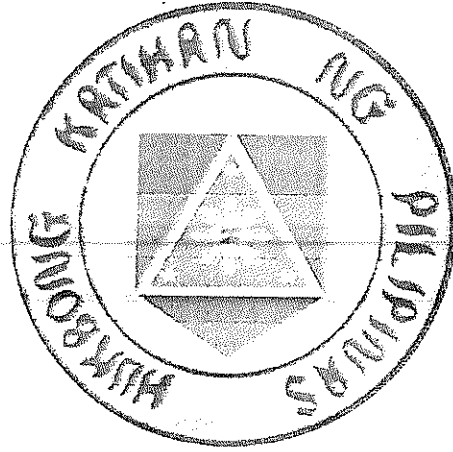


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

NEWS CLIPPINGS

08 November 2017

Wednesday

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

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PANAHON TV
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 8, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
 AFFECTING PALAWAN AND MINDANAO
 NORTHEAST MONSOON
 AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON
 (As of 4:00 PM - November 7, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE		SUNSET	
5:54 AM		5:26 PM	
MOONRISE		MOONSET	
9:33 PM		9:46 AM	
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER		
NOV 4 1:25 PM	NOV 11 4:36 AM		
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE		
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR			
8:01 AM	11:36 PM		
-0.18 Meter		1.25 Meter	

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

	NOV 9	NOV 10	NOV 9	NOV 10	NOV 9	NOV 10		
METRO MANILA	24 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	TAGAYTAY	19 - 27 °C	24 - 28 °C	TACLOBAN	24 - 31 °C	25 - 33 °C
TUGUEGARAO	22 - 29 °C	22 - 31 °C	LEGAZPI	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	GAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 32 °C	23 - 33 °C
LAOAG	22 - 29 °C	23 - 30 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 21 °C	15 - 22 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	 		

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

WEEKDAYS
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM
WEEKENDS
6AM

November 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A1

2 SSS officials accused of bribery

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

At least two of the four officials of the Social Security System (SSS) accused of "serious dishonesty and grave misconduct" allegedly received monthly bribes from stockbrokers they accredited in exchange for handling part of the pension fund's equity investments.

The latest accusation came from SSS Commissioner Jose Gabriel La Viña, who filed on Oct. 24 an administrative complaint against the four officials who manage the investments of the state-administered pension fund.

At a press briefing on Tuesday in Quezon City, La Viña said he was "investigating allegations of bribery involving at least two out of the four" officials.

He did not identify who among the four—executive vice president for investments Rizaldy Capulong, equities investment division chief Reginald Candelaria, equities product development head Ernesto Francisco Jr. and chief actuary George Ongkeko Jr.—had been

accepting bribes.

At least one stockbroker "may be paying cash bribes" to SSS officials employed in the agency's investments division, according to La Viña.

He said he informed the SSS president, Emmanuel Dooc, "as early as July" that there were reports of this nature that had reached him, but added that these had yet "to be verified."

"The amount reported is allegedly in the six-figure range paid on a monthly basis based on the volume of business given to the stockbroker," he said.

"We are still verifying the identity of the broker or brokers," said La Viña, chair of the investment oversight committee of the Social Security Commission.

Profiteering

La Viña has accused Capulong, Candelaria and Francisco of unduly profiting from their positions in the SSS by trading their personal stock market accounts with stockbrokers whom they themselves helped accredit as official brokers of the pension fund.

Ongkeko was accused of failing to keep complete records of the personal transactions of the investment officials.

La Viña said that except for



BRIBERY CHARGE Social Security System (SSS) Commissioner Jose Gabriel La Viña (right) says two SSS officials were allegedly receiving monthly bribes from stockbrokers during a Quezon City news forum. —JHESSET O. ENANO

Ongkeko, all three officials named in his administrative complaint "play major roles in the accreditation of brokers and [in] allocating how much business to give to each of them."

P119B in equities

The SSS manages about P500 billion in assets, accumulated through monthly contributions of 35 million members in the private sector. Up to 30 percent of its reserve fund can be invested

in the equities market.

As of last March, equity investments of the SSS amounted to P118.7 billion.

La Viña, who ran a successful social media campaign for President Duterte during the 2016 elections, said he had heard of bribery claims even before he assumed his post as SSS commissioner in November last year.

"Then I received reports [on the issue], anonymous," he said, citing his 1.4 million

Facebook followers.

He declined to divulge more details but expressed willingness to provide more information about the bribery after next week's Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Manila.

Francisco's reply

Francisco's reply to the charges filed with the SSS board—a copy of which was provided to the Inquirer—said the charges against him were baseless.

He said he merely participated in the initial public offering of a stock that the pension fund was ineligible to buy.

The stock, Villar family-owned Golden Haven Memorial Park Inc., debuted on the stock exchange last year, earning for Francisco a return of 85 percent totaling P180,000.

The SSS investment official argued that this investment did not deprive the fund of any returns because internal rules against highly speculative investments prohibited the institution from buying the stock—a risk he was prepared to undertake with his own personal money.

La Viña expressed hope that the House of Representatives' probe led by Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, chair of commit-

tee on banks and financial intermediaries, "will help shed light on the matter."

"I welcome it with open arms," he said. "I will cooperate fully and turn over all documents that will help his committee establish the truth."

La Viña also expressed openness to the lifestyle check sought by Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate on SSS officials.

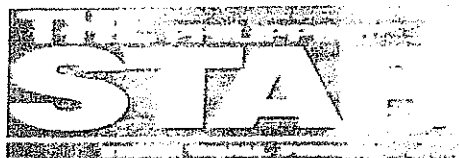
Tale of abuse

"This sordid affair is a tale of corruption and abuse, of rent-seeking, of the rich and powerful conspiring with those in government to take advantage of those who need social justice and protection the most, the very people SSS is supposed to serve," La Viña said.

