Rosa on Friday said only the President could order a freeze to the campaign, following a call from Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) to suspend it amid UN concerns.

VACC said the police must suspend the drug war due to the increasing number of cases of "tanim-droga" of policemen "planting drugs as evidence" against their would-be victims.

But reacting to the suggestion, Dela Rosa said: "You tell it to the President because we are just following orders."

"If the President says 'stop,' then we will stop. I have no power to say 'go' or 'no go.' It's the President's order," he stressed.

The PNP in early March relaunched its antidrug effort, about a month after the President ordered police to stop the campaign after rogue policemen were implicated in the kidnap-slay of South Korean businessman Jee Ick-joo inside Camp Crame last year.

In Hong Kong, where Mr. Duterte is on an official trip, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said that the 10-nation Associa-

tion of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) bloc continued to support the drug war.

"Actually all of them, if you talk to the Asean counterparts, the leaders, heads of state, they're in full support of the drive, the campaign against drugs," Lopez told reporters.

He stressed that the government "does not sanction human rights violations," a message that Senator and incoming foreign secretary Alan Peter Cayetano had explicitly conveyed to the United Nations.

Lopez said only President Duterte "had the guts" to implement and impose tough measures against drugs, which he stressed had affected 4 million Filipinos.

"The leaders are in full support. Because I think they think that way also, in their countries, they are solving it that way," he said. —WITH A REPORT FROM REUTERS INQ



13

May 2017



Page: 1

AFP's 'shock and awe' airstrike kills 20 Abus

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – As foreign governments warned their citizens about kidnapping and terrorist plots in Philippine tourist destinations, the military pounded Abu Sayyaf lairs in Basilan on Thursday, killing at least 20 militants in what was called a “shock and awe” airstrike by F-50 fighters followed by an artillery barrage.

The military said ground forces from the 4th Special Forces and 3rd Scout Ranger Regiment also seized an Abu Sayyaf camp in Barangay Pamatsaken in the hinterlands of Sumisip, which was hastily abandoned by fleeing bandits under Furuji Indama.

President Duterte had earlier ordered the military to “shoot on sight” Abu Sayyaf bandits amid travel warnings issued by the US, Britain, Canada and Australia about plots to kidnap foreigners and conduct bombings in Bohol, Cebu and Palawan.

Col. Juvymax Uy, chief of the 104th Army Brigade and Joint Task Force Basilan, said the offensive was launched

Turn to Page 6

following information from former Abu Sayyaf members who recently surrendered to the military.

Uy said the Special Forces under Lt. Col. Andrew Bacala initially penetrated the foot of the camp at pre-dawn Thursday and assaulted the Abu Sayyaf militants who were then having breakfast after the dawn break.

Bacala reported the troops breached the camp perimeter and inched closer to about 100 meters from the makeshift tents.

A firefight ensued as the troops took the militants by surprise.

FA-50 jets from Philippine Air Force launched the shock and awe airstrike and deliv-

ered rounds of deadly payload rocket bombs against the Abu Sayyaf position.

Bacala said the airstrikes were immediately followed with artillery and mortar fires, inflicting additional casualties to the bandits.

“Our troops were able to cordon the enemy due to the accurate and timely indirect fires and close air support delivered by our artillery and the Philippine Air Force,” Uy said.

The Scout Rangers caught the withdrawing militants about 300 meters from the seized camp.

Military forces immediately conducted clearing operations on the captured camp, which had 12 makeshift tents capable

of accommodating 30 to 40 bandits. These were established across 150 meters of hilltop.

Bloodstains were found in the vicinity. Intelligence reports said there were about 20 Abu Sayyaf fatalities from the combined airstrikes and indirect fires.

The military recovered three live improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that were rigged around the camp as booby traps and defenses.

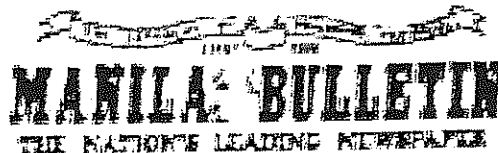
One IED was accidentally tripped and exploded, injuring two soldiers.

Uy said the ground troops did not experience a prolonged firefight, which he said suggested the Abu Sayyaf group may have run out of logistics, ammunition and supply to engage the government forces.

– With Jaime Laude

5

13 May 2017



Page: 6

20 Abu Sayyaf fighters slain in air, ground assaults

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

At least 20 Abu Sayyaf terrorists were reportedly killed while an enemy encampment was also overrun following successive fire fights and airstrikes in Sumisip, Basilan, which started Thursday night.

According to Joint Task Force Basilan chief Col. Juvymax R. Uy, troops from the 4th Special Forces Battalion and the 3rd Scout Ranger Regiment successively engaged members of the Abu Sayyaf Group in a fire fight that started at about 9 p.m. Thursday.

The temporary encampment of

the Abu Sayyaf Group in Barangay Pamatsaken, Sumisip, was traced by the 4th Special Forces Battalion using intelligence reports from ASG surrenderees, the local populace, and the local government units, Uy said.

The temporary camp, Uy said, reportedly shelters ASG sub-leader Furuji Indama.

"Equipped with night fighting capabilities, our troops were able to inch within a hundred meters of the enemy under the cover of darkness," said Uy, quoting Lt. Col. Andrew B. Bacala Jr., commanding officer of the 4th Special Forces Battalion.

But before the troops were able to

close in on the encampment, they had to evade several IEDs (improvised explosive devices) laid by the bandits. By 10 a.m. Friday, Uy said, the special forces completely seized the encampment.

Twelve makeshift tents capable of accommodating more or less 30-40 Abu Sayyaf bandits were seized from the encampment that spans 150 meters across a hilltop.

The troops also seized several foodstuffs and explosive components capable of making 30 IEDs. Three live IEDs were also taken from the encampment. But one IED managed to detonate, inflicting minor injuries to two troopers.

Uy said successive fire fights followed as troops from the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion caught up with the fleeing bandits some 300 meters from the seized encampment.

"Our troops were able to cordon off the enemy due to the accurate and timely indirect fires and close air support delivered by our artillery and the Philippine Air Force," Uy said.

Naval Task Group Basilan also conducted maritime interdiction operations to prevent the bandits from escaping by sea.

Shock and Awe

Uy said the bandits also got a

taste of the Philippine Air Force's F/A 50 after the jet fighters delivered its deadly payload, inflicting immediate fatalities to the ASGs.

"The ASGs were so shocked they left most of their personal belongings and unfinished meal at their encampment," a team leader from the Special Forces who have just cleared the site was quoted as saying.

The airstrikes were immediately followed with artillery and mortar fires, inflicting additional casualties to the bandits.

"If the pounding doesn't break their body, it will surely shake their souls," Bacala said.

13 May 2017



Page: 2

20 bandits 'killed' as fighter jets pound Abu Sayyaf camp

Twenty bandits were "killed" as the Philippine Air Force's newly acquired FA-50 fighter jets pounded and destroyed a camp of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sumisip, Basilan province, military officials said.

Lt. Col. Andrew Bacala Jr., Army's 4th Special Forces Battalion commander, yesterday said the fighter jets "delivered deadly payload, inflicting heavy casualties to the ASGs."

"The ASGs were shocked. They abandoned most of their personal belongings and left unfinished meal at their encampment," said Bacala, who led a ground assault on Thursday.

"The supersonic jet's swooshing sound may have sounded as a whisper of death to the ASGs," Bacala added.

Artillery and mortar fires followed immediately after the airstrikes.

Col. Juvymax Uy, Joint Task Force Basilan commander, said joint troops from the 4th Special Forces and 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion launched a ground assault against the group of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Furuji Indarna in Barangay Pamatsaken, Sumisip.

Uy said that 4th Special Forces Battalion troops swooped down at the Abu Sayyaf camp and engaged the bandits in a firefight just before dawn Thursday.

"Our troops were able to cordon the enemy due to the accurate and timely indirect fires and close support delivered by our artillery and the Philippine Air Force's (fighter jets)," Uy said.

"Also, the information being

volunteered by the populace and LGUs (local government units) provided critical information to validate the intelligence we have on hand," he added.

Bacala said the troops overran the Abu Sayyaf camp seated on a hilltop before 10 a.m. Thursday. There were 12 makeshift tents that could accommodate around 40 people.

"Heavy bloodstains were found in the vicinity, with intelligence reports saying no less than 20 ASG (members were killed) by the combined airstrike and indirect fires," a military report said.

The troops have recovered food supplies and bomb-making components capable of fabricating 30 improvised explosive devices.

The Abu Sayyaf bandits, unlike in previous firefights, evaded the government troops as their resources are running low, Uy said.

"We no longer experience prolonged firefights with the ASGs. This suggests that they are running out of ammunition and other supplies necessary to engage government forces. More than just resources, they no longer have the mass base they once enjoyed," he said.

