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TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

30 November 2017

Thursday

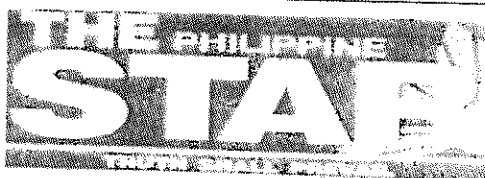
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR
 PANAHON TV
 www.panahontv.tv
 TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

DZRNEWS
 MONDAY - FRIDAY
 11 AM & 5 PM

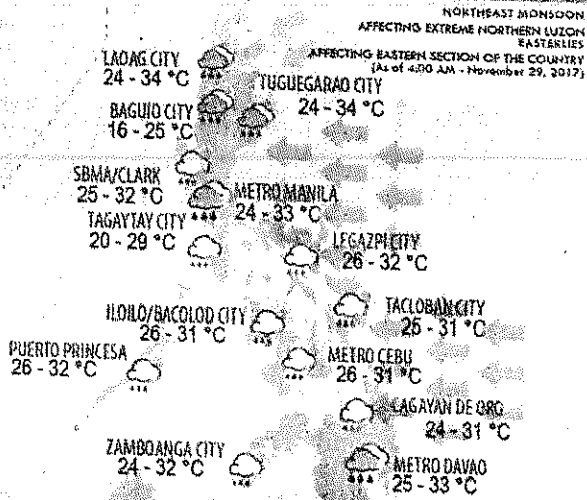
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AIR 21
 SAGOT NG PAMALA NG

Panahon.TV
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SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
6:05 AM	5:25 PM	2:42 PM	2:22 AM
1:09 AM NOV 27	11:47 PM DEC 3	LOW TIDE 1:02 PM 0.19 Meter	HIGH TIDE 8:47 AM 0.87 Meter

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST NOVEMBER 30, 2017 | THURSDAY



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	DEC 1			DEC 2			DEC 3			EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	DEC 1			DEC 2			DEC 3		
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LAOAG	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 33 °C				
BAGUIO	16 °C 25 °C	16 °C 25 °C	15 °C 24 °C	16 °C 25 °C	16 °C 25 °C	15 °C 24 °C	16 °C 25 °C	16 °C 25 °C	15 °C 24 °C	16 °C 25 °C	16 °C 25 °C	15 °C 24 °C	16 °C 25 °C	16 °C 25 °C	15 °C 24 °C				
SBMA/CLARK	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C				
TAGAYTAY	19 °C 29 °C	20 °C 28 °C	19 °C 28 °C	19 °C 29 °C	20 °C 28 °C	19 °C 28 °C	19 °C 29 °C	20 °C 28 °C	19 °C 28 °C	19 °C 29 °C	20 °C 28 °C	19 °C 28 °C	19 °C 29 °C	20 °C 28 °C	19 °C 28 °C				
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PUERTO PRINCESA	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C				
ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C				
METRO CEBU	24 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C				
TACLOBAN	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	23 °C 29 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	23 °C 29 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	23 °C 29 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	23 °C 29 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	23 °C 29 °C				
CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	23 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	23 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	23 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	23 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	23 °C 31 °C				
METRO DAVAO	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C				
ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C				

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

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15 NPA REBELS KILLED IN BATANGAS CLASH

STORY BY MARICAR CINCO, DELFIN T. MALLARI JR. AND MARRAHERIKA RABE
Military authorities say the firefight ensued after one of two vehicles carrying the fully armed rebels did not stop at checkpoints in Nasugbu on Tuesday.

FROM A1

**By Maricar Cinco,
Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
and Marrah Erika Rabe
@InquirerSLB**

NASUGBU, BATANGAS—Fifteen suspected members of the communist New People's Army (NPA), including a female UP Manila student and four other women, were killed in a gun battle with government troops in Batangas province on Tuesday night.

The firefight came days after President Duterte called off peace talks with communist rebels.

Government officials said the slain rebels comprised the western Batangas command of the NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Maj. Gen. Rhoderick Paray-

no, commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, identified one of the fatalities as Josephine Anne Lapira, 22, from Marikina City, who died while being treated at Jabez Hospital in Nasugbu.

"We received information that she was from UP (University of the Philippines). I'm just not sure which (campus)," said Senior Supt. Alden Delvo, provincial police director. A relative of Lapira confirmed to the Inquirer that she was from UP Manila.

On Wednesday afternoon, families of those killed sat on the wall of a roadside ditch in front of St. Peter's Funeral Home here waiting for authorities to complete the autopsies.

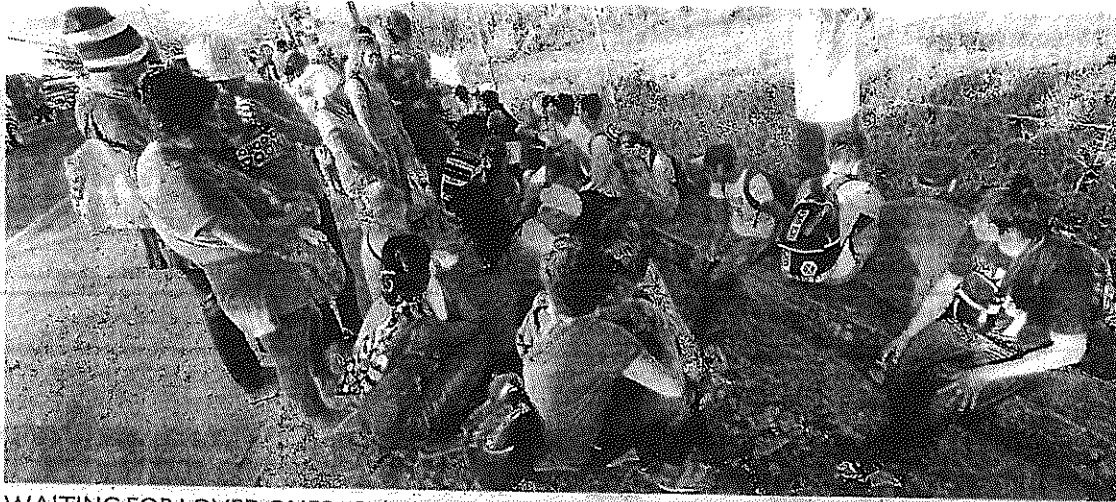
Not seen for long time

Among them was Leony Aytona who was there for her son, Glen, 22.

"I didn't know he was with them (NPA). We've not seen each other for a long time since my husband and I got separated and I went home to Bacolod," Aytona said.

The other fatalities were from Calaca and Lemery, both in Batangas, and Cavite province, according to other sources.

The clash at around 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday capped a series of



WAITING FOR LOVED ONES Relatives of suspected communist rebels who were killed in a clash with soldiers in Batangas wait on the wall of a roadside ditch in front of St. Peter's Funeral Home in Nasugbu, Batangas, where authorities were conducting autopsies. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

skirmishes since last week between the rebels and the Philippine Air Force (PAF), which conducts counterinsurgency operations in Batangas province.

Tipped off

Maj. Engelberto Nioda Jr., commander of the PAF 730th Combat Group, said authorities were tipped off to the presence of vehicles "full of armed rebels" in Nasugbu, 65 kilometers south of Manila.

Delvo said joint police and military checkpoints were set up on the routes to Calatagan and Balayan towns after they received information about the vehicles.

"We were expecting them to pass by that road, as that would be the usual exit route, but they instead took a turn and headed toward the direction of Tagaytay (Cavite). There were also checkpoints there," Delvo said.

