

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

21 November 2017

Tuesday

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

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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 21, 2017 | TUESDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

CELESTIAL SEA

TALE-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON
NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON
TROUGH OF A LOW PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING SOUTHERN MINDANAO
 (As of 4:00 PM - November 20, 2017)

SUNRISE 6:00 AM	SUNSET 5:24 PM
MOONRISE 8:02 AM	MOONSET 7:41 PM
NEW MOON NOV 18 7:42 PM	FIRST QUARTER NOV 27 1:03 AM
LOW TIDE 6:48 AM -0.08 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 11:11 PM 1.08 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

	NOV 22	NOV 23	NOV 22	NOV 23	NOV 22	NOV 23		
METRO MANILA	☁ 25 - 32 °C	☁ 24 - 32 °C	TAGAYTAY	☁ 20 - 27 °C	☁ 19 - 27 °C	TACLOBAN	☁ 24 - 31 °C	☁ 25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	☁ 25 - 32 °C	☁ 25 - 32 °C	LEGAZPI	☁ 25 - 31 °C	☁ 25 - 30 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	☁ 23 - 32 °C	☁ 23 - 32 °C
LAOAG	☁ 26 - 31 °C	☁ 24 - 31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	☁ 24 - 31 °C	☁ 25 - 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	☁ 25 - 32 °C	☁ 25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	☁ 17 - 23 °C	☁ 17 - 21 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	☁ 25 - 32 °C	☁ 26 - 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	☁ 25 - 32 °C	☁ 24 - 33 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	☁ 25 - 31 °C	☁ 25 - 31 °C	METRO CEBU	☁ 25 - 33 °C	☁ 25 - 32 °C			

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

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

21 November 2017



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DUTERTE OFFERS CHINA 3RD TELCO CARRIER SLOT

**By Philip C. Tubeza
and Miguel Camus
@Team_Inquirer**

“The telecom duopoly is about to end,” Malacañang declared on Monday.

Presidential spokesperson

and interference,” might “have prevented the earlier breakup of the duopoly.”

In a press briefing, Roque said offering China to become the third telco operator in the country “is the latest instance of the President proving that he

Harry Roque announced that President Duterte had offered China, the “privilege” of operating the third telco player in the country to “break up” the industry duopoly of PLDT and Globe Telecom.

Roque said Mr. Duterte

has the political will to do what is necessary to benefit the Filipino people.”

“I repeat, the announcement is that duopoly, that telecoms duopoly is about to end,” he said.

No specific Chinese compa-

ny made the offer during his meeting with Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang in Malacañang last week.

He also said that former Information and Communication Secretary Rodolfo Salalima, who resigned in September after complaining of “corruption

ny has been lined up, according to Roque.

He said the President chose China because it had the capital and the technology to provide efficient telecom service.

“Consider also the proximity and the fact that

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we want to avail ourselves of as much economic advantage that we could arising from the renewed friendly ties with China," he added.

Third player welcome

Pierre Galla, cofounder of ICT advocacy group Democracy.Net.PH, said it was high time a third player entered the market to boost competition.

PLDT said it was the government's prerogative to invite new players. "As for us, we welcome competition," said PLDT spokesperson Ramon Isberto.

Eliseo Rio Jr., acting secretary at the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), said a third player was welcome.

"In fact the more players the better. But there are constitutional limitations to foreign participation such as 40 percent ownership," Rio said in a text message.

Industry players and experts have generally declined to comment, saying they first need to see how the Duterte administration would implement such a plan. One way is for a Chinese telco company to partner with a local player.

Philippine Telegraph & Telephone Corp. (PT&T), which has new owners led by Salvador B. Zamora II and Benjamin Bitanga, is in talks with potential foreign investors.

Among these investors,

Zamora told the Inquirer in October, was state-owned China Telecom, that country's third-largest telco. PT&T was earlier referred to by Mr. Duterte a few months ago as the third player.

Slowest, most intermittent

The Philippines' data and voice services rank among the Asia-Pacific's slowest and most intermittent. Last year, Mr. Duterte warned PLDT and Globe to shape up or face new competition.

PLDT and Globe have been accused of stifling competition and of failing to make necessary upgrades, accusations both have rejected.

They joined forces last year to buy for P70 billion radio frequency assets, including those in the coveted 700 megahertz (MHz) band, from a potential rival, San Miguel Corp, to kick-start telecom upgrades.

The 700-MHz is a low-band frequency prized for its ability to efficiently cover wide distances and penetrate buildings.

Critics say services are still lacking, however.

Outranked by 5 neighbors

The Philippines ranked 94th out of 121 countries for mobile internet, while it was 91st out of 131 countries for fixed broadband, according to the "Speedtest Global Index" study in September.

In both categories, the country was outranked by its five Southeast Asian neigh-

bors—Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

Roque said the President had ordered that all applications from prospective new players be filed in the Office of the Executive Secretary, which was given 45 days to act on them.

"That's how serious the President is in allowing a third-party carrier to come in," he added.

Deal with Facebook

Roque noted that the gov-

ernment last week signed an agreement with an affiliate of Facebook for the building of "Luzon Bypass" of the Pacific Light Cable Network, which "will provide bandwidth of two terabits per second."

"These 2 terabits is equivalent to the current capacity of the duopoly operators today," he said.

Roque said the process of breaking up the telco duopoly "should have been sooner" if not for "delays" allegedly on the part of former Secretary Rodolfo Salalima of the DICT.

"This agreement with the subsidiary of Facebook should have been signed as early as December 2016. It was not signed by the former secretary of the DICT," he said.

Roque said this was one of the areas of Salalima's conflict of interest pinpointed by Cabinet investigators. Salalima previously served as senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs of Globe Telecom until 2008.

"It was further reported by the special investigating committee that the former DICT

secretary likewise may have prevented the earlier breakup of the duopoly by delaying the use of satellites as (a) viable option," he said.

National broadband plan

Roque noted that the initial cost for the national broadband plan (NBP) developed under Salalima "appeared excessive" at P200 billion because the recommendation did not consider the contribution that could be made by National Grid Corp., National Transmission Corp., fiber optic clients and the Philippine National Railway Communication project.

The DICT earlier said the NBP, a government-backed plan to deliver high-speed internet services to the country's far-flung areas, could cost anywhere from P77 billion to P200 billion.

"Now, it would appear also that under the scheme being pushed by the former secretary of DICT, the NBP terrestrial backbone would still have left the duopoly with the right to connect the end users to the backbone," Roque said.

"And this after government would have spent already P77 billion," he added.

But with the agreement with the Facebook affiliate and the entry of a Chinese telco player, Roque said Filipinos could expect faster internet speed and better cellular technology.

—WITH A REPORT FROM
REUTERS INQ

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Peace talks in jeopardy over Red's imminent terror tag

By MAYEN JAYMALIN

The government peace panel will no longer resume peace talks with the National Democratic Front (NDF) once President Duterte declares the group a terrorist organization.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, chair of the government panel, said the declaration of the NDF and its armed wing as a terrorist group is tantamount to scrapping the peace negotiations.

The NDF is the umbrella of all communist groups in the country, including front organiza-

tions. The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is its political arm, while the New People's Army (NPA) is the armed wing.

"If the CPP-NPA is eventually declared as terrorist group, it would probably bring about the

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official termination of the peace talks," Bello told **The STAR**.

Bello noted that the government does not negotiate with terrorist groups.

Last Saturday, Duterte announced his intention to declare the NDF, CPP and NPA as terrorist group. He also said he is no longer inclined to continue the peace talks.

"When the President mentioned that he might declare CPP-NPA as terrorist group, I am sure he has moral and legal basis, taking into account that he has the security sector, who provide him the necessary information to come up with the decision," Bello said.

