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NEWS CLIPPINGS

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Saturday

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2018

Honor. Patriotism. Duty

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Gun ban in effect as election period starts

By **LESLIE ANN G. AQUINO**

The election period for the May 14 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) starts today and the Office of the Election Officer will start receiving certificates of candidacy

(COC) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the city or municipality where the candidate resides starting today until April 20.

Under the law, no person shall be eligible for any Barangay or SK position unless he or she files a sworn COC, the forms of which may

be obtained either at the local Offices of Election Officers (OEOs) or downloaded at the Commission of Elections (Comelec) website: www.comelec.gov.ph.

Voters aged 18 and above shall vote for one Barangay chairman, and seven Barangay Kagawads. Meanwhile, voters aged 15 to 30 shall vote for one Sanggunian Kabataan (SK) chairperson and seven SK members.

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) chairperson Rene Sarmiento reminded aspirants that running for public office is a serious business.

"Running for public office, presidency or Barangay/ SK (BSK) posts, is serious business, because it deals with people's lives, liberties and properties, and fortunes as well, and candidates should be God-fearing and people-serving," Sarmiento added.

Candidates for barangay chairman and kagawad should be a Filipino citizen, a registered voter in the Barangay where he intends to be elected, a resident therein for at least one year immediately preceding the day of the election, able to read and write Filipino or any other local language or dialect, and at least 18 years of age on election day.

SK candidates, on the other hand should be a Filipino citizens, a qualified voter of the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK), resident of the Barangay for not less than a year immediately preceding the day of the elections, at least 18 years but not more than 24 years of age on the day of the elections, able to read and write Filipino, English or the local dialect, must not have been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude, must not be related within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any incumbent elected national official or to any incumbent elected regional, provincial, city, municipal, or barangay official, in the locality, where he or she seeks to be elected.

Gun ban

The Comelec said during the election period which will end on May 21, "no person shall bear, carry or transport firearms or other deadly weapons in public places, including any building, street, park, private vehicle or public conveyance, even if licensed to carry the same, unless authorized in writing by the Commission."

Only regular members of the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other law enforcement agencies of the Government who are duly deputized in writing by the Commission for election duty may be authorized to carry and possess firearms during the election period.

However, the Comelec said, "when in the possession of firearms, the deputized law enforcement officer must be in full uniform showing clearly and legibly his name, rank and serial number, which shall remain visible at all times, and in the actual performance of his

election duty in the specific area designated by the Commission."

Gun ban exemptions may be issued to other qualified individuals, "who by nature of their official duties, profession, business or occupation, such as but not limited to cashiers, disbursing officers, persons who are under the Witness Protection Program, etc., are considered as high risk individuals."

All application/requirements for gun ban exemptions shall be filed with the Committee on the Ban on Firearms and Security Personnel (CBFSP) at the Comelec Main Office, 8th Floor, Palacio del Gobernador Building in Intramuros, Manila.

To effectively implement the firearms ban during the election period, Comelec Checkpoints shall be established nationwide.

"There shall be at least one (1) Comelec Checkpoint in each city/municipality. However, additional checkpoints, including those coming from PNP/AFP commands outside the city/municipality, shall be established in coordination with the Election Officer (EO) having jurisdiction over the city/municipality," the Comelec said in Resolution No. 10198, promulgated September 14, 2017.

When the ban takes effect at 12:01 a.m. of April 14, 2018, the setting up of checkpoints will also commence, the Comelec said.

Third termers

Records of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) showed there are 8,927 third-term incumbent punong barangays in the country and 51,273 third-term sangguniang barangay members.

DILG officer-in-charge Eduardo M. Año said that under the Local Government Code, “no local elective official shall serve for more than three consecutive terms in the same position. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of service for the full term for which the elective official concerned was elected.”

“The law is very clear regarding the prohibition of third termers to run for the same post. Do not file your candidacy if you will go beyond the third term, or consider running for another post. Better yet, let the others have their chance to become barangay leaders,” he added.

DILG Assistant Secretary and spokesperson Jonathan Malaya said the department has already submitted to Comelec the names of incumbent punong barangays and sangguniang barangay members serving their third consecutive terms in office in the same position.

“This initiative of the DILG to be on guard of third-term barangay officials is in line with department’s commitment of support to an honest and clean elections,” said Malaya. (With reports from Martin A. Sadongdong and Chito Chavez)

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Butuan City cops repulse NPA attackers after 20-minute gunfight

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**
and **JOSEPH JUBELAG**

BUTUAN CITY — The Butuan City Police Station 5 (BCPO-S5) located in Barangay San Mateo, was reported attacked by about suspected fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) on Thursday, an assault that was repulsed by a crew of about 20 police officers after a 20-minute gunfight.

According to Chief Supt. Noli A. Romana, regional director of Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) the policemen of BCPO-S5 stood their ground until reinforcing troops arrived. The attack began at 9:36 a.m. Thursday.

"Rebels retreated neither getting any weapon and ammunition nor hurting any of our policemen on the ground," the region's police chief told The Manila Bulletin.

He added that the police force may have even inflicted casualties on the side of the marauding NPAs.

However, Romana admitted that the failed NPA attack may have created fear among residents living near BCPO-S5.

"We urge the people to help the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in suppressing insurgency in the region by reporting the terrorists' presence and illegal activities to the nearest police/army unit," the region's top cop added.

The attackers were believed members of Guerilla Front Committee 4-A of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao regional Committee.

Troops from the 13th Regional Mobile Force Battalion and Butuan City Mobile Force Company reinforced the embattled elements of BCPO-S5, and conducted clearing operations.

Troops from the 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade were also deployed to assist the police mobile forces in the wide pursuit operations against the retreating terrorists.

Meanwhile, security forces are also pursuing NPA fighters, who burned down Thursday a packing plant owned by a multi-national banana firm in Tupi, South Cotabato.

Sr. Supt. Nestor Salcedo, South Cotabato police Director, said six unidentified armed men, who introduced themselves as NPA members, barged into the compound of a banana packing plant owned by Dole-Stanfilco in Barangay Lunen Tupi, South Cotabato.

Police said the suspects, who were armed with rifles and handguns, confiscated the hand-held radio and cell-phones of security guard Rio Alegria and other company employees before they set on fire the warehouse inside the compound.

