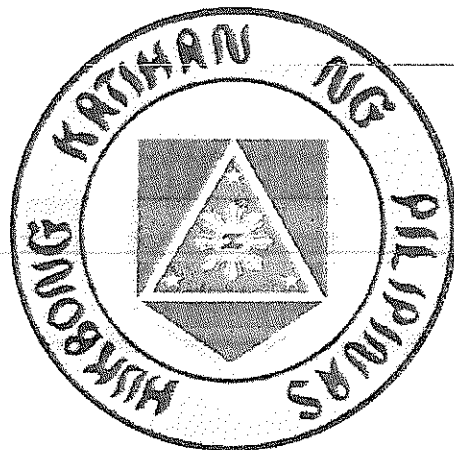


*Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



**TEAM ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)  
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

05 April 2018

Thursday

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

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

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**05 APRIL 2018**

<b>PAGE NR.</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>WRITER</b>	<b>NEWSPAPER</b>
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A1
<b>NATIONAL NEWS</b>			
2-3	Rody OKs 'last chance' for peace with Reds	Alexis Romero	Phil Star p.1
4-6	Defense chief queries Red's sincerity in talks	Ted Tuvera	Daily Tribune p.1
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
7	Army honors Dragon Boat, cycling teams	Muchael Punongbayan	Phil Star p.B12
8	1,204 former NPAs undergo reorientation	Mike Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p.13
9	Business woman kidnapped in Zamboanga Sibugay	Nonoy Lacson	Mla Bulletin p.13
10	Trillanes goes against teachings of PMA – Army General	Mario Mallari	Daily Tribune p.3
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
11-12	Revive talks with communist rebels, Duterte orders gov't peace panel	Genalyn Kabling	Mla Bulletin p.1
13	Du30: Give peace talks last chance	Leila Salaverria	PDI p.A7
14	'BBL ready for signing into law by June'	Marvin Sy	Phil Star p.12
15	NPA denies killing Negros city councilor	Eugene Adiong	Mla Times p.A7
16	Duterte, senators discuss BBL	Jefferson Antipodra	Mla Times p.A1
17-18	Reds given 'last chance' at peace	Dempsey Reyes	Mla Times p.A1
19	Abu terrorists not yet off the hook – DND	Dempsey Reyes	Mla Times p.A3
20	DND chief demand Reds' surrender, rules put truce	PNA	Business Mirror p.A3
<b>COMMENTARY/ OPINION</b>			
21	How to put closure to Marawi	Alito Malinao	PDI p.A11
22-23	When 'no' to killings could mean more deaths	Ricardo Saludo	Mla Times p.A1
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			
24	AFP marks significant gains vs Abu Sayyaf	-	www.pna.gov.ph
25	Surigao clashes yield rifle, IED	-	www.pna.gov.ph
26	NPA rebels torch another backhoe in Talaingod town	-	www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
27	NEED FOR PEACE   NPA Subsection Secretary, Courier Surrender with Firearm	-	www.dwdd.com.ph

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

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

28	<b>CHAMPIONS   PA lauds Cycling and Dragon Boat teams for their outstanding performances</b>	<b>Alvin Santiago</b>	<b>www.dwdd.com.ph</b>
29	<b>EXCELLENCE   2ID awarded the AGP Initiated Status to four Offices</b>	<b>Alvin Santiago</b>	<b>www.dwdd.com.ph</b>
30	<b>SERVING THE PEOPLE   52IB conducts outreach to residents of Brgy Dampalan</b>	<b>Alvin Santiago</b>	<b>www.dwdd.com.ph</b>
31-32	<b>Lorenzana: CPP leadership must prove it has control of its forces</b>	<b>Frances G. Mangosing</b>	<b>www.inquirer.net</b>

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

April 2018



Page: A12

**PANAHON TV**  
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | APRIL 5, 2018 | THURSDAY

EASTERLIES AFFECTING THE COUNTRY  
at 4:00 pm - April 4, 2018

**LAOAG CITY** 22-31°C  
**TUGUEGARAO CITY** 22-33°C  
**BAGUIO CITY** 18-22°C  
**SBMA/CLARK** 25-32°C  
**TAGAYTAY CITY** 23-29°C  
**METRO MANILA** 25-31°C  
**LEGAZPI CITY** 24-30°C  
**ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY** 26-32°C  
**TACLOBAN CITY** 24-31°C  
**PUERTO PRINCESA** 25-31°C  
**METRO CEBU** 24-30°C  
**CAGAYAN DE ORO** 24-30°C  
**ZAMBOANGA CITY** 22-33°C  
**METRO DAVAO** 24-34°C

**SUNRISE** 5:49 AM  
**SUNSET** 6:09 PM

**MOONRISE** 10:23 PM  
**MOONSET** 9:18 AM

**FULL MOON** MAR 31 8:37 PM  
**LAST QUARTER** APR 8 3:18 PM

**LOW TIDE** 6:30 PM  
**HIGH TIDE** 12:41 PM  
0.82 Meter / 0.86 Meter

**MANILA SOUTH HARBOR**

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

	APR 5	APR 6	APR 7	APR 8	APR 9
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	25-32°C	24-31°C	23-30°C	22-29°C	24-32°C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	21-31°C	20-29°C	25-30°C	24-28°C	23-30°C
<b>LAOAG</b>	21-30°C	20-29°C	25-31°C	25-31°C	24-35°C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	14-21°C	14-21°C	26-32°C	25-31°C	22-33°C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	26-32°C	25-31°C	24-32°C	23-32°C	21-32°C
<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	23-30°C	22-29°C	25-30°C	24-28°C	24-30°C
<b>TACLOBAN</b>	24-32°C	22-31°C	23-30°C	24-28°C	24-30°C
<b>LEGAZPI</b>	25-30°C	24-28°C	25-31°C	25-31°C	24-30°C
<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	23-30°C	24-30°C	24-35°C	25-35°C	22-33°C
<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25-31°C	25-31°C	26-32°C	25-31°C	21-32°C
<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	24-35°C	25-35°C	22-33°C	21-32°C	22-33°C
<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	26-32°C	25-31°C	24-32°C	23-32°C	21-32°C
<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	22-33°C	21-32°C	24-32°C	23-32°C	21-32°C
<b>METRO CEBU</b>	24-32°C	23-32°C	24-32°C	23-32°C	21-32°C

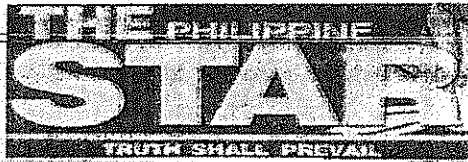
**DZRHNEWS TELEVISION**

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11 AM & 5 PM

**PILIPINAS HD**

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

05 April 2018



Page: 1

# Rody OKs 'last chance' for peace with Reds

By ALEXIS ROMERO  
and MARG JAYSON CAYABYAB

**Peace deserves one last chance.**

President Duterte has approved the revival of peace negotiations with communist rebels, and has instructed his officials to work on a ceasefire.

Peace adviser Jesus Dureza said Duterte issued the order during the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

Dureza said the President directed his officials "to work on the resumption of peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF, with clear instructions on the importance of forging a ceasefire agreement to stop mutual attacks and fighting while talks are underway."

"The President said, 'Let's give this another last chance,'" Dureza added in a text message.

This developed as the Manila regional trial court (RTC) denied the government's bid to put back in detention communist peace negotiators who were allowed bail as they face a murder trial for the alleged communist purge in the 1980s.

Manila RTC Branch 32 Judge

Turn to Page 4

2

Thelma Bunyi denied on Tuesday the motions for reconsideration filed by Solicitor General Jose Calida for the government peace panel.

Bunyi said the Supreme Court has jurisdiction over Rafael Baylosis, Vicente Ladlad and Randall Echanis.

The rebel leaders were granted bail by the Supreme Court in 2016.

The court said the termination of the peace talks "does not, by itself, vest this Court jurisdiction to cancel their bail bonds and order their recommitment."

Baylosis has been accused by the military of being acting

secretary of the New People's Army (NPA). He remains detained in Camp Crame after being caught in possession of illegal firearms and explosives in Quezon City last Jan. 31.

Meanwhile, the bid of couple Wilma and Benito Tiamzon appealing the court's order for them to be hauled back in detention was denied for lack of merit.

The Tiamzons and their co-accused Adelberto Silva are at large after the Manila court last Jan. 11 cancelled their bail bond following Duterte's order to terminate the peace talks with the rebels.

The three are under the RTC's jurisdiction since it was the court in August 2016 that allowed them temporary liberty to participate in the peace talks.

The rebel leaders' murder charges stemmed from their role in the alleged communist purge in the 1980s, following the discovery of a mass grave in Leyte in 2006.

They were also included in the list of alleged terrorists filed before Manila RTC seeking a terrorist tag on the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NPA.

Last November, Duterte scrapped the peace negotiations with the CPP-NPA, accusing them of bad faith in attacking government forces while talks were ongoing.

