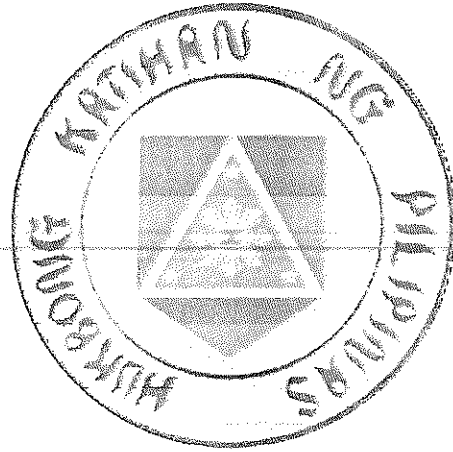


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY
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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

09 November 2017

Thursday

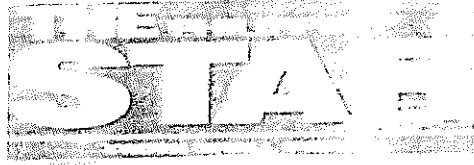
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

09 NOVEMBER 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	Phil Star p.1
HEADLINE NEWS			
2-4	'Weak' SAF debacle raps slapped on Noy	Alvin Murcia	D Tribune p.A1
5-6	China Protest halts Ph Nipa-Hut Building	Reuters	PDI p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
7	Simple heroes welcome for Scout Ranger	Cesar Reyes	Peoples Tonight p.12
7	Army Detonates IEDs vintage bombs st Mayon's base	Sonny Sales	PTonight p.12
8	3 sa NPA tepok sa Capiz	Fer Taboy	Balita p.5
9	3 Rebels killed in Capiz	Tara Yap	Mla Bulletin p.9
AFP RELATED NEWS			
10	3 Killed in Capiz AFP – NPA clash	Jennife Rendon	Phil Star p.1
11	Revolutionary gov't 'di suportado ng AFP	--	Remate p.6
12	M.O.D.A. Salute Marawi heroes via grand fashion show AFP lauds effort to keep patriotism alive	--	Peoples Tonight p.6
13	AFP troops sa Sandy Cay pinag-pullout na ni Digong	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p.2
14	Yumaong actress, piloto rin Isabel Sasalubungin ng Phil. Air Force at bibigyan ng tribute Pagbalik ng 'Pinas	--	Bulgar p.9
15	Photo: Streamer Award	Malacañang Photo	Mla Standard p.A1
16	Photo	Jansen Romero	Tempo p.2
17	Omar Maute's widow waives right to inquest	Bonita Ermac	Mla Bulletin p.11
18	P14.5-m set aside for Marawi rehab	John Paolo Bencito	Mla Standard p.A3
19	PH, Other nation urged to boost military strength	Dona Pazzibugan	PDI p.6
20	Aircraft search	Lizle basa Iñigo	Mla Bulletin p.6
21-22	PHL won't even build hunts on disputed cay	Rene Acosta	Bussines Mirror p.A12
23	DBM to release gov't workers' tax-free bonus next week	Chinc S. Leyco	Mla Bulletin p.1
EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY			
24	Libreng pampa ospital, gamut edukasyon at pabahay sa mga sundalong sumabak sa Marawi, dapat lang	--	Bulgar p.3
25-26	Piketerya, Marawi, Wadi	--	B Mirror p.A12
ONLINE NEWS			
27	DND: No Chinese blockade off Kalayaan Island Group	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
28	Pres. Duterte assures soldiers: 'I'll always be there in times of need	PND	www.pna.gov.ph

07 November 2017



Page: 01

THE PHILIPPINE STAP

PANAHON TV
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DZRH NEWS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

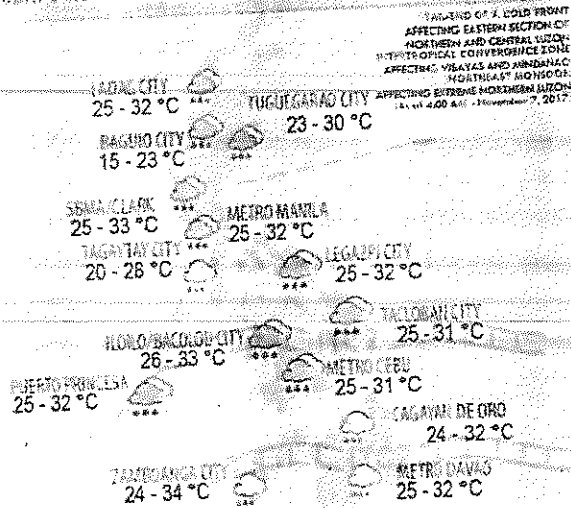
PILIPINASHO
WEEKDAYS
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM
WEEKENDS
6AM

AIR 21
SAGIT NA PABILA MO!

Panahon.TV

SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:54 AM	5:26 PM	9:33 PM	9:46 AM
LOW TIDE	LOW TIDE	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
1:25 PM NOV 9	4:30 AM NOV 10	6:01 AM NOV 10	11:35 PM NOV 10

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST NOVEMBER 09, 2017 | THURSDAY



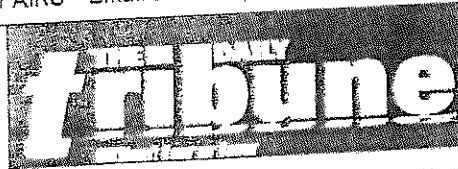
EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	NOV 9 NOV 10 NOV 11			EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	NOV 9 NOV 10 NOV 11		
	THU	FRI	SAT		THU	FRI	SAT
METRO MANILA	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 °C 28 °C	23 °C 28 °C	24 °C 29 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C
LAGOAG	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	METRO CEBU	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
TAGURO	16 °C 22 °C	16 °C 23 °C	16 °C 24 °C	TACLOBAN	25 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
SEMA/CLARK	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 32 °C
TAGAYTAY	19 °C 29 °C	20 °C 29 °C	21 °C 29 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C
LEGAZPI	25 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 34 °C	23 °C 33 °C	23 °C 34 °C

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers.

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms.

Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms.

09 November 2017

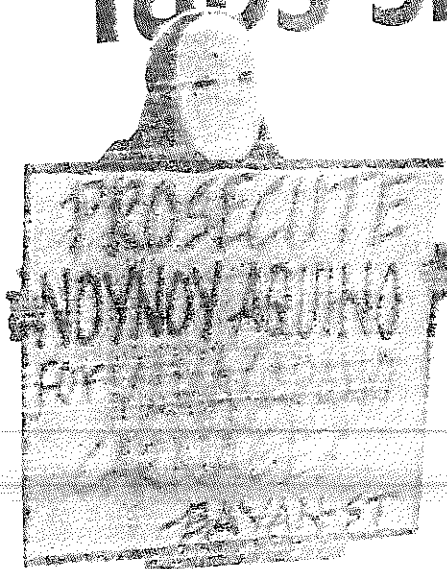


Page: A1

VACC SAYS MORALES PREEMPTS SC

Weak SAF debacle raps slapped on Noy

By Julius N. Leonen and Alvin Murcia



Former President Aquino was charged with graft and usurpation of authority by the Office of the Ombudsman before the Sandiganbayan yesterday in connection with the botched Mamasapano operations in 2015 that killed 44 members of the elite Special Action Force (SAF) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) but an anti-graft group said it was a pre-emptive move to prevent a higher case vs Aquino.

Justice Secretary Leona E. Magtibay said the Sandiganbayan's decision to charge Aquino is a "second-guessing" of the Supreme Court's ruling in the Mamasapano case. She said the Sandiganbayan's decision is a "pre-emptive move" to prevent a higher case against Aquino.

Lawyer Marcelino Luna, member of the Mamasapano Affairs Center and a former Sandiganbayan lawyer, said the Sandiganbayan's decision is a "pre-emptive move" to prevent a higher case against Aquino.

From page 1

SAF 44 relatives with the High Court.