"We have given our position to the President and right now we are just waiting for his instruction. But I am not at liberty to disclose the recommendation of the panel," he added.

Malacañang said yesterday there was nothing new in the President's statement that he would declare the NDF, CPP and NPA as a terrorist group.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Duterte merely

agreed with the United States and the European Union that the NPA is a terrorist group.

"To begin with, the plan to declare the NPA as terrorists is not new. The US is one of the first to classify the NPA as a terrorist group when the Patriot Act was enacted. The European Union Council also classified the NPA as a terrorist group," Roque said in a press briefing.

"If the President makes such declaration, that means he agrees that the NPAs are really terrorists," he added.

'Duterte on propaganda war'

For Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms executive director Ramon Casiple, Duterte is now on a propaganda war against his critics, particularly those he has accused of plotting to destabilize his administration.

"I talked to President Duterte during the columnists meeting with him. He said there is a propaganda war going on in preparation, maybe, in the impeachment against him and the case to be filed

before the International Criminal Court," Casiple said in a forum on the Mindanao peace process at the Makati Diamond Residences yesterday.

"My personal opinion, the President is not satisfied (with the actions of NPA). Let's talk without infighting. That's what he wants."

"It's not just talk. The dynamics there is the claim of President Duterte that the NPAs are part of the destabilization. So, why do we have to talk when you are part of destabilization? Even if you are a rebel, when you are talking you should not attack the other side," he added.

Women's group Amihan also expressed concern over Duterte's threat to proclaim CPP-NPA as a terrorist group.

"Even before the proclamation, military attacks against lumad community schools in Mindanao continued and even worsened when Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao and threatened to bomb lumad schools. During his term, 39 lumad schools were forcibly closed by state forces," Amihan chair Zen Soriano said.

"The red-tagging of lumad schools was used by the Duterte regime and the AFP as a justification to perpetuate multiple human rights viola-

tions against *lumads*, especially the youth and children. What more when CPP-NPA has been declared as terrorist? How vicious could this regime be when it does not even differentiate civilians from rebel groups?" she added.

Meanwhile, senators welcomed Duterte's plan to declare the CPP-NPA a terrorist organization.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, chairman of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said declaring the CPP-NPA a terrorist group was Duterte's prerogative being the commander-in-chief and having access to sensitive information from his security advisers.

"If the US declared the CPP-NPA-NDF a terrorist organization, why can't we?" he added.

For Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chairman of the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs, "only a president with Duterte's guts can declare the NPA as terrorists and that's what they are for quite a long time.

"Their ideology has been gone more than a decade ago. They burn, destroy, kill innocent civilians to terrorize; they terrorize to sow fear and harass helpless civilians; they harass to extort under the guise of revolutionary taxation," Lacson said.

Sen. Antonio

Trillanes IV, a critic of Duterte, said the plan to outlaw the CPP-NPA would only be lip service unless Duterte fires "communists" in his Cabinet.

"Until that day that Duterte actually fires all the communists in his Cabinet, I will assume that this recurring threat to declare the CPP-NPA-NDF as a terrorist organization is just lip service to appease and deceive the AFP," Trillanes said.

Trillanes earlier said at least 12 senior officials and four Cabinet members were communists.

The appointments of former social welfare secretary Judy Taguiwalo and former agrarian reform chief Rafael Mariano were rejected by the Commission on Appointments apparently because of their communist links.

Firefights

Before Bello announced the possible cancellation of peace talks, Army troops figured in an encounter with alleged members of the NPA in Nasugbu, Batangas yesterday morning after the discovery of a rebel camp in the area on Sunday.

As of yesterday afternoon, sporadic firefights between the opposing forces continued as the military pursues its quarry, according to the Philippine Army.

No casualty is reported on the part of government forces, while the rebel group has suffered an undetermined num-

ber of dead or injured.

Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr., commander of the 202nd Infantry Brigade which supervises the operations, said an enemy encampment was discovered on Sunday by troops from the 730th Combat Group of the Philippine Air Force under Maj. Engelberto Nioda.

"The encampment is believed to have been occupied by NPA terrorists belonging to KLG Honda, the same NPA group that incurred heavy casualties during our focused military operations in Batangas City last September," he said. The military said it disrupted the NPA's plans to sabotage the ASEAN Summit as joint AFP and PNP forces had been conducting security operations to ensure the country's peaceful hosting of the summit since early October.

Maj. Gen. Rhoderick Parayno, acting commander of the AFP's Southern Luzon Command, said the NPA has been on the run since September.

"Because of the PNP and soldiers' sacrifices, commitment and dedication to their mission, the insurgents' plans were disrupted and the terrorists were never given elbow room to execute those plans," he said. – With Alexis Romero, Michael Punongbayan, Paolo Romero, Jose Rodel Clapano, Rhodina Villanueva, Gilbert Bayoran, Artemio Dumlao, Ben Serrano

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Duterte to visit wounded soldiers in Taguig today

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

President Duterte will visit wounded soldiers currently recuperating at the Army General Hospital in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City today.

Lieutenant Colonel Ray C. Tiongson, acting chief of the Army's Public Affairs Office, said the President will be awarding the Order of Lapu-Lapu (Kamagi Medal) to soldiers wounded in action (WIA) in various encounters against lawless and terrorist groups

across the country.

Duterte is also expected to hand over financial assistance to the wounded heroes.

Tiongson said President Duterte is expected to arrive in Fort Bonifacio at 2 p.m.

He said of the 40 soldiers wounded and confined at the Army General Hospital, 23 were wounded as a result of fighting against Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City, while the 17 others were wounded outside Marawi.

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Military calls Karapatan claim as plain prop

BY VICTOR REYES

THE military yesterday disputed allegations by the human rights group Karapatan that two persons taken into military custody a week ago in Isabela, one of them a minor, are mere farmers.

Brig. Gen. Bartolome Bacarro, commander of the Army's 502nd Brigade, said cousins Roberto Dalupang, 17, and Oliver Molina, 26, have admitted they are members of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

They surrendered after they were cornered during pursuit operations conducted by forces of the Army's 86th Infantry Battalion on November 13 in Barangay San

Carlos in Echague town, Bacarro said.

A day earlier, the soldiers clashed with NPA rebels in the same barangay. The 20-minute firefight resulted in the death of one of the operating troops, Cpl. Denver Banban.

The two were later released on November 18 for lack of case against them.

Karapatan-Cagayan Valley has said Dalupang and Molina went "missing" on November 13 while tending to their farm.

Karapatan said it later learned that the two were being held at the headquarters of the 86th IB in Jones town, Isabela. It said its members went to the unit's headquarters on Friday last week and confirmed that the two were there.

The group said its members were told by soldiers at the headquarters that Dalupang and Molina did not want to see them.

"The allegation of Karapatan is not true. The two surrendered to the 86th IB based on the report of the 86th IB. The two faced the media earlier today and disproved the allegations of Karapatan," said Bacarro.

He lashed at Karapatan for implying that 86th IB abducted the two suspects.

"They (Karapatan) said the two are missing and that we are hiding them... They made a false accusation to tar the image of soldiers. It's part of their ongoing propaganda against our forces," said Bacarro.

§

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The Manila Times

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Army says 2 'missing' NPA rebels surrendered

THE Philippine Army on Monday denied that the two New People's Army (NPA) members, one of them a minor, who surrendered to authorities were missing as claimed by the human rights group.

Brig. Gen. Bartolome Vicente Bacarro, commander of the Army's 502nd Infantry Brigade based in Isabela, clarified that the two were farmers but joined the NPA. They surrendered to the Army's 86th Infantry Battalion.

On November 12, the military reported that a platoon from the 86th Infantry Battalion (86thIB) encountered about 20 NPA members, under Commander Jushua, at the vicinity of Sitio Minanga, Barangay San Carlos in Echague. The firefight resulted in the death of Corporal Denver Banban.