Duterte has described holding talks with communists as a "waste of time."

Duterte then ordered the DOJ to file a petition before the court seeking the declaration of the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization.

On Tuesday, Duterte had a change of mind and said he is now open to resuming peace talks with the rebels.

Duterte said he was even willing to shoulder the expenses of communist negotiators who will join the peace talks, a new approach that he hopes will put an end to the decades-old conflict between the government and the communist insurgents.

Duterte said he no longer wants to kill fellow Filipinos who are fighting for their

principles.

CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison said they are willing to return to the negotiating table and "to meet as soon as possible."

Sison said the peace talks should resume without any preconditions.

"The (government) and NDF (National Democratic Front) as negotiating parties must comply with agreements already signed and approved by them... In resuming the peace negotiations, these agreements must be reaffirmed and followed. Obstacles and hindrances to the peace negotiations must be done away with," Sison said. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the rebels should show good faith while talking peace with

the government.

"They have to prove that they can rein in their fighters on the ground. And that is the question I was asking even before," Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana earlier opposed the resumption of the peace talks with the rebels but later softened his stand after Duterte declared he is open to talking peace with the communist insurgents.

"There's no need for me to put it in black and white," he said, adding that should the peace talks be revived, the government must have an assurance from the CPP-NPA leadership of full control of their fighters. – Alexis Romero, Jose Rodel Clapano, Jaime Laude, Gilbert Bayoran

05 April 2018



Page: 1

# Defense chief queries Reds' sincerity in talks

By Ted Tuvera

Sincerity in the communist rebels' front remains a big question mark for Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana after the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), which is the legal arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) recently sent feelers for an unconditional resumption of peace negotiations.

President Duterte said he is open to dialog with the NDFP provided that a ceasefire is observed and

that the CPP's armed wing New People's Army (NPA) stops its extortion activities through what the rebels call revolutionary taxation.

"Do (Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Marie 'Joma') Sison and his ilk want landlessness, poverty and injustice to end? Not by a long shot. In fact the CPP-NPA does not want progress and would prefer our people to remain poor so that their *raison d'être* is ensured," Lorenzana said.

This is the reason for NPAs and their supporters to

**Turn to page 2**

4

deliberately prevent development in the countryside by extorting from businessmen, especially public works contractors, so they could continue to exploit these issues, Lorenzana added.

Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Menardo Guevarra said the new developments will not affect the Department of Justice's (DoJ) petition to declare the CPP-NPA as terrorist organizations and 600 other individuals believed to be affiliated with it.

But the peace process will have to proceed under the government's terms, Guevarra insisted.

"The President's statement that he is open to talks will have no effect (on the terror tag)," Guevarra told reporters.

"When the President said that he's open to talking with the rebels again, it will still be subject to certain preconditions," he added.

"Those who would not fork over their 3 percent (income or earnings) would suffer from burned buildings, property and equipment, like what they did to 10 heavy construction equipment in Davao City last March 31; and even death, as what happened to Capt. Lynbert Laguda Jr., the hapless commercial pilot who was doing a low-flying crop dusting job in Tagbina, Surigao recently," Lorenzana said.

He also scolded the rebel groups for refusing to acknowledge that significant progress has already been made by the government to address landlessness, poverty and injustice.

"Did the government not address (and is still addressing) landlessness through its Agrarian

Reform Program which allowed the distribution of thousands of hectares of land to landless Filipinos?" he asked.

"Is the government not building infrastructure for farm to market roads and to encourage job generating industries all over the country?," Lorenzana added.

"Did the government not establish programs to address the so-called injustice by the Courts, the Ombudsman, the Commission on Human Rights and the Sandiganbayan? Besides, the advances in communications technology have made it very difficult for abuses, if any, by the government to go unnoticed and unreported," he added.

After more than a year of a word war with communist rebels, Mr. Duterte last Tuesday said he was open to the resumption of the stalled peace negotiations.

Inaugurating a newly constructed bridge in Bongabong town, Oriental Mindoro, the Chief Executive said that he does not actually consider the CPP-NPA-NDF as enemy.

Mr. Duterte's reconsidering peace negotiations to continue came three months after officially labeling the CPP-NPA as terrorist organizations.

#### Joma says CPP ready for talks

CPP founding chairman Jose Maria "Joma" Sison, in a statement, said the NDF is ready to go back to the peace negotiating table as well.

But ahead of these prospects, a senior Palace official yesterday pointed out that it will not affect the government's position that the CPP-NPA and some 600 individuals suspected to be associated with them are terrorists.

Mr. Duterte, a self-proclaimed leftist, said that his previous pronouncements to close the door for the peace talks is "not forever."

Saying that he is ready to bankroll the peace process and declare a ceasefire, the President reiterated his demands that serve as preconditions for the resumption of talks.

"To the NPAs here, we are not enemies," Mr. Duterte said, saying that he wants to finally put an end to the nearly 50-year-old Maoist-inspired rebellion.

"I'm ready to subsidize the peace talks... I want the atrocities to stop because the money goes to waste... Let us talk instead," he added.

Responding to Mr. Duterte's offer, communist leader Sison said the possible move to continue the talks could be maximized to advance their agenda stalled when the government decided to terminate the negotiations following the series of aggressive offensives done by the NPA in various parts of the country.

"We are likewise open and ready to resume the peace negotiations and expect the (Philippine government) and NDF negotiating panels to meet as soon as possible in order to make a significant advance on the basis of the drafts prepared on October 4, 2017," Sison said in a statement.

"We hope that from here on we can make steady and significant advances on the road of realizing peace in accordance with the people's demand for full national independence, democracy, social justice, economic development and cultural progress," he added.

NDF chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili said on Monday that their group is ready to proceed with the



peace talks without preconditions.

Agcaoili emphasized that they are willing to offer a ceasefire too if vital peace agreements are finally approved by both sides.

"No preconditions. We sit down and talk on basis of the three agreements, drafts we have prepared in October, which should have been discussed in November," Agcaoili said in a television interview.

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

Among the agreements pressed by the NDF is the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-economic Reforms (CASER) which spells agrarian reform demands that have not long been acted upon by the government as far as the rebels are concerned, sowing rebel recruits in the countryside.

#### **No effect on terrorist tag**

The President also spelled his stipulations for the ceasefire to proceed.

"I am asking the communists to enter into a ceasefire but they should stop collecting revolutionary taxes from businesses and their arson activities," he said.

Mr. Duterte, who once admitted giving in to the CPP-NPA's revolutionary taxation demands during his stint as Davao City mayor, said he completely understands why the Reds have to collect such funds.

This explains, according to the President, why he wants to subsidize their needs ahead of the peace negotiations.

"So let us agree on some fundamentals. I know that you do

not have that much money because most of you are jobless in the mountains. And you have to resort to taxation. I understand that," Mr. Duterte said.

"I understand that you have to have money to proceed to where you would like to be. Then I said, I can subsidize your cost. I can take care of that," he added.

"If you want peace, you have to invest money in peace."

The President reiterated that he can work well with the communists as long as they do not insist on pushing their brand of a coalition government.

#### **Lorenzana insists on disarmament**

Instead of requesting for a truce, it would be much better for NPA rebels to lay down their arms and surrender peacefully, Lorenzana said.

"We urge the CPP-NPA and their supporters to take the peaceful path toward change so that a just and lasting peace may be achieved, thereby rendering a truce or ceasefire unnecessary," Lorenzana said.

He earlier said that the NPA's desire to resume peace talks could be summarized in three points.

"First, their fighters and mass base are surrendering in droves. As of last count, more than 4,000 have done so nationwide, with the bulk coming from Eastern Mindanao. More and more are returning to society because of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program and their desire to give their families a better future," Lorenzana said.

"Second, the President has given notice that any business found paying and helping the NPA would be closed. Rather than serve as milking cows of lazy insurgents,

these establishments can cooperate with our authorities and enjoy the protection of our security forces without having to pay anything," he added.

Third, he said, they are about to be declared by the court as a terrorist organization.

"They can no longer hide their sinister plans and actions by using their political ideology as their legal cover," he added.

Lorenzana said the NPA is not really out for genuine peace during negotiations as they are merely using the respite provided by the talks to strengthen their armed rebellion.

"Let us not delude ourselves because it is not. They will just use the peace talks with the government as their so-called democratic space to gain time and advantage to further their armed rebellion," he said.

"Once their purpose is accomplished, they would create situations to break off the talks," he said, adding that they have done this many times in the past and this is why "we have not had any progress in the last three decades," he added.

Lorenzana said he is flattered by the rebels' accusation that he is the cause of the peace talks' stoppage.

"This, I consider, is a fulfillment of my patriotic duty to stand and defend the people against their deceptive schemes and despicable acts," he said.