"She should have waited for the Supreme Court's action. She is a former Justice of the Supreme Court. We were very disappointed when we learned of this," Luna said.

"That is why we are coming out in the open to remind the public that we are not giving up on this fight," he stressed, adding that they are urging the SC for its immediate action on their petition.

The cases filed by the Ombudsman before the Sandiganbayan are still at the preliminary stage, Luna said, adding that the anti-graft court still has to determine whether or not there is probable cause to order Aquino's arrest.

Even if the Sandiganbayan finds probable cause in the charges filed by the Ombudsman before the SC acts on the petition, Luna said the SC can "always issue a preliminary injunction or a temporary restraining order."

The SC, being the highest court of the land, can always issue a preventive order or injunction, but Luna clarified that they are not "second-guessing" the High Court.

"We have very high respect for the Supreme Court en banc. They know what to do in these situations because they have jurisdiction over this case," he said.

The criminal complaint Morales filed against Aquino over the botched 2015 Mamasapano operation is "inferior" and should be blocked by the SC for its review, Luna said.

He added the High Court should immediately act on their petition seeking to restrain the apparently weak criminal charges against Aquino for graft and usurpation of authority.

The VACC, together with the relatives of the gallant Special Action Force (SAF) 44, submitted to the SC last Monday a pleading for the issuance of the writ of certiorari with prayer for a

temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction.

As opposed to the Ombudsman's "inferior" criminal charges against Aquino, Luna said Morales should have approved their original complaint for 44 counts of reckless imprudence resulting into multiple homicide.

"We don't believe that the information (charge sheet) filed by the Ombudsman is the correct information," Luna told reporters in a chance interview.

The penalty for usurpation of authority is prision correccional of from six months to six years against homicide which carries a punishment of reclusion temporal of from 12 to 20 years.

Since the VACC is seeking 44 counts for its charges against Aquino, the punishment may well exceed 500 years of detention.

VACC wants 'true justice'

Dante Jimenez, VACC founding chairman, meanwhile stressed that for true justice to be served for the families and relatives of the SAF 44, the Ombudsman should approve charges with higher penalties against Aquino.

"The families of the victims are crying for justice. That is why we rushed this. We only knew (yesterday) of the filing of inferior case information by the Ombudsman," Jimenez said.

VACC chairman Martin Diño echoed the victims' call, noting that President Duterte himself branded the Ombudsman's charges against Aquino as "weak."

"Even our President called these charges weak. (The Ombudsman) should have filed what the VACC is accusing them of. Former president Noynoy and his cohorts, (Alan) Purisima and (Getulio) Napeñas are criminally liable for the plight of the victims," Dino said.

The group filed a petition for the writ of certiorari before the SC against Ombudsman Morales, Aquino, former Philippine National Police Chief Alan Purisima, and former SAF Director Getulio Napeñas, asking to "annul, reverse

and set aside" the resolution that "dismissed" homicide charges against the mentioned officials.

The petition sought to "direct the Office of the Ombudsman to file forty-four (44) counts of Reckless Imprudence Resulting in Homicide" against the respondents.

In September, Morales indicted Aquino for graft and usurpation of authority over his alleged role in the botched "Oplan Exodus" in Mamasapano that led to deaths of 44 SAF troopers.

This was contrary to the complaint filed by the VACC and SAF 44 families and relatives, which accused Aquino for reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide.

For this, the VACC slammed Morales for "downgrading" the charges against Aquino.

Based on the information on the charges signed by Ombudsman Assistant Special Prosecutor Reza Casila-Derayunan, Aquino was accused of conspiring with former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Alan Purisima, and PNP-Special Action Force (SAF) chief Getulio Napeñas to execute Oplan Exodus in January 2015 to hunt down Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Abdul Hir, also known as Marwan, and his Filipino cohort Basit Usman.

The Oplan was implemented despite Purisima being under preventive suspension due to a pending case before the Office of the Ombudsman according to Derayunan.

Derayunan added Aquino "did there and then willfully, unlawfully cause Purisima to perform and exercise the function of PNP chief for the Oplan Exodus before and during its actual implementation though he knew that the police chief was suspended preventively.

In December 2014, one month before the police mission was launched, Purisima was suspended for six months over the anomalous Werfast courier deal along with 11 other police officials.

But in January 9, 2015 Purisima was alleged to have been present

in a meeting at Aquino's residence in Bahay Pangarap inside Malacañang in which the highly confidential operation was discussed.

Purisima was also instructed by Aquino to coordinate with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and communicated exclusively with the former police chief at the height of the operations on Jan. 25, 2015, the prosecutor said.

The former president was also alleged to have allowed himself to be persuaded, induced, or influenced to infringe the PNP chain of command, the preventive suspension order against Purisima, and officer-in-charge PNP chief Leonardo Espina's order against Purisima and other suspended police officials to cease and desist from performing duties and functions of their offices.

Noynoy knew of Purisima suspension

"Similarly, the Office finds probable cause that former President Aquino's act of utilizing the services of Purisima for Oplan Exodus under the aforesaid circumstances" allegedly "constituted an act of persuading, inducing or influencing another public officer to perform acts constituting a violation of the order of preventive suspension and a commission of usurpation of official functions, in violation of Section 3(a) of RA No. 3019," the Ombudsman added.

The prosecutor said Aquino knew "fully well (of) the Ombudsman's preventive suspension order, Espina's special order, and that it was Espina who had the authority to oversee the preparation and conduct of Oplan Exodus, to the damage and prejudice of the State."

The motion for reconsideration of Aquino was denied by the Ombudsman thus the case was filed thereby upholding its June 2017 resolution finding probable cause for the indictment of the former president.

In September, Ombudsman Morales denied Aquino's appeal to

drop the charges.

She also denied the appeal of complainants – families of some of the 44 Special Action Force members (SAF 44) killed in the operation to charge Aquino of 44 counts of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

The SAF 44 kin are represented by VACC, which is also seeking Morales' impeachment.

Allies defend Noy

Aquino allies expressed optimism that he will be able to defend himself against the graft and usurpation of authority in the Mamasapano incident.

According to Ifugao Rep Teddy Brawner Baguilat the former President has already said that he is ready to answer any allegation.

"We have always known him to act only in the best interests of the country, and have utmost confidence that he can beat this attempt to sully his legacy," Baguilat said.

A member of the Liberal Party, he said that they will respect the process and believes that Aquino will be able to ably defend himself from charges which we believe are legally infirm.

"The LP stands behind him and supports his position that his acts then did not constitute a crime punishable under our laws.

Akbayan Rep Tom Villarin said that that indictment is part of the democratic process.

"Accountability is intrinsic to a democracy where citizens hold government officials responsible for their actions," Villarin said.

He explained that such indictment by the Ombudsman of former President Aquino involving charges of graft and usurpation of functions over the Mamasapano operation fall within such ambit of our democracy.

"While former President Aquino has all the right to defend himself, it is a reminder that all actions or inactions by government officials have consequences," Villarin said.

The lawmaker said that the filing of the case proves that the Ombudsman is true to its mandate

and regardless of who is involved, exacting accountability is viewed from a colourless lens.

"It also serves as a warning to incumbent officials that they too will face reckoning of what they do now or failed to do," the Akbayan lawmaker said.

Known Aquino henchman Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV assailed the Ombudsman's move against Aquino saying it's setting a bad precedent as far as having a president or former Chief Executive accounted for based on command responsibility.

"Based on what I know about command responsibility, that is not covered. If that is the case, it would set a bad precedent since all failed missions will have to be accounted for by the commander in chief," he said.

"It is clear that a commander who is given a mission, resources, if it fails then he should answer for it. That was how it was taught to us," Trillanes, a former Navy officer said in a radio interview.

Aquino's staunch allies, party mates from the Liberal Party (LP), tried to downplay the significance of the said case insofar as the former president is concerned.

"That is expected because the Ombudsman already had that resolution finding basis for filing the information and the information today is the consequence of that previous resolution. So that is part of the process. So that is expected," he said.

