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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

19 April 2019

Thursday

PGS



*Honor. Patriotism. Duty*

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

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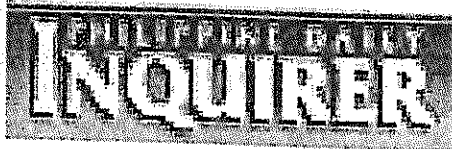
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BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | APRIL 19, 2018 | THURSDAY**

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING MINDANAO as of 4:00 pm - April 16, 2018

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

<b>SUNRISE</b>  5:40 AM	<b>SUNSET</b>  6:11 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>  8:15 AM	<b>MOONSET</b>  9:22 PM
<b>NEW MOON</b> APR 16 9:57 AM	<b>FIRST QUARTER</b> APR 23 5:46 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 7:30 PM -0.12 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> 11:43 AM 0.97 Meter

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	APR 20	APR 21	APR 20	APR 21	APR 20	APR 21		
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	25 - 34 °C	25 - 35 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	23 - 33 °C	23 - 33 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	24 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	25 - 35 °C	25 - 36 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	23 - 32 °C	23 - 33 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	26 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	23 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	17 - 24 °C	17 - 24 °C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	23 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
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**DZRHNEWS TELEVISION** MONDAY - FRIDAY 11AM & 5PM **PILIPINAS HD** WEEKDAYS 6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM WEEKENDS 6AM



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# Rody: I ordered nun's probe

## *Rogue: Apologies in order over Aussie's detention*

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ and EVELYN MACAIRAN

His order to have 71-year-old Australian Catholic missionary Patricia Anne Fox investigated for "disorderly conduct" led the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to take her into custody and detain her for almost 24 hours, President Duterte said yesterday.

The President made the admission in remarks at the change of command ceremony of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

Duterte said he was taking full responsibility for the arrest, but clarified that his original order was only to investigate Fox.

"It is not the military who arrested the nun. It was upon my orders implemented by the Bureau of Immigration (BI)," he said.

"I ordered her to be investigated – not deported at once, not arrested – for disorderly conduct," he said. "I take full responsibility, legal and otherwise, for this incident."

But he warned he would not hesitate to order the nun's arrest if she speaks out against his administration in rallies. "I assure you: if you begin to malign, defame government in any of those rallies there, I will order your arrest," he said.

"The only reason why she was released was she was not caught in flagrante delicto. Meaning to say she was not caught during her berating the government," he said.

Fox was picked up on Monday at her house in Quezon City and brought to the BI office in Intramuros. She is the superior of the Notre Dame de Sion Philippine Province.

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## Rody From Page 1

After his admission, Duterte unleashed a broadside at the Australian nun.

He said Fox has a "foul mouth" and that she has no right to criticize him.

"You come here and insult us, you trample with our sovereignty. That will never happen," he said.

Duterte also threatened to put behind bars any member of the left who would invite foreign counterparts.

"Beginning today, I will decide who gets in, who gets out. You want to question that, you go to court and I will follow," he said. "But until then, you do not mess with the sovereignty of this country. You treat it with disrespect, you come here with - you stick and you try to defame government," he said.

"Look, I'm addressing the Filipino nation. I can swallow, I can take all attacks from the *lumads* to the highest and religious orders of all sorts, from my brother Moro, from the military, from everybody," he said.

"My appeal is that, you are a Filipino, you are entitled really to criticize. Freedom of expression is unlimited and it goes for everybody. But to otherwise undermine and treat the Philippines like a mattress there to wipe with your feet, that is something I... (detest that)," he said.

He said his administration could not be faulted for its vicious approach to stamping

out criminality. "At least, I am killing criminals here. What about you?" he said.

Duterte said that under Philippine laws, he can bar the entry of foreign nationals whom he deems "undesirable."

Instead of finding fault in the Philippines, Duterte said the missionary should refocus her advocacies on saving refugees who are being rejected in Australia.

He also said the religious should assert their stand on abuses by priests. "The way you adore God, it's toward (the) corrupt. Stick to your own religion and try to correct the abuses within your organization, to address homosexuality and malpractices and adulterous priests," Duterte said with expletives.

"You are trying to promote international or geographical governance. That's more than threat of the West imposing their values on us. Please do not do that. Go home and try to solve your own problem," he said.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano yesterday defended the President's heavy handed approach in dealing with dissent and potential security threats.

"One can't protect people's human rights without providing them with security and there can be no security if people's human rights are not protected," Cayetano said at

a forum of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP).

### Apologies in order

For the wrongful detention, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said "perhaps apologies are in order."

In a television interview, Roque said "there seems to be a mistake" in the arrest and detention of Fox.

"The Commission on Immigration and Deportation released her immediately so maybe the CID made a mistake," Roque said.

But in another interview, Roque defended the deportation of Italian political activist Giacomo Filibeck, whom he accused of meddling in Philippine affairs.