Uy disclosed that the information provided to them by ASG members who surrendered earlier yielded good results, particularly the whereabouts of the bandits.

The Naval Task Group Basilan also conducted maritime interdiction operations to prevent the bandits' escape by sea as the

ground troops launched the assault.

The military has intensified its operation following the order of President Duterte to address the ASG problem in six months, which

started in January.

The military have so far killed at least 60 bandits across the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

PNA

13/5

13 May 2017

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: A7

20 Abu Sayyaf terrorists killed

By Frankie Tuyay

A JOINT task force on Friday claimed to have killed at least 20 Abu Sayyaf Group terrorists before dawn Thursday after government forces pounded a terrorist camp in Sumisip, Basilan.

"Heavy bloodstains were found in the vicinity, with intel reports saying 20 ASG [Abu Sayyaf Group] fatalities from the combined airstrikes and indirect fires," said Col. Juvymax Uy of the Joint Task Force Basilan.

Military launched the operation following information from former Abu Sayyaf members and local residents on the group's temporary encampment

in Barangay Pamatsaken.

Lt. Col. Andrew Bacala Jr., commander of the 4th Special Forces, said through the use of "night fighting capabilities," they were able to "inch within a hundred meters of the enemy under the cover of darkness."

The troops were able to seize the makeshift camp at 10 a.m, said Bacala.

Two soldiers were wounded in the operation after the terrorists detonated an improvised explosive device.

The Abu Sayyaf group in the area was believed to be under sub-leader Furuji Indama.

Recovered from the seized camp were three more live IEDs,

explosive components capable of making 30 IEDs, and several foodstuff.

Successful firefight followed as the Rangers caught up with the fleeing terrorists about 300 meters from their camp, Bacala said.

Naval Task Group Basilan conducted maritime operations to prevent the ASG from escaping by sea, Bacala said.

The ASG also got a taste of Philippine Air Force capability as jet fighters delivered their lethal payload, inflicting fatalities on the ASG.

"The ASG were so shocked they left their belongings and unfinished meal, a Special Forces team leader said.

13 May 2017



Page: AS

ARMY SAYS TOP WEST MINDANAO REB CAUGHT

By **Ryan Rosauro**
and **Richel Umel**
@Team_Inquirer

OZAMIZ CITY—The military said soldiers had captured what authorities described as the most wanted communist rebel in Western Mindanao.

Since Thursday, the alleged rebel leader had been detained at the city police station along with an Aglipayan bishop who was with the alleged rebel when they were stopped at a checkpoint.

The military identified the rebel as Rommel Salinas, allegedly the secretary of the Communist Party unit known as Section Committee Sendong charge of Misamis Occidental province.

Secom Sendong is the largest unit of the CPP's Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee.

The Aglipayan prelate was identified as Ozamiz Bishop Carlo Morales of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente which owned the van that was stopped at a checkpoint in the Gango village here.

When the vehicle and their belongings were searched, the police said a grenade wrapped in plastic was found in Salinas' backpack. Salinas denied owning the explosive.

The two other people in the vehicle were driver Sadome Dalid and Morales' wife Teofilina.

Salinas initially presented an identification card bearing the name Hermie Abella, a consultant of the National Democratic Front in Mindanao.

But Brigadier General Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of the army's 1st Infantry (Tabak) Division, said Salinas was identified and arrested after thorough coordination with authorities.

Bautista said the 45-year-old rebel leader from Butuan City was the subject of at least five arrest warrants issued by courts in Surigao City.

Lawmen also found in Salinas' bag P80,700, which he claimed was provided by the NDF for consultation activities. INQ

13 May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 13

Top NPA commander, bishop nabbed in Ozamiz

By **FROILAN GALLARDO**
and **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Police and military forces arrested the most wanted New People's Army (NPA) commander in western Mindanao, along with a bishop of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI), his wife and their driver in Ozamiz City Friday night.

According to Philippine National Police (PNP) Northern Mindanao spokesperson Supt. Lemuel Gonda said a joint police and Army team arrested the four persons at a checkpoint in Barangay Gango, Ozamiz City, Friday evening.

He identified those arrested as Rommel Salinas, the alleged secretary general of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in western Mindanao; Bishop Carlo Morales, his wife Maria Teofila Losaria Morales, and their driver, Isadome Dalid, who was driving their maroon-colored Starex van.

Morales heads the Iglesia Filipina Independiente Filipinas diocese in Ozamiz City.

Gonda said they confiscated from the four suspects a hand grenade, mobile phones, battery packs, a map of Misamis Occidental and ₱80,700 in cash.

He said the four suspects were brought and detained at the Ozamiz City police office.

According to Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito D. Bautista, commander of the First Infantry Division, troops from the 102nd Infantry Brigade teamed up with elements of the PNP Provincial Officer in Ozamiz City in collaring Salinas, who is said to be the highest-ranking NPA official in western Mindanao.

"Best coordination work from the community, the local government unit (LGU), the PNP and the Army led to the capture of this high-ranking NPA official," Bautista said.

But the arrest of Morales sparked a furor among the IFI clergy which immediately dispatched members to the Ozamiz City police station to look into the condition of the bishop.

whose clergy immediately summoned its members to go to the Ozamiz City police station.

Bishop Antonio Ablon of IFI's Pahadian City diocese called on IFI members and clergy to go to the Ozamiz police station to give support to Morales.

The IFI posted a photo on its Facebook page of a handcuffed Morales, and said the four were not allowed to make any phone calls for help.

Ablon lamented that Morales identified himself to the police as a church leader, but the police apparently ignored this.

The IFI has issued a strong statement, condemning the arrest of Morales and demanding for his, and his companion's immediate release.

13 May 2017



Page: 2

Troops capture NPA leader in Ozamis City

By Mario J. Mallari

A high-ranking leader of the communist New People's Army (NPA) in Western Mindanao was arrested in Ozamis City on Thursday, the military said yesterday.

Nabbed was Rommel Salinas, who uses the aliases Vencio, Beto, Carlos, Doming, Artem and Mark and secretary of the NPA's Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee.

Salinas is the subject of five warrants of arrest for destructive arson, murder, frustrated murder, attempted murder and robbery issued by the 10th Judicial Region Branches 32 and 30.

He was collared during an operation conducted by joint elements of the Army's 102nd Infantry Brigade and Ozamis City police at around 6 p.m. Thursday in Barangay Gango, Ozamis City.

Salinas yielded a hand grenade

and personal belongings.

The military said Salinas did not resist when arrested. He was with three companions when collared. His companions were identified as Bishop Carlos Morales of the Aglipayan Church, his wife Maria Teofifina Morales and their driver Sadome David.

Salinas and his companions were aboard a marron Starex van when intercepted.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division (1D), attributed the arrest to the coordination of local community and various government agencies.

"Best coordination work from the community, LGU (local government unit), PNP, and the Army led to the capture of one of the highest ranking CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA) leader in Western Mindanao," he said.

13 May 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 7

Military arrests NPA leader, bishop in Ozamiz

BY AL JACINTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Military forces arrested a ranking New People's Army (NPA) leader in Western Mindanao, a bishop, and two others along a checkpoint in Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental.

Officials identified the rebel leader as Rommel Salinas, wanted for a string of murder cases and other high-profile crimes in Western Min-

danao. A grenade was recovered by security forces from Salinas.

The rebel leader is also known for his aliases "Vencio," "Beto," "Carlos," "Doming," "Arten" and "Mark."

Salinas was with Bishop Carlo Morales of the Philippine Independent Church. Also arrested were Morales' wife, Maria Teofina, and their driver Sadome Dalid. Security forces flagged down

the suspects' van on Thursday evening at a checkpoint in Barangay Gango, Ozamiz City based on intelligence information that they were transporting a rebel leader.

Authorities said the suspects did not resist arrest and are being investigated separately by the police. It was not known why Morales and his wife were

with the NPA leader or if they were protecting Salinas.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Division commander, said the arrest of Salinas was the result of long intelligence work

"Best coordination work from the community, LGU (local government units), PNP (Philippine National Police, and the

Army led to the capture of one of the highest ranking CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army) leader in Western Mindanao," he said in a statement following the capture of Salinas.

The NPA, which is currently negotiating peace with the Philippine government, did not issue any statement

13 May 2017



Pahina. 6

NPA leader, bishop laglag sa militar

ZAMBONGA CITY — Nadakip ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng militar at pulisya ang isang mataas na pinuno ng New People's Army kasama ang isang bishop at dalawang iba pa sa checkpoint sa Ozamiz City sa lalawigan ng Misamis Occidental.

