

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

20 April 2019

Friday

PGS



Honor. Patriotism. Duty

TABLE OF CONTENTS

20 APRIL 2018

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p. 16
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-4	No more Duterte EO on contactualization	Mayen Jaymalin	Philippine Star p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
5	Photo	-	Manila Bulletin p.13
6	Villager killed in NPa harassment in Surigao del Norte	Mike U Crismundo	Manila Bulletin p.13
7	2 NPA rebels killed	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B2
8	2 NPA terrorist todas sa encounter	Joy cantos	Ngayon p.8
9	No poll hotspot identified in N. Ecija—Comelec	Steve Gosuico	Peoples Journal p.13
10	34 th Balikatan begin May	Francis Wakefield	Tempo p.4
AFP RELATED NEWS			
11	It is best to walk of peace- Galvez	Francis Wakefield	Manila Bulletin p.2
12	Photo	AFP	Manila Standard p.A3
13	Military rebuts NPA rights violation claims	Danny Estacio	Manila Bulletin p.8
14-15	Displaced 'lumad' long for ancestral home	Rina Chandran	PDI p.A4
16	2 Reds killed in Davao del Sur clash	Jaime Laude	Phil Star p.16
ONLINE NEWS			
17	Galvez supports peace efforts with MILF, MNLF	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
18	Basa Air Force to serve as home base for PAF's FA-50 fighter jets	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
19	New AFP chief vows support for drug war	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
20	Galvez vows to uphold transparency, good governance as new AFP chief	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
21	AFP won't hesitate to use might vs. enemies of people, state: Galvez	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph

20 April 2018



Page: 16

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

PANAHON TV
www.panahontv.com

DZRH NEWS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

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

AR21
DAGAT NA PASALA NA

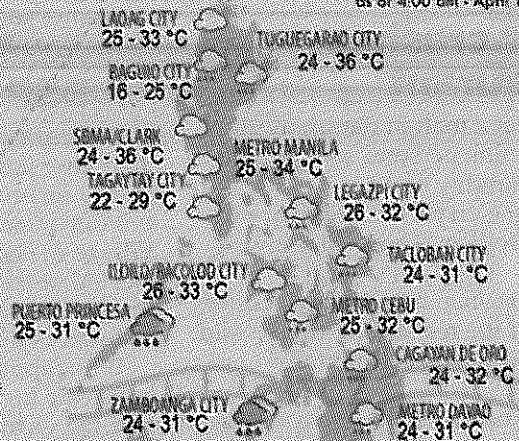
Panahan.TV

SUNRISE 5:40 AM
SUNSET 6:11 PM
NOONRISE 9:10 AM
MOONRISE 10:23 PM

MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
8:35 PM - 3.15 Meter
12:11 PM - 1.03 Meter

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST APRIL 20, 2018 | FRIDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING MINDANAO
as of 4:00 am - April 19, 2018

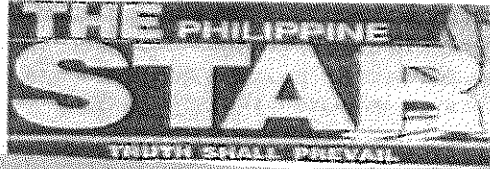


EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	APR 21 SAT	APR 22 SUN	APR 23 MON	MINDANAO WEATHER FORECAST	APR 21 SAT	APR 22 SUN	APR 23 MON
METRO MANILA	24°C 34°C	25°C 34°C	24°C 34°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C
TUGUEGARAO	24°C 36°C	24°C 36°C	24°C 36°C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	26°C 33°C
LAGAG	24°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	METRO CEBU	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C
BAGUIO	15°C 24°C	15°C 24°C	16°C 25°C	TACLOBAN	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C
SBMA/CLARK	24°C 35°C	24°C 36°C	25°C 35°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C
TAGAYTAY	22°C 29°C	22°C 30°C	22°C 30°C	METRO DAVAO	24°C 32°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C
LEGAZPI	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	ZAMBOANGA	24°C 32°C	24°C 33°C	24°C 33°C

- Partly cloudy with sun
- Partly cloudy to all times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms
- Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms



70 April 2018



Page: 1

No more Duterte EO on contractualization

Rody to certify bill on security of tenure

By MAYEN JAYMALIN

President Duterte is tossing to Congress the proposed ban on short-term employment.

