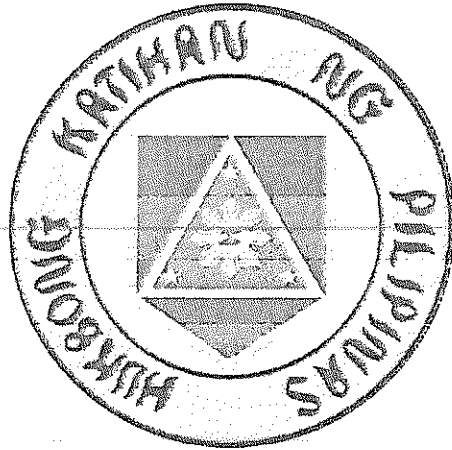


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY
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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

15 September 2017

Friday

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

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

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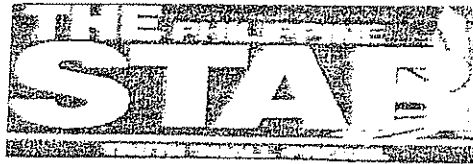
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PANAHON TV
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6:30 PM NEWS
 MONDAY - FRIDAY
 11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINAS ID
 WEDNESDAYS
 6:30 PM & 8:00 PM
 WEDNESDAYS
 6:00 PM

AIR 21
 BANGYONG PANGALANG HAYOP

Panahon.TV

SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:45 AM	5:56 PM	12:47 AM	1:15 PM
LOW TIDE	LOW TIDE	LOW TIDE	LOW TIDE

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 | FRIDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
 APPROXIMATE POSITION AND MOVEMENT
 10:00 AM - September 14, 2017

LAOAG CITY 26-32°C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 25-35°C
BAGUIO CITY 17-25°C	DAVAO CITY 25-34°C
GENERAL SANTOS 25-34°C	MAKAPATI CITY 21-29°C
ALBUQUERQUE CITY 25-32°C	TACLOBAN CITY 25-33°C
DAVAO DEL NORTE 25-32°C	METRO CEBU 25-33°C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 25-34°C	CAGAYAN DEL SUR 25-32°C
	DAVAO DEL SUR 25-32°C

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	SEP 16			SEP 17			SEP 18			EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	SEP 16			SEP 17			SEP 18																																						
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METRO MANILA	25°C 34°C	25°C 32°C	26°C 32°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	TUGUEGARAO	25°C 26°C	25°C 24°C	25°C 32°C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25°C 32°C	26°C 32°C	26°C 32°C	LAOAG	27°C 32°C	26°C 32°C	26°C 32°C	METRO CEBU	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	26°C 33°C	BAGUIO	17°C 26°C	17°C 24°C	17°C 26°C	TACLOBAN	24°C 32°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 32°C	SBMA/CLARK	25°C 34°C	26°C 34°C	25°C 32°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	TAGAYTAY	21°C 26°C	22°C 26°C	21°C 26°C	METRO DAVAO	25°C 32°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	LEGAZPI	25°C 31°C	22°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	ZAMBOANGA	25°C 33°C	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C

Partly cloudy skies

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

15 September 2017

Page: 1

Aquino to face trial over Mamasapano

FROM A1

By Vince F. Nonato
@VinceNonatoINQ

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales has reaffirmed her June 13 order to charge former President Benigno Aquino III for allowing suspended Philippine National Police chief Alan Purisima to take the reins of the ill-fated Mamasapano counterterrorism operation.

The Ombudsman's denial of Aquino's appeal on Sept. 5 clears the way for him to be charged in the Sandiganbayan for usurpation of authority and violation of Section 3(a) of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, which penalizes people who encourage public officers to disobey rules.

Similar cases have already been pending since Jan. 24 in the antigraft court against Purisima and Getulio Napeñas, the sacked commander of the PNP Special Action Force (SAF).

Abigail Valte, spokesperson for Aquino, told reporters in a text message that the former President would meet with his

legal team "to determine his next course of action regarding this case."

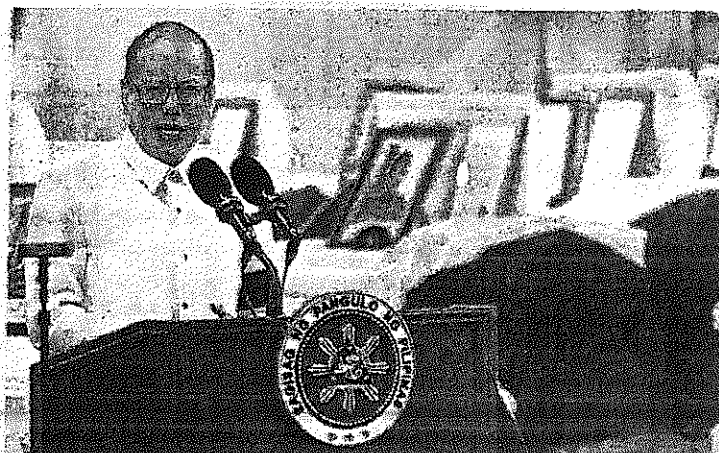
In a 27-page order released on Thursday, the Ombudsman said there was probable cause to hold Aquino criminally liable for "giving Purisima an active role in Oplan Exodus as he was exercising a degree of authority and discretion over Napeñas."

Not above the law

Although Aquino invoked his presidential powers in his appeal, the Ombudsman maintained it was unlawful to allow Purisima to perform the functions of the PNP chief when he was still under suspension pending investigation of the irregular Werfast firearms license delivery deal.

"While a President of the Republic is certainly possessed with broad discretionary powers, the exercise thereof must not, however, be done in violation of a law or laws, much less when such exercise constitutes a crime," the Ombudsman said.

Her order stressed that "every public official and officer is expected under the law to fully comply" with the Ombudsman's



Former President Benigno Aquino III —INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

suspension orders, the President's broad discretionary powers notwithstanding.

The Ombudsman said Aquino's insistence that Purisima was merely a "resource person" for Oplan Exodus "does not lie vis-à-vis the evidence."

This was belied especially by an exchange of text messages showing how Purisima coordinated the details and reported developments to Aquino, the Ombudsman said.

Oplan Exodus was the counterterrorism operation that the PNP launched to capture

Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, who had a \$5-million price on his head offered by the US Department of Justice.

Napeñas did not coordinate the operation with the military, which would have worked with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) for cooperation in Marwan's capture.

Uninformed about the police mission, MILF fighters, aided by other armed groups in Mamasapano, ambushed the SAF commandos, killing 44 of them in a daylong gunbattle.

2

The commandos, however, managed to kill Marwan.

No violation of due process

The Ombudsman also rejected Aquino's argument that his right to due process was violated because he was indicted for crimes not included in the complaint filed by the relatives of the SAF commandos who died in the Jan. 25, 2015, clash with Moro rebels in Mamasapano, Maguindanao province.

Although the relatives of the 44 SAF commandos sought Aquino's prosecution for reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and not graft or usurpation of authority, the Ombudsman said the complaints were "very clear" in faulting Aquino for the irregularity of Purisima's participation in Oplan Exodus.

"The offenses for which probable cause was found against President Aquino in the assailed resolution are actually included in the allegations of the complaints, regardless of the term 'reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide' used by complainants," the Ombudsman said.

