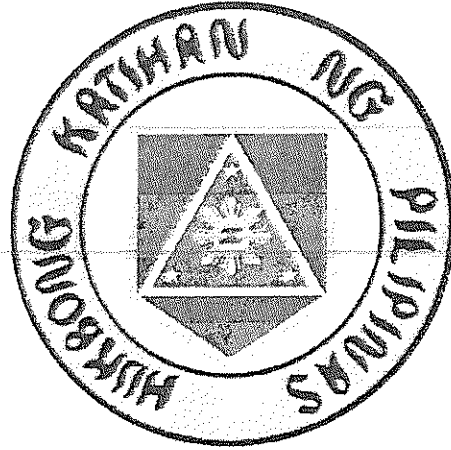


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

NEWS CLIPPINGS

14 May 2017

Sunday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

14 MAY 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A4
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	Pope declares two Fatima children Saints	AP.AFP,Reuters	PDI p.A1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
4	NPA rebels raids military detachment	Raymund Catindig	Phil Star p. 14
5	2 NPAs killed in series of encounters with AFP	Yas Ocampo	Mla Bulletin p. 21
6	NPA medic surrenders	Freddie Lazaro	Tempo p.5
7	24-K sibilyan lumikas sa patuloy na military ops vs BIFF sa Maguindanao	-	Police Files p.3
8	Dating sundalo at utol ng napatay na NPA ibinaon sa landfill	Jeff Gallos	Remate p.3
AFP RELATED NEWS			
9	NDF demands release of arrested rebel leader	Karlos Manlupig	PDI p.A4
10	Faces of News: Eduardo Año	-	PDI p.A10
11	Is Abu leader dead in airstrike? AFP still uncertain	Jaime Laude	Phil Star p. 7
12	Phil, Japanese coast guards hold anti-sea piracy drills	Evelyn Macairan	Phil Star p. 9
13	Ulamas forge united stand vs terrorism	Nonoy LAcson	Mla Bulletin p. 21
14	Troops seizes ASG camp in Basilan	Julmunir Jannaral	The ManilaTimes p.A7
15	Scaled-down 'Balikatan' still relevant – US general	PNA	Mla Times p. A3
16	US general: Military training with allies always relevant	PNA	Daily Tribune p.3
17	ISIS now in Central Mindanao	John Paolo Bencito	The Standard p. A3
18	Pamumugot ng Abu imbestigahan Benham Rise tatanuran na ng PH Navy	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p.2
EDITORIAL			
19	Narapat nang lipulin ang Abu Sayyaf	Eduardo Manaan	Ngayon p.4
ONLINE NEWS			
20	Troops seize Abu Sayyaf encampment in Basilan province		www.retireanalyst.blogspot.com
21	ARMM seeks help of Islamic scholars v. terrorism		www.retireanalyst.blogspot.com
22	Tagalog news: Walang presensya ng Abu Sayyaf sa		www.retireanalyst.blogspot.com

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

	Palawan, ayon sa WESCOM		
23	Pangasinan police director says no NPA extortion in his area		www.retireanalyst.blogspot.com
24	ARMM dev't key to fight vs terrorism, says military official		www.retireanalyst.blogspot.com
25	Military welcomes Muslim clerics' action against terrorism		www.retireanalyst.blogspot.com

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

14 May 2017



Page: A4

PANAHON TV
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MAY 14, 2017 | SUNDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING MINDANAO RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE AREA EXTENDING OVER NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON (As of 5:00 AM - May 13, 2017)

SUNRISE 	SUNSET
5:29 AM	6:16 PM
MOONRISE 	MOONSET
9:03 PM	7:56 AM
FULL MOON MAY 11 5:42 AM	LAST QUARTER MAY 19 8:33 AM
LOW TIDE 7:43 PM -0.05 Meter	HIGH TIDE 11:28 AM 1.05 Meter

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	MAY 15	MAY 16	MAY 15	MAY 16	MAY 15	MAY 16		
METRO MANILA	25-35°C	25-35°C	TAGAYTAY	23-32°C	22-31°C	TACLOBAN	26-31°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	26-33°C	26-33°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26-33°C	26-33°C	METRO DAVAO	26-32°C	26-33°C
BAGUIO	17-27°C	17-26°C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	26-32°C	26-33°C	ZAMBOANGA	25-32°C	25-33°C
SBMA/CLARK	26-36°C	26-36°C	METRO CEBU	26-32°C	26-32°C			

SAGOT KO, PARRALA MO!

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

4 May 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A1

POPE DECLARES TWO FATIMA CHILDREN SAINTS

STORY BY AP, AFP AND REUTERS

FATIMA, PORTUGAL—Pope Francis declared two Portuguese children saints, 100 years after they reported visions of the Virgin Mary. Hundreds of thousands of people broke into applause as the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics announced the Church's newest saints.

A17

FATIMA, PORTUGAL—Pope Francis added two Portuguese shepherd children to the roster of Catholic saints on Saturday, honoring the young siblings whose reported visions of the Virgin Mary 100 years ago turned the Portuguese farm town of Fatima into one of the world's most important Catholic shrines.

Francis proclaimed Francisco and Jacinta Marto saints at the start of Mass marking the centenary of their visions. Hundreds of thousands of people, many of whom slept outdoors to hold their places, broke into applause as the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics proclaimed the siblings the newest of the Church's saints.

Francisco and Jacinta, aged 9 and 7, and their 10-year-old cousin, Lucia Dos Santos, reported that on May 13, 1917, the Virgin Mary made the first of a half-dozen appearances to them here while they grazed their sheep.

They said she confided in them three secrets, the so-called secrets of Fatima.

The first two were revealed soon and concerned a vision of hell, seen by believers as a prediction of the outbreak of World War II, a warning that Russia would "spread her errors" in the world and a need for general conversion to God and prayer.

The "third secret" intrigued the world for more than three-quarters of a century, inspiring books and cults convinced that it predicted the end of the world.

In 2000, the Vatican said it was a prediction of the 1981 assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II on May 13, the same day of the first reported apparition in 1917.

At the time of the apparition, Europe was in the throes of World War I, and the Portuguese church was suffering under anticlerical laws from the republican government that had driven many bishops and priests into exile.

"Our Lady foretold, and warned us about, a way of life that is godless and indeed profanes God in his creatures," Francis said in his homily. "Such a life, frequently proposed and imposed, risks leading to hell."