Last Nov. 23, Mr. Duterte signed Proclamation 360, which scrapped all peace negotiations and meetings with the rebel group that stemmed out from NPA atrocities and other acts of violence against civilians and security forces while the peace talks were ongoing.

05 April 2018



Page: B2

## Army honors Dragon Boat, cycling teams

By **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

The Philippine Army saluted their fellow soldiers yesterday by applauding the honor they gave to the country as athletes of the Army Dragon Boat and cycling teams.

Plaques of recognition were given to the outstanding athletes during the flag-raising ceremony in Fort Bonifacio on Monday.

The Philippine Army honored the Dragon Boat team for being the overall champion during the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation Regatta 2018 held last March 25 in Manila.

The Army Dragon Boat team, for years now, have given pride and honor to the Army for garnering awards in competitions both local and abroad.

Such awards include being overall champion during the 9th International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) Club Crews World Championships held in Italy in 2014, Japan International Dragon Boat in 2015, 10th IDBF Club Crew World Championships held in Australia in 2016 and the 2017 Paddle Surge in Tacloban City.

Another plaque of recognition was conferred to the Army cycling team for bagging the

2nd Overall Award in the 8th LBC Ronda Pilipinas 2018 held on March 13 to 18.

The competition covered a distance of 1,416 kilometers which started from Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, toward Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The Army cycling team manager, Eric Buhain, was also given a plaque of appreciation for his invaluable support to the team.

The Philippine Army said it recognizes the contributions of its athletes in uplifting the image of the Army as a source of national pride.

15 April 2018

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 13

# 1,204 former NPAs undergo reorientation

By MIKE D. CRISMUNDO

**BUTUAN CITY** - Change has come for 1,204 former New People's Army (NPA) members and supporters as they participated in the reorientation program conducted by the Army's 71st Infantry (Kaibigan) Battalion (71st IB) and local government unit (LGU) in Anibongan Gym, Barangay Anibongan, Maco, Compostela Valley (ComVal) province on Monday, said First Lt. Jhocell D. Asis, Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer of the 71st IB.

The

reorientation program aims to bring the government closer to NPA members and supporters in far-flung communities, and reorient them back to mainstream society, said the 71st IB CMO officer, in a statement sent to The Manila Bulletin Tuesday.

She said the reorientation program was participated in by former members of NPA's Underground Mass Organization (UGMOs), former fighters and supporters from eastern line barangays of Maco namely Barangay Sangab, New Visayas, Magangit, Concepcion, Taglawig, New Asturias, Lapu-lapu, Dumlan, Anibongan, Mi-pangi, and Libay-libay.

Participants were given a chance to voluntarily surrender and clear their name as NPA members and supporters through series of interviews and validations conducted by police and military personnel in the area, the 71st CMO officer added.

Present during the activity to speak about the various programs and services of the government and call for mass surrender were Col. Erwin Bernard L. Neri, commanding officer of the Army's 1001st Infantry Brigade;

Maco town Vice Mayor Voltaire Carlos R. Rimando; ComVal Province Police Provincial Office Director Sr. Supt. Marvin Manuel P. Pepino; Lt. Col. Esteveyn E. Ducusin, commanding officer of 71st IB; Maco town chief of police Ins. Gomersendo L. Diwata II; and Jonathan J. Leybag, Maco Municipal Local Government Operation Officer (MLGOO).

The officials explained the need to surrender and the sincerity of the government under President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on its advocacy against former insurgents.

After the different messages delivered by the speakers, the participants were given a chance to ask questions regarding their doubts and fears to surrender and these were answered accordingly by the concerned government official.

The activity culminated with the commitment of the participants to denounce their allegiance to the NPA terrorists. Further, Lt. Col. Ducusin thanked as well as congratulated the participants for actively engaging in the said call for mass surrender and reorientation program.

05 April 2018

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 3

# Businesswoman kidnapped in Zamboanga Sibugay

By NONGYE LACSON

**Z**AMBOANGA CITY – A 38-year-old owner of a marine products buying station was kidnapped by seven armed men posing as policemen in Malangas town in Zamboanga Sibugay province Tuesday, according to the police.

Philippine National Police (PNP) Director for Zamboanga peninsula (PRO-9) Chief Supt Billy Beltran identified the victim as Laarni Bandi, 38, married and a resident of Talusan, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Beltran said Bandi was forcibly abducted by seven armed men about 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, while she was at Purok Maabiabihon, Poblacion, Malangas, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Witnesses said Bandi was taken by the men, who were armed with M16 Armalite and M14 rifles, and a shotgun.

They added that five of the suspects were wearing PNP uniforms, while another was in a PNP Patrol shirt.

Beltran said Bandi was at the boarding house owned by Mrs. Ad-

elaida Bayno located at Purok Maabiabihon, Poblacion, Malangas when the armed men arrived and forcibly abducted her.

The suspects took Bandi to a waiting yellow motorized pump boat and sped towards Muyong Island, Malangas, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Beltran said elements of Sibugay Mobile Force Company, 44th Infantry Battalion 9, Phil Army, Maritime, Coast Guard, Navy and Regional Mobile Force Company 9, are now conducting pursuit operations to rescue the businesswoman.

05 April 2018



Page: 3

# Trillanes goes against teachings of PMA—Army General

By Mario Mallari

An Army general, who was among the signatories of a published statement calling for the ouster of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV as member of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc. (PMAAAI), has defended their group's move citing the lawmaker's acts and behavior go against the teachings of PMA.

Maj. Gen. Noel Clement, commander of the Army's 10th Infantry Division (1D), confirmed he signed a document disseminated by the Eagle Fraternal Chapter, composed of PMAers who served

in Davao area.

While he did not categorically confirm the text published in the media on Tuesday, Clement admitted the document he signed was calling for Trillanes' expulsion from PMAAAI.

"Technically, it was like that but I am not sure if the term used was the text used (in the publication)," said Clement.

Asked to elaborate on his stance against Trillanes, Clement said "very simple, his actions are already against what was taught to us in the PMA.

"It's basically the reason we have to act. His being a senator,

and at the same time what he was taught at the PMA that is basically the reason we called for his removal from the association," Clement explained.

Trillanes has been a very vocal critic of President Duterte, who hails from Davao City.

But Clement was quick in distancing the President from their group's stance against Trillanes.

"That is among PMA graduates only," stressed Clement, who is a native of Davao.

According to Clement, not all PMAers from Davao areas are automatic members of Eagle Fraternal Chapter.

"It's not something you would walk in or volunteer, you have to be assigned here to be qualified as a member," said Clement.

Clement is a member of the PMA Class of 1985 while Trillanes belonged to the PMA Class of 1995, most members of whom compose the mutinous Magdalo Group.

Apart from Clement, other known PMAers who called for Trillanes' ouster was Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald Dela Rosa, another native of Davao an a staunch supporter of Duterte.

Dela Rosa belonged to PMA Class of 1986.

15 April 2018

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

## Revive talks with communist rebels, Duterte orders gov't peace panel

By GENALYN D. KABILING and YAS D. OCAMPO

President Duterte has directed the government peace panel to revive peace talks with the local communist rebel group, saying he wanted to

give the peace process "another last chance."

The President, however, pressed on the rebels to forge a ceasefire ►10

agreement with the government when the peace negotiations resume, according to Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza.

"President Duterte directed during the Cabinet meeting today (Wednesday) to work on the resumption of peace talks with the CPP/NPA/NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front) with clear instructions on the importance of forging a ceasefire agreement to stop mutual attacks and fighting while talks are underway," Dureza said in a statement.

"The President said: 'Let's give this another last chance.' He also committed to provide support, if necessary, in replacement of the 'revolutionary tax' that he asked be stopped," he added.

The President had earlier said he was ready to resume the peace talks with the communists, and "subsidize" the peace process. Duterte, however, asked the communists to declare a truce with the government and stop their arson attacks to facilitate an environment conducive for the peace

talks.

"So ito, first time ko ito nagsalita since (Joma) Sison is always mentioning about the peace process. I am ready. First thing is we should stop killing each other. Then if we can have peace; and if you do not have the money, government will subsidize it," he said during his visit to Oriental Mindoro last Tuesday.

Duterte said he prefers to spend government funds on projects such as schools, hospital, bridges and instead of waging war on rebels. "Let us talk about peace and stop killing," he added.

President Duterte's order comes on the same day that Malacañang released Administrative Order (AO) No. 10, which integrated all the rebel-returnee programs such as the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) and Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (Pamana).

AO10 was signed by President Duterte on April 3, 2018.

Under the centralization of the programs, government assistance would converge into a program called Task Force Balik Loob, through agencies

such as the Department of National Defense (DND), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), OPAPP Office of the President, and the National Housing Authority.

The DND representative would chair the task force.

Despite the peace initiative, Malacañang said the government is not inclined to withdraw its court petition seeking to declare the communist rebels as terrorists.

Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Menardo Guevarra said the President's peace initiative has "no effect" on the government's move to declare several persons as terrorists.

