

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

11 October 2017

Wednesday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER


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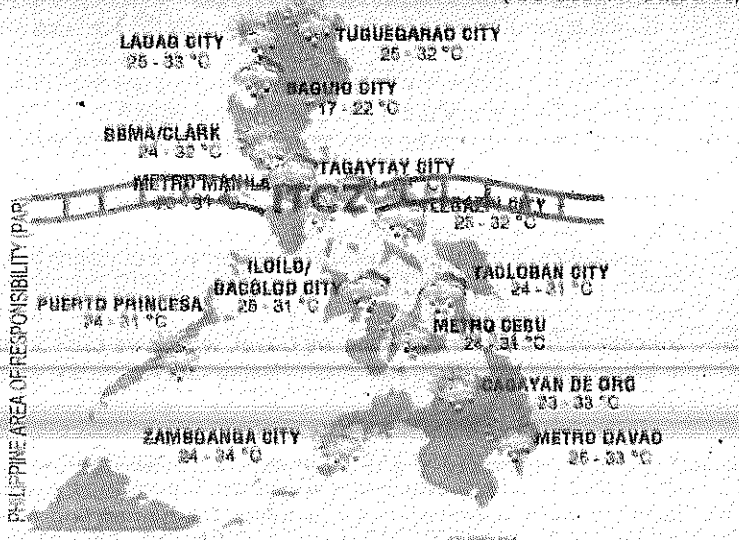
YOH



UNBIASED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 11, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON
(As of 4:00 PM - October 10, 2017)




SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:47 AM	5:39 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
10:42 PM	10:55 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
OCT 6 1:46 AM	OCT 12 5:28 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
0:04 AM 0.62 Meter	12:44 AM 1.14 Meter


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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms


City	Temp 1	Temp 2	City	Temp 1	Temp 2	City	Temp 1	Temp 2
METRO MANILA	24-30°C	25-31°C	TAGAYTAY	19-29°C	20-30°C	TAALOBAN	24-31°C	25-31°C
TUGUEGARAO	25-31°C	25-31°C	LEGAZPI	25-33°C	26-33°C	BAGAYAN DE ORO	23-32°C	23-32°C
LABAD	26-32°C	25-31°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24-30°C	25-30°C	METRO DAVAO	25-33°C	25-32°C
BAGUIO	16-25°C	17-23°C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25-32°C	26-32°C	ZAMBOANGA	24-33°C	24-33°C
SBMA/CLARK	24-32°C	25-31°C	METRO CEBU	25-32°C	25-32°C			



MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM



SAGOT KO, PABALA NIN!



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

11 October

INQUIRER

Page: A1

SC NIXES DE LIMA BID TO QUASH DRUG RAPS

STORY BY MARLON RAMOS

Voting 9-6, the high tribunal rules that the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court has jurisdiction over the case. But senators belonging to the minority bloc vow to support an appeal by their colleague.

A10

FROM A1

By Marlon Ramos
@MRamosINQ

Voting 9-6 on Tuesday, the Supreme Court justices rejected Sen. Leila de Lima's petition to quash her indictment for drug trafficking, ruling that the fiercest critic of President Duterte's brutal war on drugs prematurely sought their intervention to void the arrest warrant issued against her by the Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court (RTC).

The full court also affirmed the authority of Presiding Judge Juanita Guerrero of Muntinlupa RTC Branch 204 to try De Lima for alleged violation of Republic Act No. 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

"The judge did not gravely abuse her discretion in finding probable cause to order the petitioner's arrest," Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr., writing for the majority, said in the ruling.

"The court also found that the text of respondent judge's order did not violate [the] petitioner's constitutional rights and is not contrary to established jurisprudence on determining probable cause," he added.

Lack of merit

Theodore Te, spokesperson for the Supreme Court, said the justices dismissed De Lima's petition for certiorari for lack of merit.

"Under the Rules (of Court), everyone who wishes may file a motion for reconsideration," Te said in a press conference.

He said 12 of the 15 justices,

the Sandiganbayan is the appropriate court to hear drug cases brought against public officials.

Graft cases only

“The Sandiganbayan’s jurisdiction is limited to violations of the antigraft laws and [does] not extend to violations of the drugs law,” the court said.

All four of Mr. Duterte’s appointees to the high court—Associate Justices Samuel Martires, Noel Tijam, Andres Reyes Jr. and Alexander Gesmundo—voted to throw out De Lima’s petition.

They were joined by Associate Justices Teresita Leonardo de Castro, Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin and Mariano del Castillo.

Those who voted to grant De Lima’s plea were Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Associate Justices Marvic Leonen, Estela Perlas-Bernabe, Francis Jardeleza and Benjamin Caguioa.

Martires, Peralta, Gesmundo and De Castro are former justices on the Sandiganbayan.

The junking of De Lima’s plea was the third major legal challenge hurdled by the Duterte administration.

In November last year, the tribunal voted 9-5 to sustain Mr. Duterte’s order allowing the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City.

Majority of the justices also upheld the legality of Mr. Duterte’s decision to place the entire island of Mindanao under martial law following the attack of Islamic State-inspired Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists on Marawi City on May 23.

—WITH A REPORT FROM JHOANNA BALLARAN INQ

including Velasco, issued their own opinion on the legal matter.

De Lima had wanted to keep Velasco from joining the deliberation on her petition, saying an investigative report written by journalist Marites Vitug linked him to German Agojo, one of the convicted criminals who had testified against her.

Mother doesn’t know

De Lima, who has been detained in a police detention cell at Camp Crame since her arrest on Feb. 24, has consistently criticized President Duterte’s violent solution to the country’s narcotics problem.

Earlier, she disclosed that her 84-year-old mother, Norma, did not know she was in jail.

Her siblings, she said, told their mother that she was on an official foreign trip.

As chair of the Commission on Human Rights, De Lima investigated in 2009 alleged summary executions of criminal

suspects by the so-called Davao Death Squad when Mr. Duterte was the mayor of Davao City.

As chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, she investigated last year alleged summary executions in the war on drugs launched by Mr. Duterte after taking office as President.

