

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

17 May 2017

Wednesday

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

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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MAY 17, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

EASTERLIES AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF MINDANAO (As of 5:00 PM - May 16, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE 5:28 AM	SUNSET 6:17 PM
MOONRISE 11:24 PM	MOONSET 10:22 AM
FULL MOON MAY 11 5:42 AM	LAST QUARTER MAY 19 8:33 AM
LOW TIDE 10:13 PM -0.01 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 1:09 PM 1.01 Meter

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

Cloudy bias with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	MAY 16	MAY 17	MAY 18	MAY 19	MAY 20	MAY 21
METRO MANILA	25-35°C	26-34°C	23-32°C	22-31°C	25-31°C	25-31°C
TUGUEGARAO	25-37°C	25-37°C	26-33°C	26-33°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
LAOAG	27-33°C	26-33°C	26-33°C	26-33°C	26-33°C	26-33°C
BAGUIO	17-25°C	17-25°C	26-33°C	26-33°C	24-33°C	25-33°C
SBMA/CLARK	26-36°C	26-37°C	26-32°C	26-32°C		

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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

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Rody expects China nod for sea code of conduct

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – For years an elusive target for nations with conflicting claims in the South China Sea, a code of conduct for managing the dispute is expected to be ready on May 19 when the China-led Bilateral Consultation Mechanism convenes for the first time, President Duterte said yesterday.

“There will be a code of conduct. I will not speculate on how or rather the dimension of the agreement. It has to be worked out. So I don’t want to speculate,” the President said upon his arrival at the Davao International Airport before dawn yesterday from China.

The President was in Cambodia and Hong Kong before his China visit.

The President stressed that both China and the Philippines are looking forward to a bilateral mechanism for settling the dispute over areas in the South China Sea.

The Philippines refers to the side of the disputed waters within its exclusive economic zone as West Philippine Sea.

Rody From Page 1

OFFICE OF THE

5295

the Philippines and China are Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan. China claims almost the entire South China Sea through which 40 percent of world trade passes.

Many of the disputed areas were uninhabitable land features on which the Chinese built fortresses with airstrips and bristling with sophisticated weapons system.

"We look forward to the bilateral meeting on the South China Sea. This is one step forward in peacefully managing disputes," the President said.

The President emphasized that the forging of deals with China amounting to billions of dollars under the latter's One Belt One Road development strategy would not influence – much less undermine – the Philippines' position in next week's bilateral talks on the South China Sea issue.

He said the government does not have to take extra measures to ensure the sovereignty of the country is not compromised.

"It is not really the safety measure that you are talking about. The safety measure is that when you avoid trouble, we avoid violence and we avoid war because frankly, we cannot afford it and China cannot afford it also at this time. *Masisira tayong dalawa* (We'll both lose)," the President further said.

While acknowledging there is indeed a dispute with China over territories, Duterte said he and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and President Xi Jinping had agreed there is a proper time to raise the July 2016 arbitral tribunal ruling on the issue.

The UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration based in The Hague invalidated China's massive claims in the South China Sea and reaffirmed the Philippines' maritime entitlements. Beijing, however, made it clear it would not comply with the ruling.

"There is a time for me to ask about the arbitral ruling but it is not now. We have to go into the mechanics of... We have to have an agenda, the structure of the meeting and... how to present the case to them first because

we agreed to talk, to have a dialogue," the President pointed out.

"Maybe at some future time these things will crop up. And you cannot avoid it because there is the arbitral ruling," he added.

"In the end it would always be legal. The arbitral ruling rendered by an organ of the United Nations will always be there," he said.

The previous Aquino administration filed a case against Beijing in 2013 with the arbitral tribunal in response to China's escalation of island building activities in the West Philippine Sea.

The filing of the case came a year after the Chinese took control of Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal off Zambales after a standoff with the Philippine Navy. Chinese maritime surveillance vessels arrived in the area to rescue Chinese poachers arrested by the Philippine Navy earlier.

The poachers were allowed to leave with their illegal cargo of endangered corals, giant clams and baby sharks.

Fair and balanced

Meanwhile, President Duterte said he still has to study the suggestion of former speaker Jose de Venecia that the Philippines conduct joint exploration of the West Philippine Sea with China and Vietnam, as he stressed any deal would have to be "fair and balanced."

De Venecia, recently named special envoy for intercultural dialogue, raised the idea at the Belt and Road Forum in China last Sunday.

He said the three countries should "discard occasional enmity and exaggerated pride" and consider conducting a three-way energy exploration in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea.

He expressed belief his suggestion, if adopted, could promote peace and development in the area.

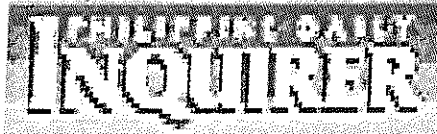
Duterte said De Venecia's proposal should be examined to ensure that the Philippines would not end up shortchanged.

"Let us see the wherewithals. *Tingnan muna kung 'di ba ako malugi* (Let's see if we will not be shortchanged)? It has to be fair and it has to be balanced," the President said. "So if we can get something there with no hassle at all, why not?"

A Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking signed by the Arroyo administration with China drew flak from various sectors, which saw the deal as tantamount to giving Beijing unbridled access to the Philippines' maritime territory.

- With Alexis Romero

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DU30 OPEN TO DEALS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

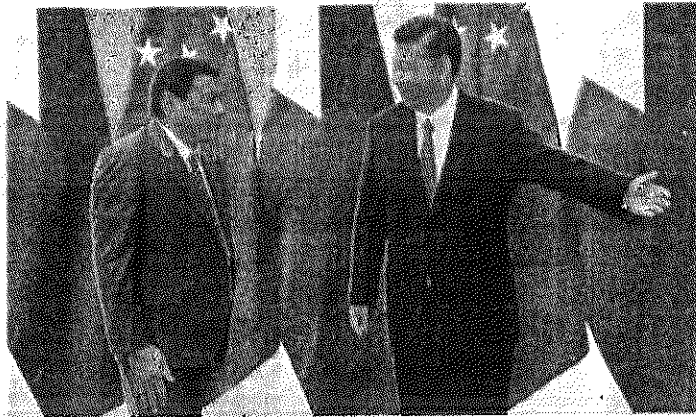
The President backs the proposal of special envoy Jose de Venecia Jr. for a joint exploration in disputed waters, which Foreign Secretary-designate Alan Peter Cayetano has dismissed

By Leila B. Salaverria
@Leilasino

President Duterte on Tuesday said that he was open to exploring the resources of the South China Sea with rival claimants China and Vietnam, contradicting Foreign Secretary-designate Alan Peter Cayetano, who said on Sunday that joint exploration was not a direction for the Philippines in the resolution of disputes in the strategic waterway.

Mr. Duterte also said he had no immediate plans to pressure China over an international tribunal's ruling last year that its claim to almost all of the South China Sea was baseless.

"If we can get something there with no hassle at all, why not?" Mr. Duterte said at a news briefing in Davao City after his arrival from Beijing, where he attended a new Silk Road conference with leaders and



President Duterte and China President Xi Jinping meet in Beijing.

representatives of 28 other countries.

Mr. Duterte was asked about a proposal for jointly exploring the waters of the Spratly Islands with China and Vietnam.

"Let us see the wherewithals. I

will check first if I won't be disadvantaged. It has to be fair and it has to be balanced," Mr. Duterte said.

The Philippines and China open talks on the resolution of their dispute in the South China Sea this week.

Ahead of the consultations, Philippine Special Envoy for Intercultural Dialogue Jose de Venecia Jr., speaking at the opening of the new Silk Road conference on Sunday, proposed a three-way energy exploration effort at the disputed Spratly Islands among the Philippines, Vietnam and China.

De Venecia, a former Speaker of the House of Representatives, said that such an effort would promote peace and economic development.

But Cayetano, speaking to reporters on Sunday night, dismissed De Venecia's remarks as his own view.

"If you look at the statements of former Speaker De Venecia when he was still Speaker, he is consistent with those kind of ideas," Cayetano said.

