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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

26 April 2018

Thursday



Honor. Patriotism. Duty

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

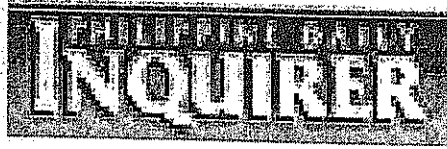
TABLE OF CONTENTS

26 APRIL 2018


PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1-2	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A14
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	Nun challenges expulsion order	Tina Santos	PDI p.A1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
4	Army to spend P215 M for combat equipment	Michael Punongbayan	Philstar p.12
5	Army purchasing P215M supplies	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B2
6	800 loose guns recovered in Maguindanao	John Uson	Phil Star p.13
7	Boy killed by soldier no 'child soldier', Reds claim	Jeanette Andrade	PDI p.A4
8	Reds kill Army corporal	Raymund Catindig	Phil Star p.13
9	AFP vetting Negros barangay bets	Celso Amo	Phil Star p.13
10	Sundalo todas, isa pa kritikal sa NPA encounter	Raymund Catindig	Ngayon p.6
AFP RELATED NEWS			
11	DFA studying move on China monument	Reuters	PDI p.A2
12	CPP: Slain boy not an NPA member	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B2
13	Jalandoni, Ocampo expect agreements within 60 days	Jaymee Gamil	PDI p.14
14	Include cultural mapping in Marawi rehab – NCCA	Manuel Cayon	Business Mirror p.A3
15	Free MRT rides for AFP men	Jun Legaspi	Peoples Tonight p.7
16	Soldiers get free rides on MRT-3 trains	Jun Legaspi	Peoples Journal p.3
EDITORIAL			
17	Peace talks within 60 days?	-	Mla Bulletin p.8
ONLINE NEWS			
18	OFFICIAL VISIT Army Chief Dental Surgeon at 10ID	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph
19-20	ENEMY CRUMBLING 10ID continuously defeat CNTs in ComVal	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph
21-22	EVER READY 15IB rescues Lightning Strike victims	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph
23	COMMUNITY OUTREACH CMO Regiment conducts Medical Mission	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph
24	SERVING THE PEOPLE PA Trust Rating on the rise	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph

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


26 April 2018



Page: 114

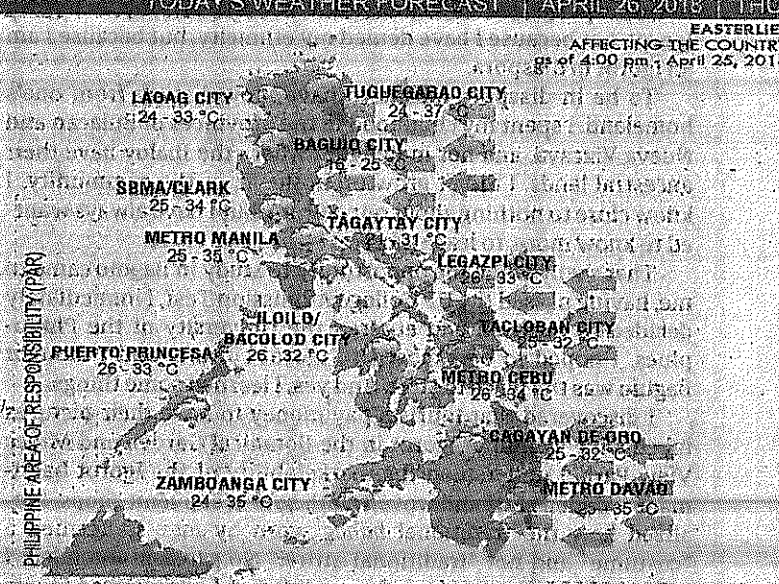


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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | APRIL 26, 2018 | THURSDAY



EASTERLIES AFFECTING THE COUNTRY
gs of 4:00 pm, April 25, 2018

SUNRISE  5:36 AM	SUNSET  6:12 PM
MOONRISE  2:59 PM	MOONSET  2:51 AM
FIRST QUARTER APR 23 5:46 AM	FULL MOON APR 30 8:56 AM
LOW TIDE 1:59 AM -0.04 Meter	HIGH TIDE 7:02 PM 0.63 Meter

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

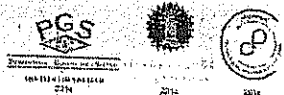
APR 27		APR 28		APR 27		APR 28		
METRO MANILA	 25 - 35 °C	 25 - 34 °C	TAGAYTAY	 22 - 31 °C	 22 - 31 °C	TACLOBAN	 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	 24 - 38 °C	 24 - 38 °C	LEGAZPI	 25 - 32 °C	 26 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C
LAOAG	 24 - 33 °C	 25 - 34 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	 26 - 33 °C	 26 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	 25 - 34 °C	 25 - 35 °C
BAGUIO	 16 - 25 °C	 16 - 25 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	 26 - 33 °C	 26 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	 24 - 34 °C	 24 - 34 °C
SRMA/CLARK	 25 - 36 °C	 26 - 36 °C	METRO CEBU	 26 - 33 °C	 26 - 34 °C	 AIR 21 SAGOT KO PROALA MOY		

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

PILIPINAS HD

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



20 April 2018



Page: A1

NUN CHALLENGES EXPULSION ORDER

By Tina G. Santos
@santostina1N0

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) has ordered an elderly Australian nun who has angered President Duterte to leave the country in 30 days.