"It would be a surprise if the Ombudsman did not file it because that is not consistent – the non-filing would not be in accordance – with the procedure. (The Ombudsman), having issued already a resolution finding that there is basis for usurpation, then the filing of the information follows as a matter of course," Drilon added.

Sen. Bam Aquino expressed belief that the former president will be able to defend himself and negate any perceived liabilities in the Mamasapano massacre that killed 44 elite policemen. **Angie M. Rosales Gerry Baldo**

09 November 2017

INQUIRER

Page: 1

CHINA PROTEST HALTS PH NIPA-HUT BUILDING

REPORTS FROM AP, REUTERS AND LEILA B. SALAVERRIA

A dispute over Sandy Cay erupted in August, with China telling the Philippines the shelters it was putting up for fishermen on the sandbar near new construction in the South China Sea. President Duterte then gave the order: 'Let's pull out.' **AG**

FROM A1

President Duterte stopped the building of nipa huts and other construction work on a newly formed sandbar in the disputed South China Sea after China protested, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Wednesday, disclosing details of the new territorial spat for the first time.

The dispute over a string of sandbars called Sandy Cay emerged in August and prompted China and the Philippines to consider negotiating some sort of protocol or arrangement to allow both sides to prevent such incidents from spiraling out of control, Lorenzana said.

The rift over the tiny sandbar near the Philippine-occupied Pag-asa Island—internationally known as Thitu Island—in the Spratly archipelago remains unresolved but both sides pledged not to occupy any new territory, he said.

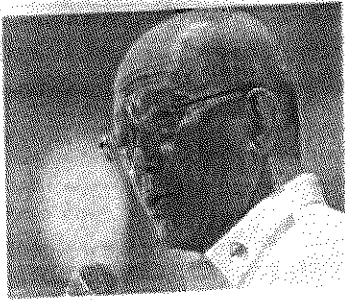
Overlapping claims

China's claims to most of the South China Sea overlap with those by the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan.

Despite that, tensions have eased since Mr. Duterte took over as President last year and took steps to thaw once-frosty relations with China.

5

China protest halts PH nipa-hut building



Delfin Lorenzana –AP

Mr. Duterte has courted Chinese trade and assistance and taken a nonconfrontational approach to their territorial disputes.

He has refused to immediately take up with China a ruling by the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague that invalidated Beijing's sprawling claims in the South China Sea, sparking criticism from nationalists and left-wing groups that wanted him to demand Chinese compliance with the landmark decision immediately.

On Wednesday, however, he said he planned to raise the issue of conflicting claims in the South China Sea at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit in Vietnam, and ask China its real intentions.

Speaking to reporters before departing for Vietnam to attend the summit, Mr. Duterte said he would ask Chinese President Xi Jinping, who would also attend the meeting,

if Southeast Asian countries were allowed to freely navigate the South China Sea.

"Not because I'm so much interested as a person but for the sake of my country and the others who have the overlapping claims," he added.

'Let's pull out'

Lorenzana said Marines were sent to Sandy Cay to build nipa huts—shelter made of bamboo and palm roofing—for Filipino families and fishermen.

There were also Chinese fishermen on the sandbar, about 500 square meters large, he said.

"China complained because the Philippines was occupying new features, which it said was a violation of a bilateral agreement," Lorenzana told a diplomatic forum, adding that Mr. Duterte later ordered, "Let's pull out."

"We pulled out and no structures were built there but both sides agreed there would be no new occupation," he said.

Mr. Duterte made the decision after Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano advised him of an agreement involving China and the Philippines for a halt on new construction in the disputed waters, Lorenzana later told a news conference.

The Philippines has pressed ahead with \$25 million of upgrades to Pag-asa Island, the largest of five islands the coun-

try occupies in the Spratly chain.

A small community of Filipinos has lived there since the 1970s, although conditions are basic compared to those enjoyed by Vietnamese and Chinese on other islands in the archipelago.

Philippine foreign affairs and military officials refused to divulge details of the dispute at Sandy Cay in August.

Chinese watch

Two senior Philippine security officials told The Associated Press (AP) at the time that three Chinese Navy ships, a Coast Guard vessel and 10 fishing boats began keeping watch on Sandy Cay after spotting the Filipinos on the barren sandbar.

Sandy Cay is located 4.6 kilometers from Pag-asa Island, which is known to the Chinese as Zhongye Dao.

On Aug. 15, a blue Chinese helicopter flew low off Pag-asa's southwest coast, a security report seen by AP said.

The Chinese military presence off Sandy Cay sparked concerns in Manila.

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, who has studied the disputes extensively, said then that the Chinese Navy ships and other vessels encroached on the Philippine island's 22-kilometer territorial waters. —REPORTS FROM AP, REUTERS AND LEILA B. SALAVERRIA INQ

9 November 2017



Page. 12

Simple heroes welcome for Scout Ranger

BAGUIO City -- It was just a simple but happy hero's welcome for Army Capt. Jeff Buada, commanding officer of the 15th Scout Ranger Company "Mandrigma", of the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment, as he arrived in the city over the week aboard a bus and was surprised that his daughters were there to welcome him home.

Buada, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 2007, gained praises and popularity on social media and his photo went viral, showing a photo of him carrying a child (Maute hostage) and bringing her into safety.

In the middle of the fire fight, Buada on Oct. 19, ordered a ceasefire, removed his helmet, put down his firearm, and approached an enemy lair, despite protests from the troops and negotiated with the terrorists to set free the children and women they were holding as hostages, and allow the soldiers to



Capt. Jeff Buada and his youngest daughter.

bring the wounded to the hospital.

No shots were fired from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day when the hostages were moved into safety, fighting resumed. Cesar Reyes

Army detonates IEDs, vintage bombs at Mayon's base

LEGAZPI City -- The Army's 5th Forward Service Support Unit or Army Support Command Ordnance experts exploded on Tuesday morning 19 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and 16 World War II vintage bombs in remoted Bgy. Lidong, Sto. Domingo, Albay, at the foot of Mt. Mayon.

But reportedly, with authorities short of time to make a public advisory on the Army's scheduled disposal of seized IEDs and vintage explosive ammunition, the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (APSEMO) led by Dr. Cedric Daep and personnel of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Bicol conducted a "bandillo", a public address system, about Army's scheduled bomb disposals.

Sources at the OCD regional office said that such public advisory during disposal of dangerous explosives was necessary several days before the actual conduct of the activity, af-

ter a 70-year-old woman from Sto. Domingo town died of heart attack, presuming that the loud explosions came from Mayon's eruption.

An officer of the Army's 5th Forward Service Support Unit said the exploded 19 IEDs were seized during encounters with communist rebels in Sorsogon and Albay while the 16 assorted vintage ammunition were handed over by the PNP Ordnance Division mostly Japanese World War II shells dug out during construction of various edifices in Legazpi City and Albay. **Sonny Sales**

7

9 November 2017

Balita

Page. 5

ANG NAKIKUNGUNANG PANAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BAKSA P8.00

3 sa NPA tepok sa Capiz

ILOILO CITY - Patay ang tatlong miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) makatapos nilang makasagupaan ang ilang sundalo sa bayan ng Cuartero sa Capiz.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Sisenando Magbalot, Jr., commander ng 61st Infantry Battalion (61 IB) ng Philippine Army, natagpuan kahapon ng mga sundalo ang mga bangkay ng tatlong rebelde.

Martes ng tanghali nang sumiklab ang bakbakan sa pagitan ng dalawang squad ng 61 IB at ng NPA sa Sitio Badiangon, Barangay Puti-an, Cuartero.

Batay sa report ni Col. Magbalot,

nakatanggap sila ng impormasyon na may namataang mga armadong rebelde sa nasabing barangay hanggang makasagupa ng militar ang nasa 15 rebelde.

Tumagal ng isang oras ang bakbakan.

Hindi pa inilalabas ng Army ang pangalan ng mga nasabing rebelde dahil nagsasagawa pa ng imbestigasyon ang pulisya.

Narekober sa lugar ng engkuwentro ang dalawang matataas na kalibre ng baril.