A day after, Bacarro said the platoon con-

ducted pursuit operations and two former NPA fighters — Roberto Dalupang Jr., 17, and Oliver Molina, 26, both from Isabela — approached the troops. They were unarmed and said they want to surrender.

But days later the surrender, human rights group Karapatan and the Isabela-based farmers' group Danggayan dagiti Mannalon ti Isabela (Dagami) released a statement, saying two farmers had been missing for days.

Bacarro said the two rebels admitted to the military that they were active members of the NPA and were part of numerous attacks and ambushes on some troops.

He added the two also told the military that Kumander Jushua killed their wounded comrade after their encounter with the 86thIB.

DEMPEY REYES

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Sundalo patay, 2 pa sugatan sa NPA

NASIPIT, Agusan del Norte – Patay ang isang sundalo at dalawang iba pa ang nasugatan, kabilang ang isang opisyal, nang makaengkwentro ang mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa liblib na lugar sa 7 kilometer, Barangay Camagong bayan ng Nasipit, Agusan del Norte.

Iniulat naman na ilang miyembro ng NPA ang napatay

at nasugatan sa bakbakan.

Tinutugis pa rin ng tropa ng 23rd Infantry Battalion (23rd IB) ng Philippine Army ang mga tumakas na rebelde na pinaniniwalaang miyembro ng guerilla-Front Committee 4-A ng CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao regional Committee (NEMRC).

Hindi pa isinasapubliko ng pagkakakilanlan ng napatay na

sundalo, gayundin ang dalawang nasugatan.

Ayon sa inisyal na report, nagkasa ang mga elemento ng 23rd IB ng combat operation sa Bgy. Camagon nang makaengkwentro ang grupo ng mga rebeldeng pinamumunuan ng isang "Commander Baking", dakong 7:16 ng umaga nitong Linggo.

Mike U. Crismundo

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EVIDENCE OF PLOT TO DISRUPT ASEAN SUMMIT FOUND IN NPA CAMP, AFP SAYS

The military on Monday said soldiers in Batangas province recovered charred materials as evidence of an attempt by the communist rebels to carry out an attack as Southeast Asian and other world leaders met in Manila last week.

Col. Arnulfo Burgos Jr., commander of the Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade, said these materials were recovered when soldiers overran a rebel camp, one big enough for 50 to

70 people, in Nasugbu town in Batangas on Sunday.

On Monday morning, members of the 730th Combat Group of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), a unit that performs counterinsurgency operations in parts of Southern Tagalog, clashed with fleeing New People's Army (NPA) rebels along the boundary of Utod and Bunducan villages in Nasugbu.

Maj. Engelberto Nioda Jr., PAF group commander, said

the initial firefight lasted for five minutes and was followed by sporadic clashes throughout Monday.

There were no reported casualties from either side as of Monday afternoon.

The Batangas clash came days after President Duterte announced his plan to classify communist rebels as a terrorist group.

But Burgos said soldiers had been conducting "clearing oper-

ations" since last month, based on reported tactical offensives the NPA planned to launch in the provinces "to humiliate the government" as it hosted the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit.

Nioda said among the materials recovered from the NPA camp were "sketches" written on cartolina sheets.

Burgos said the rebels torched the materials before the soldiers arrived, but these

were not completely burned "as we could still see clues [of their supposed] prepositioning."

"This was the same group that was supposed to carry out tactical operations, during the Asean [Summit], only these were aborted because of our operations," Nioda said.

No NPA attack was launched in Southern Tagalog provinces during the week of the Asean Summit. —MARICAR CINCO INO

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Du30 plan to tag NPA a terror group backed

By Jocelyn R. Uy
@mj_uyINQ

Several senators on Monday expressed support for President Duterte's plan to classify the New People's Army (NPA) as a terrorist group, saying it was his prerogative and that the communist rebels had lost their ideology and morphed into plain bandits over time.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson agreed that it was about time the rebel group was labeled a terror organization as it had been acting like one since losing its ideology more than a decade ago.

"They burn, destroy, kill innocent civilians to terrorize; they terrorize to sow fear and harass helpless civilians; they harass to extort under the guise of revolutionary taxation," said Lacson, a former chief of the Philippine National Police, in a text message.

'Self-styled army'

"And knowing President Duterte, our security forces will surely respond to finally put an end to an almost half-century problem that [has] morphed from ideology to plain banditry perpetrated by self-styled 'army of the people,'" he added.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, a former Army colonel, said if the United States had designated the NPA as a foreign terrorist organization, the Philippines could do so as well.

"As the Commander in Chief of all security forces and based on information from his national security advisers, it is the President's prerogative (to declare the NPA a terrorist group)," Honasan said.

Terrorist organization

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NPA, its armed wing, have been on the US terror list since 2002. The European Union labeled the CPP-NPA as a foreign terrorist organization in 2005, but a European court ruling lifted the tag four years later.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III also pointed out that a regional trial court in Mindanao had declared the rebels as terrorists. "The President's declaration is not far from coming," Sotto said.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the NPA was one of the the first foreign groups the US government tagged as a terror group following the terrorist attacks in

New York on Sept. 11, 2001.

"The NPA was one of the first groups that was classified as a terrorist group when the United States enacted its Patriot Act," Roque said on Monday.

'Appease and deceive'

"If the President also declares something similar, that means the President agrees that NPA members are really terrorists," he added.

But opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV said Mr. Duterte's threat against the communist group was mere lip service to "appease and deceive" the Armed Forces of the Philippines over the continued presence of leftists in his Cabinet.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros appealed to both parties to create a more conducive environment for the resumption of peace talks. She said the government should carefully calibrate its words and actions while the NPA should correct its violations of human rights and international humanitarian laws.

The President on Saturday said he was fed up with the NPA's attacks while the communist leadership was seeking the resumption of stalled peace talks with the government. INQ

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Senators back terror tag on NPA

BY JP LOPEZ

SENATORS yesterday expressed support for President Duterte's plan to classify the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, as a terrorist group because of atrocities it is committing against civilians.

The NPA has been in the list of terrorist organizations of the United States and the European Union, together with the CPP, since 2002.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former PNP chief, said the NPA's ideology "has deteriorated, if there is an ideology left of them."

"I think it's about time. The NPA is (operating) in our country and yet other countries have already declared them as terrorists. Besides, what are they doing? For the longest time, as far as we can remember, they engage in terroristic acts to extort money from industries, businesses in far-flung areas," he also said.

The military has also expressed support to Duterte's plan, saying

SENATORS

the NPA no longer adheres to an ideology and is now like common criminals because of its activities like burning assets of businesses that refuse to pay extortion money and recruiting minors as warriors.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, a former military officer, said if the US and the EU have declared the NPA as a terrorist organization, why can't the Philippines.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV said he would believe Duterte's remark if he would fire all communists in his Cabinet. He counts at least 10 communists in high places in government, among them Liza Masa who chairs the National Anti-Poverty Commission and Teddy Ridon of the Presidential

Commission on Urban Poor.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said being "left-leaning" or supportive of the communist group is not a crime as long as one does not "take up arms" against government.

He also said the President was only referring to the NPA and not the entire CPP and the political group, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, in his plan to classify the NPA as a terror group.

Roque said the President has repeatedly given the NPA a chance to talk peace but it continued with its illegal activities like the ambushes on government troops.

He also said Duterte's plan indicates that peace talks with the NDFP will remain suspended.

The President on Saturday said

he is again not inclined to talk peace with the communist group. Peace talks with the communist group have been suspended since the middle of the year following the NPA's attacks against government troops as well as their demands for the release of some of their consultants.

Roque, asked how the latest declaration of the President would affect the planned localized talks of his daughter, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, with the regional members of the communist rebels, said just give the effort a chance.