Instead of interfering in Philippine politics, Roque said Filibeck should go to Sudan or Syria and volunteer as a human shield for the innocent civilians who might get caught in the crossfire between battling forces.

"Well let's lecture him now: whoever you are, stop those bombs from coming to Syria, after all you're a socialist. Stand up for your beliefs. Stop those bombs and be a hero," Roque said in Filipino in a radio interview over state-run *Radyo ng Bayan*.

Roque noted that it is within the prerogative of a country to ban foreigners that it deems undesirable or dangerous. He said it was clear that Filibeck had intended to engage in partisan politics by guesting at an event organized by Akbayan,



an opposition party-list group. He said Akbayan is not a true socialist movement but a “dilawan” or yellow, the color associated with the Aquinos.

Reacting to Duterte’s admission, Fox’s lawyer Jobert Ilarde Pahilga said it’s the prerogative of the Chief Executive. He also said Roque’s declaring that her arrest might have been wrongful should prompt the BI to drop the charges against the nun.

“We were pleased because the government, through attorney Roque, admitted that arresting Sister Pat was a mistake. It is a recognition that what Sister Pat did could not be considered as partisan political activities, and (what she is doing) is not prohibited,” Pahilga said.

“We respect the statement made by our presidential spokesperson. We are constrained from making any further statements as there is a formal proceeding pending before our office,” BI spokesperson Ma Antonette Mangrobang said.

Roque’s statement, Pahilga added, “is an admission that there is no basis (to file a complaint) against Sister Pat and that the basis for the mission order is wrong, there was no verification on the information provided by the intelligence.”

The complaint therefore, he said, “should be dismissed because it is stressing Sister Pat.”

“If the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) would not be able to submit additional evidence against Fox in five days, then we

would move for the dismissal (of the complaint). We would no longer submit a counter affidavit,” the lawyer said.

The BI has given NICA five days to submit its additional evidence, while Fox has 10 days to submit her counter affidavit.

### Review BI guidelines

Meanwhile, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) will review the BI’s policy that prohibits foreigners from taking part in political activities such as rallies in the country.

“We will take a look at that order and review and study it with the view towards issuing an advisory on the matter. The core principle is that fundamental human rights by their nature pertain to all persons,” CHR chairman Chito Gascon said, citing the constitutional right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

“While under certain circumstances the state is allowed to restrict or derogate these rules and regulations that set limits in exercise thereof, it must be balanced between the national interest sought to be protected as against the rights of the person,” he added.

Gascon noted that the exercise of freedom of assembly for redress or grievance is a human right that applies to all people, whether local or foreign nationals.

“Even as every state has the prerogative to protect itself and its people from harmful actors, it does so by enforcing

criminal laws,” said the CHR chief.

“Serving poor and disadvantaged communities by demanding justice through activism is not a crime per se. Dissent is an essential aspect of democracy,” he added.

Under existing immigration guidelines, “foreign tourists are prohibited from engaging in any political activity as defined by law and jurisprudence, such as but not limited to, joining, supporting, contributing or involving themselves in whatever manner in any rally, assembly, gathering, whether for or against the government.”

In an earlier statement, CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia said even foreign nationals are granted the right to peaceful assembly so long as they do not interfere with national security, public safety, public order, public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others.

“It is the mandate of the government to protect and promote the human rights of all persons in the Philippines, including foreign nationals on its soil. This includes ensuring that everyone, including Australian nun Patricia Fox, is granted due process while we assert our national laws,” she said.

“We urge the government to observe the rule of law and ensure protection of human dignity by respecting of the rights of all, while we carefully consider our national interests,” De Guia added. – **With Janvic Mateo, Pia Lee-Brago**



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The Manila Times

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# Army battalion to battle NPA rebels

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

**G**AMU, Isabela: A battalion under the Philippine Army's 5th Infantry (Star) Division was recently activated to combat the communist New People's Army (NPA) in the Northern Luzon area, according to the 5th ID here.

Captain Jeffrey Somera, 5th ID public affairs chief, said the office of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' chief of staff endorsed the activation of the 95th Infantry Battalion (95th IB) and the Secretary of National Defense's office confirmed the activation of 10 additional infantry battalions.

"The creation of the 10 battalions is purposely to prevent the spillover of hostilities in the

aftermath of the Marawi rebellion, destroy communist terrorist groups at the soonest possible time and assist the other government agencies in addressing illegal drugs and private armed groups," Somera explained.

He was referring to the five-month siege of Marawi City, capital of Lanao del Sur province in southern Mindanao, by the Maute terrorist group from May to October 2017.

Somera said Lt. Cornel Nolito Quemi was designated as the acting commanding officer of the 95th IB, which will undergo a one-month organizational training prior to deployment to their area of operation in Northern Luzon.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Perfecto Rimando Jr., 5th ID commander, challenged members of the 95th IB in a simple ceremony here and urged them to make their presence

felt and make things happen.

"Give special emphasis on knowing yourself and the enemy for it will lead us in totally defeating the half-century old insurgency," Rimando said.