Mr. Duterte, who had warned Congress not to investigate his campaign against narcotics, accused De Lima of accepting payoffs for allowing the illegal drug trade inside the New Bilibid Prison when she was the justice secretary.

‘Danger’ to citizens

De Lima’s lead counsel, former Solicitor General Florin Hilbay, said the Supreme Court decision posed “danger” to the citizens, as it practically authorized the Department of Justice (DOJ) to prosecute anyone “with a bogus drug charge.”

“It’s six votes for justice and two votes shy of vindication,”

Hilbay told the Inquirer by phone. “From a purely legal standpoint, this case ought to be a surprise for everyone.”

“Now everyone is in danger because the DOJ has been able to successfully concoct a case without any evidence,” he said.

But Solicitor General Jose Calida expressed elation over the ruling, saying it “enthrones the majesty of the law, which is no respecter of men and women however privileged they are.”

“This decision further negates the erroneous perception that the government’s war against drugs is waged only against the unlettered and the underprivileged,” Calida said in a statement.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said the ruling vindicated the DOJ’s position that the regional trial courts and not the Sandiganbayan had jurisdiction over drug cases.

In tossing out De Lima’s petition for certiorari, the Supreme Court held that the RTC and not

IN THE KNOW

Sen. Leila de Lima is detained on drug charges, including allegations that she presided over the illegal drug trade inside the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) during her term as secretary of justice.

The Department of Justice filed charges against De Lima in the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Muntinlupa on Feb. 17, accusing her of violating the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, particularly Section 5 (sale) in relation to Section 3 (trading), and Sections 26(b) and 28, pertaining to her criminal liability as a government official.

RTC Branch 204, presided over by Judge Juanita Guerrero, is handling Criminal Case No. 17-165, with coaccused Ronnie Dayan, De Lima's former driver, and Rafael Ragos, former Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) officer in charge and National Bureau of Investigation deputy director.

Judge Amelia Fabros-Corpuz of RTC Branch 205 is handling Criminal Case No. 17-166 with De Lima's nephew Jose Adrian Dera as her coaccused.

Judge Patria Manalastas-de Leon of Branch 206 is handling Criminal Case No. 17-167 with Dera, former BuCor chief Franklin Jesus Bucayu and alleged bagman Wilfredo Elli, De Lima's former aide Joemel Sanchez and NBP high-profile inmate Jaybee Sebastian as coaccused.

The drug charges are based on complaints brought by the NBI and watchdog group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) using testimony during the House of Representatives' inquiry into the proliferation of illegal drugs in the NBP during De Lima's term as justice chief.

Last year, the VACC filed charges against De Lima in the Department of Justice, alleging that she violated the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act by conspiring with several other officials in the Aquino administration and high-profile NBP inmates in the drug trade during her term as justice secretary.

This was followed by a similar complaint filed by former NBI Deputy Directors Reynaldo Esmeralda and Ruel Lasala against De Lima and Ragos.

"De Lima, acting as the mother of all drug lords and through the use of her authority, was able to appoint and designate men inside the [NBP] in order to ensure the perpetuation of illegal drug trade," the former NBI officials said in their complaint. —INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ

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INQUIRER

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Army gives civilians safety tips in bottles

MARAWI CITY—Plastic bottles with leaflets fell from the sky here, dropped by military helicopters in an operation aimed at delivering an important message to civilians seeking a safe way to flee the battle zone and Islamic State (IS) gunmen wanting to surrender—what to do and where to go.

Instead of bombs falling from the sky, residents here saw plastic bottles with leaflets being dropped by helicopters, which Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, head of the Western Mindanao Command, said could help save more lives, including those of errorists willing to give up.

“The bottles contain instructions for the noncombatants to know where exactly they should go, as well for the militants, who wish to surrender, to know what they need to do,” Galvez said.

“We are doing this to prevent collateral damage for non-combatants,” he said.

Galvez said at least 33 people, who are relatives of the terrorists, were still inside the battle area.

He said relatives of members of Maute and Abu Sayyaf,

two homegrown terror groups affiliated with IS, would be treated as noncombatants as long as they were unarmed.

Noncombatants

“We will treat them as non-military objectives,” Galvez said. “They are civilians so they will not be subjected to military operations,” he said.

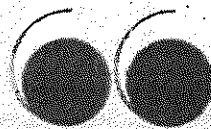
He added, though, that authorities would still check the relatives’ involvement, if any, in either of the two terror groups. There’s a process for that, he said.

Since the war on terror started on May 23, at least 1,750 hostages had been rescued by the military. One of the rescued hostages was Fr. Chito Soganub, vicar general of Marawi City, a predominantly Muslim area.

Last week, a total of 17 hostages were also rescued by the military in the main battle area.

Galvez said the rescued hostages would soon be reunited with their families.

“We have arranged all that they need, from flight details up to those who will pick them up at the airport to ensure their



We are doing this to prevent collateral damage for noncombatants...

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez

Head, Western Mindanao Command



safety,” Galvez said.

“The delay in their release to their families was due to our effort to get all the information they have so that we can rescue the remaining hostages,” he added.

As the operations continued,

an official of Lanao del Sur province, which geographically includes Marawi, sought to allay fears over Islamic preachers who had been going around villages and cities in the province.

Islamic preachers

Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesperson for the Lanao del Sur Crisis Management Committee, said there was no need to be apprehensive about the preachers moving around in the province, including Iligan City, which now hosts hundreds of evacuees from Marawi.

The preachers were seen wearing salwar kameez, a traditional garb worn by men in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan and are usually long-sleeved shirts and pajama-like pants white or brown in color.

The preachers, known as Tablighs, roam the province to preach Islam, not violence, Adiong said.

Adiong said the preachers were supposed to be apolitical and would not speak on social issues. “They evangelize only and send the message of Islam,” he said. —JEFFREY MAITEM AND ALLANNAWAL INQ

11 October 2017

Malaya
The Ilocos News

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NPAs attack agri firm, kill barangay exec in Bukidnon

BY VICTOR REYES

NEW People's Army rebels burned heavy equipment of a firm engaged in pineapple production and killed a barangay councilor in separate attacks in Bukidnon on Sunday.

One of the attacks was at the Davao Agricultural Ventures Corporation in Sitio Rang-ay in Barangay Merangeran, Quezon town at around 5 p.m. Sunday.

