

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

03 April 2018

Tuesday

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

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

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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | APRIL 3, 2018 | TUESDAY

NORTHEASTERLY SURFACE WINDFLOW AFFECTING LUZON as of 4:00 pm - April 2, 2018

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:51 AM	6:08 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
8:41 PM	7:49 AM
FULL MOON MAR 31 6:37 PM	LAST QUARTER APR 9 3:18 PM
LOW TIDE 6:36 PM 0.00 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 11:46 AM 0.77 Meter

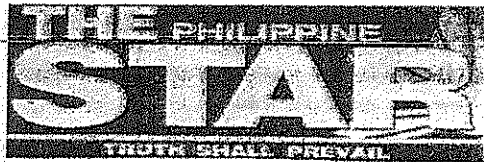
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

	APR 4	APR 5	APR 4	APR 5	APR 4	APR 5
METRO MANILA	24-32°C	24-32°C	22-30°C	21-30°C	24-31°C	24-31°C
TUGUEGARAO	22-33°C	23-32°C	24-32°C	23-32°C	23-32°C	23-32°C
LADAG	21-32°C	22-32°C	24-32°C	24-33°C	24-35°C	25-34°C
BAGUIO	16-25°C	15-24°C	24-32°C	24-31°C	22-34°C	22-35°C
SBMA/CLARK	24-32°C	24-32°C	25-32°C	24-32°C	 SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!	

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

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

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Demafelis relatives reject 'blood money'

By JENNIFER RENDON

ILOILO CITY – They want justice, not money.

Relatives of Joanna Demafelis, the overseas Filipino worker found dead inside a freezer in Kuwait, have rejected any possible offer of "blood money" from her killers.

Jojet Demafelis, eldest brother of Joanna, said the family would not accept any monetary proposal from Lebanese Nader Essam Assaf and Syrian wife Mona Hassoun, his sister's employers and killers.

Jojet, his five siblings and their respective families are living in Metro Manila.

"We don't need that. What we need is justice – especially for our parents," Jojet said in Filipino.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III had called the Demafelis siblings to inform them about the death sentence imposed on their sister's murderers by Kuwaiti authorities.

The Kuwaiti Criminal Court

Turn to Page 4

convicted the couple in absentia and sentenced them to death by hanging. They were reportedly arrested more than a month ago in Damascus in Syria.

A Lebanese citizen, Assaf was turned over to Beirut while his wife remains in Damascus.

"We felt a little relieved now that they've been convicted," Jojet added. But he said they are awaiting the couple's extradition to Kuwait.

Jojet added that they prayed fervently for justice

for their sister during the Holy Week.

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle washed the feet of Crisanto and Eva Demafelis, parents of Joanna, at the traditional Washing of the Feet rites at the Manila Cathedral on Maundy Thursday.

Meanwhile, Jojet is ready to represent the family if ever their presence would be needed in Kuwait in connection with their sister's case. He said he has his travel documents ready.

Jojet also confirmed he was in Iloilo last March 28 to redeem the 3.9 hectares of farmland his parents had pawned.

As he had promised, Sen. Manny Pacquiao gave P385,000 to the Demafelises so they could save their property.

Jojet said the government also provided financial assistance to their parents.

The government had also asked that it be given two months to deliver on its promise to help repair the Demafelis house in Barangay Ferraris, Sara, Iloilo.

Youngest sister Joyce is expected to continue her studies in the coming school year.

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More guns seized in Maguindanao

Residents of Ampatuan town in Maguindanao surrendered 15 additional loose firearms over the weekend.

Mayor Rasul Sangki led the turnover of the guns to Lt. Col. Lauro Oliveros of the First Mechanized Infantry Battalion at the municipal covered court in Barangay Salman, Lt. Col. Gerry Besana, 6th Civil Military Operations Regiment and Task Force Central spokesman, said.

At least 113 guns were surrendered by residents of Mamasapano, Pagalungan, Datu Montawal and Shariff Aguak on

March 26 and 27.

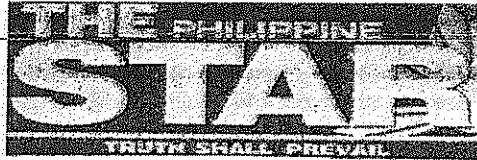
“The increase in the number of surrendered firearms is the result of our intensified campaign,” Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega of the 6th Infantry Division said.

The military said Maguindanao residents have turned over more than 300 loose guns since January.

– Michael Punongbayan, John Unson

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2 NPA rebels slain in Quezon clash

Two New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed while a militiaman was wounded in an encounter in Quezon over the weekend.

The militiaman remained confined in a hospital. Capt. Patrick Jay Retumban, spokesman for the 2nd Infantry Division, said yesterday.

Retumban said personnel of the 59th Infantry Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit Battalion were conducting combat patrol after receiving reports that NPA rebels planned to attack a detachment in Barangay San Andres in Lopez town when the clash occurred.

An M16 rifle, an AK-47, an ICOM radio, two grenades and three backpacks were recovered at the scene.

The rebels were reportedly led by Joseph delos Santos, alias Bingot, of the NPA's Platoon 2.

In Misamis Oriental, Capt. Normal Tagros, 403rd Infantry Brigade spokesman, said two rebels were killed in encounters with government troopers in Barangay Minalwang, Claveria on Thursday and Friday.

The military said pursuit operations for the rebels are ongoing. – Michael Punongbayan, Ed Amoroso, Gerry Lee Gorit

3 April 2018

POLICE FILES

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Sundalo binaril-patay ng kasamahan sa loob ng kampo

DAVAO CITY – Sasampahan na ng kaso ang isang sundalo matakos na binaril-patay ang kanyang kasamahan na isang corporal dahil umuwi umano ito na lasing sa kanilang kampo.

Nangyari ang insidente sa kasagsagan ng Sabado de Gloria sa 67th Infantry Battalion, Patrol base sa Crossing Malibago, Barangay Malibago, Cateel, Davao Oriental.

Nakilala ang biktima na si Corporal Dominador Galvano, squad leader ng 67th IB, samantalang ang suspek ay nakilalang si Private First Class Mijohn Andol Silva.

Sa imbestigasyon ng mga otoridad, lumalabas na nagpaalam ang biktima sa suspek na aalis sila sa kanilang patrol base para maligo sa Aliwagwag Falls kasama sina Pvt. Valler at isang Pfc. Alteveros.

Nang umuwi ang mga ito sa kanilang kampo, lasing ang biktima dahil na kinausap ito ng suspek at tinanong kung bakit matagal itong nakauwi.

Nagalit din si Pfc. Silva sa naging pahayag ng kanyang squad leader na siyang dahilan na kumuha ito ng M4 rifle na siyang gamin ito sa pagbaril sa biktima sa kanyang illo na siyang dahilan ng kanyang kamatayan.

Narekober sa crime scene ang isang M4 rifle, 15 mga bala, isang long magazine at 8 basyo ng bala.

Nakakulong na ang suspek sa Cateel Municipal Police Station.

3 April 2018



Pahina. 2

**NPA UTAS
SA ENKUIWENTRO**

CAMARINES NORTE — Isang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang napatay sa naganap na engkuwentro sa pagitan ng mga rebelde at tropa ng pamahalaan, kamakalawa sa Bgy. Ilok, Capatuna sa lalawigan ng Ilo.

Sa ngayon ay kinkalala pang mga awtoridad ang napatay na NPA.

Ayon sa ulat, nagpapatriya ang mga sundalo ng 9th Infantry Battalion nang makasatibong ang mga NPA at dito naganap ang engkuwentro sa pagitan ng mga rebelde at tropa ng pamahalaan.

Nang napatay ang rebelde ay agad tumakas ang mga kasamahan nitong NPA.