The rebellion has been waged by the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, since the 1960s and is reputed to be the world's longest active insurgency.





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

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# Troops find abandoned NPA camp in Negros

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Government soldiers found a camp abandoned by New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas following an encounter with the rebels in Negros Occidental on Monday, the military said Wednesday.

Troops from the 79th Infantry Battalion under Lt. Col. Emelito Thaddeus

M. Logan were conducting a community outreach program in the area when they received a tip from residents that communist rebels were in the hinterland barangay of Guadalupe in San Carlos City.

Logan sent a patrol to Guadalupe. As they approached the village, the troops began taking fire from about 30 rebels. The patrol fired back.

The fighting lasted for about 20 minutes before the rebels retreated. There were no casualties on the government side.

Exploring the scene of the encounter, the soldiers stumbled on the NPA camp, which can hold about 30 persons. It had two kitchens and the troops found a solar panel (charging a motorcycle

battery), subversive documents.

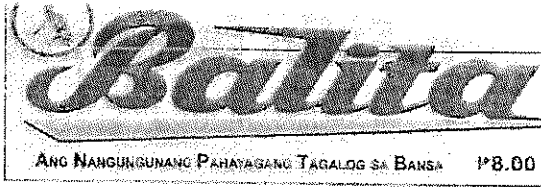
"This is a clear indication that the community is tired of the NPA terrorists' ruthlessness and extortion activities in the area. We are calling the populace to remain vigilant and report the presence and whereabouts of these terrorists to stop them from staging terror in the community," Logan said.



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### Mga armas ng NPA, nadiskubre

BALER, Aurora – Nadiskubre ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang mga umang'y armas ng New People's Army (NPA) sa Purok 7, Barangay Ditchi, sa San Luis, Aurora, nitong Sabado ng umaga.

Ipinahayag ni 1st Lt. Col. Jose Maria Torrenueva, commanding officer ng 91st Infantry Battalion (IB) ng Philippine Army (PA), na nakatanggap sila ng ulat mula sa mga residente na nagsasabing may mga armas silang natagpuang nakabaon sa lupa.

Dahil dito, sumugod ang grupo ng sundalo sa lugar kung saan natagpuan ng mga ito ang isang container na naglalaman ng 20 litro ng gasolina, isang backpack na may lamang M16 rifle, darawang magazine ng M16 rifle, 17 bala ng 5.56 mm, pitong rifle grenade, anim na M203, at kagamitan ng mga ito.

**Light A. Nolasco**

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Manila  
**Standard**

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## 2 BIFF fighters slain, 2 others hurt in Shariff Saydona battle

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao—Two Daesh-inspired Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters were killed and two others injured during a brief firefight in Shariff Saydona, Maguindanao Monday night, the Army here reported Wednesday.

Major Gen. Arnel dela Vega, Army's 6th Infantry Division commander and head of Joint Task Force Central, said the BIFF was frantic to get back at the military following their losses in recent clashes, including the discovery of a firearm fabrication shop in Datu Salibo, Maguindanao on Sunday.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana, JTFC spokesperson, said the recent BIFF act of revenge took place in Barangay Nabundas, Shariff Saydona Mustapha.

About 16 BIFF bandits, led by Commander Samad Simpul, harassed a detachment of the 40th Infantry Battalion at 7:40 p.m. on Monday, triggering a brief clash that left two BIFF killed and two wounded.

"They are desperate to get back at the Army, they continue to harass our detachments," Besana said, adding no casualty was reported on the government side.

Another clash erupted Tuesday morning when gunmen fired at 40th IB troops conducting clearing operations in the previous night's clash site.

The rebels fled when the Army returned fire.

Two improvised explosive devices were also recovered and safely deactivated by Army bomb experts.

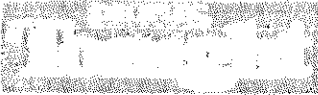
Besana has blamed the BIFF for the harassment and bombings in Cotabato City, Maguindanao and North Cotabato.

A balut vendor was hurt when suspected BIFF set off an IED along the highway near the Army division first sentry in Barangay Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao on Monday night.

In North Cotabato, three men were also injured when suspected BIFF tossed a hand grenade in Barangay Kolambog, Pikit town on Monday night.

On Sunday night, an improvised bomb was planted atop Ugalingan Bridge in Barangay Ugalingan, Midsayap, North Cotabato, but failed to explode. The bridge connects the town of Datu Piang in Maguindanao and Midsayap in North Cotabato. **PNA**

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# Duterte swears in new AFP chief

By EFREN MONTANO

AFTER 38 years of military service, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero yesterday formally retired and relinquished his post to Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, the incumbent commander of Western Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City.

President Rodrigo Duterte presided over the turn-over ceremony at the parade grounds in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Guerrero was also honored with a testimonial parade and review and was conferred with the prestigious award of the Philippine Legion of Honor.

He was supposed to retire on December 17 last year, when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 56, but Duterte extend-

ed his term for four months.