He said if the localized talks succeed, it may even become a model for the peace talks with the communist rebels. - *With Jocelyn Montemavor*

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3 senators back plan to tag NPA as terror group

By **MARLON PURIFICACION**

THREE senators supported the plan of President Rodrigo Duterte to declare the New People's Army (NPA) as a terrorist group.

"Only a president with Duterte's guts can declare the NPAs as terrorists and that's what who they are for quite a long time," said Senator

Panfilo Lacson.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III noted that even a court in Mindanao had already tagged the NPA as a terrorist group.

"They have already been declared by an RTC court in Mindanao as such, therefore, the President's declaration is not far from coming," Sotto said in a text message.

"Their ideology has been gone more than a decade ago. They burn, destroy, kill innocent civilians to terrorize; they terrorize to sow fear and harass helpless civilians; they harass to extort under the guise of revolutionary taxation," added Lacson, a former police chief.

"And knowing PRRD (Duterte's initials), our security forces will surely respond to finally put an end to an almost half century problem that morphed from ideology to plain banditry perpetrated by self-styled army of the people," he said.

For his part, Senator Gringo Honasan, a former soldier, also backed Duterte's pronouncement.

"As Commander in Chief of all society forces and based on information from his National Security advisers, it is the President's prerogative. Kung'yung US ay dineklara ang CPP-NPA-NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front) na terrorist organization, tayo pa kaya?" Honasan said.

Duterte's plan to declare NPA members as terrorists was prompted by the latter's alleged continued killing of innocent people.

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'No foreign militants in Mindanao'

ZAMBOANGA CITY - The military has denied reports that around 100 foreign militants slipped into southern Mindanao at the height of the fighting in Marawi.

"There is no confirmation of such reports," Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, said yesterday.

Galvez said the remaining foreign terrorists who entered the country have been neutralized.

He also dismissed reports

that around 1,000 foreign militants would join the Maute group and Abu Sayyaf.

"I believe that with the death of more than 35 foreign jihadists in Marawi they will think twice now. The Marawi incident will make them feel that the Philippines is not a haven for them," Galvez said.

Support for Phi anti-terror drive

Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. David Berger, commander of the US

Marine Forces in the Pacific, vowed to help enhance the capability of Philippine soldiers to address the threat of terrorism.

Berger gave the assurance when he visited the Westmincom and paid a courtesy call on Galvez on Sunday.

"It is important that we work closely with your troops and augment your capability in some aspects as we have also worked with other environments threatened by terrorism all over the world,"

Galvez quoted Berger as saying.

Galvez said Berger lauded the anti-terror efforts of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in combating terrorism in Mindanao.

He said he also discussed with the US military official the strategies that the AFP applied during the campaign against Maute militants.

Galvez said Berger promise to provide training to Philippine soldiers.

- Roel Pareño

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5 fishermen rescued from Sayyaf captors

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Five fishermen have been rescued from Abu Sayyaf bandits on an island off Tawi-Tawi.

Vergel Arguino, 25, a resident of Davao City; Jushua Ybanes, 23; Emo Fausto, 63; Junald Minalang, 24, and Soriano Sardido, 53, all of Pagadian were rescued off Sugbay island in Languyan town on Friday. Rear Admiral Rene Medina, Naval Forces Western Mindanao commander, said yesterday.

The fishermen were on *F/B Danvil 8* when they were taken off the coast of Barangay Poblacion in Pangutaran, Sulu at about 8:15 p.m. on Oct. 18.

Medina said the hostages were rescued following sustained search and rescue operations conducted by personnel of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi.

He said the task force intensified its efforts after the bandits threatened to execute one of the hostages.

"One of the victims was scheduled to be beheaded last Thursday," he said.

Medina said the Abu Sayyaf demanded P3 million for the release of the victims.

Task force commander Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon Jr. said the bandits were forced to abandon their hostages to avoid being arrested.

Minalang confirmed that they were separated from

their captors when the soldiers pounded their position with cannons.

He said they were with another local captive.

The military withheld the identity of the other hostage for security reasons.

The release of the five fishermen came barely a week after three Vietnamese sailors were rescued and the body of another was recovered off Languyan town.

Seventeen hostages, including seven foreigners remain in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

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ML extension needs justification, says Drilon

By PAOLO ROMERO

The possible extension of martial law in Mindanao will require credible justification before it can be approved by Congress, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

Drilon said Malacañang should go back to Congress armed with evidence to convince lawmakers that the martial law President Duterte declared over Mindanao until the end of year should be extended.

"Let us decide on the basis of evidence. They said the problem has already been addressed, but now they're asking for an extension," Drilon said over *dzBB*.

"We'll ask what's their basis why this martial law has to be extended," he said.

Drilon is among four senators who voted against the extension of martial law in July, which included Senators Risa Hontiveros, Paolo Benigno Aquino IV and Francis Pangilinan.

He said he is reserving judgment on the matter until Duterte formally seeks the approval of the Senate and the House of Representatives in a joint session and his Cabinet present their arguments.

He said under the Constitution, the power to possibly extend martial law rests on Congress.

Drilon said Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar's statement that the Armed Forces' proposal to extend martial law was "deemed accepted" by Duterte has weight as far as the executive branch is concerned.

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'We don't negotiate with terrorists' – Bello

By SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA

The government will terminate the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines- New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-

NDF) if President Duterte will officially declare the leftist groups as terrorists, chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III said Monday.

In a phone interview, Bello said the declaration will pre- ▶6

vent the government peace panel from further pursuing peace talks with CPP-NPA-NDF due to the government's anti-terrorists policy.

"We don't negotiate with terrorists so the peace talks will end," Bello said.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, Bello said Malacañang has yet to make an official declaration on the matter.

During the weekend, Duterte revived his intention to change the classification of NPA, the armed wing of CPP, from "legitimate rebels" to "terrorists" due to their continuous attacks against government forces nationwide.

Bello said they are hopeful the Duterte will change his mind on the matter.

"The peace talks have survived in worst situations in the past. We are still keeping our fingers crossed that the President will reconsider his pro-

nouncement," Bello said.

Last February, Duterte said he is considering calling the CPP-NPA-NDF as terrorists and vowed to use every single bullet against them after NPA rebels staged attacks on government forces, killing three soldiers in an ambush on Feb. 1.

The incident prompted the President to lift the government ceasefire.

Weeks after the incident, Duterte issued statements saying that the government peace panel is considering going back to the negotiating table with the CPP-NPA-NDF if they comply with certain conditions.

Bello attributed the ongoing delays in the resumption of their peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF to its attacks, the most recent of which was an ambush which killed a four-month old baby and wounded five police personnel in Bukidnon last Nov. 9.

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Soldiers, NPAs clash in Batangas

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Government forces encountered New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Nasugbu, Batangas yesterday morning, less than 48 hours after President Duterte announced his intention to declare the communist guerrillas as a terrorist group.

Brigadier General Arnulfo Marcelo B. Burgos, Jr., the commander of the 202nd Infantry Brigade (202nd IB) which supervises the operations against the communist terrorists, said an enemy encampment was discovered by troops from the 730th Combat Group of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) under Major Engelberto Nioda in Barangay Utod, Nasugbu, Batangas at 8:18 a.m.

Fighting broke out between soldiers and the rebels occupying the camp who are believed to belong to the NPA's Kilusang Larangang Guerilla (KLG) Honda. Burgos said it was the same rebel group that incurred heavy casualties during focused military operations last September.

No casualty was reported on the part of the government while the NPA side is believed to have suffered undetermined number of casualties.

Sporadic firefight between the opposing forces were still ongoing as of press time, said Burgos.

Major General Rhoderick M. Parayno, acting commander of the AFP's Southern Luzon Command (SoLCom), said that the rebels that engaged government forces in battle have been on the run since September.