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Sign for peace Army chief Lt. General Rolando Bautista (5th from left) and Tarlac Heritage Foundation Inc. co-founder Dr. Isa Suntay (3rd from left at the back) pose at the Hardin ng Lunas with Singapore Ambassador Kok Li Peng, Sri Lanka Ambassador Anuri Ranaraja, India Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar, Vietnam Ambassador Ly Quoc Tuan, Pakistan Ambassador Aman Rashid, Thailand Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission Urawadee Sriphitomya and Laos Ambassador Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune during their visit to Bahay Pag-Asa Phase 2 in Barangay Mipaga, Marawi City recently. The project is their donation for the displaced people of Marawi. PNA

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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RETURN TO A SHATTERED CITY – Walking past a destroyed building, residents of Marawi City carry salvageable belongings they collected after they were allowed to return to their homes for the first time since the siege ended. (AFP/Ted Aljibe)

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Hopes dim for peace talks with Reds – Bello

After the New People's Army (NPA) torched 10 heavy

equipment units on Easter Sunday in Davao City, the prospect of resuming talks with communist rebels is getting dimmer.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, who serves as government peace panel chair, said the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front (CPP-NDF)

and the combatant unit NPA failed to prove their sincerity in pursuing peace talks with the government.

"For me, I cannot feel their sincerity because lately they burned equipment in Mindanao. They still lack in sincerity," Bello said yesterday, noting that President Duterte needs

to see this before deciding to talk peace.

He added that he would not recommend the resumption of the talks if Duterte will ask him.

"It has always been the statement of the President that he will pursue talks if the other party shows sincerity in pursuing talks to its logical conclusion. Show sincerity and we will talk again," he stressed.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) branded the move as "an attack on the people" as Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr., Eastern Mindanao Command chief, ordered his men in the 10th Infantry Division to go after the perpetrators.

AFP spokesman Major Ezra Balagtey said the communist rebels torched the heavy equipment that included four dump trucks and a backhoe, which were used for the construction of the Davao City bypass road in Barangays Callawa, Buhangin and Fatima.

Nothing but cowards

Presidential daughter and Davao City Mayor Sara

Duterte-Carpio also condemned the destruction, saying the NPA revolution already "undermines our democracy and development through its brand of egregious violence and extremism."

"The attacks were downright cowardly and indicate that the NPA is nothing but a terrorist group that deserves our collective rejection and condemnation," Carpio said in a statement yesterday.

No precondition

Meanwhile, NDF peace panel chairman Fidel Agcaoili said the communist rebels are still open to

He said in an interview with ANC yesterday that the NDF is still in possession of the draft documents the two panels were about to discuss before the government cancelled the peace talks in November last year.

“No preconditions. We sit down and talk on the basis of the three agreements, drafts we have prepared in October, which should have been discussed in November... By this time, we would have what was offered or proposed by the government – a unilateral coordinated ceasefire,” he added.

The documents, he pointed out, pertain to a coordinated ceasefire, general amnesty for political prisoners and those that were agreed upon by the reciprocal working committees.

Agcaoili stressed that the government’s efforts in asking the courts to formally declare as terrorists the CPP and the NPA are a hindrance that has to be dealt with in the backchannel discussions.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque earlier said there must be an “enabling environment” before the government returns to the negotiating table.

She noted that it stalled road construction works and delayed the delivery of basic services – health, education, agricultural development and livelihood – in the affected areas, adding that the road projects could change people’s lives people for the better.

– With Michael Punongbayan, Edith Regalado, Jose Rodel Clapano

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INQUIRER

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Marawi residents scramble for war junk

Evacuees hoping for compensation so they can rebuild their lives

By Divina Suson
and Richel Umel
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—Twenty-eight-year-old Amirah Mondas and her husband, Nasser, combed through the debris inside the structure that used to be their family's house to find things they could still use at the evacuation center.

But the couple found only three drinking glasses, which they received as gifts on their wedding day before terrorists laid siege to Marawi City on May 23 last year.

"These are the only things that would remind us of our wedding," said a tearful Amirah.

What was once an ideal place to start a family was now in disarray—cooking stoves, kitchen utensils and other household items scattered on the floor. The house was pock-marked and nearly in shambles.

'Kambisita'

Five months after fighting between the government and the Maute terror group ended, the Task Force Bangon Marawi had allowed residents of 24 villages considered as ground zero of the siege to visit their homes and retrieve their belongings.

The visit, called "Kambisita," started on Sunday and will be done by sector or area until May 10.

Holding back their emotions, the Mondases, aided by relatives, started gathering damaged stuff made of metal, including tarnished kitchen utensils.

Amirah said they would sell these to junk traders so they



HOLY BOOK Samiha Kamaludin leafs through pages of the Quran that she recovered from the ruins of her family's house in Marawi City on Sunday. —RICHEL V. UMEI

could pay for the vehicle they hired for the trip here on Sunday.

"We put a lot of money and effort to build the house. Now, it's in ruins," she added.

Amirah said they had not taken everything of value yet and wanted to return for the duration of the three-day Kambisita at Barangay Tolali. But she was afraid that they could not do that anytime soon.

"We do not have money to hire the vehicle again. We were already fortunate that the owner had agreed that we would pay him out of the things we could sell to the junkyard," she added.

Yasmida Macapudi, an elementary school teacher, said:

"I've accepted the possibility that the house was damaged but then, it was still painful to see it like this."

She said from all indications, their three-story house was among the structures where combatants had encamped. There was a spent shell for a rifle grenade at the ground floor while the third floor was burnt from what could be a huge explosion.

Compensation

Saripada Taguranao could only utter, "Allahu akbar (God is great)," when he entered what used to be his family's four-story structure at Barangay Daguduban.

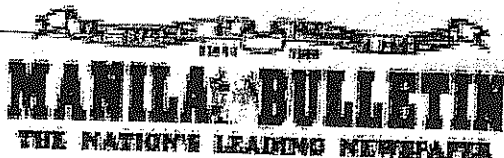
The ground floor had a big hole which, he said, could have been used as a hiding place.

Taguranao said they were hoping that the government would compensate them so they could rebuild their house.

The 1,000 families allowed into "Sector 1," or the villages of Tolali and Daguduban during Sunday's Kambisita, were also greeted by heavily damaged buildings and mounds of debris where their houses used to stand.

The group Tindeg Ranao said salvaging was the only thing left for residents of the 24 villages because the fighting and the airstrikes left these areas in ruins. INQ

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Marawi residents given chance to visit ravaged homes at ground zero

By BONITA L. ERMAC

MARAWI CITY – About 1,200 families were allowed to briefly visit their homes located in this city's Most Affected Area (MAA), starting April 1, and have until today to inspect their former dwellings for remaining personal belongings.

In a program dubbed "Kambisita," the Marawi City

government and Task Force Bangon Marawi opened Mapandi bridge Sunday at 6 a.m., signaling the start of a long-drawn opportunity to visit their ravaged residences and former work places.

Under "Kambisita," the visits will be allowed from April 1 to May 10.

As it is, MAA has been divided into nine sectors.

Sector 1 encompasses Barangays Tulali, Daguduban and Abbas Street near the Agus River. For this sector, the IDPs will be allowed to enter MAA and visit their residences from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 1 to 3, according to Joint Task Force Marawi Deput Commander Col. Romeo Brawner.

Only one vehicle will be allowed entry into the MAA for each family. And once their visit is over, they will exit through Papandayan bridge.

Brawner also advised everyone who will enter MAA that they might find unexploded ordinance, skeletal remains and other delicate items, and warned them not to touch these and immediately report their whereabouts to proper authorities.

Visits in sector 2 are scheduled on April 5, 7, and 8; Sector 3 April 10, 11, and 12; Sector 4 April 15-17; Sector 5 April 19, 21, and 22; Sector 6 April 24 to 26; Sector 7 April 29, 30 and May 1; Sector 8 May 3, 5, and 6; and Sector 9 on May 8 and 10.

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Dureza says NPA attacks squandered 'quiet gains' to revive peace talks

By ANTONIO L. COLINA IV and YASID. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY – The three burning incidents allegedly perpetrated by the New People's Army (NPA) in this city over the weekend may have washed away what

ever gains the government and Communist peace panels "have been quietly getting lately" in their bid to revive the peace talks, according to Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza.