On the other hand, the Om-

budsman denied an appeal filed by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) on behalf of the SAF relatives seeking to hold Aquino liable for the death of the policemen.

The Ombudsman reiterated that Aquino's irregular coordination with Purisima was not the "direct, immediate and proximate cause of the deaths."

Instead, the deaths were ruled a direct result of the "intentional act of shooting by the hostile forces" in Mamasapano.

Unbroken sequence

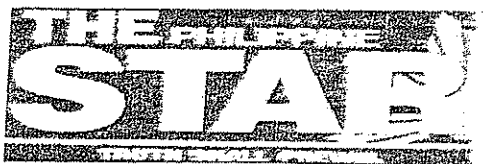
The VACC argued that the proximate cause is the event that set other events in motion in a natural and continuous chain of events.

But, the Ombudsman said the VACC "conveniently omitted" the fact that the sequence must be "unbroken by any efficient intervening cause."

In this case, any negligence during the planning and implementation of Oplan Exodus was deemed "subsequently broken by the occurrence of an efficient intervening cause" in the form of the armed groups' attack. —WITH A

REPORT FROM NIKKO DIZON INQ

5 September 2017



Page: 1

Stars kick off CHR fund drive

Social media: Congressmen should get P1,000 pay

By ROBERTZON RAMIREZ

As protests mounted after the House of Representatives approved a P1,000 budget for the Commission on Human Rights for 2018, social media went abuzz with reactions from local celebrities and ordinary netizens who have initiated a fundraising campaign for the agency.

Actress Agot Isidro, a vocal critic of President Duterte, in her Twitter account lashed out at the 119 representatives who approved the measure on Tuesday. Isidro initially posted a photo

of the House members with a hashtagged caption "#HouseOf-RepresentaTHEEVES" in the evening of Sept. 12, the day the CHR budget was approved. "Glad to know my congressman

voted AGAINST #CHRbudget. Tweet na yung mga congressmen na pumabor. Dapat proud kayo, diba? #MagkaalamNa," a succeeding tweet from Isidro stated.

Turn to Page 14

While he expressed his indignation, Dingdong Dantes lauded the 32 congressmen who voted against the P1,000 budget.

"Buti si Rep. Atienza of Buhay – among many others – voted against it. *Ay teka, 32 nga lang pala sila.* How in the world can that be alright?" he tweeted.

Pasig City Councilor Vico Sotto, son of showbiz personalities Vic Sotto and Coney Reyes and a nephew of Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III, defended the value of the CHR and asked the congressmen what they wanted to happen to the Philippines.

The young Sotto also made a pledge: "In case this becomes a reality for 2018, I will donate a fixed percent of my monthly salary to the CHR (assuming it's legal for me to do so)."

"So hindi maa-afford ng #CHR ang magbayad ng kuryente, tubig at internet ng isang buwan. AY. Wala din palang masweswelduhan ni isang staff," TV host Bianca Gonzalez said on Twitter.

"Sa mga 119 Kongresman, mas matutuwa kami sa inyo kung itinaas niyo ang sahod ng mga mangagawa ng 1000 Pesos," Jun Sabayton of TV5 posted on Twitter.

Luis Manzano, son of Batangas Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto, defended his mother from accusations that she was one of the House members who voted for the P1,000 budget for the CHR.

Manzano tweeted her text messages to him, explaining that she was not able to attend the budget deliberation because she was ill. He added that Santos-Recto believes the agency needs ample budget to carry out its mandate.

Indie film director Adolf Alix, who directed the extrajudicial killing-themed movie "Madilim ang Gabi," is also voluntarily giving financial aid to CHR.

"Basic principle 'yun para mag-survive tayong lahat kasi lahat ng ine-enjoy natin ay dahil sa freedom at dahil sa human rights na meron tayo. (It's a basic principle for us to survive; all that we enjoy today are because of freedom and human rights that we have),"

he said in an interview with ABS-CBN's TV Patrol.

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5285, 5295

As of Wednesday, netizens have started using #GiveMy-TaxToCHR both on Facebook and Twitter to express their support for shelling out money from their pockets to help provide funding for the CHR fund through a "pass the hat" system.

Some also agreed that it is the congressmen who should get P1,000 as their salary instead.

"Isaksak mo sa baga mo yang P1,000 mo. Pass the hat na lang para sa CHR. Saan ba pwede maghulog?" Facebook user Jonathan Liwanes Mayuga posted.

"Pass the hat now! Piso para sa 2018 CHR budget! #aksyonNgTaongBayan," Rose Tapang Feliciano said.

Group appeals for public fundraising

Earlier, a group of human rights lawyers yesterday appealed to the public to raise funds for the CHR.

Lawyer Hilda Clave, president of the human rights lawyers' group Artikulo 3, told The STAR that they are calling on the public to extend assistance to the CHR through contribution following the overwhelming support it got from netizens.

"We would also like to take advantage of the interest of the public after the CHR got an overwhelming feedback following the P1,000 budget," Clave said in a statement.

But she said they still have to meet with its members "while there is still the interest of the public over the issue" and with CHR Chairman Chito Gascon on how the fund drive will be done and who will lead it.

Clave also criticized Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and the 119 congressmen who voted for P1,000 budget for the CHR on Tuesday, saying that they have violated "the Constitution which enshrines respect and protection of human rights."

Watchdog slams Duterte

Human rights watchdog Network Against Killings in the Philippines (NAKPhilippines)

piners) yesterday slammed the Duterte administration over its supposed concerted efforts to abolish checks and balances in the government.

In a statement, the group said Duterte and his allies in Congress are intensifying their efforts to discredit or incapacitate specific institutions and individuals that can check the administration's abuses of power.

"The move by Duterte's allies in Congress to allocate a laughable P1,000 for the 2018 budget of the Commission on Human Rights is just part of what looks like a deliberate and strategic campaign to ensure impunity and absence of accountability for extrajudicial killings," NAK-Philippines said.

Fuss not about Gascon

For Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the fuss over the reduced CHR budget was not so much about Gascon, but the institution itself.

The House of Representatives, in approving the measly budget, argued that the agency has made it a habit of defending criminals instead of actual human rights victims.

Alvarez even went to the extent of calling for the resignation of Gascon in exchange for the restoration of the P678-million proposed budget for the agency.

Lacson said that the current issue is beyond personalities, but the survival of an agency created by the Constitution.

In a radio interview, Lacson questioned the legality of abolishing the CHR through this act of Congress to remove its budget for 2018 as it is a constitutional commission.

If the CHR is to be abolished, Lacson said that an amendment of the Constitution would have to be done to accomplish this.

Former CHR chair Loretta Rosales lamented an apparent massive ignorance among the public of the nature of the CHR.

"It is a commission that has been set up by the Constitution precisely to protect the rights of the people against (human rights) violations, specifically (those) committed by the state," Rosales told The STAR in a phone interview.

"When a crime is committed, the one responsible for that is the police, not the CHR," she added.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said that he understood the move of the House to reduce the budget of the CHR, which he attributed to Gascon's constant criticism of the policies of President Duterte.

Sotto noted that Gascon has gone overboard in his criticisms of the President's policies, which he said does not look good coming from the head of a government institution.

Businessmen express alarm

Local and foreign businessmen yesterday expressed alarm over the passage in the House of Representatives of the measly P1,000 budget for the CHR.