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The Manila Times

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Sulu health employee killed in ambush

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Unidentified assailants shot dead an employee of the Sulu Integrated Provincial Health Office in Jolo town at a time government leaders were working hard to promote peace and tourism in the Muslim province.

Edmiraldo Sollano, 38, was killed while driving home on a motorcycle in Barangay San Raymundo on Thursday. His assailants drove off with Sollano's motorcycle and disappeared in the dark.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the murder and police were investigating the attack. It was

unknown why the police and military failed to prevent the attack or strictly guard the capital town despite the extended imposition of martial law in the entire southern Philippines.

Abu Sayyaf bandits had previously attacked Jolo and kidnapped innocent civilians despite the presence of military and police camps in the town. Even the town's police headquarters are not safe anymore and also attacked in the past.

Police and military checkpoints and patrol were also limited in many towns and by nightfall there is hardly any soldiers and policemen

guarding vital government installations in Jolo and nearby areas.

Gov. Toto Tan has repeatedly rallied the mayors in Sulu to work hard in protecting their communities and work harder to lure investors to put up business in Sulu, one of five provinces in the Autonomous Regions in Muslim Mindanao.

Just last week, Tan met with Army Colonel Santiago Enginco, commander of Metro Jolo Inter-Agency Task Group, and Doctor Farah Omar, of the Sulu Integrated Provincial Health Office, and discussed the security situation in Jolo town. He also

met separately with Army Major Aunor Balansi and Master Sergeant Anthony Abellera, of the 5th Scout Ranger Battalion.

Tan ordered authorities to impose a tighter security in the town and for the military to help police in maintaining peace and order in the province.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government has removed last year the supervision of the local executives over the police, which relied heavily on the support of local governments in their campaign against criminality.

AL JACINTO

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Manila
Standard

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SURRENDER. Four members of the IS-linked Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, under the Esmael Abubakar aka Kumander Bungos faction surrendered and handed over their high-powered firearms to MGen Arnel dela Vega AFP, commander of 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division, Philippine Army (center, left) on Wednesday, April 11, 2018. Also in photo is Gov. Esmael 'Toto' Mangudadato of Maguindanao province (center, right) while Maguindanao Police director PSSupt Edwin Wagan (left) looks on. Sustained military pressure against the terrorist group combined with the continuous call of the national and local government leaders to embrace the peace process are just some of the reasons why the rebels surrendered. The ceremony was held at 6th Infantry Kampilan Division, Awang Datu Odin, Sinsuat, Maguindanao. **Mark Navales**

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Military seizes firearms from BIFF

CAMP SIONGCO, AWANG, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao—In a press briefing, Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, Commander of the 6th Infantry (KAMPILAN) Division, Lt. Col. Alvin Iyog, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Mechanized Battalion and Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Lauro Oliveros of 1st Mechanized Battalion presented to the media, 18 High Powered Firearms (HPFAs) and Low Powered Firearms (LPFAs) and the 5 BIFF terrorists who surrendered.

Along with the firearms are significant numbers of unassembled parts of weapons. There are 41 barrels, a number of stocks and an ample number of trigger mechanism that would double the number of seized firearms if assembled.

Military officials said the surrender of the firearms is a big loss in the part of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters

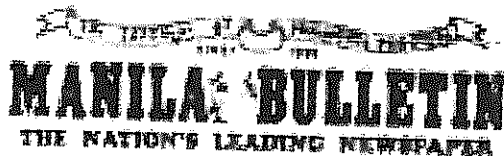
(BIFF).

Lt. Col. Iyog said, "This is the product of heavy bombardment made by the military troopers against the terrorist inspired BIFF led by Abu Nasriah and Commander Bungos. For the last two days, there were series of operations conducted by the military troopers in the area."

As early as 6 a.m. of April 10, 2018, the combined efforts of one (1) Mechanized Infantry Company, Alpha Company of 57 Infantry Battalion and 61st Division Reconnaissance Company led by Lt. Col. Iyog, conducted a clearing operation at Brgy. Pagatin, Shariff Saydona Mustafa, Maguindanao.

Subsequently, mortar section provided also mortar fire support while special army vehicle provided direct fire Philippine Air Force PAF also conducted close air support to the troops.

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Coed, 18, hit by stray bullet in NPA attack

By **NINO N. LUCES**

CAMP OLA, Albay — New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas fired at a construction site in Pasacao town, Camarines Sur in a bid to harass the private contractor, but ended up wounding an 18-year-old college coed last Thursday.

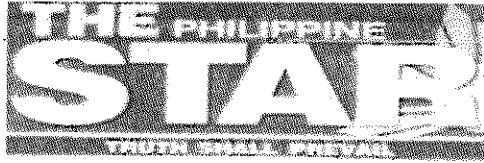
Senior Inspector Malu Calubaquib, Police Regional Office 5 (PRO5) spokesperson, said elements of the army's 93rd Reconnaissance Company,

who were securing the area, engaged the band of about five NPA communist terrorists in a gun battle until they retreated.

The NPA attack at 12:05 p.m. targeted the GCI Construction Company, owned by Engr. Gigie Evasco, but a stray bullet hit Abegail A. Potenia, single a college student and resident of Pasacao, in the back.

She was taken to a hospital in Naga City for treatment after the three-minute gunbattle.

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Civilian hurt in NPA attack

LEGAZPI CITY – A student was hit by a stray bullet when New People's Army (NPA) rebels attacked Army

soldiers guarding an infrastructure project in Pasacao, Camarines Sur on Thursday.

Abegail Potenia, 18, was taken to a hospital in Naga City for treatment.

Senior Inspector Malou Calubaquib, Bicol police spokesperson, said the rebels fired at personnel of the 93rd Reconnaissance Company detailed as security escorts of GCI Construction Co. in Barangay Bahay at about 12:05 p.m.

Pursuit operations for the rebels are ongoing.