"But that doesn't mean that that's the direction of the government because we are bound

MALACANANG PHOTO

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by the Constitution and our own law," he said.

Asked whether he believed a joint exploration was unconstitutional, he replied, "I'm saying that is [former] Speaker De Venecia's proposal as of now."

Competing claims

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, including waters close to the shores of smaller neighbors in the region.

The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam, as well as Taiwan, have competing claims in the waterway, through which \$5 trillion in shipborne trade passes every year and where islets, reefs and atolls are believed to be sitting atop vast energy reserves.

Mr. Duterte did not mention the other claimants in his talk with reporters on Tuesday.

territory in the South China Sea have for decades made it one of Asia's potential military flash points.

Last year, in a ruling on a challenge brought by the Philippines, the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague said China's claim to almost all of the South China Sea had no basis in international law and declared Beijing had violated Manila's right to fish and explore resources in the West Philippine Sea, waters in the South China Sea within the Philippines' 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone.

Mr. Duterte, who took office last year, refused to pressure China in diplomatic circles and instead sought to repair bilateral relations.

He said his decision had earned the Philippines billions of dollars in Chinese investments and aid.

Mr. Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping held bilat-

the new Silk Road conference, during which they resolved to strengthen their countries' friendship.

Mr. Duterte said he told Xi and Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang that he would not raise the tribunal's ruling.

"We decided that there is a time for me to ask about the ruling but it is not now," Mr. Duterte said at his news conference on Tuesday.

He said both he and Xi were looking forward to their official meeting later this week for inaugural bilateral talks on the South China Sea as a step toward peacefully managing their territorial dispute. —WITH

REPORTS FROM ROY STEPHEN C. CANIVEL, AFP AND AP INQ



WATCH VIDEO: Duterte open to South China Sea deals

<http://inq.news/SouthChinaSeaDeals>

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POLICE FILES

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Kampo ng militar sa Maguindanao grinanada

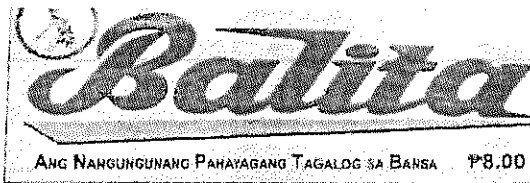
COTABATO CITY – Grupo umano ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BFFF) ang itinurong suspek sa pangbahagis ng granada sa detachment ng 57th Infantry Battalion Philippine Army dakong 10:00 kamakalawa ng gabi sa Barangay Labo-labo, Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao.

Agad namang tumakas ang mga suspek lulan sa isang motorsiklo patungo sa liblib na lugar sa bayan ng Shariff Aguak.

Walang nasugatan sa pagsabog ngunit nagdulot ito ng takot sa mga sibilyan na naninirahan malapit sa kampo ng mga sundalo.

Sa ngayon nasa heightened alert ang militar at pulisya sa sunud-sunod na pambobomba at pananatatakay ng BFFF sa Maguindanao.

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Page. 5

2 CAFGU dawit sa rape-slay

Pinipigil ngayon ng Philippine Army ang dalawang kasapi ng Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) na umano'y gumahasa at pumatay sa isang 21-anyos na babae sa Castilla, Sorsogon.

Ayon kay Col. Fernando Trinidad, commanding officer ng 903rd Infantry Brigade, nasa kustodiya na ng Army ang dalawang kilalang miyembro ng CAFGU na isinasangkot sa panghahalay at pagpatay kay Diana Rose Aviso.

Ayon sa Castilla Municipal Police, pansamantalang hindi pinangalanan ang dalawang suspek dahil hindi pa nakapaglalabas ng arrest warrant ang pulisya laban sa mga ito.

Hindi pa maaaring dakpin at ikulong ang dalawang nasa ilalim ng Alpha Company ng 22nd Infantry Battalion dahil sa kawalan ng testigo laban sa kanila, at sa gitna na rin ng marin nilang pagtanggì sa krimen.

Fer Taboy

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The Manila Times

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11 ARRESTED IN MAUTE LAIR'S RAID

ELEVEN members of the Maute group were arrested when Joint Task Force Central soldiers and Lanao del Sur police operatives raided the terrorists' safe houses in Marogong town. Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, Western Mindanao Command spokesman, said policemen and soldiers also seized assorted weapons, including a machine gun and an anti-tank rocket from the hideout in the village of Romagondong in Marogong. Major General Arnel dela Vega, 6th Infantry Division commander, identified the arrested as Abdullah Daos, Nasif Esmael, Gutingon Alah, Fayro Mamanoc, Ekmad Esmail, Alvin Adam, Monib Gutumongan, Ibrahim Caronan, Cayrodin Ditarongan, Camsi Lao and Gaso Mazo Badua. Initial investigations showed the group was planning to launch fresh attacks. He said the raiders seized a 60mm mortar, M60 machine gun, a Barrette sniper rifle, B40 rocket-propelled grenade, an M14 rifle, M16 rifle, a Garand rifle and a Carbine rifle. **JULMUNIRI JANNARAL AND AL JACINTO**

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AFP on Abu incident in Bohol: Mission accomplished!

By MARS W. MOSQUEDA JR.

CEBU CITY - The Central Command (Centcom) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has officially announced that the province of Bohol is now free from the threats of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) following the deaths of the last two remaining bandits on Monday.

"I have been asked to brief you about what happened in Bohol. To begin with, let me say, mission accomplished!" said Col. Medel Aguilar, assistant chief of the unified staff for civil military operations during the 888 News Forum at the Marco Polo Plaza

Hotel Tuesday.

All of the 11 members of the ASG who landed in Bohol early in April are all dead, which means Bohol and the rest of Central Visayas is now ASG-free, Aguilar added.

Aguilar was questioned about the possible failure of intelligence on the side of the AFP considering that the last two remaining bandits were able to travel from Inabanga town to an island in the town of Calape despite what was claimed as tight security in the province.

"There was no failure of intelligence. Probably we lacked capabilities but as far as the efforts of our intelligence community are

concerned, the Central Command was satisfied," he said.

Some of the troops deployed in Bohol have already pulled out from the province following the encounter last Monday that killed Abu Ubayda and Abu Asis, believed to be the last two of the 11 ASG members who arrived in Bohol in April. The two were killed in Pangangan Island in Calape town.

Pangangan is an island five kilo-

meters away from the mainland of Calape. It only has eight barangays with about 4,000 residents.

Ubayda was killed midday Monday during an encounter in the woods in Barangay Kahayag. He was not identified immediately as bullets wrecked his face but authorities recovered an M-16 rifle from him.

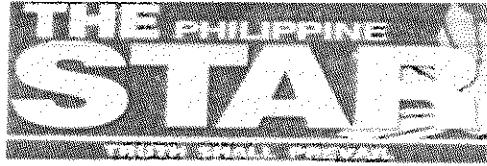
Five hours later, Asis, who escaped using a motorcycle he alleg-

edly stole, was killed during a hot pursuit in Purok Pasayan in Barangay San Isidro.

The two ASG bandits were immediately buried in Bohol according to Muslim rites.

In a joint statement, Chief Supt. Noli G. Taliño, Police Regional Office 7 Director, and Lt. Gen. Oscar T. Lactao, Centcom commander, said Bohol is now considered cleared of ASG elements.

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'Bohol now Sayyaf-free'

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

All Abu Sayyaf bandits who entered Bohol last month have been neutralized, according to the military.

Following the death of an alias Asis in a military offensive in Barangay Kahayag on Panggagan island at around 12:30 p.m. on Monday, his cohort died in pursuit operations in Calape town.

Government operatives finished off an alias Ubayda, who was wounded in the gunfight that killed Asis, in Sitio San Vicente, Barangay Lawis, at around 5:30 p.m. also on Monday. A caliber .45 pistol as well

as ammunition were recovered from the fatality.

"I am happy to report that the remaining Abu Sayyaf members were accounted for *Patay sila lahat* (They are all dead)," President Duterte said upon his arrival at the Davao International Airport before dawn yesterday from his trips to Cambodia, Hong Kong and China.

