

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

28 April 2018

Saturday

PGS



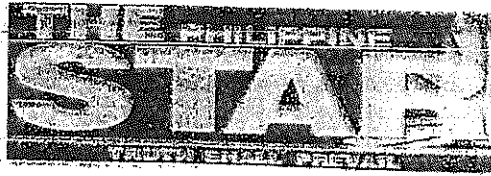
Honor. Patriotism. Duty

TABLE OF CONTENTS

28 APRIL 2018

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
NATIONAL NEWS			
1-3	Korean War to end	AP, Reuters	Philippine Star p. 1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
4	19 na rebelde, sumuko sa Mt. Province	Fer Taboy	Balita p. 2
AFP RELATED NEWS			
5-6	Military: No need for more Boracay troops	Dempsey Reyes	Mla Times p. A1
7	2 'IS sympathizers' fall	Jeannette Andrade	PDI p. A9
8	2 'ISIS supporters' fall	Martin Sadongdong	Mla Bulletin p. 3
9	BI urged to reconsider Aussie nun's deportation	Janvic Mateo	Philippine Star p. 2
10	Burgos mom's suspended state of yearning	Jhesset Enano	PDI p. A5
EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY			
11-12	DND, AFP are spoiling the peace talks resumption	Satur Ocampo	Philippine Star p. 9
ONLINE NEWS			
13-14	PROTECTING THE FILIPINO PA continuously wins on all fronts	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph
15	Cleaning Paradise / AFP, a partner in Boracay rehab	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph

28 April 2018



Page: 1

KOREAN WAR TO END

SEOUL—The leaders of North and South Korea embraced yesterday after pledging to work for the "complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula," on a day of smiles and handshakes at the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade.

The two Koreas announced they would work with the US and China this year to declare an official end to the 1950s Korean War and seek an agreement to establish "permanent" and "solid" peace.

The declaration included promises to pursue phased arms reduction, cease hostile acts, transform their fortified border into a peace zone and seek multilateral talks with other countries, including the United States.

"The two leaders declare before our people of 80 million and the entire world there will be no more war on the Korean peninsula and a new age of peace has begun," the two sides said.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in agreed to visit the North Korean capital of Pyongyang this year, they said.

Earlier, North Korea's Kim Jong Un became the first North Korean leader since the 1950-53 Korean War to set foot in South Korea after shaking hands with his counterpart over a concrete curb

marking the border in the heavily fortified demilitarized zone.

Scenes of Moon and Kim joking and walking together marked a striking contrast to last year's barrage of North Korean missile tests and its largest ever nuclear test that led to sweeping international sanctions and fears of war.

Global markets were lifted by hopes the summit would pave the way for the end of conflict on the Korean peninsula. Shares in Seoul briefly rose more than one percent to a one-month high and Japan's Nikkei share average also gained.

As part of efforts to reduce tension, the two sides agreed to open a liaison office, stop propaganda broadcasts and leaflet drops along the border and allow Korean families divided by the border to meet.

Days before the summit, Kim said North Korea would suspend nuclear and long-range missile tests and dismantle its only known nuclear test site.

But there has been widespread skepticism about whether Kim is ready to abandon the nuclear arsenal his country has developed for decades, justifying it as a necessary deterrent against US invasion.

"Everything will not be resolved in the blink of an eye," said Kim Young-hee, a North Korean defector-turned-economist at the Korea Development Bank.

"Kim Jong Un has put the ball in the US court. He declared denuclearization, and promised to halt nuclear tests," she said. "That tells us he wants the United States to guarantee the safety of his regime ... in return for denuclearization."

It is not the first time leaders of North and South Korea have declared hopes for peace. Two earlier summits, in Pyongyang in 2000 and 2007, failed to halt the North's weapons programs or improve relations in a lasting way.

"We will make efforts to create good results by communicating closely, in order to make sure our agreement signed today before the entire world will not end as just a beginning like previous agreements before today," Kim said after the agreement was signed.