Instead of signing an executive order (EO) banning contractualization, the President will just certify as "priority" pending legislation on security of tenure, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said yesterday.

The certification will be Duterte's Labor Day gift to workers, Bello said.

The development is seen to placate worried employers but spark protests from militant labor groups, which had expected Duterte to deliver on his campaign promise of putting an end to contractual employment, commonly known as end-of-contract or "endo."

"Instead of an EO, the President is issuing a certification as priority the pending bill on security of tenure, which mirrors the proposed EO the President is supposed to sign," Bello said at a press conference.

On Labor Day, Bello said Duterte would come out with "some dramatic issuances," including a package of economic and social benefits for workers.

The House of Representatives approved on third and final reading House Bill No. 6908 on security of tenure in January this year. HB 6908 is an amendment to Presidential Decree No. 442 or the Labor Code of the Philippines.

Bello said the security of

tenure bill, if enacted into law, would be better than an EO against endo as the measure carries stricter guidelines and imposes stiffer penalties on violators.

He said labor groups have already been informed of the President's decision, but might still be invited to a meeting with the Chief Executive

Turn to Page 8

2



No more From Page 1

before May 1. Once certified as priority, the measure on security of tenure is expected to breeze through the Senate.

"The House of Representatives already approved the proposed measure while the Senate is just awaiting input from the executive. So the certification from the President will be a signal for the Senate to give it priority," Bello explained.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said Duterte was right about letting Congress handle the task. He promised to expedite the passage of a related measure in the chamber.

"The policy on what types of employment we will allow in the Philippines; whether regular employment, whether provisional employment and other types of employment; all of these details actually are part of legislative policy. This should be in a law and not through an EO," Pimentel said.

Bello said the DOLE had submitted to the Office of the President three drafts of the proposed EO addressing the issue of contractualization.

The contentious provision of the three drafts, Bello said, is the definition of the security of tenure. Labor groups want "security of tenure" defined as employment relation between worker and principal employer.

Business groups, however,

are opposed to the definition and are pushing for removal of the word "principal."

After a review of the three drafts, Bello said, the Office of the Executive Secretary found it all to be just a mirror of the pending security of tenure bill.

The proposed EO as well as the security of tenure bill, Bello stressed, were a reinforcement to the existing DOLE Administrative Order 174 meant to stop unlawful contractual employment like endo.

The controversy over contractualization had led to the resignation of labor undersecretary Dominador Say, who had been accused of favoring management.

But there were reports that Say was really on his way out due to allegations of corruption.

This was contradicted by the labor chief who vouched for Say's good track record in the private sector.

"He is a lawyer so I don't think he is capable of doing that (corruption), I don't believe those reports," Bello said.

He said labor groups should trust the DOLE's strict enforcement of AO 174 as part of its campaign against unlawful contractual arrangements.

Bello's idea

At Malacañang, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said

Duterte refused to sign an EO on endo upon Bello's recommendation.

"Since my last statement on this, I've had the occasion to find out, number one, that the position of Secretary Bello now is it is better to leave the matter of endo to Congress," Roque said. He had earlier announced that an EO on endo would be signed on Labor Day.

Citing a report from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Roque said the President had already delivered on his election promise to do away with endo.

He said the DOLE has beefed up the number of its labor inspectors from 200 to 500 to go after businesses resorting to the prohibited practice.

"There is a distinction, however, between service contractors who recognize their employees as regular employees albeit they perform work for another company. And that is the position of the DTI," Roque explained.

"The position of Secretary Bello now, which I think is the position of Malacañang as well – is let's see what kind of legislation Congress will finally be approving, noting that the matter is now pending in the Senate alone, because the House already passed its version," he said.

Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said Duterte is set to sign something after all on May 1 – but not an EO.

"There may be a pronouncement, but it's not an EO. It's true that there is something to be signed, but it may be a pronouncement or direction on contractualization, but not an EO," Lopez pointed out.

"We have agreed internally that nothing will come out because no matter what we issue, it won't satisfy what they (labor groups) want," he added.

Lopez said the current Labor Code provides workers with the best protection while at the same time offering flexibility to employers.

"The bottomline is in other countries, they simply call it nontraditional employment, but it's actually legitimate contracting. Look at ASEAN countries, it's allowed so we should not move away from that. It's a model that is acceptable worldwide," he stressed.