"It surely worries everybody as it again sends the wrong signals," European Chamber of Commerce of Philippines president Guenter Taus said.

"A budget of \$20 for the human rights commission, I don't think we are sending the right signals," he added.

American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines senior advisor John Forbes declined to comment on his group's behalf, saying that they would opt to wait until the budget is finalized.

Fund for free college education

Meanwhile, Davao City Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles yesterday said the P2.4-billion total budget of three government agencies slapped with P1,000 budget for 2018 can be utilized to fund Duterte's program to provide free college education to poor but deserving students.

5285, 5295

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"The budget will form part of the pool of funds to finance the free higher education law," Nograles, chairman of the committee on appropriations at the House of Representatives, revealed.

He was referring to the total aggregate amount of the CHR (P678 million), the Executive Order on the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the National Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Nograles said that the budget will also cover the National Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). He also mentioned the National Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). The budget will also cover the National Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). The budget will also cover the National Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

OUTERTE HONORS FALLEN HEROES

By
Etren
Montano

September 2017

INQUIRY

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PROBE SET AFTER CRISIS

MILITANTS FIGHTING IN MARAWI USING GOV'T-OWNED GUNS, SAYS ARMY EXEC

MARAWI CITY—Most weapons recovered from slain militants belonging to the Maute group and its allies or from areas they had vacated in this Lanao del Sur provincial capital bore marks which indicated that these came from the government, a military spokesperson said.

"It only meant that somebody from the government sold it to them," said Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesperson for the Joint Task Force Marawi.

Petinglay, however, did not say how many of these recovered firearms had been confirmed to have come from the government armory.

The military has recovered at least 628 firearms—among these high-powered weapons like Barrett .50 caliber sniper's rifles and Armalite, Garand and M14 rifles—since fighting began in late May when Islamic State-inspired militants took over sections of Marawi.

According to Petinglay, find-

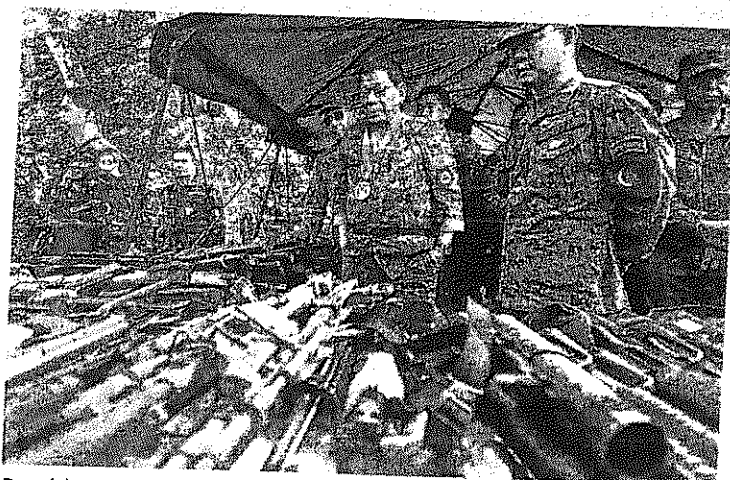
ing out who are responsible for the delivery of the firearms to the Maute group and its allies is not the military's priority, noting that the investigation can be conducted after the fighting here ends.

"It's easy to track where (the firearms) came from (based on the markings). But it's not our priority right now. Once the fighting is over, we will commence our investigation," she said.

Government-owned firearms falling into the hands of insurgents had been reported in the past.

In 2015, the Office of the Ombudsman approved the filing of charges against a group of police officials and private individuals over 1,004 missing high-powered AK47 rifles allegedly sold to communist rebels.

The Ombudsman said the police officials were involved in the issuance of firearm licenses for AK47 from August 2011 to April 2013. —JEFFREY MAITEM INQ



President Duterte checks firearms recovered by government troops from militants in Marawi City. —MALACAÑANG PHOTO

15 September 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 7

Boy succumbs to cancer, but gets his wish from army troopers

By **ERWIN G. BELEO**

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union — Twelve-year-old Kleine Neil Boado, the boy who lost his battle to a rare form of nerve cancer in this city, was a big fan of the Philippine Army; and so at his funeral march, troopers came out to give him what could be closest to a military send-off.

It was at the Sillag Festival at Poro Point last April when Army soldiers first took notice of Kleine.

Struck by "Ewing's Sarcoma," the boy was frail and ailing as he watched the festival parade on the sidelines.

Six soldiers from Alpha Company of the army's 81st Infantry Battalion based in Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur, approached Kleine and learned about his condition.

Sgt. Allan Manzano, team leader of the Alpha Company, said Kleine was so amazed by the military drill they performed that his eyes would light up.

"It was his last wish to meet the army soldiers," said Rosario Flores,

Manzano came with Kleine's friends Corporal Nomer Aloquin, Private First Class Jereco Anasan, and Private First Company Edward Castillo, Jr., along with two other members of Alpha Company.

Kleine's grandmother and guardian.

She recalled how her grandson wished that he could handle the firearm used by troopers.

"We granted his wish and let him hold an M-16 and the sniper rifle that we had," said Manzano.

Before they parted, Kleine had his photo taken with "his six army heroes" and wished he could see them again.

At Kleine's funeral last Wednesday, San Fernando City Mayor Dong Gualberto facilitated the visit of the army troopers.

It was learned that Kleine's mother, Gloria Boado, an overseas Filipino worker in China, could not make it to his funeral due to an unfinished contract.

Many were surprised when the army troopers arrived to pay their last respects to the boy.

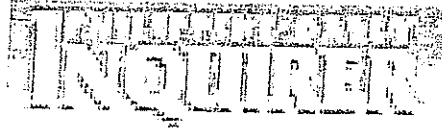
Manzano told the crowd that two of Kleine's army friends could not make it because they were assigned to battle the Maute Group in Marawi City but they had sent their sympathies to the family.

"Kahit papaano, natupad din 'yung wish ni Kleine (Kleine's wish has come true)," Flores said tearfully, as the army troopers carried Kleine's coffin at the funeral march.



AILING BOY'S WISH – Army soldiers carry the casket bearing the body of 12-year-old boy Kilene Neil Boado at his funeral in Barangay Sevilla, San Fernando City last Wednesday. It was the boy's last wish, said his grandmother Rosario Flores. (Erwin G. Beleo)

15 September 2017

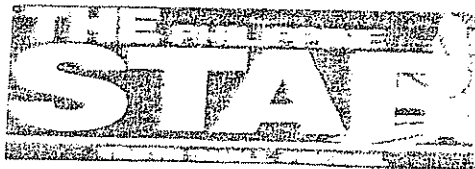


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5 soldiers in Marawi battle get awards

CAMP O'DONNELL, TARLAC—Five soldiers who participated in the operation to retake Marawi City from Maute terrorists were honored on Tuesday by their mother unit, the Mechanized Infantry Division, during its 11th activation celebration in this military camp in Capas town. 2nd Lt. Francis Alvison Serrano, Sgt. Rogelio Abuan, Staff Sgts. Joeric Ureta and Edward Hipol, and Cpl. Joel Martin were given merit awards in ceremonies led by retired Armed Forces chief of staff, Efren Abu. In his speech, Abu said: "Our military forces are moving towards advanced technology. This is not only going to be the trend but this is the ardent necessity for us to upgrade the capability of the local defense and at least [improve our capability] against foreign invasion." "But make no mistake. Technology cannot replace a soldier. It only improves his war-fighting ability," he said. —MARIA CALAYAG

15 September 2017



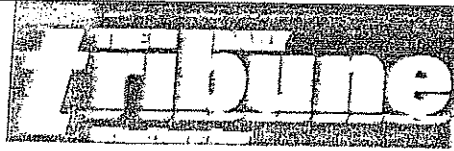
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Soldiers stand guard in front of damaged houses and buildings on Sept. 13 as government forces continue their assault against Maute terrorists who seized Marawi district in Marawi City.