"The only motive that we see is extortion," said Capt. Norman Tagros, civil military operations officer of the Army's 403rd Brigade.

Tagros said about 70 NPA members stormed the firm's compound and burned a boom

spray tractor, a boom harvester, two sprayer nurse trucks, and a generator.

Tagros said the communist rebels fled with three shotguns and a cal. 9 mm pistol taken from the firm's security guards, aboard a commandeered boom truck which was later found abandoned and burned in Barangay Lumintao, also in Quezon town.

Tagros said pursuing troops from the Army's 8th Infantry Battalion arrested Angelica Regasajo, alias Jake, a medical officer from the NPA's Guerilla Front 6. She yielded two cartridges of high-explosive ammunition for a cal .40 grenade launcher.

In Kitaotao town, a six-man

NPA group shot dead barangay councilor Romeo Bantilan Jr. of Barangay White Kulaman at around 6 a.m. also on Sunday.

Tagros said the group was led by an "Aman" of the NPA's Guerilla Front 53. Bantilan died from six bullet wounds from an AK 47 rifle.

Tagros said the military received information that the rebels were forcing Bantilan to leave the area for unknown reason.

The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. President Duterte terminated peace talks with the communists last July amid continued NPA attacks, including against a convoy of the Presidential Security Group in North Cotabato.

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Malaya
The Nation's Newspaper

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Army: Colonel in sex rap dismissed last year

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Army yesterday said an officer charged recently before the Sandiganbayan with three counts of sexual harassment is no longer connected with the command.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson said Jessie Mario Dosado, who had the rank of colonel and is a former commander of the Army's Procurement Center, was dishonorably dismissed from the military service on February 10 last year, on the order of the Ombudsman, for charges of usurpation of official functions, dishonesty, gross misconduct, and gross negligence.

Dosado is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1985 whose members include Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista, newly-installed Army chief, and Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, chief of the Western Mindanao Command.

Prior to the Ombudsman's or-

der, Tiongson said the Army's Efficiency and Separation Board looked in the fitness of Dosado to remain in the service in relation to the same cases lodged before the Ombudsman.

"These cases were committed while he was the head of the Army Procurement Center... His cases before the separation board were already mooted because he was already ordered dismissed (by the Ombudsman)," said Tiongson.

Sandiganbayan records show the cases of graft and falsification of public documents stemmed from the anomalous procurement of P5.103 million worth of military uniforms and other supplies and equipment in 2003.

Tiongson said all the benefits due Dosado have been forfeited because of his dishonorable dismissal.

"These cases are separate from the sexual harassment cases

against him," said Tiongson, referring to the cases lodged against Dosado before the Sandiganbayan. The sexual harassment incidents occurred while Dosado was also the chief of the Army Procurement Center.

The sexual harassment cases were approved for filing by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales last August.

The three counts of sexual harassment involved a female soldier who was reportedly forced by Dosado to watch him while having sex with a companion on May 16, 2013.

The second complainant, who is a civilian, cited two cases of sexual harassment. The first on Oct. 22, 2013 when a fully-naked Dosado allegedly demanded her to wipe his back and give him a bath. The second incident occurred three days later when Dosado supposedly forced her to hold his sexual organ.

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// October 2017

Pahina. 4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATUTULOG NA SUNDALO UTAS

BASILAN — Isang sundalong natutulog ang namatay nang barilin ng kapwa niya sundalo sa loob ng kanilang command post, kamakalawa sa Bgy. Masola, Isabela City sa lalawigan ng ito.

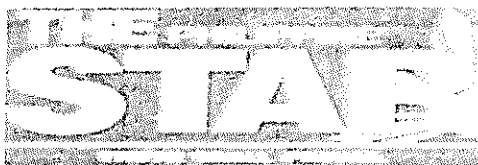
Kinilala ang biktima na si Pfc. Jerry Arasan, samantalang, ang suspek ay si Pfc. Arim Jualin, kapwa nakatalaga sa Special Operation Command ng Philippine Army (PA) sa nabanggit na lungsod.

Ayon sa ulat, natutulog si Arasan nang barilin ito ni Jualin.

Kaagad namang nadakip ng mga awtoridad si Jualin at inimbestigahan na ang motibo nito sa pamamaslang sa biktima.

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IS-linked Pinoy doctor vows to fight extradition

The Filipino doctor accused of wiring money for a foiled jihadist plot targeting New York's subway and Times Square rejects the allegations and has vowed to fight US extradition, his lawyer said yesterday.

Maranao doctor Rusell Langi Salic and two others have been charged with involvement in the plan to stage the attacks in the name of the Islamic State group during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in 2016.

But his lawyer said Salic had no connection with terrorist activities and groups.

"He even said that he is mad at terrorist activities. He said that in Islam, terrorism is prohibited. He is a devout Muslim. He is praying five times a day," lawyer Dalomilang Parahiman said.

Salic is accused of transferring \$423 in May 2016 to the other suspects to help fund a thwarted operation that was planned through internet messaging applications, according to the US justice department.

New York's subway, Times Square and some concert venues were identified as targets in the plot that was monitored by an undercover FBI agent posing as a fellow jihadist, US authorities said.

Salic faces legal proceedings seeking his extradition to the US.

His lawyer said Salic voluntarily surrendered to Filipino authorities in April, contradicting the US government's statement that he was arrested.

"Yes, of course he would (contest it). He is innocent," Parahiman added. "They weaved stories to link the person" to the plot.

The undercover agent said in a sworn statement that the FBI had monitored several social media accounts which he believed to be Salic's in which the doctor posted content "supportive of" IS, religious war and terrorist activities.

But Parahiman said Salic was not in control of his social media presence at the time.

"According to the doctor, his (social media) account was hacked. It took him several weeks before he recovered the account."

Salic has 'very deep' links to IS

But ground military commanders said yesterday that Salic has "very deep links" with the IS militants to support their operations in southern Philippines.

Armed Forces' Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez said Salic was involved in IS operations and his function was mostly in logistics.

Another senior military ground commander, who asked not to be named, said Salic was allegedly the one receiving funds from the IS.