– Celso Amo

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Student hurt in NPA attack

CAMP OLA, Legazpi City – An 18-year old female student was rushed to a hospital Thursday after she was hit by a stray bullet following an encounter between government forces and suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) at a construction site in Pasacao town, Camarines Sur. Senior Inspector Mañal Calubacub, Police Regional Office 5 (PRO-5) spokesperson, identified the victim as Abigail Potencia. The firefight allegedly occurred 12 noon with security personnel of the GCI Construction Company composed of elements from the 93rd Recon Company of the Philippine Army being engaged by at least five heavily armed men. Investigation is still ongoing. (Nino N. Luces)

11 April 2018



Pahina. 3

Dalaga sugatan sa NPA encounter sa CamSur

SUGATAN ang isang 18-anyos na dalagang estudyante matapos na matamaan ng ligaw na bala sa naganap na engkuwentro ng mga sundalo at pinaniniwalaang mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) kamakalawa ng tanghali sa bayan ng Pasacao, Camarines Sur.

Patuloy na inoobserbahan sa pagamutan sa Naga City dahil sa tinamong isang tama ng bala sa likurang bahagi ng katawan ang biktimgang si Abegail Pote-

nia, 18, 3rd year college student at residente ng Barangay Bahay ng nabatid na bayan.

Sa ulat na nakarating sa 9th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army sa Camp Elias Angeles, nagkaroon ng engkuwentro ang mga sundalo mula sa 93rd Recon Company at tinatayang 5 rebelde sa Sitio Canal, Bara ngay Bahay matapos na rumesponde ang tropa ng pamahalaan hinggil sa ginagawang pangigingkil ng mga NPA sa isang construction

company sa lugar.

Nagtagal lang ng halos tatlong minuto ang palitan ng putok ng dalawang grupo subalit bago tumakas ang mga NPA ay tinamaan ng ligaw na bala mula sa kanilang grupo ang biktima na naipit sa engkuwentro habang pauwi sa kanilang bahay.

Agad naman itong dinala ng mga sundalo sa pagamutan habang ang iba ay patuloy ang ginawang manhunt para sa mga tumakas na mga rebelde. (Edwin Balasa)

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Weapons left behind

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City — Boxes of live ammunition and weapons were seized after a gun battle erupted between government security forces and Communist-New People's Army Terrorists (CNTs) in Sitio (sub-village) Paradise, Barangay Del Monte, Veruela, Agusan del Sur, a sketchy report reaching here on Friday said. The report also said no one was reported hurt on the government side while an undetermined number of CNTs were believed wounded. As the suspects retreated, they left behind two boxes containing more than 3,000 live ammunition for M16 ArmaLite rifle, two K99 sub-machineguns, a caliber-30 carbine rifle, an ARMSCOR cal. 22 rifle with scope, bomb-making materials including improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and two magazines of AK 47 rifle with live bullets, initial 26th IB reports said. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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'THEY'RE TERRORISTS'

**SARA ASKS DAD
TO RECONSIDER
REVIVAL OF PEACE
TALKS WITH REDS**

DAVAO CITY—Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte has appealed to her father, President Duterte, to reconsider his decision to revive the peace talks between the government and communist rebels, saying there are no indications that the communists are willing to negotiate for a peaceful resolution to the decades-old conflict.

In an emailed statement on Friday, Sara said that while she trusted "the wisdom of the President," she believed that pursuing peace with the insurgents "is counterproductive and plainly useless."

"Respectfully, I am asking President Rodrigo Duterte to reconsider his decision to reopen the negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP)," the mayor said.

No preconditions

Sarah made her appeal as Mr. Duterte on Friday denied that he had set preconditions for the resumption of the peace talks with the NDFP.

What he actually laid down were the aspects that could help get the talks back on track in two months' time, he said.

"It's not a condition, it's a timeline," the President said. "I will give my demands and they can also have theirs, and that is where we start negotiating."

But he said he wanted the insurgents to agree to a total ceasefire first. "There has to be a ceasefire. Not a single shot fired," he added.

Sara said the insurgency could only end if the NDFP, the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, New People's Army (NPA), would "reciprocate the gesture [to revive the talks] offered by the government."

The 49-year-old Maoist rebellion has claimed over 40,000 lives and stunted progress in the countryside.

'Peace not an option'

But Sara said there were no indications that the rebels were willing to talk peacefully.

"These are groups motivated by the desire to overthrow the government and rule the nation. For them, peace is not an option. And that's because they are terrorists," the mayor said.

The younger Duterte, an Army Reserve colonel, said there should be no negotiation with terrorists.

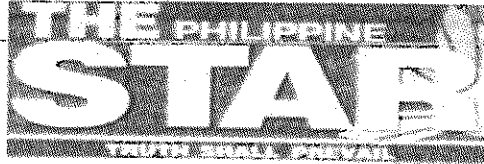
"Deal with them in the way we should—tough, strong, high-intensity and one that gathers all sectors to completely crush their influence in communities where they are present," Sara said. —FRINSTON

LIM AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ

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Sara to dad: No peace talks with Reds

DAVAO CITY – Like a battered lover saying goodbye to the tormentor, it's time to end the suffering.

Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio yesterday appealed to her father the President to reconsider his decision to resume talks with communist rebels.

"Mr. President, the country will move for-

ward if the government is able to eliminate the rebels and end this senseless rebellion. Just like a battered lover, there is a time to finally say no to pain and suffering. No to peace talks," Carpio said in a statement yesterday. "I believe the insurgency problem can only be ended peacefully if the

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Sara From Page 1

NDF (National Democratic Front) and the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, are sincere, honest and committed to working toward the direction of peace and reciprocate the gesture offered by the government," she added.

Duterte-Carpio pointed out that so far, there are no indications the communists are willing to negotiate for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. She said history showed the communists are not to be trusted as they have consistently shown their deep-seated proclivity to sow hate, violence and extremism, destruction, and senseless killings.

Duterte-Carpio said the CPP-NPA-NDF are groups motivated by the desire to overthrow the government and rule the nation. "For them, peace is not an option. And that's

because they are terrorists," she said.

After labeling the communists as terrorists, President Duterte declared he was open to resuming talks with the rebels, saying he no longer wants to kill fellow Filipinos who are fighting for their principles.

Duterte said it's about time that the government and the communists make peace, noting they have been fighting for 50 years.

Duterte had ordered his officials to work on the resumption of talks with directives to forge a ceasefire agreement.

He said he is not giving any condition to resume the moribund peace talks with communist rebels.