REUTERS



15 September 2017

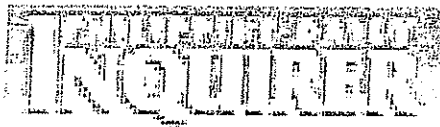


Page: 2



Chinese aid President Duterte witnesses the turnover of financial donation from the Chinese Embassy to the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Malacañan Palace last Wednesday. The President expressed gratitude for the assistance of China to soldiers who sustained injuries in the conflict in Marawi City. Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua handed over a P65 million worth of check for wounded-in-action soldiers in the ongoing siege in Marawi City.

15 September 2017



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AFP clears Trillanes: No destabilization moves

By Christine O. Avendaño
@10avendañoINQ

The military has not monitored any destabilization moves against the Duterte administration being organized by any politicians as it cleared Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV of even attempting one.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año made the statement on Thursday in response to a clarification sought by Trillanes during the Senate finance subcommittee's hearing on the proposed P195-billion budget of the Department of National Defense (DND).

Trillanes asked Año about it after saying that retired Army general Joselito Kakilala was "spreading" news that a popular politician was recruiting mem-

including their families, because they were discharged for participating in various coups," Kakilala posted, advising them instead to conclude their mission in the Marawi conflict.

Año told Trillanes that the military considered this kind of information as "raw" as it needed to be validated.

"So far we have not monitored any recruitment activity within the organization and we have not seen any cause for dissatisfaction, demoralization or whatever purpose that it might serve," Año said. "So far, we have not monitored any destabilization move of any politician or personalities."

This included Trillanes, according to Año, after the senator asked him if there was any intelligence information say-

bers of Philippine Military Academy Class 2006 in a coup attempt against the government.

The senator, a former Navy junior officer who launched mutinies against the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, said he did not feel alluded to by Kakilala because he was not popular and "I am not recruiting anyone."

Facebook post

Trillanes was referring to a Facebook post by Kakilala, who shared an article by "The Asian Policy" about a politician said to be recruiting junior officers to launch a coup against President Duterte.

In his post, Kakilala slammed the politician for recruiting military officers, espe-

cially when the AFP had been moving to professionalize the corps.

ing he was recruiting military officers. Subcommittee chair Sen. Panfilo Lacson asked whether the report that Trillanes got was accurate.

Trillanes said it was not an accurate report because Kakilala was using "fake news."

Assurance

For his part, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana gave assurance that there was no destabilization moves against the government.

"If there is, the defense (department) or armed forces will feel it," Lorenzana told reporters after the DND budget was approved by the subcommittee.

Lorenzana said he believed this kind of report in social me-



Antonio Trillanes

dia was "fake news."

"Maybe there is one or two persons trying to sow discord so they would come up with fake news," the defense chief said.

He said he was not aware of Kakilala's post until Trillanes disclosed this at the hearing.

Lorenzana also said he knew the retired general.

In a talk with reporters later, Trillanes—an arch critic of Mr. Duterte—said there was "no justification for military intervention" today.

"We are trying to exhaust all democratic remedies to rectify an anomaly such as Duterte, so let's see how it works," he said.

The senator had filed a plunder complaint against Mr. Duterte before the Ombudsman for allegedly having billions in his bank accounts. INQ

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INQUIRER

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TRILLANES ASKS

WHY IS PNP GETTING BIGGER BUDGET HIKE THAN AFP?

By Christine O. Avendaño
@10avendanoINQ

Saying the war on terror was a bigger concern than the war on drugs, opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV questioned the bigger intelligence budget given the Philippine National Police (PNP) than the Armed Forces and proposed to reverse it—the military getting more intelligence funds than the police.

Trillanes, a former Navy junior officer who was detained for mutiny, told defense and military officials on Thursday that the Armed Forces needed the bigger intelligence budget because he considered the fight against terrorism more important than the PNP's bloody campaign against drugs.

At a hearing of a Senate finance subcommittee on the defense budget, Trillanes asked defense officials why they settled for only a P200-million increase in intelligence funds while the PNP was asking for P500 million more.

In the 2018 proposed national budget, the Department of Defense (DND) sought some P1.5 billion in intelligence funds.

Buying intelligence

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, subcommittee chair, said he agreed that the intelligence budget for the Armed Forces next year was insufficient.

"We really need to buy more intelligence information," said Lacson.

Talking with reporters after the hearing, Lacson said the subcommittee would take up Trillanes' proposal to realign some of the intelligence funds for the PNP to the Armed Forces of the Philippines when the proposed national budget reaches the Senate floor.

Lacson advised Trillanes, though, to discuss the matter with Sen. Loren Legarda, chair of the Senate finance committee.

During the subcommittee hearing, Trillanes asked defense and military officials: "Why did we not maximize it?"

Too small

Trillanes said the military's intelligence funds looked miniscule compared with the PNP's P500-million proposed intelligence budget, which he said "will go to Tokhang and we wouldn't want that."

He was referring to the PNP's Oplan Tokhang, one of two antidrug campaigns by the PNP involving house-to-house searches for users and pushers.

"In light of the situation in Marawi, I think this is the bigger problem and you know that," said Trillanes at the hearing. INQ

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No report of any coup threat vs Duterte – DND, AFP officials

By MARIO B. CASAYURAN

The country's top defense officials on Thursday brushed off reports of a brewing coup attempt against President Duterte. Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana and Gen. Eduardo M. Año, chief

No report of any coup...

of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), spoke at public hearing by the Senate Finance Sub-committee chaired by Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson on the defense department's proposed 2018 ₱195.476-billion budget.

Sen. Antonio F. Trillanes IV had asked whether the AFP has heard or monitored reports that retired General Joselito Kakilala is claiming that a popular politician is recruiting members of Philippine Military (PMA) Class 2006 to oust President Duterte from office.

Lorenzana told media after the budget hearing that he has not heard of a coup attempt being hatched against the President.

The staging of a coup is "very remote," he said. "There is nothing to worry about," he added.

During the budget hearing, General Año said that the AFP has not monitored any destabilization effort by a politician or any other personality. He said that there is no dissatisfaction in

the AFP on the Duterte administration to trigger any attempt because the AFP is professionalized enough.

"We have not monitored that Senator Trillanes is recruiting," Año added.

Trillanes, an arch critic of President Duterte, denied that he is the "popular politician" alluded to by General Kakilala, his PMA upper classman. He belongs to PMA Class 1995.

"I didn't feel alluded. I am not popular," Trillanes said.

Trillanes was jailed but later pardoned by then President Benigno (Noynoy) C. Aquino III for leading a mutiny in 2003 against then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

"There is no recruitment. We are not even going close to the gates of military camps," he said.