"He was the conduit, it looked like they were in the BPO (business process outsourcing), using dummy companies by terrorists to funnel the fund," the military official said.

Salic, who has practiced his medical profession in Davao, surrendered following the arrest of Yemeni couple Husayn al-Dhafiri and Rahaf Zina in Bonifacio Global City last April.

The couple were allegedly connected with the IS. Al-Dhafiri was believed to be involved in explosives manufacturing and possible planning against Kuwait, according to the Department of Justice.

"He (Salic) surrendered when the Yemeni couple was arrested. He was too afraid about being tracked down," Galvez said. "I believe he has deep links because the Americans really put interest to the case. If Americans are interested, he has a very deep connection."

Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesman for the military, said the military has information Salic frequented Butig town in Lanao del Sur and allegedly provided assistance to the Maute group.

Salic denied the allegations, saying he has never been to Butig and does not know anyone from the Maute.

Salic's lawyer said his client only gave

Turn to Page 12

IS-linked From Page 7

money to unspecified individuals and a charitable group for “humanitarian considerations.”

“He just took pity at these people because he was a bachelor and did not have many expenses. He just wanted to help them,” Parahiman said.

Salic hails from Molundo town in Lanao del Sur. He was a biology teacher in the Jamiatul Philippine Al-Islamie in Marawi City before he became a doctor. Salic’s relatives and friends

told The STAR yesterday that he is not related to Fahad Salic, the former mayor of Marawi City now detained for his alleged connections to the Maute group linked to the IS.

“The family roots of Russell are in Molundo, not in Marawi or in Butig, which is the hometown of the Maute clan,” said a public school official in Marawi City.

“We know nothing of his activities after he left to study medicine,” Salic’s former co-

teacher told The STAR.

Butig in Lanao del Sur

In the article “Pinoy in NY terror plot served as Maute doctor” published in The STAR on Oct. 10, it was erroneously reported that Butig town is in Lanao del Norte, instead of Lanao del Sur.

Lanao del Norte first district Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo, in a letter dated Oct. 10, called the newspaper’s attention and sought a correction on Butig’s actual location. – Roel Pareño, John Unson, AFP



Salic

October 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

AFP chopper drops surrender feelers to terrorists, instructions to hostages

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-Westmincom) Monday said that aside from the 28 hostages – 12 children ▶8

AFP chopper drops...

and 16 women – still in the hands of the Islamic Sate-inspired Maute Group, the enemy also has with them 31 to 33 of their dependents.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez made the revelation as the conflict in war-torn Marawi entered its 140th day.

“Based doon sa revelation na may 12 children and 16 women na bihag, may 31 or 33 dependents of Maute and Abu Sayyaf. Dala nila iyung pamilya (Aside from the 12 children and 16 women who are hostages, the Maute and Abu Sayyaf have 31 to 33 dependents. They brought with them their families),” Galvez said.

“That’s why we are calling their attention na yung lahat ng nandun (all of them there) should be separated. As much as possible non-combatants are non-military targets,” he said.

A helicopter was sent to the area and dropped a bottle containing instructions to non-combatants. “Those who want to surrender are also given instructions on what to do... to preclude collateral damage to non-combatants.

4 leaders, 9 foreigners

Galvez, at the same time, said that they have received word that Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, Omar Maute, Dr. Mamud, and Amin Bako, and the six to nine foreign terrorists are still alive and are still in Marawi.

He expressed confidence that these terrorist leaders could be neutralized soon.

“That is why we are moving slowly. They are considered dangerous and very aggressive... very aggressive and desperate,” Galvez said.

“Maganda yung latag ng forces natin, ... we are very confident na kayangkaya natin ito. The commander (on the ground) reported to me that there is positive development ongoing right now,” he said.

Galvez also said that they received information that three of the foreign terrorists had been wounded by airstrikes. He also expressed belief that Omar Maute was also wounded in the assault in Bato Mosque.

“During the assault on Bato Mosque,

◀1

there were more than 15 killed in the area and we believe that Omar was the overall leader in Bato mosque. That’s the report from the ground,” Galvez said.

774 dead, 810 guns taken

As of 7 p.m. Sunday, a total of 774 Maute terrorists had already been killed and 810 firearms were recovered from them. Galvez said.

As of Monday morning, the sector of Task Group Vector of both the Marines and the Joint Special Operations Group (JSOG) under Col. Corleto Vinluan had been cleared of the Mautes, he said.

Still to be cleared is the sector of Task Group Musang under Brig. Gen. Glenn Paje. “We are confident that we might be able to clear the remaining area, more or less four to five hectares, in the next next few days,” Galvez said.

Galvez said that this past week, government troops cleared an additional 141 buildings, including the Lumber Mosque which was recaptured on Sunday. However, in the course of this effort, three soldiers were killed, bringing the total number of soldiers and policemen killed in action to 158.

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Balita

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ANG NARANGGUNANG PAMAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BAHSA P8.00

BUKOD PA SA HOSTAGES

Pamilya kasama rin ng mga terorista sa Marawi

Ni Francis T. Wakefield

Ibinunyag ng commander ng Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) na bukod sa 28 bihag ng Maute Group ay mayroon pang 31-33 kaanak ng mga terorista ang kasama ng mga ito sa Marawi City.

Ito ang kinumpirma ni Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez nitong Lunes, ang ika-140 araw ng bakbakan sa siyudad.

Based doon sa revelation na may 12 children and 16 women [na bihag pa sila], may 31 or 33 dependents of Maute and Abu Sayyaf. Dala nila yung pamilya [nila]." ayon kay Galvez.

"That's why we are calling their attention na 'yung lahat ng nandun should be separated. As much as possible non-combatants are non-military targets," sabi pa ni Galvez.

Sakanilang apela kaugnay nito, umukot sa lugar ang isang chopper

upang maghulog ng bote na may nakasulat na instruksiyon kung saan ligtas na makalilipat ang mga kaanak at bihag ng mga terorista.

Kasabay nito, kinumpirma ni Galvez na buhay at nasa Marawi pa ang Abu Sayyaf leader na si Isnilon Hapilon, si Omar Maute, at sina Dr. Mamud at Amir Bako kasama ang anim hanggang siyam na dayuhang terorista.