"It's not a condition, it's a timeline. There are no conditions given. Do they understand the nomenclature of a timeline and a condition?" Duterte said here early yesterday after his arrival from China and Hong Kong. – Edith Regalado, Alexis Romero, Christina Mendez, Jose Rodel Clapano, Gilbert Bayoran

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Mayor Sara says 'no' to resumption of peace talks

By ANTONIO L. COLINA IV

DAVAO CITY — City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio urged her father President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to reconsider his decision to reopen stalled peace negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) because "there are no indications at all that they are willing to negotiate for a peaceful resolution of the conflict."

In a statement issued on Friday, Carpio said the insurgency problem in the country will end only if the Communists and their armed wing, New People's Army (NPA), show that they will be sincere, honest, and committed to reciprocate the gesture of peace and reconciliation offered by the government.

"Just like a battered lover, there is a time to finally say no to pain and suffering. No to peace talks," she said.

Carpio maintained that the government should "be tough, strong, (and with) high intensity" in dealing with the Communists, while gathering all sectors to completely crush the insurgents' influence in communities where they are present.

Carpio added that the Communist movement could not be trusted "as they have consistently shown us their deep-seated proclivity to sow hate, violence and extremism, destruction, and senseless killings, (while being) motivated by the desire to rule the nation by overthrowing the government."

The presidential daughter, who was elected mayor for the second time in 2016 after serving as the city's local chief executive from 2010 until 2013 and vice mayor from 2007 to 2010, cited the recent atrocities committed by the NPA in the city and surrounding province.

She blamed the Communist guerrillas for the death of Larry Buenafe, a

fish vendor who died due to the landmine planted and set off by NPA members when they burned the Lorenzo-owned box plant in Mandug on April 29, 2017.

"Let us not forget Larry's two very young children now growing without a father — and the many other orphaned children of other hapless, mostly poor civilians. Let us not forget the orphaned children of our brave soldiers and police officers killed by the NPAs in the name of a rusty ideology and deranged revolution," she said.

Carpio also cited infant Walysa Manchorao, who died in an NPA ambush on a police patrol car in Bukidnon in November 2017. Her death prompted the President to cancel the fifth round of talks on November 25 to 27, 2017 with the issuance of Proclamation 360.

The President subsequently issued Proclamation 374 designating the CPP and the NPA as terrorist organizations.

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The Manila Times

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Sara Duterte rejects talks with Reds

BY AL JACINTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte appealed on Friday to his father, President Rodrigo Duterte, not to reopen stalled peace talks with communist insurgents responsible for many attacks in her hometown.

The President, who previously cancelled the peace talks with rebels following deadly attacks in the restive region, has revived negotiations in an effort to put an end to bloodshed to the world's

longest-running insurgency.

The New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been waging decades of bloody separatist war. It demanded a coalition

government from Duterte, who flatly rejected the idea.

"Respectfully, I am asking President Rodrigo Duterte to reconsider his decision to reopen the negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). I believe the insurgency problem can only be ended peacefully if the NDFP and the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, are sincere, honest, and committed to working toward the direction of peace and reciprocate the gesture offered by the government," the mayor said.

Rebel forces recently raided Davao City and torched heavy equipment used in government infrastructure projects in three areas. Red fighters also launched a spate of daring and deadly raids and even challenged Duterte to stop them.

"History will also tell us that the communist movement is not to be trusted as they have consistently shown us their deep-seated proclivity to sow hate, violence and extremism, destruction, and senseless killings. These are groups motivated by the desire to overthrow the government and rule the nation. For them, peace is not an

option. And that's because they are terrorists," the mayor said.

She said the government should not negotiate with terrorists and deal harshly with the rebels, citing the murders of innocent civilians, including a baby, in attacks perpetrated by the NPA.

"We maintain our position that we are not supposed to negotiate with terrorists, but deal with them the way we should — tough, strong, high intensity, and one that gathers all sectors to completely crush their influence in communities where they are present."