Kinumpirma ito kahapon sa **Abante** ng 1st Infantry Division at 4th Civil Relations Group at kinilala ang rebelde na si Rommel Salinas na may patong-patong na kasong pagpatay at iba pang kara-

hasan sa Western Mindanao. Isang granada rin ang nabawi mula kay Salinas.

Kasama ng rebelde si Bishop Carlo Morales, ng Philippine Independent Church, ang ikalawang pinakamalaking Christian denomination sa bansa, at ang kanyang asawang si Teofina, at driver nilang si Sadome Dalid.

Sakay ang mga ito ng isang van nang matiklo gabi ng Huwebes matapos na makakuha ang militar ng impormasyon na daragan ang grupo sa lugar

Hindi nanlaban ang mga dinakip at kasalukuyang inumbestigahan.

Hindi pa mabaid kung ano ang koneksyon ni Morales sa rebelde at kung kasama nito si Salinas o kung ito ba ay pinoprotektahan ng alagad ng Diyos.

Sinabi ni Brigadier General Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander ng 1st Infantry Division, na resulta ng matagal na intelligence work ang pagkakadakip kay Salinas. (Al Jacinto)

13 May 2017



Page: 9

Soldier, NPA rebel killed in Samar clash

By NESTOR L. ABREMATEA

CAMP RUPERTO KANGLEON, Palo, Leyte - A Philippine Army soldier and a guerrilla of the New People's Army (NPA) were killed in fighting between government troops and communist rebels on Samar island Thursday morning.

The clash took place on the boundary of Barangay Camayaan, Silvino Lobos in Northern Samar and Barangay San Roque, Matuguinao, Samar, according to First Lieutenant Cherry M. Junia of the Division Affairs Office of the Army's 8th Infantry Division based in Camp Lukban, Catbalogan City, Samar.

Junia identified the slain soldier as Pfc Jaime C. Mabini of the 43rd Infantry Battalion.

Mabini, who was wounded in the encounter, died later in hospital.

Junia said the soldiers recovered the body of a slain rebel.

A villager had reported to authorities about the presence of an armed group in the area. Responding troops had a 10-minute firefight with the rebels.

Junia said military units and civilian detachments in nearby communities were ordered to put up checkpoints to prevent the rebels from escaping.

On Wednesday, Army soldiers also clash with NPA rebels in Barangay San Antonio, Hilongos, Leyte, Chief Supt. Elmer C. Beltejar, Police & Acting Regional Director told Manila Bulletin.

No casualties were reported.

13 May 2017



Page: 2

Soldier, 2 rebels slain in fresh E. Visayas clashes

A soldier died and two rebels were killed in two separate clashes between the Philippine Army and communist rebels in Leyte and Samar provinces this week.

In a statement issued yesterday noon, the Philippine Army's 8th Infantry Division confirmed that Private First Class Jaime Mabini Jr. succumbed Thursday noon while undergoing treatment in a hospital in Northern Samar.

Mabini was seriously wounded

during a 10-minute firefight between military troops and the New People's Army (NPA) in the boundaries of Camayaan village in Silvino Lobos, Northern Samar and San Roque village in Matuguinao, Samar around midnight Wednesday.

After the clash, soldiers found a dead body of an unknown NPA member near the encounter site.

In Hilongos, Leyte, government troops found on Thursday a dead body of a rebel and his wounded comrade a day after a firefight between soldiers and communist rebels in an upland village there, the statement said.

"An investigation is now being conducted to get more information on the background of the fatality and the wounded rebel," Brig Gen. Francisco Mendoza Jr., commander of the Philippine Army's 802nd Infantry Brigade, said yesterday.

The dead rebel was identified only as Arthur while the wounded was named Nilo Algerea, who is now recuperating at a public hospital.

The two rebels were found near the encounter site in San Antonio village. Mendoza believed that their companions left them to escape soldiers chasing them.

The Army in Eastern Visayas called for the active participation of the community in immediately informing nearby military units on the presence of NPA rebels in their areas.

The Army confirmed that communist rebels have been reestablishing their presence in remote communities in Eastern Visayas.

PNA

13 May 2017



Page: 13

Thousands displaced in BIFF, AFP clashes

More than 24,000 residents of six towns in Maguindanao have fled their homes as the military conducted airstrikes and ground assault against members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

The villagers have sought refuge in schools, makeshift tents or with their relatives since the military launched the operations on May 5, Jofelle Delicana, spokesperson for the civil defense office, told AFP on Thursday.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, public affairs chief of the 6th Infantry Division (ID), said reports from civilians and intelligence sources indicate that at least 31 BIFF militants, including one of their leaders, Ismael Abubakar, alias

Commander Bungos, as well as two of his aides were killed in the firefights.

"We believe they are among the dead, considering our information that they were in the location hit by airstrikes," Encinas said.

Seven soldiers were also wounded in the clashes.

However, Encinas said no bodies had been recovered and that the death toll could not be verified.

"We used all available air and artillery assets," he said.

Encinas said six Indonesian militants, who are training BIFF men in bomb-making, were among the remnants of the group that they are targeting.

"Our assessment is that they have less space to move around...because all available troops have been deployed," Encinas said.

11 BIFF men slain

At least 11 more BIFF members were killed in encounters in Datu Salibo and nearby towns from Monday to Wednesday, the military reported on Thursday.

Nine of the fatalities were identified only as Zaman,

Pulo, Omar, Sajid, Muktar, Bantas, Odin, Tasil and Abdullah.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, 6th ID commander, said soldiers recovered 40 firearms and 18 improvised bombs in BIFF camps that they seized since January.

The BIFF boasts allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and is using the black ISIS flag as its banner.

Local officials in areas with BIFF presence called on the Department of the Interior and Local Government to put up rewards for the arrest of the leaders of the militant group.

– AFP, John Unson

13 May 2017



Page: 13

NPA leader falls

ILIGAN CITY – A New People's Army (NPA) leader in Mindanao was arrested in Ozamiz City on Thursday.

Rommel Salinas, secretary of the Western Mindanao committee, was in a Starex van driven by Sadome David, with his wife Maria Teofina and Bishop Carlo Morales of the Aglipayan church when he was collared at a checkpoint manned by soldiers of the 102nd Army Brigade and Ozamiz policemen in Barangay Gango.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, First Army Division and Joint Task Force Zampelan chief, said Salinas yielded a hand grenade.

The arrest was based on warrants for extortion, arson, murder, frustrated murder, attempted murder and robbery issued by local courts.

– Roel Pareño, Lino de la Cruz, Rudy Santos

13
May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 13

**'Adopt an IP
Community'**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – The Philippine Army recently launched its 'Adopt-an-IP (indigenous peoples) Community' project in far-flung river town of San Luis, in Agusan del Sur province. Col. Cristobal N. Zaragoza, commanding officer of the Army's 401st Infantry (Unity) Brigade told The Manila Bulletin yesterday that the objective of the project was to assist in providing for the immediate needs of the indigenous peoples (IPs) in far-flung and highland communities where all line agencies of the government and non-government organizations will join hands in bringing different free services to the lumads (natives). (Mike U. Crismundo)

**'Tabak' needs
more soldiers**

ZAMBOANGA CITY (PNA) – The First Infantry "Tabak" Division (1ID), the premier unit of the Philippine Army, is recruiting 500 soldiers to beef up its forces as offensives continue against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the Maute terror group. Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, 1ID commander, said the recruitment binge will be part of the Army's "transformation roadmap" to beef up its personnel nationwide. For this year, the Army is set to recruit 10,000 personnel nationwide. Bautista said applications will be accepted starting this month.

13 May 2017



Page: 13



Soldiers patrol a village near the highway in Maguindanao on Wednesday.

AFF

10

13 May 2017

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: A1

Mindanao veteran new AFP chief

By Florante S. Solmerin

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has appointed the head of the Eastern Mindanao Command to replace outgoing Armed Forces Chief Eduardo Año, who had to retire early after Duterte tapped him to head the Interior department, reliable military sources told the **Manila Standard** on Friday.

"Yes, Eastmincom chief Lieutenant General Rey Leonardo Guerrero is our next chief of staff," said an Army lieutenant general who requested not to be named because he is not autho-

rized to speak on the matter.

Guerrero is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1984, while Año is a member of the PMA Class of 1983.

Another high-ranking military officer said Guerrero will assume his new post not later than the first week of June.

Duterte announced Año's appointment to the Interior department before he flew to Cambodia. He also appointed former Armed Forces Chief Roy Cimatu to the Environment department to replace Gina Lopez,

who was not confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

Año and Cimatu said they did not anticipate their appointments to their new posts.

Año took over the top post in the Armed Forces in December 2016. He was set to reach his mandatory retirement age of 56 in October this year.

Guerrero will also have to retire in October.