Asked if it is ripe for one to stage a coup even as the President regularly visits military camps, Trillanes told media that "there is no justification for a

military intervention."

"We are exhausting all remedies to rectify an anomaly that is Duterte," he said.

Trillanes has accused Duterte in connection with the death of scores of political enemies and criminals when he was the Davao City mayor. He also accused President Duterte of engaging in a bloody war on drugs.

During the 2016 presidential campaign, Trillanes accused Duterte of having a more than ₱2 billion in several bank accounts.

He recently accused Duterte's son, Davao City Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte, of having a secret bank account of more than ₱100 million and of being a member of a Davao group receiving millions of pesos from customs brokers.

He also accused Paolo of being a member of a Chinese Triad, an allegation vehemently denied by the vice mayor.

The Duterte father and son rejected Trillanes' demand that they sign a bank waiver so that the public will know that they have hidden bank accounts.

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Trillanes wants PNP intel funds realigned to AFP

By MARVIN SY

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV yesterday vowed to push for the realignment of intelligence funds from the proposed 2018 budget of the Philippine National Police (PNP) to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

During the hearing on the proposed P195.47-billion budget of the Department of National Defense (DND) at the Senate, Trillanes said he could not agree with the proposed P500-million increase in the intelligence fund of the PNP, which would just go to the anti-illegal drugs campaign more commonly known as "Tokhang."

Trillanes noted the DND would be getting a mere P220-million increase in its intelligence fund for 2018 even though it has greater need for this because of the ongoing security threats in Mindanao and other parts of the country.

"Why aren't we maximizing this? Because in comparison, the PNP will be getting a P500-million increase and for sure this will go to Tokhang. We wouldn't want that," Trillanes said.

He pointed out the major services of the AFP did not request for an increase in its intelligence funds, except for the Navy, which asked for another P5 million.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the Army, Air Force, Navy, Presidential Security Group and Intelligence Service of the AFP asked for what they needed and it was already enough.

He said the Navy asked for more funds because they would like to improve their capacity for anti-piracy and maritime intelligence gathering.

Trillanes said the intelligence fund given to the AFP was too small so he intends to augment this by realigning part of what the PNP would be getting under its budget.

"From my perspective, it is as if you are giving more importance to Tokhang with P500 million in intel funds than for the armed forces as a whole, it will get a mere P220-million increase," he said.

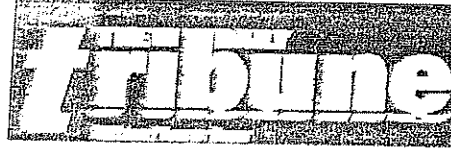
Lorenzana admitted the DND actually sought for P280 million more for its intelligence funds but the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) disapproved it.

"That is unfortunate. But we will try to rectify that situation so that we would prioritize the important national security concerns," Trillanes said.

The DND including the AFP would be getting close to P1.6 billion in intelligence funds for 2018.

Lorenzana said this was what was approved by the DBM so "we can live with it."

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Año, Trillanes deny destabilization plot vs Duterte government

By Angie M. Rosales

There's no coup against the Duterte administration in the offing and the assurance came from no less than the country's highest military official and the alleged plotter.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV yesterday sought clarification from Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año during a budget hearing in the Senate on the alleged ongoing "recruitment" of mostly 2006 graduates of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) alleged to be being led by him.

"This General Kakilala has been spreading (information) that there's this popular politician recruiting (members of) class 2006 for a coup against Duterte. I did not feel alluded to really, not only because I'm not recruiting anyone but also I'm not popular. So I want to be clarified, just categorically, is there really an ongoing recruitment (in the military)?" he asked.

Trillanes, it was gathered, was referring to retired AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Joselito Kakilala.

"We regard those information as raw information and they have to be validated. So far, we have not monitored any recruitment activity within the organization and we have not seen any cause for dissatisfaction or demoralization for whatever purpose that it might serve. But our Armed Forces is professional enough and we have constant T, I and E so far we have not monitored any destabilization move or of any politician or personalities," Año said.

Trillanes asked if there's any intelligence report, especially on those in the active service on this matter, the senator was given a negative answer.

"Is the AFP's report accurate or not?" Sen. Panfilo Lacson, finance committee vice chair, who presided over the hearing of the proposed P195.4-billion budget for 2018 of the Department of National Defense (DND), asked.

"It's not because general (Kakilala) is using 'fake news' as basis so we all know how it could easily spread and it will affect the morale of the AFP," Trillanes responded, explaining further the reason why he pursued the issue to secure a categorical denial from the leadership of the AFP.

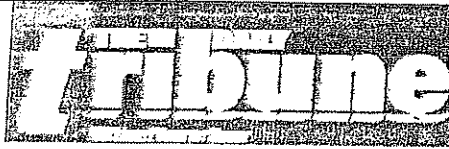
In an interview after the hearing, Trillanes claimed that he has been told that in a "forum" of PMA graduates, the alleged destabilization plot was discussed and from their exchanges, he's the one supposedly being pointed at as the supposed "recruiter."

"There's no recruitment happening. I'm not recruiting anyone nor approached anyone. I have not visited any of the (military) camps recently," he said.

Besides, Trillanes, one of the leaders of the so-called failed Oakwood mutiny in 2003 and Manila Peninsula siege in 2007, said he does not see any need for a military coup against the government.

"There's no justification for a military intervention. We are trying to exhaust all the democratic remedies to rectify an anomaly such as Duterte. So we will see how it works," he said.

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Trillanes wants PNP's intel funds realigned to AFP

By Angie M. Rosales

Opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV has sought for the realignment of the bulk of the Philippine National Police (PNP)'s intelligence fund to augment the same item in the budget of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for next year.

Compared to the PNP's allocation for intelligence-gathering which was given a whopping half a billion increase, that of the AFP was only at P220 million, the senator noted during yesterday's hearing of the proposed P195.4 billion budget of the Department of National Defense (DND).

"Problems in Mindanao and other security threats such as the issue on the West Philippine Sea that's why I believe that the AFP's intelligence funds need to be augmented," he said to reporters in an interview.

Trillanes expressed belief that the P500 million increase allocation for PNP's intelligence funds could only be used to finance the administration's campaign against illegal drugs or "Oplan Tokhang."

And in providing for the increase of the said allocation which is around P1.8 billion, the senator proposed to realign some of the PNP funds on the same item, slashing its intelligence funds by P500 million.

The matter, however, is still subject to deliberations among senators but this early, Trillanes expressed confidence that this proposition will earn the support of his colleagues.

As to why Trillanes is eyeing the PNP's budget, the senator is of the position that the Executive appeared to have some misplaced

priorities given the seriousness of the law and order problem in Mindanao which under martial law until the end of the year.

"We have to realign it to reflect the priority of the government," he said.

At the said hearing, DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the department, the AFP and other attached agencies sought to be allocated with P280 million but was granted by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) only P225 million.

"The budget approved to us, (by the DBM), we have to live with it. So it's okay and I think we can live with it already. But we did not ask for it (increase) so we will accept if they will provide us with more funds," he said to reporters.

The said funds are intended to be used on concerns such as terrorism, insurgency and acquisition of equipment to enhance intelligence-gathering capability of the military, Lorenzana.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Senate finance committee vice chairman and chairman of the subcommittee that scrutinized the DND's budget, said he does not stand opposed to the move of Trillanes.

