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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

10 April 2018

Tuesday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

10 APRIL 2018

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	Phil Star p. 12
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	Sereno must be out of sc- Rody	Delon Padilla	PDI p.1
AFP RELATED NEWS			
4	DND, AFP salute WW2 vets on Araw ng Kagitingan	Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca	Peoples Tonight p.3
5	Koko urges Pinoy to honor war heroes, vets	Macon Ramos-Araneta	Manila Standard p.A6
6	Photo	-	Manila Standard p.A1
7-8	DBM releases P804M for WW2 veterans	Bernadette E. Tamayo	Manila Times p.A3
9-10	Freedom trail remembers heroism along death march route	Allan Macatuno	PDI p.A9
11-14	More Ph war files not yet accessible	Tonette Orejas	PDI p.A1
15	MNLF reiterates support for Rody	Nonoy E Lacson	Tempo p.4
16	A return to peace talks with CPP-NPA	-	Tempo p.6
17	NPA rebels admit killing ' lumad' chief	Allan Nawal	PDI p.A1
18	NPA surrender count in Com Val now at 2,000- AFP	Mike Crismundo	Manila Bulletin p.11
19	Woman hurt in bomb blast	John Unson	PDI p.12
20	Reds ready for peace talks anew	Mayen Jaymalin	PDI p.5
21-22	Duterte recognizes Phl alliance with US, Japan	Christina Mendez	PDI p.1
23	KMP: NPA 'surrenderrees' fake, deceived	Rio N. Araja	Manila Standard p.A6
24	Navy official, patay	Jeff Galoss	Remate p.3
25	10 MILF fighters, tiklo sa clan war	Fer taboy	Balita p.5
EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY			
26	Peace talk isulong	-	Remate p.5
27	Why we need women in Military	-	PDI p.A12
ONLINE NEWS			
28	Let's continue to honor our veterans: Lorenzana	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
29	AFP joins 'Araw ng Kagitingan' commemoration	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph

April 2018



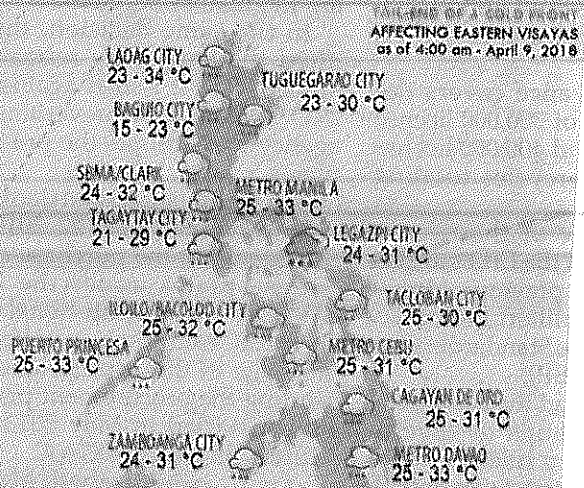
Page: 12

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
 PANASONIC TV
 MONDAY - FRIDAY
 11 AM & 5 PM
PILIPINAGH
 WEEKDAYS
 6 AM, 6:30 PM & 9 PM
 WEEKENDS
 6 AM

6:46 AM SUNRISE
6:09 PM SUNSET
1:35 AM MOONRISE
1:18 PM MOONSET

3:18 PM APR 9
3:02 AM APR 10
11:05 PM APR 10
9:02 PM APR 10

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST APRIL 10, 2018 | TUESDAY



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	APR 11 WED	APR 12 THU	APR 13 FRI	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	APR 11 WED	APR 12 THU	APR 13 FRI
METRO MANILA	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 34 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	28 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 34 °C
TUGUEGARAO	23 °C 31 °C	23 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 35 °C	26 °C 34 °C
LAOAG	23 °C 34 °C	24 °C 34 °C	24 °C 34 °C	METRO CEBU	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C
BAGUIO	15 °C 24 °C	15 °C 24 °C	16 °C 25 °C	TACLOBAN	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	25 °C 34 °C	LAGAYAN DE ORO	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C	26 °C 31 °C
TAGAYTAY	21 °C 30 °C	22 °C 30 °C	22 °C 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C
LEGAZPI	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thundershowers

10 April 2018



Page: 1

Sereno must be out of SC – Rody

Rody to CJ: I am now your enemy

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – Accused of being the “unseen hand” in efforts to oust the Chief Justice, President Duterte declared yesterday that he will now do everything in his power to kick out Maria Lourdes Sereno.

“I am now your enemy. You have to be out of the Supreme Court,” Duterte said during a press briefing at the Davao International Airport before leaving for the Boao Forum in Hainan, China yesterday afternoon.

He vowed to mobilize all his resources and flex his muscles so the House of Representatives and the Senate would fast-track the impeachment process against the Chief Justice.

The impeachment, he said, could proceed at the same time that the high court is hearing the quo warranto petition filed against Sereno.

“The two entities can hear it simultaneously. They can proceed with the quo warranto,” Duterte said.

Stressing that he had previously been patient with Sereno because he did not want to meddle in the issues hurled against her, the visibly irked Duterte said he wanted her out of the Supreme Court

Turn to Page 10

either by impeachment or through the quo warranto petition.

“I am asking Speaker (Pantaleon) Alvarez now (to) kindly fast track the impeachment process. She is bad for the Philippines. I have said that I don’t want to meddle. I was patient. But this time I am asking the congressmen and the Speaker to do it now,” Duterte declared.

He pointed out that he is not in the habit of going after enemies and meddling in cases filed against them. As

a case in point, he cited his silence after former House speaker Prospero Nograles filed several cases against him in the past.

“But you (Sereno) are insisting (that I am meddling), then count me in. Go ahead and I will egg (Solicitor General Jose) Calida to do his best,” Duterte said, adding that he wants to make sure the Chief Justice is hit hard.

He also said: “I told you that I am not meddling in this. But since you are yacking about it, I will help any investigator. So, I’m putting you on notice that I’m your enemy and you have to be out of the Supreme Court,” Duterte said.

In seeking Sereno’s ouster, Duterte lamented why a lowly public school teacher was once dismissed from office for not filing her statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN)

but not the Chief Justice who committed the same offense.

“That teacher who failed to file her SALN, that teacher who is really poor, f**k, she was dismissed. And here is this woman, she earned money, attorney’s fees collected from the government (and yet did not declare) a single centavo,” Duterte said.

2

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convened into an impeachment court.

"I am asking Congress, what's taking you too long? Do not create any crisis in this country. I will not hesitate to do what is to the best interest of my country. If it calls for your forced removal I will do it," Duterte warned.

Oriental Mindoro Rep. Rey Umali, chairman of the House committee on justice, said the impeachment case would be taken up by the plenary as soon as they resume session on May 15, a day after the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

"For me, it's OK to fast-track the impeachment complaint. We're hoping that the House committee on rules will bring to the plenary the impeachment complaint as well as the articles of impeachment for their approval," he said.

Observers have said that Duterte had nothing to do with Sereno's impeachment, borne out of the fact that he never lost a case in the Supreme Court, from the burial of the late president Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani up to martial law in Mindanao.

They said Duterte was finally irritated and piqued after Sereno kept blaming him for her debacles even though most of her 14 colleagues were against her, insisting that the Duterte administration has been undermining "judicial independence."