"For as long as the legal requirements under the Human Security Act are met, then the government will pursue its proscription action against these people regardless of the fact na coincidentally, they are supposed to be 'consultants' sa peace process," he said during a Palace press briefing.

"For now, that statement by the President, which is premised on certain preconditions, will not affect in anyway the pending petition for the proscription of certain individuals as terrorists or violators of the Human Security Act,"

he added.

The government petition seeking to declare the CPP and NPA as terrorist organizations is pending before a Manila court. Over 600 individuals, including a United Nations special rapporteur have reportedly been included in the government list of alleged terrorists.

During a visit to Oriental Mindoro Tuesday, the President expressed readiness to resume peace talks and asked the rebels to declare a ceasefire with the government.

#### Prove control

But before declaring a ceasefire, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said communist leaders should prove first that they have control over their people on the ground. The President ended the peace talks when NPA atrocities continued on the ground leading to a number of deaths on the government side despite the bilateral ceasefire.

"I call that disabling environment, not anymore enabling. Parang sinasabutahe nila yung kung meron mang balak makipag-usap," Lorenzana said.

"What we want is bilateral (cease-fire) so that there will be mechanism to check who is violating what. We don't

have any problem in controlling our troops, even the police because we have this chain of command," he said.

Lorenzana said they consider the NPA as their No. 1 security threat because they have been the cause of some underdevelopment in the countryside where they operate.

#### Anathema to peace

Lorenzana expressed belief that the Reds are eager to go back to the peace table because of three reasons.

"First, their fighters and mass base are surrendering in droves. More and more are returning to society because of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program and their desire to give their families a better future," Lorenzana said.

"Second, the President has given notice that any business found paying and helping the NPA would be closed," he added.

Third, he said, they are about to be declared by the court as a terrorist organization.

"They can no longer hide their sinister plans and actions by using their political ideology as their legal cover," he added. (With Francis T. Wakefield)

05 April 2018

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

Page: A7

# Du30: Give peace talks last chance

By Leila B. Salaverria,  
Delfin T. Mallari  
and Jaymee T. Gamil  
@Team Inquirer

President Duterte directed the Cabinet on Wednesday to work on resuming peace talks with communist rebels on condition that a ceasefire agreement was reached first.

"Let's give this another last chance," said Mr. Duterte during the Cabinet meeting.

He also said he was ready to provide financial support to rebels to replace the so-called revolutionary tax that New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas collect from businesses operating in areas where rebels were active.

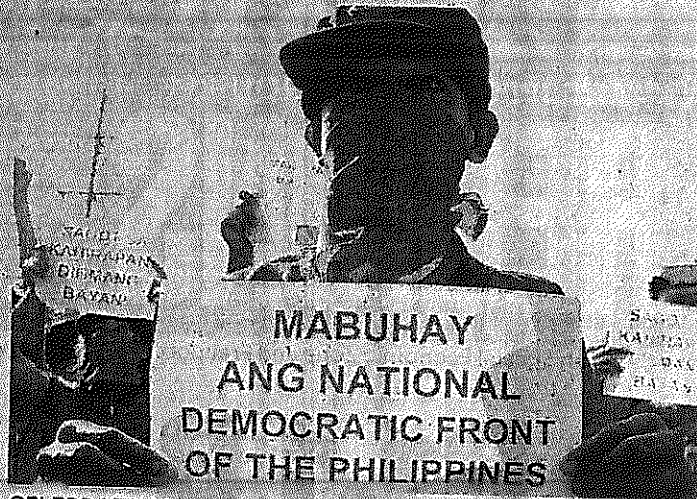
Earlier, however, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Menardo Guevarra said the government would not withdraw the petition that it had filed in court to declare the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), NPA and 600 leftists as terrorists.

## Duterte terms

Guevarra said rebels had to first meet the President's conditions, among them a halt to attacks and collection of so-called revolutionary taxes.

"For now, that statement by the President, which is premised on certain preconditions, will not affect in any way the pending petition for the proscription of certain individuals as terrorists or violators of the Human Security Act," Guevarra said in a briefing.

In a speech on Tuesday at Bongabong town, Oriental Mindoro province, a known NPA stronghold, Mr. Duterte said the government was will-



**CELEBRATING NPA ANNIVERSARY** Masked supporters of communist rebels gather on Mendiola Bridge in Manila on March 28, the eve of the 49th anniversary of the New People's Army. —RICHARD A. REYES

ing to subsidize the costs of resuming negotiations with communist rebels.

"We are not enemies," the President said.

"So if we can have a middle ground I am not closing the door to everything, because there is no forever, even between couples," he added.

Ending the nearly half-century insurgency, that had killed more than 40,000 people, was among Mr. Duterte's campaign promises.

## Negotiable

Mr. Duterte canceled the talks last year following NPA attacks on unarmed soldiers.

He later issued an order classifying the CPP-NPA as terrorist organizations.

"We are likewise open and ready to resume the peace negotiations," Jose Maria Sison, who has been on self-exile in the Netherlands for at least three decades, said in response.

Mr. Duterte's conditions, he

added, could be discussed on the negotiating table.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana backed the President's statement, but urged rebels to "show a little sincerity" by stopping their "depredations" on the ground and announcing a ceasefire.

## Not sincere

Previous ceasefires didn't work because of rebel attacks on troops and equipment, abduction of soldiers and civilians and collection of revolutionary taxes, he said.

"They never stopped with their depredations," said Lorenzana. "So as far as we are concerned, they were not sincere to pursue peace," he told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

He said if there would be no "sincere peace talks," the government would "pursue the tag that they are terrorists." —WITH

REPORTS FROM CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND REUTERS INQ

ocal: 5285, 5295



April 2018



Page: 12

# 'BBL ready for signing into law by June'

By MARVIN SY

The proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) will be ready for signing into law when Congress adjourns *sine die* on June 1, Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said yesterday.

Sotto and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III were set to meet with President Duterte and members of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) last night to discuss the BBL.

Sotto said the timetable for the approval of the BBL is among those expected to be taken up.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, chairman of the Senate subcommittee on local government for the BBL, said the Senate should approve the measure on May 23.

If both houses approve the proposed BBL before June 1, Sotto said the President would have until July 22 to go over the bill so he could report it out

during his State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 23.

"Hopefully (it will be signed before the SONA). It would be ideal. It will be a good development even for the peace process," Sotto said.

While the President could certify the BBL as an urgent measure, Sotto said it would not affect the debates at the Senate. He said deliberations on the measure are expected to be lengthy due to various concerns raised by several senators.

Sotto said certifying a bill as urgent would remove only the three-day rule before it could

be approved on third reading after second reading.

In a letter to Pimentel on Monday, Presidential Legislative Liaison Office Secretary Adelino Sitoy conveyed the President's directive for him to urge Congress to hasten the passage of the Bangsamoro bill.

On the same day, Duterte in a speech said he is "racing against time" to pass the BBL.

"I gave my solemn promise and... I am working hard to meet the deadline," Duterte assured members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, BTC and government negotiating panel.

14

April 2018

# The Manila Times

Page: 17

## NPA denies killing Negros city councilor

**BACOLOD CITY:** The Negros-based Leonardo Panaligan Command of the New People's Army (LPC-NPA) denied that they are behind the killing of Cebu City Councilor Edison dela Rita on Monday.

In a statement sent to local media here late Tuesday night, the LPC-NPA said that after their ambush of Cebu City police on July 21, 2017, police and Philippine Army forces in the area reportedly suspected that Dela Rita was in contact with the rebel forces who staged the ambush.

In that ambush, Police Chief Supt. Arnel Arpon and five policemen were killed and three were wounded.

In the statement, the LPC-NPA said this suspicion led to close surveillance on the activities of Dela

Rita and his family by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

The rebels confirmed that Dela Rita was a target of the NPA because of his activities against the people and the revolutionary movement, among them his graft and corrupt practices while he was chairman of the city council's appropriations committee.

They alleged that Dela Rita was involved in overpricing government supplies while taking in the delivery of social services to the people.

The statement said that because of these acts, the revolutionary court sentenced Dela Rita to death.

The rebels, however, claimed that Dela Rita begged for mercy and asked that he be subjected to due process,

reportedly prompting them to review the alleged cases against him.

The statement said the revolutionary court saw that Dela Rita was sincere in transforming himself.

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

He died instantly from bullet wounds in the head.

Witnesses told investigators that the suspects also had a back-up rider also on a motorcycle.

Recovered from the scene were slugs from a .45 caliber firearm—nine of them empty, four live and four deformed.

Police are also looking into the

possibility that the ambush on Dela Rita is related to the ambush of his bodyguard, Ramon Perez, who was also gunned down last week.

On July 21 last year, Dela Rita and another bodyguard survived an ambush by around 15 NPA rebels in Sitio Mandi-e, Barangay Magsaysay, Guihulngan.

Policemen, who rushed to the area in response to Dela Rita's call for help, were ambushed a few hours later by about 50 NPA rebels.