Lopez earlier warned labor groups that insisting on direct hiring by principals and employers could backfire on them and ultimately cause harm to the economy.

"We have talked to a number of investors and they are saying that they would just transfer elsewhere or will just not bring the investments here," he said.

Lopez said what is important is that Duterte has made good on his promise to stop the practice of illegal contractualization.

Hopeful for EO

For Sen. Joel Villanueva, it's

still his wish for Malacañang to issue an EO "to provide the framework and guidance for the implementation of a national policy on contractualization."

"We should know the clear position of the executive on this matter. We want to ensure that what we are legislating is useful and effective," Villanueva, chairman of the Senate committee on labor, employment and human resource development, said.

Pimentel said the concern of Villanueva could be taken up during the next Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council meeting where the labor chief would be present.

"I will ask him (Bello). It doesn't have to be an EO but what they want could be captured by law," Pimentel said.

He stressed that ending endo is also a policy position of the ruling PDP-Laban.

Pimentel said employers groups should air their concerns at public hearings of the Senate on the issue.

According to Villanueva, his committee is finalizing its report in preparation for plenary debates.

"We will release the committee report as soon as we finish circulating the draft to the senators for inputs. The President's certification will definitely help in the passage of a new law governing endo," Villanueva said.

With the signing of an EO on endo now out of the ques-

tion, the militant Kilusang May Uno (KMU) said it is mounting protest actions in the run-up to Labor Day to dramatize their disappointment.

"Duterte's mockery of Filipino workers and of our legitimate demands will never be forgiven. On May 1, International Labor Day, hundreds of thousands of Filipino workers across the country will show their outrage over Duterte's rejection of our demands for regular and decent jobs in a nationwide workers' and people's protest," KMU chairman Elmer Labog said in a statement.

"This further proves that his tough talk against contractualization was a mere publicity stunt to woo workers' votes like all other traditional politicians," Labog noted.

The Associated Labor Union (ALU) expressed belief it was not the President but his Cabinet officials who wanted to stop the issuance of an EO against endo.

"This is not the President speaking. Bello and Roque are just pre-empting the President's desire to sign a labor-drafted EO," ALU spokesman Alan Tanjusay said.

"Workers will only have one wish to President Duterte as Labor Day gift to workers: sign the EO. It will be the best Labor Day gift ever," he said. – With Richmond Mercurio, Christina Mendez, Marvin Sy

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

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

20 April 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 13



SILENCEDGUNS – Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) Jesus Dureza inspects an assault rifle, which is among the 102 turned-in loose firearms to the local government as part of the 'Barkibaril' Program of the government in Carmen, North Cotabato on Thursday. With Dureza are Sixth Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, Carmen Mayor Roger Tallño, and North Cotabato Gov. Emmylou Tallño-Mendoza. (Keith Bacongco)

5

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



Honor. Patriotism. Duty.

April 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 13

Villager killed in NPA harassment in Surigao del Norte

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

BUTUAN CITY – A villager was killed, while two other civilians were critically wounded, when an undetermined number of New People's Army (NPA) terrorists harassed a community on Wednesday in Barangay Lahi, Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte, said Capt. Francisco P Garelo Jr., Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer of the Army's 36th Infantry (Valor) Battalion (36th IB) late Wednesday afternoon.

"The terrorists harassed the community which resulted in the instantaneous death of a civilian and the wounding two others around noon time on Wednesday," Garelo said, in a phone interview with The Manila Bulletin.

The 36th IB CMO officer, identified the slain victim as Jepti Acido, 32, single and resident of Barangay Tayaga, Claver, Surigao del Norte.

Wounded and immediately evacuated to the Surigao City Medical Hospital for treatment were Virgil Flor Ortiz, 23, resident of Barangay Tayaga, Claver town and Adner Malaque, 20 and resident of Barangay Villafranca, Gigaquit town, both of Surigao del Norte province.

The terrorists, believed to be under Guerilla Front 16-C (GFC 16-C) of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC) harassed the residents of Barangay Lahi by indiscriminately firing their high powered firearms near the barangay hall.

"The three civilians on board a motorcycle happened to pass by the area when the incident happened resulting in the death of Acido and wounding his two other companions," Garelo said.

Meanwhile, troops of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion (56th IB) discovered an abandoned NPA camp in the Palma Gil area in Talaingod, Davao del Norte, according to Capt. Jerry S. Lamosao, chief of Public Affairs Office (PAO) of the Army's 10th Infantry (Agila) Division (10th ID).

