

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

04 February 2018

Sunday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04 FEBRUARY 2018

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p. A4
HEADLINES NEWS			
2-4	Palace: Stop NPA, open 'Lumad' land	LeilaSalaverria	PDI p.A1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
5	Militiamen killed in misencounter	Raymund Catindig	Phil Star p.12
6	NPA Amazon, assistant yield in Davao	Joseph Jubelag	Tempo p.1
7	326 NPA terrorists sumuko	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p.1
8	8 pang NPA, sumurrender	Rhoderick Bañez	Ngayon p.2
9	Isa pang mataas na lider ng NPA arestado sa Butuan	Mark Obleada	Police Files p.1
10	NPA walang pinag-iba sa ISIS – Digong	Aileen Taliping	Abante p.1
11	Photo	Kriz Rosales	Phil Star p.1
12	Photo: Huge haul	WESMINCOM	Mla Times p.A7
13	Photo: Surrendered	JTF Photo	Mla Standard p.A3
14	Photo	-	Phil Star p.12
15	Photo	-	Tribune p.3
16	Photo: Staying fit	Keith Bacongco	Mla bulletin p.16
AFP RELATED NEWS			
17	Another NPA officer nabbed	Jaime Laude	Phil Star p.1
18	CPP-NPA finance officer in Mindanao arrested	Mike Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p.16
19	Arrest of GRP members by NPAs feared	Ben Rosario	Mla Bulletin p.1
20	Militant preparing anti-dictatorship protests	Marc Cayabyab	Phil Star p.1
21	AFP presents firearms seized in Sulu	Roel Pareño	Phil Star p.12
22	Top NPA leader captured	Roy Narra	Mla Times p.A1
23	14 drug suspects arrested in military command's areas of operation	Julmunir Jananral	Mla Times p.A7
24	More NPA rebels give up arms, return to gov't fold	PNa	Tribune p.3
25	Sulu town mayor, barangay leaders surrender guns, ammunition	PNA	Tribune p.3
ONLINE NEWS			
26	Reds remain a threat in Agusan Norte: police		www.pna.gov.ph
27-28	Militant solon fears NPA retaliation; capture of GRP negotiators	Jhoanna Ballaran	www.inquirer.net

04 February 2018



Page: 14

PANAHON TV
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 4, 2018 | SUNDAY

LAOAG CITY 22 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY 24 - 29 °C
BAGUIO CITY 14 - 25 °C
SBMA/CLARK 24 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 20 - 29 °C
METRO MANILA 23 - 29 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 25 - 30 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 31 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 29 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 32 °C
METRO CEBU 25 - 34 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 30 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 30 °C
METRO DAVAO 25 - 30 °C

LOW PRESSURE AREA
ESTIMATED AT 805 KM EAST OF HINATUAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR
NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON as of 5:00 am - February 2, 2018

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:24 AM	5:56 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
8:43 PM	8:30 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
JAN 31 8:27 PM	FEB 7 11:54 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
7:14 AM	11:59 PM
-0.25 Meter	1.05 Meter

- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorm
- Light rains

	FEB 5	FEB 6	FEB 5	FEB 6	FEB 5	FEB 6		
METRO MANILA	23 - 29 °C	24 - 30 °C	TAGAYTAY	19 - 29 °C	20 - 28 °C	TACLOBAN	24 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	21 - 29 °C	22 - 29 °C	LEGAZPI	25 - 29 °C	25 - 30 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 31 °C	23 - 31 °C
LAOAG	22 - 30 °C	21 - 30 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C
BAGUIO	14 - 25 °C	15 - 25 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 - 31 °C	26 - 30 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	SAGOT KO, PADALA MO! 		

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINAS HD

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

04 February 2018



Page: A1

PALACE: STOP NPA, OPEN 'LUMAD' LAND

STORY BY LEILA B. SALAVERRIA AND ALLAN NAWAL

Amid the cacophony of protests against President Duterte's plan to invite investors to develop the ancestral lands of the 'lumad,' Malacañang claimed it would protect the indigenous peoples in Mindanao from being influenced by communist rebels. The New People's Army is exploiting the lumad and turning them into insurgents, according to presidential spokesperson Harry Roque. But several groups opposed to the President's plan said his statements only showed his ignorance of the plight of the lumad, many of whom have lost their communities to investors and whose leaders have died supposedly at the hands of the military. Mr. Duterte, one lumad leader feared, would legitimize 'the plunder of the resources in our ancestral lands.'

A8

By Leila B. Salaverria
and Allan Nawal
@Team_Inquirer

President Duterte's plan to develop ancestral domain lands with the help of investors would protect the indigenous peoples from being exploited and influenced by communist rebels, Malacañang assured on Saturday.

Defending the idea, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said "all of the data" show that the New People's Army (NPA) was exploiting the "lumad" by turning them into insurgents.

Mr. Duterte was aware that the biggest problem that the lumad face was poverty, Roque said.

"That is why (the President) said we could allow investors to enter (ancestral domain lands) so that there would be jobs, and hunger would be reduced in lumad communities," he said in a press briefing in Ilocos Norte.

"If the number of jobs increases in lumad communities, the NPA's influence over them would wane. This means the NPA would no longer forcibly take them and turn them into fighters," he added.

Mr. Duterte had earlier threatened to bomb lumad schools for supposedly spreading subversive ideas and teaching students to rebel against the government.

Risk of displacement

As for concerns that the lumad communities run the risk of being displaced if investors were allowed to develop their ancestral lands, Roque said there were laws covering ancestral domains.

He said the plight of the lumad had attained some urgency because of the assertion of the UN special rapporteur on indigenous communities that the government was violating their rights.

The President broached the idea of developing ancestral domain lands with the help of in-

vestors at a summit of indigenous peoples' leaders on Thursday in Davao City.

During the event, he also vowed to provide P100 million to fund agriculture development in lumad areas.

'Real intention'

But, despite the Duterte administration's assurance that the proposed investments would not cause the displacement of the lumad from their communities, another group on Saturday assailed the President's plan to develop their areas.