In a one-page order issued on Monday, the BI revoked Sister Patricia Fox's missionary visa before it was to expire on Sept. 5. It also directed the deactivation of her alien certificate of registration.

"She was found to have engaged in activities that are not allowed under the terms and conditions of her visa," Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said on Wednesday.

Fox, a 71-year-old missionary belonging to the Our Lady of Sion congregation, was detained for a day last week after Mr. Duterte ordered her investigated for "disorderly conduct."

Mr. Duterte harshly criticized

the nun for having a "shameful mouth" and warned that he would not tolerate foreign visitors insulting the Philippines, which he said was a violation of the country's sovereignty.

"You come here and insult us, you trample with our sovereignty. That will never happen," he said. "I assure you, if you begin to malign, defame [the] government in any of those rallies there, I will order your arrest."

Fox's lawyer, Jobert Pahilga, said he would ask immigration authorities to reconsider their decision although it appeared to have been made upon the President's orders.

"The President has spoken. We take it as his marching order for the BI to deport Sister Pat," Pahilga said.

He said he had not expected the BI move, as Fox was given until May 4 to file a counteraffidavit answering complaints that she violated immigration rules.

Pahilga said BI documents supposedly showed Fox had openly and actively participated in activities such as rallies, press conferences and fact-finding missions, which are alleged violations of her missionary visa, making her an undesirable alien.

"The charge that Sister Pat is an undesirable alien has no basis in fact and in law," Pahilga said.

He said she was not en-

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gaged in antigovernment activities and all her actions had been "consistent with her missionary work of promoting peace, social justice and human rights."

Surprise

In a statement, Fox said she was surprised at the order to expel her.

"I am very sad that the decision at present is that I leave the Philippines," she said. "I may lose my right to be in the Philippines but I can never lose the learnings and beautiful memories."

She said she had worked in the Philippines since 1990 with poor farmers and tribal people in the rural areas, and with workers in urban centers where she had learned how they were impoverished.

As a Christian, she said, she had to get involved in projects to uplift their livelihood and also to push for their rights to land, peace, justice, security and human rights.

"It seems this is what has brought me into conflict with the Philippine government. I am still hoping for a chance to explain how I see my mission as a religious sister and maybe the decision can be reconsidered," she said. (See Fox's full statement on this page)

Opposition solons

Opposition lawmakers condemned the BI order.

"Harassing human rights advocates and faith-based organizations and individuals may succeed in the short run but it will eventually fail," Sen. Francis Pangilinan said in a state-

ment, adding that the Duterte administration was acting like Hitler's Gestapo.

Tolerance lost

Sen. Bam Aquino said he would seek a Senate probe of the order, which he said was a clear harassment of people who fight abuses.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate said the BI action showed the Philippines "had lost the tolerance" for the missionary's exercise of her freedom.

"What was the government afraid of?" he asked.

Reacting to the BI decision, Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said, "Dura lex sed lex (the law may be harsh, but it is the law)."

"If that's the law, no one is above the law," Sotto said.

Equal protection clause

Sen. Francis Escudero called the BI order "unfortunate" but said the grant, denial or withdrawal of a visa was "discretionary on the part of any country."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the equal protection clause in the

Constitution did not distinguish between foreigners and citizens of the Philippines.

Limitations

The executive branch, however, could impose limitations on certain activities of foreigners that are against the interest of the state "and that is what the government has applied in the case of Sister Patricia Fox," he said.

Lacson said Filipinos should back the BI move if allegations against Fox were proven true.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop

Broderick Pabillo said the expulsion order gave no consideration to the nun's nearly three decades of service to the Filipino people, especially the poor.

"This is very sad. All the good Sister Pat has done to help the underprivileged,

which the government has not been able to serve, is glossed over and not even appreciated while the insecurity of the present government is given weight," Pabillo said.

—WITH REPORTS FROM LEILA B. SALAVERRIA, MAILA AGER, ALLAN NAWAL, AFP AND REUTERS INQ

3

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26 April 2018



Page: 12

Army to spend P215 M for combat equipment

The Philippine Army is spending P213.6 million to acquire new equipment for its soldiers and personnel, including 73,130 pairs of combat boots worth P115.5 million, an official said yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Joselito Reyes, who chairs the Army bids and awards committee, said they started the procurement process through an invitation to bid to prospective suppliers.