"What judicial independence is she talking about? The judiciary has always been independent. Justices were able to decide on cases freely, without any interference from the executive department. Sereno's problem is her own self," a source said.

"Besides, Sereno is just one vote in the SC. And she belongs to the minority," he stressed.

This is the second time a sitting president has endorsed the impeachment of a chief justice, the first being former president Benigno Aquino III who booted out the late Renato Corona in 2011.

Umali's justice committee voted 33-1 last March 19 approving its report finding probable cause for the impeachment of Sereno, where the articles of impeachment were also incorporated.

"We have made history here in defining the impeachment process in the House," panel chairman Umali told his colleagues after they released the 45-page committee report, along with the 56-page articles of impeachment.

He said they have prepared six articles that will be made the basis or "foundation in prosecuting this impeachment case before the Senate as an impeachment court."

"We have a very strong case. We are ready, willing and we have a very strong case against the Chief Justice," Umali explained, citing Sereno's infractions that amounted

As a high-ranking officer of the Supreme Court, Duterte pointed out that Sereno should be a better example in following the law.

If he would be placed in the same situation, the President said he would not seek special treatment – and he will accept being detained between Sereno and his arch-critic, Sen. Leila de Lima.

"Why the special treatment? Me? I'll go to jail with her... let the world know – I am now meddling," he added.

Stop the drama

Duterte asked congressmen to fast-track the filing of an impeachment case before the Senate.

"Now, this time, I'm asking the congressmen and the Speaker do it now. *Wag ninyong dramahin* (Stop the drama). Or else I will do it for you," the President said.

He asked Congress why it seems to be dragging its feet in transmitting the complaint to the Senate, which will be

to culpable violation of the Constitution, corruption, betrayal of public trust and other high crimes.

In all instances, he revealed that they have "all the documentary and testimonial evi-

dence."

Sereno will serve as chief justice for 18 years, or until mid-2030 when she turns 70.

– With Christina Mendez, Delon Porcalla

3

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10 April 2018



Page. 3

DND, AFP salute WW2 vets on Araw ng Kagitingan

By **ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA**

THE Department of National Defense (DND) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) rendered their salutes to the World War 2 veterans as they remembered their sacrifices, bravery and self-dedication to the country's defense during the celebration of Araw ng Kagitingan.

In line with this, DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana

appealed to all Filipino to continue their effort to honor the valor and gallantry of Filipinos who gave their lives to defend our country.

"Let us perpetuate the memory of their deeds to be emulated by future generations of Filipinos. Let us honor those who are still with us for pretty soon they will all be gone," he said.

For his part, AFP Public Affairs Office (PA) chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia, said the military joins the

nation in commemorating the National Day of Valor and salute all the soldiers who valiantly defended the country from foreign occupation in the last world war.

"We remember the sacrifices of our veterans, their bravery, and their selfless dedication to the country's defense. Through their gallantry, we were able to show the determination of Filipinos to stand against overwhelming odds," Garcia said.

4

10 April 2018

Manila
Standard

Page. A6

Koko urges Pinoys to honor war heroes, vets

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SENATE President Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III on Monday called on Filipinos to honor the courage of war heroes and veterans through their own efforts to improve the quality of life of all Filipinos.

On April 9, 1942, more than 78,000 Filipino and American troops surrendered to the Japanese invaders and were forced to march from Bataan to San Fernando, Pampanga, with almost 10,000 Filipino soldiers perishing in the process.

“Filipinos never failed to respond to the call of duty when their country needed them. And this is a time when the country needs all its citizens, not to fight in trenches, but to make the Philippines better for Filipinos,” Pimentel said.

“It’s time to aim our sights higher. We are no longer locked in a struggle for survival,

but a struggle for better lives,” he added.

In 1961, the Philippine Congress passed Republic Act No. 3022, proclaiming April 9, the date of the surrender of Filipino-American forces in Bataan, as Bataan Day and a holiday.

In 1987, the holiday was renamed Araw ng Kagitingan.

Pimentel said that the threat faced before of foreign invasion has transformed into threats against the empowerment of Filipinos posed by unequal development of regions, the rising gap between the rich and the poor, and widespread corruption.

“We must continue to be valiant in defending our country from all forms of threats; not just from foreign invasions, but also from threats found within our own nation,” Pimentel said.

For his part, Senator Richard J. Gordon pointed out that the country are not just

commemorating the courage and bravery of the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor but it is also a reminder Filipinos can achieve as a nation if we are united and with our love of country in mind.

“Today, we are not just giving honor to the brave men and women who courageously fought against the Japanese invaders. We should also be reminded of the very moral fiber of the men and women who fought against the invading Japanese,” said Gordon.

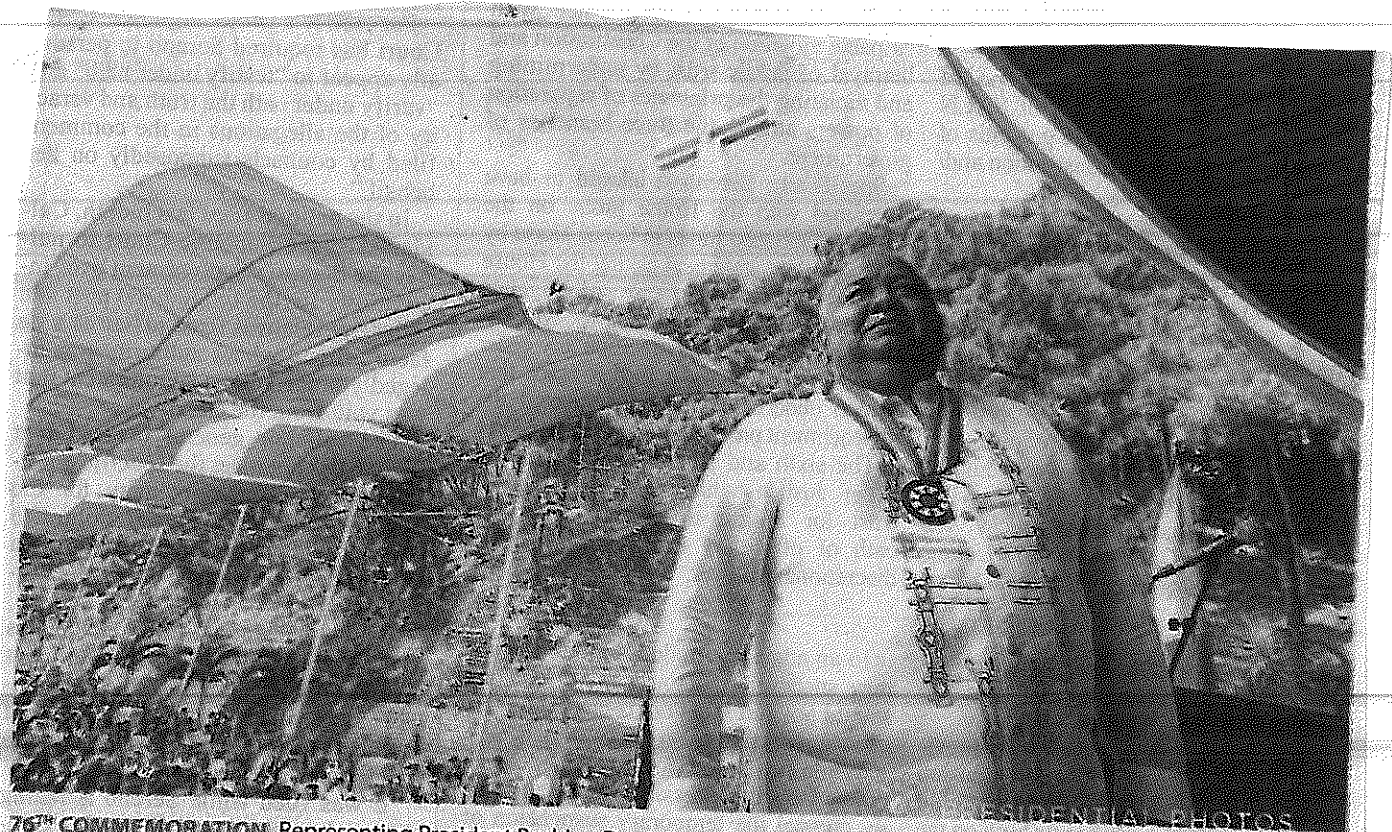
“We also honor the intangible virtues drawn upon in times of struggle. The willingness, the courage, the valor of thousands of ordinary Filipinos—with or without formal training but took up arms anyway; soldiers who had not surrendered or had escaped; and civilians who provided logistical, intelligence, and moral support—to find ways to continue the struggle against the occupation forces,” he added.