"Instead of telling the indigenous peoples to protect their ancestral lands from the hands of big landlords and foreign investors, Duterte has now become the spokesperson of foreign capitalists to further plunder the environment and natural resources," Duphing Ogan said.

Ogan, the secretary general

of Kahugpongan sa mga Lumad sa Mindanao (Association of Lumad in Mindanao, or Kalumaran), said the President's statement betrayed his real intention to deprive the lumad of their own lands.

"The remaining ancestral lands and mineral resources have long been defended by the indigenous peoples against incursion by foreign multinational companies," the lumad leader said.

Soldiers deployed

They now feared that massive displacements of the lumad, as well as human rights violations, would take place, especially since Mr. Duterte had deployed soldiers in the hinterlands to protect investors engaged in such businesses as mining and oil palm plantations, he said.

"It is now clear to us that the presence of 65 battalions of the Armed Forces of the Philippines

in Mindanao will secure the investments of foreign multinational companies. And this will translate to more human rights violations against lumad leaders," Ogan said.

'Utmost arrogance'

Sandugo, a group of lumad and Moro leaders, said that instead of protecting indigenous communities and upholding their struggle against exploitation, the President had "the utmost arrogance to pronounce the sale of our ancestral lands and territories."

Jerome Aba, Sandugo cochair, also decried Mr. Duterte's claim that the lumad themselves were the ones making trouble.

"It is the investors, big corporations, military and Duterte that are making trouble in our lands," Aba said.

"The plunder of the resources in our ancestral lands will further be legitimized," he

said, with the Duterte administration's support for congressional efforts to amend the Constitution.

"Taking us, the national minorities away, from our lands is taking away our identity and our existence—(and) thus will lead to (more lumad killings)," Aba said.

Lumad killings

He cited the case of seven T'boli and Dulangan Manobo lumad who were allegedly killed by soldiers in Dec. 7 last year because they wanted to reclaim their land from a coffee plantation company in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

"In fact, 30 lumad have been killed under the Duterte regime and at least 30,000 have evacuated due to aerial bombings" as the government prepared the entry of foreign corporations and big local businesses in their ancestral lands,

Aba said.

The lumad leader also criticized the President for blaming the lumad for the lack of progress in their communities.

"President Duterte even tried to make an excuse by saying, 'The government worked hard, now you were given ancestral domain. The problem is you didn't use it,'" Aba said.

The government, he said, did not spill blood so that the lumad would have their ancestral lands.

"It is their forefathers. The blood of the leaders were sacrificed so that the government, or at least the Philippine Law, would recognize their right to ancestral lands. Second, they have cultivated their lands for it to be productive to feed their communities and secure the future of the children by building their own schools, which President Duterte threatened to bomb," Aba said. INQ

IN THE KNOW: 'Lumad' ancestral land

"Lumad" is a Visayan term meaning "native" or "indigenous," a word adopted by some ethnic groups to distinguish themselves from Mindanaoans, Moro or Christian.

Indigenous peoples in Mindanao had been awarded certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). A CADT determines and defines the boundaries of ancestral domain and ancestral lands of a community or a tribe.

The 1987 Constitution and Republic Act No. 8371 (the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997) recognize that indigenous Filipinos own ancestral lands on which their families have lived "since time immemorial."

In 1997, the Mandaya community in the upland village of Pichon in Caraga town was awarded a certificate of ancestral domain covering about 14,000 hectares.

The CADT-01, the first such title given to indigenous communities in southern Mindanao, covers

13 Pichon subvillages inhabited by about 7,000 people.

The town of Talakag, an hour-and-a-half drive from the city of Malaybalay, Bukidnon, is the site of the Milalittra ancestral domain.

Milalittra was among the communities granted a CADT in 2003. Their CADT covers over 11,000 hectares.

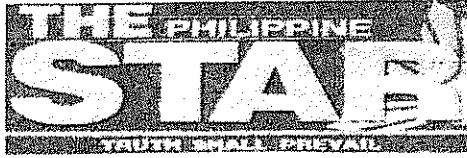
Planted in their lands are high-value vegetables, such as cabbage and cauliflower, which are delivered mainly to the markets in Cagayan de Oro City.

Madadma, totaling about 3,177 hectares, refers to the "ancestral domain of the descendants of a great Manobo leader in the late 1800s, Datu Apao."

Madadma claims most of the western side of Mt. Apo National Park, including the villages of Ilo-movis and Balabag, and Barangay Bobbong and a portion of Barangay Kisandal in Magpet town in Cotabato, under a CADT issued on Feb. 14, 2004. —ANA ROA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

Sources: Inquirer Archives

04 February 2018



Page: 12

Militiaman killed in misencounter

TUGUEGARAO CITY – A militiaman was killed in a misencounter with Army troopers in Pinukpuk, Kalinga on Friday.

Rashid Alunday of Conner, Apayao and his colleagues in the 31st Civilian Armed Auxillary were walking in Barangay Tagay when troopers of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion reportedly opened fire at them.

The soldiers reportedly mistook the militiamen for New People's Army guerrillas, according to a report received by Kalinga police chief Senior Superintendent Alfredo Dangan.

The troopers were conducting security operations in Sitio Dipasitao when they spotted the militiamen at around 6 a.m.

Authorities were investigating the incident.

– Raymund Catindig

5

04 February 2018



Page. 1

NPA amazon, assistant yield in Davao

By JOSEPH JUBELAG

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Tired of waging war against the government, two members of the New People's Army including a ranking amazon surrendered to military authorities in Davao del Sur, Friday.

Colonel Roberto Ancan, 1002nd Infantry Brigade commander, identified the surrenderees as Alvie Marie Dominador, secretary of NPA-Guerilla Front 51, Southern Mindanao Regional

Committee, and her staff officer, Shane Rosete.

Both yielded to the 39th Infantry Battalion in Santa Cruz, Davao del Sur.

Ancan said Dominador became a communist ideologue when she joined the leftist youth organization Kabataang Makabayan in 1999.