Duterte said the fate of the bandits should serve as a les-

son "to everybody who is interested to hear government."

The President earlier ordered security forces to produce the bandits who entered Bohol "dead or alive."

Lt. Gen. Oscar Lactao, Central Visayas Command chief and Balikatan director, said the reward offered by the President for the arrest of the bandits was a key factor in the success of the military operations. The President offered a reward of P1 million for each bandit.

"After one month and four days, Bohol is now Abu Sayyaf-free," Lactao said.

The bandits arrived on three boats in the province last month. Five, including sub-leader Muamar Askali, alias Abu Rami – who was reportedly involved in the beheading of two Canadians and a German hostage – were killed in a military offensive in Inabanga town on April 11. Four others were later killed in Clarin.

More than a week ago, Saad Samad Kiram, alias Abu Saad, was killed by his police escorts while allegedly trying to escape after his arrest in Barangay New Lourdes, Cortes. – **With Jaime Laude, Edith Regalado**

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**'Bohol now
Sayyaf-free'**

(Story on Page-14)

Photo taken on May 15 shows soldiers standing next to the body of one of the two Abu Sayyaf bandits killed in an encounter with troops in Calape, Bohol.

AFP

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Last of the Abus Policemen (left) escort funeral parlor employees carrying the body of the second of two Abu Sayyaf militants killed in an encounter with troops in Calape town, Bohol province. The two Islamic militants were believed to be the last holdouts after a failed kidnapping attempt on a resort island last month.

AFP

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Año takes over DILG next month

Armed Forces chief of staff Eduardo Año is set to assume as secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) next month

Año told **The STAR** yesterday he would leave the military earlier than his mandatory retirement in October because of his appointment

President Duterte announced the appointment of Año as DILG chief on May 10 before leaving for Cambodia

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Año From Page 1

to attend the World Economic Forum on ASEAN.

Año replaces Ismael Sueno, who was fired last month on allegations of corruption.

Catalino Cuy is the current DILG officer-in-charge.

Año said he is ready to lead the DILG and address the various concerns of local government officials as well as that of the Philippine National Police.

"I have dealt with the Abu Sayyaf, the New People's Army rebels and other groups who are harder to deal with. I can and I am ready to deal with the local government officials," he told **The STAR**.

The President announced his pick for the DILG amid speculations that former senator and defeated vice presidential candidate Ferdinand Marcos Jr. would get the post after the year-long ban on the appointment of those who ran but lost in the last elections.

Meanwhile, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano is expected to breeze through his confirmation hearing at the Commission on Appointments (CA) as foreign affairs secretary.

Cayetano will face the CA today a week after Duterte announced his appointment also on May 10.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who heads the CA's committee on foreign affairs, has aired his full support

for Cayetano's appointment and said he was willing to waive all the documentary requirements for the incoming Cabinet member as provided by the CA's internal rules.

Lacson added he would also ask his colleagues to allow Cayetano to be confirmed by acclamation – meaning he would no longer be subjected to nominal voting as what is normally done in the CA.

Cayetano was Duterte's runningmate in last year's general elections.

Apart from stints in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, Cayetano was also a member of the CA prior to his appointment as foreign affairs secretary.

The appointment of Cayetano to the post did not come as a surprise as he has been groomed to take over the agency since the President assumed office.

Cayetano has spent a significant amount of time accompanying the President on his official functions, both here and overseas.

One of his most recent assignments was to head the Philippine delegation for the United Nations Human Rights Council's review of the Philippines in Geneva, Switzerland to defend the country's human rights record amid reports of extrajudicial killings in connection with the drug war.

Cayetano's appointment would

have come earlier had it not been for the one year ban provided by law for candidates in an election.

Once confirmed, Cayetano would have to resign as senator, leaving his seat vacant until the next elections in 2019.

The previous foreign affairs chief – Perfecto Yasay Jr. – was rejected by the CA last March due to questions about his citizenship.

Members of the CA reprimanded Yasay for lying about his American citizenship during his confirmation hearings.

Lacson said he had clarified with Cayetano the issue of citizenship that might be raised against him as Yasay's successor. Cayetano, whose mother is German-American, said he renounced his US citizenship in 1998.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said it had been a tradition not to give a former member of Congress a hard time at the CA.

Cayetano, who has been frequently absent at the Senate, attended session for the last time yesterday and said he was emotional about assuming his new post.

"I'm feeling very sentimental because my life's work was legislation for 25 years," Cayetano told reporters. – Edith Regalado, Marvin Sy, Paolo Romero

17 May 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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No peace pact unless NPA stops attacks: Duterte

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said he would not sign any peace agreement with the communist group unless its armed wing, the New People's Army, stops its attacks on government forces.

The Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA-National Democratic

Front of the Philippines is holding peace negotiations with government. Duterte suspended the talks in February because of the NPA's attacks on military and police forces despite ceasefires declared by both sides. Formal negotiations resumed in April after backchannel talks. The fourth round of talks held last month resulted in the

signing of an interim joint ceasefire that will take effect after the negotiators approve its guidelines.

A fifth round is set for May 27 to June 1 in Noordwijk, the Netherlands.

"As long as they are killing government security forces, I will not sign anything. I have to protect my soldiers," Duterte said in a in a press conference after arriving

from an official visit to China.

He reiterated his call on CPP founding chairman and NDF chief political consultant Jose Mari Sison to return to the country, along with his offer to shoulder his hospital expenses.

Sison has been on self-exile in the

See NO PEACE > Page B6

NO PEACE

Netherlands since 1986.

"My offer to Sison stands. He can come here in peace. I will guarantee safety and I will even underwrite his hospitalization. I will not have him

arrested. He is sick... We do not fight people who are helpless, not healthy anymore," Duterte said.

Norwegian Ambassador Erik Ferner, in a statement, said the Philippine government and the NDFP are determined to continue the peace process.

"There have been several meetings between the parties here in Manila during the past weeks, and we hope it will be possible to take the process even further when the parties meet again for another formal round of talks," he said.

Norway has been facilitator of the peace negotiations between the Philippines and the communist group since 2001.

Under the Duterte administration, the formal talks started in August 2016.

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'No peace if NPA keeps attacking gov't forces'

By EDITH REGALADO
and ALEXIS ROMERO

DAVAO CITY – There will be no peace deal with the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front (CPP-NDF) if its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), continues to kill government troops, President Duterte has said.

"For as long as they are killing government security forces I will not sign anything. There is nothing I can do about it. I have to protect my soldiers. I am the commander-in-chief," Duterte said upon arrival at the Davao International Airport early yesterday morning.

The government and the CPP-NDF peace panels have yet to resume talks.

"*Ayusin mo. Matagal na chi* (Fix it. It's taking too long)," the President told chief peace negotiator and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III.

Duterte said his offer to CPP founder Jose Maria Sison remains and he guarantees the communist leader's safety should he decide to come home.

"So my offer to Sison stands. He can come here in peace. I will guarantee safety and I will even underwrite his hospitalization. I will not arrest him," the President said.

Duterte said Sison is sick and that instead of arresting him, he would arrange for his medical treatment.

It's not right to pick a fight with people who are sick and helpless like Sison, he added.

Martial law in parts?

President Duterte needs time to ponder whether to declare martial law in certain parts of, if not the entire, Mindanao due to security problems brought by the Abu Sayyaf bandits and other rebel groups.

"Declaring martial law is something that has to be pondered on deeply," Duterte said, as he stressed that the extraordinary powers of the state should not be treated casually.

A group that calls itself the Save Sulu Movement has asked the President to place six Sulu towns under martial law,

Army Vision: B

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

citing the alleged ties between some politicians and the Abu Sayyaf.

The group said martial law should be declared in the municipalities of Patikul, Indanan, Parang, Maimbung, Talipao and Kalingalan Caluang, which it described as "craters of terrorism."

"I need time to ponder on it deeply and it is not only a political decision, it is an emotional decision," Duterte said.

"You do not tinker with the extraordinary powers of the state," he added.