The realignment, even if approved in the committee level, will still have to be approved in the plenary and in the bicameral conference committee when the two Houses of Congress reconcile their differing versions on the national budget.

Since no such realignment was made in the House of Representatives' version of the DND's budget, Lacson said it's likely to be part of the so-called disagreeing provisions.

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CPP: Rody's ML under way

By Ted Tuvera

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is not taking President Duterte's threat to declare a nationwide martial law against them with a grain of salt.

The CPP, in a statement yesterday, said the Chief Executive's hints of intensifying its anti-insurgency measures against the Left may lead to an actual declaration of martial law.

Self-styled "socialist" Duterte on September 8 said he is eyeing to put the entire nation under martial law if communists go on demonstrating against government.

Martial law currently governs the whole island region of Mindanao following the offensives launched by the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute terrorist group in Marawi City until the end of the year.

Duterte has warned to go after the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), once the

crisis in Marawi is contained.

"Rodrigo Duterte's plot to declare nationwide martial law is under way. He is increasingly desperate amid broad rising calls for his ouster. He seeks to prop himself up as a fascist dictator in his despair to cling to power," the CPP said.

"Having imposed martial law in Mindanao, Duterte believes he can get away with nationwide martial law," it added.

"Duterte has been carrying out brazen steps to establish a fascist dictatorship by silencing the political opposition, striking terror among through mass murder, suppressing their resistance and monopolizing political power."

The Commander in Chief notably warned the rebels to avoid intensifying its movements against the government amid series of protest actions set by legal left-leaning groups in the coming weeks against the series of extra-judicial

killings attributed to Duterte's pronouncements, human rights violations and militarization in indigenous communities.

"Do not commit the mistake of staging a rebellion, especially when there's fighting on the streets. I will not hesitate to impose martial law all throughout the country and order the arrest of everybody," Duterte addressed the communists during a media interview after visiting wounded soldiers in Camp Evangelista, Cagayan de Oro City.

"I really do not want to kill all of you, but if you (keep on fighting government), I'll really have you arrested. No, I'm not bluffing. I'm just telling you to prepare for war," he added.

The CPP also slammed the President for letting his minions do measures to "dominate political power."

"Duterte and his shameless cohorts of congressional supermajority allies have railroaded

the National ID system. They have canceled the scheduled barangay elections and seek to grant Duterte the power to supplant tens of thousands of village officials with his loyalists," the communists said.

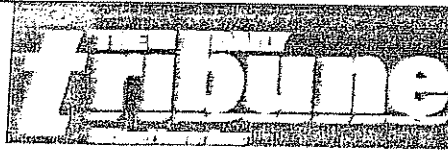
"They acted swiftly to impeach the chief justice as an overt threat to make the Supreme Court and judiciary bow to Malacañang's whims," it added.

The communists also took note of the propaganda employed by the administration's spokesmen on apparently promoting why martial law imposition is justified.

"Duterte is presently carrying out a mind-conditioning campaign to justify his plan to impose martial law. Through mostly foul means, he has silenced critical opinion in mass media," the CPP said.

"(The administration) employs his horde of paid trolls to flood social media with Duterte adulation and to vilify the Left and political opposition."

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No 'pabaon' for retiring AFP generals – Lorenzana

By Mario J. Mallari

Sorry, but there is no "pabaon" or send-off gift for retiring generals under the Duterte administration.

Thus, said Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana as he vowed that what is allotted to the Department of National Defense (DND), particularly the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), will be spent for the organization and the soldiers.

"We will not allow that (*pabaon*) to happen," Lorenzana said when asked of the concerns of Sen. Panfilo Lacson regarding the practice of giving retiring generals with "pabaon" in the form of cash.

The "*pabaon*" system first came out in the public after former AFP budget officer Col. George Rabusa accused several former AFP chiefs of receiving millions of pesos as farewell gifts during the time of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Rabusa, who served several former AFP chiefs, claimed that "*pabaon*" to retiring generals amounted to P50 million each during his time.

Several AFP generals are scheduled to retire in the coming weeks, including AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año, Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda and Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina.

"Sorry, they will have no

farewell gift. That has been stopped. That is very bad practice because it deprives the organization and the troops...it could provide a lot of benefits for our soldiers," Lorenzana said.

Meanwhile, the Defense chief said that the DND is eyeing more helicopters from Canada as part of the continuing modernization program of the AFP.

Lorenzana said that they are particularly considering the procurement of 16 units of Bell 412 helicopters maybe by next year.

He said the acquisition of additional Bell 412 combat helicopters should jumpstart the modernization program of the Armed Forces under the Duterte administration.

The Defense chief said 16 additional choppers will be acquired from Canada.

The military already has eight Bell 412 helicopters in its disposal following their staggered deliveries by Canada in 2015. The procurement was worth P4.8 billion.

Lorenzana said the acquisition of the additional helicopters will be made under the "second horizon," the second phase of the multi-year modernization program of the Armed Forces.

The procurement will be funded under the P22 billion unspent modernization of the military.

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Malaya
THE NATION'S NEWS PAPER

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Dragging Marawi conflict has so far cost gov't P3.5B

BY VICTOR REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday said the Armed Forces has spent around P3.5 billion for the operations to rid Marawi City of terrorists from the Maute Group.

He said the defense and military establishments have used funds allotted for the remaining months of the year, and asked Malacañang for additional funds as replenishment.

"As of today, our expenses are already over P3 billion... It's

P3.5 billion, that's for the Army, Navy, Air Force, the entire AFP," Lorenzana said at the Senate during a hearing on the defense department's proposed budget of P195.5 billion for 2018.

The Maute attacked the city on May 23 and still ongoing as of yesterday. The fighting has already in the death of 666 Maute Group members, 147 soldiers and policemen, and 47 civilians.

Military officials said there are about 40 to 50 Maute members still left in a 500-square meter main battle

area, and dozens of civilian hostages, including a Catholic priest.

In the "Zamboanga siege" in September 2013, the military spent about P150 million for operations that lasted 21 days. The siege involved an attack by members of a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front, led by MNLF founder Nur Misuari.

Lorenzana said the P3.5 billion spent in Marawi so far was for ammunition and bombs, fuel, food

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DRAGGING

for the soldiers, medicines for the wounded, and benefits for the families of soldiers who died in the campaign, among others.

"We still have funds towards the end of the year but, as I said, we have to ask for replenishment of what we spent because we are going to have shortage (of funds) as we approach the end of the year," he said.

He implied he has informed Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno of the need for funds. He said Diokno "is already looking where to get it."

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, during the hearing, said part of the

PNP's intelligence fund should be realigned to the military for its anti-terrorism campaign.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who presided over the budget hearing, said he is amenable to Trillanes' proposal but this has to be decided during plenary deliberations on the P3.767-trillion proposed national budget.

Trillanes said the PNP asked for P900 million in intelligence funds, or P500 million more last year. He wants part of the P500 million to be given to the military.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the DND asked for an intelligence fund of P280 million but the budget department approved only P220 million. — *With JP Lopez*

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The Manila Times

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'Reds' reject govt demand for ceasefire

BY AL JACINTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Communist rebels have flatly rejected demands by President Rodrigo Duterte for them to sign a ceasefire accord, saying it is tantamount to surrendering to the government.