Earlier, Moon greeted Kim at the military demarcation line where the men smiled and

1

shook hands.

Moon and Kim released their joint declaration before attending a dinner banquet.

The US was hopeful talks would make progress on achieving peace and prosperity, the White House said in a statement.

The White House also said it looked forward to continuing discussions with South Korea in preparation for the planned meeting of Trump and Kim in coming weeks.

The US stations 28,500 troops in South Korea as a legacy of the Korean War, which ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. The war pitted the South, UN and US forces against the communist North, backed by China and Russia.

Although still a young republic emerging from the ashes of World War II, the Philippines was the first Asian country to send a contingent of soldiers – the third largest – to the Korean peninsula in response to the call of the UN to repel advancing communist forces threatening to overrun the entire Korea.

Under the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea (PEFTOK), the Filipinos distinguished themselves especially in the defense of Yultong, where less than a thousand Filipino soldiers of the 10th Battalion Combat Team repulsed attacks by 40,000 Chinese soldiers and volunteer fighters in April 1951. The battle was said to have left 7,500 Chinese fighters and 24 Filipinos dead.

The Filipinos also emerged victorious – along with US forces – in an assault on a Chinese position called Eerie Hill. A young lieutenant named Fidel Ramos led 44 men in sabotaging the Chinese position to clear the way for final allied assault in 1952.

Out of the 7,420-strong PEFTOK members, 112 were killed in action, 229 wounded, 16 missing and presumed dead and 41 held as prisoners of war.

OF A 17-year old journalist named Benigno Aquino Jr. covered the Korean War for the old *Manila Times*.

CAFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Smiles, handshakes at border

The golden doors on the stately North Korean building swung open and leader Kim Jong Un, in a black Mao suit and surrounded by a gaggle of officials, descended steps towards the border.

Not since the 1950-53 Korean War had a North Korean leader set foot on South Korean soil.

With a smile, Kim stretched out his hand toward a waiting, and smiling, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who stood between the squat, blue buildings that straddle the border at Panmunjom.

The village is one of the few places where there are no barbed wire fences or minefields between the two countries, separated by a conflict that ended with a truce, not a treaty, in 1953, meaning they are still technically at war.

"I was excited to meet at this historic place and it is really moving that you came all the way to the demarcation line to greet me in person," Kim said as he grasped Moon's hand across the border.

"It was your big decision to make it here," said Moon, dressed in a dark suit and light blue tie, who invited Kim to step over the line in the pavement, which he did.

That's something Kim's grandfather, the North Korean regime's founding leader Kim Il Sung, or his father, Kim Jong Il, never did.

Two previous summits between leaders of the Koreas, in 2000 and 2007, were in Pyongyang, the North's capital.

Shaking hands again, Moon, 65, and Kim, 34, turned to face photographers in the North, and then the South, before Kim grabbed Moon's hand and, in an unplanned move, invited him to step across the border into the North, where they stood face-to-face to talk a bit more.

Kim said he felt a "swirl of emotion" as he walked the short distance to the border, wondering "why it took so long," he told Moon later, at the beginning of their meeting.

'World is watching'

Later, as the afternoon sun set, the two men sat at a small table on a blue footbridge along the border for a half-hour private chat, at turns laughing and looking serious – an extraordinary scene given the tension just months ago, as a defiant North conducted missile and nuclear tests.

Since January, relations have improved. Their Olympic teams marched together under a common flag at February's winter games in South Korea.

As the two men started their meeting in the Peace House on the southern side of the border, both seemed aware of the gravity of the occasion.

"The whole world is watching" with high expectations, Moon said. "We have a lot on our shoulders."

He said Kim's crossing of the border had transformed Panmunjom into a "sign of peace, not a sign of division." Kim responded with equal optimism.

"With determination, we will be heading toward a better place to make up for the lost 11 years," he said, referring to the last summit.

Their two-hour morning meeting was marked with laughter and some banter, as well as more serious discussion, behind closed doors, officials said.

2@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

n. Duty.