She became a full-pledged NPA following her assignment to Guerilla Front 51, which operates in the provinces of Davao del Sur and North Cotabato.

Dominador said they decided to surrender suffering difficulties living life on

the run.

"We're always on the run and I can no longer go home to see my family and children," Dominador said.

The surrender of the two came following the capitulation of Noel Legazpi, secretary-general of the NPA in far south Mindanao, and wife Jeanalyn Bendalian, an NPA medical staff, to local officials in South Cotabato last Jan. 25.

Ancan urged other NPA rebels who are still with the communist underground movement to surrender and avail the government's peace initiatives.

6

04 February 2018



Pahina. 1

326 NPA terrorists sumuko

Umaabot na sa kabuuang 326 na miyembro ng New People's Army ang sumuko sa tropa ng pamahalaan sa nagdaang buwan ng Enero ng taong ito, ayon sa opisyal ng Armed Forces of the Philippines kahalipon. Sinabi ni AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia na mula Enero 1 hanggang 29, 2018 ay nasa 310 NPA terrorists ang nagsisuko.

Samantala, dalawang araw pa matapos ito mula Enero 30 hanggang 31 ay nasa 16 pang-NPA ang sumunod na nagbailk-loob sa gobyerno.

Kabilang dito ay si Gemma Quiroga, 35 anyos, ng Davao Oriental na sumuko sa tropa ng 28th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army nitong nakalipas na Enero 27 ng taong ito.

Nabatid na si Quiroga ay tumatayong Squad Medic ng NPA na kumikilos sa Davao Oriental at tumatayong Chairperson ng Anakpawis, isang makakaliwang organisasyon sa Mati City.

Lima namang rebeldeng NPA ang nagsisuko sa mga elemento ng 25th Infantry Battalion ng PA sa Compostela Valley noong Enero 29 kabilang ang isang 16 anyos na itinatago sa alyas na RM.

Kinondena naman ng opisyal ang patuloy na pagre-recruit ng NPA terrorists ng mga menor de edad na sinisira ng mga ito ang buhay.

Inihayag pa ni Garcia na pito ring NPA members ang sumurender naman sa Arayat, Pampanga noong Enero 30 at siyam naman mula sa Talacogon, Agusan del Sur noong Enero 28 habang sampu pa sa mga komunistang terorista ang nagsisuko naman sa Bicol Region. (Joy Cantos)

04 February 2018



Pahina. 2

8 pang NPA, sumurender

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Walong miyembro ng rebeldeng New People's Army o NPA ang sumuko sa mga militar sa lalawigan ng Sultan Kudarat, nitong Biyernes. Kinilala ang mga sumuko na sina Romeo Dongco alyas "Taiwan," 29-anyos, Jun-Jun Okom, 29, Nasio Dungco, 28, Binta Okom, 50, Batoy Tayak, 49, Goong Tugi, 47, Justin Tugi, 21 at isang child warrior na kinilalang si Raffy Blah, 16. Ayon kay Lt. Colonel Harold Cabunoc, commander ng 33rd Infantry Battalion sumuko ang nasabing mga NPA dahil sa patuloy na nangangamba sa kanilang kaligtasan, bukod pa sa pahirap na kanilang dinaranas sa kabukiran. Sinabi ni Cabunoc na umaabot na ngayon sa 111 na mga rebelde ang sumuko sa 33rd IB. Napag-alaman na tatlo sa mga sumuko ay nagpahayag ng kanilang affidavit na pag-uugnay sa pamahalaang lokal sa mga komunistang NPA.

Anila, ang opisyal na hindi binanggit ay nanguna sa pag-organisa sa mga Lumad bilang mga NPA fighters upang bawiin ang kanilang mga ancestral lands. Inaasahan naman ni Cabunoc na mas marami pang mga rebeldeng NPA ang susuko sa sundalo dahil sa nagpapatuloy na hot pursuit operation ng militar sa kabundukan ng Sultan Kudarat. (Rhoderick Beñez)

2

04 February 2018

POLICE FILES

Page. 1

ISA PANG MATAAS NA LIDER NG NPA ARESTADO SA BUTUAN

NADAKIP ng mga otoridad ang isa pang mataas na lider ng New People's Army (NPA) sa isinagawang operasyon sa Butuan City.

Nakilala ang nadakip na suspek na si Leonida Guao, alyas Lea/Ligaya/Laya, 64 anyos, na finance officer ng NPA sa buong Mindanao at Regional Education Bureau ng Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee ng CPP/NPA ng Purok 6 Brgy. Babag Butuan City.

Ayon kay Maj Ezra L. Balagtey spokesman ng Eastern Mindanao Command, dakong 3:00 ng hapon nang magsagawa ng operasyon ang pinagsanib na element ng 4th Infantry Division at PNP Caraga sa Brgy Bading, Butuan City.

Si Guao ay inaresto ng mga operatiba sa bisa ng warrant of arrest sa kasong murder na ipinalabas ni Judge Lou A. Neuva ng Regional Trial Court Branch 7 Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur.

Narekober ng mga otoridad sa suspek ang cal 45, cal 45 magazine, pistol holster, 5 blasting cap, 1 roll ng detonating cord.

Nasa kostumiyang ng CIDG Caraga si Guao at sumiasailalim sa imbestigasyon habang inihahanda ang kaulang kaso laban dito.

(Mark Obleda)

9

04 February 2018



Pahina. 1

NPA walang pinag-iba sa ISIS - Digong

KINONDENA ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang ginawang pamumugot ng ulo ng New People's Army (NPA) sa isang miyembro ng Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) sa San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

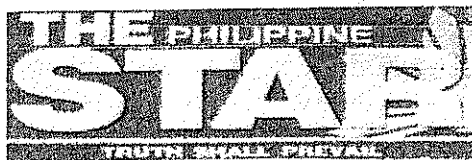
Nakarating sa Pangulo ang malagim na sinapit ng biktimang si Acebedo Bocales matapos pugutan ng mga rebeldeng NPA noong Miyerkoles.