He said the "investigative and oversight powers of the House of Representatives will help us in our quest to tell the whole story."

La Viña's complaint has so far resulted in the resignation of Candelaria and Ongkeko, but the SSS board ordered the latter to stay on until the end of the year due to the sensitive nature of his job as the fund's chief actuary. —WITH A REPORT FROM DAX-IM L. LUCAS INQ

November 2017



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DDB chief Santiago sacked

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY - Days after describing a mega drug rehabilitation facility in Nueva Ecija as "impractical" and "a mistake," Dionisio Santiago is out as chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB).

Santiago was reportedly instructed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea to tender his resignation on orders of President Duterte.

The DDB chief submitted his irrevocable resignation barely four months after he was appointed to the post last July.

"I was told to tell you to go," Santiago quoted Medialdea as having told him over the telephone last Monday.

Ombudsman panel to probe P6.4-B shabu. See Page 10

Santiago said he told Medialdea he respected the President's decision and understood the reason for it.

The ex-DDB chief, however, claimed that the President was given the wrong information about his statements on the rehabilitation center.

"I have served in the government for 40 years. This is not the way out that I expected," Santiago admitted.

He packed his personal

Turn to Page 10

things and left his DDB office yesterday. Sources said Duterte was not pleased when Santiago said that the 10,000-bed capacity drug rehabilitation center at Fort Magsaysay in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija was a mistake.

(Five thousand people is too many. Where will those individuals come from?)" he added.

The Nueva Ecija rehabilitation center was donated by a Chinese businessman and the President has repeatedly mentioned this in his speeches in the past months.

To give Santiago at least a "graceful exit," Medialdea

In an interview with ANC last week, Santiago said that the construction of the facility was "impractical" and "a mistake."

"Ang problema, naging excited si President, pero 'yung ginasta dun puwedeng ginamit sa

was tasked to relay to him that the President wanted him to resign.

Medialdea then informed Santiago of the wishes of the President that he step down from office as soon as possible.

Santiago, a retired general, is also a former Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) chief. He ran for sena-

nga community-based rehab yan na maliit (The problem is that the President got excited, but the money could have been spent to finance smaller, community-based rehabilitation programs), which can accommodate only between 150 to 200," Santiago said in the interview.

"Masyadong malaki 'yung 5,000. Saan ka kukuha niyan?"

tor under Duterte's slate in the May 2016 polls.

It was Santiago whom the President would always quote when he mentions the "four million drug addicts" in connection with the administration's war against illegal drugs.

Santiago was also a former Bureau of Corrections chief.

- With Emmanuel Tupas

November 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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8 NPAs surrender in Sultan Kudarat

BY RAMIL BAJO

KORONADAL CITY. — Eight members of the New People's Army yielded to a mayor and the military in Senator Ninoy Aquino town in Sultan Kudarat on Monday, and brought in high-powered firearms.

Town Mayor Randy Ecija identified the returning NPA rebels as Michael Galing, Aron Balaw Mogol, Gaga Balaw Mogol, Gibo Balaw Mogol, Ruben Balaw Mogol, Junjun Lantong Galing, Pito Balaw Galing and Juan Dakias.

The said belonged to NPA's Guerilla Front 73 operating in the mountains of Esperanza town. They are all from

Manobo tribe.

Ecija said the eight want to have a "new life" and avail themselves of "free housing" offered by his municipality for the rebels like them.

Ecija said the rebels turned-over two M-16 Armalite rifles during a brief ceremony held in the town's gymnasium.

Last month, 18 other NPA rebels belonging to the Guerilla Fronts 72 and 73 in the same town surrendered to Ecija and Col. Harold Cabunoc, commander of the 33rd Infantry Battalion (IB) based in President Quirino town of the same province.

Since July, the local government and the 33rd IB have negotiated the surrender of 60 NPA rebels.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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One-rank promotion for Marawi cops, soldiers pushed

By BEN R. ROSARIO

For showing a rare display of valor and love of country, all soldiers and policemen who laid their lives on the line in the Marawi gunbattles should be granted one-rank promotion, a senior administration lawmaker proposed on Tuesday.

In a press statement, Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo urged the leadership of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to consider his recommendation. He also recommended that posthumous promotions be granted those who were killed in action if such move is allowed under AFP and PNP regulations.

A posthumous promotion may entitle the beneficiaries of deceased

soldiers and policemen additional pension and government financial assistance.

Castelo, chairman of the House Committee on Metro Manila Development, said those who were sent to rid Marawi City of Maute terrorists are considered heroes who deserve to be honored by the whole country.

"All officers and uniformed men and women who fought for our peace and security deserve automatic promotion to the next higher rank as a show of the nation's gratitude," said Castelo, chairman of the House Committee on Metro Manila Development.

The QC lawmaker vowed to strongly lobby for additional budget should the proposed promotions require it.

He called on Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero

and Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa to immediately adopt the necessary measures and mechanisms to make the promotion effective as soon as possible.

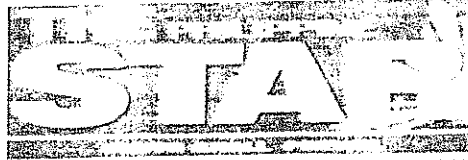
"Our soldiers and policemen risked life and limb to make sure those terrorists who occupied Marawi and threatened our nation's peace and security would not succeed," Castelo said, stressing that one way to reward them is by giving them automatic promotion.

Castelo said promotion among members of the armed forces and the police is not easily earned.

"Among them, there is no greater criterion for promotion than service to country in times of grave danger as those who served in Marawi showed," he pointed out.

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More Chinese island-building? Rody relies on 'good faith'

President Duterte is relying on China's "good faith" that it would not embark on new reclamation activities in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea in the face of renewed concerns sparked by Beijing's launching of a large dredging vessel.