Duterte recalled that he had issued a warning against the terrorists, who were bombing schools two months ago.

"I warned them not to force me to declare martial law because if I do, I will solve not only the rebellion, but everything that ails Mindanao including problems on land boundaries," the President said.

"I would not just tinker with it as if it's a plaything. It's a very serious matter. But if I declare martial law, there is no way of telling how long would it take us to restore order or we might not really be able to succeed," he added.

Last Saturday, Duterte floated the idea of declaring martial law as he chided the courts for supposedly delaying state projects through temporary restraining orders.

"Gusto niyo ng...kung ayaw mo ng ganun, martial law, maganda nga mag-martial law (You want...if you don't want that, martial law. It's good to have martial law)," he said during a meeting with the Filipino community in Hong Kong.

He later clarified that he would not make such declaration because he is not that happy to be president.

Meanwhile, the President said he is not hurrying the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in coming up with an enabling law on the Bangsamoro, which the Bangsamoro Transition Commission is set to craft.

"I have been waiting for them, I'm ready. Nur Misuari is taking his time. I am not hurrying him up. The MI probably would be ready for talks," he said, referring to the MILF.

of national pride

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Three killed in ambush in Sulu

THREE civilians were killed while another was wounded in an ambush staged by a group of armed men in Panamao town in Sulu.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the AFP's Joint Task Force Sulu, ruled out the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf in the incident, saying initial investigation indicates the incident was caused by rido or clan war.

Sobejana said the victims were in

a convoy of eight jeeps and several motorcycles when they were waylaid by an undetermined number of armed men last Saturday in Sitio Jatin, Barangay Kandayok.

Sobejana said the victims were on their way to a wedding in Panglima Estino town.

Sobejana declined to elaborate on the rido angle, saying police is conducting further investigation.

– *Victor Reyes*

17 May 2017

BusinessMirror

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'APPOINTMENT OF FORMER MILITARY MEN NECESSARY FOR POLITICAL STABILITY'

WHEN President Duterte appointed two former military officials to his Cabinet last week, some quarters—especially left-leaning groups—were quick to brand the Chief Executive a “fascist.” However, this purported militarization of the Cabinet is necessary if the administration wants to maintain its stability, an expert said.

“It’s called political insurance,” political analyst Ramon C. Casiple of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reform said. “The

administration is [simply] consolidating power due to what it perceives as destabilization from its opposition.”

Destabilization had been the word of mouth of Malacañang’s attack dogs in the past two months, in response to the impeachment complaint filed by Party-list Rep. Gary C. Alejano of Magdalo against Duterte that was trashed by the House of Representatives on Monday.

“The opposition comes partly

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CONTINUED FROM A1

from former military men," Casiple told the BUSINESSMIRROR, referring to Alejano and Sen Antonio F. Trillanes IV, staunch critics of Duterte and failed mutineers. With this, it is important for Duterte to tap on military men also to secure the support of the Armed Forces. "It's not militarization or the military making a move to capture power," Casiple stressed.

Last week Duterte appointed military men Roy A. Cimatu to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Eduardo M. Año to take over the Department of the Interior and Local Government. Cimatu replaced rejected Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez, while Año filled in the post left vacant by dismissed DILG

chief Ismael D. Sueno. Cimatu and Año are among the several military men in Duterte's "junta", a description the Chief Executive jokingly labeled his Cabinet last week.

Other military men in Duterte's Cabinet are Defense Secretary Delfin S. Lorenzana, Immigration Commissioner Jaime H. Morente, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Chief Isidro S. Lapeña and National Security Adviser Hermogenes C. Esperon Jr. This was condemned by groups, mostly left leaning, saying the appointments of Cimatu and Año are but proof of Duterte's "fascist" tendencies.

In a text message to the BUSINESSMIRROR, public-governance expert Maria Fe Villamejor-Mendoza of the University of the Philippines said Duterte's recent appointments are "opening the portal toward a possible dictatorship".

"He wants to be 'armed' with military men who would form part of his junta," Villamejor-Mendoza feared. In a statement, the Communist Party of the Philippines criticized Duterte's joke about forming a junta now that he had at least 10 military men in key positions of the government. "Indeed, the military clique is now among the biggest inside the administration," the statement read.

The rebel group also feared that peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front will be affected given the automatic bias of military men against communists.

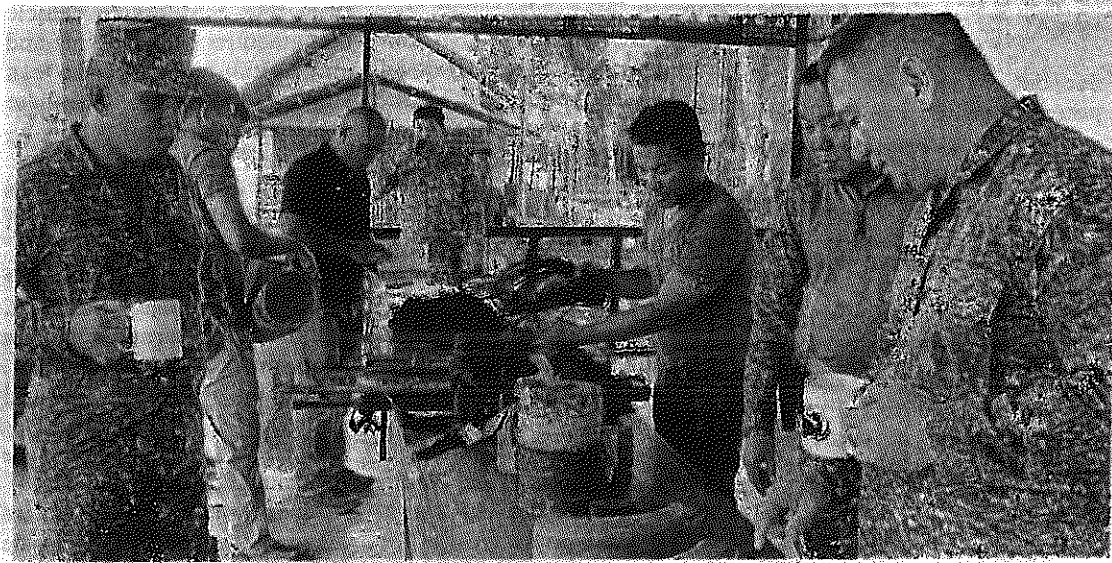
"Lorenzana has gone to the extent of openly standing against the Duterte's regime policy of peace talks. He has issued statements and threats against peace negotiators," the statement added.

Elijah Felice E. Rosales

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**Standard
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Duterte eyes martial law in Mindanao

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday said he will carefully study the possibility of declaring martial law in Mindanao, specifically in restive Sulu province.

This was after the Save Sulu Movement urged the President to declare martial law in six of 19 municipalities of Sulu, in a bid to suppress the lawless acts of Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"I need time to ponder on it deeply and it is not only a political decision, it is an emotional decision. You do not tinker with the powers of the state," Duterte told reporters during a news conference upon his arrival in Davao City early Tuesday morning.

"I would not just tinker with it as if it's a plaything. It's a very serious matter," the President added.

The Save Sulu Movement earlier pointed out that the bandit group continues to sow terror despite the President's declaration of a state of lawlessness in

the province

The six Sulu towns allegedly serving as Abu Sayyaf sanctuaries are Patikul, Indanan, Parang, Maimbung, Talipao, and Kalingalan Caluang.

In March, Duterte warned that he might be forced to implement one-man rule in Mindanao, if peace and order worsens in the beleaguered region.

"Do not force my hand to declare martial law because if I do, I will solve not only rebellion, I will solve everything that ails Mindanao," the President said.

"*Kung ako ang magma* martial law [If I declare martial law], there is no way of telling how long would it take us to restore order or we might not really be able to succeed," he added.

The Abu Sayyaf, established with seed money from Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network, have been kidnapping foreigners and locals for decades and holding them for ransom. They are believed to still hold at least 19 foreigners and six Filipino hostages.

