

*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**

**05 February 2018**

**Monday**

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

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**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 5 2018 | MONDAY**

**NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON  
TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING EASTERN VISAYAS  
as of 5:00 am - February 4, 2018**

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

<b>SUNRISE</b> 6:24 AM	<b>SUNSET</b> 5:57 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b> 9:06 PM	<b>MOONSET</b> 9:05 AM
<b>FULL MOON</b> JAN 31 9:27 PM	<b>LAST QUARTER</b> FEB 7 11:54 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 8:12 AM -0.06 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> 12:45 AM 0.33 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 thunderstorms  
 Light rains

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	FEB 6	FEB 7	FEB 6	FEB 7	FEB 6	FEB 7		
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	22 - 29 °C	22 - 29 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	20 - 27 °C	20 - 27 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	20 - 26 °C	21 - 27 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	25 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	23 - 29 °C	23 - 29 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	20 - 26 °C	21 - 28 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	24 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	12 - 21 °C	13 - 22 °C	<b>ILOILO/BACLOD</b>	25 - 29 °C	26 - 30 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	22 - 29 °C	23 - 30 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	24 - 29 °C	24 - 30 °C	<b>SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!</b> 		

**DZRH NEWS TELEVISION**

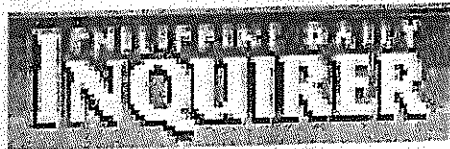
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
**11 AM & 5 PM**

**PILIPINASH**

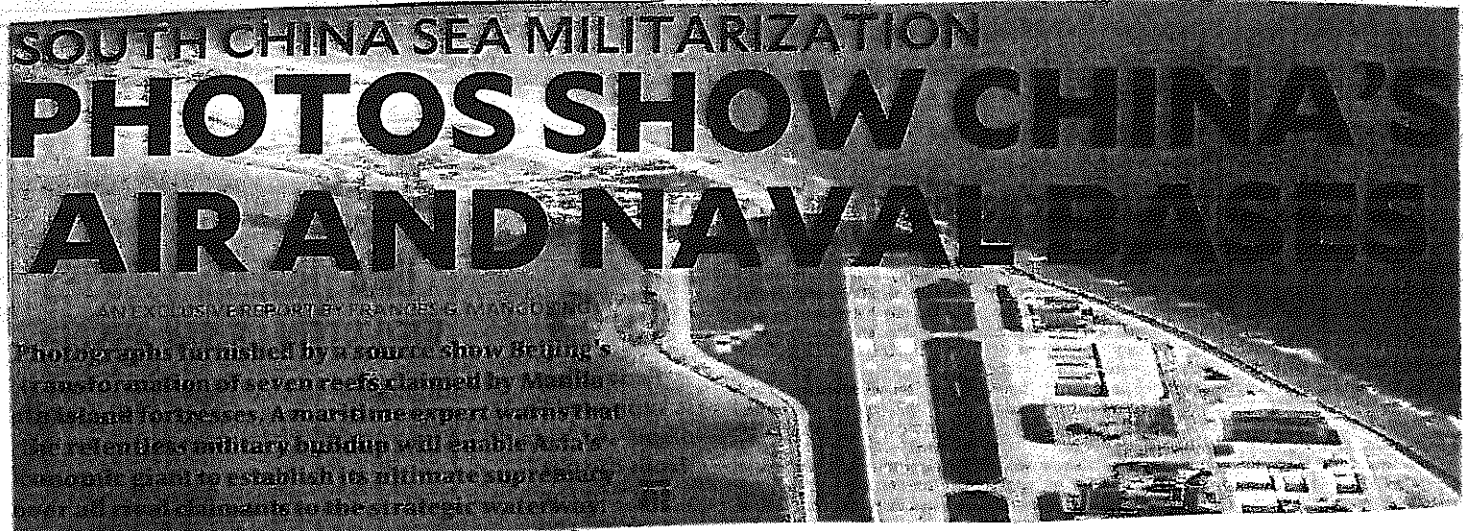
WEEKDAYS  
6 AM, 6:30 PM & 9 PM  
WEEKENDS  
6 AM



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## FROM A1

By Frances G. Mangosing  
@FMangosingINQ

**A**erial photographs obtained by Inquirer.net from a source show that China is almost finished transforming seven reefs claimed by the Philippines in the Spratly archipelago into island fortresses, in a bid to dominate the heavily disputed South China Sea.

Most of the photos, taken between June and December 2017, were snapped from an altitude of 1,500 meters and they showed the reefs that had been transformed into artificial islands in the final stages of development as air and naval bases.

Shown the photographs, Eugenio Bito-onon Jr., the former mayor of Kalayaan town on Pagasa Island, the largest Philippine-occupied island in the Spratlys and internationally known as Thitu Island, recognized new facilities on the man-made isles

### 'Photos are authentic'

Bito-onon saw the construction going on when he flew over the islands with foreign journalists nearly two years ago.