In remarks before military officials

vessel, triggering speculations that it would be used to reclaim Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

The shoal is within the Philippines' 200-nautical-mile EEZ, but was declared a "common fishing ground" by an arbitral court based in The Hague. It is only 124 nautical miles off Zambales

and veterans of the Marawi battle, Duterte said he hoped China could be trusted to keep its word that it would not build new islands in disputed waters or in areas within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

China recently launched what it described as a "magic island-maker"

Duterte said Chinese President Xi Jinping himself had promised not to reclaim Pagasa "and the nearby islands that we have occupied already."

The same assurance, Duterte said, was given to Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano.

Turn to Page 10

"He will not build something on the Scarborough Shoal," the President said, referring to Xi.

"I just hope that he would honor it because it will change the entire geography of the world. And war starts. I don't know what will be the next geographical division of Asia,"

he added.

While vowing to assert the country's rights over the West Philippine Sea, Duterte stressed it is not yet the time to do it.

The Chief Executive reiterated he would not go to war over the West Philippine Sea as it would result in a "massacre"

of Filipino troops.

"If I were to insist on our arbitral claim as demanded by some of the justices, I would run afoul with everything else because China is not the only power that is claiming a part of the (South) China Sea. Taiwan has a claim and it overlaps the northern part of the country, our economic zones. And Vietnam has another idea of what this is. And Malaysia. And they were starting really to pile up," the President said.

"Instead of just facing one, I'd be facing many. If there are concessions given or conceded, the other countries who are also claimants on the same area will start to assert. That's my problem. It's really the changing geopolitics," he pointed out.

He also vowed to be "frank" in discussing the maritime row with China on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meet in Vietnam.

Duterte will leave for Da Nang today for the summit, where he is expected to interact with fellow leaders including Xi.

There was no official announcement if Duterte and Xi would have a meeting in

Vietnam but the Philippine leader hinted that he might have a word with Chinese officials.

A *China Daily* report said dredging ship Tiankun is 140 meters long and can dredge as much as 6,000 cubic meters of sand or clay per hour from 35 meters below the water's surface. Similar ships were said to have been used to build artificial islands in the South China Sea.

Earlier yesterday at Malacañang, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Duterte "recognizes the principle of good faith in international relations" when asked to comment on the launching of the dredging ship.

"China has told the President, they do not intend to reclaim Scarborough and we leave it at that. We need to rely on good faith because otherwise there would be no predictability in international relations," Roque told a press briefing.

China occupied Panatag Shoal in 2012 after a standoff with Philippine Navy vessels, which had tried to arrest Chinese poachers. Chinese maritime surveillance ships harassed Philippine Navy

vessels, enabling the poachers to escape with their illegal harvest of giant clams, endangered corals and baby sharks.

The Panatag standoff prompted the Aquino administration to contest China's massive claim in the South China Sea before the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which eventually validated Manila's position. Beijing had vowed not to comply with the ruling.

Asked whether the President would question the launching of the vessel, Roque replied: "As I said, he has relied completely on the principle of good faith. Which is, in fact, a fundamental and cardinal principle of international law."

Roque noted that Duterte has opted to maintain very close and cordial relationship with China despite the dispute over some areas in the West Philippine Sea.

"I think we are seeing new heights in terms of Philippine-Chinese relations and it has resulted in very tangible results, particularly economic investments," he said.

China has undertaken massive reclamation activities in Kagitingan (Fiery Cross), Pan-

ganiban (Mischief), Zamora (Subi), Burgos (Gaven), Kennan (Hughes), Mabini (Johnson) and Calderon (Cuarteron) Reefs, areas located off the western province of Palawan.

Airstrips, radar systems and barracks were also seen on the reefs, reinforcing theories that China is shoring up its military might in the region.

China has denied militarizing the South China Sea and maintained that it is committed to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Meanwhile, construction of a beaching ramp in Pagasa Island in the Kalayaan Island Group has started in preparation for more improvements of military and civilian structures in the island town, the Department of National Defense said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, through spokesman Arsenio Andolong, said the construction ramp is expected to be completed early next year, depending of weather conditions.

The defense official said a beaching ramp would allow large ships to dock and unload construction materials. -Alexis Romero, Jaime Laude

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KEEPING FAITH

DUTERTE TO HOLD CHINESE LEADER TO HIS WORD ON PANATAG SHOAL

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

President Duterte said yesterday that he was keeping faith in the word of honor of Chinese President Xi Jinping, who promised that China would not encroach into Philippine territory in Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

"I just hope that he would honor it because it will change the entire geography of the world," said Mr. Duterte at the sixth anniversary of the Philippine Marines.

He said "war starts" if there was any aggression in disputed territories in the South China Sea. "I don't know what would be the next geographical division of Asia," said Mr. Duterte.

He also recalled that he had told Xi that the Philippines would not give up its claim on Pag-asa Island and nearby islands which the Philippines occupies.

Mr. Duterte's spokesperson, Harry Roque, earlier said that the President trusted China and believed it would not create artificial islands in Philippine waters, especially with the use of its newest mammoth island maker, a ship that could dredge 6,000 cubic meters of sand per hour.

Dredging tests

Defense officials were trying to monitor the movement of the giant dredging ship, Tian Kun Hao, after Chinese media reported that it started tests in waters that China claimed to be part of its territory.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said it would be a cause of concern if the ship was deployed to the West Philippine Sea.

Roque said Mr. Duterte was keeping faith in China, however.

"The President recognizes the principle of good faith in international relations," said Roque.

"China has told the President they don't intend to reclaim Scarborough. We leave it at that. We need to rely on good faith," he said.

"Otherwise, there will be no predictability in international relations," Roque said at a press briefing.