"The abandoned encampment that was found by our ground troops at 6 a.m. on Monday can accommodate 100 terrorists," said the 10th ID spokesperson, in a statement sent to The Manila Bulletin on Wednesday evening.

"It was estimated to have been abandoned about 10 days ago," the 10th ID PAO officer said.

6



W April 2018

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B2

2 NPA rebels killed

BY VICTOR REYES

TWO New People's Army rebels were killed in a clash with government forces in Magsaysay town in Davao del Sur before noon Wednesday, a military official reported yesterday.

Capt. McGary Dida, civil military operations officer of the Army's 1002nd Brigade, said troops from the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion swooped down on about 30 rebels holding a meeting in Barangay Upper Bala that led to a one-hour firefight.

Dida said two M16 rifles were also recovered, adding several wounded rebels were dragged away by their retreating comrades.

A member of the religious group Jehovah's Witnesses was killed while two others were injured in an attack staged by NPA rebels in Gigaguit town in Surigao del Norte on Wednesday noon.

Capt. Francisco Garello, civil military operations officer of the Army's 36th Infantry Battalion, said the victims may have mistaken by the rebels as soldiers.

Garello said the rebels opened fire at the victims, aboard a motorcycle, as they were passing near the social hall of Barangay Lahi. He said rebels also fired at civilians near the social hall.

Garello identified the fatality as Jepti Acido, 32, who was hit by a bullet in the left eye that exited at the back of his head. Two other JH members – Virgil Flor Ortiz, 23, and Adner Malaque, 20, were wounded.

Dida said no soldier was hurt during the operation.

Brig. Gen. Roberto Ancan, commander of the Army's 1002nd Brigade, urged the rebels to surrender and live a normal life with their family.

"We are calling on NPA terrorist who are still hiding to surrender peacefully, bring down your firearms and avail the government programs intended for you. You deserve to live happily with your family," said Ancan.

7



20 April 2018



Pahina. 8

2 NPA terrorists todas sa encounter

Dalawang miyembro ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) ang napaslang kasunod nang pagkakasilat ng tropang gobyerno sa planong paghahasik ng karahasan ng teroristang grupo sa naganap na engkuwentro sa Brgy. Upper Bala, Magsaysay, Davao del Sur nitong Miyerkules ng tanghali.

Ayon kay Major Ezra Balagtey, Spokesman ng AFP-Eastern Mindanao Command dakong alas-11:30 ng tanghali nang magresponde ang mga elemento ng Army's 39th Infantry Battalion (IB) matapos na ireport ng mga sibilyang residente ang isinasagawang pagpupulong ng mga armadong NPA at ng mga kasapi ng Milisyang Bayan sa kagubatan ng nasabing lugar.

Ayon kay Balagtey paparating pa lamang ang tropa ng militar sa naturang barangay nang salubungin ng bala ng tinatayang nasa 30 mga armadong terorista na nauwi sa bakbakan ng magkabilang panig.

Ang palitan ng putok ay tumagal ng isang oras na ikinasawi ng dalawang NPA terrorists fighters na kapwa inaalam pa ang pagkakakilanlan na inabandona ng mga nagsitakas nilang mga kasamahan at pagkakarekober ng dalawang M16 rifles.

Wala namang naiulat na nasugatan sa panig ng tropa ng militar sa nangyaring engkuwentro.

Samantalang natukoy naman ang mga lider ng NPA na sina Norma Capuyan alyas Ka Libra, Dave Verano alyas Ka Borjack at Eusebio Cranzo alyas Ka Brix. *(Joy Santos)*

8

20 April 2018



Page. 13

No poll hotspots identified in N. Ecija -- Comelec

CABANATUAN CITY— No election hotspots have so far been identified in Nueva Ecija for the holding of the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan polls next month, a top official of the Commission on Elections said

yesterday.

Atty. Panfilo Doctor, provincial election supervisor, said no untoward incidents have so far been reported to the authorities as the Provincial Joint Security Council for the barangay and SK elections conducted its second

meeting yesterday to further strengthen or review their security preparations and deployment plans for the conduct of an honest, orderly and peaceful polls.

"Wala tayong listahan ng hotspots sa ngayon, wala namang nakakarating pa na impormasyon

na mayroon karahasan sa ating kapaligiran," said Doctor.