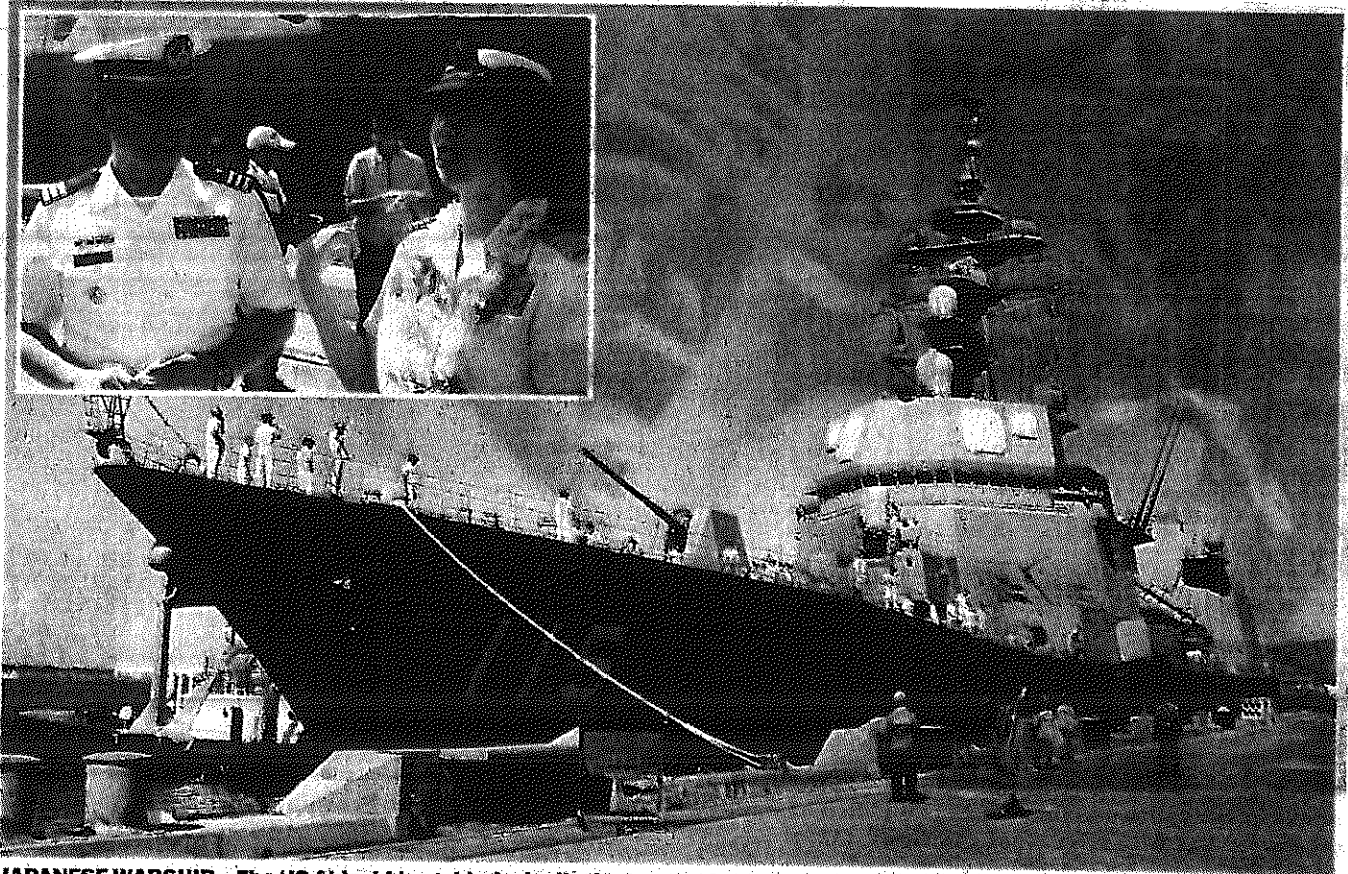
"Let us not forget Larry Buenafe,

the fish vendor who died because the NPA detonated a landmine in Marikina last year. Let us not forget Larry's two very young children now growing without a father — and the many other orphaned children of other hapless, mostly poor civilians. Let us not forget the orphaned children of our brave soldiers and police officers killed by the NPAs in the name of a rusty ideology and deranged revolution. And how could we possibly forget Malysa Machorao who died after an NPA ambush in Bukidnon last year. She was only four months old," she said.

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JAPANESE WARSHIP – The 'JS Akizuki,' a guided missile destroyer of Japan, docks at the Alava Wharf, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City yesterday. Inset, Philippine Navy Commander Jonathan Zata (left) chats with Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Escort Division One Commander Ryoko Azuma, Japan's first female warship squadron commander. (Jonas Reyes)

Akizuki-class destroyer on 3-day visit; Japan's 1st female commander in town

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD
and JONAS REYES

The Japanese Akizuki-class Destroyer arrived in Subic Bay yesterday for a three-day goodwill visit in the country with about 200 officers and crew, among them Japan's first-ever female commander

of a warship squadron.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) vessel "JS Akizuki" (DD-115), a guided missile destroyer with one SH-60J helicopter, docked at the Alava Wharf – making it the second visit of a JMSDF ship in the country this year after "JS Amagiri" in Manila

last February.

Captain Lued L. Lincuna, Philippine Naval Public Affairs director, said the "BRP Emilio Jacinto" (PS-35) rendered customary meeting procedures in the vicinity of Morong, Bataan and escorted the vessels to its designated anchorage area.

Philippine Navy delegates headed by the representative of the Flag-Officer-in-Command, Captain Francis Alexander R. Jose, accorded the visiting navy a welcome ceremony upon arrival followed by a port briefing related to health and security aboard JS Akizuki.

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Many eyes were on Captain Ryoko Azuma, commander of JMSDF's Escort Division One and the first female to command a warship squadron.

Azuma, along with Commander Kazunori Ishii, commanding officer of JS Akizuki, will call on the Commander of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), Rear Admiral Allan Ferdinand V. Cusi in San Antonio, Zambales.

Since her appointment Mar. 8, 2018, Azuma will command four ships and a combined crew of 1,000 which make up the First Escort Service in JMSDF, the naval branch of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF).

Azuma said that Japanese Navy will engage in a series of confidence building activities with their Philippine Navy (PN) counterparts such as goodwill games followed by a boodle fight.

She said that the visit aims to strengthen the relationship between the two navies.

The 44-year-old Japanese female naval chief said that during the time she joined the JMSDF in 1996, women were forbidden to serve on warships. Azuma said that this rule was abolished ten years ago, with the exception of Japanese submarines where only men are allowed to serve.

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Special Report

Erik Espina

'Enemies of the state'

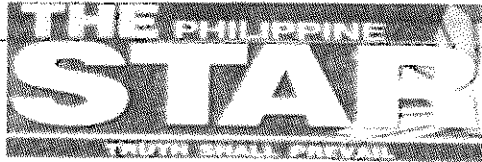
I TONG NDF because I used to be friends with the NDF. I was crossing the ideological borders before. Ako 'yung nakakapasok sa territory and we were friends really. But times have changed because God placed me here and I take care of the Republic. Sabi nila doon 'bully' daw ako, T***** pala kayo, talagang bully ako. P*****I**. Talagang bully ako especially to the enemies of the State, talagang 'bully ako.' PRRD State of the Nation July 24, 2017

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, is crossing the ideological divide to portend a glimmer of peace in an insurgency roughly spanning five decades, claiming too

many lives for our soldiers, loss of property and investments in the multi-billions of pesos, in the re-echo of wailing mothers and orphans over previous-mandated government efforts to bring an intractable enemy into the fold of law and order. While leftist fronts are on overdrive to instinctively drum-up resumption of every peace talk for the advantage of their armed components, the parameters set by the President puts them at bay, as essential pre-conditions evaluating the sincerity of an errant turned terroristic group: 1) Communists declare a unilateral ceasefire; 2) Halt extortion activities; 3) Stop attacking/burning private

property, plus a most welcome development of our government hosting/spending for talks on Philippine soil. A sovereign country finally taking the rebellion by the horns with the red-line clearly set by the president. Expect a locking of horns, not if, but when the CPP-NPA-NDF is unwilling to accept said conditions. The punch-line of this insurrection being an unfortunate editorial of Filipinos fighting Filipinos no longer holds water, as the cataclysm of a coalition government with totalitarian thinking totally contravenes the very warrior history of Filipinos defending libertarian values and trespasses on our democratic way of life under a Republican government. This is a strategic testing of water cleverly putting the onus, nay the blame, for the predictable failure of proposed peace talks at the double-tongued terrorists who has lost their right to be regarded as Filipinos. Blind acolytes fomenting an alien ideological and violent caste on their own people.