He urged Catholics today to use the example of the Marto siblings and draw strength from God, even when adversity strikes. The children had been

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

threatened by local civil authorities with death by boiling oil if they didn't recant their story. But they held fast and eventually the Church recognized the apparitions as authentic in 1930.

"We can take as our examples Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta, whom the Virgin Mary introduced into the immense ocean of God's light and taught to adore him," he said. "That was the source of their strength in overcoming opposition and suffering."

Francis prayed that the Madonna would protect the most vulnerable members of society, "especially the sick and the disabled, prisoners and the unemployed, the poor and the abandoned."

Two huge tapestries made from century-old photographs of the children dressed in the traditional peasant garb of the times hung from the church that is now the focal point of the sanctuary visited by about seven million people each year.

The Martos now become the youngest-ever saints who didn't die as martyrs.

The third visionary, Lucia, became a nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97. Lucia, who wrote of the children's experiences, is on track for beatification, the first step toward becoming a saint. Her case couldn't begin until after her death.

At the end of the Mass, Francis was to offer a special greeting to the many faithful who flock to Fatima in hopes of healing. Many tossed wax body parts—hands, hearts, livers and limbs—into a giant fire pit at the shrine as an offering.



Pope Francis stands in front of a statue of the Virgin Mary. —AP

In Fatima for the occasion were Joao Baptista and his wife, Lucila Yurie, of Brazil. The medically inexplicable healing of their son, Lucas, was one "miracle" needed for the Marto siblings to be declared saints.

The boy, aged 10 at the time, had fallen 6.5 meters (21 feet) from a window in 2013 and suffered such severe head trauma that his doctors said he would be severely mentally disabled or in a vegetative state if he even survived. The boy not only survived but has no signs of any aftereffects.

Another miracle was wheelchair-bound Maria Emilia Santos who said she regained the ability to walk on February 20, 1989, the anniversary of Jacinta's death, after praying to her.

Marie Chantal, 57, a lifelong devotee, travelled more than 9,000 kilometers from the island of Reunion in the Indian

Ocean to attend the ceremony.

"I am very emotional because this Pope is truly merciful and close to the people and I think he will bring us many good things," she said.

Gracinda Vieira, 57, slept outside during the chill night in Fatima to hold her place near the front of the crowd.

"It was not a great sacrifice ... it is very important for me and for the Church," said Vieira, who had travelled from her home 250 km north of Fatima in central Portugal.

"This Pope is different in everything, I like him a lot. He is closer to us, the people," she said.

In 2000, St. John Paul II beatified the Marto siblings during a Mass at Fatima and used the occasion of the new millennium to reveal the third "secret" that the children reported they had received from the Madonna.

The text, written by Lucia, had been kept in a sealed envelope inside the Vatican for decades, with no Pope daring to reveal it because of its terrifying contents: a "bishop dressed in white"—the Pope—on his knees at the foot of a cross, killed in a hail of bullets and arrows, along with other bishops, priests and various lay Catholics.

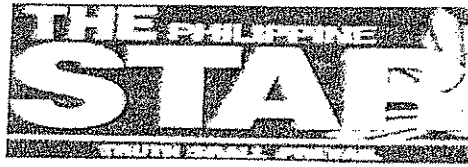
The message featured an angel crying out "penance, penance, penance!"

The impending canonization of the children had led to speculation that a fourth "secret" remained, but the Vatican has insisted there are no more secrets related to the Fatima revelations. —REPORTS FROM AP, AFP

AND REUTERS

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

14 May 2017



Page: 14

NPA rebels raid military detachment

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – New People's Army (NPA) rebels stormed a detachment of the Philippine Army in Barangay Casala, San Mariano, Isabela on Friday.

It was the third attack on police and military stations in Cagayan Valley in the last two weeks.

Nobody was hurt in the attack at around 7 a.m., said Staff Sgt. Arthur Figarola,

detachment commander. Police set up checkpoints along the possible escape routes of the rebels.

NPA guerrillas earlier attacked the police station of Maddela, Quirino that left a policeman dead. The rebels also took several firearms and patrol vehicles.

Last week, NPA rebels stormed a police outpost in Amulung, Cagayan and took seven firearms after beating up

the policemen on duty.

Chief Superintendent Eliseo Rasco, Cagayan Valley police director, and the police chiefs of Quirino, Cagayan as well as Maddela and Amulung towns were replaced following the attacks.

Medical officer surrenders

Meanwhile, a medical officer of the NPA surrendered in Barangay Layugan, Bucay,

Abra also on Friday.

Catherine Cortez, alias Ka Lora, of the Kilusang Laran-gang Guerilla Montes under the Leonardo Pagsi Command, also turned over an M16 rifle and a rifle grenade, said Maj Gen. Paul Atal, 5th Army Division commander.

Atal said the military would provide legal and livelihood assistance to Cortez.

– Raymund Catindig, Artemio Dumlao

14 May 2017

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

Page: 21

2 NPAs killed in series of encounters with AFP

By YAB D. OCAÑO

DAVAO CITY — Two members of the New People's Army (NPA) were killed in a series of skirmishes in the Davao Region with the military from May 6 to 11, the 10th Infantry Division said.

Troops recovered a caliber-.38 revolver, an M14 Rifle and various war materiel after the encounters.

More rebels were either killed or wounded, but were carried off by fleeing rebels, as reported by residents in the area of the gun battlers.

A soldier was killed, while nine others were wounded and evacuated to hospitals in Davao City in the May 10 armed clash between troops of the Third Infantry Battalion (3IB) and NPA rebels belonging to Pulang Bagani Company (PBC) 1 in Barangay Dalagdag, Calinan Davao City.

Troops from the 3IB were involved in nine encounters from May 6 to 10, with six firefights with the guerillas reported in Barangay Dominga, Calinan District in this city from May 6 to 9.

Soldiers from the 73rd Infantry Battalion (73IB) were involved in three firefights on May 7, 9 and 11.

Another group of soldiers engaged the same NPA group twice in Barangay Sumimao, Calinan District on May 9, with retreating rebels leaving behind the body of a comrade who was carrying a caliber-.38 pistol.

The dead NPA was identified as Jojo Dagahoya, a member of PBC1 from Sitio Balinanao, Brgy Fatima, Paquibato District, Davao City.