Doctor made the initial assessment as the poll body, in cooperation with the police, the military, the religious and civil sectors (Kilusang Pagbabago) the Department of Education and the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Nueva Ecija Press Club, and the Provincial Treasurer's Office, joined forces in serving as witnesses to the peace covenant signing of candidates in the province for the barangay and SK polls.

Provincial police chief Sr. Supt. Eliseo Tanding yesterday led the pledge of commitment for an honest, orderly and peaceful election of some 115 barangay and SK candidates at the provincial police gymnasium in this city.

Among those present as witnesses to the peace covenant signing were

Brig. Gen. Abraham Claro Casis, Army commander 703rd Brigade, attorney Danilo Yang of Kilusang Pagbabago, Fr. Franz Joseph Aquino, representing Cabanatuan Bishop Sofronio Bancud, Bishop Ricardo Quejada, and Gina Caling, president of NEPCI.

Doctor reminded candidates to stick to the rules because the barangay and SK polls are strictly apolitical and non-partisan affair.

"Bawal pa mangampanya ngayon kahit sa social media dahil sa May 4 pa ng Sabado ang start ng campaign period," Doctor said.

In Nueva Ecija, which has 849 barangays, there are 1,568 candidates aspiring for barangay captains, and 11,545 for councilors while 1,042 bets filed for SK chair and 4,079 for SK kagawads.

Steve Gosuico



PEACH PACT FOR HONEST, PEACEFUL POLLS. Nueva Ecija provincial election supervisor Panfilo Doctor, provincial police chief Sr. Supt. Eliseo Tanding, Army 703rd Agila Brigade chief Brig. Gen. Abraham Claro Casis, and provincial prosecutor Danilo Yang lead barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan candidates for the pledge of commitment for the holding of an honest, orderly and peaceful polls on May 14.

Photo by Steve Gosuico

9



20 April 2018



Page. 4

34th Balikatan begins May

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Government has invited the US military forces to train with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for the 34th iteration of Balikatan (BK), an annual exercise that focuses on mutual defense, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief.

To be held from May 7 to 18 across multiple locations in Luzon, BK 2018 will focus on interoperability training events designed to enhance the capabilities of both the US and Philippine armed forces in dealing with events that endanger public health and safety.

Consistent with the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) and the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), this year's BK will have US forces and the AFP working together with other regional partners including Australia, and Japan in all of the major training events.

Note the AFP has also invited the United Kingdom as observer particularly on post-disaster management training.

The US and the Philippines will also conduct humanitarian civic action activities throughout Luzon for this year's BK.

On Thursday, US and Filipino forces started renovation work on some schools including organizing medical engagements as part of the lead up to the opening day of BK 2018.

April 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 2

It is best to walk the path of peace – Galvez

By FRANCIS J. WAKEFIELD

Newly-installed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. vowed to defend the Filipino people from all enemies of peace and democracy when he formally assumed command of the 125,000-strong military force during the turnover ceremony held at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Wednesday afternoon.

"It is the best time to walk the path of peace," Galvez said, inviting those who are in conflict with the government to abandon their "pointless struggles and return to their families and communities."

"I once again propose to you, brothers and sisters, that you consider returning to the folds of the law and avail government's offer to end all conflicts."

"Thousands of your comrades have already abandoned your hopeless cause and surrendered their arms because they have seen for themselves that our government is just," Galvez said.

"Warriors that we soldiers may be, we shall always prefer to take the path of peace," Galvez said.

"We have been supportive of government's peace initiatives and we will continue that quest. We will step up our collaboration and engagement with various government and non-government organizations to help address the root causes of the conflict," he said.

In the ceremony, the 49th Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, General Rey Leonardo Guerrero, officially bowed out of service after 38 years in the military profession.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandiwa" Class of 1985, Galvez replaced Guerrero.

President Rodrigo Duterte presided over the turnover ceremony at the Parade Grounds in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, where Guerrero was also honored with a Testimonial Parade and Review and the prestigious award of the Philippine Legion of Honor (Rank of Commander).



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

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

70

April 2018

Manila Standard

Page. A3



CHANGE OF COMMAND. Philippine soldiers march in formation during the Armed Forces of the Philippines change of command ceremony at the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo in Manila. **AFP**

12

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



Honor. Patriotism. Duty.