'High hopes'

At one point, Kim said he heard Moon was "always waking up early" because of North Korea's missile tests and promised not to interrupt his sleep anymore, presidential spokesman Yoon Young-chan told reporters.

The North invariably conducted its unannounced tests early in the day.

Kim mentioned the contentious issue of North Korean defectors – who are routinely denounced in North Korean media as "human scum" – and even referred to the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong, which North Korean forces shelled in 2010, killing four people.

"Coming here, I saw people are having high hopes for the summits – including ... defectors and residents of Yeonpyeong Island – those who used to worry about North Korea's missiles coming to them at any time," Kim said, according to Yoon.

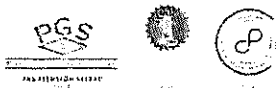
Kim said he had heard good things about a South Korean high-speed train built for the Winter Olympics, and expressed concern that North Korea's traffic system would "cause inconvenience" should Moon visit.

The two men went back to their separate sides for lunch, Kim driven in a black limousine and escorted by a dozen bodyguards in dark suits and ties jogging alongside the vehicle.

In the afternoon, they planted a memorial tree and watered it with water from rivers in the South and North, before walking into a small glen along the border and across the blue footbridge for their private tete-a-tete as the sun set.

Afterwards, they strolled back to the Peace House, seemingly engrossed in conversation with no officials nearby.

– AP, Reuters



28 April 2018



Page. 2

19 na rebelde, sumuko sa Mt. Province

Sumuko sa pamahalaan ang 19 na miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa Paracelis, Mountain Province, nitong Huwebes ng hapon.

Isinuko rin ang kani-kanilang armas, sumurender ang mga rebelde sa militar sa Sitio Marat, Barangay Poblacion sa Paracelis, sa tulong ng mga opisyal ng barangay, ayon

kay Lt. Col. Narciso Nabulneg, Jr., commanding officer ng 54th Infantry Battalion (IB).

Matagal na umanong nag-operate sa ilang bayan sa lalawigan ang mga nasabing rebelde ngunit ipinasya na lamang magbalik-loob sa pamahalaan upang magbagong-buhay.

Fer Taboy

18 April 2018

The Manila Times

Page: M

BONG GO APPEALS FOR COOPERATION Military: No need for more Boracay troops

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines on Friday said there was no need to deploy additional troops to Boracay Island during its six-month closure as there were "enough boots" on the ground. On April 9, President Duterte issued Proclamation 475 placing Boracay under a "state of calamity"

and declaring it closed to tourists from April 26 to October 25 for rehabilitation and cleanup.

Lt. Gen. Paul Atal, commander of military's Central Command (Cent-Com), said the situation in Boracay on the first day of closure on Thursday was "generally peaceful."

"The role of CentCom forces is to support the PNP (Philippine National Police) in its law enforcement function and keeping the peace and order in the island especially in implementing the guidelines of the closure," Atal told reporters.

Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go called on residents and businesses to cooperate with the government to ensure the speedy cleanup and rehabilitation of Boracay Island, on the second day of the shutdown of the popular tourist destination.

Go, in a statement, backed President Rodrigo Duterte's signing of a proclamation declaring a state of calamity in the villages (*barangay*) of Manoc-Manoc, Balabag and Yapok in Boracay Island, which is in the town of Malay, Aklan.

"Once again, I ask all the residents and establishments in the island for their utmost understanding. It is my hope that you will cooperate with the government as we undertake efforts to make the Island of Boracay a more beautiful and sustainable tourist destination," Go said.

"I welcome the signing of the proclamation declaring a state of calamity in the three barangay on the Island of Boracay and the temporary closure of the entire Boracay Island as a tourist destination. Now, the work of rehabilitating Boracay can begin," he said.

The President's key aide said he was willing to facilitate rehabilitation efforts among various government agencies involved, such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

"The different agencies of government are there to speed up and improve this process. Everyone can expect continued support and assistance from this office," he said.

Other destinations

Senators Joseph Victor Ejercito and Juan Edgardo Angara on Friday said the six-month closure of Boracay island would serve as an opportunity for other tourist destinations in the country "to shine."