Another group of soldiers engaged the fleeing NPA band at around 1 a.m. on May 10 at Barangay Dalagdag which resulted in a soldier being killed and nine others

being wounded.

The body of another slain NPA rebel and several war materiel were also found when the smoke cleared on that encounter.

The dead body was identified as Eliazar Templado alias Chin, a political instructor of PBC1 from Calinan Proper, Davao City.

Meanwhile, troops from 73rd Infantry Battalion engaged in a firefight 20 NPA rebels belonging to Guerilla Front 71 at 7:30 a.m. last May 7 at Sitio Kidalagan, Brgy Danwata, Malita, Davao Occidental.

The same troops caught up with the fleeing rebels and another firefight two days later in the same barangay.

Another group of 73IB troops engaged 20 NPA rebels in a firefight at 7:30 a.m. last May 11 at Sitio Lawisa, Brgy Sibulan, Santa Cruz, Davao del Sur which resulted to the recovery of one M14 rifle left by the rebels.

t

4 May 2017



Page. 5

NPA medic surrenders

CAMP MELCHOR F DELA CRUZ, Upi, Gamu, Isabela – A medical officer of the New People's Army (NPA) operating in Cordillera provinces voluntarily surrendered to the members of the army's 24th Infantry Battalion based in Barangay Tagodtod, Lagangilang, Abra.

Major General Paul Talay Atal, commander of the Army's 5th Infantry Division and currently head the Joint Task Force "Tala" identified the rebel as Catherine Cortez who is said to be a medical officer of the Kilusang Larangang Guerilla Montes under Leonardo Pacsi Command.

Cortez also yielded several firearms namely one M16A1 Rifle, one rifle grenade, two magazines for M16 rifle; and sixty rounds of 5.56mm ammunition.

"We are all Filipinos, and killing

each other will not solve our problems. I encourage the remaining NPA rebels to take advantage of the government's Comprehensive Local Integration Program or CLIP, it will provide you an opportunity to return back to your families and communities, and together we shall solve our problems the peaceful way," said Atal.

Meanwhile, the government troops and police operatives are on heightened alert after a group of NPA rebels harassed a camp of the army's 86th Infantry Battalion based in Barangay Villa Gracia, Maddela, Quirino and a patrol base of the local police of Rizal, Cagayan on Wednesday evening.

Fortunately, no one was hurt during the incidents. **(Freddie G. Lazaro)**

14 May 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 3

24-K sibilyan lumikas sa patuloy na military ops vs BIFF sa Maguindanao

KORONADAL CITY – Umabot na sa mahigit 24,000 mga residente galing sa anim na bayan ng Maguindanao ang lumikas simula nang naglunsad ng airstrikes at ground assault ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) laban sa mga miyembro ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) na naghahasik ng lagim sa nasabing probinsya at kalapit na mga lugar.

Kinabibilangan ito ng Datu Salibo, Datu Piang, Talitay, Datu Anggal Midtimbang, Sharriff Sayduna Mustapha, at Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao.

Napag-alaman na ilan sa mga lumikas na residente ay pansamantalang nanunuluyan sa iba't ibang paaralan, mga temporary shelter, at sa kanilang mga kaanak.

Kaugnay nito, ipinahayag ni 6th Infantry Kampilan Division spokesperson Capt. Arvin John Encinas na patuloy ang monitoring nila sa lugar lalo na sa Datu Salibo, Maguindanao na sentro ng kanilang operasyon kung saan target ang mga kampo ng BIFF.

Sa kabila ng patuloy na opensiba laban sa BIFF, umaasa ang tropa ng gobyerno na walang sibilyang mamamatay kaya mahigpit ang kanilang koordinasyon sa mga opisyal at sibilyan sa mga nabanggit na lugar.

14 May 2017



Pahina. 3

Dating sundalo at utol ng napatay na NPA ibinaon sa landfill

BANGKAY na nang madiskobre ang isang dating sundalo at kapatid ng hapaslang na New People's Army ilang oras matapos na huling makita ang mga ito na dumalo sa isang birthday party sa Cabaio, Nueva Ecija kamakailawa.

Natukoy ang mga biktima na sina Hideon Carino, 50, dating miyembro ng Philippine Army mula sa Arayat, Pampanga at Michael Dayao, kapatid ng pinatay na NPA member na si Albert Dayao kung saan ang mga labi nito ay natagpuan sa isang landfill sa Barangay Bagong Sikat.

Lumabas sa imbestigasyon na pinagbabaril ang mga biktima sa mismong lugar kung saan natagpuan ang mga ito.

Napag-alaman na si Carino, ay may kaugnayan sa ilang kaso ng extortion at gun for hire, habang si Dayao, 45, tanod ng Barangay San Vicente ay nasangkot din sa gun trafficking noong 2016 subalit napakawalan din dahil sa kakulangan ng ebidensya.

Ayon sa ulat ng Cabaio Police, huling nakitang buhay ang mga biktima nang dumalo sa isang birthday party sa bayan ng San Antonio pasado alas-2 ng hepon.

Hindi naman mabatid sa report kung paano napunta sa landfill ang mga biktima pero sinasabi ng ilang nakasaksi na kasama ng mga ito ang apat na lalaki na sakay sa dalawang motorsiklo.

Narekober sa lugar ng krimen ang isang motorsiklo, dalawang cellphone, ilang basyo ng bala mula sa .45 baril at amalite rifle.

JEFF GALLOS

§

14 May 2017



Page: 14

JASIG, PEACE TALKS CITED

NDFP DEMANDS RELEASE OF ARRESTED REBEL LEADER

DAVAO CITY—The ranking communist leader arrested in Ozamiz City on Thursday was covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) and should be immediately released from police custody, along with his companions, National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili said on Saturday.

"He and his companions, including [Aglipayan Bishop Carlo] and Mrs. [Teofilina] Morales, should be released immediately in accordance with the Jasig," Agcaoili said.

Alleged recovery

Rommel Salinas was arrested with the Moraleses and the bishop's driver, Isadome Dalid, at a checkpoint manned by a police and Army team on Thursday in Barangay Gango.

They were taken on account of the alleged recovery of a grenade from Salinas' bag, along with cash.