Ayon sa Pangulo, walang ipinagkaiba ang mga NPA sa terrorist group na Islamic State of Iraq and Syria o ISIS sa istilo ng mga pagpatay.

Si Bocales ay dating miyembro ng NPA mula sa tribo ng mga Manobo at nagbalik-loob sa pamahalaan.

Mayroong pattern ang mga NPA na pinapatay ang kanilang mga dating kasamahan na tumatalikod sa kanilang kilusang. (Aileen Taliping)

04 February 2018



Page: 1



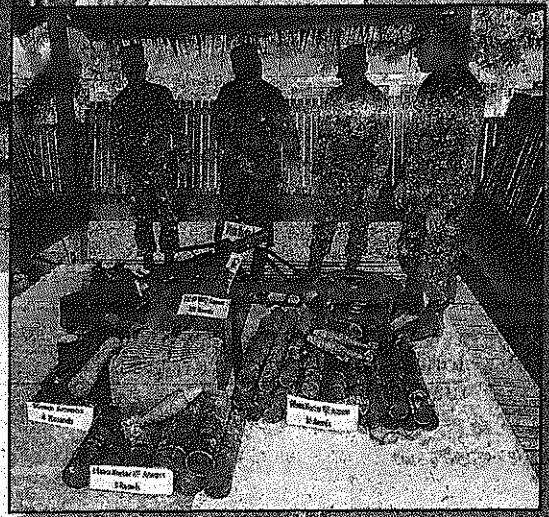
Soldiers assist children as they disembark from an Army truck near their homes outside the extended danger zone in Legazpi, Albay yesterday. Fewer volcanic quakes have been detected around Mayon even as Alert Level 4 remains in effect. Some residents have been allowed to go home to solve the problem of congestion in the city's evacuation centers. Story on Page 12

||

February 2018

The Manila Times

Page: A7



HUGE HAUL Photos (above and inset) taken by the Philippine military show illegal firearms and ammunition surrendered to the government by Mayor Anton Burahan of Pata town in Sulu and village chiefs. The arms and ammo were turned over on Friday to Brig. Gen. Cirillito Sobejana, commander of Joint Task Force Sulu. Among the weapons are three 81mm mortar tubes, one 90mm recoilless rifle, one barrel of .50-caliber machinegun, four M16 automatic rifles, three M14 rifles, five M1 rifles and one M79 grenade launcher. PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTERN MINDANAO COMMAND/NAVAL FORCES WESTERN MINDANAO

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04 February 2018

Manila Standard

Page: A3



SURRENDERED. Photo shows the firearms and ammunition that were surrendered by Mayor Anton Burahan of Pata, Sulu and his barangay heads to the Joint Task Force Sulu on Friday, Feb. 2, 2018. Standing are officials of the JTFS and of the Island municipality of Pata. **Joint Task Force Photo**

04 February 2018



Page: 14



Handout photo shows the firearms and ammunition seized from a mayor in Sulu.

14

04 February 2018



Page: 3

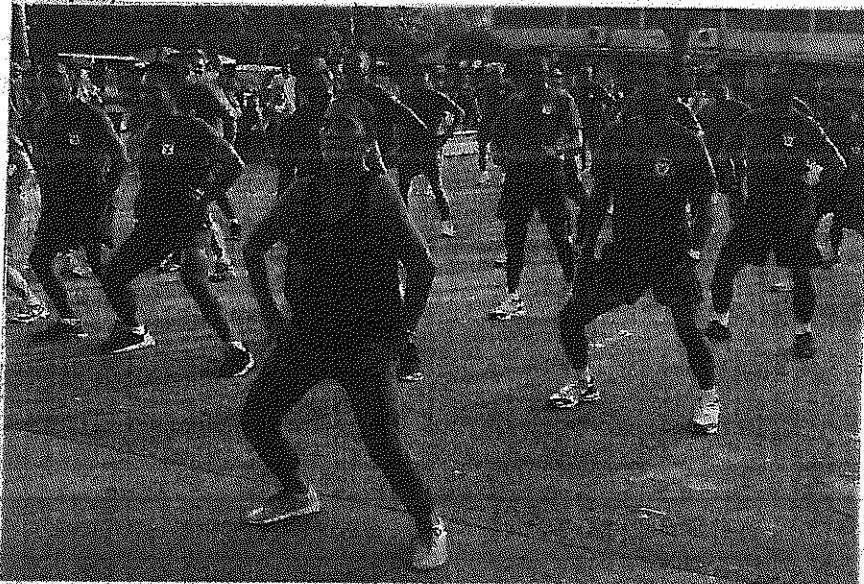


Photo shows the firearms and ammunition that were surrendered by Mayor Anton Burahan of Pata, Sulu and his barangay heads to the Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS) last Friday. Standing are the officials of the JTFS and of the island municipality of Pata.

04 February 2018

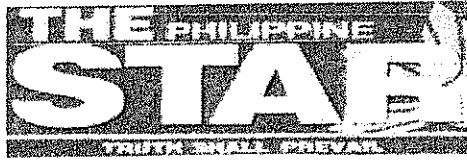
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16



STAYING FIT – Soldiers from Task Force Davao join the weekly Zumba session staged by the city government at the Rizal Park in Davao City. (Keith Bacongco)

February 2018



Page: 1

Another NPA officer nabbed

By JAIME LAUDE

The government offensive against communist rebels yielded another prize with the arrest of the supposed finance officer of the Mindanao-based New People's Army (NPA) in Butuan City.

The arrest of Leonida Guao – who also goes

by Ka Lea, Ka Ligaya and Ka Laya – came following the arrest of NPA leader Rafael Baylosis last Thursday.

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr., Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) commander, said Guao was arrested in Barangay Banding, Butuan City

Turn to Page 6

on Friday.

Madrigal said village leaders informed the military that Guao was hiding in their community.

Eastmincom spokesperson Maj. Ezra Balagtey said Guao is wanted for murder.

“With the help of the community, the arrest was made by virtue of warrant of ar-

rest under Criminal Case No. 5809 for murder against Guao issued by Regional Trial Court Branch 7, Bayu-gan City, Agusan del Sur,” Balagtey said.