In a press conference in Batangas City, police said they seized seven rifles, a pistol, two laptop computers and an M79 grenade launcher along with backpacks that contained toiletries and some food.

Jeepney, van

Delvo said the intelligence information they received was that a three-vehicle convoy carried the rebels.

But the authorities encountered two—an unmarked jeepney and a van—in the adjacent

villages of Aga and Kaylaway, along the dimly lit part of the Tagaytay-Nasugbu highway.

"The jeep did not stop (for inspection) and (the passengers) opened fire at our troops," Delvo said.

The firefight prompted a 2-kilometer chase toward Barangay Kaylaway near a golf course here, according to Nioda.

"It seemed like a convoy. First a Montero (carrying PAF soldiers), then the enemy's van, then three more (government) vehicles, the jeep, then us," Major Nioda said in a phone interview.

Five people from the jeep and nine from the van were killed.

A female store owner in Barangay Aga said she hid in her kitchen when the shooting started.

"We heard men shouting. After that, people moaning. We only went out when the shooting stopped," she said.

Soldiers wounded

The resident said she saw a body a few meters away from the jeep, suggesting an attempt to escape.

Nioda himself was also wounded and is recuperating at Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas. Also wounded on the government side were 2nd Lt. Eliseo Insierto of the Air Force and two Philippine Army soldiers.

Among those killed was the supposed team leader identified only as "Maro" who was found on

the van's front seat, Delvo said.

Another suspected rebel identified as Victoriano Almarino, the alleged driver of the jeepney, was last reported being treated at Medical Center Western Batangas in Balayan town.

The authorities said the slain rebels were the ones involved in the series of clashes in the villages of Utod and Bunducan, also in Nasugbu, after soldiers overran an NPA camp.

Nasugbu Mayor Antonio Barcelon said the town, particularly the villages of Bulihan and Mataas na Pulo, had long been "influenced" by communist insurgents.

Exiled CPP founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison, called for an independent investigation of the clash. Sison said he doubted the military report that an encounter really took place.

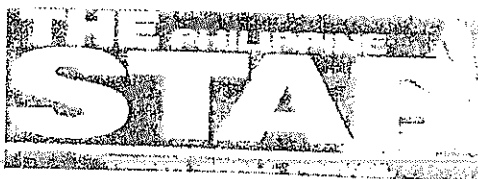
The regional military chief, Brig. Gen. Ernesto Ravina, said the operation was "anchored on the pronouncement of the President on the termination of peace talks."

On Nov. 24, Mr. Duterte told soldiers to expect "virulent" clashes with the NPA after he scuttled peace talks with communist rebels. He accused the 3,800-member NPA of carrying out attacks despite his peace efforts.

Talks to end the conflict, which the military says has claimed 30,000 lives, have been conducted on and off for three decades.

—WITH A REPORT FROM AFP INQ

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Counterterror facility to rise in N. Ecija

The Philippine Army is ready to spend P55.6 million for the construction of a facility in Nueva Ecija dedicated to the fight against terrorism.

The facility is meant to improve the Army's capability in urban terrain warfare. Officials are hoping it will be built at Fort Magsaysay in Sta. Rosa town.

Once the project is completed, Army units like the light reaction regiment will undergo training in the facility, according to Army public affairs office chief Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson.

He said that even before the Marawi conflict erupted, the military had planned to build a facility that would improve its capability to fight in an urban setting such as in a hostage crisis.

– Michael Punongbayan

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Marawi siege staged 'not for ideology, but for money'

By ALI G. MACABALANG

COTABATO CITY – Money, and not ideology, was the prime motive why Islamist radicals tried to seize control of Marawi City.

This was disclosed by Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Vice Governor Haroun Al-Rashid Lucman, a native resident of Marawi City and icon of two prominent Maranao political clans in Lanao del Sur, who said that his assessment was based on the initial evaluation of relief workers of the ARMM's Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), which he heads.

"As it appeared in our preliminary field appraisals, the Marawi siege (perpetrators) were not principally motivated by their so-called Islamic ideology, but (by) desire for money and resources (needed in) sustained operations," he told reporters at the sidelines of the recent celebration here of the ARMM's 28th foundation anniversary.

Lucman did not give details, although there were reports that the Islamist radicals, led by brothers Abdullah and Omar Maute as well as Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, ransacked the branches of the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Philippine National Bank in Marawi City in the early days of the siege.

Shortly after staging the siege on May 23 this year, the militants also reportedly barged into houses of known local loan-lenders and divested huge amounts of cash.

The close to P80-million cash and checks discovered in June by Marine troops from one of the houses occupied by militants was just "part" of the monetary loots of the Islamic State (IS) ideology-espousing radicals, sources said.

Meanwhile, Lucman urged the Duterte administration to include in its vow to "correct historical

injustice" among Moro people an amendment in the Commonwealth government's declaration of some 80 percent of Marawi land area as military reservation.

Marawi City has a total land area of 8,755 hectares or 87.55 square kilometers. The American-led Commonwealth government declared 6,000 hectares covering largely the land of the city (formerly Dansalan) and parts of adjacent Marantao and Piagapo towns in Lanao del Sur as a military reservation.

How the "Americans unilaterally made the declaration" that was sustained in 1953, 1956 and 1974 by past Presidents in separate proclamations is "not acceptable" to present generation of Maranao leaders, Lucman said.

"As Maranao natives, we will fight it out through the court and other peaceful forums," said the official, who a cousin to incumbent Lanao Sur Governor Soraya Adiong and son of former governor Tarhata Alonto-Lucman and late Rep. Rashid Lucman Sr.

Maranao members of the ARMM's regional legislature including Assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong had warned that turning the Marawi area into a military reservation would exacerbate problems with hundreds of thousands of people, mostly belonging to the same ethnic Muslim tribe, displaced by the militants' siege.

"We do not see any way that the civilian authorities will just sit down and just do nothing," Adiong once said, referring to earlier reports that national defense authorities would distribute the military reservation area.

Recently, however, Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of the Joint Task Force Lanao, had assured that the "military will not claim any land that it does not need."

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15 NPA rebels slain in Batangas clashes

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Fifteen suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels, six of them women, were killed in two encounters with government troops in Nasugbu, Batangas, Tuesday night. ▶6

15 NPA rebels slain... ◀1

Brigadier General Arnulfo Marcelo B. Burgos Jr., commander of the 202nd Infantry Brigade which supervised the operations, said the clashes between members of the NPA Guerrilla Unit 3 of the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee and members of the 730th Combat Group of the Philippine Air Force, Batangas Provincial Public Safety Company, Nasugbu Municipal Police Station, and various intelligence units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), took place in Barangays Aga and Kaylaway, near the Nasugbu-Tagaytay Road.

The communist rebels were on board a vehicle when government forces clashed with them for around 20 to 40 minutes.

As other rebels fled, the bodies of

their slain comrades were retrieved by soldiers from the encounter site. One of the fatalities in Tuesday's clash was identified as a student of a premier state university, which authorities did not name. The military is also verifying if an NPA leader or commander was among those killed in the firefight.

Burgos said government troops seized 12 high-powered firearms, consisting of 10 M-16 rifles, one M-16 rifle with M203 grenade launcher, and an M-79 grenade launcher— from the encounter site.

Two wounded terrorists were also given first aid by soldiers and were immediately taken to the nearest hospital for medical treatment. Unfortunately, one of the NPA fighters initially identified as one Josephine Santiago

Lapera alias Ella, 22, from Marikina, later expired due to the wounds she sustained.