LT. GEN. REY LEONARDO A. GUERRERO

13 May 2017



Page: 6

Phi-US Balikatan kicks off

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Philippine Air Force (PAF) crew will train and learn more about how it can deliver relief goods and other items during calamities or natural disasters faster and more efficiently in this year's joint Balikatan exercises between American and Filipino soldiers.

Activities lined up for US and Philippine airmen include the actual conduct of airdrops within the island of Cebu.

"Under this exercise, US aircrew will teach the PAF C-130 aircrew various techniques in airdropping procedures to expedite the delivery of relief supplies and aid affected areas without aerodromes and/or damaged aerodromes," the PAF said.

"In addition, some of the pre-determined topics of the Balikatan will include flight safety, air drop, night vision equipment, engine running on load and off-load, rapid deployment and compass system."

The annual Philippines-US military exercise or Balikatan has officially begun in various locations in the country, particularly in Cebu where the PAF's 220th Airlift Wing is stationed.

Balikatan is a joint military event conducted under the auspices of Philippines-United



Philippine and US soldiers hold search and rescue drills during the Balikatan exercises at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija yesterday.

MICHAEL VARGAS

States Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) that aims to improve bilateral engagement and training opportunities between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the US Marine Forces Pacific (USMAFOPAC).

This year, PAF said selected aircrew and maintenance personnel of the 220th AW led by the Herky commander Maj. Anthony Amora and the Wing's Balikatan officer-in-charge Maj. Michael Vincent Benolerao.

They will be directly involved in the different C-130-related Subject Matter Expert Exchange discussions.

"These activities will reinforce the knowledge, skills and ability of our airlifters

in the techniques, tactics and procedures, including sharing of best practices, specifically on improving response effectiveness in the event of natural disasters and other crises, which is the focus of this year's Balikatan," PAF said.

In Nueva Ecija, Filipino and US troops were taught to rescue people trapped under debris during an earthquake under the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) of the Balikatan.

The exercise was held at the Army's 7th Infantry Division headquarters at Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

Maj. Frank Sayson, Philippine Balikatan exercises spokesman, said the joint

quake drill is to hasten public awareness of the effects of major quakes and harness the disaster response capabilities of Filipino soldiers.

"These quake drill exercises are needed to be practiced on a much wider and bigger scale, considering that the country is located in the Pacific Ring of Fire," Sayson said.

Overall, around 2,800 Filipino troops, 2,600 American soldiers, 80 from Australia and 20 Japanese troops are participating in this year's joint military disaster drill.

During the drill proper, Army engineers and personnel, alongside their US counterparts, deployed various types of light to heavy equipment to rescue trapped victims.

Local and foreign observers were invited to witness how combined Filipino and US troops deal with the challenges in the aftermath of a major quake.

Aside from quake drills, combined Filipino and US forces are also holding massive HADR activities in the storm-prone island town of Calayan, Cagayan as well as in Maconacon in Isabela and in Casiguran, Aurora until next week.

The storm-themed joint drill is aimed at testing the disaster response capabilities of Filipino and US troops.

– With Jaime Laude

13 May 2017

THE PHILIPPINE
STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

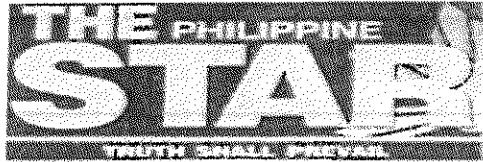
Page: 1



Philippine Army soldiers take part in a decontamination scenario as part of a disaster response exercise with American troops at the start of the annual Balikatan at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija yesterday. Story on Page 6.

MICHAEL VARCAS

13 May 2017



Page: 1



Joana Chris Arpon (front left and inset), an Israeli soldier from a search and rescue unit, helps evacuate a comrade during a drill at Tzrifin military base on May 10. REUTERS

Pinay joins Israeli army unit that saved her lola

Filipina Joana Chris Arpon's unusual journey to becoming one of the few non-Israeli and non-Jewish volunteers in Israel's military began with an earthquake – in the country from which her parents migrated.

The disaster in 2013 struck a region where Arpon, an Israeli-born Filipino, had relatives. Amid the chaos, a search and

rescue unit of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) was dispatched to provide disaster relief, and ended up rescuing her grandmother.

"Then I chose to serve in the same unit that saved her," Arpon told *Reuters*.

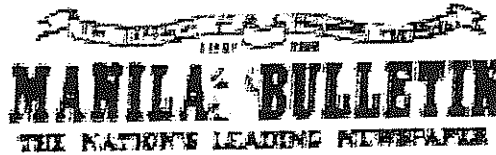
She has since been honored by Israel's president as one of the country's most outstanding soldiers and was recognized at a festive ceremony last week.

Arpon's service is all the more unusual for the fact that, as the daughter of economic migrants from the Philippines, she is not an Israeli citizen – though she hopes to change that.

"I hope for myself to be an Israeli, to have it and also to help other people in other countries as I do here in the army," she said.

– **Reuters**

10 May 2017



Page: 1

Filipina joins Israeli army unit that rescued her grandmother

By **REUTERS**

Filipina Joana Chris Arpon's unusual journey to becoming one of the few non-Israeli and non-Jewish volunteers in Israel's military began with an earthquake – in the country her parents migrated from.

The disaster in 2013 struck a region where Arpon, an Israeli-born Filipino, had relatives. Amid the chaos, a search and rescue unit of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) was dispatched to provide disaster relief, and ended up rescuing her grandmother.

"Then I chose to serve in the same unit that saved her," Arpon told Reuters.

She has since been honored by Israel's president as one of the country's most outstanding soldiers and was recognized at a festive ceremony last week.

Arpon's service is all the more unusual for the fact ▶ **6**

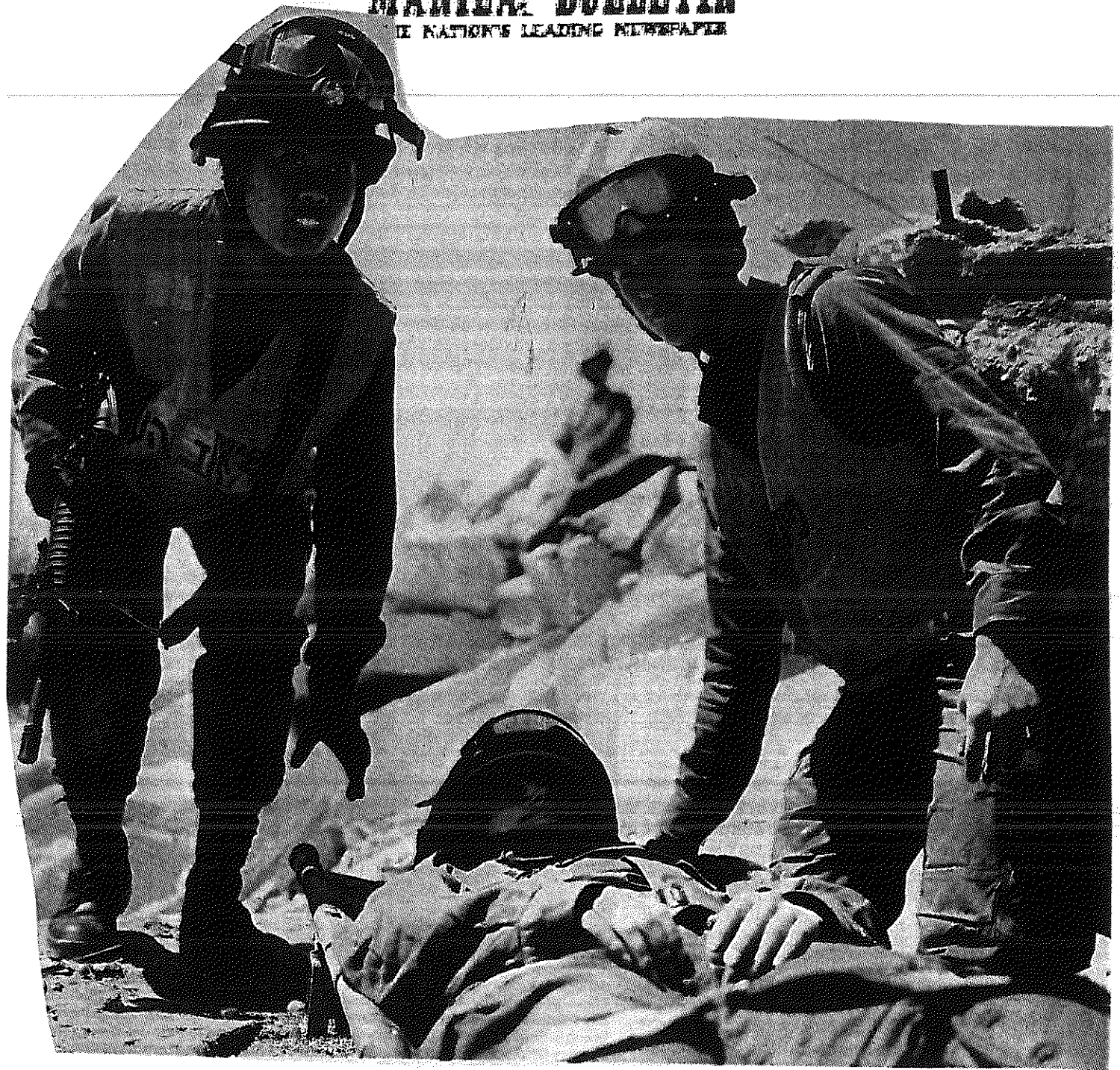
that, as the daughter of economic migrants from the Philippines, she is not an Israeli citizen – though she hopes to change that.