5

April 2018

Manila Standard

Page. A1



76TH COMMEMORATION. Representing President Rodrigo Duterte, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea leads the commemoration of the 76th Araw ng Kagitingan at Mt. Samat Shrine in Pilar, Bataan on April 9, 2018. **Presidential Photo**

6

0 April 2018

The Manila Times

Page: A3

DBM releases P804M for WW2 veterans

BY BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO

THE Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has released P804.86 million out of the P1.647 billion budget for the pension arrears of World War 2 veterans. The announcement was made on Monday as the country marked "*Araw ng Kagitingan*" (Day of Valor).

"This is good news for our veterans and their families and very timely as we celebrate 'Araw ng Kagitingan' on April 9," Sen. Loren Legarda said, adding she welcomed the announcement of Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno that the DBM has released the funds for the payment of pension arrears to World War 2 veterans.

"Our war veterans have served our country well and their spouses

also suffered during the war. This is one way of showing our gratitude for their contribution to our country's liberty," she said.

Legarda, head of the Senate Committee on Finance, said that under the 2018 national budget, over P1.647 billion was allocated for the full payment of Total Administrative Disability (TAD) pension arrears for the living spouses of deceased veterans who served

during World War 2.

The DBM said it has released P804.86 million to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO). Another P841.87 million is set to be released within the year.

According to the DBM, the TAD pension is a monthly entitlement of P1,700 awarded to veterans upon reaching the age of 70.

Living veterans receive their entitlement on a monthly basis, while arrears are awarded to surviving spouses of World War 2 veterans and other eligible deceased veterans upon approval of requests made by PVAO.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel 3rd on Monday called on Filipinos to "honor the valor" of World War 2 veterans through their own efforts to improve the quality of life of their countrymen.

"We must continue to be valiant

7

in defending our country from all forms of threats; not just from foreign invasions, but also from threats found within our own nation," he added.

Sen. Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara also asked Filipinos to "continue to find inspiration in their patriotism and live out their greatness in spreading love, kindness, compassion and hope."

"As we commemorate the Day of Valor and the Philippine Veterans' Week, let us not forget their sacrifices and heroism so that we may enjoy the freedom and liberty that we have right now," he said.

West Philippine Sea issue

However, former Marine captain and now Rep. Alejano of Magdalo party-list said President Duterte let

down Filipino veterans by giving away the country's islands in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) to China.

In his *Araw ng Kagitingan* message, Alejano said the President's position on joint exploration with China that will cover Service Contract 57 in Calamian, northwest of Palawan, and Service Contract 72 in Recto Bank in the West Philippine Sea, is a cause for dismay to the country's veterans.

"It is disappointing that no less than our Commander in Chief is saying that we have no ability to fight for our sovereignty, to protect our territory and protect our fisher folk. Instead of showing courage and love of country, what is happening is quote the opposite," Alejano said in a statement.

The United Nations' Permanent Court of Arbitration based in The

Hague ruled in favor of the Philippines in July 2016 by junking China's nine-dash line claim on the entire West Philippine Sea, and declared that the Spratly Islands, Panganiban (Mischief) Reef, Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal, and Recto (Reed) Bank are all within the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines.

The July 2016 Hague ruling also stated that Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal) is a common fishing ground, meaning Chinese vessels cannot stop Filipinos from fishing there.

The President, however, has said the ruling could be shelved because the country cannot afford to go to war against China, which has never recognized the tribunal's decision and did not participate during the proceedings in the Hague-based court.

**WITH REPORT FROM
LLANESCA T. PANTI**

8

10 April 2018

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: AA

FREEDOM TRAIL REMEMBERS HEROISM ALONG DEATH MARCH ROUTE

By Allan Macatuno
@allanmacatunoINQ

PILAR, BATAAN—Weeks before the 76th commemoration of Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor) on Monday, war veterans like Florentino Platero, 88, and Caesar Aguirre, 90, already took center stage when a bank gathered people to retrace the route taken by 76,000 prisoners of war (POW) during the Death March in April 1942.

The Freedom Trail follows the 160-kilometer route by 66,000 Filipino POW and 10,000 American POW who walked from Mariveles town and Saisain Point in Bagac town, Bataan province, to Camp O'Donnell in Capas town, Tarlac province.

The Death March began on April 11, 1942, and left thousands dead and seriously wounded after enduring torture under the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army. The prisoners were then loaded onto trains when they arrived at what is now the City of San Fernando in Pampanga province.

Platero and Aguirre were witnesses to the Death March atrocities. Waiting patiently at Orion town in Bataan, the war veterans soon met up with



DEATH MARKER This spot at Mariveles town in Bataan province is known as Kilometer Zero of the Death March, where 76,000 Filipino and American prisoners of war started the long walk to Pampanga province during the Japanese occupation in 1942. —EDWIN BACASMAS

Freedom Trail marchers gathered by Philippine Veterans Bank on March 24 and 25.

Ultimate sacrifice

Humbled, every marcher saluted Platero and Aguirre as they paraded through the Kilometer Zero Death March marker there.

"The great war tested the character of this nation and this honored ground is witness to

the steadfastness and strong moral fiber of those who stood firm in their beliefs even in the face of overwhelming acts of deaths and defeats," said Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, who addressed the veterans during the Araw ng Kagitingan commemoration at Mt. Samat National Shrine here.

Medialdea represented President Duterte, who was preparing to leave for China on Monday.



War veterans Caesar Aguirre (right) and Florentino Platero (partly hidden) welcome marchers retracing the Freedom Trail when they reached Orion town in Bataan province. –ALLAN MACATUNO

But the best way to honor the fallen soldiers was to remember them, which was what the two-day freedom walk intended to accomplish, Veterans Bank officials said.