Tara Yap at Fer Taboy

8

07 November 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 9

3 rebels killed in Capiz

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY—Three New People's Army (NPA) fighters were killed in a clash with government troops in Cuartero town, Capiz, Tuesday.

Lt. Col. Sisenando Magbalot Jr., commander of the Philippine Army's 61st Infantry Battalion (61 IB), said the bodies of three communist rebels were found by government troops.

The encounter happened late Tuesday afternoon in Sitio Badiangon, Barangay Puti-an, but it was only on

Wednesday that the bodies were recovered, Magbalot said.

The Army declined to release the names of the slain rebels pending an investigation by the Philippine National Police (PNP).

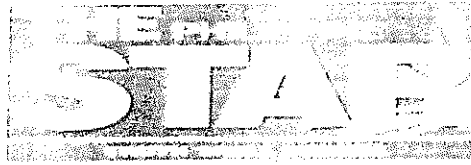
"We are still verifying with the police," Magbalot said.

Soldiers from 61 IB had been sent to Sitio Badiangon after villagers complained that the rebels had seized sacks of rice from them.

Recovered from the encounter scene were two high-caliber firearms.

9

09 November 2017



Page: 01

3 killed in Capiz AFP-NPA clash

ILOILO CITY – Three suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed in an encounter with government troops in Capiz on Tuesday.

Initial reports showed soldiers belonging to the 61st Infantry Battalion clashed with around 30 members of the NPA's Eastern Front Committee - Komiteng Rehiyon Panay in Sitio Tigpaka Gamay, Barangay Puti-an, Cuartero.

Two rifles and five backpacks were recovered from the rebels, Brig. Gen. Pio Diñoso, 301st Infantry Brigade commanding officer, said.

Diñoso said they have yet to determine if the leader of the group, Romulo Gangoso, alias

Regan, was among those killed.

He said they received reports that NPA rebels are recruiting new members and extorting money from residents and businessmen in the province.

– Jennifer Rendon

10

9 November 2017



Pahina. 2

Tiniyak ni Guerrero kay VP Robredo REVOLUTIONARY GOVT 'DI SUPORTADO NG AFP

TINIYAK ng Ilderato ng Armed Forces of the Philippines kay Vice President Leni Robredo na hindi nito suportahan ang bali-balitang binabalak na magtayo ng isang revolutionary government sa bansa.

Bingyan ng AFP si VP Leni ng isang security briefing noong Miyerkules ng hapon sa Air

Force headquarters sa Pasay City.

Kinuha ni VP Leni ang pagkakataong ito para tanungin ang posisyon ng AFP tungkol sa pagtalayo ng revolutionary government.

Sinabi niyang nakababaha-la ang mga ganitong usapin matapos ang pagtatawag ng suporta para rito, mula mismo

sa ilang masugid na tagasupor-ta ng Pangulo, kabilang na ang ilang opisyal ng pamahalaan.

"In-assure tayo, in no uncertain terms, both ni Secretary Lorenzana and ni AFP Chief of Staff Guerrero na hindi sila susupor-ta sa revolutionary government at sa kahit anong threat sa ating Konstitusyon," wika niya. Ayon din sa Bise Presidente,

natalakay sa briefing ang sit-wasyon sa Marawi matapos ang bakbakan doon sa pagitan ng mga sundalo at Maute terror group.

Pinuri at pinasalamatan ni VP Leni ang AFP at ang DND sa tagumpay ng pamahalaan sa Marawi at tiniyak din ang supor-ta ng kanyang opisina para sa rehabilitation efforts sa lungsod.

11

9 November 2017



Page. 6

M.O.D.A. salutes Marawi heroes via grand fashion show

AFP lauds effort to keep patriotism alive

THE war in Marawi may be over, but the outpouring of love, gratitude and support for the soldiers who offered their lives and selflessly fought the terrorists to liberate as well as restore peace and order in the city continues. /Page 6

M.O.D.A. ...

From Page 1

Movement of Designers and Artists (MODA), a non-profit group of philanthropists from different fields led by their Chief Executive Office (CEO) Michael Angelo S. Umandap together with their Vice President Alan Killebrew, treasurer Hazel Alviz and board member Jovy Lynn Salinas Tuesday visited the office of Civil Relations Service - Armed Forces of the

Philippines (CRS-AFP) Commander Major General Ronnie Evangelista in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City and extended their willingness to help in the AFP's "Support our Troops" campaign.

During their meeting, Umandap explained that MODA will conduct a grand fashion show that will benefit the children of soldiers who have been slain or wounded in their valiant efforts to protect the country from the ISIS inspired Maute Terror Group in Marawi City.

The show entitled "The Movement Fashion Show Marches on towards brighter future for Marawi Heroes' kids" will be held on November 24, 2017 in Glorietta 2, Activity area at around 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Killebrew, a retired US Navy officer said through this undertaking, the MODA will be able to salute the Filipino soldiers for their gallantry and heroism in defending the country against the terrorists.

Salinas said the fashion show will be dedicated to the soldiers' supreme sacrifice of putting their lives on the line to preserve peace and democracy.

According to Alviz, part of the proceeds of the benefit show will be donated to the kids of the slain and wounded soldiers in Marawi City through the AFP-CRS.

CRS-AFP Commander Major General Ronnie Evangelista wel-

comed the MODA's idea and effort to support the soldiers and the security forces in general adding that this is the time for everyone to participate and get involved to keep the spirit of patriotism and love of country alive in our heart.

"Let us promote patriotism, encourage everyone to support our troops, get involved and participate in our own little way in whatever issues," he said.

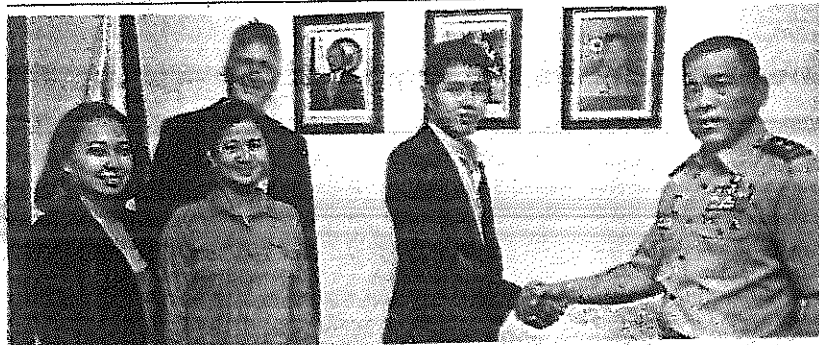
He said after the 154-day of Marawi siege, the troops already gained favorable support from the public and the CRSAFP is right in doing their best to keep that support and sustain it.

"You cannot buy the support of the people, you should earn it, so we have to win the support of the people because whoever win the war, will win the war," he said.

"Right now we are enjoying 75% approval rating of the people, the highest so far and we have to sustain it," Evangelista said.

With this, Evangelista appealed to MODA to help them in encouraging the people to get involved and be participative in their effort to elevate the level of awareness of the people particularly in the security threat to prevent what happened in Marawi City.

"Security is a shared responsibility, prevention is better than cure," Evangelista stressed.



M.O.D.A. MARCHES ON FOR HEROIC AFP TROOPS -- Top representatives of the Movement of Design and Artists (M.O.D.A.) pay a courtesy call on AFP-CRS Commander Major General Ronnie Evangelista to discuss the group's fund-raising fashion show that will honor the heroism and gallantry of AFP soldiers particularly those wounded in the Marawi siege. Part of the proceeds of the show will be donated to the kids of slain and wounded soldiers in Marawi City through the AFP-CRS. Photo shows M.O.D.A. President Michael Angelo Umandap (center) shaking hands with Civil Relations Service - Armed Forces of the Philippines (CRS-AFP) Commander Major General Ronnie Evangelista (R). Looking on are (from L) M.O.D.A. Board Member Jovy Lynn Salinas, M.O.D.A. Vice President Alan Killebrew and M.O.D.A. Treasurer Hazel Alviz. Photo by JON JON REYES

12

9 November 2017



Pahina. 2

Matapos magprotesta ang China **AFP troops sa Sandy Cay** **pina-pullout na ni Digong**

Sa gitna na rin ng protesta ng China, ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Duterte ang pullout ng tropa ng militar sa Sandy Cay malapit sa Pag-asa Island sa pinagtatalunang teritoryo sa West Philippine Sea.