"I hope for myself to be an Israeli (citizen), to have it, and also to help other people in other countries as I do here in the army," she said.

13 May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1



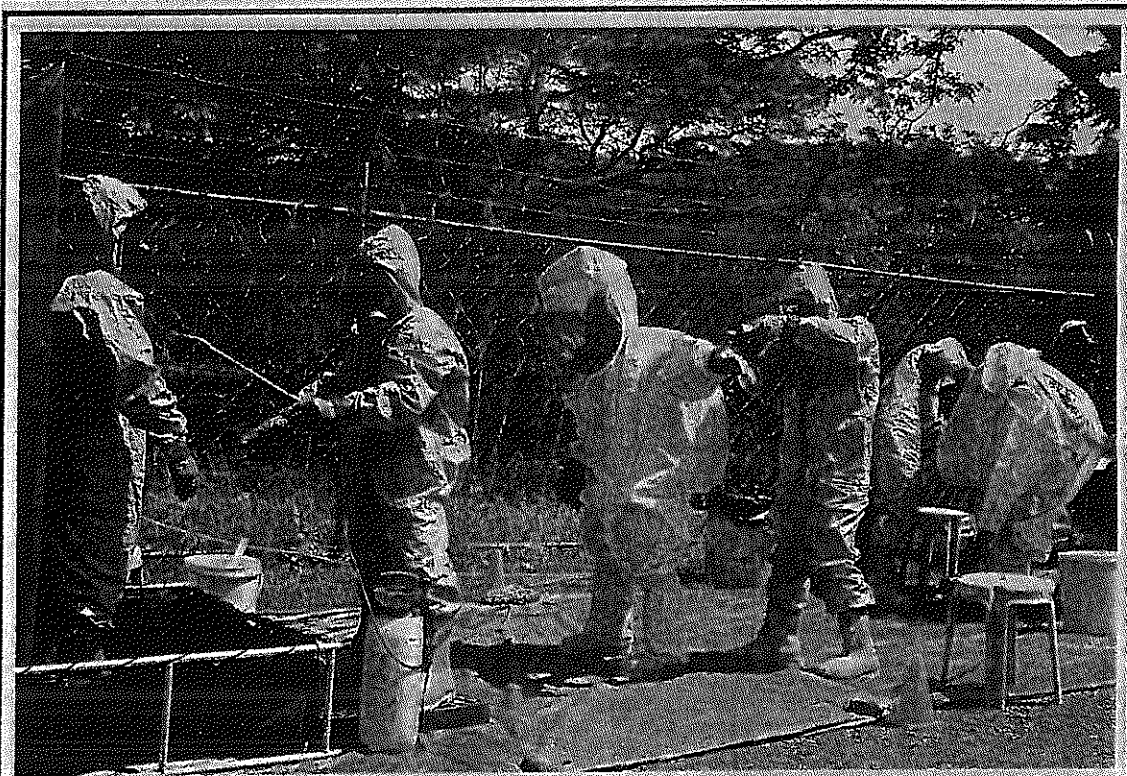
PASSION TO HELP – Joana Chris Arpon (left), an Israeli-born Filipina, is now a member of a search and rescue unit of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).

She is shown in this photo participating in an IDF drill at the Tzrifin military base in Central Israel. (Reuters)

13 May 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7



'BALIKATAN' Members of the Philippine Army and United States Army hold a decontamination demonstration during the annual bilateral military exercises or Balikatan held at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija on Friday. PHOTO BY MIKE DE JUAN

13 May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 13

Duterte urged to put 6 Sulu towns under martial law

By ANTONIO L. COLINA IV

DAVAO CITY — President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has been urged to place six of Sulu province's 19 municipalities under martial law to effectively address the problem of terrorism in the area.

This was the appeal made by Save Sulu Movement (SSM) spokesperson Prof. Octavio A. Dinampo, who also encouraged Congress to conduct an inquiry into the possible links between local politicians and Abu Sayyaf terrorists, as he accused some of the government officials of coddling and receiving a "lion share" of ransom money raised by the bandit group from its kidnapping operations.

Dinampo said SSM wants the politicians criminally liable for conniving with the terrorists.

"The record of Army tallies with our findings that we really have to control the politicians because if we have 10 problems in Sulu, eight of them are created by politicians. Only one or two created by the ASG," he charged.

He said the municipalities of Patikul, Indanan, Parang, Maimbung, Talipao, and Kalingalan Caluang, which he described as the "craters of terrorism" in Sulu, should immediately be placed under military rule.

In another statement, SSM called on "the Senate to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the palpable connivance between local officials and the ASG."

"We also recommend to Congress to criminalize the giving and payment ransom and the receipt of ransom when everyone knows too well that ransom is actually being paid and brokered by the local government officials thus perpetuating the business of ASG," it said.

The group also urged former kidnap victims to cooperate with authorities so that "they can bring the kidnapppers to the bar of justice."

Dinampo said Sulu residents welcomed Duterte's strategy of sending 10,000 troops to Sulu, but maintained that this will not address extremism in the province without the cooperation of other groups.

"I would say the Army is making

good. We have a new type of Army (whose focus is) not only to be warriors but also to be peace advocates. We have no quarrel, no incidents so far because of military," he said.

Dinampo said either the military takes over the political situation in the area, or the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

"They should take a stand and control the politicians in Sulu," he underscored.

He added that he was confident that a crackdown on erring politicians will put a dent on activities of the terrorists.

"There will be a fear of loss without the politicians. Just imagine, right now you move one battalion, for example, before they can take five steps, a text would reach the ASG, you get out from there, transfer to another hiding place. What can you do?" Dinampo revealed.

He likewise brushed aside the possibility that human rights violations could be committed under a martial law regime, and averred: "Even if we do not have martial law, human rights are already violated every day."

13 May 2017

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: A2

Terror threat won't hurt economy—DTI

By John Paolo Bencito

TRADE Secretary Ramon Lopez said Friday that the threat of terrorist attacks on top tourist destinations will have no negative effect on tourism and the economic growth experienced in recent years.

In a media briefing in Hong Kong, Lopez said the government remains in control of the country's security situation even as the British government warned its citizens against traveling to areas around the Sulu archipelago, including some towns in Cebu due to "credible information" that the Abu Sayyaf group is planning to stage kidnappings there.

Earlier, the US, British and Canadian governments also warned their nationals against visiting Palawan, a top tourist destination.

"In our country, as you know, that's being contained. The President likewise stressed his approach to use all resources of the government, military, and police to really run after the terrorist groups to address the security problem, most especially in the Mindanao area," Lopez said.

Lopez emphasized that the country's economic potentials remain bright, citing the 31

percent increase in investments from January to April alone, compared to negative figures recorded in the last year.

Lopez said Filipinos should not let the terrorist threat endanger economic growth and potential.

"Let's not shoot ourselves in the foot again, that when there are already good opportunities coming ahead of us, there are many who would negate it," he said.

The President had earlier ordered sustained operations against the Abu Sayyaf, ordering security forces to finish off terrorists by shooting them on sight.

Following earlier travel warnings, the UK issued a new alert to its nationals to stay away from the Sulu archipelago, including the southern Cebu towns of Dalaguete and Badian amid talk of more kidnappings in those areas.

"The Philippine authorities reported that they had received unsubstantiated but credible information that the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf may be about to conduct kidnaps in the Sulu Sea, including around the islands of the Sulu archipelago and the seas/islands off the east coast of Sabah [Malaysia]," the UK Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Next page

"Any vessels sailing in the area could be targeted. You should carefully consider travel plans and be especially vigilant at this time," the travel advisory read.

"Attacks could happen anywhere, including in places visited by foreigners, like airports, shopping malls, public transport and places of worship. You should remain vigilant at all times and report anything suspicious to the local authorities." **With Sara Susanne D. Fabunan**

13 May 2017



Page: 2

UK discourages travel to Sulu, S. Cebu over kidnap threats

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora and Mario J. Mallari

Following its initial advisory on parts of Palawan, the British government the other day updated its alert message, warning its citizens against traveling to areas around the Sulu archipelago and Southern Cebu.