Agcaoili said Salinas, de-

scribed by the military as the secretary of the Communist Party of the Philippines' Section Committee Sendong in Misamis Occidental, was a "duly accredited person" under the Jasig and was issued ID No. ND978453 under the name of Hermie Abella.

Peace process

Agcaoili said Salinas was performing his duties for the peace process at the time of his arrest.

During his arrest, Salinas said his bag's cash content of P80,700 was provided by the NDFP for consultation activities.

"It is obvious that Mr. Salinas has been conducting consultations with stakeholders when he was arrested," Agcaoili said.

He said as far as he can recall, the Jasig—which was signed in 1995—was still in effect and both parties were required to observe it, unless otherwise terminated by either of

the parties through a written notice.

In February, President Duterte had said he was terminating the Jasig but later restored it as government and NDFP negotiators prepared to talk in the Netherlands.

Under the agreement, listed consultants from both sides and their companions were protected from threats, surveillance and arrest.

Religious personality

Iglesia Filipina Independiente also called for the release of Morales and his wife, who was a teacher, and the prelate's driver.

Rev. Dave Bitos said Morales should be released so that "he could return to his work of tending to his flock."

Bitos also explained that as a religious personality, Morales "definitely does not have the intention of bringing [a grenade] inside his official car."

—KARLOS MANLUPIG AND JIGGER
JERUSALEM INQ

14 May 2017



Page: A10



Eduardo Año

Close on the heels of Roy Cimatu's appointment, President Duterte tapped the Armed Forces chief of staff to head the Department of the Interior and Local Government. Año can't assume the post until after he retires from the military on Oct. 26. And already, rumors are rife that he will be asked to retire earlier to give way to another official to assume the top Armed Forces of the Philippines post. His impending appointment has given rise to criticisms that the Cabinet is being "militarized." At least four other former generals hold key government posts. In fact, Mr. Duterte's joke that the "junta" would be complete with the entry of Año did not sit well with Jose Maria Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines. "It can be a joke or a threat at the expense of the peace negotiations, the people and Mr. Duterte himself," he said.

10

14 May 2017



Page: 7

Is Abu leader dead in airstrike? AFP still uncertain

By JAIME LAUDE

The military is uncertain about the fate of Abu Sayyaf leader Furuji Indama.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office chief, said they are uncertain if Indama was among the 20 Abu Sayyaf bandits killed in the airstrike in Sumisip town last Thursday.

Col. Juvymax Uy, commander of Joint Task Force Basilan, reported the other day that 20 Abu Sayyaf bandits of the group led by Indama were killed in the airstrike that was followed by artillery barrage at their camp in Barangay Pamatsaken.

Troops, however, failed to recover any casualty from the scene.

What were left of the camp were personal belongings inside bullet-riddled tents and food, indicating the bandits were caught unprepared by the airstrike while having breakfast.

Military informants, however, did not mention Indama. They said the bandits who survived the attack were able to drag away the bodies of their dead comrades.

Arevalo said he is still waiting for an update.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said intelligence reports indicate the Abu Sayyaf has split up into several groups in an effort to divide the attention of the troops pursuing them.

Galvez said the Abu Sayyaf also split their captives into several groups.

The captives who are believed to still be in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu include a Dutch, seven Indonesians, 12 Vietnamese and seven Filipinos.

Galvez said information from the Abu Sayyaf militants who have surrendered provided the lead on the possible locations of the hostages and their captors.

Galvez said about 47 Abu Sayyaf from Sulu and Basilan have so far surrendered.

"The troops under the Joint Task Force Sulu led by Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana continued its focus of military operations to pressure the Abu Sayyaf group to yield and release all their hostages," Galvez said.

Ulama summit

Meanwhile, the military spearheaded the launching of the Ulama summit last Friday to counter the monitored recruitment of fighters for the Islamic State (IS).

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said around 300 Muslim religious leaders attended the summit that was also organized by national government agencies, foreign and local stakeholders.

Galvez was the keynote speaker of the three-day event.

He discussed with key Muslim religious leaders the current terrorism and security concerns in Mindanao.

"Security is a shared responsibility that needs sustainment of partnership between different stakeholders, security sectors, the local government units, the academe and religious sectors and other stakeholders to defeat the threat of

terrorism in Southern Philippines," Galvez said.

Galvez enjoined Muslim religious leaders and all the stake-

holders to condemn all acts of terror.

Calling for a united stand to combat threats of terror, - With Roel Pareño

14 May 2017



Page: 9

Phl, Japanese coast guards hold anti-sea piracy drills

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Japanese Coast Guard (JCG) held yesterday anti-sea piracy exercises in Mindanao to prevent threats posed by terrorists like the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

The PCG and the JCG held joint anti-sea piracy exercises in Jolo, Sulu and the Celebes Sea while maritime law enforcement training exercises would be held from May 30 until June 3 in the Davao Gulf.

When asked if there was a chance the ASG would attack the PCG and JCG assets and personnel taking part in the one-day exercise, PCG officer-in-charge Commodore Joel Garcia said, "I don't think so."

He explained that since they would use an air asset of the JCG, there is little possibility that the Muslim bandits would be able to disrupt the event.

The PCG deployed the BRP *Romblon*, BRP *Malapascua* and monitoring control and surveillance vessel 3007 while the JCG used a Falcon 900 plane.

They demonstrated communication and surveillance exercises in the event pirates would attack a cargo vessel.

"Definitely, we are not worried about the disruption or the Abu Sayyaf taking measures against the exercise because the exercise would be conducted by air to test the maritime surveillance capability of both coast guards," said Garcia.

The maritime exercises would focus on aerial surveillance and reconnaissance.

One of the current challenges that the PCG is facing is sea piracy.

Since the middle of last year, the PCG recorded 22 incidents, of which 13 were actual kidnappings and nine attempted kidnappings in Mindanao.

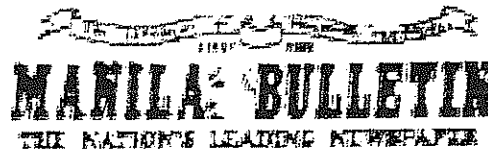
The problems prevailing in the area prompted them to conduct the exercise in Sulu and Celebes Sea.

"The concern of the international shipping community is how to fight kidnapping and armed robbery at sea and I think the joint exercise between the PCG and JCG would be a good symbolism of our strong partnership and cooperation with respect to combating armed robbery," said Garcia.