"We put premium to the lives of our fellow Filipinos that is why when they lost their ability to fight, we extended a helping hand to save them and give them the chance to defend themselves before the court of law as they answer for their evil deeds" Burgos said.

Burgos said the slain NPAs are believed to be remnants of the same terrorist group which suffered heavy casualties in September, including during an encounter with the elements of the 730th Combat Group under Major Engelberto Niodaon November 20, 2017, in Barangay Utod, Nasugbu.

During that clash, the secretary of the NPA Guerrilla Unit 3 and one platoon leader were among those killed. (With a report from AFP)

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2 NPA 'terrorists' killed in Surigao encounter

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – No longer referred to as “rebels” by the military, two Communist “terrorists” were killed, while an undetermined number of New People’s Army (NPA) were believed wounded in an encounter with government forces Tuesday afternoon in San Agustin, Surigao del Sur, a military spokesperson bared yesterday.

According to Capt. Rodolfo S. Cordero, Jr., spokesperson and Civil Military Operations (CMO) officer of the Army’s 401st Infantry (Unity) Brigade, troops from the 75th Infan-

try Battalion (75thIB) engaged NPA terrorists, believed to be from the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee, at around 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in Barangay Buhisan.

The gunfight reportedly lasted for about an hour, after which, the NPA terrorists withdrew to different directions within the Diwata range, leaving behind their dead comrades.

“Our operating troops found the dead bodies and their firearms, an AK47 rifle, an M653 rifle, a compass, bomb materials including blasting caps and detonating cords used to detonate landmine from the encounter site,” Cordero said.

“Our operating troops believed that undetermined numbers of other NPAs were wounded as bloodstains were seen in the encounter site while no reported casualty on the government side,” he said.

Before the gunbattle took place, elements of 75th IB were conducting security operations in the hinterlands of Lianga and San Agustin, all of Surigao del Sur province to pursue the NPA terrorists who were allegedly responsible in the killing of two lumads and a soldier with the use of landmines in Purok 5, San Isidro, Lianga, Surigao del Sur last November 6, 2017, claimed the 401st Brigade spokesperson.

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New Army battalion eyed for Panay

ILOILO CITY — Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Eduardo Año on Tuesday said there is a plan to activate a new battalion in Panay to go after the New People's Army (NPA) in the island.

"We need the unity of different sectors. Once and for all, let us end this," he stressed in a media interview after visiting the wake of Police Officer I. Joeffel Odon, who died in a recent NPA ambush in Maasin, Iloilo.

Año said they are working to speed up the pull out of the Army's 82nd Infantry Battalions (IB) from Marawi City. The battalion is based in Miagao, Iloilo.

Colonel Pio Diñoso, commanding officer of the Army's 301st Infantry Brigade (3rd Infantry Division) based in Dingle, Iloilo, said that they are expediting the activation of the new battalion.

"We have a lot of candidate soldiers who will undergo training so we could create the additional battalion," he said.

Diñoso expressed hope that the new battalion will be organized early next year.

Año said that they would also provide additional training and equipment to the troops of the Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFB) of the Police Regional Office (PRO).

He added he will review the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), tactics, procedures and techniques of Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel in Western Visayas. (PNA)

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INQUIRER

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11 more heroes in 'Bantayog' monument

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo
Columnist

A journalist, a priest, a diplomat and four activists who took up arms against the Marcos dictatorship are among the 11 new heroes and martyrs whose names will be added to those etched on the black granite Wall of Remembrance of Bantayog ng mga Bayani (Monument for Heroes) in Quezon City.

The other honorees come from indigenous communities, the labor and youth sectors, public service and the academe.

The annual honoring of martyrs and heroes will be held on Thursday, the 31st anniversary of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation founded in 1986 shortly after the EDSA People Power Revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

298 heroes to date

A total of 298 names are already engraved on The Wall, which stands close to the 13.6-meter (45-foot) bronze monument created by renowned sculptor Eduardo Castrillo. The monument depicts a defiant mother holding a fallen son.

The monument, the commemorative wall and other structures at Bantayog Memorial Center are dedicated to the nation's modern-day martyrs and heroes who fought against all odds during the dark days of martial rule (1972-1986) to restore freedom, justice and democracy in the country.

The 11 new heroes are Tayab Arthur Aboli (1942-2007), Cesar T. Cayon (1956-1983), Coronacion Chiva (1926-1977), Jose P. Dizon (1948-2013), Pablo G. Fernandez (1948-1973), Lumbaya Gayudan (1935-1984), Antonio Ma. O. Nieva (1944-1997), Sabino G. Padilla Jr. (1954-2013), Francis S. Sontillano (1955-1970), Dalama Elma Villaron (1955-1987) and Alfonso T. Yuchengco (1923-2017).

Jailed journalist

As a journalist before, during and after the martial law years, Nieva supported the causes of the working class, particularly those in media. In 1981, he organized the Brotherhood of Unions in Media of the Philippines and was among those who led "Save the Press" marches in Manila.

He was union president for two terms at Bulletin Today (now Manila Bulletin) and pushed for the establishment of unions of journalists and trade guilds across the media industry. As National Press Club president from 1984 to 1986, he turned the club premises into a refuge and haven for harassed journalists who needed protection from the dictatorship.

Nieva's opposition to dictatorial rule and his union work made him a vulnerable target of the military. In 1983, his house was raided. He was arrested and detained briefly.

Even after Ferdinand Marcos had fled, Nieva continued with his organizing work in media. He was founding chair of the National Union of Jour-

nalists of the Philippines and he helped establish the Kapisanan ng mga Manggagawa sa Media ng Pilipinas.

He was a columnist for the Bulletin Today, where he was also a desk editor, and later for the Inquirer. He died of natural causes in 1997 while serving as the first Filipino and Asian secretary general of the Prague-based International Organization of Journalists.

Aboli and Gayudan both belonged to Kalinga indigenous communities. Aboli took up arms while Gayudan, familiarly known as Lumbaya, led his people to oppose the construction of the Chico River dam after their leader, Macli-ing Dulag, was murdered.

Villaron, the daughter of a Tumandok tribal leader in Panay, also took up arms.

'Kumander Waling-waling'

Two other Bantayog honorees, Cayon from the youth sector, and Chiva (known as Kumander Waling-waling of Iloilo) also joined the armed struggle. Chiva was some kind of legend in the areas where she worked. Her life story is stuff for the movies.

Chiva had been a member of Hukbalahap (Hukbo ng Bayan laban sa Hapon) that fought the Japanese in World War II but that was later outlawed because of its communist ideology. Her first husband had died in the war.

Like her second husband, she spent years in prison but was released after she gave birth to a

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2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

son. In the 1960s, she continued her advocacy for labor groups.

When martial law was declared in 1972, Chiva, along with student activists and professionals, was arrested and detained in Iloilo. She was rearrested for the third time and briefly detained.

The life of "Kumander Walang-walang" came to an end in a hail of bullets in 1977. She was 51

Priest in worker's clothing

Dizon, the only one from the Church sector in this year's batch, lent his voice to the resistance to martial rule. He devoted many years of his life to the causes of oppressed workers. He died of natural causes in 2013.

Like Dizon, Padilla had a heart for workers. An anthropologist and professor, Padilla's world was the university, but he went beyond the confines of the academe and stood with the "batilyos" (fish port workers) of Navotas and, later, the farmers of Isabela under threat from a land-grabbing Marcos crony.

He was detained in 1973 and in 1982 while working as research chief for a church-based social action center in Ilagan, Isabela, and helping the farmers in their struggle to keep their land. After his release, he taught at St. Scholastica's College and the University of the Philippines Manila.