20 April 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 8

Military rebuts NPA rights violation claims

By DANNY J. ESTACIO

CAMP NAKAR, Quezon — The military's Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) is standing firm in supporting human rights and international humanitarian law, as it rebutted claims by the New People's Army (NPA) that it executed one of its fighters on April 9 in Camarines Sur.

First Lieutenant Felise Vida P. Solano, SOLCOM spokesman, derided the NPA claims as false and pure lies.

Solano cited an incident where government troops captured a wounded rebel following an encounter last week. The rebel, who was near death, was treated by a military medical team.

In contrast, Solano said the military captured a guerilla who was just 15 years old. The boy's recruitment as a combatant by the NPA is a clear violation of the rights of children as stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

Solano said the boy was turned over to social welfare officials.

It was just one of the many instances when SOLCOM demonstrated its love for fellow Filipinos, Solano said.

The communists, meanwhile, continue to spread fear and lies to recruit minors, women, and farmers, and extort money from local businessmen and entrepreneurs, she said.

She added that SOLCOM will remain committed to protect the people from rebel atrocities. It will not be bullied into submission by any terrorist group that threatens the peace and security the communities and stakeholders have built, Solano said.

She called on the rebels to surrender and allow the government to help them rebuild their lives. She also urged the families of the rebels to help the military rescue their relatives from exploitation. Solano stressed.

13



April 2018



Page: A4

Displaced 'lumad' long for ancestral home

By Rina Chandran

TAGUM CITY—As military battalions closed in, shutting down schools, rounding up men and harassing women, Tungig Mansumuy had to make a tough decision: stay and protect their homes, or flee to save their lives and risk losing their land.

After discussions with other tribal people, Mansumuy, the chief of a Manobo tribe in Mindanao, decided that his people had to leave and seek shelter until martial law was lifted and it was safe to return to their homes in Talaingod town, Davao del Norte province.

A few men stayed behind to guard their homes, while the rest fled by foot in February, carrying few belongings as they made the two-day trek down the mountain, Mansumuy said.

Today, 244 of them, mostly women and children, are in rickety shelters of bamboo and tarpaulin in the middle of a banana plantation at the village of Madaum in Tagum City, about 80 kilometers from Davao City, with no inkling of when they can return to their homes.

"We have endured militarization for a long time, and we have fled several times before. But we were always able to go back," Mansumuy said, as his wife nursed their newborn child, and older children carried firewood and water to women cooking on fires.

"This time feels different; we have been forced to leave our homes, and we are being told we need to give up our lands for our own good. But we cannot live like this—we belong in our ancestral lands, and we want to go back," he said.

The "lumad" in Mindanao are part of nearly 17 million indigenous people in the country. They are among the poorest of minority groups, with little access to social services including education and health care.

Vulnerability

The lumad have been caught in the middle of a five-decade-old insurgency, as well as a push by logging and mining companies to tap Mindanao's rich resources, including gold, copper and nickel, after President Duterte said he would welcome investors.

Their vulnerability has been exacerbated by the extension of martial law imposed in Mindanao last May by Mr. Duterte, who has called the island a "flash point for trouble" and atrocities by Islamist and communist rebels.

"Mr. Duterte is waging war against defenseless indigenous people in Mindanao," said Duphing Ogan, secretary general of indigenous peoples' alliance Kalumaran.

"They are targeting our lands, destroying our mountains and our forests, and selling out to corporations. This is an all-out war against minority people, not against terror," Ogan said.

A spokesperson for Mr. Duterte did not respond to emails seeking comment.

'Massive abuses'

The Philippines was the deadliest country in Asia last year for land and environment activists amid a government crackdown on rural communities, according to advocacy group PAN Asia Pacific.

Campaigners say indigenous people in Mindanao are particularly vulnerable under martial law, which was imposed after Islamist militants took over the city of Marawi.

14



their culture and existence," they added.

Corpuz and more than 600 others were denounced as communist guerrillas whom the government wants declared as "terrorists." She has denied the allegations.

Ancestral domain

Campaigners say the extended militarization of Mindanao is intended to force indigenous people off their land, so they can be handed over to mining, energy and logging companies.

Ancestral domains are protected by the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997, which recognizes their control of these lands.

Commercial use of the land needs the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous people, according to UN guidelines. But it is rarely sought,

At least 60 tribal people have been killed since 2016 when Mr. Duterte came to power, many of them in Mindanao, according to rights groups.