JCG vice commandant for operations Vice Admiral Shuichi Iwanami explained that the exercise are in line with the two coast guard agencies' existing memorandum of cooperation.

12

14 May 2017



Page: 21

Ulamas forge united stand vs terrorism

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY — The three-day “Ulama Summit against Terrorism” formally closed yesterday at the Shariff Kabunsuan Cultural Complex in Cotabato City with the “bright hope to have one stand and one voice” in the fight against terrorism and extremism in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The summit opened Friday with about 300 Muslim religious leaders, national government officials, and foreign and local stakeholders from the various Muslim dominated provinces and cities in the country.

The summit was organized by the Office of the Regional Governor and the Regional Darul Ifta of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Around 300 Ulama and Ustadzes from the different provinces in ARMM attended the event which was conceptualized after Daesh groups were monitored recruiting the youth in the different areas of Mindanao.

Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMin-Com) Commander Gen Galvez, Jr. was guest speaker and he discussed terrorism and security in the Southern Philippines.

14 May 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

Troop seizes ASG camp in Basilan

PHILIPPINE Army troops seized an Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) encampment on a remote hilltop in Sumisip, Basilan where security forces continue to pursue the notorious militant group tied to the Islamic State (IS).

ASG Sub Leader Furuji Indama was reportedly hiding in the camp but was able to escape before the camp was seized by government forces which has 12 makeshift tents capable of accommodating 30-40 bandits.

Soldiers recovered homemade bomb components left behind by the bandits after the firefight as military aircrafts provided close air support while ground troops pounded the area with artillery fire.

"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," Col. Juvymax Uy, Joint Task Force Basilan commander, said.

Meanwhile, Captain Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, quoting reports from Army commanders in Basilan, said about 20 bandits were killed in the clashes since May 11.

She added troops also recovered several foodstuffs and explosives components capable of making 30 improvised explosive device, where the Special Forces Demolition Specialists recovered three live IEDs.

**JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL
AND AL JACINTO**

14 May 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A3

Scaled-down 'Balikatan' still relevant – US general

THIS year's joint military exercises between Philippine and US troops remains "relevant and beneficial" even if scaled down to training on counter-terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), the American training director for the "Balikatan" (shoulder to shoulder) exercises said.

"Despite the fact that this is not a large-scale conventional force, a portion of 'Balikatan' this year, the counter-terrorism (training) is legitimate. It's real, it's something we're doing together and I think that continued training on that is beneficial for both of our nations," Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson said shortly after the opening ceremonies of the annual military drills this week.

"HADR is always relevant and I think especially as typhoon season [draws near] across the region, our ability to respond and help neighbors has never been more important," he said.

"Balikatan" 2017, which began on May 8 and will end on May 19, features mostly high-impact HADR training, including rescuing people trapped in a collapsed structure during a massive earthquake and landing relief units and goods in a typhoon-isolated area.

HADR is one of the missions



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER Members of the Philippine and US armies participate in a search-and-rescue drill during the annual 'Balikatan' (shoulder to shoulder) joint military exercises at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija last May 12. PHOTO BY MIKE DE JUAN

President Rodrigo Duterte wants the Armed Forces of the Philippines to be proficient in, along with counter-terrorism.

When asked whether US troops, 2,600 of whom are participating in "Balikatan," felt let down because of the exercises' focus on HADR and counter-terrorism, Nicholson said this was not the case.

"I can tell you that every Marine, sailor, soldier, man coming to the Philippines for the exercise, is not disappointed. They are looking forward to it. Again, as I said, HADR and counter-terrorism are two critically important areas of concern for both of our nations, for all other nations, so I think there's a lot of

work to be done," he said.

A total of 2,800 Filipinos and 80 military personnel from the Australian Defense Force are also participating in the 12-day exercise.

"There's a lot of sharing of techniques and tactics and procedures so we're excited by the work that we are going to do, and yes absolutely, we think [that] in the years ahead, there will be different focuses for 'Balikatan,' so I'm confident of this year's success," Nicholson said.

The exercises were only down-scaled after Duterte sought to end the "Balikatan" exercises with the US last year, so as not to agitate China. Duterte also claimed there was no

transfer of technical know-how during

large-scale drills with the Americans. Manila however has treaty obligations with Washington.

Apart from the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty in which both countries agreed to defend each other in case of an external attack, Manila and Washington signed in 1998 a Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) governing the conduct of American soldiers in the Philippines.

The 10-year Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement signed by the previous Aquino administration in 2014, a supplement to the VFA, allows the rotational presence of US troops as well as their access to Philippine military facilities.

PNA

May 2017



Page: 3

US general: Military training with allies always relevant

Constant training on counter-terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) is always relevant and beneficial to military forces conducting such maneuvers and drills, US "Balikatan" exercise director, Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, has said.

"Despite the fact that this is not a large-scale conventional force, a portion of 'Balikatan' this year, the counter-terrorism (training) is legitimate. It's real, it's something we're doing together and I think that continued training on that is beneficial for both of our nations. HADR is always relevant and I think especially as typhoon season (draws near) across the region, our ability to respond and help neighbors has never been more important," Nicholson said shortly after the opening ceremonies on the annual military exercises.

"Balikatan" 2017 features mostly high-impact HADR drills, which include rescuing people trapped in a collapsed structure during a massive earthquake and landing relief units and goods in a typhoon-isolated area.

HADR is one of the missions President Duterte wants the AFP to be proficient in, along with counter-terrorism.

When asked whether US troops, 2,600 of whom are participating in "Balikatan," are feeling let down due to the exercises' focus on HADR and counter-terrorism, Nicholson said this is not the case.

"I can tell you that every Marine, sailor, soldier, man coming to the Philippines for the exercise, is not disappointed. They are looking forward to it. Again, as I said, HADR and counter-terrorism are two critically important areas of concern for both of our nations, for all other nations, so I think there's a lot of work to be done," he said.

A total of 2,800 Filipinos and 80 military personnel from the Australian Defense Force are also participating in the 12-day exercise.

"There's a lot of sharing of techniques and tactics and procedures so we're excited by the work that we are going to do, and yes absolutely, we think (that) in the years ahead, there will be different focuses for 'Balikatan,' so I'm confident of this year's success," Nicholson said.

The "Balikatan" exercises formally began on May 8 and will end on May 19.