"Definitely, this is a chance for other equally beautiful places and hidden wonders around the country to be discovered while Boracay is undergoing rehabilita-

tion," Ejercito said.

"For every crisis, there is an opportunity. I believe that this is a great chance for other tourist destinations to take center stage. We even have medical tourism," he added.

Angara urged the government to aggressively promote other Philippine tourist destinations.

"This is an opportune time to help bring our other tourist spots to international recognition, which would continue to entice tourists to visit the Philippines," he said.

The senator cited Sorsogon, Leyte, Negros Oriental, Zamboanga, Catanduanes and Siquijor, among the poorest provinces, as potential tourist magnets because of their beautiful beaches. Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, proposed the creation of a Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) to oversee the rehabilitation and development of Boracay into a world-class sustainable tourism destination.

"The fact that the national government had to mobilize several departments to 'save' Boracay from its environmental woes shows that the current governance framework of Boracay is inadequate to address its unique ecological and regulatory needs," he said.

Financial aid

Hundreds of residents and workers flocked to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to seek transportation and financial assistance on the second day of the Boracay Island closure.

DSWD chief information officer Myla Monsod told *The Manila Times* that more than 700 displaced workers lined up as early as 5 a.m. on Thursday in front of the agency's operations center.

"A maximum of P5,000 in transportation assistance is given to validated applicants depending on how near or far their destination is," she said.

DSWD officer-in-charge Emmanuel Leyco said in a news conference the agency had released about P3 million to 1,340 displaced workers as of Thursday.

"The number is expected to increase in the coming days, and the operations center is prepared with funds of at least P1 million to immediately provide for additional transportation assistance," Leyco said.

Tourism Assistant Secretary Frederick Alegre said in an interview the DSWD would allot a P520-million budget while the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) would provide a P2 billion to the Boracay workers.

Out of 36,000 workers in Boracay, 15,000 are employed by the public sector, according to a DoLE survey.

**DEMPSEY REYES, GLEE JALEA
AND BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO**

18 April 2018



Page: 19

2 'IS sympathizers' fall

A composite team of police and military intelligence agents arrested two suspected Islamic State (IS) sympathizers on Thursday in Laguna province and seized from them four firearms, two grenades, ammunition and improvised explosive devices.

At a press conference in Camp Crame on Friday afternoon, Philippine National Police chief Oscar Albayalde identified the alleged terrorists as Jimuel Dizon, alias "Amir"; and Eddie Boy Bermejo, alias "Abdullah".

Albayalde said that Dizon and Bermejo were "Balik-Islam"

(converts to Islam) members of Suyuful Khilafa Fi Luzon, an affiliate of the Luzon-based Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM).

Valentine's Day bombing

Formed in 2002, RSM is suspected of involvement in several terror attacks, including the bloody 2005 Valentine's Day bombing in Metro Manila.

"They (Dizon and Bermejo) have been subject of our surveillance ever since. We are conducting follow-up operations ... and our intelligence

buildup on this group (RSM) is continuous," Albayalde said.

Operatives from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the local police, and military intelligence also confiscated a pair of black IS flags from the two suspects, who were arrested separately at their homes in subdivisions in Barangay Tagapo in Sta. Rosa City and Barangay Matatid in Cabuyao City.

The raiders were armed with warrants issued by a San Pablo City court, Albayalde said. —JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE INQ



28 April 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 3

2 'ISIS supporters' fall

MARTIN A. ADONGDONG

Two suspected sympathizers of the terror group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) were arrested recently by a composite police and military team in Laguna, the Philippine National Police (PNP) bared yesterday, amid growing concerns that the group is trying to establish a base in the country and solidify its presence in Southeast Asia.

Jimuel Velasco Dizon, alias Amir and Eddie Boy Alejo Bermejo, alias Abdullah, were apprehended in a joint operation led by operatives of the PNP's Crime Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), together with the PNP's Counter-Terrorism Division-Intelligence Group (PNP-CTD-IG), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Intelligence Services (ISAFP).