Parayno added that pursuit operations have been launched against them.

"We have tapped and placed all military available assets, including aircraft, on red alert. The NPAs will face the full might of the government. We will protect the Filipino people from fear and atrocities which the NPA terrorists plan to sow while ensuring the safety of our citizens in the area," he said.

Since the first week of October, joint AFP and Philippine National Police (PNP) forces

have been conducting security operations to ensure the country's peaceful and successful hosting of the (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) ASEAN Summit 2017.

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Soldier killed in Agusan clash with NPA

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

NASIPIT, Agusan del Norte – An Army soldier was killed, while another and an officer were wounded in a fierce gun battle with Communist insurgents at a far-flung area of Kilometer 7, Barangay Camagong, in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte.

A sketchy report received here from operating Army troops said an undetermined numbers of the New People's Army (NPA) members were believed killed or wounded in the encounter.

The Army's 23rd Infantry Battalion (23rd IB) is still pursuing the fleeing rebels, who are believed to be members of guerilla-Front Committee 4-A of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao regional Committee (NEMRC).

The identities of the Army casualties were withheld pending notification of their next of kin.

The officer, said to be a second lieutenant, and soldier were immediately taken to Nasipit District Hospital before they were transferred to a Butuan City hospital for further medical attention.

An initial report from the field said elements of the 23rd IB were conducting combat patrol operation in upper Barangay Camagong when they were engaged by the group of a certain "Commander Baking" of guerilla-Front Committee 4-A at 7:16 a.m. on Sunday.

Troops under the 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade based in Camp Bancasi, Butuan City have already been dispatched to beef up the pursuing troops of the 23rd IB in Camagong area.

Meanwhile, the regional command of the Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) based in Camp Rafael C. Rodriguez, Butuan City also mobilized its regional and provincial mobile forces to help the 23rd IB by conducting blocking positions along the possible escape route of the fleeing NPAs here.

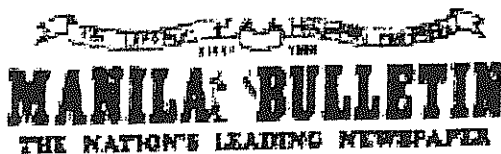
The Nasipit Municipal Police Station (MPS) and Agusan del Norte Police Provincial Office (PPO) also intensified their intelligence monitoring in the area for possible information of wounded rebels admitted in some hospitals in the province.

The regional command also directed all camps/stations in Agusan del Norte, Cabadbaran City and other neighboring areas to be on alert, remain vigilant and intensify proactive measures and their intelligence monitoring.

All police unit commanders were also ordered to conduct strong checkpoints in any strategic areas of their respective areas of responsibility (AORs) while also strengthening their respective headquarters/stations defense systems to prevent any hostile NPA act.

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• **NPA boasts
of Nov. attacks**

BUTUAN CITY – The New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), claimed that there were 27 successive major attacks on government forces and installations in various parts in northeastern and northern Mindanao for this month alone. The engagements, the NPA said, led to the deaths of 13 soldiers, and the wounding of 12 others from the government side. In a statement issued Monday, the NPA claimed that the series of attacks had been launched to register "strong opposition to the US-Duterte regime." The NPA said it conducted the attacks in different areas in the two regions, including the recent abduction of two policemen in Placer town, Surigao del Norte, "to show that they are still alive." (Mike U. Crismundo)

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5 Abu hostages rescued in Tawi-Tawi

By Mario J. Mallari

After more than a month in captivity, five hostages of the terrorists Abu Sayyaf group were safely rescued by government security forces in Tawi Tawi province on Friday, the military said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon Jr., commander of the Joint Task Force Tawi Tawi, said that the successful rescue of the kidnap victims was a result of the continuing focused military operations against the Abu Sayyaf group in the area.

Rescued were Vergel Arquino, from Davao City; Jushua Ybanez; Emo Fausto; Junald Minalang; and Spillano Sordid, all four from Pagadian City.

The five were crew members of commercial vessel *F/B Darvil 8* who were intercepted near the coastal area of Poblacion Simbahan in Pangutaran, Sulu last Oct. 14.

They were rescued by joint elements of the JTF-Tawi Tawi and Naval Forces Western Mindanao at around 1:30 p.m. Friday along the sea waters of Sugbay Island in Languyan, Tawi Tawi.

The successful rescue was made possible due to the loose

security of the captors," said Parcon, adding that the Abu Sayyaf bandits were on the run to evade the ongoing focused combat operations in the area.

There was no reported firefight.

The five rescued victims were subsequently subjected to medical examination and would be turned over to their respective families.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), cited the coordination extended to the troops by concerned citizens in the area that led to the safe rescue.

Galvez, at the same time, commended the troops for the successful operation.

"For this year alone, our units have been successful with carrying out rescue operations through special operations," Galvez said.

"Just last week, three Vietnamese kidnap victims were rescued from the hands of the ASG captors also thru connections and build up," he added.

Since last year, the military has been relentless in pursuing the terrorist Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu, Basilan and Tawi Tawi after President Duterte ordered for the annihilation of the bandits.

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The Manila Times

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PH Navy to get first missile system by Christmas

THE Philippine Navy announced on Monday said it would mount its first missile system on three of its brand new multi-purpose attack craft (MPAC) by Christmas time.

Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado, the Philippine Navy chief, said there would be a

pre-delivery inspection of the Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd.'s Spike ER (extended range) missile systems from Israel on the Philippine Navy's MPACs.

"A pre-delivery inspection is already scheduled. Then a [Philippine] Air Force plane will

go to Israel to transport the missiles to the Philippines. All expenses paid by the proponent," Mercado told reporters in a text message.

He added that the tentative fitting of the missile system would be in December.

➤ **Missile A8**

The missile system is capable of penetrating 1,000 millimeters or 39 inches of rolled homogeneous armor and has a maximum range of five miles. Its missile weapons are on anti-ship mode, which means it can engage surface-level targets.

It was purchased by the government for P270 million.

The three MPAC ships were activated last May 22. Their hull numbers are BA-488, BA-489 and BA-490.

The MPAC are Mark III models, which are more advanced compared with the six Mark I

and II currently in the Philippine Navy's inventory.

The contract for these ships, which includes mission-essential equipment, is also worth P270 million. The funds were sourced from the Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Act Trust Fund of 2000.

Mission-essential equipment include day-and-night electronic navigation systems, communication suites, safety-of-life-at-sea, propulsion systems, and seamanship and ship-handling gears.

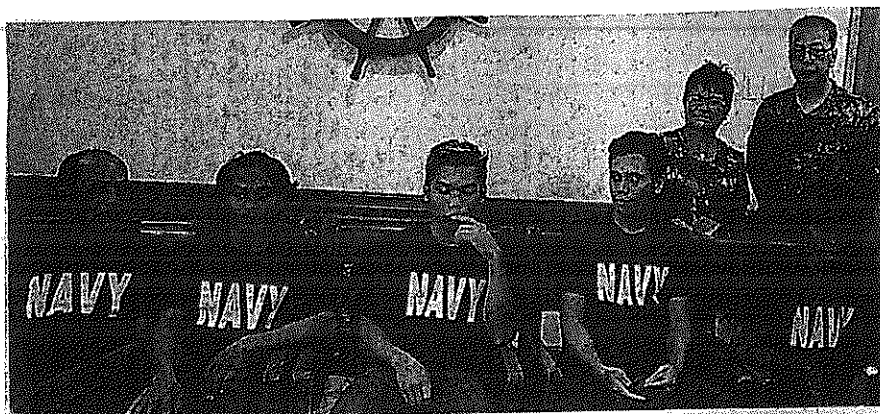
DEMPSEY REYES

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RESCUED This photo released by the military shows recovered fishermen being presented at the Western Mindanao Command with Lt. Gen Carlito Galvez Jr (right, back row).