Inamin ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na nagprotesta ang China sa plano ng AFP na magtayo ng mga kubo sa Sandy Cay malapit na Pag-asa, isa sa siyam na isla na inookupa ng Pilipinas sa West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

"The Chinese reacted and so the President came to know about this and he said let's pull out," pahayag ni Lorenzana sa ginanap na security forum sa Makati City. "We left and ... the tension lowered again."

Nabatid na magtatayo sana ng mga bahay kubo na matutuluyan ng mga sundalong nakadeploy sa Pag-asa Island na magagamit ng mga ito kapag masama ang lagay ng panahon.

Magugunita na ipinag-utos ni dating AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año na tanuran ng mga sundalo ang lahat ng mga isla na nasasaklaw ng 200 milyang Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) sa WPS.

Inihayag ni Lorenzana na ang pagtutol ng China ay ipinarating sa Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

"They complained that we are occupying a new feature. No, actually we brought a people there to occupy the, not to occupy, but to put structures for our fishermen," paliwanag ng kalihim.

"It's not a permanent structure because it's a sandbar. It cannot even, you cannot even dig in there because it's very soft," paliwanag pa nito.

Idinagdag pa ni Lorenzana na upang hindi na uminit ang tensyon sa pinag-aagawang teritoryo ay ipinag-utos ng Pangulo ang pullout ng AFP troops. (*Joy Cantos*)

9 November 2017



Pahina. 9

Yumaong aktres, piloto rin... **ISABEL, SASALUBUNGIN NG PHIL. AIR FORCE AT BIBIGYAN NG TRIBUTE PAGBALIK NG 'PINAS**

W GAYONG bago mananghali ay muling mababalot ng lungkot ang mundo ng showbiz sa pagdating ng mga labi ng yumaong aktres na si Isabel Granada mula sa Doha, Qatar.

Nakalulungkot dahil ang mga uniuwring kababayan nating manggagawa mula sa iba-ibang bansa ay sinasalubong ng tuwa at yakap ng kanilang mga iniwang pamilya sa Pilipinas.

Punumpuno ng saya ang pagsalubong dahil matagal na panahon silang hindi nagkita-kita. Babawi sila, magba-bonding sila, sasamantalain nila ang mga nakalipas na panahong kulang ang kanilang pamilya.

Kabaligtaran nu'n ang pagsalubong na magaganap sa pagbabalik-bansa ni Isabel Granada. Nagdadalamhati ang buong industriya, balot ng lungkot ang kanyang mga tagahanga, dahil kailanman ay hindi na uli nila makikita pa ang magandang aktres.

Isang napakalungkot na pagsalubong ang naghihintay kay Isabel Granada. Kung gaano siya umalis nang napaka-saya nang magpunta siya sa Qatar ay bangkay na siyang babalik sa ating bayan.

Sa pamamagitan ni Colonel Jude Estrada ay nalaman namin ang impormasyon na may inihahanda rin ang Philippine Air Force na arrival honors para sa aktres.

September 18, 2001 ay miyembro na ng PAF si AirWoman Isabel C. Granada (830474 PAF), na-promote si Isabel bilang AirWoman 2nd class nu'ng January 28, 2003, at nagbitiw nu'ng January 19, 2009.

Pero nag-reenlist ang pumanaw na aktres sa Philippine Air Force, sarhento ang kanyang ranggo, pumanaw si Isabel Granada bilang reserve officer ng PAF.

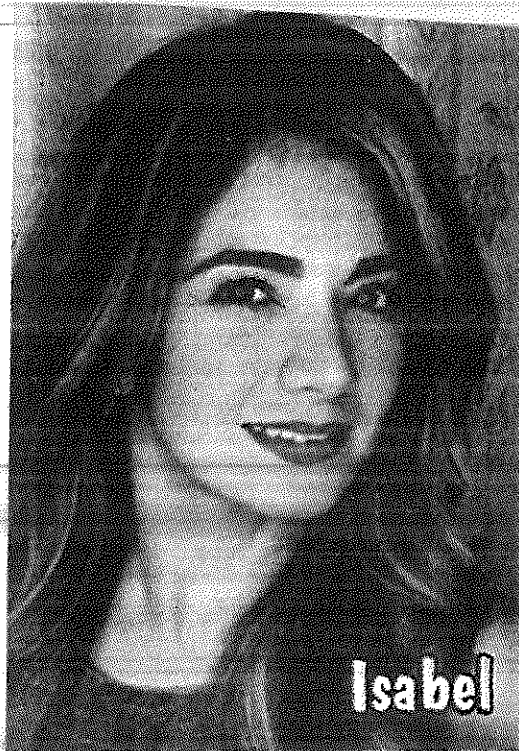
Hahandugan ng 520 Airbase Wing PAF ng pagpupugay ang kanilang pumanaw na kasamahan, magkakaroon din ng conduct vigil sa kanyang burol, babantayan ng mga kapwa niya AirWoman si Sgt. Isabel Granada mula sa unang gabi hanggang sa itatid ang kanyang mga labi sa huling hantungan.

Lisensiyadong piloto si Isabel Granada. Sinikap niyang tapusin ang kanyang kurso sa kabila ng pagiging abala niya sa pag-aartista bilang katuparan ng kanyang pangarap at para mabigyan ng karangalan ang kanyang inang si Mommy Guwapa.

Napakalungkot na araw ito sa buong industriyang minahal at nagmahal pabalik kay Sgt. Isabel Granada.

Sa muli, sa huling pagkakataon, ang taos-puso po naming pakikiramay sa mga iniwan ng isang masayahing personalidad na palaging maaalala ng mundong inikutan ng kanyang buhay.

Huwag daw tayong magsasabi ng paalam. Hanggang sa muli lang. Dahil isang araw, sa takdang panahon ay muli nating makakasama ang ating mga mahal sa dako pa roon.



14

09 November 2017



Page. A1



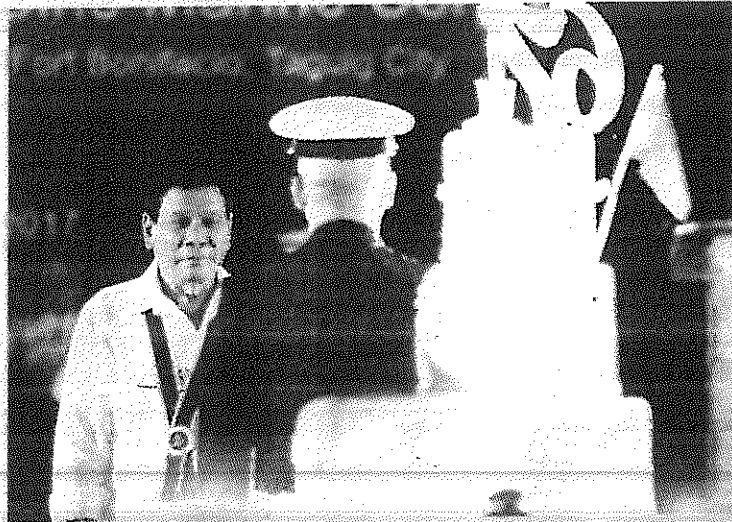
STREAMER AWARD. President Rodrigo Duterte attaches Tuesday the Kahusayan Streamer Award to the banner of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 1 during the 67th birthday celebration of the Philippine Marine Corps at the Bonifacio Naval Station in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The Marine Battalion Landing Team 1 led by Lt. Col. Stephen Cabanlet was adjudged as Battalion of the Year for 2017. **Malacañang Photo**

15

9 November 2017



Page. 2



PRESIDENT Duterte stands in front of a Marine during the 67th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Marine Corps in Taguig City. (Jansen Romero)

W

November 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 11

Omar Maute's widow waives right to inquest

By **BONITA L. ERMAC**

ILIGAN CITY – Still bewildered and worried about the fate of her children, Minhati Madrais – an Indonesian who is the known wife of slain Maute Group leader Omar Maute – signed a waiver to inquest that will pave the way for an investigation to determine whether she had links with the Islamic State (IS)-linked terrorist group.