The two are suspected "Balik Islam" members and remnants of the Suyuful Khilafa Fil Luzon who were supposed to be reinforcements for terror group members who laid siege on Marawi City last year.

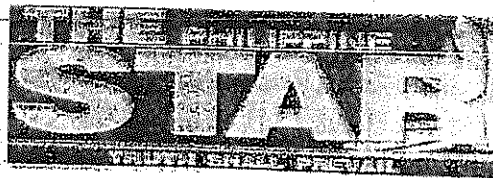
In addition, the Suyuful Khilafa Fil Luzon is reportedly one of the more than 20 armed groups in the country who are trying to consolidate as one force after the Marawi siege under 'ISIS Philippines.'

Authorities served two separate search warrants against the two suspects in their respective residences in Barangay Mamatid, Cabuyao City and Barangay Tagapo, Santa Rosa in Laguna around 4:30 a.m. last Thursday (April 26).

The report said search warrant Nos. L395 and L396 were issued by the San Pablo City Regional Trial Court Branch 29 and 32, dated April 23, 2018 for violation of the RA 10591 or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act.

The operating officers confiscated from the suspects two black ISIS flags, two fragmentation hand grenades, two improvised explosive devices (IEDs), three .45 caliber pistols, a .38 caliber revolver, various ammunition and a laptop.

28 April 2018



Page: 2

BI urged to reconsider Aussie nun's deportation

By JANVIC MATEO
and EVELYN MACAIRAN

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines

(CBCP) has appealed to the Bureau of Immigration (BI)

to reconsider its order for Australian nun Patricia Anne

Fox to leave the country, as the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) questioned the lack of due process in the forfeiture of her missionary visa.

In a statement yesterday, CBCP president and Davao Archbishop Romulo Valles defended the "sincerity and dedication" of Fox, who has been a missionary serving poor Filipinos for more than 27 years.

"We are truly saddened by this turn of events... In this recent development, we sincerely make an appeal that the authorities may make a reconsideration of their order for Sr. Patricia Fox to leave the country," CBCP president and Davao Archbishop Romulo Valles said in a statement yesterday.

"Without entering into the merits of both parties in the case, this is for the proper authorities to decide. But this we say: we believe in the sincerity and dedication of Sr. Patricia to serve our people.

"We continue to pray for the Lord's enlightenment for all those who are involved in this case, but in particular, we continue to pray for Sr. Patricia Fox, for her health and well being," he added.

Fox's lawyer will file a motion for reconsideration before the BI.

The CHR has questioned the lack of due process in the decision of the BI to forfeit the missionary visa of Fox and order her to leave the country in 30 days.

In a statement yesterday, the CHR said Fox should have been given the chance to explain her side and submit her counter-affidavit as required by the law before a decision regarding her case was arrived at.

"It is unfortunate that the recent events that led to the BI order directing Australian religious missionary and human rights defender Sr. Patricia Fox to leave the country appears to be bereft of due process... All persons - whether Filipino or not - have the right to due process before an order or judgment affecting them is made," said the commission.

"The BI, however, has already issued a notice forfeiting her missionary visa without due consideration of her defense and even ahead of a pending deportation case, thereby appearing to settle the question on her alleged 'partisan political activities' unilaterally," it added.

CHR also pointed out that Fox did not receive a formal copy of the BI's decision and only learned about it in media reports.

Fox, a long-time missionary doing humanitarian work in the Philippines, was accused of joining a political event earlier this month.

Immigration officials cited a photo showing Fox in what appeared to be a rally and holding a sign calling for freedom for political prisoners.

The CHR said it hopes that the government is not discriminating against Fox in its recent actions, citing a trend of attacks against human rights defenders including tagging some of them as terrorists.

"In the same way that our government asserts the rights of Filipinos abroad, our officials should be able to extend the same to foreign nationals in our country," said the human rights body.

April 2018



Page: 15

Burgos mom's suspended state of yearning

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

a Quezon City mall in 2007.