PNA

14 May 2017

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: A3

ISIS NOW IN CENTRAL MINDANAO —DU30

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday warned that the jihadist Islamic State forces have already migrated to the Central Mindanao from their lairs in Sulu province.

Speaking to the Filipino community in Hong Kong, Duterte said that the country would have been in "heaven" already only if terrorism and drugs won't exist.

"Iyang ISIS kasi, sana huwag mang-yari. From Jolo, they have migrated to Central Mindanao," Duterte said in Filipino.

Duterte insisted that the only thing he won't do is to talk with terrorists, and that the full might of the military will be used to destroy them.

"I can't talk to terrorists. One of them was adopted as the chair of the ISIS in Mindanao," Duterte said, without explaining further.

"Now we have jets ... I am using it, before we didn't use it, but now, I have to use them hastily to [destroy] the enemy. Because they're very dangerous," he added.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told Congress that military offensives have weakened the terror groups.

In a recent House committee on national defense and national security situation, Lorenzana, along with Armed Forces of the Philippines' General Eduardo Año, told the House of Representatives the government will continue its assault so as not to give the terror groups a chance to regroup.

Both officials expressed optimism the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front would result in fewer skirmishes with government troops.

Among the internal security concerns being addressed were the threats coming from the extremist groups, such as the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-identified local terrorist groups, and foreign terrorists that "they are closely monitoring," and extortion activities of leftists groups, such as the Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army and National Democratic Front, the two military officials noted.

**John Paolo Bencito
and Rio N. Araja**

14 May 2017



Pahina. 2

Bato sa CHR **Pamumugot ng** **Abu imbestigahan**

Hinamon ni Philippine National Police Chief P/ Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa ang Commission on Human Rights na sa halip umanong ang mga napapatay na teroristang Abu Sayyaf Group ay ang pamumugot ng ulo ng bandidong grupo ang imbestigahan.

Sinabi ni dela Rosa na tila nakakalimutan ng CHR ang kanilang trabaho na hindi man lamang pinag-uukulan ng panahon ang mga hostages at security forces na napupugutan ng ulo ng mga bandido partikular na sa Sulu at Basilan.

"Gusto nilang mag-imbestiga sa pagkamatay ng Abu Sayyaf bomber at

kidnapper na si Saad, we are open, imbestigahan natin yan," pahayag ni dela Rosa.

Ang tinutukoy ni dela Rosa ay ang hakbang ni CHR Central Visayas Director Arvin Odrón na patuloy na nangangalap ng ebidensya sa umano'y kahina-hinalang pagkamatay ng Abu Sayyaf bomber na si Saad-Samad Kiram alyas Abu-Saad.

Si Saad ay nasakote noong Mayo 4 ng taong ito sa Bohol pero nasawinabukasan matapos umanong manlaban sa mga operatiba habang ibinibiyaha patungo sa Tagbilaran City jail.

Iginigiit ni Odrón na

NI JOY CANTOS

binigyan siya ng go signal ni CHR Chairman Chito Gascon para siyasatin ang umano'y paglabag sa karapatang pantao ng mga pulis sa Bohol dahil wala ni kahit isang galos sa katawan nang masakote si Saad pero kadudadudang nasawi ito nang manlaban umano sa kaniyang mga escort na pulis.

"Sana, sabihan nyo ang CHR na pati yung mga pinuputulan ng ulo ng mga Abu Sayyaf imbestigahan din nila yun, huwag lang mag-limit dito sa atin," punto pa ni dela Rosa.

Si Saad ay kabilang sa 11 bandidong Abu

Sayyaf na dumaong noong Abril 10 sa Inabanga, Bohol at nagtangkang mangidnap ng mga turista. Walo sa mga bandido ay napaslang sa serye ng pakikipag-engkuwentro sa security forces noong Abril 11 at Abril 28 kabilang ang lider ng grupo na si Muammar Askali alyas Abu Rahmi.

Samantalang kabilang naman sa mga napugutan ng ulo ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group sa balwarte ng mga ito sa lalawigan ng Sulu ay ang dalawang Canadian hostages na sina John Ridsdel at Robert Hall noong 2016 matapos na mabigong magbayad ng malaking halaga ng ransom.

Benham Rise tatanuran na ng PH Navy

Upang higit pang mapaigting ang pagbantay at pagpapatrulya sa Benham Rise, inihayag kahapon ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na pinaplano na ng pamahalaan na magtayo ng Naval Base sa Casiguran, Aurora.

Ang Casiguran ay kabilang sa venue ng

isinasagawang PH-US Balikatan Joint Military Exercises 2017 na nagsimula noong Mayo 8 at magtatapos sa darating na ika-19 ng buwang kasalukuyan.

Sa darating na Lunes magdaraos ang US at AFP forces ng "Civil Military Activities from the Sea" sa Casiguran. Ang

Estados Unidos ay halos 70 taon ng kaalyado ng pamahalaan ng Pilipinas.

Una nang nagpakita ng interes ang China sa Benham Rise matapos na ilang beses na mag-sagawa ng survey sa 1.3 kilometrong 'submerged shelf' sa pagitan ng karagatan ng Aurora at Isabela sa Northern Luzon.

Sinabi ni Lorenzana na nakatakda nilang tunguhin ang lugar upang malaman kung ano-ano ang mga kailangan para sa pagtatayo ng Naval Base sa nasabing teritoryo.

"Meron nang airstrip doon, piers na lang for ships ang kailangang gawin," gliit pa ng Kalihim. (Joy Cantos)

12

14 May 2017



Pahina. 4



Nararapat nang lipulin ang Abu Sayyaf!

Labis ang aking papuri sa mga sundalo at pulis na nakapatay sa mga miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf sa Bohol kamakailan. Sampu na ang napatay sa mga bandido at mayroon pang natitirang dalawang bandido. Ang isang nahuling Sayyaf na nagtangkang tumakas ay napatay din. Nararapat lamang ito sapagkat kung ikukulong ang mahuhuling Sayyaf, tatakas din ang mga ito at muling

mangingidnap. Sana ay mapatay pa ang natitirang Sayyaf sa Bohol.

Tama naman ang sabi ni President Digong na huwag nang bigyan nang pagkakataon na sumuko ang Sayyaf. Patayin na ang mga ito kapag nakita.