She said Guao served as the NPA finance officer of all guerrilla fronts operating in Mindanao.

Officials said Guao was

turned over to the regional police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

A militant lawmaker, on the other hand, warned the NPA could resort to arresting government peace negotiators in retaliation for the arrest of Baylosis.

“If the arrest of NDF consultants temporarily released on bail continues, it might reach a point where the NPA would declare they will also

arrest government negotiators and consultants,” Anak-pawis Party-list Rep. Ariel Casilao said.

Activists said the arrest of Baylosis was in violation of the immunity guarantee agreement.

Baylosis was among the 18 rebels who were freed as peace consultants to participate in the moribund peace talks in The Netherlands.

Following the failure of the

peace talks, President Duterte ordered the rearrest of the freed rebels.

Meanwhile, eight NPA rebels surrendered to the military on Friday and linked a local official in the alleged recruitment of rebels.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said the communist insurgents decided to yield following the relentless

pursuit operations of government forces.

Galvez said three of those who surrendered linked a local official to the CPP-NPA.

The military did not divulge the identity of the said official who was described to be facilitating the organization of the *lumads* as NPA fighters purportedly to reclaim their ancestral lands.

– With Roel Pareño, Edith Regalado, Emmanuel Tupas

04 February 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16

CPP-NPA finance officer in Mindanao arrested

By MIKE O. CRISMUNDO
and BONITA L. ERMAC

BUTUAN CITY – The alleged finance officer of the Komisyon Mindanao (KOMMID) of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC) was arrested Friday afternoon by joint government security forces in Barangay Bading this city.

Leonida P. Guao, also known to have the aliases Leah, Ligaya, and Laya, did not resist when accosted by joint elements of the 36th Infantry Battalion (36th IB), the Regional Intelligence Investigation Division of the Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13 RIID), and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG 13) at 2:50 p.m. Friday, ac-

ording to 36th IB Civil Military Operations (CMO) officer Captain Francisco P. Garelo, Jr.

Garelo said Guao was arrested on the strength of an arrest warrant issued by the Regional Trial Court of Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur for murder.

She is the finance officer of the CPP-NPA Komisyon Mindanao (KOMMID), responsible for the synchronization of the collection and distribution of extortion money in Mindanao.

In a statement, Brig. Gen. Franco Nemesio M. Gacal, commander of the 402nd Infantry Brigade, said that Guao, being the head of KOMMID's finance committee, "knows a lot about the extortion activities, not only in Caraga, but the entire Mindanao.

"We hope that she will cooperate with the investigating team in identifying individuals, business establishments

and organizations that are providing financial support to the CPP-NPA terrorists," Gacal said.

Meanwhile, a CPP-NPA leader and her staff surrendered to military authorities in Davao del Sur, also last Friday.

Col. Roberto Ancan, 1002nd Infantry Brigade commander, disclosed that Alvie Marie Dominador, secretary of NPA-Guerilla Front 51, Southern Mindanao Regional Committee, and her staff officer Shane Rosete yielded to the 39th Infantry Battalion in Santa Cruz, Davao del Sur.

Ancan said Dominador became a communist ideologue when she joined the leftist youth organization Kabataang Makabayan in 1999, and became a full-pledged communist member after she was designated secretary of NPA Guerilla Front 51 operating in the provinces of Davao del Sur and North Cotabato.

Dominador said they decided to surrender as government troops heightened military offensives against the communist rebel group which forced them to hold up in the jungle.

"We're always on the run and I can no longer go home to see my family and children," Dominador said.

Their return to the fold of the law came following the surrender of Noel Legazpi, secretary-general of the NPA Far South Mindanao Region and his wife Jeanalyn Bendalian, an NPA medical staff to local officials and military authorities in South Cotabato last January 25.

Ancan urged other NPA rebels who are still with the communist underground movement to surrender and avail the government's peace and reconciliatory initiatives. (With a report from Joseph Jubelag)

18

04 February 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Arrest of GRP members by NPAs feared

By BEN R. ROSARIO

A party-list congressman on Saturday expressed fears that the New People's Army (NPA) might arrest members of the GRP (government of the Republic of the Philippines) peace panel in retaliation for the arrest of National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace panel consultant Rafael Baylosis.

Anakpawis Party-list Rep. Ariel

Casilao said government's refusal to heed the call for the release of Baylosis and its continued manhunt of personalities who participated in the unsuccessful peace talks between the government and the NDFP might totally spoil the peace efforts.

"This can be an unending vicious cycle," warned Casilao.

While Casilao clarified that the possible NPA arrest of members of the GRP panel is a hypothetical ▶ 8

scenario, he recalled that such event had happened in the past.

"It happened before, well the NDFP, NPA (New People's Army) and the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines) have also targeted GRP personalities," he said.

Casilao assailed the arrest of Baylosis on trumped up charges, saying this incident provided a serious drawback to peace efforts in the country.

"If this will continue, ang mga arrest of those who were temporarily released on bail na mga NDF consultants, baka aabot sa punto na iyong NPA ang mag-declare din na sige, aarestuhin din namin ang mga GRP negotiators and consultants," he told reporters during a news forum in Quezon City.

Police and military operatives re-arrested Baylosis and his companion, Roque Guillermo Jr., last Wednesday. The arresting officers claimed to have confiscated two .45 caliber pistols and bullets from the two.

Lawyer Rachel Pastores, counsel for Baylosis, assailed the police story as a "bad script." She pointed out that it is very unlikely for a known figure in the peace process to carry a firearm on the streets.

Casilao called for the resumption of peace negotiations between the communist and the government.

"The only way for President Duterte to resolve the problem, as proven by history, is not by sheer might. Peace talks remain the best option," he said.

Earlier, Reps. Carlos Isagani Zarate (Bayan Muna Party list) and Antonio Tinio (ACT Teachers Partylist) assailed the Duterte administration for the arrest, saying the arrest of Baylosis is a "blatant violation of the 1995 Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) that remained binding between government and the NDFP.