Killed were then Guihulngan City police chief Police Supt. Arnel Arpon, and his men namely Senior Police Officer 2 Mecasio Tabilon, SPO2 Chavic Agosto, SPO1 Jeseal Ancheta, Police Officer 2 Alfredo Duanque and PO2 Alvin Paul Bulandres. **EUGENE Y. ADIONG**

05 April 2018

# The Manila Times

Page:  A1

## Duterte, senators discuss BBL

SENATE leaders met with President Rodrigo Duterte and members of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission to discuss the timetable for the passage of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) on Wednesday.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto 3rd said he and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel 3rd were invited to the Palace to talk about the BBL, which is pending on second reading approval in the Senate.

> BBL A8

The President, according to Secretary Adelino Sitoy, head of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, wanted the proposed Bangsamoro law signed before Congress adjourns *sine die* in June.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri on Tuesday said he was eyeing the passage of the BBL by May 23 to allow the bicameral

conference committee to deliberate and ratify it before the break.

Zubiri, head of the Senate subcommittee on the BBL, said he would end the period of interpellations by May 21 and begin the period of amendments on May 22.

"So, I appeal to my colleagues on the need to focus on the BBL as peace is needed in our part of the country. The BBL is the final push that is needed for that elusive peace," he said.

Sotto expressed no objection on the proposed timeline of Zubiri, but

said the Senate would need more time during the period of amendments.

As for the target of Malacañang to sign the BBL into law by June, Sotto said it was possible.

"I am also hoping. It's a possibility. Perhaps the meeting today will be centering on that," Sotto told reporters.

Duterte on Monday said he was "racing against time" to have the proposed BBL passed in Congress during his administration.

In a speech during an event for land reform beneficiaries in Sultan

Kudarat, Duterte said the passage of the proposed measure "has to be this year as it is what was agreed upon."

"I am racing against time. The MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) is in a hurry and has placed on us the burden of a timeline. And I have agreed to that period. I gave my solemn promise and I assure you I am working hard to meet the deadline," he said.

He said he would seek a meeting with Moro National Liberation Front (MILF) founding chairman

Nur Misuari, who is against the proposed BBL and wants the government to honor the 1996 final peace agreement that led to the creation of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Duterte met with leaders of the MILF members of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission and the government peace negotiating panel on March 27 in Davao City, a day after he called for a dialogue with Moro leaders over the BBL.

During the meeting, Presiden-

tial Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza said Duterte vowed to relay to the Senate and House of Representatives his desire for the passage of the BBL that is compliant with the Comprehensive Agreement of the Bangsamoro and "as close as possible" to the new draft law submitted by the BTC.

He said the President might turn to executive action should Congress fail to pass the proposed BBL.

**JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA AND  
CATHERINE S. VALENTE**

April 2018

# The Manila Times

Page: A1

## Reds given 'last chance' at peace

SAYING he will give it "another last chance," President Rodrigo Duterte ordered his officials to work on the resumption of peace talks with the communist rebels on Wednesday.

Duterte issued the directive during the regular Cabinet meeting in Malacañang. Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza said in a statement released to the media later that day.

President Duterte directed during the Cabinet meeting today to work on the resumption of peace talks with the CPP/NPA/NDF with clear instructions on the importance of

► 'Last chance' A8

forging a ceasefire agreement to stop mutual attacks and fighting while talks are underway. Dureza said, referring to the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front.

"The President said: 'Let's give this another last chance. He also committed to provide support, if necessary, in replacement of the 'revolutionary tax' that he asked be stopped," he added.

Exiled CPP founder and NDF chief political consultant Jose Maria "Joma" Sison on Wednesday welcomed the openness of President Rodrigo Duterte to resume peace talks, saying it should be done "as soon as possible."

"We in the National Democratic Front

of the Philippines welcome the recent statement of President Rodrigo Duterte in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro, expressing openness and readiness to resume the CPP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) and NDF peace negotiations," Sison said in a statement.

"We are likewise open and ready to resume the peace negotiations and expect the GRP and NDF negotiating panels to meet as soon as possible in order to make a significant advance on the basis of the drafts prepared on October 4, 2017," he added, referring to the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (Caser), which had been described as the "heart and soul" of the peace talks.

### 'Stop revolutionary tax'

In his speech during the inauguration of Lisap Bridge in Bongabong, Oriental

Mindoro on Tuesday, Duterte said he would resume talks with the CPP as long as its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA), stops its series of attacks and collection of "revolutionary taxes."

"I'd like to address myself first to the NPAs. *Alam mo hindi tayo magkalaban. Gusto ko mang hurnaban e ang puso ko sinasabi niya ang kapwa mo Pilipino pinapatay mo* (You know, we're not enemies. Even though I want to fight you, my heart says I could not kill my fellow Filipinos)... Let's talk about peace and stop killing," Duterte said.

"*Pwede tayong mag-usap. Hintuan ninyo ang revolutionary government, huwag na kayong mag-sunog in the name of taxation kasi kakaawa yung mga negosyante* (We can talk. Stop your revolutionary government. Do not torch properties in the name of taxation because the businessmen suffer)," he added.

The President apparently changed his

mind even after he had repeatedly said in his previous impromptu speeches that there would be no more peace talks between the government and the communists because of the attacks by Red fighters.

### 'Address roots of conflict'

Sison, who is in exile in Utrecht, The Netherlands, also said the NDF was "sincere" in forging comprehensive agreements on social, economic and political reforms.

"[This is] to address the roots of armed conflict and lay the basis of a just and lasting peace as well as corollary agreements to amnesty and release all political prisoners and to have coordinated unilateral ceasefires to start the enjoyment of peace," Sison said.

"We hope that from here on, we can make steady and significant advances on the road of realizing peace in ac-

cordance with the people's demand for full national independence, democracy, social justice, economic development and cultural progress," he said.

Duterte scrapped the negotiations in November last year, citing continued attacks by the rebels on government troops and civilians despite ongoing negotiations.

A month later, the President issued a proclamation classifying the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization.

### No effect on terror designation

Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Menardo Guevarra said the government petition asking the court to declare CPP-NPA as a terrorist group would not be affected by Duterte's latest pronouncement.

"For now, that statement by the President, which is premised on certain

preconditions will not affect in any way the pending petition for the proscription of certain individuals as terrorists or violators of the Human Security Act," Guevarra told reporters during a news conference on Wednesday.

As to NDF consultants who were temporarily released from detention to participate in the peace talks, Guevarra said, "For as long as the legal requirements under the Human Security Act are met, then the government will pursue its proscription action against these people, regardless of the fact that coincidentally, they are supposed to be 'consultants' in the peace process."

Asked what prompted Duterte to change his mind about the resumption of talks with the communist rebels, Guevarra said the President "always keeps an open mind regarding this matter."

**DEMPSEY REYES  
AND CATHERINE S. VALENTE**

April 2018

The Manila Times

Page: A3

# Abu terrorist not yet off the hook – DND

BY DEMPSEY REYES

**D**ESPITE his surrender to the military, Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Nhurhassan Jamiri still needs to face the law for “capital offenses,” according to the Department of National Defense (DND).

DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Wednesday said justice should be served those who

were victimized by the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) that is based in Basilan province in

southern Mindanao.

Lorenzana pointed out that all members of the ASG without exception are accountable for kidnapping and other crimes.

“We will not [let them off the hook]. We still must look at the capital offenses they had committed. We cannot let them escape [from those offenses]. We have to serve justice to those who were killed, those they kid-

napped, those they beheaded. We cannot just let them walk freely with those offenses,” he said in a chance interview.

Lorenzana said operations by the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Jolo in Sulu province also in Mindanao had forced Jamiri to escape to Malaysia, where he was recently caught.

“He was being chased there [Malaysia]. They [Philippine

military authorities] thought that he was killed there but he was not and maybe, [he] found out that the President [Rodrigo Duterte] was willing to offer some benefits to [him] if [he returns] to the fold of the law,” he told reporters.

Last week, Jamiri, along with his 13 of his followers, surrendered to Joint Task Force Basilan and turned over 10 high-powered firearms, 40

assorted ammunition magazines and 651 pieces of live ammunition.

Prior to the surrender, President Duterte went to Sulu to meet the Abu Sayyaf rebels who had given up fighting and even committed benefits such as housing.

The same commitment was made too to communist New People’s Army (NPA) rebels who had also turned themselves in to the military.

05 April 2018

# BusinessMirror

Abovator h... of today's business

Page. A3

## DND chief demands Reds' surrender, rules out truce

**I**NSTEAD of requesting for a truce, it would be much better for New Peoples Army (NPA) rebels to lay down their arms and surrender peacefully, Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana said on Tuesday.

"We urge the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA] and their supporters to take the peaceful path toward change so that a just and lasting peace may be achieved, thereby rendering a truce or ceasefire unnecessary," Lorenzana said, as the possibility of resuming peace negotiations with the CPP-NPA surfaced anew.