Padilla died of natural causes in 2013.

Fernandez was a public servant, elected municipal coun-

cilor of Nueva Valencia in Guimaras in 1971. But before that he was already a political activist clamoring for social change and protesting against the impending declaration of martial law.

When martial law was declared in 1972, this reserve Army 2nd lieutenant refused deployment to Mindanao to fight the Moro people. He avoided court-martial by heading for the hills and joined fellow activists there. Fernandez was wounded in an encounter with soldiers in Iloilo and later died of his wounds.

Dying young

Cayon and Sontillano were both from the youth sector. Cayon, who worked among the Higaonon tribe in Mindanao, was beheaded by his military captors. He was 29.

Sontillano died at the age of 15. A scholar at Philippine Science High School, he was an activist and a member of Malayang Kilusan ng mga Kabataan. At a protest rally in 1970, a pillbox bomb thrown by a security guard blew up his head.

Yuchengco, an industrialist who died at the age of 94, is the oldest of this year's batch. Born to a wealthy Chinese-Filipino family, Yuchengco was highly educated. He may not have been a street activist but he gave quiet support for the antidictatorship movement, particularly the Light a Fire Movement.

After the fall of the dictatorship Yuchengco served as the country's ambassador to China, Japan and the United Nations. He was a trustee of Bantayog and later, chair and chair emeritus until his death in 2017. Bantayog's auditorium is named after him.

Never Again, Never Forget

Through its Never Again Never Forget Project, Bantayog addresses "attempts by certain groups to rewrite Philippine history and confuse the young generation about the truths of the Marcos dictatorship, erase its horrors, abuses and deceptions and have it remembered as a 'golden era' in the Philippines."

Bantayog's activities include publishing biographies, holding forums, disseminating information, film showings, roving exhibits and museum tours.

The Bantayog complex now includes a building which houses a small auditorium, library, archives and a museum. Its 1.5-hectare property was donated by the administration of President Corazon Aquino through Land Bank of the Philippines in 1986.

The Bantayog foundation is chaired by former Sen. Wigberto Tañada. Former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga served as chair emeritus before he died. May Rodriguez is the executive director.

Details about the lives of the honorees can be found in www.bantayog.org.

The ceremonies on Thursday will open at 4 p.m. at Bantayog Memorial Center on Quezon Avenue and Edsa in Quezon City. INQ

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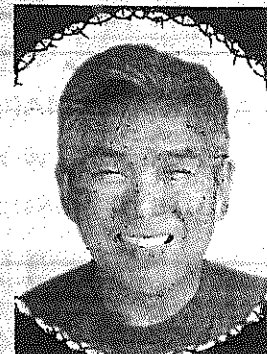
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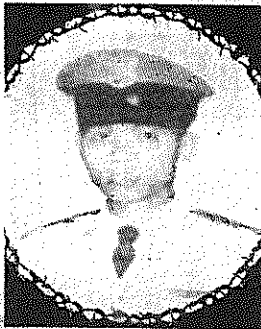
Cesar T. Cayon



Coronacion Chiva



Jose P. Dizon



Pablo G. Fernandez



Lumbaya Gayudan



Antonio Ma. O. Nieva



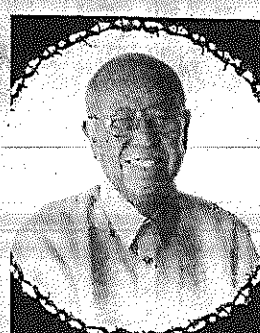
Sabino G. Padilla Jr.



Francis S. Sontillano



Dalama Elma Villaron



Alfonso T. Yuchengco

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

30 November 2017

Pahina. 1



ABALA na sa paghahanda al pag-eensayo ang mga tauhan ng Philippine Army para sa pagdiriwang ng ika-154 na anibersaryo ng kapanganakan ni Andres Bonifacio na gaganapin sa Monumento Circle, Caloccan City. **JOJO RABULAN**

30 November 2017



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Military to secure mining firms being extorted by commies

Malacañang said the military will be securing mining firms facing alleged extortion attempts from the communist New People's Army (NPA). Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, in a Tuesday press conference, said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) should make it sure that mining operations are not intimidated by the rebels.

President Duterte earlier vowed to launch a crackdown on mining firms giving in to the NPA's revolutionary taxation saying that they are helping insurgents operate.

"There is no need to issue new directives because protecting everybody including mining companies is the mandate of our police and military forces," Roque said.

"Our state security forces are mandated to deal with problems involving law and order and as well as dealing with the ongoing rebellion," he added.

The Palace official also said that government forces must look closely into these firms if they still conspire with the guerrillas.

"The President says that those who will pay revolutionary tax will be shut down. Now, I am sure that there will be consequences," Roque said.

"We'll call upon the PNP and

the Armed Forces of Philippines to do their job," he added.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Wilfredo Moncano last week said it is difficult for some mining companies to stop paying the NPA revolutionary taxes.

Moncano said refusing to pay in most cases leads to burning of heavy equipment of the mining companies.

In a media interview last November 21, the Chief Executive said that such firms are fueling the communist rebels' financial and operational capacities.

"I want these mining firms closed," Mr. Duterte said. "We have to talk. I have to talk to them. For those who cannot resist. Then you better close up."

"It's almost a public knowledge that mining companies are contributing to the taxation of the NPAs," the President added.

Such companies, albeit pressured by state enemy forces, are perceived by Duterte as the NPA's co-conspirators.

"By giving in to NPA extortion, they are giving them also strength, money to buy arms, and bullets and fuel in their desire to topple down the Republic of the Philippines," he said.

Ted Tuvera

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Lacson bats for pension hike for military retirees

By VANNE ELAINE P. TERRAZOLA

Sen. Panfilo 'Ping' Lacson is urging his colleagues to consider raising the pension of military retirees and other uniformed personnel after the Senate committee on national defense and security passed on Wednesday the joint resolution authorizing the increase of their base pay.

Lacson said he will ask national defense committee chairperson Sen. Gregorio Honasan to consider including pensioners in the hike proposal by lifting the suspension of indexation.

At the panel's hearing, Department of Budget and Management officials said the government would need P38 billion to provide increased pension for at least 200,000 military and MUP retirees.

Lacson said the amount is 'doable', noting that there is at least P35.9 billion of unappropriated funds from various agencies in the proposed 2018 national budget.

"Marami talagang pondo kung pondo lang ang paguusapan. Ang tanong lang is willing ba ang Malacañang to include the retired sector (There available funds in so far as funds are concerned. The only question is if Malacañang would be willing to consider the retired sector)," Lacson said.

"My position is they should also reap the benefits of this law as passed," he added.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who was also in the committee hearing, supported Lacson's call, saying the pension hike would also benefit widows and families of slain soldiers.

"I'm appealing to Sen. Honasan kung pwede i-adopt ang kasama ang pensioners then bahala na kung ma-adopt sa bicam or kung adopt sa bicam, bahala na kung veto ng president, at least we tried," Lacson said.

The resolution, if passed this month, would almost double the base salaries of all military personnel under the Department of National Defense and uniformed personnel under the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Philippine Coast Guard, and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority starting January 2018.

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INQUIRER

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AFP: Maute remnants regrouping in Lanao

Top aide of slain terror leader on recruitment drive, says Army officer

MARAWI CITY—The top aide of slain terror leader Omarkhayam Maute has reportedly been recruiting residents, especially young men, in Lanao del Sur province as the Maute terror group tries to rebuild its forces after its defeat following a five-month battle in this provincial capital, a military official said.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of the military's Joint Task Force Ranao, said one Abu Dar was among the Maute group's "second line" leaders who escaped the war and was now trying to reorganize the Islamic State (IS)-inspired group that laid siege to Marawi on May 23.