Asked if the President would discuss Philippine defense officials' concern about the ship with China, Roque reiterated that Mr. Duterte relied on the principle of good faith.

He also said the Philippines was not just trusting China, but also relying on the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which remains unchanged. INQ

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MANILA BULLETIN
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Duterte relies on China's good faith in sea dispute

By **ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS**

President Duterte is relying on China's promise that it will not claim islands in the disputed portion of the South China Sea, Malacañang said Tuesday.

This was stressed in the wake of reports that China is now testing the Tian Kun Hao, its biggest island-making vessel.

According to Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, President Duterte has opted to maintain a good relationship with China and to rely on good faith.

"The President recognizes the principle of good faith in international relations," Roque said in a Palace press briefing Tuesday.

"We need to rely on good faith

(exclusive economic zone)," he said.

"Meanwhile, the President has opted to maintain very close and cordial relationship with China. I think, we are seeing new heights in terms of Philippine-Chinese relations and it has resulted in very tangible results, particularly economic investments," he added.

The Department of National Defense (DND) said that it is now closely monitoring the Tian Kun Hao amid suspicions that China's biggest dredger will be deployed in either the South China Sea or the Pacific Ocean.

"We have reports that they launched their big dredger, but we don't know where it is going. We are constantly monitoring the movement of this ship," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana earlier said.

Xinhua, China's state-run news outlet, had earlier reported

because otherwise there would be no predictability in international relations," he added.

According to Roque, the Chinese government assured Duterte that there will be no reclamation activities in the disputed waters.

"As I said, he has relied completely on the principle of good faith. Which is, in fact, a fundamental and cardinal principle of international law," he added.

Roque also said that the International Tribunal Court's decision to grant the Philippines sovereignty over the disputed waters still stands, despite the President's decision to set it aside for a while.

"We have a decision, the last time I checked. And that decision remains unchanged. It has said that the artificial islands form part or are built in our EEZ

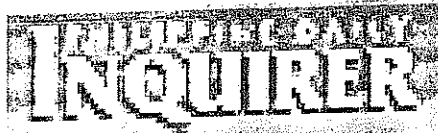
that China will abide by the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea and "won't use the dredger to expand its artificial islands."

President Duterte, being chairman of this year's Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit, has been pushing for the peaceful resolution on the South China Sea.

A year ago, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague declared China's claims to the disputed South China Sea as invalid.

But Duterte opted to set aside the ruling for the time being and preferred to establish better ties with China first, promising to revisit and to talk about with China before his term ends.

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DUTERTE'S ORDER

EX-AFP CHIEF OF STAFF RESIGNS AS CHAIR OF DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD

The head of the country's narcotics control body has resigned after just five months in the job, the second successive official to vacate the post after making statements contradicting President Duterte.

Retired Gen. Dionisio Santiago, former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told Radyo Inquirer 990AM on Tuesday that he quit as chair of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) after receiving a call from Mr. Duterte's executive secretary, a few days after he publicly said the construction of a 10,000-bed drug rehabilitation center in Nueva Ecija province was a mistake.

Santiago said Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea had called him to say Mr. Duterte wanted him to resign.

'The boss is always right'

"My rule is the boss is always right and if you think the

boss is not right, refer to rule No. 1," Santiago said, adding he had already submitted a two-sentence resignation letter.

Countering illegal drugs is Mr. Duterte's signature program and he has repeatedly threatened to kill dealers and users and said he was willing to be jailed for it.

Police have killed thousands of people in carrying out Mr. Duterte's war on drugs, but the administration insists it is committed to arresting dealers and rehabilitating users, citing the new rehabilitation center in Nueva Ecija and the voluntary surrender of 1.3 million addicts and pushers as a sign of its positive intent.

Santiago told a television interview on Oct. 31 that the government might have overestimated the effectiveness of the rehabilitation center and should have pursued a practical community-based rehabili-

tation program.

Fewer than 500 people have been admitted to the rehabilitation center in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, which was launched last year amid great fanfare and was funded by a wealthy Chinese businessman.

Santiago was pushing for a strategy in the narcotics crackdown that would be aligned with the social reform program of Mr. Duterte and would work closely with the National Youth Commission.

Family support system

He said a community-based rehabilitation program for drug users would be more effective than the "mega drug rehab" center, pointing out that a family support system was vital to the recovery of drug users.

Santiago said the rehabilitation center in Nueva Ecija was "impractical."

"That was a mistake. The

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IN THE KNOW

Retired Gen. Dionisio Santiago, former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, was appointed chair of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) by President Duterte in July.

In a news forum following his appointment, Santiago said he intended to revisit the antidrug law and give priority to "a legal approach" to solving the drug problem.

"Fear factor is good only to a certain point," he said. "'Oplan Tokhang' was effective because it sowed fear among drug users, but

President was excited [by the project] but money spent building that could have been spent for smaller community-based rehabilitation centers [that] would accommodate 150 or 200," he said.

Mr. Duterte gave Santiago the DDB job in July after the for-

mer head of the board, Benjamin Reyes, was forced to quit for disputing the President's repeated statements that there were more than 4 million drug addicts in the Philippines.

Reyes had said there were 1.8 million drug addicts in the country, drawing Mr. Duterte's ire.

it should be supported by other programs," he added, referring to the police operation against illegal drugs.

Before his appointment, Santiago served as DDB executive director from January 2005 to April 2006, chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency from 2006 to 2010, and director of the Bureau of Corrections from 2003 to 2004.

He served as AFP chief of staff from November 2002 to April 2003, commanding general of the Philippine Army from March to

November 2002, commanding general of the Central Command Visayas from July 2001 to March 2002, and commanding general of Special Operations Command from August 1999 to July 2001.