He earlier said that the NPA's desire to resume peace talks could be summarized in three points.

"First, their fighters and mass base are surrendering in droves. As of last count, more than 4,000 have done so nationwide, with the bulk coming from Eastern Mindanao. More and more are returning to society because of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program and their desire to give their families a better future," the defense chief said.

"Second, the President has given notice that any business found paying and helping the NPA would be closed. Rather than serve as milking cows of lazy insurgents, these establishments can cooperate with our authorities and enjoy the protection of our security forces without having to pay anything," he added.

Third, he said, they are about to

be declared by the court as a terrorist organization.

"They can no longer hide their sinister plans and actions by using their political ideology as their legal cover," he added.

Lorenzana said the NPA is not really out for genuine peace during negotiations, as they are merely using the respite provided by the talks to strengthen their armed rebellion.

"Let us not delude ourselves, because it is not. They will just use the peace talks with the government as their so-called democratic space to gain time and advantage to further their armed rebellion. Once their purpose is accomplished, they would create situations to break off the talks," he said, adding that they have done this many times in the past, and this is why "we have not had any progress in the last three decades."

Lorenzana said he is flattered by the rebels' accusation that he is the cause of the peace talks' stoppage.

"This, I consider, is a fulfillment of my patriotic duty to stand and defend the people against their deceptive schemes and despicable acts," he said.

On November 23 last year, President Duterte signed Proclamation 360, which scrapped all peace negotiations and meetings with the rebel group that stemmed out from NPA atrocities and other acts of violence against civilians and security forces while the peace talks were ongoing. *PMA*

dw

April 2018

# INQUIRER

Page: 11

## How to put closure to Marawi

### COMMENTARY

ALITO L. MALINAO

A news item recently appeared in some newspapers on the proposed resolution at the House of Representatives to open an inquiry into the "lack of intelligence" that led to the Marawi siege on May 23, 2017.

We have not heard whether House Resolution No. 1760, filed by Lanao del Norte Representatives Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo and Abdullah Dimaporo and Lanao del Sur Rep. Maanyag Papandayan Jr. was given due course by the chamber. But as early as July 2017 we were already calling for an in-depth probe into the total failure of intelligence that resulted in the seizure of Marawi City by local jihadists pledging allegiance to the now defanged Islamic State.

That there was a failure of intelligence in Marawi is no longer an issue. Even President Duterte admitted to it in July last year. After his second State of the Nation Address, he told reporters that the government erred in its assessment of the situation, particularly in failing to detect that the Maute group had stockpiled weapons and built tunnels in the city.

If there will be closure to Marawi, the government should investigate how, despite ample resources for intelligence, the police and military authorities were completely blindsided by the terrorists. Last year, the total intelligence fund for the government was P3.49 billion.

The objective of this proposed probe is not so much to heap opprobrium on or pinpoint responsibility among concerned agencies as to learn lessons from mistakes. As Winston

Churchill has said, "All men make mistakes, but only wise men learn from their mistakes."

Also, the intent is not to denigrate the memory or lessen the heroism of those who died in the war, but to give justice to their sacrifice so that there will be no more similar killings that could have been avoided in the first place.

The proposed probe, however, should not be conducted by the House or the Senate lest it be turned into another circus or an opportunity for grandstanding by politicians planning to run for office in next year's midterm elections.

The Duterte administration should establish an independent commission to look into the circumstances and series of events or developments that culminated in the well-planned and highly focused attack in Marawi that upended all that the military as protector of the Filipino people has stood for.

Such a commission will not be without precedent. There was the Agrava Commission that looked into the 1983 assassination of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. There was the Davide Commission and, later, the Feliciano Commission that looked into the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, and the Melo Commission that examined the 2006 political killings.

The proposed commission should be

composed of retired generals and retired Supreme Court justices. And it should function only as a fact-finding body. It should not be aimed at building a case of criminal negligence against anyone or putting blame on any unit of the military and police for what happened; it should deal only with the flaws and inadequacies in intelligence agencies in their gathering and monitoring operations.

The overriding aim of the proposed commission should be to plug loopholes in operations and institute needed reforms, such as more coordination, joint undertakings and intense training to fight new challenges to intelligence services.

It is proposed that among those to be summoned are the top officials of the Armed Forces, Philippine National Police, Intelligence Service of the AFP, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, National Counter-Terrorism Action Group, and the different intelligence branches of the Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. The officials in terror-plagued areas in Mindanao and experts in counterintelligence, both foreign and local, should also be summoned.

There should be a fixed timetable of six months for its work, after which its findings will be submitted for proper evaluation or action by Malacañang and/or Congress.

Alito L. Malinao is a former diplomatic reporter and news editor of the Manila Standard. He teaches journalism at Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and is the author of the book "Journalism for Filipinos."



05 April 2018

# The Manila Times

Page:   A1  

## When 'no' to killings could mean more deaths

**BY RICARDO SALUDO**  
Columnist

**S**HOULD President Rodrigo Duterte stop offensives against leftist rebels and talk peace?

Should the couple who killed

domestic helper Joanna Demafelis be executed?

Should the police aim for zero-casualty anti-drug raids?

For rights advocates and religious devotees, the answers to these questions are clear as the

➤SaludoA5

Fifth Commandment: Thou shalt not kill.

So, peace talks should resume between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines, its armed force New People's Army, and the CPP-NPA's activist wing, the National Democratic Front.

Lebanese Nader Essam Assaf and Syrian wife Mona Hassoun, convicted of murdering Demafelis and concealing her corpse in a freezer, must go to prison, not the gallows.

And no one should die in police raids, even those who brandish or fire guns, who should be wounded, not killed, if possible.

The challenge for leaders and governments deciding such situations, as well as moralists pondering right and wrong, is see clearly realities on the ground, not just the lofty ideals and principles. With that in mind, let's take these issues apart.

### Peace talks or all-out war?

The Communist Party of the Philippines, its armed force, the NPA, and its aboveground political wing, the NDF, have been pushing for talks amid



REPUBLIC SERVICE

RICARDO SALUDO

mounting losses, as NPA fighters die in escalating battles or join thousands who have given up.

CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison claims that surrender reports by the Armed Forces of the Philippines are false, but the NDF's repeated calls for talks show that the communist struggle isn't going well.

With the Reds crumbling and crying for truce and talks, should President Duterte send Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello 3rd, chief negotiator with the CPP-NPA, back to Oslo for negotiations, as new Norwegian mediator Idun Tvedt urged the President last week?

Well, assuming talks resume, here's what will happen on the ground: Rebels stop surrendering, and the NPA gets a respite to regroup, rearm, re-provision, and ready its ranks for more fighting. And CPP founding chairman Sison and other Holland-based elders

reverse the waning of their clout.

For a time, talks seemed to be going somewhere, but going by past actions, once insurgents have regained ample strength, there will be sporadic attacks again, including shootings of surrendered fighters. NDF negotiators will deny ceasefire violations, accuse the Armed Forces of the Philippines instead, and again admit they have no full control of rebels in the field.

This happened in the past, even if the Duterte administration is the most accommodating to the communists, even giving four NDF-linked stalwarts the agrarian reform, social welfare, health, and anti-poverty Cabinet portfolios.

Now, are peace talks really going to stop the carnage between the government and the communists? Or should the current military-police offensive continue, to get hundreds more NPAs to surrender and finally extinguish Southeast Asia's longest red rebellion?

### Justice for Joanna

Turning to the quest for justice for Joanna Demafelis, her eldest brother Jojet said Tuesday that the

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no: (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

family would reject any "blood money" offered for the lives of her killers, assuming Lebanon sends them to Kuwait to face sentencing after a trial in absentia convicted them of murdering the 29-year-old domestic helper.

The family's decision to reject money and demand justice by execution would be understandable. But would it have the best outcome, even one that Joanna would want to see, looking on from the afterlife?

Again, let's get real. If her killers are executed, it would show other employers of overseas Filipino workers that if they murder OFWs, they can't buy their way out of capital punishment. Not a bad outcome, one might suppose.

On the other hand, if the Demailises refuse blood money and demand real blood, OFWs on death row in the Middle East may face the same hard justice. There are more than 40 in Saudi Arabia alone, as of last September. If any of them offer blood money to families they wronged, they may be refused and sent to their deaths. What would Filipinos say then?

The other issue is the established truism that what deters

crime is not capital punishment, but solid law enforcement: the certainty of getting caught, convicted and incarcerated.

Plus, measures to prevent all manner of abuse against foreign workers, embassy monitoring and instant assistance of OFWs in trouble would protect them from harm. Thus, President Duterte's push for a stringent agreement on the treatment of Filipinos in Kuwait may do more to avoid deaths of OFWs than death for Joanna's murderers.

Of course, we could have both — a Kuwait deal on Filipino workers, and extradition and execution for the couple who killed one. But let's be clear what outcomes to expect.