In January, Duterte said Guerrero will be the next administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority.

During Guerrero's six-month term, the AFP was able to neutralize a total of 6,817 New People's Army personalities. Guerrero assumed the post in October last year. Of the number, 6,709 surrendered and 47 were killed while 61 were arrested.

Of those who surrendered, the AFP said 721 were regular NPA and Sangay ng Partido sa Lokal members, 513 were Militia ng Bayan members, 712 were members of underground organizations, and 4,761 were mass supporters.

Seized by the military during Guerrero's term were a total of 288 assorted firearms.

Meanwhile, the AFP said

457 members of local terror groups and foreign fighters were neutralized, also during the term of Guerrero. Of this number, 81 were killed, 280 were arrested and 96 surrendered.

Days before Guerrero's assumption, Duterte declared Marawi City free from the local terror group Maute.

Then AFP chief General Eduardo Año passed on to him the responsibility of leading the military's efforts to totally clear and rebuild the war-torn city.

The military has so far found and disposed a total of 3,953 assorted unexploded ordnance and 738 improvised explosive devices.

Seven out of nine sectors in the city's main battle area have already been cleared from explosives.

The AFP said it was



Galvez Jr.

also under Guerrero's guidance that the military strictly implemented its campaign against loose firearms in Mindanao, taking advantage of the martial law declaration in the region.

A total of 1,424 assorted loose firearms have been surrendered to government forces since the campaign started.



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## New AFPCS Galvez urges all state foes to take the peace path

Newly-installed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. yesterday urged all enemies of the state to take the path of peace and join their families in the mainstream society, stressing the government's all-out efforts toward peace.

In his assumption speech as 50th AFP chief, Galvez said that so many lives and opportunities have been lost due to conflict between the government and various threat groups, including the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) and the Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Mindanao.

"It is the time to rebuild and reconcile with our Filipino brothers and sisters. We must now walk the path of peace,"

said Galvez.

"I now extend to our misguided brothers and sisters a chance to end all conflict. Hundreds of our comrades have already stocked arms and abandoned your hopeless cause and they have seen by themselves that our government is a just and fair," he added.

"Your armed forces sworn to protect every single Filipino invites you to abandon your pointless struggle and return home to your families and your community," Galvez also said.

President Duterte installed Galvez during change of command ceremony in Camp Aguinaldo, vice Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, who retired from the military service after a four-month extension.

Galvez said that he will do his best in leading the 135,000-strong AFP as he vowed to carry out Duterte's order to defend the Filipino people from all enemies of peace and democracy.

The new AFP chief admitted that threats coming from the IS-inspired terrorists remained despite the military victory in Marawi City against the Abu Sayyaf band of Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute Group of the dreaded Maute brothers of Butig.

"We have won many battles but we have yet to win the war. Violent extremists and their corrupted ideology remain a threat. Too much has been spilled, too many lives have been lost to terror and hate," said Galvez.

But Galvez stressed that he intends to take the path of peace

in dealing with all threat groups.

"Even though we soldiers are warriors, we shall always prepare the path of peace. Hence we shall support all peace initiatives of the govt," said Galvez.

"We shall more vigorously work hand in hand with government agencies, non-government organizations and other stakeholders to address the underlying cause of conflict. We shall keep our door open with all peaceful possibilities," he added.

Prior to his appointment, Galvez served as commander of the AFP-Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) and oversaw the military operations against the IS-inspired terrorists during the five-month Marawi City siege.

**Mario J. Mallari**

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### ***Galvez umupo na bilang AFP chief***

Pormal nang iniluklok kahapon bilang ika-50 Chief of Staff ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) si Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr.

Sa kaniyang talumpati, sinabi ni Galvez na gagawin niya ang lahat ng kaniyang makakaya upang maisakatuparan ang nasabing misyon kasunod ng pagkakatalaga nito bilang bagong pinuno ng 125,000 malakas na puwersa ng tropa militar.

Pinalitan ni Galvez ang nagretirong si Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero sa ginanap na turnover ceremony kahapon sa Camp Aguinaldo kung saan si Pangulong Duterte ang panauhing pandangal.

"For decades Filipinos had been fighting against fellow Filipinos, the CPP-NPA-NDF has long brought misery and (result?) innity among our people, the Abu Sayyaf and other local terrorist groups have long held community in the grip of terror, Daesh and ISIS (terrorists) and the battle of Marawi have just very recently shown us how truly destructive violent extremism can be," pahayag ni Galvez.

Bago nahirang si Galvez sa puwesto ay nagsilbi itong commander ng AFP Western Mindanao Command na namuno sa 5 buwang operasyon ng militar sa Marawi City noong Mayo 23 ng nakalipas na taon.

Ang insidente ay siya ring nagbunsod upang isalalim ni Pangulong Duterte sa martial law ang buong rehiyon ng Mindanao. (Joy Santos)

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# Moro leaders attend Galvez promotion to AFP chief

By Nikko Dizon  
and Leila B. Salaverria  
@Team\_Inquirer

For the first time, leaders of secessionist movements in Mindanao attended the change of command ceremony at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) headquarters, recognizing the efforts of the newly installed military chief, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, to forge peace in the country's war-torn region.