In a statement sent to media yesterday, Dureza condemned the "senseless destruction of construction heavy equipment over the weekend by suspected armed elements of the NPA."

"The fact that the three consecutive attacks happened during the observance of Holy Week all the more angers us," he added.

Dureza noted that the attacks "unnecessarily squandered whatever gains we have been quietly getting lately in our common efforts with the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines)/NPA/NDF (National Democratic Front) leadership to achieve just peace through the negotiations table."

Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio likewise slammed the NPA for

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the attacks, which will delay the development of a vital bypass road project in the city's second district.

"The construction of roads in Barangay Callawa in Buhangin, Barangay Fatima in Paquibato, and Barangay Dalagdag in Calinan are now temporarily stalled because of the attacks," added Duterte, who described the assaults as "cowardly."

"These road projects are being done by the City Government of Davao and the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte to end the condition of chronic

poverty in the said areas... (and) could make the delivery of other basic services to the people faster — including health, education, agricultural development and livelihood," she said.

Duterte accused the rebels of burning the properties after contractors refused to pay fees to the rebel group.

Police Regional Office (PRO) 11 Director Chief Supt. Manuel Gaerlan added that the NPA violated the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) it signed with the government (GRP) in 1998 when it burned 10 heavy construction equipment over the weekend in Davao City.

"They no longer give value to the signed CARHRIHL which provides that they should attack civilian targets, most especially those who are doing projects for the public welfare," he said.

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Rody wants BBL passed this year

By **EDITH REGALADO**

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte is racing against time to get the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) passed this year, which he had promised to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"The MILF is in a hurry. I am working hard to meet the deadline for lasting peace. The burden of the deadline has been placed on us. It has to be this year because *yon ang usapan* (that's our agreement),"

the President said yesterday during the distribution of certificates of land ownership to farmer-beneficiaries in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat.

The President said this week he would meet with Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and other officials to ensure that the proposed BBL will be passed before the end of the year.

"I will tell Koko (Pimentel) and Bebot (Alvarez) that it is a commitment to the MILF. We

have to honor such commitment," the President said.

He said he would also visit and talk to Moro National Liberation Front chair Nur Misuari on the matter.

"Let us talk. Let us not fight," he said.

MILF vice chair for political affairs, Ghazali Jaafar earlier told **The STAR** the President assured them of the yearend deadline during a meeting at the Manila Enclaves Residences guesthouse.

"We discussed the BBL and the President assured us of the passage of the BBL in its proper time and that is before the end of the year," Jaafar said.

The President said he does not think that a joint venture with the MILF and the MNLF such as the BBL could go wrong.

Duterte stressed that there is only one thing that he would want implemented to make sure that there would be no discord, especially on the issue

of no establishment of separate army or police units for the proposed Bangsamoro area.

"I told the MILF that there will be only one army or police for the entire country," the President said.

The Senate, on the other hand, vowed to take up the proposed BBL when it resumes session on May 15.

The proposed BBL is reportedly a priority in the Senate.

– With Alexis Romero

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NDFP offers to drop terms in peace talks

By Mario J. Mallari

The Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) legal arm National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) raised the possibility of dropping all its conditions to resume peace negotiations with the government but a Holy Week attack of communist rebels may have preempted the NDFP offer.

NDFP chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili said the communist front can

go back to the negotiating table anytime as it still has the draft of documents that would have been discussed had the government not canceled the peace talks in November last year.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza said the NPA attacks "squandered" government efforts being done to resume peace negotiations.

"No preconditions. We sit down and talk on basis of the three agreements,

the drafts for which we have prepared in October and which should have been discussed in November," Agcaoili said in a remote television interview via Skype.

Agcaoili said had there been a formal meeting, all the documents would have been signed. "By this time, we would have what was offered or proposed by the government, a unilateral coordinated ceasefire," he added.

Dureza, however, issued a

statement yesterday condemning NPA atrocities during the Holy Week, where they burned eight heavy equipment in Davao City.

"We condemn in the strongest way the senseless destruction of heavy equipment in Davao City over the last few days by suspected armed elements of the New People's Army," Dureza said in a statement.

On the morning of Easter Sunday, a resident of the area, Bobby Cañete,

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From page 1

reported the NPA attack which burned a backhoe at Purok 8, Dalagdag, Calinan.

Police said eight armed persons, ages 15 to 18, were seen on board four motorcycles, burning the equipment on Saturday night at around 11 p.m.

The incident took place three days after the communist group's 49th anniversary on March 29.

Two other attacks by suspected NPA members also took place within the Holy Week.

"The fact that the three consecutive attacks happened during the observance of Holy Week all the more angers us," Dureza added.

3 stalled deals

Agcaoil said the three pending agreements in the stalled negotiations included a coordinated ceasefire, general amnesty for political prisoners, and the signing of what were agreed upon by the reciprocal working committees.

He said the government's move to declare the CPP and NPA as terrorist groups is a hindrance that has to be dealt with through backchannel discussions.

The government's chief negotiator Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, however, said he is not ready to recommend a resumption of peace talks to President Duterte saying sincerity is "still lacking."

"(The attacks) unnecessarily squander whatever gains we have been quietly getting lately in our common efforts with the CPP-NPA-NDF leadership to achieve just peace through the negotiations table," Dureza said.

Dureza described the recent NPA attacks as a "setback" to their peace negotiations.

"We are therefore saddened by the consequent setback these attacks bring to our efforts," Dureza said.

Recently, 61 congressmen signed House Resolution 1803 calling for the resumption of peace negotiations.

Dureza, however, reiterated that it would take "the presence of an enabling environment" to be the "sole determining factor" to the resumption of peace talks.

President Duterte started formal peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF shortly after he became president in 2016.

However, the President canceled the peace talks on

November last year because of continued attacks of the NPA on government forces despite ongoing peace talks that time.

Mr. Duterte issued a proclamation classifying the CPP-New People's Army as a terrorist organization in December last year.

Attack on gov't project

The NPA attack was directed at an ongoing government project in Davao City, President Duterte's hometown.

Report showed that the NPA attacked the ongoing construction of the Davao Bypass Road in Barangay Callawa, Buhangin District early morning Sunday.

The rebels reportedly set ablaze several heavy equipment worth millions of pesos.

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, commander of the military's Eastern Mindanao Command, branded the NPA move as an attack against the people of Davao.

"It's an attack on the people," said Madrigal in reaction to the latest NPA atrocity.

"The incident will not only cause delay to the project that will benefit the people but will also adversely effect the livelihood of the people employed to operate these

equipments," added Madrigal.

The attack came amid claims by the military that the NPA has been loosing its members due to mass surrender and demoralization.

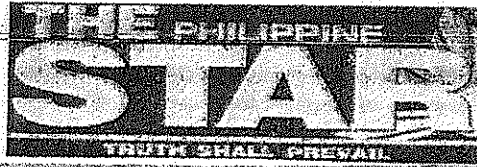
Madrigal directed the Army's 10th Infantry Division to go after the perpetrators and bring them to the bar of justice.

Additionally, he directed all units under Eastern Mindanao Command to ensure the safety and prevent the delay of government flagship projects in the Command's area of responsibility as a consequence of terroristic activities of the NPA terrorists.

Meanwhile, other terroristic activities were prevented when troops engaged NPA bands in separate encounters in the different areas of Eastern Mindanao during the Holy Week.

In the early morning of March 30, patrolling troops under 39IB encountered undetermined number of NPA Terrorists at So Karan-karan, Brgy Goma, Digos City while on March 31, 2018 troops from 71IB encountered undetermined numbers of NPA Terrorist at Sitio Tabon-Tabon, Brgy Mambing, New Corrella DDN.

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PNP, DND chiefs oppose lifting of tattoo ban

The heads of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Department of National Defense (DND) yesterday aired their opposition to a proposal to lift the tattoo ban on soldiers and police officers.