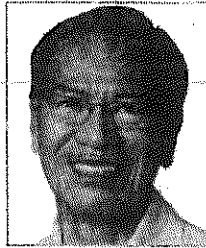
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AT GROUND LEVEL

SATUR C. OCAMPO



A 'dirty and brutal war' vs farmers in Mindanao

Under martial law extended till the end of 2018 in the whole of Mindanao, the Duterte government has unleashed "a dirty and brutal war" against communities of farmers and indigenous peoples/national minorities aimed at "instilling fear and terror and silencing their long struggle for land, [human] rights, and justice."

The continuing extrajudicial killings (EJKs) have claimed the lives of more than a hundred farmers, many of whom are leaders or members of peasant organizations, "in active campaigns for their right to till, and against massive landgrabbing and exploitative ventures of foreign large-scale mining, plantation expansion, and energy extraction." The farmers' struggles go hand-in-hand with the national minorities' assertion of their right to self-determination, which have either been denied or undermined by a succession of administrations.

Besides EJKs, other human rights violations, including the filing of trumped-up criminal charges, faked or forced surrender, forced evacuation, and various forms of threat, harassment and intimidation (denoted by human rights defenders as THI) have been also duly documented.

Commendably, the peasant and IP communities continue to confront the state's dirty and brutal war through their collective actions and organized resistance.

The above conditions sum up the findings of an International Fact-Finding and Solidarity Mission (to Defend Filipino Peasants' Land and Human Rights Against Militarism and Plunder in Mindanao), in which I was invited to participate on April 6-9. Three groups – each assigned to Caraga, Northern Mindanao, and Southern Mindanao regions – conducted on-site visits of communities, held focused group discussions, and interviewed the victims or relatives of victims of human rights violations. I was with the group that went to Caraga.

In its draft overall report, the IFFSM cites these additional findings:

- The AFP and PNP use old and new tactics of sowing fear and dangling lucrative offers to discourage the farmers from asserting their rights.

"A dubious campaign of forced surrender of thousands of people, mostly poor communities of farmers," the report says, "deceives the general public into believing they are 'winning the war.'" But on the ground, it adds, "the reality paints a bleak picture of farmers who are not simply displaced from the land they till, but are also herded to be used and tagged as 'surrenderees,' put in detention, forced to report daily to military detachments, and live in constant fear and threats to their lives and security."

I intently listened to several testimonies among the 59 victims and their relatives who managed to meet with the IFFSM in Caraga, straining to understand their narratives (in Bisaya/Cebuano) aided by their body language. Later, aboard a van on their way home to Surigao, 15 of them were stopped at a checkpoint. Soldiers directed them to list down their names and addresses in a logbook, took a photo of each one, and seized the van driver's license before they were allowed to go.

- Observations on the EJKs: 1) Most of the victims were engaged in local peasant struggles, such as land cultivation, resisting landgrabbing, asserting the IP's right over ancestral lands and territories, and campaigns to improve their living conditions; 2) the victims were attacked in or near their homes and communities

and in the presence of family members and neighbors; 3) some were slain in their farms; 4) the killings were carried out by masked men in tandem, some of whom were identified as known "assets" of operating military units; and 5) the victims had been tagged or accused by AFP soldiers as members or supporters of the NPA.

The killing of 23-year-old farmer Aaron Notarte in Barangay Manat, Agusan del Sur, is notable for its brutality. Intercepting him enroute to his family's coffee farm, soldiers aimed their guns at him and ordered him to admit he was a NPA member. Failing to get an admission after their repeated demand, the soldiers pounded his back with their rifle butts, cut off two of his fingers, then ordered him to run and shot him dead. A few days later, the military reported that Notarte was among the NPA rebels killed in an armed encounter on Jan. 13, 2018.

- Military campaigns in the communities have become not only a deceptive maneuver but a money-making and extortion scheme. Also civilian agencies and local government units have been used as auxiliaries in combat operations and in the counterinsurgency drive called Community Operations for Peace and Development (COPD).

In Caraga, for instance, our group uncovered a modus operandi that has enabled military officers or personnel to access and take the reward money offered by the government to alleged NPA surrenderees, or to extort money from farmers who had acceded or succumbed to military pressure to claim they were NPA fighters and "surrendered" – thus victimizing the farmers twice.

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In one province, where farmers accused of being rebels are assigned a PAO (Public Attorney's Office) lawyer, our group came across a case where the PAO lawyer allegedly demanded from the family of an arrested farmer a large sum of money to facilitate the dismissal of the trumped-up charge and the farmer's release. Two provincial prosecutors, whom our group's lawyer and his paralegal team had interviewed, revealed the questionable practices of a judge and certain prosecutors that violate due process. The judge routinely issued search warrants of doubtful basis and validity, while the prosecutors hurriedly filed trumped-up charges in court, simply because the respondents (who may not have received the court summons) failed to submit controverting evidence to the spurious charges.

The three-day fact-finding mission was too short as to enable me to pin down with certainty the deeper rationale for this dirty and brutal war against unarmed farmers and their resistant communities. However, I may come close to it with this concise analysis and conclusion:

Woodenheadedly, the AFP is targeting, via *Oplan Kapayapaan*, to defeat the NPA in Mindanao by the end of 2018, despite Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana saying it's an unrealistic target. Now, previous AFP chiefs have assessed the failures of their previous counterinsurgency operational plans. They came to realize that the NPA has survived the intensive and extensive attacks because the revolutionary forces have built up stable areas of support among the farming communities, which are also among the wellsprings for the sustained recruitment of new NPA fighters. Thus the AFP, belatedly and wrongfully, tries to apply the principle: nip the enemy in the bud.

* * *

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

ONLINE NEWS

14 APRIL 2018

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34 rebs surrender as Army pushes offensives in Cotabato

ARAKAN, NORTH COTABATO—Thirty-four communist rebels surrendered to the military this week, ahead of the expected resumption of peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

Lt. Col. Ehrlich Noel Paraso, commander of the Army's 19th Infantry Battalion, said this was the biggest number of New People's Army (NPA) rebels to surrender in the town, although only two of them had turned over their firearms.

Paraso said the surrender, which was facilitated by rebel returnees, came amid the intensified military offensives in remote villages of Arakan and other communities in North Cotabato province. —EDWIN FERNANDEZ

www.pna.gov.ph

Outgoing AFP chief a 'great leader and well-rounded gentleman'

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA -- A military official has described outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief-of-Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero as a "well-rounded gentleman and officer" and a "great leader" who prioritizes the morale and welfare of his men.