"The [reported] recruitment efforts for training of new fighters of IS-Maute terrorist group were monitored in the towns of Piagapo, Lumbacaunayan and Sultan Domalondong," said Brawner, noting that he received the information from locals.

He said Abu Dar, who carried a P3-million bounty on his head, had been using images of Marawi's devastation to win recruits.

"Despite being defeated, the



The five-month war between government troops and terrorists led by the Maute group has left Marawi City's business district in ruins. —JEFFREY MAITEM

[IS-inspired group] did not learn its lesson," said Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command.

Supt. Ebra Moxsir, Marawi City police chief, said information reaching his office showed that Dar's group was constantly moving and was not staying long in a single area. He said the group was also monitored in the towns of Butig, Marantao, Tugaya and Tubaran in Lanao del Sur.

He said most of the new fighters whom Dar had recruited were relatives of Maute gunmen,

who were killed in the fighting here from May to October.

Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute were two of the seven Maute brothers who led the fighting and tried to foil the arrest of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, reported to be the emir of IS in Southeast Asia. The brothers were killed separately in the course of the five-month war.

In October, Omarkhayam was killed with Hapilon in one of the fiercest battles the government waged to retake Marawi.

The deaths of both leaders signaled the end of the war, which killed more than a thousand people, 164 of them, policemen and soldiers. The military said 822 alleged terrorists and 47 civilians were also killed.

Vice Gov. Haroun Al-Rashid-Lucman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said he received reports that Abu Dar was accompanied by about 40 men.

"The military should check on the reported recruitment activities and not let the terrorists regroup," said Marawi Mayor Majul Gandamra.

In General Santos City, authorities arrested in a drug bust on Monday a Pakistani national and his Filipino wife who were suspected of financing the activities of another IS-inspired group, Anzar Al-Khilafa Philippines (AKP).

Gil Cesario Castro, director of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Central Mindanao, said Shahzad Khan, 35, and his wife, Anjelic Mawani Osama, 30, were members of the El Patron drug group, which allegedly funded the AKP. —RICHEL

UMEL AND EDWIN FERNANDEZ INQ

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POLICE FILES

Page. 3

Ilang bagong Maute-ISIS leaders, namataan sa 4 bayan sa Lanao Sur

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Ginagapang na umano ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang lokasyon ng mga panibagong tumatayong pinuno ng pinulbos na grupong Maute-ISIS sa ilang bayan ng Lanao del Sur.

Ito ay matapos mamataan ang nasabing mga terorista, partikular ang tinaguriang si Kumander Abu Dar na nasa likod ng mga pagsasanay ng Maute-ISIS recruits, sa bayan ng Piagapo ng probinsya.

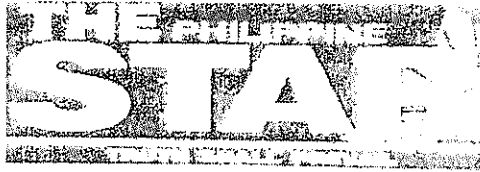
Inihayag ni Marawi City Police director Supt. Ebra Moxsir, namataan umano ang presensiya ni Abu Dar na palipat-lipat sa mga bayan ng Butig, Marantao, Tugaya at Tubaran.

Sinabi ng opisyal na hindi na nila palulusutin pa ang mga karahasan na maaring gawin ng mga terorista, partikular sa Marawi City na nasira nang husto matapos sumiklab ang kaguluhan.

Si Abu Dar ay tumatayo umanong local recruiter kung saan ilan sa mga nakumbinsi nitong 200 bagong recruit na kabataan ay mga kaanak ng mga napatay na terorista sa giyera sa Marawi City.

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'MILF man' nabbed for P2.5-M shabu

By JOHN UNSON

NORTH COTABATO – At least P2.5 million worth of shabu was seized from an alleged member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) here on Tuesday.

Mohammad Tuankali Macalimpas, 47, was collared by anti-narcotics agents during a sting in Pigcawayan town, according to Juvenal Azurin, director of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Aside from Macalimpas, authorities also arrested

his companions, identified as Samsodin Kato, 30, and Noraida Alamada, 20.

Macalimpas, reportedly a member of the MILF's 105th Base Command, is on the drug list of the PDEA, Azurin said.

He said the suspects were collared after they handed over the drugs to undercover agents.

The arresting team seized a 9mm pistol from Macalimpas and impounded his vehicle.

The PDEA thanked the local police as well as the municipal officials for helping them arrest the suspects.

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Palace orders AFP, PNP to shield miners from communist attacks and taxation

SECURITY forces were instructed by Malacañang to “do their job” in making sure mining companies are protected from attacks and taxation of the communist-led New People’s Army (NPA).

In a recent news briefing, Presidential Spokesman Harry L. Roque Jr. called on the police and the military to defend mining companies in the face of a directive from President Duterte to stop giving in to the NPA’s taxation program.

“I will not annotate what the President said. He says that those who will pay revolutionary tax will be shut down,” Roque said.

“Now, I am sure that there will be consequences. We’ll call upon the PNP [Philippine National Police] and the Armed Forces of Philippines [AFP] to do their job,” he added.

Asked if Malacañang will issue a directive to the PNP and AFP to guard mining operations, Roque said there is no need for one, as it is the security forces’ duty to protect citizens and businesses from possible attacks from insurgents.

“*Hindi na po kinakailangan ng directive, dahil ’yan po talaga ay mandato ng kapulisan at ng hukbong sandatahan* [There is no need for a directive, because that is their mandate as members of the police forces and the armed forces],” the Palace official said.

“*Ang mandato po ng pulis ay* [The mandate of the police is] to deal with problems involving law and order, *at meron din po silang mandato* [and they also have a mandate] to deal with [the] ongoing rebellion. *At ganyan din po ang mandato ng ating hukbong sandatahan* [And that is also the mandate

of the Armed Forces]: not just to deal with external threats but also with internal threats,” Roque added.

According to Roque, defense forces should maximize the martial-law declaration in Mindanao, as it gives them more power to crack down on enemies of the State, including the NPA.

Duterte has threatened to shut down mining companies paying revolutionary taxes to the NPA, saying giving into the rebel group’s taxation program only strengthens its cause. *Elijah Felice E. Rosales*

“The mandate of the police is to deal with problems involving law and order. They also have a mandate to deal with [the] ongoing rebellion. And that is also the mandate of the armed Forces, not just to deal with external threats but also with internal threats.” —ROQUE

20 November 2017



Page. 1

Police, military ordered to shoot armed NPA

President Duterte yesterday disclosed that an executive order is now being prepared to declare the New People's Army (NPA) as a terrorist group.

In a speech during the send-off ceremony for Vietnamese fishermen in Sual, Pangasinan, the President said under the executive order, NPAs will be treated as criminals.

"I am preparing now. They are preparing the executive order declaring them to be terrorists and they will be afforded the treatment of being criminals," he said.

He also ordered the police and military to shoot any armed NPA or terrorist.

"So what will be my orders to the...? 'Di shoot them. E, they will kill you anyway. So if there is an armed NPA there or terrorists, if he's holding any firearms, shoot.

And tell any... ako na ang magsagot, you just shut up," Duterte said.

Duterte added that there will be no filing of cases under public security like rebellion, "because rebellion is considered sometimes a noble undertaking, it's only because you want your country to do better."