Included in the shopping list are 17,763 pairs of rubber shoes worth P35.5 million; 90,634 round-neck shirts amounting to P15.8 million; 17,706 Army uniforms for P9.7 million;

3,576 pieces of combat chest rig for P5.7 million, and 8,032 hydration packs for P12.8 million.

Reyes said the Army would also purchase 9,487 camouflage uniforms amounting to P11.3 million; 49,051 white socks for P4.4 million, and 25,632 belts worth P4.6 million.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva said the supplies are important in the performance of the soldiers' duties.

The Army, the biggest unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, has around 85,000 soldiers in various parts of the country.

- Michael Punongbayan

4

26 April 2018

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B2

Army purchasing P215M supplies

THE Philippine Army is acquiring P215.62 million worth of assorted supplies, including combat boots, for the use of its personnel, numbering around 80,000 men and women.

The procurement of the items is being done through public bidding, supervised by the office of the Army's Bids and Awards Committee.

The items being acquired include 73,706 pairs of combat boots worth P115.54 million; and 17,763 pairs of rubber shoes worth P35.52 million.

The other supplies are 17,706

athletic uniform (P9.73 million); 3,576 combat chest rig (P5.72 million); 8,032 hydration pack (P12.85 million); 9,487 jungle pack (P11.38 million); 49,051 athletic socks (P4.41 million); 25,632 tactical belts (P4.61 million), and 90,634 T-shirts (P15.86 million).

The Army regularly provides its personnel with such supplies, including the combat boots, which Army spokesman Col. Louie Villanueva said are crucial in the accomplishment of the Army's mission.

"Combat boots are very important to us because without them, our soldiers — especially

our ground forces — cannot accomplish their mission. It's an essential clothing equipment of our soldiers," said Villanueva.

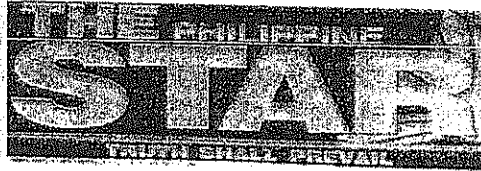
Villanueva said combat boots are usually worn out after six months to one year of use in the field, depending on the terrain where they are being used.

Army soldiers are in the forefront in the fight against various security threats, including the communist New People's Army; and the terrorist groups Abu Sayyaf, Maute Group and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters. — *Victor Reyes*

5



26 April 2018



Page: 13

800 loose guns recovered in Maguindanao

By JOHN UNSON

MAGUINDANAO – More than 100 unlicensed firearms were recovered in Maguindanao on Tuesday.

Local officials in Datu Anggal Midtimbang, Talayan, Guindulungan, Datu Saudi and Pandag towns surrendered the guns to personnel of the 6th Infantry Division and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police.

At least 800 loose firearms

seized in this province were presented to President Duterte during his visit to Buluan yesterday.

Khadafeh Mangudadatu of the ARMM legislative assembly and his wife, Zihan, the mayor of Pandag town, were among those who surrendered their unlicensed guns. They turned over a .30-caliber machine gun and several rifles.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu and his brothers, Zajid and Freddie,

congressman and mayor of Mangudadatu town, respectively, had earlier surrendered their loose firearms.

Mangudadatu said the mayors in the province were also set to meet with Duterte.

"I will report to President Duterte that we support the Balik-Baril program... The provincial peace and order council will implement it as a regular government program," Mangudadatu said.

6

20 April 2018



Page:

74

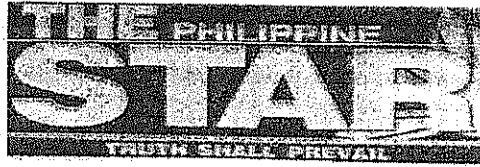
Boy killed by soldiers no 'child soldier,' Reds claim

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has accused the military of killing a 15-year-old boy who, the insurgents claimed, was mistaken for a New People's Army (NPA) fighter. In a statement posted on its website on Wednesday, the CPP claimed that the boy, Rondi Ondo, was killed on April 21 in Barangay Astorga in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, while he was gathering coconuts in the company of his uncle and a cousin. It said that soldiers "fired upon them, mistaking them for NPA fighters." The insurgents took exception to a statement by Brig. Gen. Roberto Ancan, commander of the Army's 102nd Brigade, branding Ondo as a "child soldier" to "cover up their crime." But in a phone interview, Ancan claimed that Ondo was actually a resident of Sitio Tombo, Barangay Old Bulatukan, Makilala, North Cotabato. "Why was he there in the encounter site (Sta. Cruz)? How did he get to Sta. Cruz? That's the question," Ancan said. An M16 rifle was recovered next to the boy's body, he added. —JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE

7



De April 2018



Page: 13

Reds kill Army corporal

TUGUEGARAO, Cagayan – An Army corporal was killed and another soldier was wounded in an encounter with suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Sitio Matatang, Barangay Masi, Rizal, Cagayan on Tuesday.