Galvez took over as AFP chief of staff from retired Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, whom President Duterte had appointed to head the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina).

## Scout Ranger

Galvez, a Scout Ranger, spent years in the peace-building efforts of the government and was co-chair of the Coordinating Committee on the Cessa-



President Duterte with outgoing AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero (left) and incoming chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., during the AFP change of command rite. —JOAN BONDOC

tion of Hostilities between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

As commander of the 104th Infantry Brigade in Basilan, Galvez, then a colonel, forged a friendship with MILF commander Dan Asnawi, which paved the way for the completion of infrastructure projects in the area.

Among Galvez's guests were Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leaders Muslimin Sema, Yusoph Jikiri and Datu Randy Karon, who is a close aide of MNLF founding chair Nur Misuari; Gazhali Jaafar, Mohagher Iqbal and Sammy al-Mansoor of the MILF.

In his speech, Galvez ex-

pressed "full support for the peace process" with the MILF and the MNLF and underscored the need to work with government agencies, nongovernment organizations and other stakeholders "to address the underlying cause of conflict."

## Sandiwa Class

Galvez was commander of the Western Mindanao Command when the Islamic State-inspired Maute Group and a faction of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group took over Marawi City.

Guerrero replaced Marcial Amaro III, who was fired by Mr. Duterte.

The President also cited the "unparalleled number" of surrendered communist insurgents and terrorists during Guerrero's tour of duty, "from less than 800 prior to his assumption (of office) ... to more than 5,000." INQ



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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Retired AFP chief named new Marina administrator

By GENALYN D. KABILING

After his “exemplary leadership” in the military, former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero is the new Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) administrator, President Duterte announced Wednesday.

The President has ordered Guerrero to report for work at the Marina next week, saying its top post has been long been vacant.

“I had to extend your services because of what was ongoing war in Mindanao, specifically ‘yung Marawi. Kaya ‘yung Marina, ‘yung director, ang silya doon multo na ang nakaupo [So in the Marina, ghosts have sat on the director’s chair] It’s about time na you report to that office by next week perhaps,” the President told Guerrero during the military change of command ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

Guerrero will replace Marina head Marcial Amaro III who was fired by the President last January for taking excessive trips abroad.

The commander-in-chief announced the new appointment of Guerrero on the day he retired after nearly four decades of military service. He relinquished the top

AFP post to Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., the commander of the Western Mindanao Command.

Guerrero, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1984, was appointed AFP chief of staff in October, 2017. He was supposed to retire last December but the President extended his term until April, 2018.

In his speech, the President commended Guerrero for his “exemplary leadership,” citing his accomplishments such as military clearing operations in Marawi City during his “short but impressive stint” as military chief.

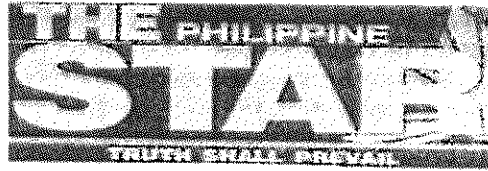
“The AFP successfully facilitated our clearing and reconstruction efforts in Marawi – all while preventing the resurgence of any terrorist threat that could have escalated to another conflict and hampered the city’s progress,” he said.

He also cited Guerrero for leading the clearing of major roads, bridges, schools and places of worship in Marawi City. With the help of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the (National Housing Authority), he also authorized the deployment of engineering units to assist in the construction of temporary shelters for displaced families in Marawi, according to the President.





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### **Hundreds displaced in Negros AFP-NPA clash**

BACOLOD CITY – At least 46 families or more than 200 persons fled their homes as soldiers clashed with New People's Army (NPA) rebels in San Carlos, Negros Occidental on Monday.

Inspector Charmae de Paz of the provincial police office said the evacuees are staying at the Handalago and Mabato Elementary Schools in Barangay Guadalupe.

Soldiers belonging to the 79th Infantry Battalion overran an NPA camp following the encounter. There was no reported casualty on the government side.

Capt. Emil Charlie Jaudian, acting Civil Military Operations chief of the 303rd Infantry Brigade, said the rebels were training new recruits, including minors.

Jaudian advised residents not to return to their homes while clearing operations are underway, saying the rebels could use them as human shields. – Gilbert Bayoran



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### 7,000 sa NPA, sumuko sa gobyerno

Halos 7,000 miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang sumuko na sa pamahalaan sa unang tatlong buwan ng kasalukuyang taon, ayon sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Sa record ng AFP, kabilang sa nabanggit na bilang ang 721 regular na miyembro ng NPA at kasapi ng Sangay ng Partido sa Lokal, 513 mula sa Militia ng Bayan, 712 mula sa underground organization, at 4,761 mass supporter.