Santiago graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1970. He obtained a master's degree in public administration from the University of the Philippines in 1974 and did further studies at Seattle University in 1983. —INQUIRER RESEARCH

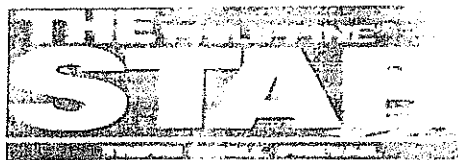
Sources: *Inquirer Archives and philconsa.org*

The President fired Reyes after returning from a trip to Russia in May.

Mr. Duterte has never disclosed the source of that information and some experts say it is exaggerated. —REPORTS FROM REUTERS, NESTOR CORRALES AND JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE INQ

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Military verifying if Malaysian terrorist still alive

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Armed Forces' Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) is verifying reports that Malaysian militant Amin Baco, who was reported killed in the final

stage of the Marawi operation, has taken over as emir of the Islamic State (IS) for Southeast Asia, an official said yesterday.

Baco, who had been hiding for a long time with members of the Abu Sayyaf, had allegedly replaced the

group's leader and IS chief Isnilon Hapilon, who was killed by troops in Marawi City last month, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP).

But Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Westmincom chief whose units neutralized the IS leadership including Hapilon and the Maute brothers, said Baco was among the foreign militants killed in the main battle area in Marawi.

Baco was reportedly killed along with Malaysian university lecturer and IS recruiter Mahmud Ahmad during the final stage of the military of-

fensive.

"We are still validating the report on Amin Baco since we have reports that he might be included in the recently killed stragglers," Galvez said, referring to remnants of the militants hiding to escape the government troops' clearing operation.

Galvez said the remnants of the IS have been on the run and could not regroup to select a new leader.

PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa disclosed that Baco took over as IS head after the death of Hapilon.

Dela Rosa said Indonesian terrorist Muhammad Ilham Syahputra, who was

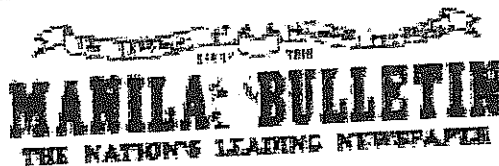
captured in Marawi last week, claimed that Baco had replaced Hapilon.

Baco, based on the intelligence reports, had been in hiding in Mindanao with the Abu Sayyaf and previously worked with another Malaysian bomb maker, Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, who was killed in 2015, during a police operation in Mamasapano, Maguindanao where 44 members of the police Special Action Force were killed in an encounter with Muslim rebels.

Baco managed to escape from Mamasapano and later joined the Maute group.

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PAF spent ₱1.4B for air operations in Marawi

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The commanding general of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) said that the service command spent some ₱1.44 billion in the war in Marawi City.

In a speech he delivered during the Heroes Welcome Ceremony hosted by the PAF to its personnel held at Villamor Air Base, Pasay City on Monday, Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar Jr. said at least 1,007 airmen involved in the offensive to defeat Daesh-inspired Maute terrorists were pilots, forward air controllers, and support personnel accomplished 1,358 sorties and flown a total of 4,950 hours.

Kintanar also said that a total of 6,716 soldiers and policemen were transported while hundreds of wounded were extricated and evacuated out of harms way, during the five-month war.

"Beyond these figures are stories of gallantry, bravery, boldness, daring and sacrifice. Some of our comrades' stories will be written

and retold, some will be heard, and some will fall into oblivion," Kintanar said.

"But the powerful imagery etched in the minds of our people is these aircraft that dominated the air. And the memories that will be forever embedded in our history - in the advent of social, print and news media, will be the valiant airmen, soldiers and marines who joined forces together and responded to the call of duty for the past five months."

"Some of our comrades have fallen and offered their supreme sacrifice; in a brief moment of silence we honor and salute them today - heroes all who brought victory and liberated Marawi," he added.

In the same speech, Kintanar said the occasion was also significant because it was first time that "a good representation of their airmen who were directly involved in combat and combat support in the liberation of Marawi are meeting eye-to-eye, joining shoulder-to-shoulder, and grouped together as one resilient team."

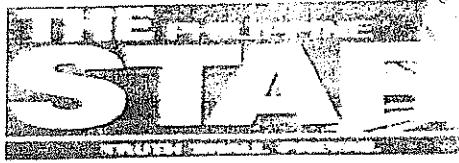
"Today, we give them honor, we pay them tribute, and as a fulfilled Air Force, we bask in their hard-earned contribution to victory," Kintanar said.

Kintanar said that if he was to make a good accounting of the Air Force assets used, a fair representation of the majority can be found right inside Villamor Air Base.

"These airmen demonstrated airpower that was felt, seen and used 24/7, whenever wherever. They symbolize the Air Force at its finest hour, and the airmen at their greatest defining moment in recent memory. In the air campaign, we have our pilots and aircraft: the game changers such as FA-50s and the AW-109s, the sharpest tip of our airpower spear," Kintanar said.

"We have the classic OV-10 Broncos, the MG-520 Defenders and the SF-260 Warriors providing close air support. We have the ubiquitous and sturdy UH-1 Hueys, the Bell-412 combat utility helicopters and the Sokols for tactical air mobility, rescue and case evacuation."

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NEDA: Marawi rehab planning in full swing

By CZERIZA VALENCIA

The assessment of the rehabilitation needs in Marawi is in full swing as the military clears more areas, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said yesterday.

Task Force Bangon Marawi is preparing a Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan for the city and surrounding areas, Adoracion Navarro, NEDA undersecretary for regional development, told a press briefing.

Navarro said NEDA completed the assessment of 49 of the 96 affected barangays.

At least 77,170 families or 353,921 individuals affected by the fighting between government troops and Maute militants are staying in 69 evacuation centers in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

Navarro said evacuees are continuously being provided relief assistance, including health services. She said those who opted to return to Marawi after the city was declared liberated from terror-

ists are also being provided with recovery assistance, such as transitional housing and cash for work.