"The outgoing CSAFP (Chief-of-Staff, AFP) is a well-rounded gentleman and officer. He is amiable and endowed with great leadership, that he always put on his priority the morale and welfare of his men," Philippine Army (PA) Spokesperson Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva described the retiring AFP chief as a military professional on Thursday.

He added: "I have seen him as aggressive yet prudent in providing direction to his command as well as giving operational decision. He follows and stick with the standard of the organization."

Guerrero was appointed as AFP chief last Oct. 26 replacing Gen. Eduardo Año. The outgoing AFP chief is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1983 and graduated as top three.

Guerrero is also a recipient of the Legion of Honor, Bronze Cross Medal, Distinguished Service Star and Military Merit and Commendation Medals and various letters of commendation and plaques of recognition from various non-government organizations and local government units.

Guerrero is scheduled to step down on April 24. He will be replaced by Western Mindanao Command head Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, a member of PMA Class of 1985. **(PNA)**

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DND confirming reports China deployed jammers in Spratlys

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA -- Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the Philippines is still confirming reports regarding Chinese jammers reportedly installed on Mischief and Fiery Cross Reefs on Spratly Islands.

"None has been confirmed by us. All reports has been coming from the US and we have not received any formal communications to that effect. So far our regular patrols in the WPS (West Philippine Sea) have not reported any incidence of jamming," he said Thursday.

"We will confirm using our resources if there really are jammers and if so what kind: to disrupt communications or disrupt weapon systems," the DND chief stressed.

Lorenzana said jammers come in small and large sizes which could be used to jam communications, while the more sophisticated ones could be utilized to disrupt weapon systems.

Some jammers could also be fitted in buildings and ships, he added.

"It could be turned on or off depending on the mission. Even if you have a sensor you will not know if it's not turned on," he said in Filipino.

"I suspect the US Navy ships received the jamming signals. What's the purpose of China's jammers? Because they know US Navy ships are armed," he added. **(PNA)**

www.pna.gov.ph

Alert status intensified after BIFF harassment in Maguindanao

By Edwin Fernandez

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao -- Soldiers and police in Maguindanao's second district were placed on heightened alert Thursday after members of the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) harassed military detachments and set off a roadside bomb that injured a soldier.

Speaking for the military-led Task Force Central, Lt. Col. Gerry Besana, said the bomb went off in Barangay Poblacion Talayan at about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday as a convoy of M35 military trucks was passing by the area.

Pfc. Dennis de Jose of the Army's 6th Infantry Division (6ID) Signal Battalion was hurt in the bomb explosion.

Citing intelligence reports, Besana identified the suspects behind the bombing incident as followers of Abu Nasria, a BIFF sub-leader operating in the Talayan-Talitay area.

"It (bombing) was part of the BIFF's retaliatory attacks on government forces following the recent seizure of their high-powered guns and gun-making equipment," he said.

Major Gen. Arnel dela Vega, 6ID chief and Task Force Central commander, said the Army is expecting the Islamic State-linked BIFF to launch harassments and bombings "because we have disabled them" with the recovery of 18 high-powered guns following air and ground offensives on Wednesday.

Dela Vega also said that the BIFF factions of Kagui Karialan, Esmael Bongos and Abu Toraife have reunited and were holding a "kanduli" (thanksgiving) when the Army conducted an air and ground assault on their position.

At about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, suspected BIFF fighters retaliated but failed to overrun the detachment of the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion (IB) in Barangay Pagatin, Shariff Saydona Mustapha, Maguindanao.

The Army reacted and a firefight ensued until the attackers, numbering about 15 heavily armed men, fled toward the marshland. No casualty was reported on both sides.

A day earlier, gunmen also harassed the 57th IB detachment in Barangay Labo-Labo, Datu Hofer, Maguindanao. (PNA)

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WINNING THE WAR | AFP makes headway against CPP-NPA

Posted by Alvin Santiago

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines is winning the war and gaining ground against the Communist Terrorist group CPP-NPA.

AFP Chief of Staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero revealed that more than 5,000 members of the Communist Terrorist group have surrendered to the government since January of this year alone.

The bulk of the surrenderees consist of regular members and mass supporters of the NPAs in the countryside, which is different from their armed fighters.

Based on his experience as a battalion commander, these supporters were also being exploited by the Communist front and their armed wing the NPA. The AFP capitalized on this loophole with the CPP-NPA and the government came through with various community support programs and have talk with local government officials to effectively address the problem.

Among this program is the Comprehensive Local Integration Program or CLIP under the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Guerrero added that the renewed call by President Rodrigo Duterte for Peace Talks with the Communist terrorist would be their last chance to achieve that elusive peace through dialogue and diplomacy. If things will not fall into place, the AFP will just follow its mandate to protect our democracy against any threat.

Meanwhile, Guerrero assured the public that the AFP is ready to support any endeavours for the rehabilitation of Marawi. *“There is a national plan for the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi City. Right now, all of the affected areas have been visually cleared, that means our engineers in there have looked around for unexploded bombs, IEDs and other explosives. Generally Marawi City is close to being fully cleared, (75%) I can say, and the construction efforts can already begin most areas. However there is one remaining sector that we are currently working on where we believe bombs are buried underneath the rubble so we using special equipment for that.”* **AES / MCAG**

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ARSON INCIDENT | Communist Terrorist torched Banana Plantation in South Cotabato

Posted by Alvin Santiago

TUPI, South Cotabato (DWDD) – Government troops are pursuing a band of some 20 armed men believed to be CPP-NPA terrorists (CNT) who partially burned a banana packing plant of Dole-Stanfilco at Barangay, Kalkam, Tupi, South Cotabato on April 12 | 2018.

The 27th Infantry "Action" Battalion under the 1002nd Infantry Brigade, 10th Infantry "Agila" Division based along the Gensan-Marbel Road in Brgy. Kablon, Tupi and the Tupi Municipal Police Station, PNP immediately responded to the arson attack together with the Tupi Municipal Fire Station of the Bureau of Fire Protection and the Tupi Rescue Team. The speedy response saved the production bodega from damage but not an estimated P500,000 worth of properties that were destroyed by the blaze.