Sa pagsugpo naman ng terorismo, tirukoy ng militar na aabot sa 81 lokal na terorista ang napaslang ng AFP, 280 ang naaresto, at 96 ang napasuko.

Ipinagmalaki rin ng militar ang nagawa nitong paglansag sa bahagi ng puwersa ng NPA bago matapos ang taon.

Ibinunyag din ng militar na malaking bagay umano ito dahil malaking bilang ng napasuko ay mga miyembro ng mass-based organizations.

**Fer Taboy**

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President Duterte looks on as outgoing Armed Forces chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero and his successor Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. (right) exchange salutes during the turnover of command at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

KRIZJOHN ROSALES



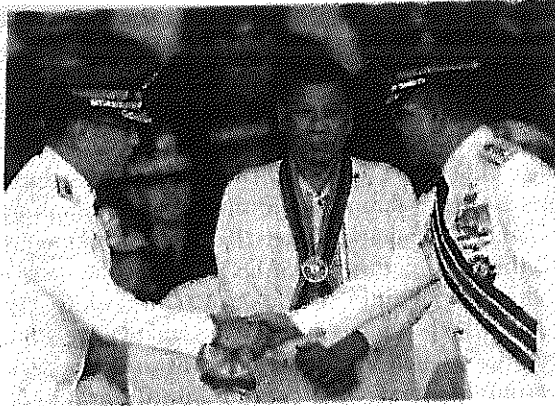
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**IN, OUT** Outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Leonardo Guerrero (left) shakes hands with his successor, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., during the change of command ceremonies as President Rodrigo Duterte looks on.  
PHOTO BY RUSSELL PALMA

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## ONLINE NEWS

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# ASSUMPTION SPEECH | New AFP Chief of Staff Lt Gen Carlito Galvez Jr

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)



*"As i assume command of the Armed Forces, i now address my fellow officers, the men, women and civilian employees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Our Commander in Chief has directed us to defend the Filipino people from all enemies of peace and democracy.*

*With your unwavering support i intend to carry out this order to the best of my abilities.*

*For decades filipinos had been fighting against fellow Filipinos. the CPP-NPA-NDF has long brought misery and impunity among our people. The Abu Sanyaf and other local terrorist groups have long held community in the grip of terror. Daesh and ISIS and the battle of Marawi have just very recently shown us how truly destructive violent extremism can be. We have won many battles but we have yet to win the war. Violent extremists and their corrupted ideology remain a threat. Too much has been spilled. Too many lives have been lost to terror and hate. It is the time to rebuild and reconcile with our Filipino brothers and sisters. We must now walk the path of peace. I now extend to our misguided brothers and sisters a chance to end all conflict. Hundreds of our comrades have already stock arms and abandoned your hopeless cause and they have seen by themselves that our government is a just and fair government. Your Armed Forces sworn to protect every single Filipino invites you to abandon your pointless struggle and return home to your families and your community. Even though we soldiers are warriors, we shall always prepare the path of peace.*

*Hence we shall support all peace initiatives of the government. We shall more vigorously work hand in hand with government agencies, non-government organizations and other stakeholders to address the underlying cause of conflict. We shall keep our door open with all peaceful possibilities.*

Toward this end, I enjoin all peace loving Filipinos, most especially our Muslim brothers and sisters to stand with us in the fight against all forms of violent extremism. We will pursue with even more vigour our campaign to end insurgency and terrorism which with your help we will definitely win together. We shall render the cause of insurgency irrelevant for it can only thrive where discord prevails. Together we shall defeat the Abu Sayyaf and all other terrorist group for terrorism only works when people are divided and afraid. Together we shall drive Daesh and other violent extremists from our shores for extremism dies in the light of a people united and strong.

I take this opportunity to reiterate our full support to the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front. We look forward to the final peaceful political resolution of conflict in Mindanao we will strengthen our existing peace mechanisms and revitalize the peace and development offices at the unified command levels to more effectively address the grievances of the people of Mindanao and create conditions for a just and lasting peace in the South. We shall walk the path of peace but we shall never hesitate to use force against those who would dare to disrupt that peace. We will remain ever vigilant, willing to ensure that all agreements are observed but equally willing to strike when innocent civilians are threatened today.

The AFP enjoys the trust of the Filipino people, our legitimacy and credibility as the protector of the Filipino and state stands unquestioned, it is therefore our responsibility, our obligation to our people to repay their trust and confidence with nothing but our genuine selfless and professional commitment to the promotion of their security, their interest and their welfare transparency and good governance shall be the beacon that guides our thoughts, our words, and our actions. We shall always adhere to our core values of honor service and patriotism, we shall never tolerate corruption and mediocrity, our integrity shall never be compromised with this i wish to express my support for our commander in chief in his crusade against illegal drugs, and criminality. illegal drugs are and criminality. illegal drugs are an anemia to any civilized society.

Marawi showed us how the terrorists used illegal drugs to fund their campaign of terror. as long as criminality and illegal drugs exist in our society our people will never be safe and secure we will collaborate with the support of our government in the fight against illegal drugs and criminalities. We shall act as a team in the fight against these evil.

Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines, we dream of becoming a world-class armed forces, we aspire to be a source of national pride, we have become a long a way in transforming the armed forces into what is today however, much remains to be done for us to completely transform into a 21st century army capable of protecting the Filipino people, safeguarding Philippine sovereignty, and ensuring our territorial integrity fellow Filipinos. I thank you for your unwavering trust and confidence in our armed forces, i promise you now that every soldier, airman, sailor, and marines." **ALS / AES / MCAG**

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# AWARDING CEREMONY | WESCOM recognizes KIG Troops

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)



**PUERTO PRINSESA, Palawan (DWDD)** – The AFP Western Command recognized the sacrifices and gallantry of the Kalayaan Island Group Deployed Personnel during an Awarding Ceremony held at WESCOM Social Hall on April 13, 2018.

*"I am very grateful for the unwavering support and camaraderie displayed by the enlisted personnel, officers and Commanders of Western Command as #TeamWESCOM in achieving lasting peace in the province and in the West Philippine Sea. Let us continue our work with honor and pride. To God Be the Glory!",* said LTGEN ROZZANO D BRIGUEZ AFP, Commander, WESCOM. **WESCOM / MCAG**

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# READY TO SERVE | Outgoing CSAFP Guerrero thanks PRRD

Posted by Alvín Santiago

Outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero expressed his deepest appreciation to President Rodrigo Duterte's trust and confidence on retired officials of the AFP whom he tapped to once again serve the country.

According to Guerrero, whatever is the decision of the Chief Executive on his next assignment after his retirement from the AFP, he would gladly follow.

But for now, Guerrero would spend some quality time with his family after this day.

It can be recalled that President Duterte appointed Guerrero to the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as soon as he leaves the military service. **AES / ALS / MCAG**



# LEAVING A LEGACY | CSAFP Gen Guerrero Bows Out of Military Service

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)

**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – The 49th Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines General Rey Leonardo Guerrero bows out of service after 38 years in the military profession.

General Guerrero will turn over the AFP's top post in a Change of Command Ceremony, to Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., the current Commander of the AFP Western Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City.

President and AFP Commander-in-Chief Rodrigo Duterte will preside over the turnover ceremony on April 18 at the Parade Grounds in Camp Aguinaldo, where General Guerrero will also be honoured with a Testimonial Parade and Review and the prestigious award of the Philippine Legion of Honor (Rank of Commander).

## Weakened Enemy

While serving as Commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command before he became the Chief of Staff, General Guerrero has orchestrated the execution of Community Support Programs, a key component of the military's new operation plan, the Development Support and Security Plan Kapayapaan.

During his term as the AFP Chief, the concerted efforts of AFP units in the conduct of focused military and intelligence operations alongside intensified stakeholder engagements resulted in the neutralization of 6,817 New People's Army (NPA) personalities as of April 15.

A total of 6,709 of these have surrendered broken down as follows: 721 regular NPAs and Sangay ng Partido sa Lokal members; 513 Militia ng Bayan; 712 underground organizations members; and 4,761 mass supporters

Moreover, 47 others NPAs were also killed and while 61 others were apprehended in legitimate focused military operations.

A total of 288 assorted firearms were also seized from the NPAs. Meanwhile, the intensified efforts against the local terror groups and foreign fighters resulted in the neutralization of 457 various terror personalities composed of 81 killed, 280 apprehended/arrested, and 96 surrendered.

## Marawi City Rehabilitation

Faced with an equally challenging task of rebuilding Marawi City from the devastation brought by the armed terrorist attack, the AFP conducted activities to support the overall

effort of the government, spearheaded by the Office of Civil Defense, for the City's recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation.

A total of 3,953 assorted unexploded ordnance (UXO) and 738 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were found and disposed.

Currently, seven sectors out of the nine sectors in the main battle area are already cleared from UXOs and IEDs.

The remaining two are still being cleared from explosives that may have been trapped within collapsed buildings.

The AFP also deployed engineering units to assist cognizant agencies in the construction of temporary shelters for Internally Displace Persons. In partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highways together with the National Housing Authority, the AFP completed 250 units of temporary shelters in Barangay Sagonsongan and is currently supporting the construction of additional 570 units of temporary shelters in the area.

### **Force Structure Rationalization**

Under the term of General Guerrero, the Letter of Instruction on Pagbabago "Juliet" was also issued, which revises and updates the Pagbabago "India" and reiterates the "force provider, force employer concept."

It defines and standardizes the command relationships of AFP units based on existing doctrines and current operational guidelines.

Several units and offices were also activated including the Tactical Operations Wings (TOW) that re-designate the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd TOWs and 579th Composite Tactical Wings into Northern Luzon, Central, Western Mindanao, and West TOWs respectively.

Five Infantry Battalions (IB) were also activated under General Guerrero's term namely the 90IB, 91IB, 93IB, and 94IB following the increase in the number of Philippine Army personnel as ordered by President Duterte.