Responsibility

"It will be a sin to forget how valiantly they fought and how they looked out for their fellow soldiers amid torture, injury and starvation," said Mike Villa-Real, head of Veterans Bank's corporate and consumer relations division.

"It is our generation's responsibility to commemorate

and honor the bravery and heroism of our veterans during the war," he said.

"As long as I live, I will never forget what we had to endure during the war," said Aguirre, who was 15 at the time of the Death March. He said he lost his father, who was forcibly taken away by Japanese soldiers.

Platero said he contemplated taking his own life after witnessing the harsh treatment of Filipino soldiers and civilians by the Japanese soldiers.

Like Aguirre, Platero said he believed his father was killed by

Japanese soldiers.

During the program at Mt. Samat shrine, Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Koji Haneda said his country had pledged it would never lose sight of the lessons of the war and "had consistently walked the path that values peace and prosperity."

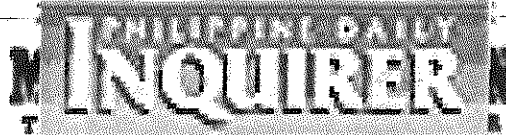
Cooperation

Saying Japan had spared no effort to cultivate its friendship with the country for more than six decades, Haneda said this partnership "has expanded beyond trade, investment, development assistance to also include security and defense cooperation."

"Valor is a simple word but it encompasses many thoughts—courage, dedication to one's country, dedication to one's principles and willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice that so many people did on that war," said US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Michael Klecheski, who also attended the Mt. Samat event.

He said the United States and the Philippines "fostered a peaceful Asia, [and] those against whom we fought in that war have now become vital parts of that partnership as well." INQ

10 April 2018



Page: A1

More PH war files not yet accessible

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Philippine Archives Collection (PAC) now in the US National Archives in Washington is larger than the reported trove of 1,665 boxes, several of which remain inaccessible. Marie Vallejo, who led the Filipino team that digitized the PAC's Guerrilla Unit Recognition Files, said the exact volume of the PAC could not be determined. —SPECIAL REPORT BY TONETTE OREJAS

SPECIAL REPORT

By **Tonette Orejas**
@ttorejasINQ

(Last of two parts)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The 70-year-old Philippine Archives Collection (PAC) in the US National Archives in Washington, which the Philippine government and private groups began digitizing in 2015, is larger than the reported trove of 1,665 boxes, several of which remain inaccessible, according to a historian.

"Before the PAC was moved from St. Louis [Missouri] to the US National Archives in Maryland, it was even larger than what we have now," said Ricardo Jose, a history professor at the University of Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

"It contained more rosters [that] were used in verifying claims from the Philippines. Some of the correspondence I saw recommended offering several rosters to the Philippine government, but I am not sure if any action was taken. The recommendation also stated that if the offer was refused, these files were to be destroyed," Jose said. Some boxes Jose had re-

quested arrived empty. The files, he was told, were being used by a US government agency or were not available due to security classification.

"So what these files contain is unknown," he said.

Marie Vallejo, who led the Filipino team that digitized the PAC's Guerrilla Unit Recognition Files (GURF), confirmed Jose's information.

The exact volume of the PAC could not be determined, she said, because it was likely that the US Army never cataloged it. "The inventory was at folder level, not by piece of paper," she said.

The files may have been lost, misplaced or misfiled when the documents were moved from the Philippines to Kansas City and St. Louis after World War II, she said. "I was glad these were not burned," she added.

Inventory

But Ernesto Carolina, Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) administrator, said it was more than enough that the agency discovered the existence of the PAC through Vallejo, a daughter of a war veteran.

The PVAO, Carolina said, had no idea how many files are in the US National Archives on World War II in the Philippines.

"We have not communicated a request for an inventory because when I went [in October 2017] some documents were still being groomed in the laboratory so these could endure human handling," he said. "We are very happy with what is [in the US National



PATRIOTS' CAMP Filipino guerrillas resting at their camp pose for a photo, one of those found in the Guerrilla Unit Recognition Files (GURF).

There are also several memoirs written right after the war, some with photographs, which shed much important light on the organization of the guerrillas, anti-Japanese propaganda and intelligence gathering operations

Ricardo Jose
UP History Professor

Archives] as it is right now.”

Phase 2 of the digitization project, funded by the government-owned Phividec Industrial Authority, has gathered 25,000 photographs, war trial records and US Army Forces in the Far East (Usaffe) files.

The PVAO is sending a team in May to undertake the project's Phase 3. “We are completing the story,” Carolina said.

The US National Archives and Records Administration hinted only of a problem pertaining to sources and listings.

On its website, it said: “The records in the Philippine Archives Collection originated

with a variety of organizations and individuals. Unfortunately, their provenance and any original order were lost when the records were brought together and combined with the records of the Recovered Personnel Division.”

“We digitized what was there to preserve it and bring back,” Vallejo said.

The GURF, made up of 270 boxes with 280,000 records, can be accessed online on the PVAO website.

Primary sources

Jose described the GURF as a “rich source of primary sources,” mainly on the Filipino guerrilla resistance movement against Japan.

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The collection would “allow historians now and well into the future to write volumes of histories of specific guerrilla units, and individuals in them.”

Jose, who has gone through the records in the US National Archives, found the PAC important because, he said, it can present a Filipino perspective through the diaries, action reports, maps and intelligence reports written at that time.

“There are also several memoirs written right after the war, some with photographs, which shed much important light on the organization of the guerrillas, anti-Japanese propa-

ganda and intelligence gathering operations,” he said.

A study of the whole collection, Jose said, would allow historians to draw conclusions on a larger scale about the guerrilla resistance movement and how widespread it was. The study would take time because of the size of the collection.

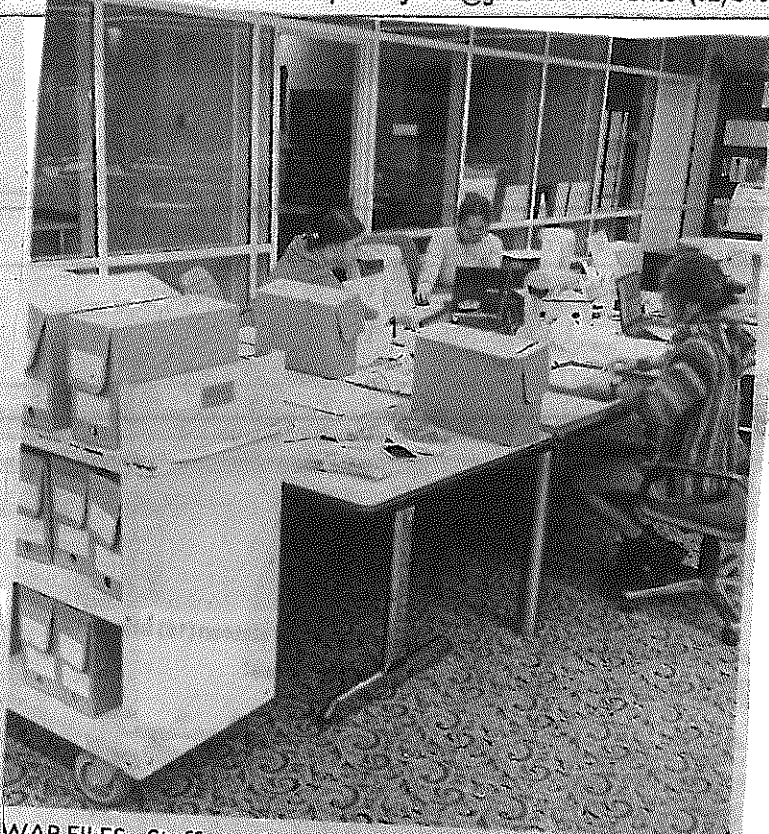
Rewriting war history

Jose said the availability of the GURF, and the PAC as a whole, warrants the rewriting of the Philippine World War II history.