Davao Rep. Karlo Nograles called on the government over the weekend to remove the ban on tattoos.

"How would you differentiate criminals from police officers?" Dela Rosa said during a press briefing at Camp Crame yesterday.

He said if the PNP's traditional

standards are removed – such as shaving moustaches and keeping the hair short – it "will reflect on the organization."

Dela Rosa apologized to people offended by his stance.

"I know you would invoke your right to express your artistic desires. For you it's art, for us it's taboo," he said.

Dela Rosa said even if an applicant's tattoo is hidden under clothes, the PNP's Health Service will still detect it during an intensive medical

examination.

DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana also opposed Nograles' proposal to lift the "no tattoo" policy, which the congressman called an "archaic" requirement for those who want to join the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We would like to keep it that way. Just like haircut. The military imposes strict rules on haircut and even moustache, why not tattoo?" he said.

"Tattoos are ugly and connotes a gangster image," Lorenzana, a retired military man himself, said

of the idea of permitting soldiers to have body art.

Lorenzana said the military is indeed an old-fashioned organization in some ways.

"We have standards of behaviors that harken back to medieval times and they are still relevant today: following orders, wearing approved uniform and badges, fitting into an organization, having a regulation haircut, regulated daily activities, be physically fit" he said. – Cecille Suerte Felipe, Michael Punongbayan

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Negros councilor who survived rebel ambush gunned down

By CALVIN D. CORDOVA

CEBU CITY – A city councilor in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental, who survived an ambush by communist rebels last year was gunned down by two motorcycle-riding assailants early morning Monday.

Paulo Edison Dela Rita Sr was driving a motorcycle when he was fired at. He did not reach the hospital alive.

Chief Supt. Robert Quenery, Central Visayas police director, ordered a man-hunt for dela Rita's killers.

At a press briefing Monday, Quenery said the motive of the attack has not been established but he is not discounting the possibility that the New People's Army (NPA) was behind it.

Dela Rita survived an ambush by NPA guerrillas last July 21 in Barangay Magsaysay, Guihulngan. His security aide was killed.

Dela Rita managed to call the police and then city police chief Supt. Arnel Delorino Arpon and his five men responded.

On their way to the ambush site, Arpon and his men were warned by residents not to proceed because heavily armed men were spotted near the site of the ambush.

Arpon ignored the warning. His group was itself ambushed, and six policemen were killed.

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The Manila Times

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Negros Oriental official killed in ambush

BACOLOD CITY: A councilor of Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental who survived an ambush by alleged New People's Army (NPA) members last year was shot dead in an early morning attack by unknown assailants on Monday.

The police identified the victim as Councilor Paulo Edison dela Rita, an incumbent councilor of the city.

Initial police investigation showed that Dela Rita was riding his motorcycle on his way home from his store located in Barangay Poblacion when the suspects on motorcycle and wearing helmets shot him several times.

The victim suffered a severe head wound leading to his immediate death.

Witnesses told police investigators that the suspects had a back-up also riding a motorcycle.

Investigators recovered nine empty, four live, and four deformed slugs from a caliber .45 pistol.

Police suspected that the incident was connected to the death of Dela Rita's bodyguard, Ramon Perez, who was also gunned down last week.

Guihulngan police are yet to confirm if the members of the New People's Army (NPA) are involved, although Dela Rita was believed to be on the rebel group's hitlist.

On July 21 2017, Dela Rita and another bodyguard survived an ambush reportedly by about 15 NPA rebels at Sitio Mandi-e, Barangay Magsaysay, also in Guihulngan.

Policemen who responded to area after Dela Rita called for help were also ambushed by about 50 NPA gunmen, killing the city police chief, Supt. Arnel Arpon, and five of his men – Senior Police Officer 2 Mecasio Tabilon, SPO2 Chavic Agosto, SPO1 Jeseal Ancheta, Police Officer 2 (Alfredo Dunque and PO2 Alvin Paul Bulandres. **EUGENE Y. ADIONG**

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The Manila Times

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Marawi folk to be part of govt rehab efforts

MALACANANG on Monday assured the public that residents of Marawi City would be consulted on the government's planned reconstruction of their hometown.

In a news briefing, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Menardo Guevarra said the "essence" of Marawi City will be considered in the restoration process of the war-torn city, the capital of Lanao del Sur province in southern Mindanao.

"I'm sure that the residents themselves will be given an opportunity to make their own proposals on how to rehabilitate their own city. Maybe it's just a sort of misunderstanding or *hindi naman ganon talaga ang ibig sabihin* [or that's not what it means]. But I doubt it very much whether you know the residents themselves of the city will not even be consulted on a manner by which their city will have to be

rehabilitated," Guevarra added in an interview with reporters.

"There are cultural, historical aspects that need to be respected and considered. So when you are restoring something, you are bringing it back to its condition before, of course with much improvement but essentially the essence of Marawi City as a Muslim city will have to be taken into account in the restoration process," he said.

Guevarra made the statement after Sultan Abdul Atar, spokesman for the Ranaw Multi-Sectoral Movement, slammed the government's task force in charge of rebuilding Marawi City, saying it was only consulting the local government, not the residents themselves.

"These people [in the] Task Force Bangon Marawi should study the genealogy of the Maranaos."

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

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05 April 2018

The Manila Times

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NPA attacks govt projects in Davao

BY AL JACINTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY: New People's Army (NPA) rebels staged daring attacks in Davao City over the weekend where they simultaneously burned 10 heavy equipment used in government infrastructure projects at different areas there.

The attacks stalled road construction projects in the villages of Callawa in Buhangin, Fatima in Paquibato and Dalagdag in Calinan districts.

Davao City Mayor Sarah Carpio and Peace Process Adviser Jesus Dureza strongly condemned the attack and branded the raid as "cowardly"

and the NPA as a "terrorist group".

"We condemn the burning of 10 construction heavy equipment by the New People's Army in three different villages of Davao City on Saturday. The attacks were downright cowardly and indicate that the NPA is nothing but a terrorist group that deserves our collective rejection

and condemnation," she said in a statement released on Monday.

Carpio said the NPA's revolution is one designed to undermine democracy and development through its brand of egregious violence and extremism.

"These road projects are being done by the City Government of Davao and the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte to end the condition of chronic poverty in the said areas. The road projects could make the delivery of other basic services to the people faster — including health, education, agricultural development, and livelihood. The said projects could change the lives of the people for the better," she said.

She pointed out that the latest atrocities reveal the NPAs only want the people to continue living in poverty which they could use as a capital in their propaganda against the government and justify their presence in the communities where their influence and significance are waning.

The raids were allegedly carried out after private construction companies rejected extortion demands by the NPA.

"Let me reiterate my previous appeal to the people of Davao and to our partners in the peace and development movement— let us support our soldiers and police and let us openly condemn NPA as a terrorist group," Carpio said.

Meanwhile, Dureza said the attack brought "setback" to the possible resumption of peace talks with the National Democratic Front (NDF).

In a statement, Dureza cited incidents involving the communist rebels, particularly in the Davao region area, which all happened during the Lenten season.

These include the encounters of troops with the rebels in Digos City and in Compostela Valley both on March 31; the deaths of two NPA members in Misamis Oriental in separate encounters on March 30 and 31; and the recovery of an NPA cadaver in Davao City.

Dureza underscored that presence of an "enabling environment" will be the "sole determining fac-

tor" in resuming the peace talks with the communist movement.

"This unnecessarily squanders whatever gains we have been quietly getting lately in our common efforts with the Communist Party of the Philippines, NPA, NDF leadership to achieve just peace through the negotiations table," Dureza pointed out.

"We are therefore saddened by the consequent setback these attacks bring to our efforts," he added.

Last week, Dureza and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana called for an "enabling environment" in order for the peace negotiations between the government and the NDF to resume.