Zarate described the arrest as "ill-advised" and can be interpreted as

"harassment" against NDFP consultants and personnel.

Zarate pointed out that despite the Duterte government's pronouncements about ending the peace talks, "up till now, the GRP peace panel did not send yet any written and official termination of the peace negotiations to the NDFP panel as provided for under JASIG."

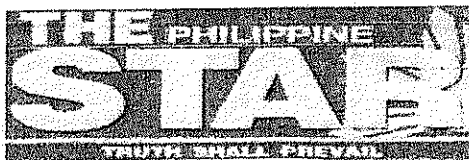
"The arrest can be interpreted as harassment against the NDFP consultants and personnel to weaken their stance in the talks, particularly in the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER) now pending on the peace table," said the party-list lawmaker.

Tinio, together with partymate Rep. France Castro, decried the arrest on the basis of a warrant of arrest for trumped up charges.

"This is a clear violation of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law," Castro said.

19

04 February 2018



Page: 1

Militants preparing anti-dictatorship protests

By **MARC JAYSON CAYABYAB**

Activists yesterday launched the Metro Manila chapter of a nationwide movement against what they deemed as the creeping dictatorship and tyr-

anny of President Duterte.

Former Bayan Muna representative Neri Colmenares led the launching of the Movement Against Tyranny (MAT) National Capital Region chapter at the University of the Philippines-

Philippine General Hospital in Manila.

Colmenares, who is now chairman of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers, slammed Duterte's creeping dictatorship under the guise of federalism and Charter change.

He said under the proposed federal charter, Congress will be dissolved and an interim parliament will be composed of incumbent representatives and senators, as well as Cabinet

Turn to Page 10.

members to be appointed by the President.

Colmenares said the proposed charter was similar to the one in place during the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, especially because the President would be given oversight powers over the legislature, judiciary and constitutional bodies.

The former lawmaker said that in all his years in Congress, which saw attempts at Cha-cha for self-serving interests, "this is the worst Cha-cha ever."

"Part of that tyranny is Charter change, which is the first step to a dictatorship," Colmenares said.

The former lawmaker also cited Duterte's bristling remarks against walkouts by student in state universities

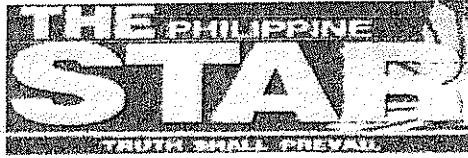
being given free tuition as proof of the Chief Executive's "intolerance to dissent."

Colmenares likewise slammed the body count of the government's war on drugs, violation of the Constitution in the suspension of Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang, as well as the "trumped up" charges against high-ranking communist peace negotiator Rafael Baylosis, who was arrested for alleged illegal possessions of firearms and explosives.

MAT Metro Manila spokesperson and lead convenor Amirah Lidasan warned of more protest actions to come, saying Duterte seems to have the illusion that "he can silence the growing dissent and clamor against his tyrannical and dictatorial rule."

20

February 2018



Page: 2

AFP presents firearms seized in Sulu

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The military yesterday presented several firearms and ammunition surrendered by a municipal mayor and those that were recovered in Sulu recently.

The recovery of the firearms and ammunition was part of an effort to encourage local leaders and civilians to surrender illegally possessed war materials, Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu, said.

Mayor Anton Burahan of Pata Island personally surrendered 12 rifles, mortar tubes, a grenade launcher and ammunition.

Sobejana said the surrender of the firearms came three days after the Marine Ready Force in Sulu recovered a large cache of war materials, rockets and ammunition based on information provided by a member of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group who surrendered to the military.

He said among those re-

covered in Barangay Pisak-pisak on Wednesday were a machine gun, three base-plates for an 81mm mortar as well as its bipod and tripod, and ammunition.

Sobejana expressed belief that stocks of war materials remain in the hands of some individuals, citing the recovery of the base-plates and ammunition for mortars.

The firearms and ammunition will be destroyed to prevent them from ending up in the hands of the enemies of the state, according to Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., chief of the Western Mindanao command.

Galvez said President Duterte ordered these firearms destroyed.

"We will gather all the recovered firearms and disposed of them as provided under the protocol of demilitarizing war equipment and firearms," he said.

Galvez was hopeful that more local officials and groups in Sulu would come out and turn over loose firearms.

21

64 February 2018

The Manila Times

Page: 1

Top NPA leader captured

AN alleged ranking leader of the New People's Army (NPA) was arrested in Butuan City Friday, the military said in a report on Saturday.

Leonida Guao, the NPA's alleged finance officer in Mindanao, was arrested for the crime of murder in Barangay (village) Bading. The warrant was issued by the Regional Trial Court Branch-7 in Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur.

The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Arresting police and military officers confiscated one pistol, 45 magazines, six rounds of live ammunition, one pistol holder, five blasting caps, and detonating cord.

Lt. General Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr., commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command, said the arrest of Guao proves that terrorists "cannot run away from the long arm of the law."

"The arrest gave justice to the victims of their atrocities, particularly those indigenous peoples they brutally killed, the common people who have been victimized by their extortion and terroristic activities, and those who have lost their livelihood brought about by their arson and sabotage activities," he said in a statement.

Guao was placed in the custody of the CARAGA regional police district for further legal processing.

She is the second communist leader arrested since President Rodrigo Duterte canceled the peace talks between the government and the rebel groups.

On January 31, National Democratic Front (NDF) consultant Rafael Baylosis and his comrade Guillermo Roque were arrested in Quezon City for illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) Criminal Investigation and Detection Group will file a case of disobedience to lawful order against the two after they refused to have their mug shots and fingerprints taken.

They are being held in the PNP

► **Captured A2**

Custodial Center since no bail was recommended for their temporary liberty.

Duterte scrapped the peace negotiations with the communist group last year after the NPA launched a series of attacks on government targets. The decision to halt the talks came after the NPA ambushed members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) in North Cotabato in July 2017.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Ariel Casilao on Saturday warned that the arrest of consultants of the National Democratic Front (NDF) may become a "vicious cycle."