Nagpahayag naman ng kumpiyansa si Galvez na malarip na nilang ma-neutralize ang mga terorista sa Marawi.

"That is why we are moving slowly. They are considered dangerous and very aggressive, very aggressive and desperate, ani Galvez. "Maganda 'yung latag ng forces natin. We are very confident na kayang-keya natin ito. The commander (on the ground) reported to me that there is positive development ongoing right now."

May ulat ni Fer Taboy

// October

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: 48

Año successor to be picked from 4 generals

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., the commander at the helm of the military campaign to retake Marawi City from Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists, is among four generals who could succeed Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, who retires on Oct. 26.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana confirmed to reporters in a text message that Galvez, head of the Western

Mindanao Command; Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, chief of the Eastern Mindanao Command; Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison Jr.; and Deputy Chief of Staff Vice Adm. Narciso Vingson are on the short list of the Board of Generals of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Candidates for key positions in the AFP usually undergo interviews with the President, the chief of staff and the Defense Secretary.

Among the four, Guerrero and Galvez are rumored to be the strongest contenders.

Guerrero supposedly has the backing of the President's daughter, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio.

Security experts say Año's retirement comes at a time when Mr. Duterte tries to deflect corruption allegations and the military is being watched for the actions it may take.

Francisco Ashley Acedillo, a former military officer, told the

Inquirer that while the military should be apolitical, it was important for the Armed Forces to be aware that they are protectors of the people and the state, which "is not synonymous to protecting the President and the government."

Accountability

"For now, it is being made synonymous to protecting the President and the administration. But let us remember, people must be made to account.

The AFP should not be instruments for stifling calls for accountability," Acedillo said.

University of the Philippines professor Chester Cabalza said new military commanders "should understand their positions in the current administration despite allegations and unresolved security challenges," including the Marawi siege, the communist insurgency, and the South China Sea dispute with China.

Cabalza said Mr. Duterte's

constant courting of the police and especially of the military, and surrounding himself with retired generals and appointing them to government posts, were signs of "Herculean power and strongman rule."

There were 59 retired military generals, police directors, admirals and colonels who had been appointed to posts in the Duterte Cabinet and other agencies, including government-owned corporations, as of June this year. INQ

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Wesmincom head seen as next AFP chief

BY VICTOR REYES

A THREE-STAR Army general involved in the ongoing campaign to rid Marawi City of members of the Islamic State-inspired Maute Group is among officers being considered to succeed AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana confirmed Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, commander of the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), is among those in the running.

Galvez is rumored to be the leading contender.

"General Galvez is the strongest contender but don't count out General Guerrero yet. He (Guerrero) has close ties with the President and his family," said an officer who spoke on condition of anonymity. He was referring to Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, head of the AFP Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) chief.

Lorenzana confirmed that Guerrero is also in the shortlist.

"There are also Air Force and Navy (officers in the shortlist). They (all the contenders) are all

three-star generals (and flag officers)," he added.

Año, who is due to reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 on October 26, said Sunday the military's Board of Generals has recommended to President Duterte four three-star officers as choices for next AFP chief but did not give names.

Lorenzana, asked if Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison, AFP vice chief, and Vice Adm. Narciso Vingson, AFP deputy chief, are in the list, replied: "Yes."

Galvez and Vingson are members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1985 while Guerrero and Mison are from Class of 1984.

The oldest among the four is Guerrero, who is due to reach the retirement age on December 17 this year. Vingson is retiring on June 30 next year, Galvez on December 12 next year, and Mison on June 21, 2019.

Galvez and Guerrero have had bad experiences with the Maute Group, one of the terrorist groups which have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

The Maute attacked Marawi City

on May 23, four months after Galvez assumed as head of the Zamboanga City-based Wesmincom. Lorenzana has admitted that failure to appreciate intelligence led to the conflict which is still ongoing.

Galvez is being credited for the de-escalation of the conflict with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front during the Mamasapano incident in Maguindanao in January 2015, preserving the peace process between the government and the MILF. Galvez was then the head of the government's Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities, a peace mechanism under the peace process. He held the post in concurrent capacity as Wesmincom deputy commander.

Joint MILF rebels and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters members waylaid PNP Special Action Force personnel who had just slain foreign terrorist Zulkifli Bin Hir, alias Marwan, leading to the death of 44 police commandos.

In the case of Guerrero, the Davao City bombing on September 2 last year occurred during his watch as Eastmincom commander. The bombing resulted in the death

of 15 people and wounding of around 70 others.

Guerrero assumed as the post of the Davao City-based Eastmincom way back in November 2015 and is the most senior in rank among the contenders. President Duterte is from the city.

The source said although Guerrero is retiring in December, "we believe the President is open to the extension of the term of AFP chiefs."

Another military officer who asked not to be named said, Guerrero's service can be extended. "The term of the chief of staff is up to three years. That is up to the commander in chief (President Duterte), he can extend the term of an AFP chief."

Former Presidents Joseph Estrada and Gloria Arroyo have extended the terms of AFP chiefs during their presidency. Former President Benigno Aquino did not give an extension on the belief that is against the Constitution.

Section V, Article XVII of the Constitution says: "Laws on retirement of military officers shall not allow extension of their service."

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10 Navy men liable for Viets' deaths

DAGUPAN CITY—Ten Navy men were found liable for the death of two Vietnamese fishermen on Sept. 23 when a Navy ship intercepted the Vietnamese's fishing boat near waters off Bolinao town in Pangasinan province, according to a multiagency investigative group.

But the provincial committee on illegal entrants (PCIE) did not say what charges it would recommend for two Navy officers and eight enlisted personnel.

Chased and fired

They were among 49 Navy personnel aboard the BRP Miguel Malvar that chased and fired at the Vietnamese fishing boat in the West Philippine Sea, 34 nautical miles west of Cape Bolinao.

The committee concluded that the deaths were "an act of unnecessary inadvertence (oversight) on the part of Navy operatives" when the Navy gunner miscalculated and struck Le

Van Liem, 41, and Le Van Reo, 41, when the shots, meant to be just a warning, instead hit the bow of the boat.