The President said he decided to cut off talks with the communist rebels "because I think that they are not really serious."

Apart from biding their time, "they do not have the second echelons to carry the fight and they just want to be comfortable."

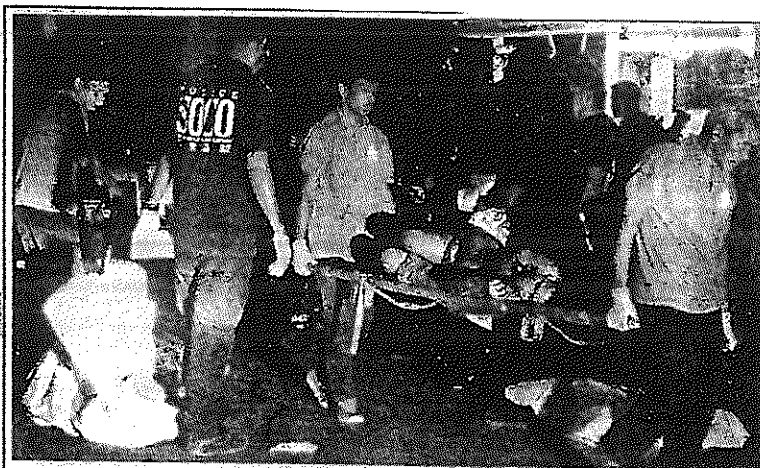
While his job is to make peace, Duterte said the time has come for his to order their re-arrest. However, the arrest order may spare those who are above 70-years-old for "humane reasons."

(Roy C. Mabasa)

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30 November 2017

Pahina. 1



Tinatanggal ng mga taga punerarya ang bangkay ng 9 na umano ay miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa isang yan matapos na mapatay ng mga pulis at sundalo sa isang engkwentro sa Nasugbu, Batangas. - Joven Cagande.

16 NPA REBELS NAPATAY 5 sundalo sugatan...

Patay ang 14 na miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) kabilang ang isang kumander sa Nasugbu, Batangas habang 2 naman ang napatay sa San Agustin, Surigao del Sur, kamakalawa.

Ayon kay Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr., Commander ng Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade (IB), kabilang sa mga nasawang NPA terrorist ay limang amasona at siyam na lalaki na ang isa dito ay hinihinalang Commander ng NPA na nagsisibling platoon leader na si Josephine Santiago Lopera alyas Ka Ela at isa pang opisyal na Kalihim ng NPA Guerilla Unit 3.

Batay sa ulat, bandang alas-8:20 ng gabi nang

unang makasagupa ng tropa ng 730th Combat Group sa pamumuno ni Major Engelberto Nioda Jr. at ng iba pang mga tauhan ni Burgos ang grupo ng NPA terrorists sa Brgy. Away, Nasugbu ng lalawigan.

Nagresponde sa lugar ang tropa ni Nioda matapos na makatanggap ng report sa presensya ng mga armadong rebelde kung saan ay pinaputukan sila ng mga ito na lulan ng isang closed van at isang pampasaherong jeepney.

Habang papatakas ang mga rebelde ay nakasagupa naman ang mga ito ng tropa ng militar sa pamumuno ni 1st Lt. Elmer Barcenias katuwang

Ni JOY CANTOS

ang mga miyembro ng Provincial Public Safety Company (PPSC) at Nasugbu Municipal Police Station sa Brgy. Kalaway ng bayang ito. Tumagal ng 20 hanggang 30 minuto ang bakbakan na ikinasawi ng 14 rebelde at pagkasugat ng limang sundalo na ang ilan ay kinilalang sina Nioda, 2nd Lt. Eliseo Insierto at Technical Sergeant Kenneth Lopez ng Philippine Army.

Ang nasabing mga rebelde na una nang nakasagupa ng tropa ng militar noong Nobyembre 20 sa Brgy. Utod, Nasugbu ang nabulgar na nagplano umanong mananabotahe sa nagdaang ASEAN Summit noong Nobyem-

bre 13-15 ng taong ito kung saan isa sa mga terorista ang napatay.

Samantala, sa Surigao del Sur napatay din ang dalawang miyembro ng mga teroristang NPA sa pakikipagengkuwentro sa tropa ng mga sundalo sa bulubunduking bahagi ng Brgy. Buhisan, San Agustin.

Ayon kay Captain Roldolfo Cordero Jr., Spokesman ng Army's 401st Infantry Brigade, dakong ala-1:30 ng hapon nang makasagupa ng tropang gobyerno ang NPA terrorists sa nasabing lugar.

Tumagal ng halos isang oras ang sagupaan na ikinasawi ng dalawang NPA terrorists na inabandona ng mga nagsitakas na mga kasamahan.

30 November 2017



Page. A1

15 rebels killed in battle after govt called off talks

FIFTEEN suspected communist guerrillas including six women have been killed in a gunbattle, the Philippine military said on Wednesday, days after President Rodrigo Duterte called off peace talks and told security forces to “shoot” on sight any armed communist rebel.

Duterte last week vowed to go to war with the rebels and threatened to categorize them a “terrorist” group over deadly attacks against soldiers and police.

Late Tuesday residents

reported seeing armed men boarding a van and a truck in the town of Nasugbu 65 kilometers south of Manila, prompting authorities to send troops, said local military spokesman Col. Teody Toribio.

When soldiers tried to flag down the vehicles on a highway, a gunbattle broke out that left 15 suspected guerrillas dead, including a female university student, while five soldiers were wounded, added Toribio.

Next page

15 rebels...

From A1

One suspect was captured while an undetermined number escaped. Thirteen firearms were recovered, he said.

Regional military chief Brig. Gen. Ernesto Ravina said the operation was “anchored on the pronouncement of the president on the termination of peace talks.”

The Communist Party of the Philippines has been fighting since 1968 to overthrow a capitalist system that has created one of Asia’s biggest rich-poor divides.

In a related development, Duterte on Wednesday told security forces to “shoot” any armed member of the commu-

nist New People’s Army, saying they deserve to take a bullet for “destroying the country.”

“If there is an armed NPA there or terrorist who is holding firearms, shoot and tell any—I will answer,” Duterte said in a speech at Sual, Pangasinan.

The President said the armed communist rebels deserved the shoot order.

“And so? You are destroying my country and you expect me to pat you on the back and say, you go easy?” said Duterte.

The President also stressed he did not mind if there would be condemnation from human rights groups, saying he would claim responsibility for their actions.

“You just shut up. Do not answer if that issue of human rights [comes up]. You say, ‘You

go to Duterte. It is and was his order,’” he said.

In the same speech, he also told the military to re-arrest communist leaders, but he might allow old ones out, citing humanitarian reasons.

He also said he might exclude some elderly rebels from those to be sent back to jail, saying they no longer posed a threat.

“For one, those who were above 70 like me, it is like I am the one exhausted on their behalf. Although leaders, I say ‘You can go.’ Anyway, they cannot go far,” he said, adding old revolutionaries “cannot climb those mountains there.”

“You will find them in... hospitals or rooms where they are resting.” **AFP, Francisco Tuyay, John Paolo Bencito**

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70 November 2017

Malaya

The National Newspaper

Page: 136

14 NPAs killed in Batangas

**BY VICTOR REYES
AND RAYMOND AFRICA**

FOURTEEN New People's Army rebels were killed in skirmishes with government soldiers in Nasugbu town, Batangas on Tuesday night.

Another communist rebel was captured, according to the military. The PNP said there were 15 NPA fatalities.