Freedom fighter's son

"Whenever [April 28] nears, the pain and the longing intensifies," Edita told the Inquirer. "[But] we should not lose hope, because everything happens in God's time."

On that day in 2007, unidentified men dragged the then 37-year-old son of the late journalist and freedom fighter Jose Burgos Jr., from a restaurant in Ever Gotesco mall on Commonwealth Avenue.

In October last year, a Que-

zon City trial court acquitted Army Maj. Harry Baliaga, the lone accused soldier whom the Burgoses claimed was the mastermind behind the abduction.

Stolen life

"To be in a suspended state of yearning for the past 11 years is not easy ... but a mother cannot stop and give up," Edita said. "One objective of the perpetrators of enforced disappearances is for those left behind to forget about the stolen life of the disappeared."

Among those present during

the commemoration were Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Chito Gascon, National Democratic Front of the Philippines peace adviser Luis Jalandoni, former Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo and martial law survivor Bonifacio Ilagan.

"We at the CHR are one with the Burgos family and all other victims and families of human rights violations," Gascon said.

It was on the investigation report submitted by the CHR in March 2011 that the high court based its ruling for the military to produce the missing activist. INQ

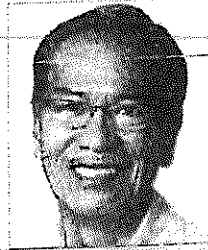
28 April 2018



Page: 9

AT GROUND LEVEL

SATUR C. OCAMPO



DND, AFP are spoiling the peace talks resumption

Note that Lorenzana didn't say the NPA violated the ceasefire. What he didn't say, however, was that the AFP was taking its own advantage during that same August ceasefire. Recently retired AFP chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, who at the time headed the Eastern Mindanao Command, declared then:

In his latest turnabout on the issue, President Duterte apparently seeks to convince the public that he is dead set on continuing the GRP-NDFP peace talks that he unilaterally "terminated" just before the start of the fifth round of formal negotiations in November 2017.

Twice this month, he has made such a public affirmation. On April 3 in Oriental Mindoro, he addressed himself to the New People's Army, saying: "You know, we're not enemies... I want to pursue the peace talks with you... I want peace under my watch. I do not hold a grudge against you. I understand you." Then, in Legazpi City on April 22, he raised the ante for his call to resume the negotiations, saying: "My duty, my fundamental basic duty is to see to it that the country is peaceful."

Duterte has directed his peace panel to engage their NDFFP counterparts in back-channel discussions, giving them 60 days to get back on track the twice-cancelled fifth round of formal negotiations. On April 12, his peace adviser Jesus Dureza alluded to ongoing "quiet" talks; five days later he announced, "I think we are back on track." Speaking before the United Nations General Assembly in New York on April 24, Dureza explained:

"President Duterte cancelled the talks in November 2017 because he felt that

there was no enabling environment conducive to resuming the negotiations. Today he has found time and effort to already start resuming the negotiations."

What "enabling environment conducive to resuming the negotiations" made Duterte change his mind, Dureza didn't mention. For sure it's not the hardline stance of the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), which the President had kept saying he needed to consult, whenever he was asked if he would still pursue the GRP-NDFFP negotiations.

In his Legazpi City speech, Duterte made reference to that fact. He said, "I'm talking to [Joma] Sison now. It's an off-and-on thing. Probably, *ang mga military pati mga pulis may misgivings, but sinabi ko na sa inyo* (the military and the police may have misgivings, but I've already told you): I am not a president who is a soldier and I am not a president who is a policeman." Did he mean to say he didn't think like the military and the police?

True to form, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana let out his deep "mis-giving" toward the peace negotiations, while saying that he supported his commander-in-chief's decision to pursue the same. On April 14, he remonstrated:

"Peace is not their purpose, but to take advantage. When the government declared a ceasefire [at the start of formal negotiations in August 2016], the NPA benefited more than the government. Their leaders were freed and went abroad to join the negotiations and they also launched massive recruitment in upland areas, taking advantage of the peaceful situation."