Mr. Duterte, who is from Mindanao, has threatened airstrikes on indigenous schools that he said are teaching "subversion" and communism.

Lumad elders deny this, but dozens of schools have been shut or destroyed.

The government says it is worried that mountainous, jungle-clad Mindanao, a region the size of South Korea that is home to the Muslim minority, could attract international extremists.

Martial law extension

But activists and United Nations experts have said the lumad have suffered widespread human rights abuses that could intensify with the extension of martial law to December.

Thousands of lumad people have been displaced and some killed, said Victoria Tauli-Corpuz and Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, the UN Human Rights Council's special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people and internally displaced people.

Some of the attacks by military personnel were based on suspicions that the lumad are involved with militant groups, or because they resisted mining activities on their ancestral land, Corpuz and Damary said in a report last December.

"They are suffering massive abuses of their human rights, some of which are potentially irreversible," they said.

"Forcing indigenous people to leave their homes has an incalculable impact on their very lives and ways of living—one that risks erasing

and social and environmental impacts are never revealed, campaigners say.

Mr. Duterte, who remains immensely popular, said in February that he would open ancestral domains in Mindanao to investors to generate wealth. He said he would pick the companies himself.

Campaigners slammed his remarks.

Displacements

"Opening up ancestral domains in Mindanao to investors will lead to massive displacements of peasants and indigenous peoples, and encourage more violence against them," said Jay Apiago of the rights group Karapatan.

"Mindanao is very rich in resources, but the people remain poor and have not benefited from any business. If their lands are taken, they will have no means of livelihood," Apiago said.

Last month, Mr. Duterte vowed to provide livelihood assistance to the indigenous people if they supported his plan.

But for the lumad sheltering hundreds of kilometers from home, the promise means little.

Not far from the banana plantation where Mansumuy and his clan have settled temporarily, a group of about 40 tribal people who fled from Mindanao's Compostela Valley province are preparing to build shelters before the rainy season.

"We were not entirely safe before the martial law, and we will not be safe even when martial law is lifted," said Cristina Lantao, a lumad leader.

"We will only be truly safe when the government is for poor people and indigenous people, and not just for businesses," Lantao added. —REUTERS



ONLINE NEWS

20 APRIL 2018

www.pna.gov.ph

Galvez supports peace efforts with MILF, MNLF

By Priam Nepomuceno April 19, 2018, 4:03 pm

MANILA -- Newly-appointed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez strongly supports the government's peace initiatives with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

"As your Chief-of-Staff, I take this opportunity to reiterate our full support to peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front. We look forward to the final, peaceful, and equitable resolution of the conflict in Mindanao," he said during his assumption speech Wednesday.

In line with the government's ongoing peace initiatives with the MILF and MNLF, Galvez said the AFP would strengthen existing peace mechanisms and revitalize the Peace and Development Offices down to Unified Command level.

"We will do this to effectively address the grievances of the people of Mindanao and to set the conditions for a just and lasting peace," the newly-appointed AFP chief stressed.

Earlier, Galvez said that it is time to reconcile with "misguided Filipino brothers and sisters" and walk the path of peace.

"It is time for rebuilding and reconciliation amongst Filipinos. It is the best time to walk the path of peace. I once again propose to you, brothers and sisters, that you consider returning to the folds of the law and avail government's offer to end all conflicts," the newly-appointed AFP chief added.

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). **(PNA)**

Basa Air Force to serve as home base for PAF's FA-50 fighter jets

By Priam Nepomuceno April 19, 2018, 12:17 pm

MANILA -- The Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga will start operating and housing the Philippine Air Force (PAF)'s 12 FA-50 PH "Fighting Eagle" light-lift fighter trainers by fourth quarter this year.

The move is in coordination with the PAF's "Balik Basa" program, 5th Fighter Wing public information officer Lt. Gary Regalado said in a text message to the Philippine News Agency Wednesday.

"Basa Air base will re-establish itself as the PAF's first line of air defense against all threats both foreign and domestic. Moving the FA-50s back to Basa ensures that we become the center of air defense operations here in the Philippines," he added.

The 5th Fighter Wing is the PAF unit tasked with fast jet operations and air defense.

The first two aircraft were delivered last Nov. 28, 2015 while the last two of the PAF's 12 plane-order with Korea Aerospace Industries were delivered on May 31, 2017.