Blamed for the nation's worst terrorist attacks, the Abu Sayyaf has used the support of local communities, millions of dollars in ransom and collusion with corrupt local officials to defy decades of military operations.

Last May 10, Save Sulu Move-

ment spokesman Octavio Dinampo told a Davao City forum that Congress should investigate local officials in cahoots with the Abu Sayyaf.

He accused local officials of coddling the terror and kidnapping group and of getting the lion's share of ransom money paid by victims' families.

In a statement on May 8, the group branded the earlier pronouncements of President Duterte and Armed Forces Chief Eduardo Año that they would crush the Abu Sayyaf as "only good for media sound bites."

"The ground unfolds a totally different story of kidnapping becoming a cottage industry with local officials acting as promoters, brokers and protectors," it said.

"On behalf of the Save Sulu Movement, we call on the Senate to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the palpable connivance between the local officials and the [Abu Sayyaf]. We also recommend to Congress to criminalize the giving and payment ransom and the receipt of ransom in the guise of negotiation. It is sickening to keep on hearing the no-ransom policy when everyone knows too well that ransom is actually being paid and brokered by the local government officials thus perpetuating the business of [the Abu Sayyaf]."

WITH AFP

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Duterte says he needs time to study call for martial rule in Sulu

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said he needs time to study a call of Sulu residents to declare martial law in parts of the province to end the Abu Sayyaf problem

“I need time to ponder on it deeply and it is not only a political decision... I would not just tinker with it as if it’s a plaything. It’s a very serious matter. But if I declare

martial law, there is no way of telling how long it would take us to restore order or we might not really be able to succeed,” he said in a press conference after arriving from China.

The group calling itself the Save Sulu Movement last week called for placing six of the 19 towns in Sulu under martial law. These are Patikul, Indanan, Parang, Maimbung, Talipao, and Kalingalan Caluang towns.

It said the Abu Sayyaf continues with its kidnap-for-ransom and beheading activities even after the President placed the province under a state of lawlessness last year.

The military targets to defeat the Abu Sayyaf by June. The group operates mainly in Sulu and Basilan.

Duterte recalled he has warned terrorist groups not to force him to declare martial law, because once he does, he would ensure that all

problems in the area, including mere land disputes among family members, would be solved effectively, regardless of who would be affected.

“But just the same I’m warning everybody that if I declare martial law, there is no telling how long it would be and for what purpose. I’m telling you now, that I will not only decide to end rebellion, I will solve everything I said that’s sick in Mindanao,” he said.

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NO WAR GAME

Filipino soldiers alight from a landing craft utility during exercises in Casiguran, Aurora province that focused on humanitarian and disaster response.

PHOTO BY ROGER RANADA



US general impressed with Balikatan exercises

THE head of the United States Joint Task Force praised the level of professionalism and discipline shown by Filipino and American soldiers participating in this year's Balikatan (shoulder-to-shoulder) exercises in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

Brig. Gen. John Jansen said the level of training "was inspiring." "I was just at Fort Magsaysay a couple of days ago and there's

some really good training going on with Gen. De Leon's 7th Division soldiers and some US soldiers of the First Striker Brigade Second Division led by Col. Dan Folly and his Aviation Brigade Commander, Lt. Col. Andy Grant," said Jansen. He was referring to Gen. Angelito de Leon, commander of the 7th Infantry Division.

The exercises involved US and

Filipino soldiers "defending" a small town under terrorist attack.

The exercises that started last week focus on humanitarian assistance, disaster response and counter-terrorism operations.

Jansen said the participants showed impressive "soldiering skills."

"The level of professionalism and discipline out there, with the Armed Forces of the Philippines,

the Philippine Army soldiers out there, it was a very impressive report... it was very well organized. You can see the young men and women out there connecting and the exchange in information, ideas... (it was) very good training," Jansen said.

The Balikatan exercises will end on Friday.

DEMPSEY REYES

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US, Phl troops in evacuation, counterterror drills

By JAIME LAUDE

CALAYAN, Cagayan – More than 200 Filipino and US Army soldiers yesterday conducted casualty evacuation drills in this typhoon-prone island town as part of this year's Balikatan exercises.

A US Chinook and two Blackhawk helicopters transported the troops to this island.

The scenarios in the drill prepared by military planners are in line with the theme of this year's Balikatan, which is Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR).

"This is a different scenario. All our activities this year are purely HADR and counterterrorism. This is different from the territorial defense scenario that we have jointly conducted in last year's Balikatan exercises," said Lt. Gen. Oscar Lactao, Central Command commander and Philippine Balikatan director.

Lactao said Filipino and US military planners picked Calayan as one of the major areas for HADR exercises because it is frequently battered by strong typhoons. Residents and local leadership rely on their own resources to survive while waiting for assistance from the national government.

Calayan island is home to 18,000 residents in 12 barangays. It is located between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. It is also near Balintang Channel, a key naval and commercial sea lane during both peacetime and war.

"This is the northern part of mainland Luzon. We need to be here just like what we did in Batanes, Maconacon in Isabela and in Casiguran, Aurora," Lactao added.

Fort Magsaysay and a Navy facility in Ternate, Cavite are being utilized for the joint military drills.

– With Michael Punongbayan

17 May 2017



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BALIKATAN'S NEW FOCUS

Balikatan (shoulder-to-shoulder), the annual military exercises jointly held by the United States and the Philippines, opened in Quezon City on May 8, but on a smaller scale, amid the government's declared pivot to China and Russia. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana led the opening ceremonies of the 33rd Philippine-US Balikatan military exercises at Camp Aguinaldo.

Running up to May 19, this year's Balikatan is a scaled-down version—involving 5,500 soldiers (from almost 10,000 last year), to include as well 80 from Australia and 20 from Japan, as well as observers from Southeast Asian countries. On the other hand, Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, the exercise co-director for the United States, said American soldiers are not disap-

pointed with the scaled-down exercises.

Definitely, the reason for the scale-down was ordered by President Duterte, who was angered by US criticism of his war on drugs. The President may be charting an independent foreign policy that presupposes that this is the last year Balikatan is held.

This year's Balikatan will focus on humanitarian aid, disaster response and counterterrorism, unlike last year's, which emphasized on territorial defense and highlighted fire drills based on invasion scenarios. Thus, its peculiarity does not make it any less workable and effective.

But it's a good thing that this year's Balikatan has a new focus. The refocus is in line with President Duterte's rebalance of the country's "re-

calibrated" foreign policy, which veered away from the United States in favor of China and Russia.

Meanwhile, we can also assume that the defense cooperation between the Philippines and the United States is a longstanding arrangement not aimed at any particular country (e.g., China or North Korea) or group of countries.

Aside from the 80 soldiers from Australia and the 20 from Japan, 2,800 Filipino soldiers and 2,600 American troops are in this year's exercises. In this case, we can see another alliance of quadrilateral defense security framework. This was forecasted as early as 2013, and now things are unfolding.

CARIDADE ULLEGUE,
caridad_uoutlook.com

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Marines push Reds deeper into Sultan Kudarat jungle

COTABATO CITY – Marine troopers clashed with Communist rebels in a remote barangay in Sultan Kudarat late Monday afternoon, which eventually sent the insurgents retreating into the mountains of Kalamansig town.

The 15-minute encounter also resulted in the recovery of two high-powered rifles left by New People's Army (NPA) rebels who fled deeper into the mountains of Kalamansig and Sen. Ninoy Aquino towns, both in Sultan Kudarat.

Brig Gen Melquiades Ordiales, commander of First Marine Brigade, said the communist rebels in Barangay Sangay were part of the NPA guerillas that the Marines clashed with on Friday last week in Barangay Hinalaan, also in Kalamansig town.

Ordiales said residents of Barangay Sangay reported the presence of heavily armed men in their village to village officials, who, in turn, raised the matter with officials of Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT-6).

Troops also recovered spent shells, a bandolier and other military paraphernalia.

He said relief goods and other emergency items were set to be distributed Tuesday by the local government of Kalamansig to some 100 families displaced by the skirmishes.