The fighting came five days after President Duterte issued Proclamation 360 which officially terminated the peace talks with the communists for their lack of sincerity and commitment to the process. The Armed Forces has noted an increase in NPA attacks since the termination of the peace talks.

Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison said "human rights organizations" should look into the incident to determine if the fatalities were indeed NPA members.

Sison, who has been on self-exile in the Netherlands since the late 80s, told a TV interview that there have been instances when civilians were the fatalities, not NPA mem-

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14 NPAS

bers as claimed by the military.

Maj. Gen. Rhoderick Parayno, commander of the 2nd Infantry Division based in Tanay in Rizal, said: “To him (Sison), all NPA rebels who died in encounters are civilians. How can you explain the number of recovered and they (fatalities) were wearing bandoleers. It appears they were about to carry out a tactical offensive.”

“His claim is highly unbelievable. We are not into the business of planting M16s,” Parayno also said, referring to firearms that were recovered from the rebels.

President Duterte, meanwhile, said his latest instruction to the military and police is to shoot “armed” NPA members or terrorists.

“So what will be my orders to them, ‘di shoot them. They will kill you anyway. So if there is an armed NPA there, or terrorists, if he’s holding any firearm, shoot. And tell any, ako na ang magsagot (I’ll answer for you), you just shut up,” Duterte said at send-off ceremonies for Vietnamese fishermen in Sual, Pangasinan.

He said government troops should not mind human rights groups who would criticize or even condemn them for the action as he is ready to claim responsibility for it.

“Do not answer if that issue of human rights (comes up), you say, ‘Go to Duterte. It is and was his order,’” he said.

He also said an executive order declaring the NPA as a terrorist organization is forthcoming.

In the Batangas incident, the military said troops from the 730th Combat Group, an elite Air Force unit under the operational control of the 202nd Brigade, were on combat operation when they

encountered the NPA rebels in Barangay Aga at around 8:30 p.m.

The firefight with the rebels belonging to the Guerilla Unit 3 of the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee reached to the nearby Barangay Kaylaway and lasted about 20 minutes, said Maj. Mikko Magisa, the brigade’s executive officer.

The troops recovered at the scene 13 enemy bodies and 11 M16 rifles – one of them with a M203 grenade launcher attached to it – and an M79 grenade launcher.

Magisa said two NPA members were initially wounded and brought to a hospital by the military. One of them died while undergoing treatment, bringing the number of killed rebels to 14.

Magisa said the slain rebels included five women, including the one who died in the hospital.

He said initial information indicated that the secretary of the Guerilla Unit 3 and a platoon leader were among the rebels killed in the encounter. He declined to name them, “pending the confirmation of their identities.”

Magisa said the encountered rebels are part of a group that soldiers clashed with on September 24 in Batangas City, resulting in the death of one rebel, and on November 20 in Nasugbu town, where 12 of the rebels were captured at a checkpoint the following day but three of them escaped while in police custody.

The police said there were separate encounters in Nasugbu, Batangas Tuesday night.

Reports reaching Chief Supt. Ma-o Aplasca, Southern Tagalog police head, said the first encounter happened at around 7:45 p.m. when combined police and military per-

sonnel established a checkpoint in Sitio Pinamintasan, Barangay Aga after receiving reports on sightings of armed men on board three vehicles.

The personnel manning the checkpoint were fired upon by the occupants of the three vehicles – a jeepney, a closed van, and an unidentified vehicle – which triggered a gun battle.

As a result, five rebels died on the spot, while another later died in a hospital, identified as Josephine Santiago Lapera alias Ka Ela Rodriguez. Another rebel was captured later identified as Victoriano Almario who is confined at Western Batangas Medical Center in Balayan town for gunshot wounds.

Aplasca said three government troopers were wounded in that incident identified as Maj. Engelberto Nioda Jr. and 2nd Lt. Eliseo Incierito of the Air Force and T/Sgt. Kenneth Lopez of the Army.

Recovered from the site of encounter were four long firearms.

Later that night, another group of government forces engaged a different unit of the NPA in Sitio Batulao, in Barangay Kaylaway, also in Nasugbu town. The second encounter site was about two kilometers away from the first encounter site.

Police reports said patrolling government forces chanced upon an undetermined number of communist rebels, killing nine of them on the spot. No one was hurt or killed on the government side.

Reports said an undetermined number of rebels escaped in different directions after they were overpowered by the government troops.

Recovered were seven long firearms, a shot firearm, two laptop computers, an M79 grenade launcher, and assorted personal stuff. – *With Jocelyn Montemayor*

30 November 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. A1

Military kills 14 suspected NPA rebels in Batangas

SECURITY forces engaged suspected communist rebels in running clashes on Tuesday evening in Batangas, killing 14 guerrillas, including five women, the police and military said on Wednesday.

Two junior officers from the Air Force, an Army enlisted personnel and two rebels were wounded during the firefight, which both occurred in Nasugbu, Batangas, officials said.

A report from the Batangas Provincial Police Office (PPO) said the first encounter occurred at around 8:30 p.m. in Sitio Pinamantasan, Barangay Aga, Nasugbu, where five rebels were killed.

Five highpowered firearms were recovered from the rebels.

Maj. Engilberto Nioda Jr., commander of the Air Force's 730th Special Operations Wing (730th SPOW), 2nd Lt. Eliseo Incierto, a member of the same unit and Technical Sergeant Kenneth Lopez of the Army were

wounded during the clash.

The 730th SPOW is operationally attached with the Army's 202nd Brigade under Brig Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos, the same unit that captured a rebel camp, also in Batangas.

Nioda's team, in tandem with members of the police's Provincial Public Safety Company (PPSC) and the Nasugbu Municipal Police Station, said they were validating a report about the presence of armed men at Sitio Pinamantasan when they were fired upon by rebels on board a jeepney and a closed van, triggering a firefight.

The 202nd Brigade said the encounter was a result of a continuing intelligence-driven operation against the rebels in Nasugbu, where the guerrillas were already on the retreat as a result of the monthlong operations by the same brigade.

The Batangas PPO said about 2 kilometers from Sitio Pinamantasan, a second encounter followed at Sitio

Batulao, Barangay Kaylaway, also in Batangas, involving the joint team of police Chief Inspector Rogelio Pineda and 1st Lt. Elmer Barcenas. Nine rebels were killed in this encounter. The military said the engaged troops incurred no casualty.

Burgos said of the 14 rebels killed in the two clashes, five of them were later found to be women.

A total of 12 firearms—10 M-16 rifles, an M-203 grenade launcher and one M-79—was recovered.

The 202nd Brigade said the rebels were members of Guerilla Unit 3 of the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee of the New People's Army.

Last week members of the 202nd Brigade clashed with rebels at Barangay Utod in Nasugbu, where a rebel camp was captured. A number of guerillas was also believed wounded.

Last month Burgos's men also fought with rebels in Batangas City. *Rene Acosta*

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Pahina. 3

14 NPA todas sa Batangas encounter

Labing-apat na miyembro ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) ang napatay sa dalawang magkasunod na engkuwentro laban sa mga tropa ng pamahalaan sa Nasugbu, Batangas kamakalawa ng gabi.

Batay sa report ng Nasugbu police, bandang alas-otso ng gabi, naka-tanggap umano ng report ang Nasugbu PNP hinggil sa presensya ng mga armadong grupo sa kanilang area of responsibility.

Agad bumuo ng team ang mga awtoridad na kinabibilangan ng magkakasanib na pwersa ng 730th Special Operations Wing (SOW) ng Philippine Airforce, Provincial Public



Safety Company (PPSC) ng Batangas PNP at Nasugbu police upang beripikahin ang impormasyon.