WITH REPORT
FROM DEMPSEY REYES

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Standard

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PNP warns vs field trips in rebel-infested areas

A HIGH-RANKING Philippine National Police official on Monday has discouraged students in insurgency-affected areas from joining activities outside their campuses to prevent them from being recruited by New People's Army rebels.

PNP Deputy Director-General Rolando Mendez said students should avoid joining groups which may have already infiltrated by front organizations of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA.

"Mag-training ka muna, basic military force. *Kung ano'ang mapipili mong gawain sa bundok, 'yan ang trabaho mo. Pwede maging armado o sa kampo ka lang*," he said of the possibility of students becoming members of the NPA.

Mendez also warned parents of students to be wary of extracurricular activities which are not approved by school officials such as social immersion programs, social field work and field trips.

"*Yung ginagawa ng mga organizations ay dumidikit sa students na may contact sa NPA. Usually during breaks or vacation ng students, yung mga na-recruit nila ini-invite nila, exposure to the countryside in the guise of field trips. That is for a period of one week usually*," he said.

"*Kung nagustuhan ng mga recruit ang buhay sa bundok, maitiwan sila. Once naitiwan ka, mag-undergo ka na ng kursong militar para maging full time NPA member*," Mendez added.

The PNP raised the concern last week following the reported sightings and active participation of some students in recent CPP-NPA activities, including joining the rebels in firefights against government troops.

Government forces continue to wage war and has pushed their offensive in areas known where guerilla fronts of the NPA are located.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has said that if the CPP-NPA is really interested in forging a lasting and enduring peace with the government, they must demonstrate sincerity in the peace process.

This was the statement made by AFP public affairs office chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia Sunday when sought for a com-

ment on the possible resumption of peace negotiations with the rebel group.

President Rodrigo Duterte recently expressed interest to resume the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the communist rebels after a recent meeting with Norwegian government officials.

But the AFP said that the CPP-NPA-NDF must stop atrocities and other senseless attacks on military and civilians aside from their extortion and other criminal activities.

On Nov. 23, 2017, Duterte signed Proclamation 360, ordering the termination of all peace negotiations and meetings with the rebel group.

The termination was an offshoot of the rebel atrocities and other acts of violence against civilians and security forces. Garcia also said that the AFP will always follow the policy direction of the political leadership.

"We leave it to our political leaders to decide on political questions and we will always follow legally mandated decisions," he said.

Also, the military takes cognizance of the need to have a just and lasting peace in the country and the AFP supports every effort to achieve this. **PNA**

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No Maranaos were left out in Marawi rehab—govt

AMID the exodus of Marawi City residents from its 24 most affected barangays who were allowed to visit what was left of their homes in the city, a conflict has brewed between a government task force in charge of rebuilding the city and an organization of Marawi City residents.

Assistant Secretary Kristoffer James Purisima, spokesman of Task Force Bangon Marawi, denied the statement made by Sultan Abdul Atar, spokesperson of the Ranaw Multi-Sectoral Movement, who had slammed the task force for saying that they were not from Marawi.

Purisima had claimed on Monday that residents of the war-torn city were not consulted on the government's planned reconstruction of their hometown, and that those who oppose the government's plan to construct an "eco-zone" and military camp in the city are not its residents.

"Most of those *na umo*-oppose are not residents. In fact if you talk to the residents, they are in favor of the military camp kasi they want security," he told a television interview. "It's like opposition for opposition's sake."

Purisima added that consultations with local government officials, traditional and religious leaders, and even the "bakwits" or the internally displaced Maranaos are ongoing.

Purisima also said that the task force is only consulting the local government and not the Pu residents themselves.

But Sultan Atar rejected Purisima's claims.

"These people—Task Force Bangon Marawi—should study the genealogy of the Maranaos. All of the Maranaos are connected to one another. All Maranaos, part of our lineage is from Marawi!"

The group held a peace rally on Friday after issuing a statement appealing to President Rodrigo Duterte to stop plans to establish an "eco-zone" and military camp within the city, calling it "an invasion of a different kind."

The government has decided to close the most affected areas again after May 10 and will start to clean up the debris left by the five-month battle. According to Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Task Force Ranao, the clearing of the debris may take a year to finish.

Meanwhile, local news outlet Min-daNews report said the Bagong Marawi Consortium, which is composed of five Chinese and four local firms and led by China State Construction Engineering Corp. Ltd., has been selected to build a "new Marawi" within the 250-hectare Ground Zero.

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BusinessMirror

A leader in today's business

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Marines stick to their guns in bid for 'independence'

BY RENE ACOSTA [@reneacostaBM](#)

THE Philippine Marines has not given up on its bid of being transformed into a separate fighting force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and cut its umbilical cord from the Philippine Navy, which is its mother unit, although the idea had been shot down earlier by Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana.

"Every Marine personnel is in favor, however...whatever is its outcome, we will always obey the chain of command," said Marine Commandant Maj. Gen. Alvin Parreño on Monday, adding the "separation" has no other intention, but to further improve the Marines as a unit.

"This is the clamor of every Marine deployed in many areas, and I, as their representative, it is my duty to express the sentiment of men under me. Lest, I will be remiss of my duty, in my obligation as their representative in their looking out for the welfare of the men and for the accomplishment of their mission," the Marine commandant said.

The idea to detach the Marines from the Navy and count it as a separate armed service in the AFP, which is being supported and pushed by the current leadership of the Marines, had originated in the House of Representatives through Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez, a

reserve Marine colonel.

While Parreño said that President Duterte, Lorenzana and the military leadership were addressing the "issues and concerns" of the Marines, they still have some questions on matters related to budgetary requirement.

"Our first concern is personnel and equipment that are needed in order to cope with the prevailing situation and the threats that may arise...those are our first concern because the people in the front line are in need of those equipment," he said.

"We do not intend to compete with the Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force and Navy. We just want our troops, our table of organization to be filled up. The other branch of service, they may have other things, missions to do, but we also believe that we have some task to perform also in operations, especially in terms of, you know, we have built this expertise, 67 years of experience in

amphibious operation and then the culture that we have as members of Philippine Marine Corps, and the doctrine is very important to all of us," Parreño added.

Lorenzana is opposed to the separation of the Marines from the Navy, saying the Marines is basically a ground force and, as such, making it a separate service "doing the same functions as the Army will mean there will be two ground forces in the country."

"The Philippine Marine Corps claims that they have particular skills like ship-to-shore operations. The Philippine Army could easily learn these skills," he said.

"The Marines are expeditionary forces. In other countries like the US, their Marines, upon which we patterned ours, are utilized for overseas deployment. That is also true with the Royal Marines of the UK. Both units are invasion forces embedded with their navies. The Philippines, on the other hand, will not be invading foreign shores anytime soon or ever," he added.

Lorenzana also said that, when the Marines was created in 1950 by an AFP general headquarters order, "it was designed as a light, hard striking force to pursue, pirates and smugglers. It was originally part of the Philippine Naval Patrol, which was the forerunner of the Philippine Fleet."

He added: In short, "The Philippine Marines was created as an adjunct of the Philippine Navy and it was envisioned as a small force only."

Parreño assured that, while the Marines may become a separate branch of service, it will see to it that the "umbilical cord is always there."

OFFI

3 April 2018



Pahina. 3

Pag-aalis ng tattoo ban sa PNP, AFP tinutulan

Marungis at mukhang-kriminal!

Ito ang tahasang inihayag kahapon ni Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief P/Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa na hindi pabor na tanggalin ang ban laban sa tattoo para makapa-

sok sa hanay ng kapulisan.

Ginawa ni dela Rosa ang pahayag sa gitna na rin ng imungkahi ni Davao City Rep. Karlo Alexel Nograles na tanggalin na ang ban sa may mga tattoo bilang recruitment sa PNP at maging sa Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Sinabi ni dela Rosa na paano mo makikilala ang mga pulis at kriminal kung pareho ang mga itong may mga tattoo kaya mas nais pa rin niyang disente ang itsura na walang mga naka-display na tattoo sa balat ang mga pulis.