Military presents rescued fishermen

ZAMBOANGA CITY: The military presented on Monday the five kidnapped Filipino fishing crew recovered by soldiers at a remote village in Tawi-Tawi, Sulu.

Officials said the fishermen – Vergel Arquino, from Davao City; Jushua Ybanez; Ermo Fausto; Junald Minalang and Spriano Sordid, all from Pagadian City in Zamboanga del Sur – were recovered Friday on Languyan Island.

The men were crew of the fishing boat *Danyil 8* kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) on October 14 off Pangutaran Island in the Sulu Sea.

Rear Admiral Rene Medina, commander of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao, said security forces found the opportunity to rescue the victims after learning their captors were confused and on the run because of continuing focused military operations in the area.

“The timing was critical since the captors may shoot the victims if they will know about the plan,” Medina said.

Brigadier General Custodio Parcon, Jr., commander of Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi, said the successful rescue was made possible because of the captors’ loose security.

Both officials did not say if soldiers made any arrest, but apparently troops recovered the fishermen troops after their captors abandoned them.

The military did not release details of the rescue. It was also in Languyan where security forces recovered this month three Vietnamese sailors – Buy Xuan Vien, Bui Trung Duc and Nguyen Quang Huy – including the body of another seaman Nguyn Huu Trong who died while in captivity.

Security officials did not say how the Vietnamese were rescued or whether the hostages had been freed for ransom. The sailors were among 17 crew of cargo ship MV *Giang Hai 5* the ASG hijacked on February 25 while sailing off of Pangutaran Island. The bandits killed two of the crew while attempting to escape while soldiers recovered the rest. **AL JACINTO**

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POLICE FILES

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MARTES NOBYEMBRE 21, 2017

5 mangingisdang na-rescue sa Abu Sayyaf nakauwi na

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Umuwi na kahapon sa kanilang pamilya ang limang crew ng isang fishing boat na dinukot ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sa bahagi ng Sulu.

Ito'y matapos ang matagumpay na pag-rescue sa kanila ng militar sa Sugbay Island, Languyan, Tawi Tawi.

Inihayag ni Western Mindanao Command Commander Lieutenant General Carlito Galvez Jr. 1:30 ng hapon nitong Biyernes nang masalba ng tropa ng Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi at ng Naval Task Group ng Naval Forces Western Mindanao Command ang mga biktima.

Hindi agad inilabas ng militar ang impormasyon dahil naglulunsad pa umano sila ng pursuit operation laban sa grupo ng mga kidnapper na napag-alamang may dala pang ibang bihag.

Ang mga nailigtas na bihag ay sina Joshua Ybanez, Fausto Ermo, Junaid Minalang, Cipriano Sardido na taga-Pagadian City, at si Vergel Arquino na nagmula naman sa Davao City.

Ayon kay Galvez, napag-alaman nilang binantaan na ng mga kidnapper na pupugutan ng ulo ang isa sa limang biktima sa mismong araw kung kailan sila nasalba kung hindi pa nila makukuha ang ransom demand.

Kaya naman agad silang nagsagawa ng intensified law enforcement operation sa lugar kung saan pinaniniwalaang nagtatago ang teroristang grupo.

Sinabi ni Galvez na una naring nag-demand ng P3 milyon ang ASG para sa kalayaan ng limang biktima pero hindi naman ito kayang ibigay ng kanilang pamilya dahil mahirap lamang ang mga ito.

Mga crew ang limang biktima ng Fishing Boat Danvil 8 na dinukot ng armadong grupo noong Oktubre 14 sa karagatang sakop ng Barangay Poblacion Simbahan, Pangutaran, Sulu.

Sa ngayon, patuloy pa ang military operation upang makuha ang natitira pang pitong banyaga at 10 Pinoy na kidnap victim na hawak pa ng Abu Sayyaf.

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Pahina. 4

Peace talk sa CPP-NPA, useless-Ping

Naniniwala si Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, na wala nang saysay kung isusulong pa ng gobyerno ang usapang pangkapayapaan o peace talks sa CPP-NPA-NDF.

Ayon kay Lacson halos lahat na lamang ng nagdaang administrasyon ay nagsulong ng peace talks pero wala ring nangyari dahil hindi nagkakasundo sa mga hinihinging demands at halos imposible ring maisakatuparan ang hinihingi ng makakaliwang grupo.

"Useless kasi every administration nag-e-embark sa

peace initiative di ba? Pero di magkakasundo because of the demands. Ang demands na binibigay ng CPP NPA NDF mostly halos impossible to be met," sabi ni Lacson.

Inihalimbawa ni Lacson ang kahilingan noong panahon ni dating pangulong Benigno Aquino III kung saan nais ng CPP-NPA na manatili ang kanilang armadong grupo at italaga pa bilang mga forest guards.

Naniniwala si Lacson na inilitang ang nasabing kahilingan upang makontrol ng grupo ang mga kagubatan kung saan lalong mawawalan

ng laban ang mga negosyo at Industriya sa lugar na posibleng gamitin rin para magkaroon sila ng resources na panlaban sa gobyerno.

"So anong intention? 'Pag naging NPA regulars, they will control all the forest lands. So lalong walang laban ang mga may negosyo at industries in those areas. And they will be able to amass resources na gagamitin din nila, after all, to fight government," ani Lacson.

Isa si Lacson na sumuporta sa plano ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ideklarang terorista ang grupo (*Malou Escudero*).

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Pahina. 3

Jihadists sa Maguindanao, Cotabato minomonitor

Patuloy ang pagmomonitor ng tropa ng militar sa sinasabing mga dayuhang Jihadists na umano'y tumutulong sa Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa Maguindanao at Cotabato.

Ito ang inihayag ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Spokesman Major Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. matapos na ibunyag ng isang opisyal na may 100 dayuhang Jihadists umano ang nakapasok sa bansa sa pamamagitan ng pagdaan

sa southern backdoor entry ng Pilipinas noong kasagsagan ng Marawi City siege sa Lanao del Sur.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Padilla na hindi sa kanila nanggaling ang report na ito at patuloy pa nila itong kinukumpirma.

Aminado naman ang opisyal na sa huling monitoring nila ay nasa 8 na lamang ang dayuhang terorista na kanilang tinutugis sa rehiyon

“Foreign-looking but we need to validate and ascer-

tain. Hindi namin sure (if galing Marawi) pero malamang iba 'to. They maybe any nationality that's why there's a need to check further,” ani Padilla.

Inihayag nito na tuluy-tuloy pa rin ang operasyon ng militar upang lipulin ang nalalabi pang mga BIFF.

Binigyang diin pa ni Padilla na nanatili ang banta ng terorismo sa Pilipinas kaugnay ng presensya ng mga dayuhang terorista. (*Joy Cantos*)

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Pahina. 2

5 tripulanteng bihag ng Sayyaf, nasagip

Nasagip ng pinagsanib na tauhan ng Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi at Naval Forces Western Mindanao ang limang Pinoy na tripulante na bihag ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group sa isinagawang operasyon sa karagatang sakop ng Barangay Poblacion Simbahan sa bayan ng Pangutaran, Sulu.

Kinilala ang mga nasagip na sina Vergel Arquino ng Davao City, Joshua Ibañez, Fausto Emo, Junald Minalang, at si Cipriano Sardido, mga nakatira sa Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur at mga tripulante ng

F/B Danvil 8 fishing boat na dinukot ng mga bandido noong Oktubre 14, 2017 sa nasabing lugar.

Ayon kay Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon, commander ng Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi, ang mga biktima ay nasagip sa karagatan ng Sugbay Island, Languyan sa Tawi-Tawi noong Biyernes ng hapon saka isinailalim na sa medical examination bago itinurnover sa kani-kanilang pamilya.