Subalit pagdating sa Sitio Pinamantasan, Brgy. Aga, bigla na lamang ang mga itong pinaulanan ng bala mula sa mga sakay ng isang jeepney at sa isang closed van.

Nagbunsod ito ng running gun battle sa pagitan ng magkalabang grupo.

Nagresulta ito sa pagkamatay ng limang miyembro ng NPA at pagkasugat ng dalawa pa.

Tatlo naman mula sa panig ng pamahalaan ang nasugatan na kinabibilangan nina Major Engilberto Nioda Jr, PAF; 2Lt. Eliseo Incierto, PAF, at TSG. Kenneth Lopez, PA, na agad isinugod sa ospital.

Narekober mula sa mga rebelde ang limang mahahabang baril.

Sumiklab naman ang ikalawang engkuwentro sa Sitio Batulao, Brgy. Kaylaway, Nasugbu, dalawang kilometro ang layo mula sa unang labanan. (Ronilo Dagos)

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Muslim nations form coalition vs ISIS

WHAT happened to us in Marawi City appears to be part of a worldwide phenomenon of one sector of Islamic extremism seeking to gain ascendancy, not only over other religious faiths but also over other Muslims who do not share their radical views and means.

Last Sunday, defense ministers and other high officials of 41 countries met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in the first meeting of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition. Plans for a "Pan-Islamic Unified Front" against violent extremism had been announced as early as 2015, but recent events may have pushed the nations in the coalition to now move more decisively.

Egypt today is reeling from an attack on a mosque in the Sinai that killed 305 people during prayer time last Friday. Previous attacks have been on Christian nations in Europe and on Christian churches in the Middle East. The attack last Friday was on a Muslim mosque identified with the mystical Sufi branch of Sunni Islam, which the extremist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has branded heretic.

The attack on a fellow Muslim institution must have moved the Saudi-led coalition to now move more decisively against the ISIS. The meeting in

Riyadh brought together the Muslim or Muslim-majority nations of Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Uganda, Somalia, Mauritania, Lebanon, Libya, Yemen, and Pakistan.

It appointed retired Pakistan general Raheel Sharif as commander-in-chief, who said it will now "mobilize and coordinate the use of resources to facilitate the exchange of information and help member countries build their own counter-terrorism capacity" in a coordinated movement against the terrorist ISIS.

The ISIS today is fighting on many fronts. It continues to fight the Syrian and Iraqi governments, in a campaign to establish a worldwide caliphate. It sought to establish a regional center in the Philippines with Isnilon Hapilon as "emir" of the region. Fortunately, the Philippines, with the aid of several nations, including the United States, China, and Russia, was able to root out the Maute-ISIS group from Marawi City after five months of fighting.

But the ISIS threat worldwide remains. It will now be countered more systematically by the coalition of Muslim nations formed in Riyadh last Sunday. We may have succeeded in stopping it in Marawi but the threat and the danger remains and we must be ever on the alert.

DEFLECTIONS TODAY

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Guerrero tours AFP bases to check on troops

By Priam Nepomuceno November 29, 2017, 12:22 pm

MANILA -- To check on troops' readiness and morale, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief-of-Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero is conducting a series of visits in various military installations in the country.

This was disclosed by Col. Edgard Arevalo, military public affairs chief, in a message late Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, Guerrero visited Philippine Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and Air Force headquarters in Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

Arevalo said the AFP chief is slated to visit Navy headquarters in Roxas Boulevard, Manila on Wednesday.

"This is one in the series of customary visit he had to different AFP Units — in Marawi, as well as other units in the frontline, and in Metro Manila," he added.

Arevalo said it the AFP chief's duty as the commander to check on the readiness condition and the morale of the troops.

Prior to his appointment as chief-of-staff, Guerrero commanded the Eastern Mindanao Command, the Jaminan, Capiz-based 3rd Infantry Division, the 701st Infantry Brigade, Task Force Davao, Commander, and served as chief-of-staff of the Philippine Army.

Guerrero is also a decorated military officer having been awarded the Distinguished Service Star four times, the Order of Lakandula (Degree of Commander); the Philippine Legion of Honor (Degree of Officer); and the Honorary Airborne Wings from the Royal Thai Army. (PNA)

Pna.gov.ph

14 Reds killed, 1 captured in Batangas ops

By Priam Nepomuceno November 29, 2017, 11:24 am

MANILA (UPDATED) -- Fourteen New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed while one was wounded and captured during military operations in Nasugbu town, Batangas Tuesday night.

The incident also resulted in the slight wounding of three troopers who now in stable condition.

In an interview, Major Mikko Magisa, 202nd Infantry Brigade executive officer, said the series of encounters between the Air Force's 730th Combat, police and various military units took place at Barangays Aga and Kaylaway took place around 8:20 p.m.

The firefight lasted for around 20 to 40 minutes.

He added that the encounter was "intelligence driven" and stemmed from the Nov. 20 operation in Barangay Utod which earlier resulted in the capture of a NPA base and undetermined rebel casualties last Nov. 20.

Magisa said the seized NPA encampment is capable of housing and training a significant number of rebels.

All of the bodies of the NPA dead were recovered by troops along with 12 high-powered firearms which consists of 10 M-16 automatic rifles, an M-16 automatic rifle fitted with a M-203 grenade launcher and an M-79.

Nine of the slain rebels were male while five were female, Magisa added.

While the wounded rebel were immediately taken to a private hospital for treatment.

Magisa said that they are still verifying reports that the Secretary of the NPA's Guerilla Front 3 and a platoon leader were among the 14 dead.

The above-mentioned rebel band also sustained losses during an encounter with government troops last Sept. 24 at the vicinity of Mount Banoy, Barangay Talumpok, Batangas City.

In the encounter, a rebel was reported killed while M-16 automatic rifles and a bandolier was also recovered with no losses to the government side. **(PNA)**

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Villagers' report foils NPA extortion in Leyte

By Sarwell Meniano November 29, 2017, 1:52 pm

TACLOBAN CITY – The fresh clash between government troops and New People's Army (NPA) in Albuera, Leyte is proof that communist rebels are not welcome even in remote communities, the Philippine Army said.

Lt. Jessel Montajes, acting spokesperson of the Philippine Army's 8th Infantry Division said the "shared cooperation" between soldiers and villagers prevented the NPA from conducting extortion activities.

"The villagers informed the army about the presence of the NPA rebels that continue to engage in acts of violence and hostilities endangering the lives and properties of innocent people," Montajes said in a press statement released Wednesday morning.

On Tuesday morning, soldiers of the 78th Infantry Battalion clashed against 10 communist terrorists in Talisayan village, Albuera town.

"The troops conducted security patrol and confirmed the residents' reports about the presence of communist terrorists who were extorting food and money," the Philippine Army said in its report.

The firefight lasted for 15 minutes, resulting in the recovery of two caliber .45 pistols, four magazines of calibre .45 pistol, one hand grenade, more or less fifty live ammunition, five cellular phones, subversive documents with high intelligence value, and personal belongings.

There are no casualties on the side of government troops while authorities have yet to determine if the rebels suffered any casualty, according to Montajes.

The latest clash happened five days after President Rodrigo Duterte declared the termination of peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front–Communist of the Philippines–New People's Army and all its adjuncts and organizational units through Proclamation No. 360.

The President cancelled the peace talks due to NPA's continued attacks against government troops and atrocities on civilians despite ongoing peace negotiations. *(PNA)*