The FA-50PHs have a top speed of Mach 1.5 or one and a half times the speed of sound and is capable of being fitted air-to-air missiles, including the AIM-9 "Sidewinder" air-to-air and heat-seeking missiles aside from light automatic cannons.

Formely, Basa Air Base was the home of the PAF's former fighter mainstays, the Vought F-8 "Crusader" and Northrop F-5 "Tiger" before their decommissioning in 1988 and 2005, respectively.

At present, Basa Air Base is hosting the PAF's three remaining SIAI-Marchetti S-211 jet trainers.

"So far, the focus will be the FA-50s. This will begin in the last quarter of this year. Projected date would be sometime in October. However these are all subject to change," Regalado said when asked on when the FA-50PHs will be transferred to Basa and whether air assets will be deployed. **(PNA)**

New AFP chief vows support for drug war

By Priam Nepomuceno April 19, 2018, 11:47 am

MANILA -- Newly-appointed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief-of-Staff Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez has pledged that the military would continue to assist other law enforcement agencies tasked to neutralize the drug menace in the country.

"As an institution committed to support the Commander-in-Chief's (President Rodrigo R. Duterte's) crusade of ridding the country of illegal drugs and organized crimes, I pledge the AFP's assistance to the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency," Galvez said during the change of command ceremonies in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Wednesday.

Illegal drugs, he said, are anathema to any civilized society and are considered the primary cause of rising criminality and narco-terrorists.

"Illegal drugs and dependence to it spawn criminals and narco-terrorists. We have seen in the siege of Marawi how 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 secured," the newly-appointed AFP chief said.

To neutralize this threat, the AFP is more than willing to cooperate with other government agencies to defeat this menace.

"We will, as we should, collaborate with and support other government agencies. And together, as a team, we will fight and eliminate the menace," Galvez said. ***(With reports from Ericka Cirera, OJT/PNA)***

www.pna.gov.ph

Galvez vows to uphold transparency, good governance as new AFP chief

By Priam Nepomuceno April 19, 2018, 11:07 am

MANILA -- Newly-appointed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief-of-Staff Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez on Wednesday vowed to uphold the values of transparency and good governance.

"Transparency and good governance shall be the beacon that shall guide our thoughts, our words, and our actions. We shall always adhere to our core values of Honor, Service, and Patriotism," Galvez said.

The 50th AFP chief-of-staff said he would push for prudent utilization of resources without corruption.

"We shall uphold meritocracy; not mediocrity. We shall advance transparency; not mistrust," Galvez emphasized.

While much have been accomplished in transforming the AFP, Galvez admitted that much remains to be done for the military to evolve into the 21st century.

"We have come a long way towards the transformation of the Armed Forces into what it is today. However, much remains to be done for us to completely evolve into a 21st century military—fully capable of protecting the Filipino people, safeguarding Philippine sovereignty, and ensuring our territorial integrity," he added.

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 supposed to retire on Dec. 17, 2017 after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56 but his term as AFP chief was extended by another four months by President Rodrigo R. Duterte. **(PNA)**

20



AFP won't hesitate to use might vs. enemies of people, state: Galvez

By Priam Nepomuceno April 19, 2018, 11:04 am

MANILA -- While willing to support any initiatives that will lead to a just and honorable peace, newly-appointed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez on Wednesday said the military will never hesitate to use its might when innocent Filipinos are attacked and harassed by the nation's enemies.

"But one thing I want to make clear to defiant enemies of the people and the state who may misread our intentions: while we give primacy to peace, we will never hesitate to use our might when innocent civilians are threatened and attacked," Galvez said during the change of command ceremonies held in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Galvez stressed that the AFP will not hesitate to conduct intense focused military operations to stop atrocities committed against civilians.

"We will frustrate terrorist acts that disrupt economic activities," he pointed out.

Earlier, Galvez said that it is time to reconcile with "misguided Filipino brothers and sisters" and walk the path of peace.

"It is time for rebuilding and reconciliation amongst Filipinos. It is the best time to walk the path of peace. I once again propose to you, brothers and sisters, that you consider returning to the folds of the law and avail (of the) government's offer to end all conflicts," the newly-appointed AFP chief added.

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 on Oct. 26, 2017, replacing 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.

Also on Wednesday, Duterte appointed Guerrero as the new head of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).

With the retirement of Guerrero, Galvez became the 50th AFP chief-of-staff.

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