Macdonald Domingo was pronounced dead on arrival in a hospital in this city where Pfc. Feliciano Tattaog was also taken for treatment.

Police said soldiers belonging to the 17th Infantry Battalion led by First Lt. Ryan Bartolome clashed with around 25 NPA rebels at around 7:45 a.m.

In Masbate, *habal-habal* driver Donald delos Santos, 25, was gunned down by suspected NPA rebels in Barangay Chimenea, Cataingan town about 5 a.m. yesterday.

– Raymund Catindig, Celso Amo



26 April 2018



Page: 13

AFP vetting Negros barangay bets

By GILBERT BAYORAN

BACOLOD CITY - Background checks on candidates for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections in Negros Occidental are being conducted amid reports that some of them have links with the New People's Army (NPA), a military official said yesterday.

Capt. Emil Charlie Jaudian, 303rd Infantry Brigade (IB) Civil Military Operations chief, said they expect to complete the profiling of candidates before the start of the campaign period on May 4.

A total of 23,548 persons filed their certificates of candi-

dacy for the barangay and SK elections in Negros Occidental.

The military said 93 of 662 barangays in the province are infiltrated by communist rebels. Sixty-two of these barangays are likely to be declared election hotspots.

Brig. Gen. Eliezer Losanes, 303rd IB commander, warned voters against choosing candidates with links to communist rebels.

Jessie Suarez, Commission on Elections-Negros Occidental supervisor, sought increased police and military visibility in Toboso, Calatrava, Moises Padilla and Isabela towns, where recent killings were believed perpetrated by

NPA rebels.

The military said it expects to complete the deployment of additional troops in rebel-infested areas a week before election day.

4 held for gun ban

Meanwhile, in Ligao, Albay, security guard Jaymar Mora, 28; farmer Celso Mora, 23, and Jeffrey Mora, 29, of the 92nd Division Reconnaissance Company were arrested for violation of the election gun ban.

Police said the three were riding a motorcycle when one of them fired shots in Barangay Sta. Cruz.

Security guard Henry Palafox, 46, who was wearing

civilian clothes, was arrested for holding a shotgun in front of an automotive store in Barangay Centro East, Santiago, Isabela. He failed to show any document when accosted by Senior Superintendent Cornelio Comila of the regional civil security unit.

In Bulacan, Rodrigo Rodriguez, chairman of Barangay Mabalasbalas in San Rafael town, was gunned down by motorcycle-riding men while buying rice also on Tuesday.

Police said the victim, who was on his third term as barangay captain, was not running for any barangay seat. - **With Celso Amo, Raymund Catinig, Ramon Efran Lazaro**

9



26 April 2018



Pahina. 6

Sundalo todas, isa pa kritikal sa NPA encounter

TUGUEGARAO CITY.

Cagayan - Isang army corporal ang nasawi habang isa pang sundalo ang kritikal ang kalagayan nang tamaan sa kanilang sagupaan laban sa mga pinaniniwalaang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa Sitio Matatang, Brgy. Masi, Rizal, Cagayan noong Martes.

Sa report mula sa 17th Army Battalion, mahigit 25 armado ang nakasagupa ng mga tropa sa ilalim ni 1Lt. Ryan Bartolome dakong alas 7:45 ng umaga na agad ikinasawi ni Cpl. Macdonald Domingo.

Inilipad naman ng isang helicopter sa isang hospital sa lungsod na ito si Pfc. Feliciano Tattao Jr.

Inaalam ng militar kung mayroong nalagas sa panig ng kaaway na nagsipag-atrasan sa kahundukan. **Raymund Cadang**

10



April 2018



Page: A2

DFA studying move on China monument

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

Malacañang has opted to say little for now about China's recent activities in the South China Sea, including its erection of a monument on Kagitingan Reef and landing military planes on another reef within the Philippines' territory in the strategic waterway.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said in a television interview on Wednesday that the Department of Foreign Affairs was studying diplomatic actions it could take regarding China's construction of the monument and its landing of Xian Y-7 military transport planes on Panganiban Reef, which is located within the Philippines' 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the South China Sea known as West Philippine Sea.

PH reef

Panganiban Reef is internationally known as Mischief Reef, which the UN-backed

Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague ruled in July 2016 was within the Philippines' EEZ and part of the country's continental shelf.

Roque said not all of the government's actions on these matters could be made public.

"You know, in the field of diplomacy, not all actions can be announced. But I'd like to assure the public that the President is being apprised of the steps being taken by the Department of Foreign Affairs," Roque said.

Lawmakers and legal experts have been calling on the Duterte administration to protest China's landing of military transport planes on Panganiban Reef in January.