Navarro said several development partners, such as multilateral development banks, have offered assistance, but have yet to make formal commitments. The World Bank and Asian Development Bank are among those that offered loans and technical assistance.

The government is initially allocating P5 billion for the early recovery phase, the bulk of which will be spent for health and social services.

Davao City donates P5 M

Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio has ordered the release of P5 million from the city's calamity fund for the rehabilitation of Marawi.

"It is our duty as Dabawenyos to help our countrymen," Carpio said yesterday.

She called on other local government units to also pitch in for the rehabilitation program.

– With Edith Regalado

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P4B spent to defeat Maute in Marawi

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces spent nearly P4 billion in the five-month operation to rid Marawi City of the terrorist Maute Group, according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

The military terminated the operations on October 23. Clearing operations have resulted in the killing of 15 Maute stragglers and the arrest an Indonesian terrorist.

During the celebration of the DND's 78th foundation anniversary on Monday, Lorenzana said the "liberation of Marawi from the hands of terrorists" is the DND's "most significant accomplishment" since the last DND anniversary.

Lorenzana last month said government has allotted P5 billion this year for the rehabilitation of the city, particularly for supporting evacuees, reconstruction of infrastructure, and repair of bridges.

For next year, government is eyeing a budget of P10 billion for

P4B SPENT

rehabilitation efforts.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan estimated the cost of rehabilitation at P50 billion over a period of three years. Honasan is chairman of the Senate special committee on Marawi, which is tasked to assess and examine matters relating to the rebuilding of Marawi City.

Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerald Kintanar, Air Force chief, said his command spent P1.4 billion in the Marawi conflict which saw the deployment of a number of aircraft, including FA-50 fighter jets, SF-260 light attack planes,

and AW-109 multi-purpose attack helicopters.

"The statistics and numbers of our air campaign in Marawi are many: At least 1,007 airmen involved composed of pilots, forward air controllers, and support personnel; 1,358 sorties accomplished; 4,950 hours flown; 6,716 soldiers and police transported; hundreds of wounded extricated and evacuated out of harms way; and an operational cost of P1.448 billion," said Kintanar.

Kintanar said Air Force personnel demonstrated "airpower that was felt, seen and used 24/7, whenever, wherever." He said pi-

lots and the FA-50 and the AW-109 aircraft are the "game changers."

"Beyond these figures are stories of gallantry, bravery, boldness, daring and sacrifice. Some of our comrades' stories will be written and retold, some will be heard, and some will fall into oblivion. But the powerful imagery etched in the minds of our people is these aircraft that dominated the air," said Kintanar.

Lorenzana said Marawi siege, which has resulted in the death of at least 900 Maute members, 165 soldiers and policemen, and 47 civilians, is proof that everyone should work to fight against terrorism.

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The Manila Times

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PH Navy joins Asean exercises in Thailand

THE Philippines will send a 600-man contingent to Thailand to participate in the first Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Multilateral Naval Exercise (Amnex).

The Amnex will be held on November 13 to 22.

Capt. Lued Lincuna, spokesman for the Philippine Navy, said the 600 Navy

► **Asean A2**

■ ASEAN FROM A1

PH Navy joins

personnel will leave the country on Wednesday aboard the Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas (BRP) Tarlac (LD601) and the BRP Gregorio Del Pilar (FF15).

The BRP Tarlac, which will be used to transport the Navy personnel to Pattaya, Thailand, was used also to transport personnel during

the Marawi siege.

According to Lincuna, Amnex 2017 is the first maritime security collaboration of navies in the Southeast Asia region that will be hosted by the Royal Thai Navy.

It will also be conducted in conjunction with the commemoration of Asean's 50th founding anniversary along with the International Fleet Review and the 11th Asean Navy Chief's Meeting.

DEMPSEY REYES

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PH Navy to take part in exercises in Thailand

THE Philippine Navy is sending two of its ships and about 600 personnel to Thailand to take part in the first ever Asean Multilateral Naval Exercise (AMNEX) that will be held from November 13 to 22.

The two ships – the strategic sealift vessel BRP Tarlac and the frigate BRP Gregorio del Pilar – and personnel will be sent off today by senior Navy officials from the South Harbor in Manila.

“AMNEX 2017 is the first ever maritime security collaboration of navies in the Southeast Asia region hosted by the Royal Thai Navy,” said Navy spokesman Lued Lincuna.

The exercise will be held off Sattahip Naval Base in the northern part of Gulf of Thailand.

Lincuna said AMNEX is being conducted in conjunction

with the commemoration of the 50th founding anniversary of ASEAN, along with the International Fleet Review on November 19 and the 11th ASEAN Navy Chiefs’ Meeting from November 18 to 19.

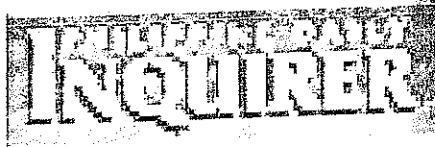
The BRP Tarlac was among the Navy ships sent to support military operations against the Maute Group that attacked Marawi City on May 23.

The combat operations against the terrorist group were terminated on October 23 although clearing operations against Maute stragglers are ongoing.

The Marawi conflict resulted in the death of at least 900 terrorists, including senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, said to be the leader of the Islamic State for Southeast Asia, and Maute leaders Omar Maute and Abdullah Maute. – *Victor Reyes*

BR

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Doc says IS hacked his account

A Filipino doctor accused of wiring money for a foiled New York jihadist plot appeared in a Manila court on Tuesday to fight extradition to the United States, saying the Islamic State (IS) group hacked his social media accounts.