Liem and Reo, who were hiding in the forward cargo compartment of the boat, were found dead when Navy men boarded the fishing boat.

Impartial probe

Lt. Jose Covarrubias, public relations officer of the Naval Forces in Northern Luzon, declined to comment on the committee's recommendations, saying the Navy had yet to receive a copy of the report.

Senior Supt. Ronald Lee, PCIE chair, said the bodies of Reo and Liem had been returned to their families in Tuy Hoa town in Phu Yen province in Vietnam on Oct. 7.

Lee, who is also Pangasinan police director, said the recommendations arose from a "transparent, impartial and honest-to-goodness" investigation of the case.

"It was a delicate case but it

was handled the way it should be handled. All pieces of evidence and persons of interest were accessible," he said.

Detained

He said the PCIE would endorse the investigation report and recommendations to the regional committee on illegal entrants (RCIE).

Last week, RCIE chair, Chief Supt. Charlo Collado, said charges had been filed against the erring Navy men but he did not give details of the complaints.

PCIE had recommended the filing of poaching complaints against the Vietnamese boat captain, Pham To, and his crew, Phan Lam, Nguyen Thanh Chi, Phan Van Liem and Nguyen Van Trong, who were detained at their fishing boat docked at a wharf in Sual town.

The Vietnamese fishermen were caught in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

—GABRIEL CARDINOZA INQ

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PH leader, other officials tour Australian warship

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte yesterday toured the Australian warship docked at Manila Bay.

Duterte boarded Her Majesty's Australian Ship Adelaide, the largest ship ever built for the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), around 4:45 p.m.

The President was accompanied by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Edu-

ardo Año, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and Special Assistant to the President Christopher "Bong" Go.

"I am pleased to welcome President Duterte to the HMAS Adelaide. Both our countries have a strategic interest in ensuring maritime security and maintaining a stable region," Australian Ambassador Amanda Gorely said.

The Australian ambassador and Assistant Defense Attaché Gideon Springwour welcomed the President and his

Cabinet officials.

Duterte and his officials were given a tour of the ship by Commander Joint Task Group, Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2017 Captain Jonatahn Earley, who briefed them on the ship's Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief (HADR) capabilities.

HMAS Adelaide is in Manila for a five-day goodwill visit as part of a regional deployment by the Australian Defense Force to strengthen ties with the region.

It is the ship's maiden deployment to Southeast Asia.

EMontano

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Of Trees and Forest

Senator Manny Villar

A better Marawi

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Roa Duterte and officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have indicated that the end to the Marawi crisis might be near.

The AFP, in fact, suggested that they might be able to reclaim all strategic positions taken by the Maute Group by the end of October.

This is a welcome development especially to our suffering brothers and sisters in the Islamic City of Marawi, Lanao del Sur, who had to endure a lot after the local terror group attacked their communities more than four months ago.

Let us hope that Marawi residents can go back to their villages soon and resume normal lives. I know this is difficult given the devastation – physical, economic, and personal – brought about by the brutal siege by a group of bandit that has pledged allegiance to ISIS.

But our nation is resilient. I have no doubt that our kababayans in Marawi will bounce back from this tragedy and rebuild their community. It is important to look forward and imagine a new community rising out of the ashes of the city and anchored on its history, culture, and identity.

I am glad that the government has started the preparations for the rebuilding of Marawi. For instance, around 5,000 temporary shelters are now being built for Marawi evacuees. This represents the initial phase of reconstructing Marawi.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has announced that it plans to construct prefabricated housing that can be built in ten days and which subscribes to international standards.

The Department of Finance is seeking additional budget for the rehabilitation program which already has ₱15 billion for the next two years (₱5 billion for 2017; ₱10 billion for 2018).

The Senate is also planning a ₱500-million subsidy for a loan facility for Marawi residents through the Land Bank of the Philippines.

I am glad that the Senate has put together a special committee on the Marawi reconstruction in order to increase the level of convergence between executive and legislative actions.

If there is anything we should have learned from past efforts to rehabilitate from a tragedy – the Zamboanga siege, the Visayas earthquake, and Yolanda – it is that we need to act fast. We need to rebuild homes fast so that our people can start rebuilding their lives and their future.

The rebuilding of Marawi City must be done with the same intensity and decisiveness as the military operations against the Maute group.

I am also happy that our friends from around the world have pledged their support. China, Japan, US, and other countries have signified their support for the reconstruction of Marawi.

In another important step, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has announced that it will prioritize Marawi refugees in terms of the jobs needed for the reconstruction of the city. It has also launched skills training and livelihood program for them.

This is very important because Marawi residents need employment and livelihood in order to start imagining a bright future despite the tragedy that befell their city.

It is also a beautiful gesture to give them the jobs in the rebuilding of their city. In this way, they will have ownership – and therefore, will take pride in – the rise of a new and better Marawi.

It is especially critical to provide the youth with education and livelihood. Studies have shown that one of the strategies of the Islamic State in recruiting

Of Trees...

(From page 7)

members and sympathizers is by exploiting social problems like unemployment, injustice, and inequities. They prey on the disillusionment of young people and turn them to violent extremism.

We in government, business, and civil society all need to help shape a better Marawi.

We need to realize that the successful rebuilding of Marawi is not just beneficial for the people of Marawi or Mindanao but also for

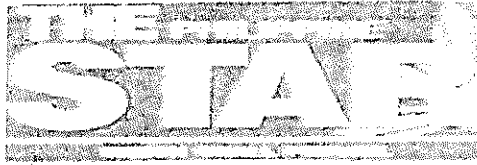
the whole Filipino nation.

It will enhance our unity as a people. It will showcase to the whole world the strength of character of the Filipino. And it will send a message to terrorists organizations – you cannot intimidate us.

Decent, peace-loving Filipinos will prevail.

(For comments/feedback email to mbv secretariat at gmail or visit www.mannyvillar.com.ph)

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COMMONSENSE

MARICHU A. VILLANUEVA

Not a far-fetched option

The Philippine government has started the extradition process against Filipino doctor Russell Salic who is facing prosecution for terrorism charges in the United States. Salic, along with two co-accused, was tagged on the thwarted jihadist plot targeting New York's subway and Times Square last year. Salic was arrested in the Philippines in April 2017 and the US officially requested his extradition, the US Justice Department disclosed.