Nararapat lamang na huwag kaawaan ang Abu Sayyaf. Marami na silang pinugutan ng ulo at dapat lamang na mamatay din sila. Dapat din namang maparusahan nang mabigat ang babaing police colonel na sumapi sa Abu Sayyaf dahil sa pag-ibig sa isang bandido. Kakahiya ang police official na sa halip tulungan ang gobyerno na malipol ang Sayyaf ay tinutulungan pa ang mga ito.

Nararapat lamang na ubusin ang Sayyaf at huwag na silang tigilan pa. Hindi sila dapat bigyan nang pagkakataon. Maglaan ng pabuya sa makapagtuturo sa Sayyaf. Ito ang tamang paraan para mabilis silang madakma.

—EDUARDO MANAAN, Maceda St., Sampaloc, Manila

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

ONLINE NEWS

14 MAY 2017

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Troops seize Abu Sayyaf encampment in Basilan province

From the Mindanao Examiner (May 13): Troops seize Abu Sayyaf encampment in Basilan province

Government troops seized an Abu Sayyaf encampment on a remote hilltop in Sumisip town in the troubled province of Basilan where security forces continue to pursue the notorious militant group tied to the Islamic State, officials said Saturday.

Officials said soldiers also recovered homemade bomb components left behind by militants under Puruji Indama after engaging them in a firefight. Military aircrafts, officials said, provided close air support while ground troops pounded the area with artillery fire.

Captain Jo-ann Petinglay, a spokeswoman for the Western Mindanao Command, quoting reports from army commanders in Basilan, said as many as 20 militants were killed in the clashes since May 11, but the military could not provide proofs of the claims except for information allegedly provided by civilians and former militants who surrendered to them.

Petinglay, reading from the army reports, said troops discovered about a dozen makeshift tents at the encampment that could accommodate at least 40 militants.

Basilan, one of 5 provinces under the Muslim autonomous region, is a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf which has been fighting for the establishment of a caliphate in the country.

<http://mindanaoexaminer.com/troops-seize-abu-sayyaf-encampment-in-basilan-province/>

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.retireanalyst.blogspot.com

ARMM seeks help of Islamic scholars v. terrorism

From the Mindanao Examiner (May 13): ARMM seeks help of Islamic scholars v. terrorism

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have convened around 300 Ulama (Islamic scholars) from across the country for a three-day (12-14 May) summit that aims to explore the role of Muslim scholars and religious leaders in the fight against terrorism.

ARMM Governor Mujiv Hataman said terrorists use inappropriate interpretations of Islamic principles to strengthen their cause and encourage the commission of vicious acts. "We urge our Ulama that if we are on the right position, we should move to show what is right, and let's condemn what is wrong," he said.

The Philippines ranked 12th among the countries heavily affected by terrorism in the 2016 Global Terrorism Index of the Institute for Economics and Peace, and the presence of the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Maute group, the country's leading terrorist groups, in at least two of its provinces brings the ARMM at the forefront of the fight against terrorism in the country.

The three-day "Ulama Summit Against Terrorism" is an initial step of the ARMM government to enlist the support of Islamic scholars to combat terrorism. The national government considers terrorism as an urgent and critical national security threat.

Hataman said Muslim scholars can contribute to the advocacy against terrorism by educating people about the true teachings of Islam most especially on the principles of justice, compassion, peace and harmony.

Sheikh Abdulrahman "Abu Hurayra" Udasan, mufti of the Darul-Ifta Bangsamoro, said that "there should be a distinction between the normative teaching on Islam that is based on the glorious Qur'an and the cultural practices of the Muslims which may or may not be consistent with the normative teaching of Islam."

He emphasized that Islam means peace "and this can automatically counter terrorism and extremism, because peace in Islam is a key of association not isolation; it is a key of accommodation not marginalization."

Aside from the Ulama, the summit is also being attended by local and regional government officials, military and police officials, representatives from civil society organizations and the media.

<http://mindanaoexaminer.com/armm-seeks-help-of-islamic-scholars-v-terrorism/>

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

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Tagalog news: Walang presensya ng Abu Sayyaf sa Palawan, ayon sa WESCOM

From the Philippine Information Agency (May 13): Tagalog news: Walang presensya ng Abu Sayyaf sa Palawan, ayon sa WESCOM

Tiniyak ng Western Command (WESCOM) na wala pang nakapasok na miyembro ng bandidong Abu Sayyaf sa lalawigan ng Palawan at lungsod ng Puerto Princesa.

Sa ginanap na press conference kasabay ng inter-agency meeting na pinangunahan ng WESCOM kasunod ng ipinalabas na travel advisory ng embahada ng Estados Unidos noong Mayo 9, binigyang diin ni Lt. General Raul del Rosario, commander ng WESCOM na base sa kanilang pagbabantay na ginagawa, negatibo ang lalawigan sa presensya ng ASG.

"Base sa intelligence report, walang presence ng ASG sa Palawan", pahayag ni del Rosario.

Sa ipinalabas na abiso ng embahada ng Amerika, nagbabala ito sa kanilang mamamayan na nasa Palawan na mag-ingat sapagkat may banta ng terorismo sa lugar, kung saan partikular na binanggit ang Puerto Princesa Underground River (PPUR).

Magugunitang nagdeklara ng heightened alert status ang WESCOM kasunod ng nangyaring engkuwentro sa pagitan ng tropa ng gobyerno at grupong Abu Sayyaf sa Bohol, pero mas lalo pang hinigpitan ngayon ng pinag-samang lakas ng iba't ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan ang seguridad sa lalawigan dahil sa ipinalabas na babala.

Naniniwala ang pamahalaan sa ulat na posibleng makapasok ang ASG sa lalawigan, pero tiwala rin ang WESCOM na sapat ang kanilang maigting na pagababantay at pagpapatrolya sa mga posibleng daanan upang hindi magtagumpay ang bandidong grupo.

Dagdag pa ni WESCOM Commander del Rosario, may babala man o wala ang ibang bansa, nananatiling nakataas ang kanilang alerto dahil kinakailangan nilang protektahan ang mamamayan ng Palawan at ang industriya ng turismo dito na siyang pinagmumulan ng pag-angat ng ekonomiya ng lalawigan.