The President threatened to mount an all-out offensive against the New People's Army (NPA) as soon as the crisis in Marawi City is over. Security forces continue to battle the Islamic State-linked Maute Group in Marawi where fierce fighting had stretch into its fifth month.

"Duterte's demand for an NPA ceasefire while the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) conduct all-out war as precondition for peace talks is a demand to surrender. This is unacceptable. Duterte has lost all moral ground to make such a demand," the Communist Party of the Philip-

pinos said.

Rebel leaders have accused Duterte of reneging on a promise to free some 500 political prisoners and grant them amnesty.

The NPA declared a unilateral ceasefire in August last year that lasted nearly 160 days as a response to Duterte's commitment to free political prisoners, mostly NPA and CPP leaders and members, languishing in jails across the country.

"Duterte however wasted the goodwill of the NDFP (National Democratic Front of the Philippines, CPP's political wing) when it failed to fulfill its com-

mitment and took advantage of the NPA ceasefire to deploy his soldiers and conduct military offensives," the CPP said. "In the face of Duterte's tyrannical rule and triple war, the people clamor for the NPA to mount more and more tactical offensives. Victories of the people's army inspire resistance amid widespread killings and the climate of fear imposed by the Duterte regime."

It said the NPA has launched tactical offensives "to bring to account the Duterte regime and its soldiers and police for thousands upon thousands of "Oplan Tokhang" killings, the successive killing of peasants, national minorities and youths, military occupation of civilian communities, aerial bombings and shelling, the near-genocidal war against the Maranaos of Marawi, arbitrary arrests and detention and so on."

The CPP said as proven in past peace talks, the negotiations with the Philippine government can proceed and make progress even while

fighting continues. It added that revolutionary forces remain open to negotiations as a means to attain a just and lasting peace even as it wages war against the government.

"The negotiations, however, cannot be fruitful while Duterte remains obsessed with Oplan Kapayapaan and demanding NPA capitulation. The Filipino people and their revolutionary forces have waged close to 50 years of people's war. They do not tire. They are determined as ever to wage revolution because they seek to end the unbearable sufferings of workers and peasants under the oppressive and exploitative system. He has roused the anger of the Filipino people and caused his increasing isolation. The revolutionary movement will surely outlast the US-Duterte regime," the group said in a statement.

President Rodrigo Duterte abandoned peace negotiations with communist leaders in July following increased NPA attacks on government troops.

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The Manila Times

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SAYYAF MEMBER NABBED IN BULACAN

AN Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) member wanted for rape and kidnap-for-ransom charges was arrested in the City of San Jose Del Monte (CSJDM), Bulacan on Tuesday. Supt. Fitz Macariola, city police chief identified the arrested ASG member as Rolly Alif, alias Al/Awliya, 33, of Jolo, Sulu but residing at Graceville 1, Barangay Muzon, CSJDM. Alif is under ASG leader Abdul Muin Sahiron accused in the abduction of six Jehovah's Witness members on August 22, 2003 in Patikul, Sulu. One of the hostages, Amily Mantec, claimed she was raped by three ASG while two of the victims were beheaded before they managed to escape on April 18, 2004. Macariola said Mantec identified Alif as one of the bandits who raped her. She is now under the Witness Protection Program of the Department of Justice. Alif is facing six counts of kidnapping and serious illegal detention with ransom.

FREDERICK SILVERIO

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ONLINE NEWS

15 SEPTEMBER 2017

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

AFP opens bidding for buying 28,450 rounds for 105mm Howitzer with Fuze

From the Manila Bulletin (Sep 11): **AFP opens bidding for buying 28,450 rounds for 105mm Howitzer with Fuze**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) through the Philippine Army Bids and Awards Committee (PABAC) has opened the bidding for the procurement of 28,450 rounds for 105mm Howitzer with Fuze.



(Photo by pixabay)

The approved budget for the contract is P853,500,000.

In an interview, Army spokesman Lt. Col. Rey Tiongson said the Pre-Bid Conference (PBC) is slated at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday (September 13, 2017) while the Receipt and Opening of Bid Envelopes (ROBE) will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday (September 27, 2017).

The price of bid documents which is nonrefundable is P75,000.

Tiongson said the Bidding Documents shall be available at the office of PABAC Secretariat in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Tiongson said the procurement of munitions is a regular operational requirement procedures undertaken by the military.

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"The procurement is based on the projected requirements (of the Army) and of course we have or we need to maintain our (needs)," Tiongson said.

Tiongson said aside from Marawi where fighting is currently happening against Maute terrorists, artillery units which has 105mm Howitzers are also deployed in various parts of the country.

"Ginagamit natin siya (We use this) normally in our operations to soften the ground, to illuminate the ground and to destroy targets. Ito iyung pinaka parang gamit na gamit na (this has been used extensively)," Tiongson said.

When asked if they are running low on 105mm due to the Marawi operations, Tiongson said no.

"No, no. We just need to maintain the basic loads of our artillery units as well the reserve ammunitions." he said.

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What Will Australia's New Military Terror Aid to the Philippines Look Like?

From The Diplomat (Sep 12): [What Will Australia's New Military Terror Aid to the Philippines Look Like?](#)

Though details remain to be worked out, the general shape of Canberra's deepening security role is becoming increasingly clearer.

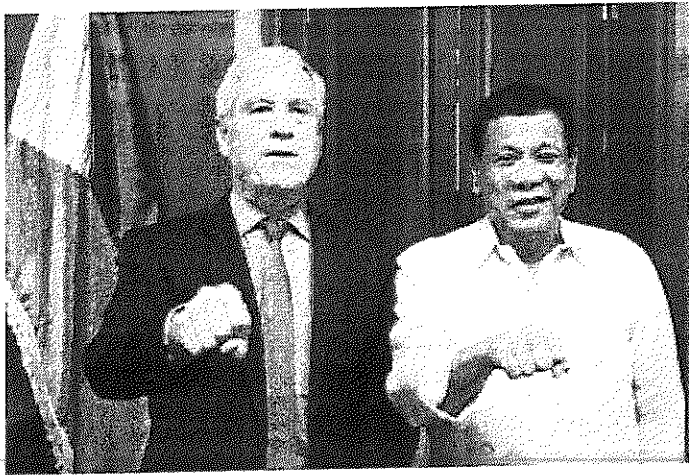


Image Credit: Presidential Communications Office

On Friday, Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne indicated that Australia and the Philippines were making progress in discussions that would see Canberra play a greater military role in assisting Philippine forces in their ongoing battle against Islamic State fighters in the southern city of Marawi. Though such discussions are by no means new and specifics are yet to be worked out, it is nonetheless the latest sign of the defense cooperation between the two countries in this realm.

As I have noted before, Australia and the Philippines have long had a strong relationship that extends into the defense realm, with security ties, including not just regular interactions like exchanges and exercises but capacity-building in areas ranging from maritime security to counterterrorism, as well as assistance with respect to the peace process in the southern Philippines.