Casilao warned that the NPA may retaliate and abduct government peace negotiators.

"If this will continue, *'yung mga arrest ng mga* so-called temporarily released on bail *na mga* NDF consultants, *'pag nagpatuloy ito, aabot sa puntong*, for example, *'yung NPA din mag-declare din sila na sige, aarestuhin din namin*

'yung mga GRP negotiators and consultants. And this will be a vicious cycle all over again. *Mauulit at mauulit 'to* (if this will continue, the arrest of so-called temporarily-released-on-bail NDF consultants, if this will continue, it will reach a point, for example, where the NPA would also decide to arrest GRP negotiators and consultants. And this will be a vicious cycle to be repeated over again,) he said at a news forum in Quezon City.

The CPP-NPA has been waging a decades-long armed struggle against the government.

Casilao said the rebellion prob-

lem will not be resolved through military means.

"This will not be solved by the sheer might of the Armed Forces. Because the problem of insurgency [is] rooted in poverty. We have long been saying address the problem of poverty," Casilao said.

Several lawmakers from the Makabayan bloc in the House of Representatives have condemned the arrest of Baylosis, a consultant of the NDF in the scuttled peace talks between the government and communist rebels.

**ROY NARRA AND
REINA TOLENTINO**

04 February 2018

The Manila Times

Page: A7

14 DRUG SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN MILITARY COMMAND'S AREAS OF OPERATION

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: Fourteen drug suspects were arrested in three operations that government troops launched recently in the Zamboanga City-based Western Mindanao Command's (WestMinCom) joint area of operations. Capt. Joann Petinglay, WestMinCom spokesman, said members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 3 (MBLT 3) and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) arrested Samsula, Najil and Jahibol Orok in Barangay Masjid Bayle, Sulu, on Sunday. Petinglay said the PDEA and the MBLT 3 seized from the suspects five sachets containing white crystalline substance suspected as shabu and drug paraphernalia. A day earlier, personnel of the 42nd Infantry Battalion and Liloay Municipal Police Station in Zamboanga del Norte arrested 10 drug pushers. They were identified as Marlon Vergara Cubol, 43; Jeffrey Ortega Ehidio, 34; Maria Shiella Luta Ehidio, 32; Dunhill Buga-Ub, 26; Jeffrey Campaner Rusiana, 32; Roger Tuting, 30; Francis Barbacias Patrocinio, 39; and Franklyn Manait, 36, all from Barangay Fatima, Liloay, Zamboanga del Norte; Melvin Paradel Borgonia, 39, from Barangay Baybay, Liloay, Zamboanga del Norte; and Leo Tayrus Tejero, 38, from Barangay Villam Tejero, Liloay, Zamboanga del Norte. The suspects were arrested by virtue of search warrants served in Barangays Fatima, Baybay, Villam Tejero and Causwagan. Seized from them were 17 small sachets and three big sachets of suspected shabu, an improvised scooper, six lighters, seven rolls of aluminum foil, marked money worth P2,240, two cellular phones, two Dorco blades and two match boxes. All suspects were brought to the Liloay Integrated Health District Hospital for medical examination. Village officials of Baybay, Villam Tejero, Causwagan and Fatima were present during the inventory of the illegal items that were seized. Meanwhile, an operation launched by the 19th Infantry Battalion and the PDEA in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) also resulted in the arrest of Kadaffy Coronel Sinsuat in Barangay Lower Capiton, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

04 February 2018



Page: 3

More NPA rebels give up arms, return to gov't fold

About 326 members of the terror-tagged New People's Army (NPA) have voluntarily laid down their arms and surrendered to government troops last month, the military has said.

In a message yesterday, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia said military records revealed that 310 NPA rebels surrendered in various parts of the country from January 1 to 29, while the remaining 16 voluntarily gave themselves up from Jan. 30 to 31.

"The unprecedented number of surrenders is attributed to the call of President and AFP Commander-in-Chief Rodrigo Duterte on the rebels, as well as the hardship and sense of betrayal experienced by the returnees in staying with the

NPA," Garcia said.

One of the notable surrenderers was Gemma Quiroga of Davao Oriental, 35, who surrendered to the Army's 28th Infantry Battalion last January 27.

Garcia said Quiroga was a squad medic of communist rebels operating in Davao Oriental and was also designated as Anakpawis chair, a known leftist organization, in Mati City.

"The AFP leadership congratulates its various units on the ground for the effective use of military pressure against the NPAs, as well as in their humane treatment of the former rebels," he added.

Garcia expressed hope that the recent surrenders would encourage other rebels to lay down their arms, abandon violent extremism, and

"embrace" the path to peace. PNA

In Sultan Kudarat, eight more communist rebels in Sultan Kudarat province had decided to return to the folds of the law Friday, an Army colonel said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, commander of the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion (IB), said the rebels decided to come down after getting exhausted in the military's relentless pursuit operations against the New People's Army (NPA).

Cabunoc said to date, a total of 111 rebels had surrendered to the 33rd IB.

He identified the eight as Romeo "Taiwan" Dongco, 29; Jun-Jun Okom, 29; Nasio Dungco, 28; Binta Okom, 50; Bato Tayak, 49; Goong Tugi, 47; Justin Tugi, 21; and a child warrior named Raffy Blah, 16.

Cabunoc said three of them had executed an affidavit linking a local government official to the communist NPA terrorists.

"He facilitated the organization of the Lumads as NPA fighters purposely to reclaim our ancestral lands. He welcomed Ka George and Ka Makmak in his house to recruit us in May 2015," said one former NPA rebel.

Cabunoc did not name the local official.

The recent surrender of eight rebels was facilitated by Bagumbayan Mayor Jonalette de Pedro and Chief Insp. Gary Flor Marfil of the Bagumbayan town police office.