He said the records confirmed guerrilla rivalries through draft agreements between Usaffe guerrillas in Central Luzon and factions of the anti-Japanese Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap). The talks broke down.

“Going over the folders in the collection, one also sees an unfortunate underside to the guerrilla claims—some (or many) are outlandish and obviously exaggerated; some guerrilla units claimed victories that were not theirs and belonged to other, recognized units. Recognition of Filipino guerrilla groups, in fact, was hampered by bogus claims,” Jose said.

“The files contain reports of



WAR FILES Staff members of the Philippine Archives Collection scan documents retrieved from the GURF, which are stored in the JS National Archives. —MARIE VALLEJO

US Army officers (sometimes Filipinos) who investigated the claims. Many of the claims were denied, being exaggerations or bogus,” he added.

“There were some guerrilla units that to me were genuine but were denied [recognition] because of insufficiency of evidence. There were some units [that] lost most of their papers; some of their leaders were captured and killed by the Japanese and thus lacked the supporting papers.”

Patriots

The records spoke highly of Filipino patriots such as Wenceslao Vinzons, Christians, Muslims, “lumad” (indigenous peoples), lowlanders, uplanders, college graduates and people with limited education.

“Not all are represented, however, since some of our patriots (such as the mountain

people) were not educated and unable to write their stories. One tragedy I found in the collection was the decision made by American authorities not to grant recognition or backpay to volunteers—their reason being that since they volunteered freely they did not have to be paid,” Jose said.

“Those who were paid were recruited or members of organized guerrilla units following standard military organization. The Banal Regiment of the Huks was the sole Huk unit to be recognized by the Americans, and is well documented in the collection, but other Huk units were considered threats and not recognized,” he said.

Because the rosters of guerrillas are now public, these could help track down grandparents or great-grandparents whose stories have not been told, he said.

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Instilling pride

The PAC, he said, should be able to develop a sense of pride in the role of Filipinos in World War II.

“We should write our own history of World War II and the papers in [the] PAC will play a large role in this. It will reinforce our sense of who we are, who our heroes were, and make us more aware of what Filipinos did during the dark years of the Japanese occupation,” he said.

The next step, Carolina said, is to consolidate the PAC together with files in private museums and universities, eventually filling the Philippine Center for World War II Studies on Mt. Samat and making all materials accessible on the internet.

Jose suggested the development of better search engines to ease access to the records.

The PVAO and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines are deemed to be the most appropriate agencies to manage the files. Universities and libraries should have copies for local research. INQ

10 April 2018



Page. 4

MNLF reiterates support for Rody

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Senior leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) yesterday vowed to continue their support of President Duterte's ongoing peace and development efforts in Sulu.

Outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Commander Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., over the weekend, appealed to MNLF Central Committee Chair Yusop Jikiri and his officials to continue helping the government and the military restore peace and development in the province.

Jikiri since assured Galvez the MNLF will do everything in their capacity to help President Duterte in his

peace and development campaign in the province, including the eventual elimination of such lawless elements as the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

"We have suggested to Lt. Gen. Galvez some measures that the MNLF can adopt in coordination with the military to put an end to the activities of the lawless groups like the Abus in Sulu," Jikiri said.

Jikiri said the MNLF has enough supporters in the province that could make this possible.

"Our forces are still there, we know the terrain of Sulu, more so we know these people, their relatives and where they live in the province," Jikiri said.

"We can just talk to them or appeal to them to stop their doings or face the consequences imposed by the government on them," he added.

(Nonoy E. Lacson)

15

10 April 2018



Page. 6

A return to peace talks with the CPP-NPA

PRESIDENT Duterte has decided to give the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) one more chance to put an end to their 49-year rebellion against the Philippine government.

The President had terminated the talks last November over the CPP-NPA's alleged demands for a coalition government, their continued attacks on government forces and civilians, their refusal to adopt a common ceasefire agreement, and their continued collection of what they call "revolutionary taxes."

It has now been four months since the talks were stopped but the hopes for their resumption have continued, the latest being a resolution signed by 61 members of the House of Representatives urging a return to the conference table. Last Thursday, the President said he was ready to give peace another chance, with talks in about two months, but there must be a ceasefire agreement, he said, and the NPA must stop collecting its revolutionary taxes.

The NPA, among their many depredations according to Army intelligence reports, has attacked 89 cell towers since 2002 – 23 in Region 5 (Bicol), 19 in Region 11 (Davao), and 13 in Region 3 (Central Luzon), because Globe Telecom and its foreign partner Singapore Telecom refused to pay the NPA tax. These three regions accounted for 62 percent of all tower attacks in the country – a major reason for the difficulties and problems of the country's Internet services program.

This year, the attacks appear to have been stopped because of the increased presence of Army teams in the wake of the liberation of Marawi City and the patrols in areas that used to be controlled by the NPA. Also a possible factor, according to the Army, was the telco's stepped-up corporate social responsibility (CSR) program and localized hiring of personnel, mostly recommended by barangay officials.

This Army assessment was made at its 120th anniversary celebration last March, with Lt. Gen. Glorioso V. Miranda, commanding general of the Philippine Army, renewing the Army's pledge to "serve our people and secure our land," as part of its commitment to be a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

The Army and all the other armed services as well as the Philippine National Police have long been in the decades-old fight against the New People's Army and they are indeed a source of national pride. They will have a well-earned rest from fighting the rebellion if the renewed peace talks, set to begin in about two months, will finally end it.

16

10 April 2018



Page: A1

NPA rebels admit killing 'lumad' chief

DAVAO CITY—The communist New People's Army said it was behind the April 4 ambush that killed a "lumad" (indigenous) leader and wounded two others in Magpet, North Cotabato. In a statement, the NPA said Antonio Takinan, IP representative to the Magpet council, was attacked for spying for the military and for helping recruit tribal folk to the state militia. —STORY BY ALLAN NAWAL

AND WILLIAMOR MAGBANUA

A9

NPA rebels admit killing 'lumad' leader

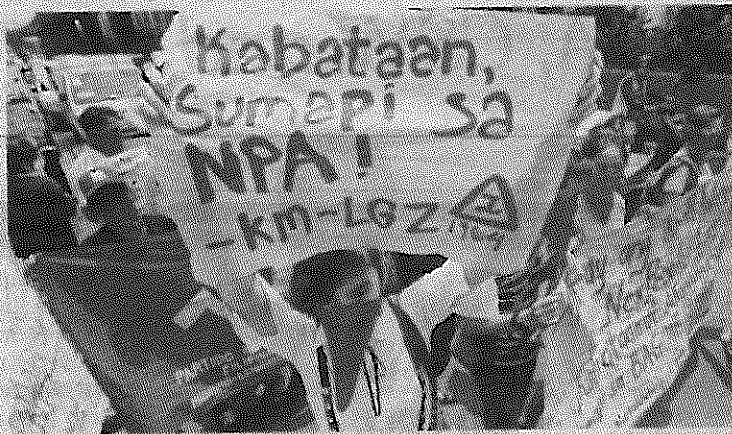
Reds say tribal exec involved in intel gathering, helped recruit IPs to gov't militia

DAVAO CITY—Communist rebels have admitted responsibility for the April 4 ambush that killed a tribal leader and wounded two others in Magpet town, North Cotabato province.