The US Justice Department statement revealed Salic, 37, was found to have transferred money to the other suspects for the operation. They were charged with involvement in the plan to carry out the attacks in the name of the Islamic State (IS) during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in 2016.

According to intelligence reports reaching the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Salic served as doctor who treated the Mautes wounded in battle with government forces. Salic supposedly surrendered to the counter-terrorism division of the Bureau of Immigration last April 7 after learning he was the subject of a warrant of arrest, which a Manila court issued based on an Interpol alert notice regarding his involvement with IS.

The US Justice Department statement further quoted messages sent by Salic to others involved in the plot in which he described terror laws in the Philippines as "not strict" in comparison to countries such as Australia and the UK. "Terrorists from all over the world usually come here as a breeding ground for terrorists... hahahaha... But no worry here in Philippines. They don't care about IS... Only in west," he added, according to the same statement. This boast by Salic that the Philippines is a "breeding ground for terrorist" did not sound new to me.

It was former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who first declared, "poverty is the breeding ground of terrorism" in the Philippines.

It was at a time when the Philippines just joined the "coalition of the willing" in 2003 upon the invitation of former US President George Bush whose administration coined it to refer to the countries which supported, militarily or politically the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and subsequent military presence in post-invasion Iraq.

It was former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who first declared "poverty is the breeding ground of terrorism" in the Philippines.

The Philippines was subsequently granted the status of "non-NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) ally." It is a designation given by the US government to its allied countries which have strategic working relationships with US Armed Forces but are not members of the NATO.

While still pounding the Malacañang beat a few years back, I distinctly recall a joint press conference of President Arroyo with then President Bush during her state visit in Washington. After their bilateral talks at the White House, I was given the opportunity to ask questions to both leaders. Quoting Mrs. Arroyo on her "poverty is the breeding ground of terrorism" statement, I asked Mr. Bush how the US government could help address this problem with the grant of "non-NATO ally" status to the Philippines. Mr. Bush retorted quickly: "I don't think so because Osama bin Laden is not poor. He's a millionaire!"

Mrs. Arroyo withdrew the 43-member Philippine humanitarian force from Iraq in mid-July 2004 not because of the repartee of Mr. Bush but as exchange for the safe release of Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz who was held hostage by Iraqi forces. And the rest, as we say, is history.

Fast forward. President Rodrigo Duterte had to cut short his state visit to Moscow after the IS-inspired Maute terrorists laid siege in Marawi City last May 23. The Mautes aided the Muslim bandit group Abu Sayyaf and publicly pledged allegiance to IS. It has been flying the black IS flags since they took over the city.

With the joining of forces of the Mautes and Abu Sayyaf group, led by Isnilon Hapilon, President Duterte declared martial law all over Mindanao to contain their threats to spread terror. Originally limited for 60 days only, the President extended martial law until the end of December this year.

When we were invited to a dinner meeting along with other newspaper columnists at Malacañang last Oct. 3, President Duterte updated us on the Maute siege that has caused so much casualties among civilians and government forces, not to mention the great damage to mosques and other buildings—both private and public. The President noted with concern the hundreds of families displaced who are now being temporarily housed in evacuation centers outside the main battle areas in Marawi City.

The Commander-in-chief disclosed the government forces are now in the winding down mode to flush out the remaining Mautes to start the rehabilitation of the war-torn Marawi City. Citing anew he is a Maranao by her maternal blood, President Duterte remains optimistic that his administration would be able to fully address the aspirations of the Filipino Muslims for a genuine Bangsamoro as a way to gaining enduring peace in Mindanao.

He counts support from chief allies leading the 17th Congress who both hail from Mindanao, namely, Senate president Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III and House Speaker and Davao Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez. The President cited with satisfaction that the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) was already filed by the Speaker to jumpstart the legislative process. The BBL, he pointed out, is part of his administration's advocacy for a shift to the federal system of government in our country.

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The BBL, one of the priority bills of the Duterte administration, aims to implement the peace deal signed by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in 2014.

President Duterte, however, frowned at the recommendation of former Supreme Court (SC) chief justice Reynato Puno to proceed first with Charter Change (Cha-cha) to set the federal system of government in place before Congress approves into law the BBL.

"I cannot go into Cha-cha without the BBL first," President Duterte retorted. "Because how can you go on campaign if Moros won't accept it (BBL)," he pointed out.

"Wary *sila sa* Congress. *Ayaw nila sa* Supreme Court. In fact, *gusto nila* martial law," the President explained.

In obvious exasperation to the apprehensions raised to him by the Muslim leaders, the President quoted himself telling them: "*Kung gusto n'yo* revolutionary government!"

For President Duterte – who has been openly espousing for "revolutionary government" – such rhetorical retort won't be farfetched option.

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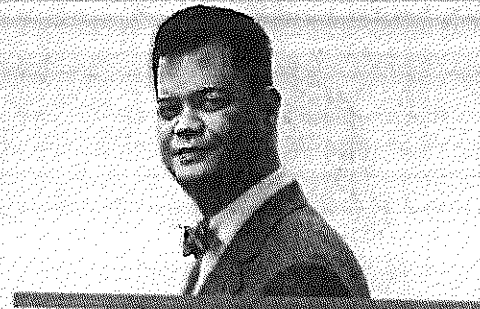
INQUIRER

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Racing against the clock

In politics, the most direct path from point A to point B is a zigzag and not a straight line. To try otherwise is to line up possible opponents all in a row: big business, media, the military, the bureaucracy, the Supreme Court, foreign allies (or those with influence), the Church, and the political class. Creating one collision after another heightens the risk factor in terms of the two variables—public opinion and time—that can get in the way of achieving your objective. In his time, Ferdinand Marcos, who famously said never make a decision when you are angry, hungry, or happy, mastered the management of time and public opinion as he island-hopped his way to dictatorship, isolating or co-opting each possible opponent in turn. Cory Aquino, intent merely on presiding over a constitutional handover of power, was able to weather a collision with the military. Fidel V. Ramos, in attempting Charter change, nearly did it, except memories of Marcos were still too fresh. Joseph Estrada was reckless. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo first played the China card to stay in power, then moderated her aims to finishing her term and laying the foundation by means of midnight appointments, to ride out her successor's term. Benigno Aquino III alienated big players by taking a level playing field too seriously, anointing a successor perceived as a traitor to his class by his peers, offended the middle class by attempting to confront emotion with reason.