Sinabi naman ni Rear Admiral Raul Medina, naging kritikal ang rescue operation dahil maaring patayin ng Abu Sayyaf ang mga bihag kung

natunugan ang paglapit ng tropa ng militar.

Noong nakalipas na linggo ay nasagip din ng militar ang tatlong Vietnamese na bihag ng Abu Sayyaf Group.

"We were able to lead them to safety through our contacts, thus this rescue," he added. "The victims were immediately subjected to medical examinations upon their arrival at this headquarters to ensure that any medical condition be address," pahayag naman ni Lieutenant General Carlito G Galvez, Jr. **Joy Cantos at Rhoderick Beñez**

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Peace talks tigil na kapag NPA idineklarang terorista

Sinabi ni chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III kahapon na, maaaring matigil na ang peace talks sa Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) kapag opisyal na idineklarang "terorista" ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang makakaliwang grupo.

Sa panayam sa telepono, sinabi ni Bello na pipigilan ng deklarasyon ang government peace panel na isulong pa ang mga usapang pangkapayapaan sa CPP-NPA-NDF dahil sa anti-terrorists policy ng pamahalaan.

"You know we don't negotiate with terrorists so the peace talks will end," ani Bello.

Nitong weekend, binuhay muli ni Duterte ang kanyang intensiyon na baguhin ang klasipikasyon ng NPA, ang armadong sangay ng

CPP, mula sa "legitimate rebels" at gawin itong "terrorists" dahil sa patuloy na pang-aatake ng grupo sa mga puwersa ng pamahalaan sa buong bansa.

Sinabi ni Bello na umaasa sila na magbabago ang isip ni Duterte. "We are still keeping our fingers crossed that the President will reconsider his pronouncement," aniya.

Suportado nina Senador Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Gregorio Honasan at Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III ang balak ng Pangulo na ideklarang teroristang grupo ang NPA dahil matagal na umanong naghahasik ng karahasan ang grupo.

"Only a president with Duterte's guts can declare the NPAs as terrorists and that's what who they are for quite a long time. Their ideology has been gone more than a decade ago. They burn, destroy, kill innocent civilians

to terrorize; they terrorize to sow fear and harass helpless civilians; they harass to extort under the guise of revolutionary taxation," ani Lacson.

Naniriwala naman si Sen. Antonio F. Trillanes IV na ang plano ay mananatiling "lip service to appease and deceive the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines)" hangga't tinotoo ng Pangulo.

Ikinalulungkot niya na masyadong nagtitiwala ang administrasyon sa NDF.

"The communists won't lay down their arms, not even for Duterte. They won't stop until they get into power. So it's really surprising that we're giving them so much," ani Trillanes sa "Kapihan sa Senado" press conference kahapon.

**Samuel P. Medenilla,
Leonel M. Abasola at
Mario B. Casayuran**

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EDITORIAL

NPA depredations

WHEN your cause is morally bankrupt and your ideology has been repudiated all over the world, how would your organization and movement be described?

And when you persist in mounting ambushes, assassinations, sabotage, and other violent acts against the state security forces, citizens, government facilities, and private properties, how do you expect the world to call you?

Terrorists, of course. What else?

And so who can fault the Commander-in-Chief for branding you as such?

Like the United States, President Duterte would place the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front in the list of terrorists.

If he had recognized them before as legitimate rebels, Duterte said he would no longer talk to them with the continued depredations and killing of innocent people - even an infant, a four months old baby - during an ambush in Bukidnon.

"So beginning from now, wala nang (no more) rebellion-rebellion because rebellion is just a light offense. It can be bailable except for the leader," Duterte told reporters in a press interview.

Duterte said he would remove the communist movement from the category as legal entity or semi-(revolutionary) movement which would merit the government attention.

"We will consider them terrorists, ordinary brigands and no more about principles there. You are not fighting for any principle. My God, killing a four-month-old infant?" he said.

Duterte said government authorities would file murder, arson, and other charges "because I would consider them criminals already."

The President pointed out that killing a baby is an intentional act. It is not an accident.

"You know when you fire at government vehicles or anyone for that matter. There's always a danger. It's a malicious act. There is the intent to kill that's why it's an ambush," he said.

"Therefore, according to law, you are responsible for all the unintended and intended victims. There is pure malice, there (is) criminal intent. That is what the law says," he said.

Asked if he is still interested in continuing the peace talks with the CPP-NDF given that their armed group — the NPA — have intensified attacks against government forces, Duterte said he is no longer inclined to talk peace with the communists.

The peace negotiations with the left have been suspended since February.

The past two weeks saw the NPA's intensified offensive operations against government forces in the areas of Davao, Bukidnon, and Agusan.

In Davao City, NPA liquidation hitmen killed a police officer in Barangay Valencia, Tugbok District on November 13. The rebels also abducted two police officers in Caraga.

On November 14, NPA burned two trucks along the highway of Barangay Cuyago, Jabonga province of Agusan del Norte.

There was also the ambush incident killing a four-month-old baby and a police officer in Talakag, Bukidnon.

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21 November 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 1

OPINION NGAYON

NOBYEMBRE 21, 2017



**Balik sa pagbomba,
pagkidnap, pagkikil**

NATUTUNAN na ng Islamic State ang leksiyon sa Mosul, Raqqa, at Marawi. Hindi nila kakayanin humawak ng teritoryo nang matagalan. Babagsak at babagsak ang mga militia sa ragasa ng professional army na may kanyon, tangke, at eroplano. Pero nariyan pa rin ang hangad nila na pamayanihin ang Islam bilang gobyerno. Kaya guguluhin pa rin nila ang normal na buhay ng tao. Maghahasik pa rin sila ng terorismo. Babalik sila sa mga dating taktika: pagbomba, pagkidnap, at pagkikil.

Yan ang dahilan kung bakit nais ng security officials manatili ang martial law sa Mindanao. Armado at nagba-

banta pa rin ang Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters sa Maguindanao; Ansar-al-Khalifa Philippines sa South Cotabato at Sarangani, at Abu Sayyaf sa Basilan, Sulu, at Tawi-Tawi. Sinisikap sila pag-isahin ng Jemaah Islamiya, na binubuo ng mga teroristang Malaysians at Indonesians.

Pinapayagan ng martial law ang paghahaluhog at pag-aaresto nang walang court warrant. Gan'un natimbog ang ama ng Maute terrorist brothers patungong Marawi nu'ng kasisimula pa lang ng siege. Naudlot din ang pag-reinforce ng mga child-soldier recruits sa Maute terrorists mula Sarangani. Sa banta ng bahay-bahay na paghaluhog naipasuko ng Armed Forces ang daan-daang armas sa kamay ng political clans sa bayan-bayan paligid ng Marawi. At nasukol ang ilang narco-politicians na pinaniwalaang nag-armas at nagpondo sa mga Maute.

Pero hindi magiging habambuhay ang martial law. Kailangan saluhin ng pulis ang gun control sa Mindanao. Dapat patas na iparehistro sa political warlords ang mga armas, para maitabi sa mga bahay.

Kailangan din magtulungan ang mga paaralan, komunidad, at mga samahan sa pagkontra sa radikalismasyon ng

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

SAPOL... Mula pahina 4

kabataang Muslim. Sa edukasyon at kaunleran maipaki kitang mali ang karahasan.

Makinig sa Sapol, Sabado, 8-10 ng umaga, DWIZ (882-AM).