"Now that the ceasefire with the CPP-NPA is in effect, we expect that the implementation of the government's peace and development program in the countryside will be able to proceed much faster..." Ordering his troops to carry out their job, Guerrero added: "I also call on our partners and stakeholders to continue supporting our efforts to clear the remaining 156 NPA-affected barangays by yearend."

That order resulted in AFP units continuing to conduct military operations in and occupying civilian communities "from Northern Luzon to Southern Mindanao" over five months, as recorded in NPA field reports submitted to the NDFFP negotiating panel. Despite these intrusions in NPA-held areas, the reports say, NPA units averted armed clashes by maneuvering away from the state troops. In early 2017, the NDFFP panel handed these reports to the GRP panel as evidence of the AFP's violating the spirit of the reciprocal ceasefire.

Lorenzana continues to make more venomous statements, gravely denigrating and brazenly undermining the peace negotiations. On the 45th anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) last April 24, he crowed:

"With the government's sincere efforts to achieve peace even without formal talks, the NDFFP is fast becoming irrelevant. Through the government's various programs for reintegration [read: "surrender"], thousands of former





rebels have rejoined society.”

He referred to the AFP’s boasting that, during the six-month tour of duty of Gen. Guerrerro as chief of staff (October 2017-April 17, 2018), more than 5,000 “NPA rebels” surrendered to the government. The figure was starkly false. Why? It exceeded the alleged number of NPA fighters that the AFP itself claimed to be only 4,000, more or less. Guerrero then had admitted that most of the “surrenderees” were not combatants but civilians forced into admitting they were NPA supporters.

From plying that blatant fake news, Lorenzana further badmouthed the NDFP. “While NDFP representatives negotiate with government in a foreign land,” he blathered, “their armed comrades perpetrate deceptive and coercive recruitment and, at the same time, continue the conduct of extortion, kidnapping, murder, destruction of property and other criminal acts, exposing their true terrorist nature.”

Then Lorenzana bared the DND-AFP end-game: “Under President Duterte’s guidance, we are more determined than ever to extend our call for peace and unity – a call for the remaining CPP-NPA to lay down their arms...”

On his part, newly sworn-in AFP chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., speaking at the change-of-command rites in Camp Aguinaldo on April 18, vowed “full support” to the peace process with the MILF and the MNLF. But not with the NDFP. Instead, he called on “our Muslim brothers and sisters... to join the AFP in the fight against all forms of violent extremism... our campaign to end insurgency and terrorism.” “Together,” he boasted, “we shall render the CPP-NPA-NDFP irrelevant.”

Spoilers of the peace talks, indeed, these two militarists are!

* * *
Email: satur.ocampo@gmail.com



ONLINE NEWS

28 APRIL 2018

www.dwdd.com.ph

PROTECTING THE FILIPINO | PA continuously wins on all fronts

By Alvin Santiago

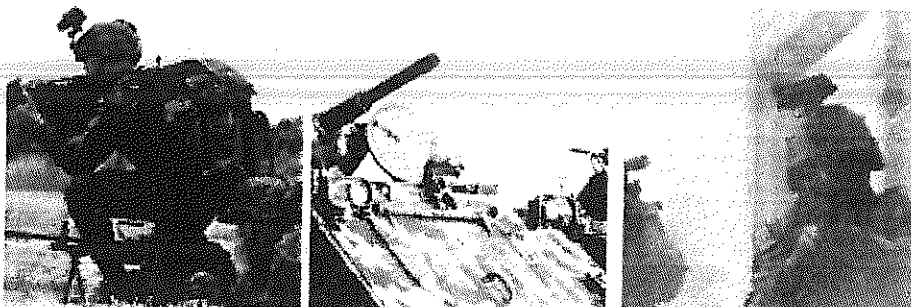
FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD) – The Philippine Army through its ground forces has been unrelenting in the conduct of security operations in consonance to the government thrust and pronouncement of no less than President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to finish-off the communist terrorist and other threat groups to pave the way for the sustaining peace and development in the country.