Isabel Santiago, spokesperson for the New People's Army's (NPA) Mt. Apo Sub-Regional Operations Command, said the killing of Antonio Takinan, the indigenous peoples' (IPs) mandatory representative to the Magpet town council, was an imposition of revolutionary justice against "antipeople" individuals.

Ambush

Takinan, along with his escort, Rene Soriano, and Barangay Tagbac IP representative Robello Tambunan, came from Barangay Poblacion and were on two separate motorcycles on their way to Barangay Bantac when they were attacked at 4 p.m. on Wednesday last week.



Students join a protest in Manila to commemorate the 49th founding anniversary of the New People's Army.

GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

Police described Takinan as active in convincing his fellow "lumad" to join the government's Civilian Active Auxiliary.

"The standing order imposed by the NPA against Takinan stemmed from his active intelligence gathering activities, forced recruitment of indigenous peo-

ples for the paramilitary Cagfu (Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit) Bagani fighters and assisting the military in its combat operations that resulted in grave human rights and international humanitarian law violations," Santiago said.

She said the slain lumad

leader also helped soldiers "terrorize" IP communities at Barangay Manobo in Magpet when he denounced them as communist supporters.

The police had tagged communist rebels as behind the ambush before the NPA released its statement.

Avoid revenge

North Cotabato Rep. Nancy Catamco expressed fear that Takinan's death could worsen violence in Magpet as the slain tribal leader's relatives might take revenge.

"Bring the suspects before the bar of justice to restore the IP's confidence in the government," Catamco urged authorities.

She also called on Takinan's relatives not to take the law into their hands.

"Let us not be carried by our emotions," Catamco said. —REPORTS FROM ALLAN NAWAL AND WILLIAMOR MAGBANUA INQ

10
April 2018



Page: 11

NPA surrender count in ComVal now at 2,000 – AFP

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

BUTUAN CITY—A regional Army spokesman on Monday claimed that some 2,000 members, supporters and sympathizers of the Communist Part of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) have already yielded in various places in Compostela Valley (ComVal) province.

Capt. Jerry S. Lamosao, regional Army spokesman of the Army's Southern Mindanao 10th Infantry (Agila) Division, also claimed that these surrenderers have already attended the re-orientation seminar held last April 2, which was con-

ducted by the Army's 71st Infantry (Kaibigan) Battalion in Maco town, ComVal province.

The reorientation program was participated in by identified members of NPA's Underground Mass Organization (UGMOs), Former Rebels (FRs) and supporters from eastern line areas of Maco ComVal namely Barangay Sangab, New Visayas, Magangit, Concepcion, Taglawig, New Asturias, Lapu-lapu, Dumlan, Anibongan, Mipangi, and Libay-libay.

Last week, field units of the 71st "Kaibigan" Battalion called on the remaining CPP-NPAs still hiding

in ComVal province, particularly in the provincial mountain border of Agusan del Sur and ComVal, to yield and avail of the government's livelihood, development and peace program.

"Our government is very much sincere to assist those CPP-NPAs who wanted to return to the fold of the government and avail the peace and development program through the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP)," also said First Lt. Jhocell D. Asis, Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer of the 71st IB, in a statement sent to The Manila Bulletin.

18

10 April 2018



Page: 12

Woman hurt in bomb blast

COTABATO CITY – A woman was wounded in a bomb explosion in this city on Sunday night.

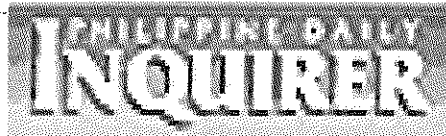
Jessie Himya, 35, remained confined in a hospital.

A bomb reportedly lobbed by motorcycle-riding men from a flyover reportedly landed on Himya's house.

Police operatives and Army bomb experts are still trying to determine the type of explosives used. – John Unson

19

10 April 2018



Page: 5

Reds ready for peace talks anew

By ARTEMIO DUMLAO

BAGUIO CITY – The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has shown readiness to return to the negotiating table with government.

In a statement issued recently, the CPP said it "welcomes the possible resumption" of peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF), after President Duterte reversed his termination of the negotiations last November.

The CPP said, "The revolutionary forces maintain the policy of openness to negotiations to seek solutions to the root of the armed conflict."

"The Filipino people await a comprehensive agreement on socio-economic reforms (CASER) that would address the aspirations of the people to seek an end to their oppressive and exploitative conditions," it said.

The CPP added that its armed wing, the New People's Army, also "supports and trusts the NDF negotiating panel as representative of all revolutionary forces in peace negotiations," while claiming to "uphold the position of the NDF that there should be no preconditions in the resumption of peace talks as stipulated in The Hague Joint Declaration."

The Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human

Rights and International Humanitarian Law must be reaffirmed and implemented, it said, and "a presidential amnesty proclamation to release all political prisoners must immediately be issued in line with agreements during the first round of talks in 2016."

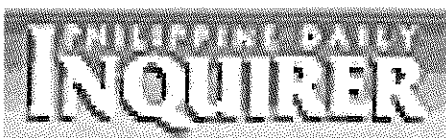
As this developed, militant labor yesterday called on the government to remove the "terrorist" tag against the NPA and to immediately release political prisoners.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno said the Duterte government should stop political harassment and set free the more than 480 political prisoners.

– With Mayen Jaymalin

20

10 April 2018



Page: 1

Duterte recognizes Phl alliances with US, Japan

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte recognized yesterday the importance of the Philippines' military alliances with the United States and Japan through the years since World War II.

In remembering how Filipino war veterans "overwhelmed odds of death and defeat" in

1942, Duterte called on Filipinos to support the government's fight against new threats to democracy.

Duterte, who flew from Davao City to China yesterday, failed to attend the commemoration of Araw ng Kagitingan or the Day of Valor at Mt. Samat in Bataan.

His message was read by Executive Secretary Salvador

Turn to Page 10

Medialdea before hundreds of guests, including war veterans, foreign dignitaries and local officials.

Medialdea was designated officer-in-charge of the government while Duterte is attending a forum in Hainan, China.

"The brotherhood between the Philippines and the US has been forged by the second World War when the Filipinos and American soldiers fought side by side under the flag of freedom, and democracy still remains strong," the President said.

Duterte recognized the alliance between the Philippines and the US in terms of military and economic support.

"To this day, America has remained our strong military and economic ally," he said.

'Time heals old wounds'

The President also noted how Japan has become a friend from being a foe during World War II.