Russell Salic and two others have been charged with involvement in the plan to stage attacks targeting New York's subway, Times Square and concert venues in the name of IS during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in 2016.

Salic, a 37-year-old orthope-

dic surgeon, appeared on the first day of the hearing in Manila to extradite him to the United States. In a written deposition, Salic said IS and its sympathizers gained control of his online accounts after he "condemned" the group in 2015.

"This group was able to 'hack' my FB (Facebook) account and my e-mail address account," he said in the signed statement his lawyer submitted to the court last month and obtained by Agence France-Presse (AFP) on Tuesday.

US authorities and the

Philippine military have accused Salic of posting pro-IS content online and sending money to other countries in support of the jihadists.

Salic is accused of transferring \$423 in May 2016 to the other suspects as part of the thwarted operation, which was planned through internet messaging, according to the US justice department.

The bombing plot was monitored by an undercover Federal Bureau of Investigation agent posing as a fellow jihadist, US authorities said.—AFP

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UNUSED FUNDS

**DAVAO SETS
P5M FOR MARAWI**

DAVAO CITY—The city government has set aside P5 million to help in the rehabilitation of war-torn Marawi City in Lanao del Sur province.

Mayor Sara Duterte said the amount would be taken from the city's unused funds for disaster response as she urged other local governments to share with Marawi their extra calamity funds.

Davao City, the President's hometown, was among local governments that extended help when the crisis erupted following the May 23 attack by Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi. Davao sent relief goods to thousands of people fleeing the fighting and who sought refuge in evacuation centers in Iligan City. —FRINSTON LIM
INQ

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POLICE FILES

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Du30: P500-M PARA SA GAMUTAN NG MGA SUGATANG SUNDALO

TINIYAK kahapon ni Presidente Rodrigo Duterte na hindi niya pabayaan bagkus ay kakalingain ng gobyerno ang mga sugatang sundalo lalo na ang mga napasabak sa limang buwan na giyera sa Marawi City.

Ginawa ni Duterte ang pahayag sa paglulunsad ng programang 'KISS ME' o Karne, Isda Supply, Suporta sa Masa at Ekonomiya ng Department of Agriculture (DA) para sa mga sugatang sundalo at pulis.

Sinabi ni Duterte na nagpalabas na siya ng P500 million para sa gamot, pagpapaospital at pambili ng mga de kalidad at magagaang artipisyal na paa ng mga sundalong naputulan sa labanan.

Ayon kay Duterte, itatayo rin ang pabahay na exclusive lang sa mga sugatan sa bakbakan malapit sa Metro Manila at target tapusin sa Marso ng 2018.

Tiniyak din ng pangulo na sagot na ng gobyerno ang edukasyon ng mga anak ng mga sugatang sundalo at bibigyan pa sila ng pangkabuhayan.

Kasabay nito, ginawaran ng pangulo ng 'Kampilan Medal' sa ilalim ng 'Lapu-Lapu Order' award ang limang wounded-in-action (WIA) na silang unang benepisyaryo ng KISS ME Program.

Sa ilalim ng nasabing programa, magtatayo ng outlet ang DA para sa mga panindang agrikultura sa mga kampo ng militar



kung saan mga sugatang sundalo ang magbebenta at kikita.

Isu-suplay ng DA ang mga chiller o o freezer ganun din ang mga itin-

dang mga karne, isda, at gulay na bibilhin direkta mula sa mga magsasaka.

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Rody: P500M for wounded soldiers

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte bared yesterday that he has put up at least P500 million for the welfare of soldiers wounded during the Marawi siege and other conflicts in the country.

Duterte said the funds would go to the housing and medical needs of wounded soldiers, especially those who lost their limbs fighting Islamic State-inspired terrorists.

The President said he wants to build a housing site for the wounded soldiers within the capital in Metro Manila so it would be easy for them to go to the best hospitals for their therapy.

"Exclusively para lang 'yan sa sugatan, requirements ninyo sa prosthetics or whatever. Including those who are wounded or rendered disabled in the other theaters of war, all throughout the country. 'Yan ang asahan ninyo," according to Duterte during the launch of the Karne, Isda Supply Support sa Masa at Ekonomiya (Kiss Me) Project in Taguig.

The President also pledged to build a village near

the city for them to have the best therapy, training and access to the hospital.

"At medyo mas malapit," said the President, adding that he would support efforts to give amputee soldiers training on new skills that would help build a new life.

"Gusto ko na mag-training muna kayo and gusto kong malaman ninyo na may buhay after Marawi, that there is life after Marawi," he said.

"You might want to go to a computer training or whatever. And if you can be accommodated in the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) gain for a job that does not require moving around, I'd be glad to fund the program," he said.

Duterte declared the liberation of Marawi City on October 17, a day after government troops killed terror leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute.

On October 23, exactly five months since the siege erupted, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the battle in the city was finally over. **Efren Montano**

ONLINE NEWS

08 NOVEMBER 2017

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FLYING COLORS | PAF flew thousands of sorties, troops in Marawi

Arvin Sanlago



COL JESUS VILLAMOR AIRBASE, Pasay City (DWDD) – The Philippine Air Force conducted 1,358 sorties, flew a total of 4,950 hours, transported 6,716 soldiers and police, and extricated and evacuated hundreds of wounded out of harm's way in its operations against the Daesh-inspired Maute terror group in Marawi City.

According to PAF Commanding General Lieutenant General Galileo Gerard Kintanar Jr., these airmen demonstrated air power that was felt, seen and used round-the-clock, whenever, wherever. They symbolize the Air Force at its finest hour, and the airmen at their greatest defining moment in recent memory.