They say the landings were not just an affront to Philippine sovereignty but could be a precursor to the deployment of long-range bombers and fighter aircraft to the reefs in the Spratly archipelago that China has transformed into artificial islands.

China claims nearly all of the 3.5-million-square-kilometer South China Sea, but the arbitral court in The Hague, ruling in the challenge brought by the Philippines, declared Beijing's claim invalid and pronounced it in violation of Manila's sovereign right to fish and explore for resources in waters within its EEZ.

China, however, has ignored the ruling and proceeded to build artificial islands on reefs claimed by its rivals in the Spratly archipelago.

Message of determination

In a brief report on Monday, the People's Liberation Army Daily said China had unveiled a monument to mark its construction work on Kagitingan Reef.

The monument sends a message about China's determination to protect its territory and maritime rights in the South China Sea, the report said. —WITH A REPORT FROM REUTERS INQ



26 April 2018

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B2

CPP: Slain boy not an NPA member

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Communist Party of the Philippines yesterday said the 15-year-old boy slain by government troops in a firefight on Saturday in Sta. Cruz town in Davao del Sur was not a member of the New People's Army rebel, contrary to the military's pronouncement.

But Brig. Gen. Roberto Ancan, commander of the Army's 1002nd Brigade, maintained that the boy, Rondi Ondo, was an NPA rebel and was seen firing his weapon during the fire-

fight with other insurgents.

In statement, the CPP said Ondo was collecting coconuts with his uncle and a cousin when soldiers opened fire at them after "mistaking them for NPA fighters."

The CPP said Rondi's mother, Marissa, also denied he was an NPA member.

"The AFP's fake news mill is daily churning out increasingly incredulous lies in the mass media to fool the people. This incident of child killing adds to the growing list of atrocities committed by the AFP against the

peasant masses...." it added.

Ancan said the CPP's claim is "baseless" and said the NPA is "employing child warriors."

Ancan laughed at the CPP claim that the boy was collecting coconuts in Sta. Cruz town. He said the boy was a resident of Makilala town in North Cotabato.

"The question is why was he, a 15-year-old, in the area when he is from Makilala?" said Ancan. He said the boy was seen by the operating troops firing his weapon during the firefight.

"I think there is no need for

us to elaborate further. He was there in the encounter site. He is not from that place. What was he doing there? Why will he gather coconuts in (Sta. Cruz) when that's too far from Makilala?" Ancan added.

Ancan also said the military has information that the boy's father was also an NPA rebel. As to the boy's mother, the Army official said he is not certain if she is also affiliated with the communist movement.

Also killed in the encounter was Julito Pueblas, 62, head of the NPA's Guerilla Front 51.

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26 April 2018



Page: 14

Jalandoni, Ocampo expect agreements within 60 days

The communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) has expressed hopes that peace talks with the government could resume within the 60-day window offered by President Duterte. In an interview during the "Pilgrims for Peace" forum on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City, NDFP senior adviser Luis Jalandoni said the organization believed "agreements for peace negotiations" could be settled within two months. He cited a possible deal on the Comprehensive Agreement for Socio-Economic Reforms, which includes provisions on rural development and national industrialization. Satur Ocampo, NDFP consultant and cofounder, said he expected agreements on a ceasefire, amnesty for the NDFP peace panelists, and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in 60 days. Jalandoni, however, said the talks should be held in "neutral formal venue for the security of the participants." —JAYMEE T. GAMIL

13



24 April 2018

BusinessMirror

A credible look at things business

Page. 13

Include cultural mapping in Marawi rehab—NCCA

DAVAO CITY—The Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have requested for a cultural mapping of this city by the scenic Lake Lanao, the identification of existing or damaged cultural sites of which may be incorporated in the rehabilitation of the city.

Augustinian priest Harold Ll. Rentoria, commissioner for cultural heritage of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), said the MSU main campus and the ARMM Bureau of Cultural Heritage recently approached him to conduct the cultural mapping of the city, saying that this may help restore heritage sites that were destroyed during the May-October 2017 battle against Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-linked terrorists.

Rentoria said the mapping would be conducted soon to catch up also with the drawing up of the comprehensive plan to reconstruct and rehabilitate the city of 200,000 residents.

Many of these people are still staying in temporary shelters, evacuation centers and homes of relatives across Lanao del Sur and surrounding cities of Iligan and Cotabato.

The target of the mapping are heritage sites, commonly those structures not less than 50 years old, "which are either old houses and buildings, churches and mosques and other culturally shared structures."

"The heritage sites are either recognized and respected by the locales, or they were ignored or taken for granted by local residences," Rentoria said. The NCCA has done random mapping of places across the country and has known of the existences of centuries-old structures as also being noted by local governments in their notes of requests for mapping by the NCCA.

"There are also mosques and churches in the Moro areas that needed mapping," Rentoria added.

In the case of Marawi City, the cultural map would hope to catch up with the rehabilitation plan.