The Marines, according to Ordiales, will sustain its effort to look into the concerns of the affected Indigenous Peoples in the conflict areas.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr., commanding general of the Army's Northeastern and North-

ern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4thID) urged the local business community to unite and help the government put an end to the forced taxation and terroristic activities being waged by the NPA.

The 4th ID chief, who is at the helm of the largest AFP maneuvering division in Mindanao, said the remaining "NPAs have now resorted to banditry and the business community must be wary of the communist rebels, whose actions clearly destabilize the peace program of the government."

He urged the business community to immediately report to the nearest station, patrol base or the AFP headquarters any terroristic plan of the NPA so government security forces can immediately respond. (Mike U. Crismundo)

17 May 2017



Pahina. 3

Naval Base para sa Benham Rise

Kinokonsidera ng Northern Luzon Command na magtayo ng Naval Operating Base sa Casiguran, Aurora upang mas mabantayan ang Benham Rise na kilala na bilang Philippine Rise.

Pero paliwanag ni Nocom Commander, Lt Gen Romeo Tanalgo, nasa plano na ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang pagtatayo ng Naval Operating Bases sa Eastern Seaboard ng bansa bago pa man lumabas ang isyu sa Benham Rise.

Sinabi ni Tanalgo na ang plano ay nakalinya na, at kasalukuyan nilang kinokonsidera ang mga lugar sa Pacific Coast ng Pilipinas na angkop na pagtayan ng isang Naval Base at kabilang dito ang Casiguran.

Isinagawa sa karagatan ng Casiguran ang joint exercises ng AFP at US military bilang bahagi ng Balikatan 2017. (Betchai Julian)

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HELD FOR 2 DAYS

REBS FREE AGUSAN MINE OWNER

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR—Communist rebels on Monday afternoon freed a small-scale gold mining operator after holding him for two days.

In a telephone interview, Ka Amihan, spokesperson for the New People's Army (NPA) Front 14, said there was insufficient evidence to pin down Carson Cesar Lademora on counterinsurgency charges, prompting rebels to release him without the aid of third party facilitators.

The rebels held Lademora and his aide Leonardo Cacao captive on Saturday after they raided Lademora's mining tunnels in Rosario town, Agusan del Sur province.

NPA rebels released Lademora to Rosario Mayor Jose Cuyos Sr., his wife Vice Mayor Juvy Cuyos and Councilor Belarmino Balagot in an undisclosed area in neighboring Tagbina town in Surigao del Sur

province on Monday.

"He is okay now and is back to work," said Lademora's wife, Eufemia.

Lademora operates small-scale tunnels in the high-grade gold rush area in Sinugang in the village of Bayugan 3, which his family has been claiming since the early 1980s.

Amihan denied that ransom money was involved in Lademora's release.

She said the NPA took Lademora and investigated him due to atrocities committed by his father, former Philippine Constabulary Col. Carlos Lademora, leader of the dreaded "Lost Command," to poor people living in the mining areas.

"[But the younger Lademora] did not have that kind of record, so we did not consider him a POW (prisoner of war)," Amihan said. —CHRIS V. PANGANIBAN INQ

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Air Force choppers reactivated

THE Philippine Air Force has lifted its order grounding its UH-1D combat utility helicopter in the wake of a crash of a similar aircraft during a training flight in Tanay, Rizal last May 4 that led to the death of a pilot and a crew member.

Eight UH-1D helicopters are now back to operational status after Air Force inspectors established that there was nothing wrong with the aircraft, according to Air Force spokesman Col. Antonio Francisco.

“They lifted (the grounding order), considering that they did not see any discrepancy during the inspection while grounded...They are air worthy,” Francisco said, adding the Air Force grounded the aircraft as part of standard operating procedure.

Francisco said there are three other UH-1D helicopters in the inventory of the Air Force. The three were sidelined even before the crash because they are scheduled for maintenance.

The Tanay crash resulted in the death of Capt. Christian Paul Litan and crew member S/Sgt. Byron Tolosa. Co-pilot 1Lt. Cesar Rimas and crew member AIC Joseph De Leon were injured.

Francisco said probers are still determining what caused the crash. – *Victor Reyes*

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PAF: 8 UH-1D choppers 'air worthy'

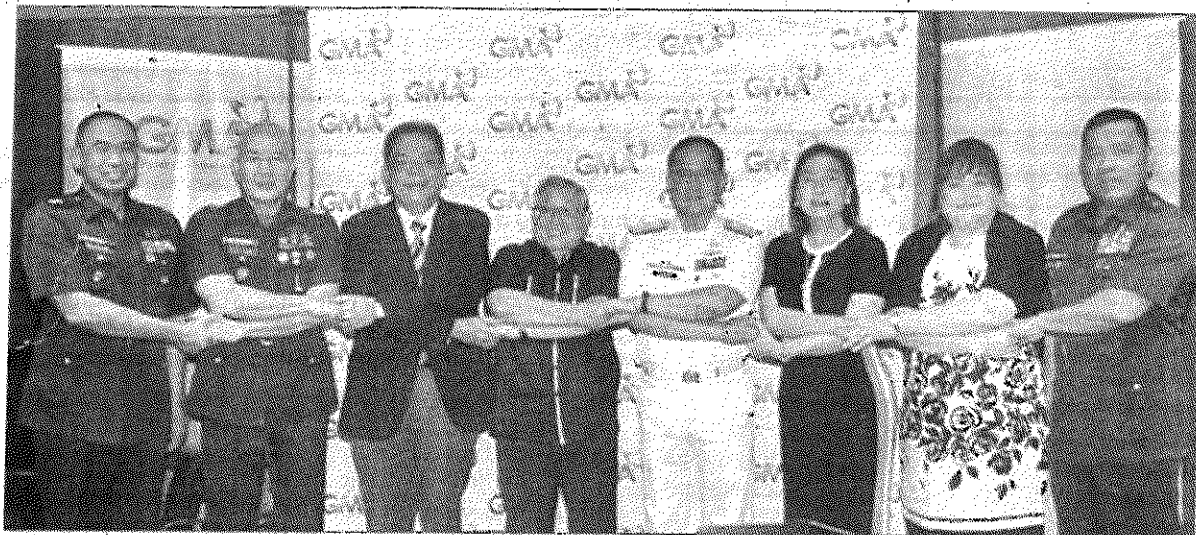
The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has declared the eight UH-1D helicopters, which were grounded after the same chopper model crashed more than a week ago in Rizal, as "air worthy" following inspection. Col. Antonio Francisco, Air Force spokesman, said that the lifting was done on the individual helicopters following inspection by Air Force technicians. "What happened was individual lifting. When there were no discrepancies found, those who possess our UH-1D lifted the grounding considering there was nothing found during inspection while they were grounded," said Francisco. Francisco said that immediately after the grounding of the eight choppers following the May 4 crash of one UH-1D in Sitio Hilltop, Barangay Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal, inspection started to ensure their air worthiness. "Yes (they are) airworthy," Francisco said. Prior to the crash, Francisco said that the Air Force has 12 UH-1D helicopters – nine of which were operational at that time while three were undergoing scheduled maintenance. The ill-fated UH-1D was participating in a disaster response training between police and military elements when the crash happened – killing the pilot and two crew members while injuring the co-pilot. Francisco said that investigation to determine what caused the crash is still ongoing and investigators are having difficulty. "As of yesterday (Monday), the engine is yet to be opened because it was burned. Our investigators are really having difficulty because of the situation of the aircraft," he said.

Mario J. Mallari

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(From left) AFP Maj. Gen. Arnold Rafael Depakakibo, Maj. Gen. Melquiades Feliciano, GMA president and COO Gilberto Duavit Jr., GMA chairman and CEO Felipe Gozon, AFP deputy chief of staff vice admiral Narciso Vingson, GMAKF founder and Amb. Mel Tiangco, GMAKF EVP and COO Rikki Escudero-Catibog and AFP Brig. Gen. Ronnie Evangelista.

Network, AFP ink MOA for projects

GMA Kapuso Foundation (GMAKF), the socio-civic arm of GMA Network, recently inked a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to further strengthen the implementation of its public service projects.