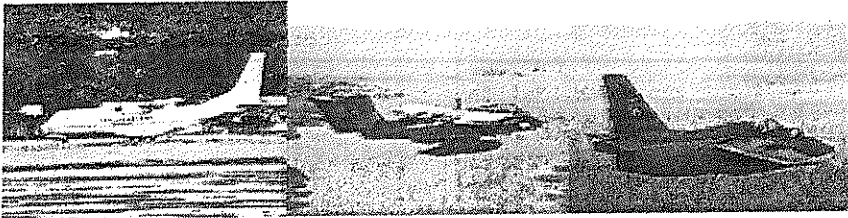
Around 1,007 airmen were involved in the operations including pilots, forward air controllers, and support personnel to included the Philippine Forward Air Controllers (PFACS), the Explosives Ordnance Division specialists, the snipers, combat engineers, the maintenance crew, the medics and the mobile kitchen staff. All of them took part as Team AFP.



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

The PAF's air campaign, saw the flights of its modern air assets like the FA-50s and the AW-109s, the sharpest tip of their airpower spear. They also utilized the reliable OV-10 Broncos, the MG-520 Defenders, and the SF-260 Warriors for close air support; UH-1 Hueys, the Bell-412 combat utility helicopters, and the Sokols for tactical air mobility, rescue and case evacuation; C-130s and the C-295s that transported close to 7,000 soldiers and marines to the battle area.

It cannot be discounted that PAF officers and personnel have stories of gallantry, bravery, boldness, daring, and sacrifice during their sorties and work.



"Some of our comrades' stories will be written and retold, some will be heard, and some will fall into oblivion. But the powerful imagery etched in the minds of our people is these aircraft that dominated the air. And the memories that will be forever embedded in our history – in the advent of social, print and news media, will be the valiant airmen, soldiers and marines who joined forces together and responded to the call of duty for the past five months" Kintanar said. AES/MCAG

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THE FEW THE PROUD | PRRD at PMC 67th Anniversary

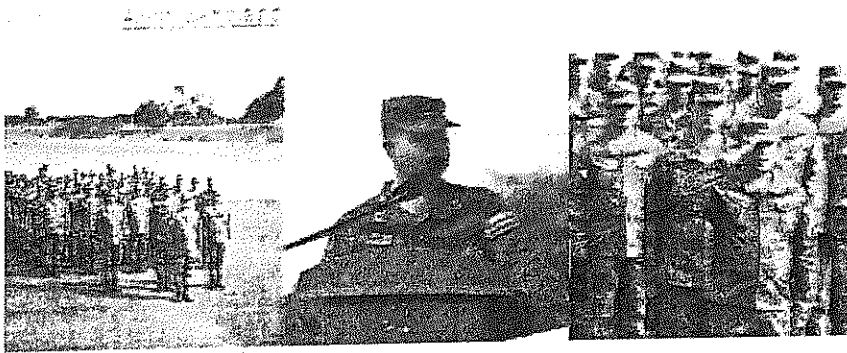


MARINE BARRACKS RUDIARDO BROWN, Bonifacio Naval Station, Taguig City (DWDD) – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte troops the line during his attendance in launching of Department of Agriculture's (DA) 'Karne. Isda Supply Suporta sa Masa at Ekonomiya' (KISS ME) Project and the 67th Birthday of the Philippine Marine Corps at the Bonifacio Naval Station in Fort Andres Bonifacio, Taguig City on November 7, 2017. PCOO/MCAG

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

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SEND OFF CEREMONY | Philippine Army Contingent to AARM 2017

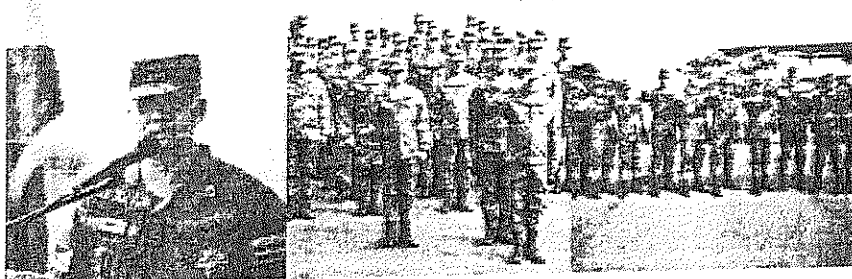


FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD) – The Philippine Army Shooting Contingent, composed of 45 strong and highly motivated members of the group, is now set to participate in the 27th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM) 2017 from November 6 to 23 which will be held in Singapore.

The send-off was held at the Army Marksmanship Training Center.

Graced by the Commanding General of the Philippine Army Lt Gen Rolando Bautista, the contingent was given an inspiring send-off message by aspiring them to wave the national flag with pride and bring home the bacon.

The contingent is headed by LTC Isagani Criste with Maj Ace Ronald Ampong as the team manager.



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

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

The contingent will undergo series of shooting competition matches (rifle, carbine, machine gun, pistol men and pistol ladies categories) among the other nine armies of the ASEAN members such as Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. **OACPA / MCAG**



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STATEMENT | AFP on alleged Daesh-Emir Amin Baco

Amin Santiago



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), following its successful liberation of Marawi City from the Daesh-inspired Maute terror group, is aggressively pursuing its clearing operations.

The AFP's clearing operations are focused on the remaining areas of Marawi City believed to hold terrorist stragglers and some family members fighting for survival and hiding it out in the hope of escaping the main battle area.

The AFP also denies that the remaining stragglers will be able to influence the overall security situation of the once besieged city.



Contrary to recent pronouncements by some officials that it is now headed by a certain Amin Baco, the AFP strongly believes that the group is now leaderless and without direction.

Amin Baco is believed to have been among the 9 killed in Marawi recently and his remains is now the subject of an ongoing aggressive search.

General Rey Leonardo Guerrero, Chief of Staff, AFP assures the residents of Marawi that the AFP is doing its best to expedite the city's return to normalcy. AES/MCAG