"The Japanese against whom our soldiers defended Bataan for many years now remain as one of our closest allies, a major trading partner and the largest provider of Official Development Assistance, which helps us in the fight against poverty and our quest for economic progress," Duterte said.

"Time has indeed healed old wounds. Our enemy then has become our closest ally," Medialdea said, reading from Duterte's speech.

"The forces that faced each other in Bataan have since become allies and are now the vanguards of democracy in the region and beyond," he added.

Japanese Ambassador Koji Haneda also underscored the importance of the bilateral relations between the two countries as he offered an apology for the atrocities of World War II.

War veterans honored

Senators called on Filipinos to honor the sacrifices of the nation's heroes and war veterans by emulating their courage and determination to fight the challenges confronting the country today.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said the people could do these through their own efforts to improve quality of life for their countrymen.

"Filipinos never failed to respond to the call of duty when their country needed them. And this is a time when the country needs all its citizens,

21



Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea leads the commemoration of the 76th Araw ng Kagitingan at Mt. Samat Shrine in Bataan yesterday.

not to fight in trenches but to make the Philippines better for Filipinos," Pimentel said.

Sen. Grace Poe saluted veterans "who exemplified patriotism and gallantry for our democracy."

"Time and again, we have faced challenges and threats that displayed genuine courage of the Filipinos – the soldiers in Marawi City, the SAF 44, peacekeepers, crime fighters and ordinary civilians who guard their communities," Poe said.

Sen. Joel Villanueva said the Day of Valor should remind Filipinos to be brave amid oppressors and challenges.

Sen. Sonny Angara said the bravery and heroism of

the Filipino men and women who fought for the country's democracy should be a source of inspiration for the youth.

The Department of National Defense and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) saluted the country's war veterans in observance of Araw ng Kagitingan.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana called on Filipinos to continue commemorating the gallantry of those who fought for the country.

Bataan Gov. Albert Raymond Garcia urged residents to remember the sacrifices of the war veterans. – **With Paolo Romero, Michael Punongbayan, Jose Rodel Clapano, Raffy Viray**

D April 2018

Manila
Standard

Page. AG

KMP: NPA 'surrenderees' fake, deceived

By Rio N. Araja

THE surrender of over 4,500 members of the New People's Army is either "fake or forced and carried through deception," the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said on Monday.

Antonio Flores, KMP secretary-general, said the surrender campaign is also a lucrative extortion racket.

He said one of the highlights of a four-day international fact-finding mission in Mindanao was the surrender campaign of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as a money-making modus operandi of both the military and the civilian bureaucracy.

The Army claimed that under Duterte's watch, there have already been more than 4,500 surrenderees of the NPA in Mindanao, particularly in Compostela Valley and Agusan del Sur.

"These so-called 'surrenders,' however, are either fake or forced and carried through deception, coercion and other unscrupulous ways," he said.

According to Flores, testimonies of the witnesses and documentary evidence showed such modus had allowed the military to access and received the reward offered by the government for NPA fighters who surrendered.

Flores said that based on their interviews with 'surrenderees' in Agusan del Sur, including farmers, army personnel offered them firearms that they would bring if they would surrender and promised them P5,000 as livelihood assistance.

"Worse, if the farmer is still 'unco-operative' after all these attempts by the military, he is included in the military 'kill list' and becomes a target of extrajudicial killing," he said.

10 April 2018



Pahina. 3

Navy official, patay

NASAWI ang isang opisyal ng Philippine Navy habang sugatan ang isa pa nang maaksidente sa Davao City kamakalawa.

Natukoy ang pagkakakilanlan ng nasawi na si Lt. Christian Louie Olaivar at ang sugatan naman ay si Capt. Birgei Amor Vallejos.

Nabatid mula kay Chief Inspector Estrillo Ramiso ng Davao City Police, lulan ng kanilang kotse ang dalawa at pabalik na sa Davao City subalit pagsapit sa Kilometer 20 ng Buhisan Bunawan ay bigla na lamang lumiko pakaliwa ang

isang trailer trak at sumalpok sa likuran ng sasakyan ng mga biktima na hindi naman nakaiwas.

Agad namang rumesponde ang mga otoridad at itinakbo sa ospital ang dalawang opisyal subalit hindi na umabot nang buhay si Olaivar. Patuloy namang ginagamot si Vallejos na nagtamo ng sugat sa katawan.

Nakapit na sa Bunawan Police ang drayber ng trak na si Joneth Galaura Baibuenta habang inihahanda ang mga kaso laban sa kanya.

JEFF GALLOS

24

16 April 2018



Page. 5

10 MILF fighters, tiklo sa clan war

Naaresto ng militar ang aabot sa 10 miyembro ng Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces-Moro Islamic Liberation Front (BIAF-MILF) kaugnay ng pagkakasangkot ng mga ito sa labanan ng mga angkan sa General Salipada K. Pendatun, Maguindanao, ayon sa naantalang ulat kahapon ng Philippine Army (PA).

Sa report ng 14th Mechanized Company ng 1st Mechanized Infantry Battalion (IB) ng PA, ang siyam sa mga

inaresto ay sina Esmael Sampiano, Talipasan Lachali, Duma Lachali, Abubakar Kamactil, Abpa Kuradsang, Mohamad Viajar, Tinod Dimaguil, Commander Taib Kalanganan, at Kaha Gulidtem, 58, pawang ng Barangay Galidang, Tulunan, North Cotabato.

Una nang sumiklab ang rido sa Bgy. Ramcor, General Salipada K. Pendatun, at papatakas na sana ang mga suspek sa lugar ng sagupaan nang maharang sila militar sa checkpoint.

Nakumpiska umano sa kanila ang matataas na kalibre ng baril, kabilang ang dalawang rifle 5.56mm-M16A1 (Elisco), isang homemade caliber 50 Barret, isang rifle 7.62mm-M14 (US), anim na 5.56mm short magazines, isang 5.56mm long magazine, isang M14 magazine, 84 na rolyo ng 7.62mm ball ammunition, 18 bala ng caliber .50, 139 na bala ng 5.56mm, at isang .45 caliber pistol na may smagazine.

Fer Taboy

25

10 April 2018



Pahina. 5

EDITORIAL

PEACE TALKS ISULONG

MADALING gawin ang muling pagbabalik ng mga delegado ng pamahalaang Pilipinas at ng mga komunistang rebelde para sa usapang pangkapayapaan.

Mismong ang magkabilang panig ang nag-sasabi nito at sana, ilapat nila kaagad ang pananaw na ito para makahinga na ang buong bayan sa 48 taon nang rebelyon.

Kung hindi magagawa ang pag-uusap, magpapatuloy ang giyerang ikinamatay na ng nasa 50,000 katao, ikinasira ng bilyon-bilyong pisong ari-arian at kita at nagpapabansot sa ekonomiya ng bansa, lalo na sa mga kanyunan na karaniwang doon nagaganap ang madugong digmaan.

Kabilang sa mga laman ng pag-uusap ang proteksyon ng mga sibilyan sa giyera, pagpapalaya ng lahat ng mga bilanggong pulitikal, repormang agraryo at pagpapaunlad sa kanyunan at pambansang industriyalisasyon.

Isa sa mga kagyat na dapat pagtuunan ng pansin ang pagkakaroon ng tigil-putukan, anoman ang mga salita na nanggagaling sa mga hindi opisyal na delegado sa usapan.