In its official Web site, United Kingdom said there's "credible information" that the Abu Sayyaf Group is planning to stage kidnapping plans in these area.

"The Philippines authorities reported that they had received unsubstantiated but credible information that the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf may be about to conduct kidnaps in the Sulu Sea, including around the islands of the Sulu archipelago and the seas/islands off the east coast of Sabah (Malaysia)," its advisory reads.

"Any vessels sailing in the area could be targeted. You should carefully consider travel plans and be especially vigilant at this time," it added.

The warning was also placed on the southern Cebu towns of Dalaguete and Badian.

According to UK, terrorists are "very likely to carry out attacks at any time and anywhere in the country."

"Attacks could happen anywhere, including in places visited by foreigners, like airports, shopping malls, public transport and places of worship. You should remain vigilant at all times and report anything suspicious to the

local authorities."

While United States and Canada have not yet updated their travel advisory pages since May 9, these governments maintain similar warning to their citizens against travel to southern parts of the Philippines, including Sulu archipelago.

Meanwhile, the military's Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) on Thursday raised its alert level to thwart any possible attempt by terrorist groups to disrupt peace in the region following the United States advisory against traveling to Palawan.

While the command has no jurisdiction over Palawan, Maj. Ezra Balagtey, Eastmincom spokesman, said that they just want to erase any possible attempt by the terrorists to shift attention to Davao region.

"While the travel advisory was specific to Palawan, the command had to raise the alert level in the area because of the possibility of terrorist groups shifting or diverting operations to Eastern Mindanao," Balagtey said.

Balagtey added that Eastmincom chief Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero has ordered all military units under the command to coordinate closely with other government agencies, particularly the Philippine National Police (PNP).

"The EMC in coordination with the Philippine National Police, local government units and other law enforcement agencies are taking the necessary measures to secure the maritime, coastal and land

areas against a terrorist attack," Balagtey said.

"The EMC enjoins the public to be vigilant but calm and to immediately report to law enforcement units any suspicious-looking individual or activity in their vicinity," the official added.

The US, Britain and Australia issued travel advisory earlier – urging their citizens to reconsider traveling to Palawan where there are credible threats from terrorists.

The military's Western Command (Westcom), which has jurisdiction over Palawan, said it received reports that the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group was targeting Coron for their kidnapping activities but such was not validated.

Last month, the Eastmincom also raised its alert status following the clash between government forces and the Abu Sayyaf band of Muamar Askali, alias Abu Rami, in Inabanga, Bohol where the terrorists allegedly plotted to conduct kidnapping.

Askali and seven other terrorists had been killed during separate clashes in Inabanga and Clarin towns. Samad Saad, alias Abu Saad, was killed in Cortes town while being transported from the Bohol provincial police office to Bohol District Jail.

Prior to the encounters in Bohol, the US also issued an advisory to all Americans to avoid traveling to Cebu and Bohol.

13 May 2017



Page: 4

Cabinet appointees should be competent – senator

By MARVIN SY

Sen. Francis Pangilinan has raised concerns about several recent appointments made by President Duterte, which he said the public should watch closely.

Pangilinan said in making appointments, the consideration should always be the competence, integrity and passion of the appointee.

"All government offices are integral to the success or failure of government, as well as the Filipino people," said Pangilinan, president of the Liberal Party.

He cited as an example the appointment of controversial blogger, sexy dancer and staunch Duterte supporter Mocha Uson as assistant secretary at the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), which ruffled many feathers, including "govern-

ment workers doing critical work for lower pay who have been contractual for a long time."

"We share their sentiment. Uson also looks down on Philippine media practitioners as chroniclers of the nation's story. In March this year, with-

out provocation, she used her radio program to bash Liberal Party chairperson Vice President Leni Robredo, calling her names and disrespecting her person, her office and the millions who voted for her," Pangilinan said. Her radio show has since been suspended.

Gov't posts for Mocha Girls

Duterte also said yesterday he was ready to give government posts to members of the Mocha Girls, the dance group led by Uson.

"Kung gusto n'yo magtrabaho, OK lang (If you want to work, it's OK)," the President said in an online video posted by Uson.

"I will distribute you to the MTRCB. You can't stay in one office. It will be too noisy," he added.

Duterte said the Mocha Girls, known for their sexy dance performances, should also be tapped to entertain Filipinos during his foreign trips.

Military men in Cabinet

Pangilinan also aired his concern about the recent appointments of military men to the Cabinet, specifically retired general Roy Cimatu as environment secretary and retiring Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Eduardo Año as interior and local government secretary.

He said the entry of the military officials "could also be a portent, and is a cause of concern."

"Do these appointments mean the militarization of the government bureaucracy? The success of government is the success of the nation. We wish the new Cabinet officials good luck as we keep vigilant watch," he added.

Duterte said he chose Año as he can deal with problems caused by police scalawags.

As interior and local government secretary, Año has supervisory powers over the

Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), National Police Commission, Philippine Public Safety College and Local Government Academy, as well as local government units.

Sen. Francis Escudero, for his part, sees no problem with the presence of former military officers in the Cabinet.

Escudero said this has been done by past presidents, who all saw the vast experience of the officers, particularly those who have headed the AFP.

PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa yesterday welcomed the appointment of Año as interior and local government secretary.

New appointees in DILG

Duterte also appointed on Wednesday former police intelligence officer Nestor Quinsay as assistant secretary in the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Quinsay will oversee the BFP and other public safety concerns, said DILG officer-in-charge Catalino Cuy.

Cuy said Quinsay's experience as an officer of the PNP will be an asset to the DILG.

Quinsay retired from the PNP last February. He held the posts of acting director of the Directorate for Intelligence and Police Communications Group.

Duterte also appointed six officials as director III at the central and regional offices of the DILG.

They are Juan Jovian Ingeniero of DILG-National Capital Region, Victoria Ramos of DILG-Region 1, Odilon Pasaraba of DILG-Region 2, Araceli San Jose of DILG-Region 3, Karl Caesar Rimando of DILG-Region 4B and Dennis Villaseñor of the Bureau of Local Government Development of the DILG-Central Office.

– With Emmanuel Tupas, Alexis Romero, Jess Diaz

13 May 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 13

Cabinet 'militarization,' Mocha appointment hit

BY JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA

THE Liberal Party (LP) on Friday expressed concern over an apparent "militarization" happening in the bureaucracy, pointing to the continuous appointments of former police and military men in the government by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Senator Francis Pangilinan, LP president, cited the recent installation of former Armed Forces chief of staff and now retired general Roy Cimatu as head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Cimatu replaced former DENR Secretary Regina "Gina" Lopez, who was recently rejected by the powerful Commission on Appointments (CA) in a 16-8 vote.

Pangilinan also mentioned the President's plan to appoint AFP Chief of Staff Eduardo Año as head

of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) after the latter retires in October this year.

"Do these appointments mean the militarization of the government bureaucracy?" Pangilinan asked.

Other ex-police and military men appointed by Duterte were former AFP Chief of Staff Ricardo Visaya to the National Irrigation Administration; former Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, as commissioner of the Bureau of Customs; ex-police director Jorge Corpuz, chairman of the Philippine Char-

ity Sweepstakes Office; former Davao City Police chief Jaime Morante to the Bureau of Immigration; former PNP Deputy Chief for Operations Edgar Galvante; and former police general Reynaldo Berroya, as head of the Light Rail Transit Authority.

The LP president assailed the inclusion in the President's communications group of someone who allegedly has been maligning legitimate media practitioners in the country.

Pangilinan was referring to the appointment of singer-dancer Mocha Uson to the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), which according to him is also a cause for concern.

He said many people, including ordinary government workers doing critical work for lower pay and who have been contractual employees for a long time felt slighted by the appointment of the singer-dancer as PCOO Assistant Secretary.

The LP, he said, shares the sen-

timents of the ordinary people over the decision of President to appoint Uson, also a blogger.

Pangilinan also cited an incident last March wherein Uson, without provocation, used her radio program to bash LP chairman and Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo, calling her names and disrespecting her person, her office and the millions who voted for her.

The incident has led to the indefinite suspension of the singer-dancer's 30-minute program aired over dzRH, operated by the Manila Broadcasting Company.

Uson, a staunch supporter of the President, has been attacking the Philippine media calling them "prostitutes."

"Public office is public service that needs competence, integrity and passion. All government offices are integral to the success or failure of government, as well as the Filipino people," the LP president said.

13 May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

LP expresses concern over Duterte's appointment of military men, Mocha

By MARIO B. CASAYURAN

The opposition Liberal Party (LP) expressed yesterday its concern over the appointment of several military men in the Duterte administration.

"Do these appointments mean the militarization of the government bureaucracy?