Jek-jek Sacan, City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) Youth Holding Center Officer-In-Charge, related

that Madrais has felt troubled, uneasy, and perturbed on what will now happen to her family now that Omar Maute is gone.

Sacan said Madrais confided her feelings to him, unloading whatever frustrations she had and apprehension about the rights that should be accorded to her six children, aged 12 years old to nine months old.

Madrais was brought to the prosecutor's office Tuesday, and was accompanied by the Indonesian Consul supposedly to be subjected to an inquest.

But she was directed to seek assis-

tance with the Public Attorney's Office as she didn't have a lawyer yet.

Lawyer Viviene Mostrales of Public Attorney's Office said Minhati didn't even know that she had been put under arrest, much worse charged with illegal possession of explosives.

Omar Maute's wife thought she was just being held because she had an expired passport.

Nevertheless, Minhati has signed a waiver for inquest after her name was corrected to exclude the name Maute since the slain terrorist's surname did not reflect on her passport.

She also told Mostrales that she just wanted to go home to Indonesia with her children, and be with her parents.

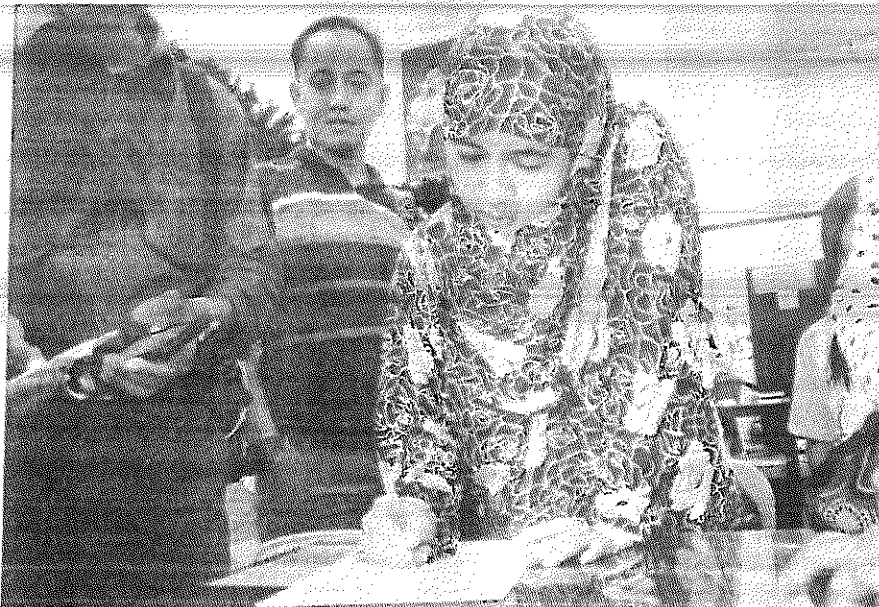
As such, Minhati has signed a waiver for inquest, which will give her time to file a counter-affidavit within 10 days.

Meanwhile, an Indonesian official Wahyu Candra Irawan, National Police Liaison Officer, visited Minhati, according to Sr. Supt. Leony Roy Ga, City Director here.

"Safe sila dito sa area natin" assured Ga and that their needs have been coordinated with the City Social Welfare and Development. Additional personnel will be added just in case the suspect will be brought to BJMP, he said.

Ga also said Minhati denied that she was keeping the explosive materials which were found in her rented residence. She also denied having any knowledge of her husband's activity.

Minhait also said she has been in the country since 2012.



WAIVER – Minhati Madrais, widow of terrorist leader Omar Maute, signs a waiver before Atty. Viviene Mostrales and Indonesian Consul Asst. Supt. Wahyu Candra Irawan of the Indonesia National Police Liaison Office at the prosecutor's office in Iligan City, Tuesday. (Bonita L. Ermac)

17

5 November 2017

Standard

Page. A3

P14.5-m set aside for Marawi rehab

By John Paolo Bencito

THE Office of the President has approved the augmentation of the 2017 National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund amounting to P14.5 billion. Geared towards providing sufficient funding for the rehabilitation of Marawi City in Lanao del Sur, the amount will be sourced from the savings of the Department of Public Works and Highways for fiscal year 2016 and 2017, amounting to P10.3-billion and P4.2 billion, respectively.

Agencies are now expected to submit their respective Budget Execution Documents to support the release of such funds, especially for the budgetary requirements for Pre-Post Conflict Needs Assessment inclusive of housing, health and social welfare, business and livelihood, peace and order, and information management and strategic communications support.

Around P495 million sourced from the Quick Response Fund of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the De-

partment of Health, and the Department of National Defense had already been spent for evacuation and relief of internally displaced families and persons.

Furthermore, a total of P3 billion has been released to DSWD to cover the funding for continuing relief, inclusive of food assistance, provision of hygiene kits, kitchen kits, family kits, sleeping kits, and collapsible water carriers. This amount would also cover DSWD's budgetary requirements for a cash-for-work program, enlisting residents in reconstruction

rehabilitation community works and project management/ operational support.

A total of P195 million has also been released to DPWH to cover funding for quick response, transitional shelter, and various evacuation centers in Marawi City.

Following Administrative Order No. 9, the leadership of the Task Force Bangon Marawi has also been transferred to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, in order to address the urban planning requirements of the newly

liberated city. Previously, the DND had the lead oversight in the planning and proceedings for the city's reconstruction and rehabilitation while the fighting ensued. Marawi City has been liberated from the control of ISIS-backed terrorist groups on Oct. 17, 2017, thereby indicating the start of a thorough reconstruction period. As such, the need to reorganize TFBM was borne to reflect the government's current priority to rebuild and develop the settlement areas that were affected by the attacks.

In a related development, President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the release of P500 million to fund the medical and livelihood needs of soldiers wounded during the five-month long battle in Marawi.

"I just released 500 million, *para lang 'yan sa tinamaan sa giyera,*" Duterte said in a speech Tuesday at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

Duterte said part of the P500 million would be used to build homes for the soldiers and pay for their treatment and recuperation.

18

09 November 2017



Page: 6

DETERRENT TO CHINA EXPANSION

PH, OTHER NATIONS URGED TO BOOST MILITARY STRENGTH

By **Dona Z. Pazzibugan**
@dpazzibuganINQ

Former Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario on Wednesday said the Philippines and other concerned nations should consider beefing up their military capability to deter China's expansion in the South China Sea.

Speaking in a forum of think tanks held ahead of next week's Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit, Del Rosario said the Philippines had done its part to ensure the "peaceful settlement" of the territorial disputes in the South China Sea by seeking arbitration in an international tribunal.

But he said China "has used a creeping force to ensure its control of the vital waterways on which we all depend," then went on to raise the alternative military approach.

Rule of law

"In our view, China should consider if, in achieving its present military or economic objectives, it will continue to have a measure of respect from its neighbors. In my view, this is only possible if China pursues its aims within the framework of international law," Del Rosario said at the forum organized by Stratbase-Albert del Rosario Institute.

"Yet, if trying to get everyone to adhere to the rule of law does not work, one other alternative is an approach character-

ized by a strategic buildup of defense capabilities for deterrence purposes," he said.

He said some experts had suggested "that the countries of the region should thoughtfully ramp up their defense transfers and invest in select military platforms as a matter of necessity."

"Although a cycle of reactive militarization will surely raise the stakes and the tension, this may still be a prudent path," Del Rosario said, warning that "smaller states" like the Philippines could not afford to capitulate to China's expansion in the South China Sea.