Siniguro rin ng mga awtoridad na hindi na mauulit ang insidente ng pangigingidnap noon ng ASG sa Dos Palmas Resort ilang taon na ang nakalilipas.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/3321494548127/tagalog-news-walang-presensya-ng-abu-sayyaf-sa-palawan-ayon-sa-wescom>

Posted by [Retired Analyst](#) at [6:48 AM](#) [No comments](#):

[Email This](#)[BlogThis!](#)[Share to Twitter](#)[Share to Facebook](#)[Share to Pinterest](#)

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

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Pangasinan police director says no NPA extortion in his area

From the Philippine News Agency (May 13): Pangasinan police director says no NPA extortion in his area

A Pangasinan police official has disclosed that extortionists -- and not the New People's Army (NPA) -- could be behind the threatening text messages received by some people and businesses in the province, which he insisted has long been insurgency-free.

Provincial police director, Senior Supt. Ronald Oliver Lee, said the unknown senders of these text messages could be claiming that they are NPA rebels demanding revolutionary taxes, but are no more than plain extortionists.

Lee said they have investigated most of the text messages referred by the recipients to them and they have found out that these were the works of extortionists out to make some fast money from their intended victims.

"These are not actually NPA rebels but just plain extortionists using the name of the NPA," said Lee in a talk to newsmen.

He cited that in one case they investigated, they traced the sender of the text message to Mindanao, too far away from Pangasinan where the recipient lives.

Lee thus called on the public not to panic and not to give in to the demands of the extortionists.

Instead, report the matter to the police so the culprits could be identified and arrested, he said, noting that the senders of these text messages would send couriers to collect the money from the victims or send a particular address where the money could be wired through a local remittance company.

Giving in to their demands would only lead to more demands, he said, stressing that this has to stop.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php/articles/987338>

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

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

ARMM dev't key to fight vs terrorism, says military official

From the Philippine News Agency (May 13): **ARMM dev't key to fight vs terrorism, says military official**

A ranking military official has recognized the important roles Muslim religious leaders play in preventing the spread of Islamic extremism and terrorism in Mindanao.

Western Mindanao Command chief, Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez, told Muslim clerics attending the "Ulama Summit Against Terrorism" that developing communities is one of the effective ways to contain extremism espoused by militants who use Islam as the basis for recruiting poor residents of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The three-day summit, which began Friday and will end Sunday, was organized by ARMM Regional Gov. Mujiv Hataman and ARMM Darul Ifta (House of Opinions).

"We are together employing different approaches towards that goal and one of the solutions we also saw fit is the continuing implementation by the ARMM government of infrastructure projects in areas where there are fanatical extremist groups," Galvez said.

He said socioeconomic developments, such as roads, seaports, and other facilities, improve poor communities and provide them sources of livelihood.

With improved communities, people will lose interest in extremism, he pointed out.

At the start of the summit, members of Muslim religious leaders and preachers expressed support for Malacañang's anti-terrorism drive.

Three major extremist groups are found in the ARMM's Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi provinces. These are the Abu Sayyaf Group, Maute Terrorist Group, and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), all of whom have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Hataman said the summit seeks the support of Muslim preachers from ARMM provinces and other regions in Mindanao in preventing the entry of jihadists and extremists in their communities.

These extremists use Islam as a jumping board in recruiting young Moros to join them and promote violence, he said.

Hataman has repeatedly said that Islam means peace and it does not, and will not, promote violence against any human being.

Present during the opening program on Friday were some 300 Moro clerics, youth organizations, police and military officials, as well as provincial and regional elected officials.

Security was tight inside and outside the 10-hectare ARMM compound with six platoons of soldiers and a company of police securing the delegates.

A summit on terrorism held in Talayan town in Maguindanao last month, apparently angered the extremists, who allegedly set off a roadside bomb at the summit's venue a day after the gathering of Muslim clerics.

Security officials have assured the ongoing event would be safe.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php/articles/987347>

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

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Military welcomes Muslim clerics' action against terrorism

From the Philippine News Agency (May 13): Military welcomes Muslim clerics' action against terrorism

A top military official here welcomed the move of the Muslim clerics, particularly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), for taking an active role in the fight against terrorism.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said there is a need for all the stakeholders to contain the spread of religious extremism and radicalism here in Mindanao.

"Security is a shared responsibility that needs sustainment of partnership between the different stakeholders, security sectors, the local government units, the academe, and religious sectors, and other stakeholders to defeat the threat of terrorism in Southern Philippines," Galvez said.

Galvez was one of the resource persons in the three-day Ulama Summit, which started on Friday in Cotabato City.

Around 300 Ulama and Ustads from all over the country attended the event which was conceptualize after Daesh groups were monitored recruiting in the different areas of Mindanao especially among the youth.

"There is a need to unite all our efforts to win the war against Islamic extremism and terrorism in our region. We must condemn all terror actions of international and local terrorist groups," Galvez said.

Alih Aiyub, secretary general of the Ulama Council of the Philippines, in a text message to the Philippines News Agency, said the Ulama should actively spread the correct teachings of Islam.

"When these terrorists are brave enough to do evil, we the Ulama are even braver to do good to prevent and counter corruption and terrorism in the land. This is our sacred duty as religious leaders," Aiyub said, referring to the threat of terrorist groups against Ulama.

A radical group which calls itself as "Dawla Islamiya" issued a threat prior to the start of the summit, threatening Ulama who would attend the event.

"To those who have Ulama relatives, warn your parents, brothers and children not to attend the summit because if something happens to them along the way or in the end, don't tell us you were not warned," the statement said.

Dawla Islamiya, roughly translates to "Islamic state," is believed to have pledged allegiance to ISIS.

The group claimed that ARMM Gov. Mujiv Hataman has been using the Ulama for his personal agenda, and that the summit would result to Ulama branding members of the radical group as terrorists.

In a separate statement, Hataman noted that terrorism and security-related problems in the region had been hampering economic growth, and the support of religious leaders were pivotal to community-based initiatives towards sustainable development and against terrorism in the region.

He said that the economies of ARMM could only post less than one percent growth last year while that of the neighboring areas posted four to six percent growth. "This is because security threats pose limits in the region's economic expansion," he added.

The Ulama Summit aims to chart a policy and action plan to overcome the issues of extremism and radicalism, Aiyub said.

The summit was initiated by the Office of the Regional Governor and the Regional Darul Ifta of the ARMM.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php/articles/987440>

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