Cabunoc said he expects more rebels to surrender due to the ongoing military operations against NPAs in the mountains of Sultan Kudarat. **PNA**

24

04 February 2018



Page: 6

Sulu town mayor, barangay leaders surrender guns, ammunition

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A Sulu town mayor and his barangay captains last Friday surrendered high-powered firearms in response to the campaign against unlicensed firearms in the province.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said the weapons were surrendered to his command at about 1 p.m. Friday by Mayor Anton Burahan of the island municipality of Pata.

Burahan was accompanied by barangay chairpersons and other municipal government officials when he turned over the firearms to Sobejana.

Sobejana said Burahan surrendered three 81-mm mortar tubes, one 90 Recoilless Rifle, one barrel of caliber .50 machine gun, four M-16 Armalite rifles, three M-14 rifles, five Garand rifles, one

M-79 Grenade Launcher, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

"The genuine gesture of Mayor Burahan and his constituents in giving up voluntarily their war materiel can be a good example to all other government officials and the Tausogs as a whole who are bearing arms illegally," Sobejana said.

He said the surrender was brought about by the relentless campaign of Joint Task Force Sulu against illegally possessed firearms.

"It is our goal to make Sulu a gun-free province. As we exert efforts to transform Sulu from terrorism to tourism, we want also to espouse the hashtag from Arm to Farm," he said.

He said Sulu could have a bright future with the support and cooperation of all stakeholders.

Burahan and his barangay

chairpersons surrendered the firearms and ammunition two days after government troops recovered an arms cache during a combat operation in Barangay Pisak Pisak, Pata.

Recovered on Jan. 31 were a caliber .50 machine gun with 150

rounds of ammunition, three baseplates for an 81-mm mortar, a bipod for an 81-mm mortar, a tripod for an 81-mm mortar, eight rounds of ammunition for an 81-mm mortar, four rounds of ammunition for 90 Recoilless Rifle and 50 rounds of ammunition for 60-mm mortar.

Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) data showed that the island town of Pata serves as the lair of the Muktadil brothers, who head an Abu Sayyaf sub-group that is known for conducting kidnapping and piracy activities beyond Tawi-Tawi's waters. **PNA**

ONLINE NEWS

04 FEBRUARY 2018

www.pna.gov.ph

Reds remain a threat in Agusan Norte: police

From the Philippine News Agency (Feb 3): Reds remain a threat in Agusan Norte: police

Communist insurgents have remained a primary threat to peace and order in Agusan del Norte, police said.

"The CPP-NPA-NDF remains to be the most potent threat in our provincial area of responsibility," said Supt. Carlo V. Ometer, deputy director for operations of the Philippine National Police in the province.

Ometer was referring to the rebel group's political and armed components -the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front.

He bared this during a security briefing he gave before members of the Agusan del Norte Provincial Police Advisory Council Friday, where he outlined the police response against the rebels' increasing attacks on government positions in the province.

Despite the security threat posed by the communist insurgents, the police official said "the whole province remains peaceful, with manageable crime incidents".

Ometer added that last year, the provincial police conducted a total of nine major combat operations against NPA units operating in Agusan del Norte, and engaged rebel forces in 17 "minor combat operations", during which police units conducted a total of 726 combat security patrols.

Overall, he said, police units in the province launched a total of 752 combat operations in 2017.

As part of the PNP's security measures, Ometer said they conducted "target hardening measures of the camps, police bases and police stations, especially in remote and hinterland areas".

PNP units also conducted "simulation exercises, surprise station visits, check and choke points, police beat patrols, mobile patrols", and other security programs.

www.inquirer.net

Militant solon fears NPA retaliation; capture of GRP negotiators

By: Jhoanna Ballaran- Reporter / @JhoannaBINQ
INQUIRER.net / 02:13 PM February 03, 2018



Anakpawis Party-list Rep. Ariel Casilao. FILE PHOTO FROM ANAKPAWIS

The unabated arrest of National Democratic Front (NDF) consultants may prompt the New People's Army (NPA) to retaliate and capture their counterparts in the government, a lawmaker warned on Saturday.

Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao raised the warning days after the arrest of NDF consultant Rafael "Ka Raffy" Baylosis over what activists called as "trumped-up" charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

"If this will continue—'yung mga arrest ng mga so-called temporarily released on bail na mga NDF consultants—aabot sa punto na yung NPA mag-declare din ng sige, aarestuhin din namin ang mga [Government of the Republic of the Philippines] negotiators and consultants," Casilao said at Saturday Forum at Annabel's Restaurant in Quezon City.

(If this will continue, the arrest of the so-called NDF consultants temporarily released on bail, it may come to a point that the NPA declare its own arrest of the GRP negotiators and consultants.)

"This will be a vicious cycle all over again, mauulit ito at wala nang katapusan (it will continue and will be endless)," he added.

Baylosis and his companion, Roque Guillermo Jr., were arrested on Wednesday afternoon by joint forces of Crime Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Regional (CIDG-NCR) and intelligence groups of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Authorities arrested the two along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City and supposedly recovered from them two .45-caliber guns, bullets, and magazines.

The police report on the operation stated that Baylosis and Guillermo had "visible short firearms tucked to their sides."

The police initially filed illegal possession of firearms charges against the two and later charged them with illegal possession of explosives for the alleged hand grenade found inside the bag of brown rice Baylosis was carrying.

Baylosis' lawyer, Rachel Pastores, called the authorities' claims as a "bad script," noting that the consultant is a known figure in the peace process and would not loiter around the streets of Metro Manila with a gun tucked to his side.

She also noted that there was a hallmark of perjury in the police's story line and described the circumstances that surround his arrest as "incredible" and "unbelievable."

Baylosis' arrest came days after President Rodrigo Duterte warned that he would go after the "apparatus" and the so-called legal fronts of the Communist Party of the Philippines and NPA.

Casilao called for the resumption of peace talks, noting that violence would not curb rebellion and armed resistance in the country.

"Matagal na po 'yung sinasabi natin na (We've been calling for them to) address the problem of poverty, landlessness, social injustices and no amount of a military formula will really address it. It will only worsen and will only produce, bring an unending vicious cycle," he said. /jpv