"The least desirable option is sheer capitulation: for us, smaller states especially, to give in and to lose our sovereign equality and all that it signifies. This is not a win-win solution, only a guarantee that we bequeath our grievances to our children. This option is totally unsatisfactory," he said.

Del Rosario said his speech was addressed to leaders of the Philippines, other Asean countries, China, the United States and "other concerned nations."

President Duterte will play host to 21 world leaders who will attend the Asean Summit and related meetings in Manila from Nov. 12 to 14.

China claims almost all of the South China Sea, including waters within the exclusive economic zones of the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan. INQ

19

01 November 2017



Page: 6

• Aircraft search

The military and other concerned agencies are still conducting search and rescue operations following the reported emergency landing of a Cessna aircraft in the vicinity of Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija and Maria Aurora, Aurora. Lt. Isagani Nato, Northern Luzon Command spokesman told the Manila Bulletin that as of yesterday afternoon, Noicom troops were still scouring the area. It was reported last Monday that the aircraft, with tail #152 RPC-1955 owned by Fly Fast Aviation, performed an emergency landing near Pantabangan. The aircraft, with an instructor and a student pilot on board left the Lingayen airport in Pangasinan at 10:02 a.m. en route to Baler, Aurora (Lizie Basa Inigo)

20

01 November 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. A12

PHIL won't even build huts on disputed cay

BY RENE ACOSTA [@reneacostaBM](#)

THE military has dropped plans to put up makeshift structures for Filipino fishermen on a sandbar in a Philippine-claimed territory that China continues to dispute after it was stopped by President Duterte upon the advice of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana said the Commander in Chief halted the construction of the makeshift shelters for fishermen in the West Philippine Sea in August, after he was advised by Foreign Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano that it may be violative of a regional agreement.

"It was explained to him by the Foreign Affairs secretary that we had an agreement that nobody should

occupy new structure. So the President said...we will just pull out," the defense chief told military reporters at the sidelines of the defense forum held by the Stratbase ADR Institute in Makati City.

Lorenzana did not say whether the sandbar was the Sandy Cay, which Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio earlier said had been "invaded" by China by keeping Filipino fishermen

21

LORENZANA: "It is not a permanent structure because it is a sandbar. You cannot even dig in there because it's very soft."



away from it with military and paramilitary vessels.

In August Sandy Cay became another scene of a "standoff" between China and the Philippines, after the military sent soldiers in the area following what was reported as presence of Chinese vessels there, sealing it against Filipino fishermen.

Lorenzana denied the standoff, saying it was just a misunderstanding, although he admitted that China protested.

"Actually, we brought people there to put structures for our fishermen," he said. Lorenzana added that at the time, Chinese fishermen were present on the sandbar, which also prompted the country to send a fishing boat

from Navotas. Both sides, however, have left Sandy Cay.

According to Carpio, the cay, a disappearing high-tide sandbar that was extensively discussed in the July 12, 2016, ruling of the United Nations arbitral tribunal, forms part of the Philippine land territory, being located between Pagasa and Zamora Reef.

Duterte has maintained that it will not confront China over the geological feature, saying the country does not have the military capability and capacity to challenge Beijing.

Lorenzana said that when Duterte ordered the military to stop the construction of the makeshift shelters, as it may violate the Asean Declaration of Conduct in the South China Sea as advised by Cayateno, they immediately complied.

He said what the government actually brought to the sandbar were "nipa hut" and "bamboos."

"It is not a permanent structure because it is a sandbar. You cannot even dig in there because it's very soft," Lorenzana said, describing the sandbar as having a size of about 500 square meters.

22

09 November 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

DBM to release gov't workers' tax-free bonus next week

By **CHINO S. LEYCO**

Government workers will start receiving their year-end bonus after the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit next week.

Budget Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno said that the Duterte administration has earmarked ₱32.84 billion for the year-end bonuses and another ₱6.93

billion for the cash gifts under the 2017 national budget.

"Starting November 15, all qualified government employees will receive year-end bonus tax free that is equivalent to their one month basic salary," Diokno told reporters yesterday, noting the actual release is on November 16 as the 15th is a non-working day.

Apart from the year-end **▶16**

DBM to release...

◀1

bonus, more than 1.3 million government workers will also get a ₱5,000 cash gift this year.

Qualified state workers for the year-end bonus and cash gift are those who have served at least four-months, including leaves of absence with pay from January 1 to October 31, and are still employed as of October 31.

Last year, former President Benigno S. Aquino III signed Executive Order No. 201 modifying the salary schedule for civilian government personnel and authorizing the grant of additional benefits for both civilian and military and

uniformed personnel.

The executive order provided for the adoption of a compensation adjustment strategy that will ensure government compensation structure is comparable with the prevailing rates in the private sector.

In particular, the presidential order granted the giving of mid-year bonus equivalent to one-month basic salary not earlier than May 15 of every year, as an additional benefit.

The EO likewise provides that the year-end bonus and cash gift shall be given in November of every year.

23

9 November 2017



Pahina. 3

Editorial EDITORIAL Editorial

Libreng pampaospital, gamot, edukasyon at pabahay sa mga sundalong sumabak sa Marawi, dapat lang!

ISANG napakalaking tagumpay talaga ang nangyaring pagkakapatay sa dalawang lider ng terorista at ang tuluyan nang pagkabawi sa Marawi City.

Pero ang laban, hindi pa rin tapos dahil hamon naman ngayon ang muling pagbangon ng lungsod pati na rin ng mga naapektuhan ng kaguluhan.

Siyempre, hindi naman puwedeng matapos ang limang buwang bakbakan ay ganu'n na lang'yun at hindi na natin kaka-lingain ang matatayang na sundalong lumaban at nakipagbak-bakan upang maibalik ang kapayapaan sa lungsod.

Bukod sa mga buhay na nawala dahil sa giyera, marami rin ang nasugatan sa hanay ng ating mga sundalo.

At ang mga survivor na ito ay hindi natin basta-basta na lamang dapat pabayaan.

Kaya napakagandang balita ang muling pagtitiyak ng pangulo na hindi pababayaan ng gobyerno ang magigiting nating mga bagong bayani.

Katunayan dito, naglabas ng P500-M ang pangulo para sa gamot, pampaospital at pambili ng mga de-kalidad na artipisyal na paa ng mga sundalong naputulan dahil sa labanan.

Siyempre, hindi rin pababayaan ang kanilang mga anak at tini-yak na sagot na ng gobyerno ang edukasyon ng mga ito bukod pa sa pangkabuhayang ipagkakaaloob sa kanila.

Ayon pa sa pangulo, may itatayo rin daw silang pabahay malapit sa Maynila na target tapusin sa Marso 2018 na eksklusibo lang para sa mga nasugatan sa bakbakan.

Hindi na rin talo, hindi ba?

Oo nga at kasama sa buhay ng mga sundalo ang sumabak sa laban, pero hindi rin naman ganu'n kadalang magdesisyong ialay ang sariling buhay lalo na at may pamilyang umaasa at naghihintay.

Kaya para sa atin, napakagandang balita na kahit tapos na ang laban ay hindi pa rin pababayaan ng gobyerno ang matatayang na sundalong nagbuwis ng buhay para sa kapayapaan.

24

09 November 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. A12

Piketty, Marawi, Wadi

CONTINUED FROM A1

Now what has Piketty got to do with Marawi? Well, his ideas on how to tackle fundamentalist Islamic terrorism in France somehow resonate at home.

It will be recalled that on November 13, 2015, ISIS militants launched a series of attacks against civilians in Paris that left 130 dead. Europe and the rest of the world were shocked, especially at the callousness of the terrorists who rained bombs and bullets in French cafés, restaurants, a theater and a football game. The response of the French government was a sweeping security beef up, targetting in particular the Islamic migrant communities that form part of the ghettos of France.