Sa kabila nito, nilinaw ni dela Rosa, hindi sila magdiscriminate kung sino ang

kuwalipikado at hindi kuwalipikadong makapasok sa proseso ng recruitment sa PNP.

"Pero kung tattoo talaga ikaw gusto mo bang naka-uniporme tapos daming tattoo dito? meron kaming standing policy diyan na bawal talaga na ma-recruit yung may mga tattoo pero hindi namin sila nire-ject outright", ani dela Rosa.

Inihayag ni dela Rosa na kung nais magpulis ay dapat magtanggap ng tattoo pero kung tago ay makikita pa rin ito paghubad ng mga pulis sa eksaminasyon ng PNP Health Service.

silang problema sa height requirements.

Sa panig naman ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana sinabi nito na mukhang gangster ang imahe kapag may tattoo kaya ayaw niya na alisin ang ban ukol dito para maging kasapi ng AFP.

"Any good reason why we will lift it? We would like

to keep it that way. Just like haircut. The military imposes strict rules on haircut and even mustache, why not tattoo? Tattoos are ugly and connotes gangster image", anang Kalihim.

Binigyang diin pa ni Lorenzana na hindi naman pagiging makaluma kung ayaw sa tattoo sa Hukbong Sandatahan.

NI JOY CANTOS

13 April 2018

INQUIRER

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'PEOPLE OF MARAWI LEFT OUT IN REHABILITATION PLANS'

Dear President Duterte, We, the people of Marawi City and those who are one with us, would like to appeal to your kind office to intervene in the planned rebuilding of our beloved city and to stop a planned economic zone that was presented to us by Mr. Eduardo del Rosario, chairperson of Task Force Bangon Marawi, and Socioeconomic Planning Undersecretary Adoracion M. Navarro, during the multisectoral consultation on Marawi's rehabilitation last March 21 to 22.

We are Maranao, the people of the lake. Allah has given us this land, this lake, long before the Spaniards and the Americans came. Long before the establishment of the Republic of the Philippines, we were and have always been the people of the lake. We determine our fate since our ancestors first settled in this land guided by our leaders, the will of our people and the guidance of Allah.

Under the eyes of He who is the giver of life, we lived and built our community. In peace. In harmony. In freedom! A freedom we so loved that we resisted those who dared deprive us of this freedom. We resisted Spain. We resisted the United States. We resisted all invaders with our blood, our lives and our fierce determination to keep our people free and dignified.

With the same determination, we built Marawi. Slowly. Gradually. One house at a time. One masjid (mosque) at a time. One village at a time. We built this city of our dreams and aspirations

with the embodiment of our culture and identity and expression of our faith. Through the years, Marawi stood fast, thrived and flourished.

Marawi was, is, and will always be our pride and our symbol. Marawi that is now in shambles, devastated, ravaged by a war we never wanted. Forced upon us by the exigencies of these times and historical imperatives.

Mr. President, we understand the urgencies that led to the war. We may not all agree to the manner it was waged and won. What we can do now is to face the future and do what is best to be done.

Right now, the future seems threatening. Forces are moving that threaten to do far greater damage to our people than what the war has done. The bullet-riddled, crumbling remains of the Grand Masjid in our beloved Marawi, silent as it is now and absent of prayers, cries out.

For in the guise of rebuilding our home and laying down the foundations for a better, progressive and modern city, the will and vision of those who live far are being imposed upon us. This is an invasion of a different kind. This one threatens to rob our soul.

Plans have been made without our participation. Plans that neither bear the stamp of our will nor reflect our culture. Plans whose mechanics and implementation are not clear to us. But one thing is clear: The people of Marawi are largely left out. Those who came to present the plan dismissed our comments, recommendations, and protestations as though we

knew nothing and have no business getting involved in rebuilding our very own city.

Mr. President, as former mayor of Davao City, you must know that a city is not merely the sum of its buildings nor merely an occasion for economic gain. It is not merely a blueprint of a well-laid-out interconnection of industrial, commercial, entertainment parks, however grand.

A city symbolizes its people. Built upon the aspirations and dreams of its people, nurtured by and reflective of their identity. We are not building a city from debris. We are rebuilding a city from history and from memory.

The blueprint of this city is in the hearts and minds of the Maranao and not in the drawing boards of urban architects and master planners.

Mr. President, you belong to our people. You know we will not keep quiet and simply accept this. We cannot accept that those who know so little of us would map out how to rebuild our city, our home since time immemorial.

We appeal to you, Mr. President, to grant us, the people of the lake, the rightful heirs to this land, our right to rebuild this city with your guidance, support and protection. We welcome those who are willing to help us in this endeavor, for the challenges are daunting and the costs are high. We appeal to please help us rebuild according to our will and in pursuit of the will of Allah.

RANAO MULTISECTORAL MOVEMENT

63 April 2018

INQUIRER

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Is the Left needed to resist Dutertismo?

I was stunned, and bewildered, when I checked in on Twitter on Black Saturday and saw leftist activists waging all-out war on a woman named Tess Garcia, who calls herself Daughter of Mindanao. Or, in the words of Tonyo Cruz: "star-spangled @tessgarcia, self-styled Daughter of Mindanao"—a masterful touch, that. Double sets of alliteration dripping with condescension.

This was no mere social media spat; it struck me as representative of how the national-democratic influencers conduct themselves online and off, and why opposition unity remains a serious problem. Cruz, whom I have had the privilege of meeting on occasion and the pleasure of hearing serve as an emcee during a major political rally, defined the parameters of my reflection with his last two tweets in a long thread.

"Your friendly neighborhood national-democratic activists are always available for discussions on the US-Duterte regime, and on the three sources of social cancer in PH" And: "Activists are always ready to unite among friends on shared values and shared positions, and to struggle and debate with friends if there are disagreements. Real friends can engage in debate."

I will return to these values and positions, but what did Garcia do to set off Cruz and other "friendly neighborhood national-democratic activists"? As far as I can reconstruct the timeline, she posted two tweets they found deeply offensive.

One was something she posted after midnight on Good Friday.

"Hello, Manila, my mother is having none of it. She is as mad as I am."

"Taxi driver: 'Grabe, ma'am, ang taas na talaga ng gasolina ngayon'."

"Mom: 'okay lang yan. Nanalo naman presidente niyo diba? Masaya naman kayo diba?'"

"Taxi driver:"

This went viral, but belatedly got some pushback. To use Cruz's term, it was "matapobre"—it looked down on the poor. I do



NEWSSTAND

JOHN NERY

not know the exact circumstances of this now-controversial taxi ride; I do not know Garcia, have exchanged only a couple of messages with her online, and followed her only after she featured in my feed as a consistent and vigorous critic of President Duterte. But while this is something I would not write, I am not prepared to push Garcia from "real friends who can engage in debate" category to "social cancer" status.

The other controversial tweet was posted on the same day, at night. It had about one-tenth the traction of the first tweet, but seems to me to be the tweet that really provoked the neighborhood. "US-Duterte regime does not exist, friends. It's China-Duterte-Marcos-Arroyo. Okay? Okay."

To be sure, Garcia received flak for these two tweets from non-Left, pro-Duterte accounts. But that was only to be expected. What I did not expect was for the practitioners of united front politics, who now say they are against the President and Dutertismo, to vilify an individual actor with a reputation for Duterte criticism. This is not about the mere lack of people skills, but about national-democratic blinders—and blunders. If unity is the need of the moment (that is the context to the assertion that NDs

are "always ready to unite among friends"), what was the point of isolating and then aligning Garcia with Duterte?

I mean that literally. Here is Cruz, starting one of his arguments: "Duterte and @tessgarcia are two sides of the same coin." That would mean that Garcia has been cast beyond the pale; the values and positions she shares are those of Duterte, not those of the neighborhood activists. There isn't even an attempt to correct and then bring Garcia into the fold. Indeed, his first tweet on the matter already rejects Garcia totally: "In fact, our pro-US friends from Duterte to @tessgarcia fail to explain why this relationship fails to stop [the] Chinese invasion..."