Under the agreement, the AFP pledges assistance to the GMAKF for the benefit of communities in Geographically Isolated and Depressed Areas (GIDAS).

Their aid includes provision of manpower, security assistance, transportation, logistical and research support.

Present in the MOA signing were GMA chairman and CEO

Felipe Gozon, GMA president and COO Gilberto Duavit Jr., GMAKF founder and ambassador Mel Tiangco, GMAKF EVP and COO Rikki Escudero-Catibog, AFP deputy chief of staff Vice Admiral Narciso Vingson, Maj. Gen. Melquiades Feliciano, Maj. Gen. Arnold Rafael Depakakibo and Brig. Gen. Ronnie Evangelista.

Vice Admiral Vingson emphasized how the AFP has always been supportive of GMAKF since day one. "Although we have been doing this for a long time ever since the GMA Kapuso [Foundation] has been established and founded, the signing of the MOA will further reinforce our

commitment to this worthwhile organization," Vingson said.

On the other hand, Gozon expressed his gratitude to the AFP for their significant efforts in helping Filipinos in need.

"We are grateful to the Armed Forces of the Philippines for playing a huge role in helping our Foundation realize our commitment to help Filipinos. The most fulfilling job is serving those who are truly in need," said Gozon.

Tiangco likewise thanked the AFP's continuous support to the Kapuso Foundation. "We are thankful whenever we team up with our armed forces for our team's deployments. From the immediate

delivery of our relief goods and donations, to security and transportation on ground, the brave men and women of the AFP have contributed a lot in serving our beneficiaries year on year," said Tiangco.

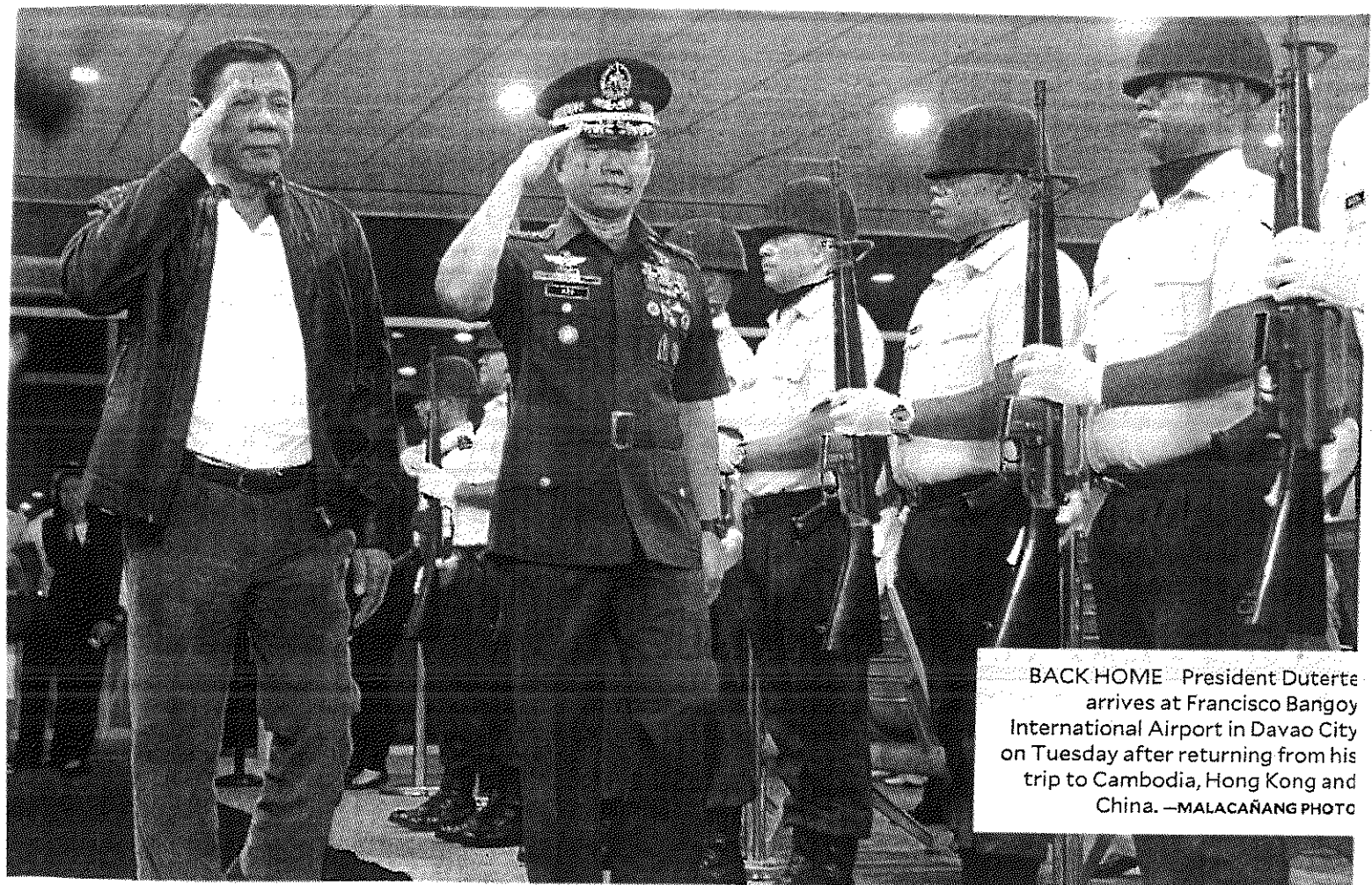
Escudero-Catibog, meanwhile, disclosed their plans with the AFP this year. "We have infrastructure projects that are already lined up and we aim to start them this year," Escudero-Catibog said.

"Today's MOA signing underlines both organizations' commitment to public service in its purest form. *Walang kinikilingan, serbisyong totoong lamang,*" she added.

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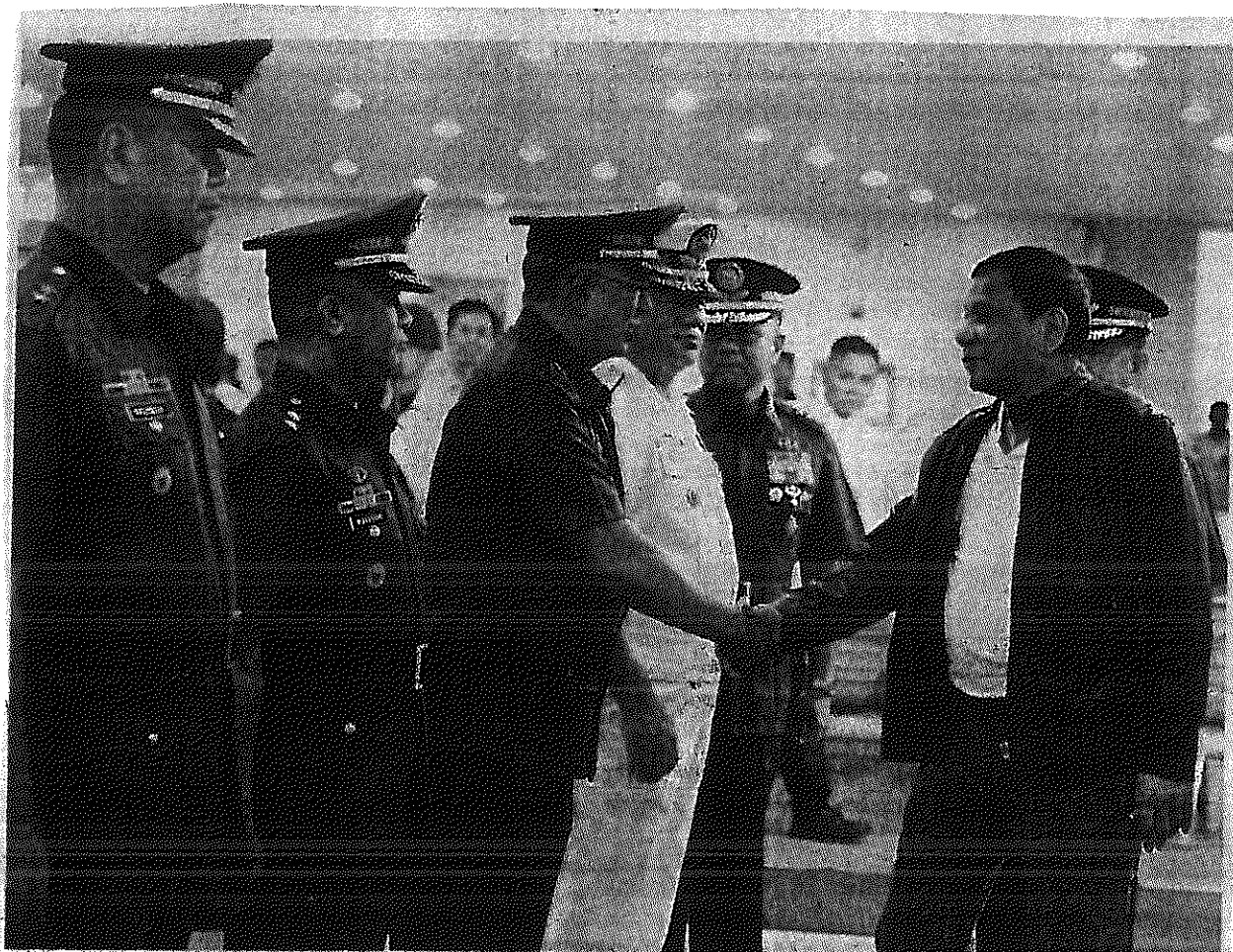