"But we would also like to know from the Task Force Bangon Marawi on which kind of rehabilitation works would be applied: Is it the entire city or the part of the city that was destroyed by the siege."

Rentoria said he would officially sit in the board of directors of the Task Force Bangon Marawi soon.

So far, he added, it would not be difficult to persuade rehabilitation bodies to include rehabilitation of heritage sites, saying that it was done in many previous reconstructions of places. The cultural mapping was earlier requested by the Marawi City government in 2016, and the NCCA met with them in 2017.

The same request was also sent by the governor of Maguindanao last year, but the siege in Marawi City has affected the security situation in the province also, which forced the mapping to be suspended, he said.

Now, the province would also like to proceed with the mapping. *Manuel T. Cayon*



26 April 2018



Page. 7

Free MRT rides for AFP men

By JUN I. LEGASPI

AS a token of gratitude and gesture of appreciation, all active military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are now entitled to free rides at the MRT-3 starting yesterday.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed yesterday by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), MRT-3 Management, and the AFP to give free rides to all active military personnel for an entire year. They may avail of the free ride upon showing their AFP identification cards.

DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade said the free train ride is a way of recognizing the sacrifices of our military.

“Simple as it may seem, this offer of respect, this offer of gratitude, comes from the bottom of our hearts. *Idol namin kayo. Mahal namin kayo. Kung meron kaming isang maliit na bagay na mabibigay sa inyo, gaya ng libreng sakay at libreng pamasaha, ibibigay namin sa inyo ‘yan dahil kinikilala namin ang inyong katungkulan, kinikilala namin ang inyong pagmamahal sa bayan,*” said Tugade.

In return, the AFP will be providing the DOTr-MRT-3 media mileage through its Civil Service Relations-AFP (CRS-AFP) office, as well as ambulance and medical teams for assistance during emergency and crisis situations upon



Tugade advance coordination and when available.

During the ceremony, Secretary Tugade also said that all active military personnel can use all airport lounges throughout the country free of charge.

Secretary Tugade, DOTr Undersecretary for Railways Timothy John Batan, MRT-3 General Manager Rodolfo Garcia, and CRSAFP commander Brig Gen Bienvenido Datuin, Jr. signed the MOA. The agreement was noted by Batan and AFP Chief of Staff Carlito Galvez, Jr. and approved by Secretary Tugade and Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Last year, a MOA was also approved and signed between the AFP and the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), granting all uniformed personnel free rides until December 2018 at the LRT-2 as a gesture of appreciation for the soldiers who risked their lives during the Marawi City siege.

15



26 April 2018



Page. 3

Soldiers get free rides on MRT-3 trains

By Jun I. Legaspi

AS a token of gratitude and gesture of appreciation, all active military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are now entitled to free rides on MRT-3 starting yesterday.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed yesterday by the Department of Transportation (DoTr), MRT-3 Management and the AFP on free rides for all active military personnel for an entire year. They can get the free ride upon showing their AFP identification cards that will serve as their access pass.

DoTr Secretary Arthur Tugade said the free train ride is a way of recognizing the sacrifices of the military.

Simple as it may seem, this offer of respect, this offer of gratitude, comes from the bottom of our hearts. Idol namin kayo. Mahal namin kayo. Kung meron kaming isang mali-it na bagay na mabibigay

sa inyo, gaya ng libreng sakay at libreng pamasahe ibibigay namin sa inyo 'yan dahil kinikilalanamin ang inyong katungkulan, kinikilala namin ang inyong pagmamahal sa bayan," said Tugade.

In return, the AFP will be providing the DoTr-MRT-3 media mileage through its Civil Service Relations-AFP (CRS-AFP) office, as well as ambulance and medical teams for assistance during emergency and crisis situations upon advance coordination and when available.

During the ceremony, Secretary Tugade also said that all active military personnel can use all airport lounges throughout the country free of charge.

"Nagbigay po ako ng instruksyon last year na kung saan all enlisted personnel are entitled to the free use of all lounges in the Republic of the Philippines. Sapagka't ang ating mga sundalo, pag kayo ay bumabyahe, bitbit niyo

inyong katungkulan kung saan kaya niyong i-atang ang inyong buhay. Dapat lang naman buksan namin ang aming mga airport lounges para sa inyo," Tugade added.

Secretary Tugade, DoTr Undersecretary for Railways Timothy John Batan, MRT-3 General Manager Rodolfo Garcia, and CRSAFP Commander and Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Datuin, Jr. signed the free MRT-3 ride MOA. The agreement was noted by Batan and AFP Chief of Staff Carlito Galvez, Jr. and approved by Secretary Tugade and Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Last year, a MOA was also approved and signed between the AFP and the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), granting all uniformed personnel free rides until December 2018 at the LRT-2 as a gesture of appreciation for the soldiers who risked their lives during the Marawi City siege.

110

26 April 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 8

Peace talks within 60 days?