The Special Operations Command (SOCOM) of the Army was also reconfigured into the AFPSOCOM which will consolidate all AFP special operations forces under one commanding unit.

AFPSOCOM will take command and supervision of the Special Operations Wing of the Air Force, the Naval Special Operations Group from the Navy; Scout Ranger Regiment, Special Forces Regiment and Light Reaction Regiment of the Army; and the Joint Special Operations Group of GHQ.

The AFP Systems Engineering Office (AFPSEO) was also activated to manage the implementation of the AFP modernization and Self-Reliant Defense Posture programs.

The AFPSEO will act as the technical adviser to the CSAFP on matters related to the systems engineering design of the weapon systems and defense equipment that will be acquired under the Revised AFP Modernization Program with regard to their functional and material designs.

The activation of the AFPSEO will also put into place a dedicated office for the management and implementation of the various modernization projects along the five major components of the program, namely: Capability, Materiel development, etc. **ALS / MCAG**

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

# Duterte appoints Guerrero as Marina head

By Jelly Musico

**MANILA** – President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday appointed outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero as head of the Marina Industry Authority (MARINA).

Duterte announced Guerrero's appointment during his speech at the AFP Change of Command ceremony at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City on Wednesday.

"You sir, that (MARINA) is vacant for a long time now. You know I had to extend your services because of what was ongoing war in Mindanao, specifically in Marawi. So the director of MARINA, the chair is occupied by ghost. It's about time that report to that office by next week perhaps," Duterte told Guerrero.

The President fired former MARINA administrator Marcial Amaro III early of January this year over excessive travels.

Duterte commended Guerrero's exemplary leadership that led to the successful facilitation of the clearing and reconstruction efforts in war-torn Marawi City.

He said the military was also able to prevent the resurgence of any terrorist threat "that could have escalated to another conflict and hampered the city's progress" under Guerrero's leadership.

The Commander-in-Chief also noted "unparalleled" increase of number of communist and terrorist surrenderees from less than 800 to more than 5,000 during Guerrero's tour of duty.

"These achievements have not come without cost, but let me assure our uniformed personnel, all of you, that the government remains committed in enhancing your capabilities, promoting your welfare and looking after the needs of the fallen and the injured and their families," Duterte said.

"Within his six months as AFP Chief, General Guerrero has competently and effectively continued the tradition of dedication and hard work by those who came before him and left a legacy of his own for future leaders to follow. His efforts have strengthened the foundations of not only a stronger and better military, but also of a safer and more secure Philippines," he added.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. took over as new chief of staff of the AFP, vowing to carry out his task to the best of his ability to end all kinds of conflicts and achieve long lasting peace throughout the country.

Duterte expressed confident that the AFP "will continue to move forward in the right direction" under Galvez.

"With an excellent and motivated workforce behind General Galvez, I am optimistic that the AFP will sustain its gains and remain at the forefront of our fight against all threats to our sovereignty," he said.

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

The President urged the soldiers to support the leadership of Galvez, who was commander of the AFP Western Mindanao Command prior to his appointment as AFP Chief of Staff.

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“Armed with our people’s unwavering trust and confidence and fueled by the highest degree of professionalism and competence, it is only through our combined efforts as a people and as a nation that we can achieve lasting peace and sustainable development,” Duterte said.

Duterte was joined on stage by Vice President Leni Robredo and former Presidents Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Fidel V. Ramos. *(PNA)*

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possibilities," Galvez pointed out.

"Toward this end I enjoin all peace loving Filipinos most especially our Muslim brothers and sisters to stand with us in the fight against all forms of violent extremism. We will pursue with even more vigor our campaign to end insurgency and terrorism which with your help we will definitely win," he added.

By working together, Galvez said the military and the public cause of insurgency irrelevant for it can only thrive where discord prevails.

"Together we shall defeat the Abu Sayyaf and all other terrorist group for terrorism only works when people are divided and afraid. Together we shall drive Daesh and other violent extremists from our shores for extremism dies in the light of a people united and strong," he added.

Also, Galvez said he reiterated his full support to the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front.

"We look forward to the final peaceful political resolution of conflict in Mindanao, we will strengthen our existing peace mechanisms and revitalize the peace and development offices at the Unified Command levels to more effectively address the grievances of the people of Mindanao and create conditions for a just and lasting peace in the south," he pointed out.

Galvez, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1985, replaced Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, a member of PMA Class of 1984, who was honored with a testimonial parade and review and the prestigious award of the Philippine Legion of Honor (Rank of Commander).

Guerrero was appointed as AFP chief last Oct. 26 replacing then AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año, who stepped down after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56. The former was supposed to retire on Dec. 17, 2017 but his term as AFP chief was extended by another four months by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Present during his assumption-of-command ceremonies were President Rodrigo Duterte, former presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and a host of ranking government officials. *(With reports from Ericka Cicera, OJT/PNA)*