BACK HOME – President Duterte arrives at Francisco Bangoy International Airport in Davao City on Tuesday after returning from his trip to Cambodia, Hong Kong and China. —MALACAÑANG PHOTO

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BACK FROM BEIJING President Rodrigo Duterte shakes hands with the military brass at the Davao City international airport early Tuesday, after arriving from Beijing, where he attended an economic forum and met with top Chinese leaders. Duterte also attended the World Economic Forum in Phnom Penh and met overseas Filipino workers in Hong Kong. MALACANANG PHOTO

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Balita

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ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAKAYAGANG TABALOG SA BAHSA ₱8.00



**PANANAW
NI MANNY V
Manny Villar**

ANG kapangyarihan ng Pangulo na humirang ng mga opisyal sa kanyang administrasyon ay nakasalig sa deya na (1) dapat siyang bigyan ng karapatan na pumili ng mga mapagkakatiwalaan sa pagpapatupad sa kanyang agenda, at (2) pipiliin niya ang pinakamabuti at pinakamagaling upang payuhan siya sa kanyang pamumuno.

Ang kapangyarihan ito ay nililimitahan ng Saligang Batas sa pamamagitan ng Commission on Appointments (CA), na nagre-repaso at nagpapatibay sa paghirang ng Pangulo. Kamakailan, inihayag ni Pangulong

Kapangyarihan sa paghirang

Duterte ang ilang paghirang upang punuan ang mga bakanteng posisyon sa kanyang pamahalaan. Kabilang dito si dating Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu bilang kapalit ni Gina Lopez, na tinanggihan ng CA bilang kalihim ng Department of Environment (DENR). Si Senador Alan Peter Cayetano, running mate ni Duterte sa nakaraang halalan, ay nahirang upang pamanuan ang Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Hinirang din ng Pangulo si Nestor Espenilla bilang bagong gobernador ng Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, at si AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año bilang susunod na kalihim ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Ang paghirang sa apat na opisyal

ay bahagi ng pangako ng Pangulo na magtalaga ng mga opisyal na mapagkakatiwalaan at maaasahan na ipatupad ang mga programa ng pamahalaan.

Malaki ang hamong kinaharap ni Ambassador Cimatu dahil ipinakita ni Gina Lopez ang malaking pagnanais na maging kalihim ng kalikasan. Kinilala ito maging ng mga tumutol sa kanyang pag-upo sa posisyon.

Naniniwala ako na makakaya ni Amb. Cimatu ang hamon. Nagtapos sa Philippine Military Academy (PMA), malaki ang karanasan niya hindi lamang bilang isang kawal kundi sa pamamahala sa militar. Mabilis ang kanyang pagsulong mula sa pagiging platoon leader hanggang sa maging

pinuno ng Armed Forces Southern Command noong 2000.

Pagkatapos ng maningning na karera sa militar, hinirang si Cimatu bilang special envoy sa Middle East. Malaki ang ginampanan niyang papel sa pagpapalaya ng mga Pilipinong nakidnap sa Iraq.

Makatutulong ang karanasan ni Cimatu sa militar at diplomasya upang magkaroon ng maingat na balanse sa pangangailangan na protektahan ang kalikasan at tugunan ang pangangailangan ng ekonomiya. Hindi magkatunggali ang dalawang interes na ito, at umaasa ako na maisusulong ito ng bagong kalihim.

Nagagalak din ako sa paghirang kay Senador Cayetano sa DFA. Isa siyang...

Sundan sa pahina 11

Kapangyarihan...

Mula sa pahina 7

miyembro ng Nacionalista Party at malapit sa akin, at wala akong alinlangan na magiging mabuti ang kanyang pamumuno sa DFA.

Gaya ng kanyang ama, ang yumaong Senador Renato Cayetano, si Alan ay isang produktibong lingkod-bayan at magaling na abogado. Ang dalawang katangiang ito ang kailangan sa paggabay niya sa ating polisiyang panglabas sa gitna ng mga hamon, gaya ng South China Sea, Russia at relasyon ng Pilipinas at Estados Unidos.

Binabati ko si Pangulong Duterte sa paghirang sa mga bagong opisyal na nabanggit, at inaasahan ko ang matagumpay na pamumuno nina Amb. Cimatu at Senador Cayetano upang isulong ang pag-unlad ng ating bansa.

(Ipadala ang reaksiyon sa: mbo.secretariat@gmail.com o dumalaw sa www.mannyvillar.com.ph)

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

ONLINE NEWS

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350 Army troops deployed for 'Brigada Eskwela' in Metro Manila

With public school opening just a few weeks away, the Philippine Army (PA) on Tuesday announced it has deployed 350 soldiers to help in the ongoing "Brigada Eskwela" activities in 38 schools in Metro Manila.

"Brigada Eskwela" formally started on May 15 and will end on the 20th.

PA spokesperson Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson said these troops will help teachers and parents in minor repairs, repainting, and cleaning of schools.

Depending on the situation, the soldiers can also assist in masonry, carpentry, painting, plumbing, electrical and other services.

"Brigada Eskwela, also known as the National Schools Maintenance Program, is a yearly project of the Department of Education.

It's theme this year is "Isang DepEd, Isang Pamayanan, Isang Bayanihan Para sa Handa at Ligtas na Paaralan." (PFN/PNA)

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

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Majority of UH-IDs now airworthy – PAF

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has declared that eight out of the 11 remaining UH-1D "Huey" combat utility helicopters airworthy after finding nothing mechanical wrong with the aircraft during recent inspections.

"They were grounded for the purpose of inspection and during individual inspections, no discrepancies were found on the UH-1Ds," said PAF spokesperson Col. Antonio Francisco in Filipino Tuesday.

All of the PAF's UH-IDs were grounded following a fiery crash in Tanay, Rizal which killed one pilot, two enlisted personnel and severely wounded another pilot last May 4.

Francisco said the eight are found airworthy after a close check by PAF personnel with another three awaiting inspection.

However, the PAF spokesperson could not give the exact cause for the May 4 crash as investigators are still conducting their work.

The PAF acquired the UH-IDs as part of their efforts to augment their existing UH-1H combat utility helicopters in 2014 and 2015.

Their acquisition were earlier scored by some groups as the UH-IDs were claimed to be defective.

The "D" designation in the UH-1 means that it was manufactured by Dornier, a German aircraft manufacturer which started construction of the UH-1 during 1967 to 1981.

Around 350 units were build by the German aircraft manufacturer. (PFN/PNA)