Wait, there's more. "The anti-left, pro-trapo, and star-spangled crowd are as rotten as Duterte. They fight Duterte over the choice of which imperialist power should control PH."

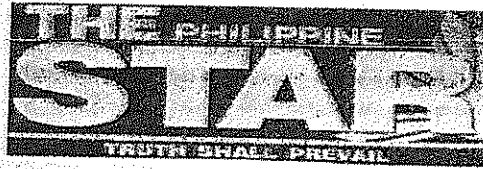
This is rich. Not capitalist-rich, but revisionist-history-rich. The same surveys that Cruz (rightly) quotes in his thread also show that the vast majority of Filipinos think favorably of the United States; this is the "star-spangled crowd" Cruz condemns, and which, with a pivot, presumes to speak for. Only a plurality of Filipinos wanted the US bases out, that is true, but years after the pullout, a majority of Filipinos learned to support the decision. I know of no organized Filipino group that wants the US, or the China that the national democrats took so long to criticize, to have imperialist power, and control over the Philippines. I also have yet to hear any sign of pure remorse from the national democrats who enabled and even served on the calamitous Duterte regime.

This is why, despite its belated anti-Duterte rhetoric and its thoughtful positioning on the ground, the NDs as a whole remain unable to generate trust from other, more established Dutertismo resisters. Do they think they can do it all on their own?

On Twitter: @jnery_newsstand

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HOTSPOT MOCHA USON

Peace talks: In or out?

"I will always do everything to protect the next generation," - President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.



Providing the youth with a safer future is one of the main priorities of the President, contrary to what his enemies are trying so hard for us to believe. And if we take a closer look at it, all his actions and projects are in line with his vision of a better Philippines, such as signing the Free Tuition Law, Build, Build, Build! infrastructure projects, and the campaign against illegal drugs and terrorism. Who is to benefit from these actions? No less than the youth, with whom the future of this nation lie.

Protecting the incoming generation from the influence of illegal drugs is the main reason the current administration is strongly fighting against syndicates, narco-politicians, and drug pushers and addicts. By acting against them we save thousands of young Filipinos every day from being used by syndicates in their operations, or worse, falling victim to addicts themselves.

The same protective stance applies to the youth and terrorist groups. This is the same reason the government has a hardline opposition to the operations of the New People's Army (NPA) and other rebel groups. This is because aside from protecting the people and the youth from their unnecessary, violent attacks, the government is also preventing young Filipinos from being recruited and transformed into sentinels by the same groups to fight for their rather twisted and sinister ideals.

To be honest, I once supported the peace talks between the NPA and the government, as I believed it was the right course of action to achieve peace for our country. However, after several demands and attacks initiated by the NPA against government troops when supposedly both parties are under a ceasefire, I began to question if they really wanted peace. If they do, then violent attacks against civilians, the government, and destroying public property is not the way to show it.

What is more confusing is that while there are ongoing attacks by the NPA, other leftist groups are still calling for the President to resume the peace talks. But how can we talk peace when someone does not seem sincere in talking about it?

According to recent reports, the NPA is still very much active in recruiting young Filipinos to become part of their force. Parents and students have been repeatedly warned in joining off-campus activities being conducted by student organizations that are handled (directly and indirectly) by the CPP-NPA in order to garner new members.

For a group that claims to yearn for peace, they should know better than involve the youth in their conflict with the government. Do not arm young Filipinos and turn them into killers. Do not condition their mind with lessons that are all about greed and power made worse by hiding under the blanket of socialism and communism, ideals that, while in direct contrast to democracy, deserve to be respected.

Let this statement of the President serve as a warning, not only to those involved in illegal drugs but also to insurgent groups, terrorist or otherwise: "Do not put to naught my toil and destroy the young of my country because I will really kill you."

This only shows the strong will of President Duterte in protecting young Filipinos. He is not afraid to be put behind bars, nor die while fighting for them. This is why more Filipinos believe in him, for he is like a father who would do everything to save his children from harm.

Stop using the youth to fight for your obsolete cause. Do not introduce them to a violent path. Instead, join the government in giving them a better future. It is only by protecting the youth that our nation will be able to secure real peace in the future, if not today.

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EDITORIAL

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Call for peace talks

THE Makabayan bloc in the House of Representatives has called for a resumption of peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) which represents the rebel New People's Army and the Communist Party of the Philippines.

In fact, Rep. Carlos Zarate of Bayan Muna party-list said despite the dying hours of the last session of the House before the Holy Week, they still managed to get the signatures of some 60 congressmen on an appeal to President Duterte to resume talking peace with the communist rebels.

'It looks like the military solution, which has been utilized by one administration after another, is amiss in dealing with this festering problem.'

The peace process initiated by Duterte with this group of rebels in the early days of his term was scuttled by the government panel on instructions of the President because of the continued attacks by the rebels on selected targets nationwide.

Among our presidents in recent years, it is only Duterte who managed to extend a genuine hand of peace and reconciliation with the NPA, CPP and NDF. He even claimed that he was a socialist, and had a long-running friendship with the NPA rebels in Davao region when he was mayor of Davao City.

The President also invited known personalities of the Left to his very first Cabinet, and they somehow performed well generally, and it could have been a proper start of confidence building for both sides on the road to a more stable and permanent peace process. Going even further, the President ordered the release from detention of party leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamazon and their companions to serve as consultants in the peace talks in Europe.

Because of continued truce violations by the rebels, Duterte had no recourse but to stop the peace negotiations, and engage the state enemy in an all-out war. The government even petitioned the courts to declare as "terrorist" the NPA organization, including their sympathizers and sleeper cells.

Meanwhile, rebels attacks continue unabated, the latest being the burning by NPA fighters of ten heavy equipment owned by the government and its contractors in Davao City. Elements from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the rebel army continue to suffer casualties even as the leaders of both sides hurl invectives and tirades at each other.

The latest news is that rebels on Negros island are cultivating and maintaining vast farm lands both for economic and propaganda reasons, to win the favor of the masses.

It looks like the military solution, which has been utilized by one administration after another, is amiss in dealing with this festering problem.

ONLINE NEWS

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www.pna.gov.ph

'Bangon Marawi' task force addressing recovery concerns

By Jelly Musico April 2, 2018, 5:51 pm

MANILA – Malacanang on Monday assured that the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) is addressing concerns by some residents in the planned Marawi rehabilitation.

Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Menardo Guevarra made this remark after a group of Marawi residents reportedly asked President Rodrigo R. Duterte to stop the proposed construction of an economic zone and a military camp in the war-torn city.

"I think it's too early to say whether the President will act on that request," Guevarra said in a Palace media briefing.

"We'll leave it to the TFBM to consider that, to take that into account and to evaluate whether the existence or non-existence of a military camp inside Marawi City is advisable," he added.

Guevarra said the task force also needs to evaluate "whether or not converting it into an economic zone will be for the betterment of the city or not".

"That's all for the Task Force to evaluate and decide on," he added.

He believed that the residents will be given opportunity to come up with their own proposals on the proposed Marawi rehabilitation.

"I doubt it very much whether, you know, the residents themselves of the city will not even be consulted on a manner by which their city will have to be rehabilitated," Guevarra said.

"There are cultural, historical aspects that need to be respected and considered. So when you are restoring something, you are bringing it back to its condition before, of course with much improvement but essentially the essence of Marawi City as a Muslim City will have to be taken into account in the restoration process," he added.

Guevarra expressed optimism that any misunderstanding will be settled between the Marawi residents and the task force.

At least PHP50 million will be initially needed to rebuild Marawi City, which was heavily damaged after a five-month war between government troops and ISIS-inspired groups last year.

The TFBM is still on the process of selecting a developer out of five companies that have so far expressed interest to rebuild the 250-hectare most affected areas of Marawi City.