The success of government is the success of the nation. We wish the new Cabinet officials good luck as we keep vigilant watch," said Senator Francis Pangilinan, LP president.

Pangilinan cited retired Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu as the first military man in the Duterte administration.

Cimatu was named Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary, vice Regina Paz L. Lopez whose appointment as DENR chief as rejected by the powerful Commission on Appointments (CA).

Now, current AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año will take over the helm of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) vice Mike Sueno.

Año is scheduled to retire in October but could immediately take over the DILG if he

opts for an early retirement.

"Could these appointments of military men 'a portent' of things to come?" Pangilinan asked.

Pangilinan also said the bureaucracy is slighted by Malacañang's appointment of Mocha Uson (real name: Margaux Justiniano Uson), a controversial blogger and supporter of Duterte in the last presidential campaign, as assistant secretary at the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO).

He said many, including government workers doing critical work for lower pay who have been contractual for a long time, feel slighted, he pointed out.

"We share their sentiment. Uson also looks down on Philippine media practitioners as chroniclers of the nation's story," he said.

13

May 2017



Page: 10

Reviving the ROTC for emergency training

IN 2001, in the pervading mood of national resentment following complaints against certain units of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in Philippine universities, highlighted by the death of a cadet whose body was found floating in the Pasig River in 2001, Congress enacted RA 9163, the National Service Training Program Act, that effectively stopped the ROTC program which had long been required for all college students in the country.

Under RA 9163, all college students were required to choose one of three programs, namely, a "Literacy Training Service" – for teaching school and out-of-school children, a "Civic Welfare Training Service" – for activities to improve health, education, etc., in communities, and ROTC – training for national defense preparedness. ROTC ceased to be a prerequisite for graduation and with three choices, most students opted for community work.

Today, there is a growing move to revive the ROTC program in the nation's schools, led by President Duterte himself, who first spoke out on this in his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) in 2016. Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III has now filed a bill to revive the ROTC program, but with a different emphasis and a different name. His bill calls for a Citizen Service Training Course (CSTC) to train youths to be part of a Citizen Service Corps to help the government in case of emergencies.

While the basic component of CSTC is training for external and territorial defense – which

is the old ROTC – it will be expanded to include law and order, and disaster risk reduction and management. A Citizen Service Mobilization Commission (CSMC) will be created to provide safeguards against possible abuses such as those which plagued the ROTC in 2001.

Except for the negative stories that cropped up in those years, the ROTC had a great reputation as a training program for youth in the country. The Philippine Constabulary began military instruction at the University of the Philippines (UP) in 1912 and the first official ROTC unit was set up at UP in 1922, followed by units at National University, Ateneo de Manila, Liceo de Manila, and Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

When World War II broke out in 1941, ROTC cadets and officers from 33 colleges and universities all over the country fought in the Battle of Bataan and joined the US Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) and various guerrilla groups, among them the famous Hunters ROTC during the Japanese occupation. Several generations of Filipino students underwent ROTC training in all the following years, until the program ceased to be a college requirement in 2001.

It may be time to revive it. All throughout its history, it has done well in providing training similar to those given to civilians in Switzerland, Canada, the US, and – closer to home – Taiwan, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, and China. Such training would be helpful in case of an emergency, not just a military one but also in a disaster such as an earthquake, flood, or typhoon.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295



OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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

13 May 2017

NGAYON
Magandang Balita ng Pagmamamayan

Pahina. 2

Editorial

Huwag maging kampante

TATLONG beses nang nagkaroon nang pagsabog sa Quiapo. Ang ikalawang pagsabog noong Sabado ang naging dahilan ng kamatayan ng dalawa katao at pagkasugat ng anim na iba pa. Ang ikatlo (dalawang oras ang pagitan sa unang pagsabog) ay nagresulta sa pagkasugat ng dalawang pulis na kasalukuyang nasa lugar ng insidente. Sa kabila nang pagsabog, sinabi ng Manila Police District (MPD) na hindi ito kagagawan ng mga terorista. Away daw ng gang kaya wala dapat ikabahala. Kasunod ng Quiapo bombings, nagpalabas ng warning advisory ang United Kingdom na iwasan ng kanilang mamamayan ang pagtungo sa Quiapo. Sumunod na nagbabala ang Australia at United States na mag-ingat ang kanilang mamamayan.

Kahapon sinabi ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na nasa Maguindanao ang anim na Indonesian nationals na expert umano sa paggawa ng bomba. Ayon pa sa AFP, kasama umano ng anim na Indonesian ang ilang lider ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighter (BIFF).

Kahapon din, binulabog ng bomb threat ang isang government office sa Maynila. Pero sabi ng MPD, hindi raw totoo ang banta ng pambobomba. Nananakot lamang umano ang mga tumatawag at sinasabing may bomba sa tanggapan. Inulit ng MPD ang paalala na huwag matakot ang mamamayan. Wala rin daw katotohanan ang balitang nasa Maynila na ang teroristang ISIS.

Hindi maiaalis na mangamba ang mamamayan sa mga nangyayaring pambobomba na naganap pa sa dibdib ng Quiapo. Maraming nagtataka kung bakit hindi natunugan ng MPD ang balak na pambobomba. Mahina na ang intelligence ng PNP?

Ngayong tatlong beses nang may nangyaring pambobomba, hindi dapat maging kampante ang PNP at nararapat pang paigtingin ang pagbabantay ke gang war man ito o kagagawa ng mga terorista.

Maging alerto rin naman ang mamamayan sa mga kahina-hinalang tao. Maging mapagmatyag sa mga bagay na iniwan sa bus, palengke at iba pang matataong lugar. Ang pagiging handa ang magligtas sa buhay.



13 May 2017



Page: A14

Final solution to the Abu Sayyaf problem

A nongovernment organization (NGO) in Sulu has urged the Senate to investigate an alleged connivance between the Abu Sayyaf and local officials in the province.

A congressional inquiry will just be a waste of people's money as senators or congressmen will try to upstage one another in front of TV cameras to impress the public.

Military intelligence knows the local officials who protect those bandits who kidnap and kill their victims if ransom is not paid.

There is one solution to the Abu Sayyaf problem. In the military, they call it "neutralizing the enemy with extreme prejudice."

Retired Armed Forces chief

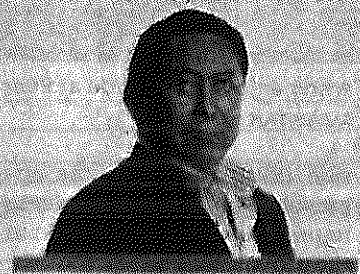
Ricardo Visaya, now head of the National Irrigation Administration, said when he was still in the service that the "governor, vice governor, down to the village chiefs" were protecting the terrorist group.

Everybody in Sulu knows that some of the bandits are bodyguards of the governor and other local officials.

If Visaya knew about the unholy alliance, why didn't he form a special group among elite soldiers to assassinate the local officials?

Eliminating the concerned officials would have sent a clear message to their successors that it doesn't pay to consort with enemies of the state.

I was on top of the news in the whole episode of the negoti-



ON TARGET

RAMON TULFO

ations for the release of 21 foreigners who were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf from the Sipadan diving resort in Sabah, Malaysia.

During the negotiations that lasted five months, I was in constant communication with an officer of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of

the Philippines.

The intelligence officer told me that all the government negotiators earned huge amounts from the ransom payments.

As the ransom demand was made by the kidnapers, the amount escalated as the negotiations passed on from the Abu Sayyaf bandits to the village chief, to the town mayor, to the military officers in the field, to the governor and finally to the national officials sent to Sulu.

Example: The kidnapers would demand P5 million for one foreign hostage.

The village chief would tell the mayor the demand was P7 million; the mayor would tell the negotiator sent by the governor it was P10 million; the negotiator would raise it to P15 million; the military officers in

the field would raise the ransom to P20 million; the governor would then confer with the top national official on the ground about the demand.

The governor and the national official, winking at each other, would tell the journalists covering the crisis that the payment for one particular hostage was P200 million.

So, the ransom demand jumped from the original P5 million to P200 million!

Multiply the final amount by 21—the number of Sipadan hostages—and the figure is mind-boggling.

The national official sent by then President Erap to establish contact with the kidnapers was able to build a columbarium in Metro Manila from the proceeds of the ransom payments. INQ

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

ONLINE NEWS

13 MAY 2017

www.inquirer.net

'Sulu execs conniving with Abus'

By: Julie S. Alipala - Reporter

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A nongovernment organization based in the province of Sulu, a turf of the terror group Abu Sayyaf, urged the Senate to investigate what it claimed was “connivance” between local officials and the terrorists.

In a statement, Save Sulu Movement (SSM) said it had “repeatedly informed authorities that the reason the ASG (Abu Sayyaf) is still active and even growing is because it is enjoying the protection of local officials.”