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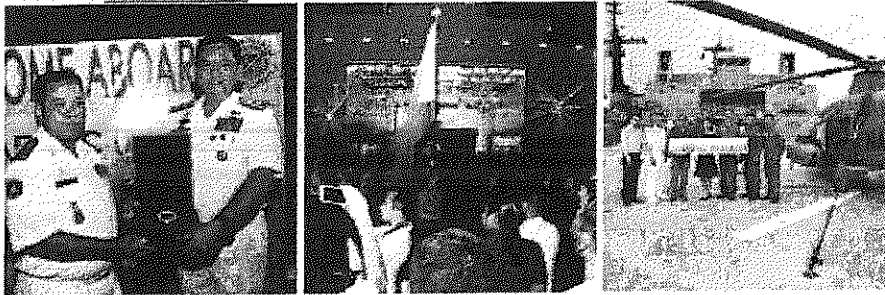
ONLINE NEWS

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COMMUNITY INTERACTION | PN Ships conducts “Open Ship” in Thailand

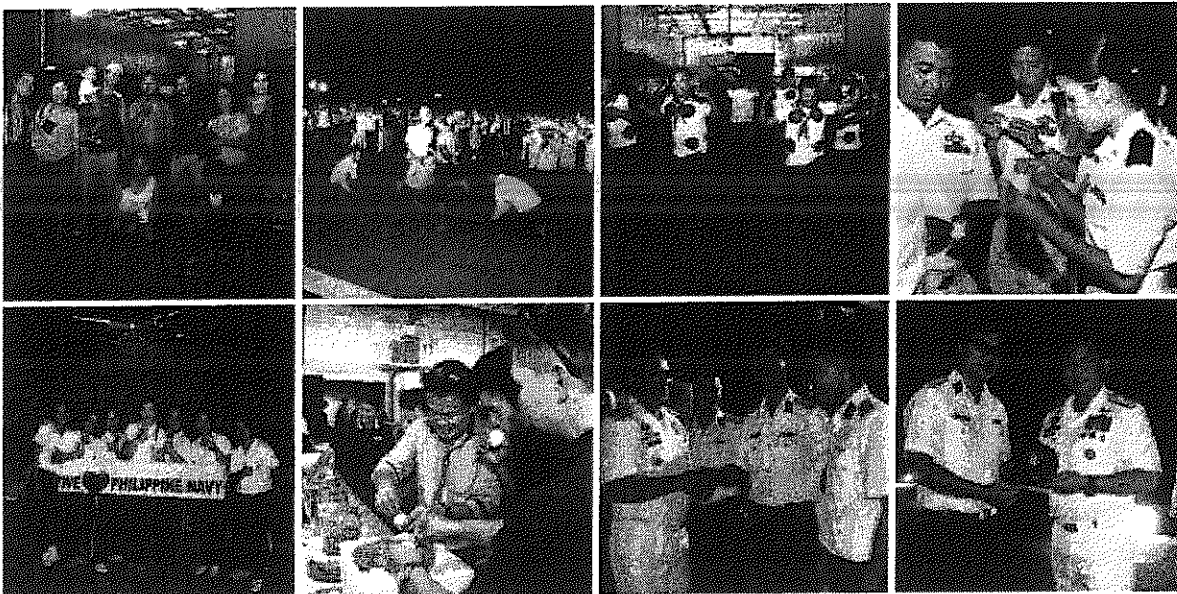
Posted by Alvin Santiago on November 15, 2017 at 12:40 PM



CHONBURI, Thailand (DWDD) – The Philippine Navy Contingent headed by Commodore Albert A Mogol AFP, Commander, Fleet-Marine Ready Force as head of mission and Navy Captain Donn Anthony L Mirafior PN (GSC) the Commander Naval Task Group 80.5 conducted open ship aboard BRP-Tarlac (LD601) and BRP-Gregorio Del Pilar (FF15) on November 15, 2017.

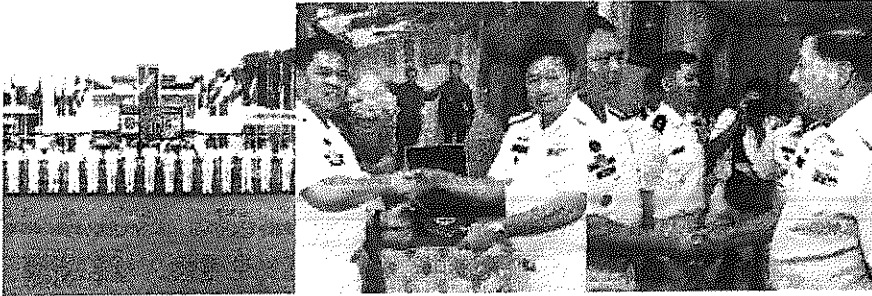
The two (2) ships were visited by the Filipino Community at Thailand and other Navies from the participating countries. Subsequently, a PN Hosted reception and Filipino Community Interaction were simultaneously conducted at the evening aboard BRP Tarlac (LD601).

The Philippine Navy Contingent with the two(2) ships will be participating in the International Fleet Review 2017 with other ASEAN and Non-ASEAN countries. **NPAO/MCAG**



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COURTESY CALL | Commander FMRF visits Royal Thai Fleet Headquarters



CHONBURI, Thailand (DWDD) – Commodore Albert A Mogol AFP, Commander, Fleet-Marine Ready Force and head of mission for ASEAN Multilateral Naval Exercise (AMNEX) 2017 together with the Naval Task Group 80.5 Staff aboard BRP-Tarlac (LD601) paid courtesy call to Commander in Chief, Royal Thai Navy Admiral Naris Pratoomsuwan and Commander in Chief, Royal Thai Fleet Admiral Rangsarit Sattayanukul on November 14, 2017 at Royal Thai Fleet Headquarters, Chonburi District, Thailand. The Philippine Navy sent two vessels to this ten (10) day 1st ever AMNEX and International Fleet Review hosted by the Royal Thai Navy. **NPAO/MCAG**



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Envoy optimistic about return of Balangiga bells to PH

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora November 20, 2017, 7:04 pm

MANILA — Ambassador-designate to the United States Babe Romualdez is optimistic that the Balangiga bells will "soon" be returned to the Philippines after Defense Secretary James Mattis assured President Rodrigo Duterte that he will do everything in his capacity to bring back the war artifacts.

During the meeting of Mattis and Duterte at an event in Pampanga, the envoy said the latter requested the US official to help Manila in retrieving the bells, given it has "sentimental value" to the Filipino people.

According to Romualdez, Mattis gave a response assuring the chief executive "he will do what he can".

With the favorable reply, the envoy said the bells' return is certain should come a time that the authorization necessary would come from the defense secretary.

"Ang maganda rin doon, yung defense secretary siyempre siya ang namamahala sa Armed Forces ng US, baka dumating ang araw na siya lang ang kailangang mag-authorize na isoli na sa atin yung mga bells," he said.

"For me, I am confident that we'll get it back in a couple of years, no not years, I think sooner than later," he said. "(It would be) within our lifetime, but I think sooner than later since (talks) are already there."

"Ang latest na information na na-receive ko, yung law which prohibits the bringing of articles of war, memorabilia ng war medyo nag-expire na, so mayroon tayong mga kaibigang Amerikano na tumutulong sa atin," Romualdez said before he leaves for Washington to assume his role as the Philippine envoy to US.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim in July already said America is willing to return all three Balangiga Bells to the Philippines as both sides explore resolution at an earlier date.

The prominent bells were taken from the Balangiga church in Samar by American troops as a war booty from the "Balangiga Massacre" in 1901.

With a total of three, one bell is displayed at the 9th Infantry Regiment at Camp Cloud in South Korea while the other two are in the former base of the 11th Infantry Regiment at F. E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Duterte first demanded for the return of the bells during his second State of the Nation Address. "Give us back those Balangiga bells. They are ours. They belong to the Philippines. They are part of our national heritage. Isauli naman ninyo. Masakit 'yun sa amin," he said. **(PNA)**