IN response to continuing calls for the revival of the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and New People's Army (NPA), President Duterte last weekend called on CPP Founding Chairman Jose Ma. Sison to return home to the Philippines and resume the peace negotiations within 60 days.

The peace talks had begun right after the start of the President's administration in 2016, with talks in Oslo, Norway, and Rome, Italy, but they broke down last February over the NPA's call for the release of detained political prisoners, continued fighting on the ground despite the ongoing peace talks, and the absence of a bilateral ceasefire agreement.

Last Saturday, in response to an appeal made by some 60 lawmakers represented by the Makabayan bloc in the House of Representatives, President Duterte called on Sison, who lives in the Netherlands, to return home to the Philippines and resume the peace talks within 60 days. The talks should be held here, he stressed. "I will not go there. We're fighting for the Philippines, so you come here."

Despite our continuing hopes for a resumption of the talks and an ultimate peace agreement to end the 49-year-old rebellion, we have to admit that no talks are likely to be held under these conditions. Sison has lived in the Netherlands since 1986 – 32 years ago – and it is not likely that he feels any safer today than in all the previous years under previous

administrations.

Earlier, during the talks in Europe, Sison had stressed that he cannot order the NPA around as its commanders can make decisions based on conditions on the ground. More recently, in his word war with President, Sison backed down from his boast that the NPA could kill one soldier a day. "I have always made it clear that I am not in any position to issue any kind of order to the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army," he said.

The NPA remains a nebulous enemy to the state, vague and indistinct in its organization and intentions. Sison, founding chairman of the CPP, could be of great help in any peace talks but the government may have to seek out the present party leadership and reach out to the ground commanders.

In his latest statement sent through his Facebook website last Monday, Sison declared he would return home "when a significant advance in the peace negotiations has been achieved within the framework of the Hague Joint Declaration and when my comrades and lawyers are satisfied with legal and security precautions."

He obviously has no intention of coming home to resume the peace negotiations. He will return only when "significant advance" has been achieved, while President Duterte wants him to come home to resume the talks. With such disparate statements, we cannot have much hope that the peace talks will be able to resume in 60 days.

17



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ONLINE NEWS

26 APRIL 2018

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OFFICIAL VISIT | Army Chief Dental Surgeon at 10ID

Posted by Alvin Santiago on April 25, 2018 at 10:22 AM

CAMP GEN MANUEL YAN SR., Mawab, Compostela Valley (DWDD) – Colonel Jeffrey M Belagan, Army Chief Dental Surgeon and party visited the Headquarters of the 10th Infantry (Agila) Division, Philippine Army on April 24, 2018 at Camp General Manuel T Yan Sr, Brgy Tuboran, Mawab, Compostela Valley Province.

Col Belagan and party were warmly welcomed by Officers, Enlisted Personnel and Civilian Employees of Agila troopers.

They were received by Colonel Manuel V Sequitin, Chief of Staff, 10ID. **10DPAO / MCAG**



18



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ENEMY CRUMBLING | 10ID continuously defeat CNTs in ComVal

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on April 25, 2018 at 10:05 AM



NEW BATAAN, Compostela Valley Province (DWDD) – The 66th Infantry “Kabalikat” Battalion continues to press on its operations against the numerous Guerilla Front it has been confronting. Guerilla Front 25 (GF25) is now downgraded to just a Section Committee as majority of the fighters have surrendered to the Kabalikat Battalion. 23 members of GF25 are now under the care of the 66IB.

On April 15 2018, Sunday, the operating troops led by Captain Ricky Dioneda acted on the revelation of @Ganggang, a former political instructor of GF25, Sub-regional Committee 1, Southern Mindanao Regional Committee, about a cache of firearms and other war materiel in vicinity Kalaberahan, Sitio Puting Bato, Baranggay Ngan, Compostela Valley Province.

The operation resulted to the capture of the following: 1 Caliber 7.62 M14 rifle with 1 magazine full of ammunition, 1 Caliber 30 M1 Carbine with magazine loaded with 20 rounds ammunition, 1 magazine of M16 with 5.56 mm rounds, 4 cliploads ammunition of Garand rifle. As the situation progressed, on sameday at 5 in the afternoon, another cache was found. It was followed by the capture of 3 dual purpose improvised explosive devices measuring 26 cm in height, 71 cm in diameter and each weighing 15 kgs. They are antitank landmines.

On the following day, April 16, Lt Sonny Boy M Bueno acted on the revelation of Barangay Captain Henry Tabanao and conducted combat operations at vicinity purok Alimyon, Araibo, Pantukan town, CVP. The operation resulted to the capture of the following high powered firearms and other war materiel: 1 caliber 5.56 M4 carbine with a 20 capacity magazine full of ammunition and 1 caliber 7.62 M14 Rifle with 5 fullmagazines of ammunition.