A week after, Piketty wrote for *Le Monde* a short article entitled "A Crackdown Alone Will Solve Nothing." He explained that the ISIS movement was bred by "the humiliations and injustices" that Arab Muslims have suffered in the Middle East. Piketty went on to cite how the West sundered the Arab borders in the 1920s, destroyed the Iraqi government, and interfered in Kuwait to ensure the flow of oil to the emirs and Western companies. He wrote: "There is no question: terrorism is fueled by the inegalitarian powder keg of the Middle East, which we [meaning the developed capitalist countries] largely helped to create."

On inequality in the Middle East, Piketty further wrote: "Beyond the clash of religions, the concentration of oil resources within a small, unpopulated territories shapes and undermines the region's whole political and social system." About 10 percent of the population, consisting of the "oil monarchies," hold a combined 60 percent to 70 percent of the GDP, with the masses from Egypt and Iran to Syria and the Arabian Peninsula wallowing in poverty. This, according to Piketty, "makes the region the most unequal in the world."

Is this the reason Saudi's new political leader, the Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman, has launched a sweeping anti-corruption drive that has led to the detention of dozens of billionaire ministers and members of the royalty? To prevent the rise of another Osama bin Laden and to still the unrest building up among the Saudi population?

To Piketty, the general solution to terrorism is "social development with equity" and that "a development model that is so unequal can only lead to disaster." In Piketty's logic, fortifying France with arms, espionage and more security personnel is meaningless if the root causes of social and economic exclusion and alienation for a large part of the population, including migrants, are not addressed.

The question now is: Can social development with equity be developed also for Marawi, Mindanao and the whole country? As articulated by our own military officials and security experts, the liberation of Marawi from the Maute forces does not signal the end of terrorism in the country. It can resurface in new forms and shapes in various places of Mindanao and the country.

25

Like in France, our government is pouring resources on the military and police forces, promising higher salaries and procuring new and modern arms from a variety of countries: the United States, China, Russia and even Israel. The government is also allocating double-digit billion-peso amounts for the rebuilding of Marawi, the pulverized Queen City of the South.

But how is the social rebuilding being undertaken? Are the socioeconomic and infrastructure programs being hatched beneficial to all in an equitable and sustainable manner?

Will the Duterte administration be able to avoid the anti-poor measures committed in the post-Yolanda rebuilding efforts? For example, one harebrained policy measure adopted by the past Aquino administration was the no-build zone policy, which stipulates that no houses or settlements shall be allowed to be built within 40 meters of the shore land to avoid a repetition of the tsunami-like disaster that hit Tacloban. The authors of this policy failed to recognize that majority of the fisherfolk in the Visayas and other coastal areas of the country have houses situated within the so-called no-build zone. To simply ask the fisherfolk families to vacate the prohibited areas without any clear resettlement program, without any alternative livelihoods and without any coordination and transition programs is cruel and patently anti-poor. To make matters worse, in some Yolanda-hit areas, the poor were asked to vacate lands that were taken over eventually by rich resort developers. This was dubbed by some civil-society organization activists as nothing but "disaster capitalism."

But back to Marawi. Prof. Julkipli Wadi of the UP Islamic Studies, in a recent assembly organized by the Laban ng Masa, expressed fears that Marawi represents a new "theater of war" in Mindanao, and that the wounds in the hearts of the Marawi youths are likely to fester for a long time, despite the government's promises of full rehabilitation for the city. Their anger is likely to manifest in various forms in the future. And the objects of their anger can be any of the following: the radicals who based themselves in the city, the narco-politicians and their families, and the military who destroyed the city through widespread "overkill" bombing.

Like Piketty, Wadi also raised broader social and political issues related to the Marawi conflict, such as the unresolved struggle of the Bangsamoro people for self-government and freedom. At the same time, Wadi pointed out that segments of the Islamic population are aligned with the struggle of the Islamic world against the "structural globalization" imposed by the developed capitalist countries in the Middle East in tandem with select monarchies. This globalization is opposed by "transnational political Islam," which has nurtured the radical ideas that have been imbibed by the ISIS, al-Qaeda, Abu Sayyaf, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, Maute Group and other radical Islamic groups.

Wadi warned that the conflict in Mindanao is likely to worsen as a result of the Marawi war. Moreover, the situation of the poor in Mindanao has been worsening because of widespread land-grabbing and abuses by the traditional politicians, warlords (and drug lords) and foreign interests.

So, to Wadi, what is needed is a comprehensive program of reform and rehabilitation that gives priority on how to rebuild the trust of the Maranaos, Yakans, Tausugs and tribal people on government. How? Piketty's answer sums it up neatly: social development with equity.

ONLINE NEWS

09 NOVEMBER 2017

DND: No Chinese blockade off Kalayaan Island Group

By Priam Nepomuceno November 8, 2017 6:19 pm

MANILA -- There are no Chinese ships blockading Sandy Cay and other sandbars owned by the Philippines in the Kalayaan Island Group.

This was stressed by Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana at the sidelines of the ASEAN Leadership Amid A New World Order at the Makati Shangri-La Wednesday.

"I think the word guarding is not the correct term eh, kasi yung mga nandun mga fishermen nila eh. Yung ating nagpupunta din, dun, na malapit lang nag-dock, was also a fishing boat from Navotas na malaki. Na-nipon nila. Pero sabi namin, meron din naman, din kayong bangon, diyan sa malapit. Na-naka-standby un, nagp-fishing din yun, so fishing, so they are not actually guarding," he added.

(I think the word guarding is not the correct term because fishermen were there. Our fishermen are also there. It was a big fishing boat from Navotas which docked somewhere nearby. They complained about it. But we said they also have ships nearby which are on standby. They are fishing, not actually guarding.) This after he admitted the Philippines stopped construction of fishermen shelters in Sandy Cay, which is 2.5 nautical miles from Pag-asa Island after China protested the move claiming the activity involves the setting of facilities in a "new feature".

"The background is like this, there was an agreement between our Foreign Secretary saka sila, yung ano nila, that there will, status quo lang muna, walang occupation ng new feature. (There was an agreement between our Foreign Secretary and with them that everything will be in status quo for the meantime. There will be no occupation of a new feature.) So nung lumabas yung sandbar na yun inokupa natin. (So when the sandbar came out which we have occupied) they considered it new feature," the DND chief pointed out.

Lorenzana also admitted that the Philippines brought in troops to build the shelters which are only "nipa huts". He estimates that the sandbar only measures around 500 square meters.

The order to stop construction came from President Rodrigo Duterte last August, the DND chief added.

Lorenzana also disclosed that no Chinese ships arrived and told Filipino troops to stay away, adding that the matter was handled through diplomatic channels. (PNA)

27

Pres. Duterte assures soldiers: I'll always be there in times of need

November 8, 2017, 6:44 am

MANILA -- President Rodrigo Duterte stressed anew that he would support the country's uniformed personnel at all times.

The Chief Executive reiterated his commitment when he keynoted the 67th founding anniversary of the Philippine Marine Corps at its headquarters in Taguig City on Tuesday, November 7.

"I want to emphasize to soldiers that -- for as long as I'm there, I love my soldiers and I love my police. And you can be very sure that I am there when the moment needs me," Duterte said.

He again vowed to modernize the Philippine military and police by providing them brand new equipment and firearms. He said he wants to leave the presidency with a strong armed forces and police force.

The President also announced the allocation of PHP500-million fund for housing projects, prosthetics and other medical needs, and livelihood assistance for wounded and disabled soldiers. He said he hopes soldiers who lost limbs in battle can stand again with the help of titanium prosthetics.

After the Philippine Marine Corps event, the President visited wounded soldiers recuperating at the Manila Naval Hospital inside Fort Bonifacio.

Among the soldiers were Sgt. Jayson Gigante, Ssg. Roderick Pervandos, Sgt. Benjie Trilles, Tsg. Hector Pizon, Tssgt. Rolly Magalona, Pvt. MC Riel Omilig, Pfc. Christopher Famulag, Pfc. Bernard Arigiado, and Pfc. Jomar Abuan.

The President conferred on them the Order of Lapu-Lapu with rank of Kampilan. The soldiers also received financial assistance from President Duterte. (PND)