These local officials, which SSM did not identify, “are protecting Abu Sayyaf and receiving a lion’s share of ransom money.”

SSM said the Abu Sayyaf got its weapons “from local politicians who can easily smuggle firearms or purchase it from the military itself.”

While the group did not name any official, it said Ricardo Visaya, former Armed Forces chief and now head of the National Irrigation Administration, had once stated that “governors, vice governors, down to village chiefs” were giving protection to the terrorist group, which had gained notoriety for a spate of kidnappings involving foreign victims.

The Inquirer sought Sulu officials for comment but many did not return calls.

Sulu Vice Gov. Abdusakur Tan Jr. replied by text message, challenging SSM to “name names.” SSM had been formed by Temojen Tulawie, the Tans’ political nemesis. “Look who’s talking,” said Tan.

SSM said despite Visaya’s statement, “no local official has ever been charged in court.”

No village chief, mayor or governor, the group said, had been arrested or charged with “actually receiving ransom money in the guise of negotiations.”

'No secret'

“If the connivance is no secret to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, what have they done to stop it?” the group said.

Tulawie, later speaking by phone to Inquirer, said he was “willing to come out in the open and name [those] who are coddling, colluding and supporting these local terrorists.”

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

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

He said he was in possession of affidavits of former kidnap victims and negotiators, who could attest to the involvement of local leaders in Abu Sayyaf.

Tulawie said the local officials were often tapped for negotiations because they "condone the Abu Sayyaf group."

But Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao army chief, said while "a handful of village officials" had supported Abu Sayyaf before, "we are winning them back."

Galvez defended Tan, saying the vice governor and other high-ranking officials were determined to crush Abu Sayyaf and had been helping the military.

Tulawie said the cycle of violence in Sulu and kidnappings would not stop if the national government did nothing.

He said a law should be enacted classifying ransom payment as a criminal act.

Negotiating with kidnappers, he said, simply "allows the bandits to become stronger."

Galvez said the Abu Sayyaf had become a problem larger than it appeared but its roots lie in "the dysfunction and absence of governance" in areas where the terrorists operate.

www.philstar.com

Groups concerned over 'creeping militarization' of Duterte Cabinet

By Kristian Javier

MANILA, Philippines — Groups expressed concern over the "creeping militarization" of President Rodrigo Duterte's Cabinet after the latest appointments of two military men to key positions.

In a statement on Wednesday, Anakbayan urged the president to rethink his decision to appoint military officials who they said came from "one of the most corrupt and human rights violating institution in the country."

"Clearly this is not the change the Filipino people want. We appeal to the president to steer clear from the path of fascist terror and repression represented by these military men," Anakbayan said.

The group added that the president should instead support the people's movement to push for genuine agrarian reform and industrialization.

The statement came after Duterte announced on Wednesday that he is appointing Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año as interior secretary following the appointment of former AFP chief Roy Cimatu as environment secretary on Tuesday.

With this, Año and Cimatu now join other ex-generals in the Cabinet: Emmanuel Bautista in the Office of the President undersecretary, Hermogenes Esperon Jr. as national security adviser, Delfin Lorenzana as defense secretary and Ricardo Visayas as National Irrigation Administration chief.

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

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

www.mb.com.ph

Eastern Mindanao Command on heightened alert

By Francis Wakefield

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom) Friday said that it has raised its alert level on Thursday following the travel advisory issued by the United States (US) Embassy.

The U.S. Embassy, it was recalled, specifically asked its citizens to avoid Palawan because of the possibility of kidnappings in the area.

While the travel advisory was specific to Palawan, the Command had to raise the alert level in their area because of the possibility of terrorist groups shifting or diverting operations to Eastern Mindanao.

The EastMinCom in coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP), Local Government Units and other Law Enforcement Agencies are taking the necessary measures to secure the maritime, coastal and land areas against a terrorist attack.

"The EastMinCom enjoins the public to be vigilant but calm and to immediately report to law enforcement units any suspicious-looking individual or activity in their vicinity," the statement read.

On Thursday morning, Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao conducted drills and simulation exercises to test and evaluate their capability in responding to terrorism.

The AFP earlier said that it respects the United States decision to issue a travel advisory for its citizens not to go to Palawan due to alleged terrorist threats.

AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo made the comment after the U.S. Embassy in Manila has received credible information that terrorist groups may be planning to conduct kidnapping operations targeting foreign nationals in the areas of Palawan, to include Puerto Princesa and the areas surrounding Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park.

"We respect the issue of a US travel advisory. We recognize that it is both an obligation and right of a sovereign state. We do that to our own nationals sojourning abroad," Arevalo said in a press statement sent to Defense reporters.

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

39

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

www.interaksyon.com

'Most wanted' Western Mindanao NPA commander captured – Army

By: Kaye Imson

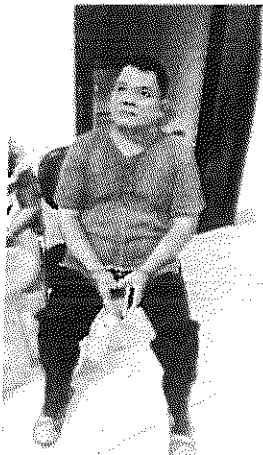
MANILA, Philippines — The military said soldiers and police captured what authorities described as the “most wanted” commander of the New People’s Army in Western Mindanao in Zamboanga del Sur province Thursday.

The Army’s 1st Infantry Division said Rommel Salinas, alias Venico, Beto, Carlos, Doming, Artem and Mark, was with Bishop Carlo Morales of the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente*, also known as the Aglipayan church, the cleric’s wife Marie Teofifina Morales, and their driver Sadome Dalid in a van intercepted in Barangay Gango, Ozamis City around 6 p.m. by personnel of the 102d Infantry Brigade and the provincial police.

Salinas, allegedly a front secretary of the rebels’ Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee, is facing criminal charges for destructive arson, urder, frustrated murder, attempted murder and robbery in band.

A hand grenade was allegedly seized from him, the Army said.

Meanwhile, the IFI has protested what it called the “illegal” arrest and detention of Morales, his wife and driver.



A handcuffed IFI Bishop Carlo Morales is seen in this photo posted on social media by his supporters.

A statement signed by Bishop Antonio Ablon of the church’s Pagadian diocese said even Morales was indeed in the company of someone wanted by the law, “we find no reason that the good IFI Bishop of Ozamiz will be illegally arrested, handcuffed and illegally detained in jail” after “he had fully introduced himself as a Bishop.”

The church demanded Morales’ release, calling his arrest “a clear violation of human rights and on person who is a religious leader or a bishop that has an obligation to provide protection or sanctuary to a person who is in distress or politically persecuted.”

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

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

www.luwaran.com

“The long-term solution to end terrorism in Mindanao hinges on the success of the Bangsamoro peace process”: WestMinCom Chief

By: AL ISKANDAR, LUWARAN

“The long-term solution to end terrorism in Mindanao hinges on the success of the Bangsamoro peace process”, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr, WestMinCom Chief said Tuesday, May 09, Philippine News Agency reported.

Gen. Galvez is overseeing the government’s campaign against terrorist groups in the island.

He said that the military fully supports the Duterte administration’s peace agenda, particularly the implementation of the peace agreements the government has signed with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

“The outcome of the peace process has a direct correlation with our problem on terrorism,” Galvez told the Philippines News Agency.

Galvez said he recently met with the leaders of the Moro fronts, who relayed to him that terror groups in Mindanao are capitalizing on the delay in the implementation, especially the political track, of the peace agreements.

“IQ or Mohager Iqbal said that if the future of the BBL (Bangsamoro Basic Law) and the peace process between the government and the MILF and MNLF will be tentative, there is a big possibility they (terrorist groups) can recruit more,” he said.

A new draft Bangsamoro Law being crafted by the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) created by Pres. Duterte is eyed to be approved within the year to give a legal foundation for the creation of a new Bangsamoro region that will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). (Source: PNA)

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

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

www.dwdd.com.ph

Eastern Mindanao Heightens alert

Posted by [Lui Claudio](#)

Eastern Mindanao Command raised the alert level on Thursday, May 11, 2017, following the travel advisory of the United States to its citizens to avoid Palawan because of the possibility of kidnappings.

While the travel advisory was specific to Palawan, the Command had to raise the alert level in the area because of the possibility of terrorist groups shifting or diverting operations to Eastern Mindanao.

The EMC in coordination with the Philippine National Police, Local Government Units, and other Law Enforcement Agencies are taking the necessary measures to secure the maritime, coastal and land areas against a terrorist attack.

The EMC enjoins the public to be vigilant but calm and to immediately report to law enforcement units any suspicious-looking individual or activity in their vicinity.

Early morning of May 11, 2017, Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao conducted drills and simulation exercises to test and evaluate their capability in responding to terrorism.

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