19



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On April 19, @ Cesar, Squad Leader of Abe Primera unit, GF2, SRC2, SMRC who surrendered last March 2018, revealed about a firearms and IED cache. Cpt Ricky Dioneda led the operating troops to Stockfile, Sitio Bantuayan, Bgy Camanlangan, New Bataan, Compostela Valley Province and captured the following items which were left by the GF2 members as they withdrew after the encounter last March 31 2018: 1 caliber 5.56 M16A1 rifle with two magazines full of ammunition, 4 dual purpose IEDs (1 weighing 25 kgs, 3 weighing 15 kgs each), 4 magazines of M14 rifle full of ammunition, 1 bandolier and 1 backpack containing personal belongings.

“As a result of the influx of surrenderors from almost all confronted guerilla fronts of the 66IB, the enemy’s strength continue to fall down in terms of personnel and war materiel. Morale among its members is so low, the citizenry withdrawn their funds and materials support and distrust has grown enormously within the groups. Most of the Guerilla Fronts are nearing extinction” LTC Palmer M Parungao said.

Mgen Noel S Clement, Commander of the 10th Agila Division lauded the troopers of the 66th Kabalikat Battalion for their accomplishments which continue to mount. After dismantling Guerilla Front 27, Guerilla Front 25 is now downgraded into a section committee as majority of its fighters have surrendered to 66IB and the recent capture of these war materials added to its downfall. **10DPAO / MCAG**



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EVER READY | 15IB rescues Lightning Strike victims

Posted by **Alvin Santiago** on April 23, 2018 at 9:51 AM



SIPALAY CITY, Negros Occidental (DWDD) – Recently, we've probably heard battalion of soldiers sent to battlefield to suppress insurgencies and acts of terrorism, to secure chaotic places and maintain peace. Ample of times did this happen, and hundreds of lives have been sacrificed for such a noble cause. Yes, 15th Infantry "Molave Warrior" Battalion did it for us.

The Charlie Company "Molave Warrior" of the 15th Infantry Battalion under the leadership of 1Lt Arnel P Lozada (INF) PA is ever-ready to do what it takes to make sure that people live peacefully, as it is their right, without fear of being terrorized by any group driven by selfish motives, and to give utmost protection to whoever needs it in whatever circumstances. Right now, the company puts much dedication to serve the Negros Island particularly the 6th District where the company is stationed.

Even in times of natural disaster, the company never fails to serve its countrymen. Ready to extend its helping hand as part of its duty, Charlie Company quickly responds to situations that need its assistance without hesitation and delay.



As a matter of fact, in an unfortunate incident that happened in Sitio Barasbarasan, Brgy Manlucahoc, Sipalay, Negros Occidental, last April 18, 2018 wherein 6 got killed, and more or less 17 got injured due to lightning strike, Charlie Company managed to get to the place in time to rescue the casualties; among them were children of sugarcane farmers.

21

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It is evident that true heroism can exist not only in the battlefield where lives are painfully sacrificed, but also in times where one can help others who are in desperate need. **15IB / MCAG**



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH | CMO Regiment conducts Medical Mission

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on April 25, 2018 at 9:36 AM [Email](#)

MANDALUYONG, Metro Manila (DWDD) – Personnel from Civil-Military Operations (CMO) Company, Civil-Military Operations Regiment conduct Medical Mission at Barangay 413, Zone 42, District IV, sponsored by the Junior Chamber International Philippines- Mandaluyong on April 21.



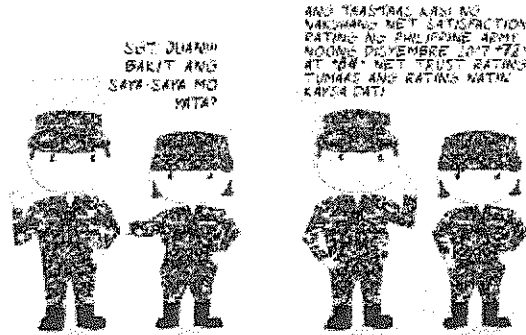
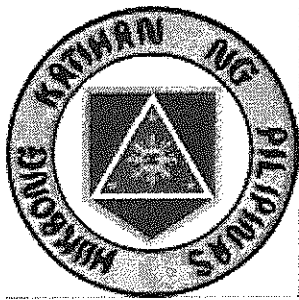
More or less 200 residents availed of the Medical and Dental Services that also included different activities such as: Drug Awareness symposium, circumcision, haircut and gift giving. **CMOR / MCAG**

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SERVING THE PEOPLE | PA Trust Rating on the rise

Posted by Alvin Santiago on April 25, 2018 at 10:42 AM



FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD) – Your Philippine Army obtained a +72 net satisfaction rating and a +84 net trust rating in a recent Social Weather Station survey.

A sample of 1,200 respondents participated in the survey conducted between December 8 to December 14, 2017. **OACPA / MCAG**