Fortunately, however, no one was injured in the incident. While withdrawing about 9:45pm, the armed men, who are likely members of Platoon Roxas Range, Guerrilla Front 73, Far South Mindanao Operational Command, CPP-NPA, also disarmed a Barangay Tanod member of his service shotgun and handheld radio transceiver unit while rendering duty at the Barangay Tanod outpost in Sitio Sabuy, Barangay Lunen, some two kilometers from the beleaguered packing plant.

According to witnesses, six of the armed men equipped with R4, Garand and M14 rifles, a shotgun and Caliber .45 pistols entered the packing plant about 7pm and introduced themselves as CPP-NPA members. The other armed men reportedly deployed themselves outside the compound. At gunpoint, the six armed men warned the guard-on-duty and six other workers present not to react against them as they only intend to burn the facility. Speaking in Hiligaynon (Ilonggo) dialect with heavy Blaan accent, the CNTs reportedly told them that they were imposing punitive action against Dole-Stanfilco due to its expansion activities that may drive them away and permanently displace. With three gallons of gasoline they brought with them, the CPP-NPA terrorists set on fire the packing plant and agri-bodega. The CNT band withdrew from the area around 7:40pm. The latest burning incident is believed to be the 80th arson attack nationwide, the 70th in Mindanao and the 64th in eastern Mindanao that were either claimed by or blamed against the NPA since President Duterte assumed office at noon on June 30, 2018. Similarly, it was presumed to be the 8th arson case nationwide this year that was attributed to the CNT. **27IB / MCAG**

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LEAVING A LEGACY | CSAFP Guerrero satisfied with performance

Posted by Alvin Santiago

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – With just a few days before he retires from military service, AFP Chief Staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero has expressed satisfaction over his performance in past six months.

According to Gen Guerrero, his six-month stint as the Chief of Staff was enough to implement reforms in the organization and since the AFP has the "DSSP Kapayapaan", it serves as the institutions roadmap towards attaining its goals.

"Okay naman masaya nakapaglingkod tayo sa AFP at sa bayan with the support of my family, my wife of course." "The time was enough to continue some of the reforms when I took over and some of the initiatives I put in place, actually nandiyan nayan nakalatag na yan itutuloy na lang, we have the DSSP Kapayapaan and we all implement that, the term of CSAFP is not about the person, not about me, it's a team effort." Guerrero said

Meanwhile, Guerrero believes that professionalism is the AFP's key to attaining a very high public trust rating. The professionalism of our soldiers, the way the AFP handled the Marawi Crisis and the way we dealt with the problem of insurgency, especially with the CPP/NPA. Added to this was how the organization welcomed former rebels and making them feel that their Armed Forces always has an open-arm for those who wish to return to a peaceful life. This AFP showed its human side of the AFP, especially when they facilitated the meeting of almost 700 former rebels with the President Rodrigo Duterte.

When asked about his career after leaving the AFP and his possible new role as part of MARINA, Guerrero quipped that his leadership will still be the same although he will be implementing policy changes. He must also remember that he will soon be out of the AFP but he can use the experience in facing his new endeavor. But for now, Guerrero maintains that he is not yet thinking of his new pot in MARINA, since he is still the Chief of Staff of the AFP.

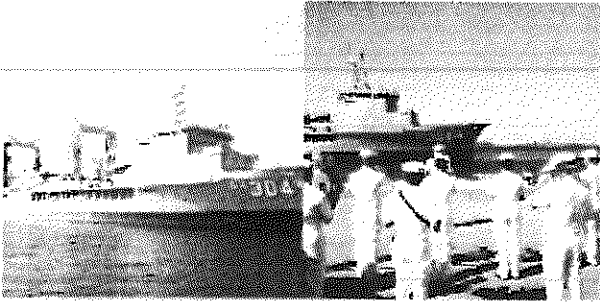
In regards his successor Lt Gen Carlito Galvez Jr., he believes in the capability of the gentleman, especially his leadership and being an effective peace negotiator.

On his message to President Rodrigo Duterte: "Labis ang pasasalamat ko kay Pangulong Dutetre sa tiwalang binibigay nya sa akin, susunod at susunod po tayo sa kanyang mga ipaguutos, ipagpapatuloy natin ang pagtulong tayo sa kanyang kampanya laban sa drugs, corruption at terrorism." **AES / MCAG**

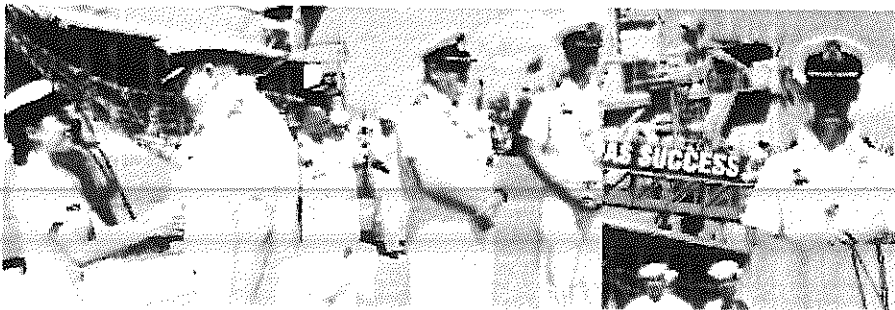
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PORT VISIT | Two Australian Navy ships visit the Philippines

Posted by Alvin Santiago



SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY, Olongapo city (DWDD) – The Royal Australian Navy vessels, Her Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) Anzac (FFH150), a Long Range Guided Missile Frigate and HMAS Success (OR 304), an Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (AOR) vessel, arrived at Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) in Olongapo City for a goodwill visit until Sunday, April 15. **NPAO / MCAG**



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RESERVE FORCE FOR PEACE | 39th National Reservist Week

Posted by Alvin Santiago

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will celebrate the 39th National Reservist Week (NRW) from April to September with activities across the Philippines.

The events theme “Laang Kawal: Kaakibat sa Pagkakaisa Tungo sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran”.

The NRW aims to update Reservists on current AFP policies, update their capabilities on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response, and disseminate the direction of ROTC to school administrators and cadets.

The Southern Luzon Command recently conducted one NRW activity at Camp Mateo Capinpin, Headquarters, 2nd Infantry “Jungle Fighter” Division and University of Rizal (Tanay Campus) on April 7-8, 2018. **AFPRESKOM / MCAG**