Binibigyang-diin natin ito dahil nitong nakaraang pagbagsak ng usapan, ang pahayag ng ilang indibidwal ang sanhi ng mabagsik na mga labanan na umabot sa pang-aëmbus sa convoy ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Mindanao ng New People's Army.

Panahon na talaga na ang boses ng sambayanan para sa pagtatapos ng giyera ang pakinggan ng magkabilang panig at hindi ang pansarili nilang interes.

Ang totoo, ang interes ng sambayanan ang isinasangkalan ng magkabilang panig kaya walang dahilan para hindi sila mag-usap, magkasundo at magkaisa para isulong ito.

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10 April 2018



Page: 112

Why we need women in the military

Islamabad—Saudi Arabia's decision to allow women to serve in the military—part of its Vision 2030 economic-reform program—has been widely celebrated as a step forward for gender parity in the notoriously unequal kingdom. But, when women begin to enlist, the battle for real equality within the military will have just begun.

Beyond the explicit constraints that are expected—women will probably have to secure approval from their legal male guardians, and may be limited to noncombat roles—there is the need to dismantle the military's rigid patriarchal systems. This will be a difficult feat, requiring sustained government commitment, effective organizational planning, and deep personal fortitude from the women who enlist.

I should know. In 2001, I was one of the first women to join the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). But the road was not easy.

I was born to a feminist father who encouraged me to be whatever I wanted to be, and what I wanted to be was a PAF officer. That aspiration seemed impossible during my childhood, when women could join the military only as doctors, certainly not in combat roles. But everything changed in 1999: President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar introduced a quota for women in the PAF. I became one of just eight women who passed the entrance exam for commissioned officers.

The inclusion of women in the military was viewed as an experiment that could go either way, and the PAF greeted it only reluctantly. Our small group of woman cadets at the PAF training academy was instructed to maintain strict boundaries with the men with whom we would serve.

"We can't have any scandals

WORLD VIEW

QURATULAIN FATIMA

around here," our course commander told us. "These young men have never seen women in the academy, and they can be very flirtatious." In our conservative society, he insisted, even "a hint of scandal" will suggest that the experiment failed, closing the door to other women who hoped to serve. "The responsibility of making this work lies on your shoulders."

We took our responsibility seriously, and I do not just mean avoiding "scandal." We knew that we had to prove that we could handle the rigorous training. At first, male cadets remarked that we would not last a week. But we lasted a year and a half, and graduated with those male colleagues to become officers.

Since then, the PAF has come a long way, with the number of female officers surging from a dozen in 2001 to around 300 today, working in ground support, engineering, and flying branches. Pakistan's army and navy have also opened their ranks to women. Now, when a Pakistani woman wears her uniform, people don't stare.

Yet discrimination persists. For example, women are often passed over in favor of men for training abroad, and they still cannot hold command positions. And this situation is far from exclusive to Pakistan: most of the countries with no restrictions on women serving in frontline combat roles are in Europe or the Anglosphere (the exceptions are Eritrea, Israel, and North Korea).

To be sure, militaries around the world have gradually opened up to women. But numbers remain relatively low. In

the United States, 15 percent of military personnel are female. In the United Kingdom, that figure stands at 10 percent. In India, women comprise just 5 percent of military personnel, and a mere 4 percent in Afghanistan.

Boosting women's participation further may become even more important as the nature of the military's tasks changes in many regions. Countries are increasingly fighting asymmetric wars against terrorist groups. This demands less outright combat and more effective peacekeeping, through strategic decision-making, intelligence gathering, and civil engagement. Most of the vulnerable population in conflict areas are women and children.

To enable women to meet their full potential as military assets, persistent discrimination and other challenges—related, for example, to sexual harassment, health, and work-life balance—must be addressed. Sexual harassment can cost a woman her reputation, and sometimes even her life. More generally, gender segregation undermines the esprit de corps that is so important to military service.

Allowing women to join the Saudi military is a major step forward—one to which women have contributed greatly. But, as someone who walked this path less than two decades ago in Pakistan, I know that there is still a long way to go. Project Syndicate

Quratulain Fatima is a policy practitioner who works extensively in rural and conflict-ridden areas of Pakistan, focusing on gender-inclusive development and peacekeeping. She is a 2018 Aspen New Voices Fellow. Follow her on Twitter @moodee_q.

ONLINE NEWS

10 APRIL 2018

www.pna.gov.ph

Let's continue to honor our veterans: Lorenzana

By Priam Nepomuceno April 9, 2018, 3:14 pm

MANILA -- National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Monday called on the nation not to allow the heroic deeds of war veterans and freedom fighters be forgotten by future generations.

Lorenzana delivered this message during the commemoration of the 76th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan where thousands of Filipino and American troops gave their lives in fighting the Japanese Imperial Army.

Every April 9, the Philippines commemorates "Araw ng Kagitingan" (Day of Valor).

"Let us continue to celebrate and commemorate the valor and gallantry of our WWII veterans. Let us perpetuate the memory of their deeds to be emulated by future generations of Filipinos," he added.

Lorenzana also urged the nation to continue honoring the remaining World War II veterans for the services they have rendered.

"Let us honor those who are still with us for pretty soon they will all be gone," he added.

Underequipped and meagerly supplied American and Filipino forces, fighting in the Bataan frontlines, were forced to surrender in April 9, 1942 after 93 days of gallant resistance against the superior and well-armed Japanese soldiers.

Some 60,000 Filipino and American troops were made prisoners of war by the Japanese.

They were made to walk some 112 kilometers from Mariveles, Bataan to Capas, Tarlac under the scorching sun with no food and water for days in what is known the world over as the "Death March." (PNA)

20

AFP joins 'Araw ng Kagitingan' commemoration

By Priam Nepomuceno April 9, 2018, 9:44 am



ARAW NG KAGITINGAN. Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea leads the commemoration activities of Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor) in Mt. Samat National Shrine, Pilar, Bataan on Monday (April 9, 2018). *(Screengrab from RTVM)*

MANILA -- As the country commemorates the 76th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) joins the observance of "Araw ng Kagitingan" (Day of Valor) and salutes soldiers who valiantly defended the nation against foreign occupation during the World War II.

"We remember the sacrifices of our veterans, their bravery, and their selfless dedication to the country's defense. Through their gallantry, we were able to show the determination of Filipinos to stand against overwhelming odds," AFP public affairs office chief, Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia said.

Underarmed and meagerly supplied American and Filipino forces fighting in the Bataan frontlines were forced to surrender on April 9, 1942 after 93 days of resistance against the superior Japanese force equipped with then the latest war equipment.

Some 60,000 Filipino and American troops were taken prisoners of war by the Japanese. They were made to walk some 112 kilometers from Mariveles, Bataan to Capas, Tarlac under the scorching sun with no food and water for days in what is known the world over as the "Death March."

The AFP public affairs chief also lauded the current crop of Filipino soldiers for their courage and selfless service in recent events against terrorists and violent extremists.

"The deeds of heroism and ideals of our world war veterans will always be inculcated in the minds of our current soldiers who exhibit in their own actions the same fervor and willingness to defend our country and our people," Garcia said. **(PNA)**

29