### Death or due process

On the anti-drug war, most Filipinos seem to support President Duterte's policy of using deadly force against suspects and syndicates. The reason is simple: the bloody campaign has greatly reduced crime and narcotics, by 20 to 30 percent under his watch.

That's a 360-degree reversal from

the past regime, when crime tripled from 324,083 incidents in 2010 to more than 1 million a year in 2013 and 2014. Murders and rapes both neared 10,000 a year, physical injury numbered well above 200,000, and robberies and theft totaled about a quarter of a million.

With that lawlessness explosion came the tripling of smuggling from \$7.9 billion in 2009 to \$26.6 billion in 2014, based on International Monetary Fund data. As then-President Benigno Aquino 3rd admitted in his 2013 SONA, guns and drugs gushed in with other contraband.

Those who advocate due process must then answer the question: Can it stop syndicates with narco-politicians and crooked cops and judges in their pockets?

And among the loudest voices in the country lambasting the President over killings are leading figures of the Aquino era, when crime and drugs escalated. Plus NDF-linked activists who support, not decry, NPA attacks. If these Yellows and Reds get back in power, will blood stop flowing — or gush even more?

Plainly, protecting life isn't as simple as "Thou shalt not kill."

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no: (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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

# ONLINE NEWS

## 05 APRIL 2018

www.pna.gov.ph

### AFP marks significant gains vs Abu Sayyaf

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), has achieved significant accomplishments in its campaign against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Westmincom chief, on Tuesday announced that troops, through intensified operations, have neutralized 84 ASG members as of April 1, this year.

Galvez said in a press conference that of the total neutralized bandits, 60 ASG members have surrendered, 13 were arrested, and 11 others were killed in the military offensives.

Galvez said the 11 ASG members were killed in eight firefights initiated by the troops from January 1 until April 1, this year.

He said among the 60 ASG members who surrendered included Basilan-based ASG leader Nurhassan Jamiri and his 13 followers.

Jamiri's group surrendered on March 28 to government troops in Barangay Seronggon in Muhammad Adjul in Basilan province.

They turned over 10 high-power firearms consisting of seven M-16 Armalite rifles, an M4 Carbine rifle, an M653 "Baby Armalite" rifle, and an M-14 rifle.

"There were no demands, but there were concessions," Galvez said citing everything is being evaluated and studied in accordance with the law.

Galvez said Jamiri admitted joining the ASG at the height of the Lamitan siege in June of 2001.

[www.retiredanalyts.blogspot.com](http://www.retiredanalyts.blogspot.com)

## **Surigao clashes yield rifle, IED**

From the Mindanao Times (Apr-4): **Surigao clashes yield rifle, IED**

A SERIES of clashes between soldiers of the 36th Infantry Battalion and New People's Army rebels in San Miguel, Surigao del Sur on Monday resulted in the recovery of high-powered rifle and an improvised explosive device in the encounter site.

Capt. Francisco Garello Jr., the civil-military operations officer of the 36th IB, told TIMES yesterday that the planned attempt of the armed group to attack the Bolhoon patrol base was foiled when the soldiers fired at the rebels.

Garello said the troops encountered more or less 30 NPA members in separate encounters in Barangay Bolhoon and Barangay San Roque of the same town at around 12:05 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. of April 3.

Troops of Bravo Company of 36th IB were sent to verify the report coming from local folk that armed men were surrounding the Bolhoon patrol base. Meanwhile, another group has set up a blocking force to thwart reinforcement.

Around past midnight, troopers clashed with more or less 15 NPAs for about 10 minutes as they cleared the perimeter of the patrol base.

On the other hand, Garello said soldiers encountered with the 10 rebels who served as a block force in Barangay San Roque of same town.

He said the enemy withdrew and scampered to different directions. Government forces recovered one AK47 rifle and one IED, along with the 150-meter wire.

Lt. Col. Xerxes A. Trinidad, the commanding officer of the 36th Infantry Battalion, credited the cooperation of the community in thwarting the attack. He said it proved that the people are fed up with the lies of the NPA.

"Once again, we are calling on the remaining (NPA) members to lay down their arms and surrender," he said. "There's no other option but to surrender or suffer the tragic consequences."

Troops are still conducting pursuit operations.

<http://mindanaotimes.net/surigao-clashes-yield-rifle-ied/>

[www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com](http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com)

## **NPA rebels torch another backhoe in Talaingod town**

From the Mindanao Times (Apr 4): **NPA rebels torch another backhoe in Talaingod town**

**ANOTHER backhoe was torched by alleged seven armed men in Sitio Banualay, Barangay Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao del Norte around 10 a.m. on April 3.**

**Chief. Insp. Milgrace Driz, the spokesperson of Police Regional Office (PRO) XI, said around 10:55 a.m. of Tuesday, Florante Ferraren, project engineer of Ulticon Builders Incorporated (UBI), appeared at the police station and reported that their excavator was burned by armed men who introduced themselves as members of the New People's Army.**

Sr. Insp. Rogaciano Gara, the officer-in-charge of the Talaingod Police Station, directed his personnel to verify the report.

**They interviewed Leo Bustamante, foreman of the construction site, who said that they were approached by seven men carrying high-powered rifles who reportedly told them, "Don't be afraid. We asked for a little yet they refused," one of the armed men said, referring to the company.**

**The armed men then proceeded to torch one excavator before leaving the area.**

The Talaingod police are still conducting further investigation to identify and arrest the perpetrators of the incident.

**On Black Saturday, reported NPA members burned 10 heavy equipment in the three hinterland barangays of Davao City.**

Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio condemned the attacks, which she described as "downright cowardly."

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, she said.

"The road projects could make the delivery of other basic services to the people faster — including health, education, agricultural development and livelihood," the mayor said. "The said projects could change the lives of the people for the better."

"The fresh atrocities reveal that the terrorist group only truly intends for people to continue living in a condition of poverty, which they could use as a capital in their propaganda against the government and to justify their presence in the communities where their influence and significance are waning," the mayor said.

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza also condemned "in the strongest way the senseless destruction of heavy equipment."

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

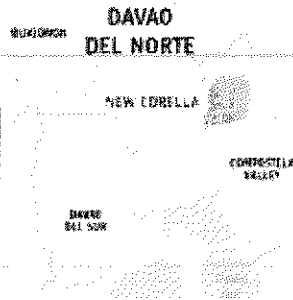
"This unnecessarily squanders whatever gains we have been quietly getting lately in our common efforts with the CPP/NPA/NDF leadership to achieve just peace through the negotiations table," the country top peace negotiator said.

<http://mindanaotimes.net/npa-rebels-torch-another-backhoe-in-talaingod-town/>

www.dwdd.com.ph

## NEED FOR PEACE | NPA Subsection Secretary, Courier Surrender with Firearm

Reported by: [Alvin Santiago](#)



**MAWAB, Compostela Valley** – The Secretary of a Sub-Section Committee and Courier of the Communist New People’s Army Terrorists (CNTs) voluntarily surrendered to troops of the 71st Infantry “Kaibigan” Battalion on March 27, 2018.

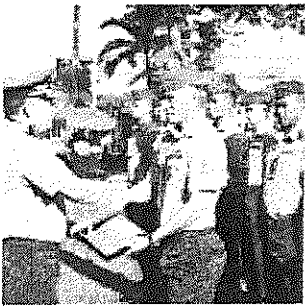
The surrendered CNT members are identified as Lolito L Pacle Sr a.k.a. Paul, Former Kilusang Taga-organisa (KTO) Chairman and presently Vice Commander of Militia ng Bayan(MB) and Secretary of Sub-Section Committee of Section Committee(SECOM) 18, Sub-Regional Committee (SRC) 2, Southern Mindanao Regional Command (SMRC) of the New People’s Army (NPA) and Juanito T Sabang a.k.a Matugon, Organizing Group (OG) Chairman and Courier under GF 2, SRC2, SMRC. a.k.a Paul yielded with one improvised firearm, UZI with defaced serial number to Bravo Company of 71st IB under First Lieutenant Fel B Saguin through the assistance of Honorable Mayor Rhodora S Alcoran of the municipality of New Corella, Davao Del Norte. **71IB / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com.ph

## CHAMPIONS | PA lauds Cycling and Dragon Boat teams for their outstanding performances

By [Alvin Santiago](#) | [alvin.santiago@dwdd.com.ph](#)

**FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD)** – The Philippine Army awarded a plaque of recognition to its outstanding athletes composed of Army Dragon Boat and Cycling Teams during the flag raising ceremony on Monday, April 2, 2018.



A plaque of recognition was bestowed to the PA Dragon Boat Team for being the overall champion during the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation Regatta 2018 held on March 25 in Manila Bay, Roxas Boulevard, Metro Manila. The PA Dragon Boat Team for years have given enough pride and honor to the Army for garnering awards in different competitions both local and abroad to wit: overall champion during the 9th International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) Club Crews World Championships held in Italy in the year 2014, Japan International Dragon Boat in 2015, 10th IDBF Club Crew World Championships held in Australia in the year 2016 and the 2017 Paddle Surge in Tacloban City.