Though the emergence of President Rodrigo Duterte has no doubt complicated things somewhat, the Marawi crisis in particular has reinforced the importance of the bilateral defense relationship (See: ["Battle for Marawi Exposes Philippines' Military Intelligence Crisis"](#)). **Australia, along with a few other states, has already offered various forms of support to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), including AP-3C Orion military planes to help with surveillance in Marawi** (See: ["Singapore Gives Philippines Military Aid to Fight Islamic State Threat"](#)).

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But the hype over the past few weeks had been around whether Australia might further boost direct military assistance to the Philippines, including through the approval of some sort of “advising, assisting, and training” role that Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop had publicly talked about.

As I noted then, such a role would certainly be a more robust one since, if conceptualized along the lines of Australia’s assistance in Iraq which Bishop had referred to, it would involve not just Australian equipment or expertise – be it in terms of intelligence, aircraft, or urban warfare training – but Australian personnel being directly embedded with Philippine counterparts on the ground (See: “New Australia Military Terror Aid for the Philippines?”).

On September 8, following a meeting between Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and visiting Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne, the two officials disclosed a little bit more detail publicly about what they had in mind.

Payne said that what she discussed with Lorenzana was for a small Australian Defense Force team that could provide some specialized training to the AFP. Though few other specifics were provided, she said that those would be unveiled after further discussions with other actors in both countries.

Unsurprisingly, Lorenzana once again went out of his way to clarify that the nature of Australia’s support would likely be in terms of training in areas like intelligence sharing, rather than a more combat role. He specifically clarified that **Australian forces would likely be staying within Philippine military bases rather than directly joining counterterrorism operations, adding that “it will not look good” if Australian troops were involved in actual combat.**

The sensitivities involved in such a growing security role for Australia in the Philippines are well known. As I have detailed before, this is not purely a strategic or technical issue but one that would have to consider public sentiment – both in the Philippines, where suspicions of sovereignty violations are not uncommon, and in Australia itself, where fears of “creeping militarization” still exist – and the context of the Duterte era, where an outburst from the president or greater scrutiny on rights.

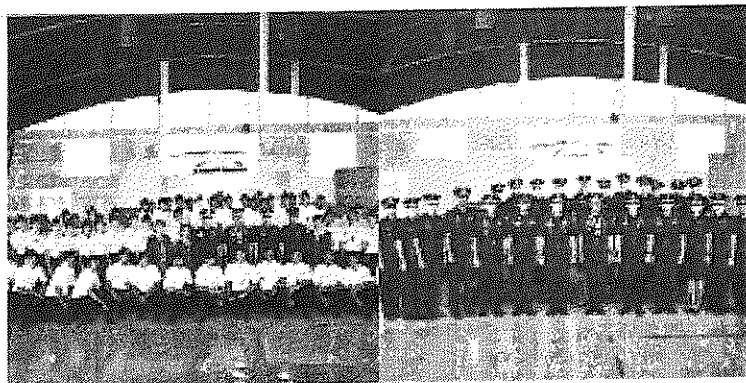
<https://thediplomat.com/2017/09/what-will-australias-new-military-terror-aid-to-the-philippines-look-like/>

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

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BLUEBIRDS | 250th PAW celebrates 49th Founding Anniversary

by [Alvin Santiago](#)



COLONEL JESUS VILLAMOR AIR BASE, Pasay City (DWDD) – The celebration of the 49th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Air Force, 250th Presidential Airlift Wing (Bluebirds) happened last September 12, 2017 at the Fixed Wing Hangar 250th PAW, Col Jesus Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

The event kicked-off with a blessing ceremony of the newly renovated VIP Holding Lounge led by Chief Air Chaplain Col Roque Kim B Pedroza PAF CHS (GSC) followed by the launching of the Helicopter Night Vision Goggle Instrument Flight Rule Capability.

Meanwhile, to celebrate the Wing's achievements, units and individuals were awarded with plaques of merit and streamers for their tremendous performance and undying dedication to the service all throughout the year.

The awardees were:

Officer of the Year (Rated Category) – Maj Maria Ghirly A Solis PAF
Officer of the Year (Non-Rated Category)- 1Lt Jose Dean L Sebastian PAF
Non-Commission Officer of the Year- Ssg Donel O Pedro PAF
Airman of the Year- Sgt Karlo P Lina PAF
Civilian Employee of the Year- Mr. kirshore S Patrimonio CE
Squadron of the Year (Flying Category)- 252nd Presidential Airlift Wing
Squadron of the Year (Support Category)- 482nd Supply and Support Squadron

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Plaque of Recognition:

205th Tactical Helicopter Wing
15th Strike Wing
Manila Control Tower
Manila International Airport Authority
Airport Police Department
Lufthansa Technik Philippines
Philippine Airlines
Department of Public Works and Highways
Davao Control Tower.

The event was graced by Guest of Honor, Commanding General Philippine Air Force, Lieutenant General, Edgar R Fallorina AFP together with his wife, Mrs Erica T Fallorina, as special guest.

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS | Team NFWM celebrates Feast of with San Nicolas in Sirawai

Reported by Aivin Santiago on September 14, 2017 at 12:27 PM

NFWM, Zamboanga City (DWDD) – Naval Forces Western Mindanao conducted a Community Outreach program in celebration of San Nicolas Feast in Sirawai, Zamboanga Del Norte on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017.

The Commander, NFWM Rear Adm. Rene V. Medina AFP, who is a native of Sirawai, Zamboanga Del Norte was represented by the Deputy Commander for Marine Operations, NFWM Col. Hernanie S. Songano PN (M) (GSC) along with the Team NavForWeM. The participating units were Naval Reserve Center—Western Mindanao (NRCen-WM), Civil Military Operations Unit- Western Mindanao (CMOU-WM), Camp Navarro Dental Dispensary (CNDD), Camp Navarro General Hospital (CNGH), Marine Battalion Landing Team 11 (MBLT11) and the NFWM Combo. The team was welcomed by San Nicolas Brgy. Captain, Hon. Arthur B Delantar and other Barangay Officials. The community outreach was themed, *“Kauban Nyo ang Inyong Navy sa Kalinaw ug Paglambo”*. The CMO initiatives strengthen the Higher Headquarters development support and security plan, *“Kapayapaan 2017-2022”* in promoting peace, ensuring security, helping maintain public order and supporting the overall development initiatives of the government.

The Team NavForWeM offered free medical and dental consultation, Operation Tuli, Feeding Program, optical check-up with free eye glasses, free haircut and Film showing. Food packs and dental kit were also given. Moreover, the recruitment team provided information and assistance to those aspiring to join the Navy. The NFWM Combo was also there to entertain the citizens San Nicolas. The outreach program had been successful with the help of various stakeholders of NFWM namely, KCC Mall, Dr. Wee and Dr. Feliciano of Philippine Dental Association, Philippine Navy Savings and Loans Association Inc. (PNSLAI), Department of Health Region IX (DOH-R9), Universal Canning and Crystal Clear Vision Eye Center.

Last June 15, 2017, Team NFWM conducted its first Community Outreach in the Municipality in line with the celebration of *“Araw ng Sirawai 2017”* which benefitted 807 residents. The second visit of the command in Brgy San Nicolas adds to the joyful celebration of the Feast in the Barangay and has a total of 821 beneficiaries. The activity guaranteed the citizens that the Navy stands ready to provide necessary services and assistance to the community despite the current threat in Zamboanga Del Norte and NFWM Area of Responsibility. **NFWM/MCAG**

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