Since the cancellation of the peace talks last year 6,709 armed communist-terrorists and sympathizers have already surrendered and 288 assorted firearms were also seized. In the case of ASG, BIFF and Maute, the troops effort resulted to the capture and surrender of 96 personalities.

The proclamation of the extension of martial law in Mindanao conspicuously contributed to the success of the military operations.

Significantly, as part of the AFP's effort to prevent and counter violent extremism in Mindanao, various Army major units have succeeded and gained ground with recovering of loose firearms in 2018. There was a massive surrender of loose firearms which is a good indication of the people's willingness spearheaded by local government units for the attainment of peace in the region.

It is also worthy to note that during the entire implementation of Martial Law there was no single incident of abuse reported by Army soldiers.



Most people in Mindanao were vocal in expressing their gratitude for the implementation of Martial Law as it provides them comfort and safety to pursue their daily chores. Business groups were appreciative of the military and the way they conduct their operation as it provided them confidence and sense of security.



Honor. Patriotism. Duty.

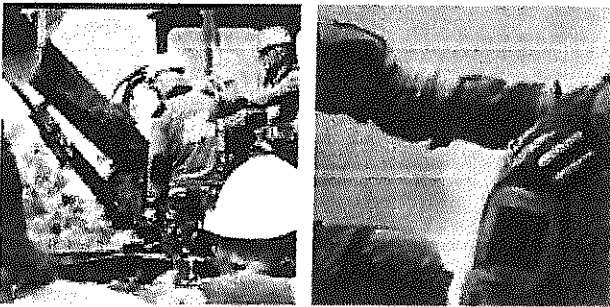
13

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

According to the latest survey of the Social Weather Station, the Army has garnered +72 net satisfaction rating, with 1 point decrease compared to the 2015 survey result conducted by the Club Media Asia, Inc. Meanwhile, it gained a record-breaking 9 points increase on its Net Trust Rating from only +75 in 2015 to +84 this year.

Specifically, the Army gained the highest trust rating in Mindanao at +87 compared with the National Capital Region at +85, Balance Luzon at +83, and Visayas at +81. Notably, the highest number of surrenderees came from Mindanao.

"The Philippine Army as the main force provider of the Armed Forces of the Philippines fully supports the Commander-in-Chief on his thrusts and advocacies to totally eliminate the CPP-NPA-NDF terrorists and the other threat groups. Due to intensified military operations, there was a significant increase in the number of surrenderees particularly from the CPP-NPA terrorists," said the Army Spokesperson, Lieutenant Colonel Louie D. Villanueva.



These victories can also be attributed to the response and cooperation of the community as well as the local leaders imbued with the idea that security is a shared and everybody's responsibility.

On the other hand, Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito D Bautista AFP, the Commanding General Philippine Army, assured the troops that the command has in its priority and working ardently to provide the necessary combat essentials for them. He also lauded the troops for their untiring efforts and dedication in protecting and serving the people. **OACPA / MCAG**



Honor. Patriotism. Duty.

14

www.dwdd.com.ph

CLEANING PARADISE | AFP, a partner in Boracay rehab

Alvin Santiago

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is working alongside the residents of Boracay for its complete rehabilitation.

In an interview by DWDD with Lieutenant Commander Julius Reyes, Commanding Officer, Maritime Joint Task Protect Group, he is optimistic that we will see the step-by-step improvement of the island through this partnership.

Aside from the rehabilitation, the AFP was also tasked to provide security and order. Authorities are strictly implementing the screening of boats and passengers entering the island, which is limited to card-bearing residents and workers. Entry to Boracay is allowed only from 6AM to 10PM, while entry of cargoes is from 6AM to 10PM only.

LCDR Reyes is optimistic that majority of the residents of the island supports the rehabilitation program of the government, believing that this would bring more development to their province.

Boracay residents believed that after the rehab, they would be faced with a more pristine, clean and orderly Boracay, and be once again known as one of the “Most Beautiful Beach” in the world. AES



Honor. Patriotism. Duty.