What the President's—or his coalition's—objectives lack in detail or focus are more than made up for by ambition. Eliminate direct election by the public of the head of government; unite executive and legislative to assure department control by legislators (securing, in turn, ironad fiefdoms for local barons while eliminating national figures as rivals); and reor-



THE LONG VIEW
MANUEL L. QUEZON III

ganize (purge) the bureaucracy, while allowing local business to sell out to foreign ownership. All of this under cover of the very thing the ruling coalition wants to eventually eliminate as a factor in our politics: national opinion, which confers (and takes away) public support on presidents.

The President's dilemma—as the Plaza Miranda government rally last Sept. 21, and the barely-noticed gatherings at the Qui-rino Grandstand and Plaza Independencia in Cebu over the weekend showed—is that online fervor and high survey ratings still can't be translated into warm bodies to publicly show support. At least, this hasn't been the case since the campaign. Convinced that the best defense is a good offense, the President continues to present a moving target: when it became indisputable that public opinion had turned against the police, the President made a cosmetic announcement yesterday: The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, he said, will now do all the talking on the so-called war on drugs (a smokescreen he's been belching since January, with statistics handed over last May and repeated trial balloons in August and in September).

He must govern by fear. Big business has been taught to toe the line by avoiding expressing anything other than praise, what with the fate of those businesses that have angered the President or his people. Media remains on the defensive as audiences shrink. The military, under sane and cautious leadership of Delfin Lorenzana and Eduardo Año, is holding the line against political adventurism by civilian leaders (even the recent appointment of Gen. Rolando Bautista as Army Chief does not change this). The bureaucracy is what it is. In the Supreme Court, yesterday's decision on Senator Leila de Lima suggests the four appointments of the President so far (with at least two more by next year) are fortifying a comfortable majority in important decisions to come. The China card neutralizes all other foreign opinion. The Church is still practicing prudence. This leaves the political class, which has a breather in terms of barangay elections finally being postponed, while depriving the President of the opportunity to appoint OICs. While the Comelec (and one assumes, enterprising politicians) figure out what to do with the 59 million blank ballots already printed, the May 2018 polls presents a problem: All the machines will have to calibrate, not now, but in a year.

This is why Koko Pimentel announced PDP-Laban will stop accepting new members this December. Carpet-baggers from the executive branch can be kept out this way, fortifying those in politics before the current era—and ensuring their relevance even beyond the current dispensation. With dropping ratings comes the imperative to position for a post-administration future. After the budget passes next month, impeachment will eat up congressional time, but Charter change has to be concluded by May next year. Otherwise May 2019 will serve as the prelude to the 2022 presidential derby.

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SHORTLIST | Candidates for the next CSAFP submitted to Malacanan

Arms Santiago

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Board of Generals has submitted to President Rodrigo Duterte names of candidates as the next AFP Chief of Staff

This is in connection with the impending retirement from the service of General Eduardo Ano on October 26 upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56.

According to Gen Ano, four three-star generals has been recommended to President Duterte.

He added that regardless who gets to be chosen to be the next Chief of Staff, all four candidates are qualified and deserving to head the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

It can be recalled that Gen Ano was due to retire earlier because the President wanted him to head the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) but this was put on hold because of the Marawi siege.

Ano decided not to opt for early retirement and vowed to end the crisis before he formally bows out of the service. Even though he did not give any definite timeline, but he is sure that the Marawi conflict will end soon. **AES/ALS**

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PATH TO PEACE | 2 NPA Rebels Surrender to NOLCOM Troopers

Arms Santiago

CAMP GEN SERVILLANO AQUINO, Tarlac City (DWDD) – Two (2) NPA rebels surrendered, without any firearms, to the personnel of 73rd Divisions Reconnaissance Company and to a platoon of 24th Infantry Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, Philippine Army in the early morning of October 8, 2017 in Lagangiliang, Abra.

The surrenderees were identified as Lowel C Maglia with codename Honasan Maglia, AKA "Trese", 22 years old from Sallapadan, Abra, and a certain codename "Franco" who is a regular member of the KLG North Abra, Agustin Beghaleu Command since September 2016. The said personalities are currently under the custody of 24th IB, 7ID, PA, for proper documentation and disposition.

Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) Commander, MGen Emmanuel B Salamat expressed his gratitude to the civilians and relatives of the Former Rebels (FRs) who have paved way for their surrender and the NOLCOM troopers of the 24th IB and 73rd DRC, 7ID, PA for their relentless efforts in the field in order to win the enemy. He further encouraged them to welcome rebels who decide to follow a peaceful path under the rule of law. Yet, he reminded them to be always vigilant and ready to fight in times of need. **PIO NOLCOM/MCAG**

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ON HOLD | No talks with CPP-NPA yet

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) believes it is not yet the right time to talk with the Communist Party of the Philippines – National Democratic Front – New People's Army.

According to AFP Chief of Staff Gen Eduardo Ano, it is not yet the right time to revive the stalled peace negotiations between the government and the CPP-NDF-NPA since the enemy has not shown any sincerity to talk peace.

Gen Ano made the statement yesterday before the launch of the Inter-Agency Committee on Legal Action or IACLA which will handle the filing of cases and conducting intelligence-gathering against enemies of the state like the NPA and other threat groups fighting the AFP and PNP.

In the case of the NPA, it will be a political decision just in case the government would resume the stalled peace talks, while the AFP is always ready to abide with administration's decision.

But for now, the AFP does not see any progress with the peace efforts, especially on the part of the NPAs who have not participated and goes counter with any "confidence-building measures" for the resumption of talks.

Notable was the successive attacks launched by the Communist-terrorist on government and civilian targets, thus resulting in the suspension of talks by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Ano added that the AFP will support the Peace Talks once the CPP-NPA would abide by the conditions set by President Duterte and a bilateral ceasefire declared between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the CPP-NDF-NPA. AES/ALS