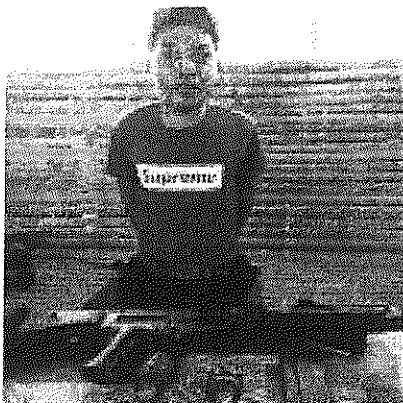
President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed Administrative Order No. 9 in October 2017 creating the TFBM, which was tasked to implement a comprehensive and integrated rehabilitation program for Marawi City. **(PNA)**

www.dwdd.com.ph

DWDD: APPREHENDED | 1ID captures ASG member in Sulu clash

From DWDD AFP Civil Relations Service Radio Website (Apr 2): **APPREHENDED | 1ID captures ASG member in Sulu clash**

KUTA SANG-AN, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur (DWDD) – Troops under 1st Infantry “Tabak” Division encountered members of the Abu Sayaff Group in Barangay Taung, Patikul, Sulu, 7:15 am, March 31, 2018.



The operating troops of 32nd Infantry Battalion led by 1LT Primo A Passion (OS) PA were conducting clearing operation at the vicinity of the said area when they clashed with the five (5) ASG under Walton Juljirin.

LTC Ronaldo C Mateo INF (GSC) PA, Commanding Officer of the 32IB said that the enemy was reportedly at the house of the sick/wounded ASG Walton when the troops encountered the enemy. The firefight lasted for five (5) minutes.

Four (4) ASG were able to escape from the said firefight while Walton was left behind due to his ill health condition brought about by infected wound incurred during the previous encounter with the government forces which he participated. Said ASG attempted to escape but the troops immediately ran after him.



After the firefight, the troops recovered from the house of ASG member Walton one (1) cal 7.62 FN-G1 rifle, one (1) magazine with ammunition, a suspected IED and two (2) hand grenades. No casualties from the government side.

“The cooperation of the civilians who reported the armed group’s presence in their area is a strong manifestation that civilians have long been tired of these ASG’s terroristic activities and now actively helping the military locate them to contribute for the total elimination of all terrorists in the Province of Sulu.” LTC Mateo added. 1DPAO / MCAG

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Military claims 2 rebels killed in Northern Mindanao clashes

From Sun Star-Cagayan de Oro (Apr 2): **Military claims 2 rebels killed in Northern Mindanao clashes**

AT LEAST two suspected communist rebels were killed in a series of clashes between government soldiers and the New People's Army (NPA) members somewhere in the boundary of Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon.

In a statement, the military said troops from the 65th Infantry Battalion and 1st Special Forces Battalion under the 403rd Infantry Brigade encountered about 30 NPA guerillas at 1:30 p.m., 3:15 p.m. and 4:20 p.m. last Friday, March 30, in Barangay Minalwang, Claveria, Misamis Oriental.

The successive gun battles resulted in the death of an unidentified NPA combatant and confiscation of several high-powered guns that include an M16, M14, and AK-47 rifles, ammunition, bomb components, subversive documents and personal belongings.

Another suspected communist rebel was found dead and more firearms were seized in another encounter on Saturday, March 31.

This, after the 43rd Division Reconnaissance Company engaged with some 30 Maoist guerillas in the same site.

The military said the two-day running gun battle may have incurred more injuries to the enemy's side, as globs of blood were seen along the withdrawal routes of the NPA rebels. **Brigadier General Eric Vinoya, 403rd commander**, said:

"We offer our sincere condolences to the families and relatives on the death of the NPA terrorists. This could not have happened if they heeded our call of surrender. Hence, I once again call upon the CPP-NPA terrorists especially those who were wounded in the recent encounters with our troops to come down, we will help you seek proper medical attention along with our local officials and return to the mainstream society."

The 403rd brigade launched wide-scale operations in relation to the just concluded 49th NPA anniversary.

The military said the series of military operations is also in response to the numerous information and complaints of the community against alleged extortion, foraging, and intimidation allegedly perpetrated by the communist rebels.

"What good does New People's Army has to celebrate in its 49th anniversary? Yes, it is a celebration of murders, arson, extortion, and exploitation to fellow Filipinos. We are thankful of the populace that have realized that there is no sense in supporting the failed armed struggle, those local government officials who are doing their mandate of protecting their constituents from NPA terrorists' exploitation and the former NPAs that heeded to our call of surrender. You are the reason the NPA terrorist's current degrading number," Major General Ronald Villanueva, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, said.

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cagayan-de-oro/local-news/2018/04/02/military-claims-2-rebels-killed-northern-mindanao-clashes>

www.pna.gov.ph

AFP: Reds' sincerity needed in forging legitimate peace

By Priam Nepomuceno April 2, 2018, 11:54 am

MANILA -- If the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) is really interested in forging a lasting and enduring peace with the government, they must demonstrate sincerity in the peace process.

This was reiterated by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia Sunday when sought for a comment on the possible resumption of peace negotiations with the rebel group.

This comes after President Rodrigo Duterte expressed interest to resume the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the communist rebels after a recent meeting with Norwegian government officials.

To demonstrate this, he said the CPP-NPA-NDF must stop atrocities and other senseless attacks on military and civilians aside from their extortion and other criminal activities.

On Nov. 23, 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Proclamation 360, ordering the termination of all peace negotiations and meetings with the rebel group.

The termination was an offshoot of the rebel atrocities and other acts of violence against civilians and security forces. Garcia also stressed that the AFP will always follow the policy direction of the political leadership.

"We leave it to our political leaders to decide on political questions and we will always follow legally mandated decisions," he emphasized.

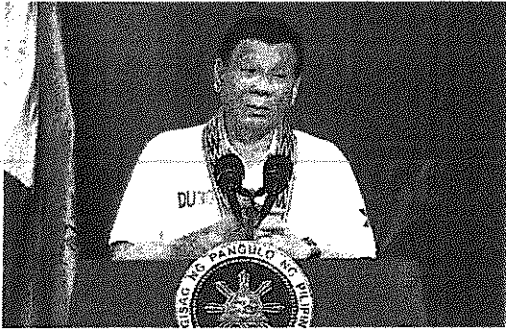
Also, the military takes cognizance of the need to have a just and lasting peace in the country and the AFP supports every effort to achieve this. **(PNA)**

www.inquirer.net

Duterte: I'm racing against time to have BBL passed

By: Jhoanna Ballaran - Reporter / @JhoannaBINQ

INQUIRER.net / 08:22 PM April 02, 2018



President Rodrigo Duterte leads the ceremonial distribution of the Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) to 1,680 agrarian reform beneficiaries at the Sultan Kudarat Sports and Cultural Center in Isulan town in Sultan Kudarat province on Monday, April 2, 2018. (Photo from an RTVM video)

President Rodrigo Duterte is racing against time to have the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) passed by Congress to fulfill his commitment to the Moros.

According to the President, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has set a timeline for the passage of the long-overdue law.

"I am racing against time. The MILF is in a hurry and has placed on us the burden of a timeline. And I have agreed to that period," Duterte said during the ceremonial distribution of the Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) to 1,680 agrarian reform beneficiaries in Isulan town in Sultan Kudarat.

"I gave my solemn promise and I assure you I am working hard to meet the deadline," he added.

Last week, the President met with MILF officials and members of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) in Davao to discuss the BBL.

Prior to the meeting, he had expressed concerns about the BBL, raising doubts if it could bring unity to the Moro people.

"I am worried. Would it do well to mix it all in one pot? Meaning to say, are you Joloanos ready to be led by a Maranao?"

In his speech in Sultan Kudarat, Duterte assured that he would talk to "everybody," including Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Nur Misuari, to "arrive at a lasting peace."

"Kaya ho ako, this week, I will be in conference with everybody and after that, I will go back to maybe Jolo to talk to Misuari again if we can come up with an arrangement to arrive at a lasting peace," he said. /atm