On the other hand, another plaque of recognition was conferred to the Philippine Army Cycling Team for bagging the 2nd Overall Award in the 8th LBC Ronda Pilipinas 2018 held on March 13 to 18. The competition covered a distance of 1,416 kilometers which started from Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, toward Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The Army cycling team manager, Eric R. Buhain, was also given a plaque of appreciation for his invaluable support to the team.

The Philippine Army recognizes the contributions of its athletes in uplifting the image of the Army as a source of national pride. **OACPA / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com.ph

## EXCELLENCE | 2ID awarded the AGP Initiated Status to four Offices

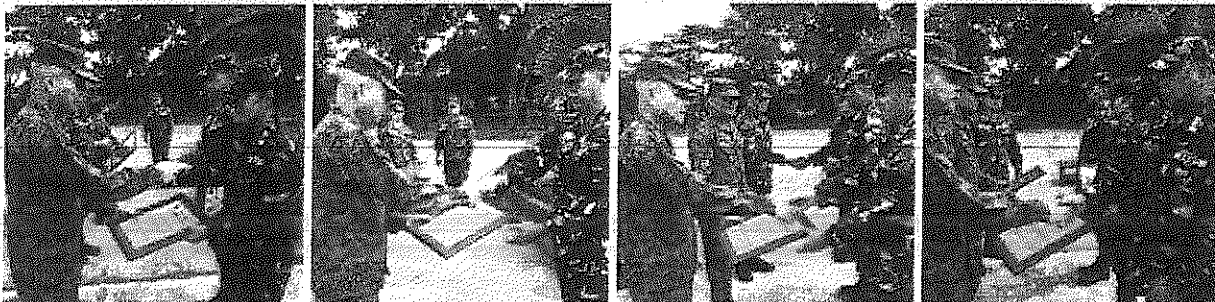
By [Alvin Santiago](#) | [alvin.santiago@dwdd.com.ph](#)



**CAMP GEN MATEO CAPINPIN, Tanay, Rizal (DWDD)** – The 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division awarded the Army Governance Pathway (Initiated Status 3rd Level-Horizontal) to the four (4) offices of this Command at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal.

Brigadier General Glorivine R Dida AFP, Assistant Division Commander together with Col Marceliano V Teofilo, Chief of Staff and Col Jose Augusto V Villareal, Chief GSMO awarded the Initiated Status 3rd Level-Horizontal to the following offices namely; Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1; AC of S for Intelligence, G2; AC of S for Education and Training, G8; and Management and Fiscal Office (MFO).

The award was given to each office for demonstrating the commitment to pursue genuine transformation and reform as manifested by its exemplary progress in governance and strategy management and for successfully complying with the elements under the Army Governance Pathway. **2DPAO / MCAG**





# SERVING THE PEOPLE | 52IB

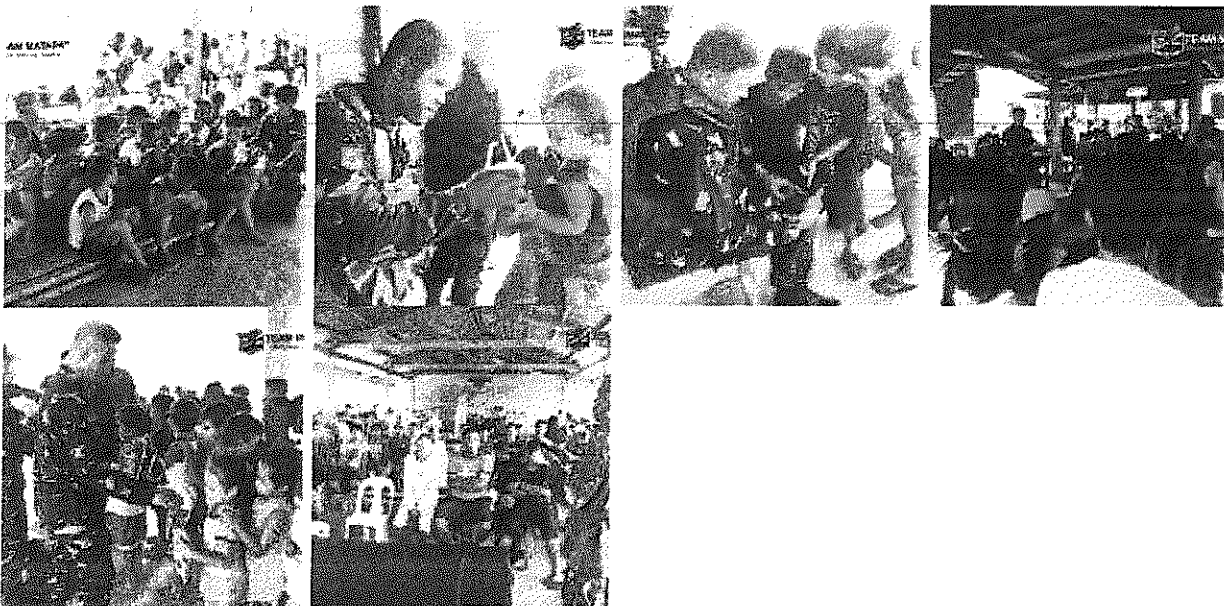
## conducts outreach to residents of Brgy Dampalan

Photo by Alvin Santiago on 06/27/2024 at 09:00 AM



*"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could." ~ Gregory of Nazianzus*

**PAGADIAN CITY (DWDD)** – The 53rd Infantry "Matapat" Battalion headed by Lt. Col. Marlowe E. Patria in partnership with the Philippine National Police, Police Provincial Office headed by Police Superintendent Benjamin D Peralta Jr. conducted Pulong-pulong, Feeding Program and Gift Giving to the residents of Barangay Dampalan, Pagadian City. **53IB / MCAG**

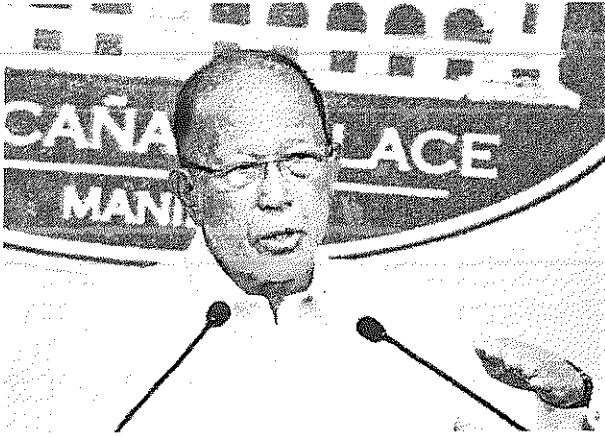


www.inquirer.net

## Lorenzana: CPP leadership must prove it has control of its forces

By: Frances G. Mangosing - @inquirerdotnet

INQUIRER.net / 06:03 PM April 04, 2018



Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana INQUIRER.net file photo

As President Rodrigo Duterte expressed his willingness to resume peace negotiations with communist rebels, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Wednesday the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) must prove it has control of its forces on the ground.

“Si President hindi naman sinasara ang pintuan sa peace talks, pero magpakita naman ng kaunting sinceridad itong mga nakikipagusap, yun ang sabi nya. Saka si Secretary [Jesus] Dureza rin sa OPAPP [Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process] e sabi nya wala pa yung tinatawag na enabling environment,” he told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

(The President is not closing doors on peace talks, but they should show some sincerity, he said. Also Secretary Dureza of OPAPP, he said the so-called enabling is not yet being observed.)

He said last week’s three separate incidents when communist rebels burned heavy equipment in Davao City, which cost millions of pesos, was “disabling.”

“Ang tawag ko dun disabling environment hindi na enabling, parang sinasabotahe nila yung kung meron mang balak makipag-usap yung gobyerno sinasabotahe nila dun sa baba.... So ang question ko is do they have any control over their fighters on the ground, that is the question that I was asking even before,” he said.

(We call that disabling environment not enabling, like they are sabotaging what has been left of the intention of the government to talk peace... )

The defense chief was earlier against the resumption of peace negotiations but said he would support the President if this would “bring development to the hinterlands.”

Aside from the bilateral ceasefire, Lorenzana said the communists should stop their tax collection (extortion), a stop on kidnappings and attacks to government forces to show their sincerity in the peace talks.

“They have to prove na kaya nilang rendahan yung mga tao nila sa baba, kasi kung magkaroon tayo ng ceasefire, both o bilateral, kelangang assured tayo na kayang-kaya nilang kontrolin yung mga tao nila sa baba,” he said.

President Duterte on Tuesday expressed interest to resume peace negotiations with communist rebels, almost five months after he terminated the talks after the supposed attacks of communist rebels to government forces and civilians. He later declared the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization. /jpv