"These photos are authentic. I flew with HBO before the elections in 2016. We got repeated warnings from the Chinese because we were circling over the islands. I see there are now additional vertical features," Bito-onon said.

With its construction unrestrained, China will soon have military bastions on Kagitingan Reef, known internationally as Fiery Cross Reef; Calderon (Quarteron), Burgos (Gaven), Mabini (Johnson South), Panganiban (Mischief), Zamora (Subi) and McKennan (Hughes) reefs from which to project its power throughout the region.

### Within Philippines' EEZ

One of the reefs, Panganiban, lies within the Philippines' 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the South China Sea. The UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague has ruled that Panganiban Reef belongs to the Philippines.

In a report on China's militarization of the South China Sea last December, US think tank Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AmTi) said Kagitingan Reef had the most construction in 2017, with work spanning 110,000 square meters.

The runways for the three biggest reefs—Kagitingan, Panganiban and Zamora—appeared either completed or almost ready for use.

Lighthouses, radomes, communication facilities, hangars and multistory buildings had also been built on the artificial islands.

AmTi, which described 2017 as a "constructive year for Chinese base building" in the South China Sea, noted the presence of underground tunnels, missile shelters, radars and high-frequency antennas on the artificial islands.

The photos showed the consistent presence of cargo ves-

Besides the Philippines and China, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam also claim parts of the Spratly archipelago. Taiwan is a sixth claimant.

source of national pride

North Korea's missile and atomic weapon tests also helped draw international attention away from China's construction activities on the reefs, although recent pronouncements from Malacañang indicated the Philippines was not exactly unaware of the Chinese military buildup in the Spratlys.

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sels believed to be used in transporting construction supplies to the artificial islands

**Military ships**

Three military ships capable of transporting troops and weapons were docked at Panganiban Reef in a picture taken last Dec. 30. These were two transport ships (Hull Nos. 830 and 831) and an amphibious transport dock (989).

The Luoyang (527), a Type 053H3 Jiangwei II class missile frigate, was spotted about a kilometer from Zamora Reef last Nov. 15. This type of war vessel has two quadruple launchers installed amidships. It also has a Type 79A dual-barrel 100 mm gun installed on the bow deck, capable of firing 15-kilogram shells at a rate of 18 rounds per minute over a range of 22 km.

Last June 16, the Luzhou (592), a Type 056 Jiangdao class missile frigate, was photographed at Panganiban Reef. China's defense ministry reported the vessel took part in live-fire exercises in the South China Sea last December.

On the smaller reefs—Burgos, Calderon, McKennan and Mabini—the photos showed helipads, wind turbines, observation towers, radomes and communication towers had been built.

A photo taken last Nov. 28 showed a single-barrel 100 mm gun had been positioned on McKennan Reef.

**Status quo deal ignored**

The extent of development on the reefs show that China has gone ahead with building military outposts in the Spratlys despite a 2002 agreement with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) not to change any features in the sea.

At the same time, China has softened the impact of its military buildup with pledges of investments to the Philippines and talk of a framework for negotiating with Asean a code of conduct for the management of rival claims in the strategic waterway.

**Roque: No longer news**

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque told a news briefing early last month that China's militarization in the South China Sea was no longer news but the Philippines would not protest as long as China kept its "good faith commitment" that it would not reclaim any more islands in the waterway.

"The fact that they are actually using it now as military bases, as far as I'm concerned, is not new. It's not news because

we've always been against militarization of the area. But the good faith commitment is not to reclaim new islands I hope that's very clear," Roque said.

"[T]he point is, has there been a breach of Chinese commitment not to reclaim any new islands or shoal in the area? For as long as there is none, then we continue to respect that they are true to their commitment not to do so. But I think, from the very beginning, China, we knew, was militarizing the area by reclaiming these areas and by using them as military bases," he added.

**Don't trust a thief**

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, a member of the legal team that argued the Philippine case against China's claim to almost the entire South China Sea in the Hague arbitral court, slammed Roque's position, comparing it to trusting a thief.

"You don't rely on the good faith of the thief [who's trying to break] into your house. If you have that mindset, you rely on the good faith of someone who's trying to break into your house, that means you're out [of touch] with reality. You're in a fantasyland. That's not how the world is put together. That's not realpolitik," Carpio said.

The Philippines is battling communist rebels, terrorists loyal to the Islamic State jihadi group, and Abu Sayyaf bandits but the country is facing a much bigger security threat, Carpio said.

"The biggest [security] problem is China. If we lose [our maritime space in the West Philippine Sea], we lose it forever," Carpio told the Inquirer in a recent interview, using the local name of the waters within the Philippines' EEZ in the South China Sea.

"And the area we will lose is huge, as big as the land area of the Philippines, about 300,000 square kilometers," Carpio said.

China will never return the territory it grabs, he added. "We cannot go to the [International Court of Justice] because China has to agree and China will never agree to submit to arbitration."

**Arbitral ruling**

China has ignored the Hague tribunal's July 2016 ruling that invalidated Beijing's sweeping claim to the South China Sea and declared it violated Manila's sovereign right to fish and explore for resources in its own EEZ.

But President Duterte, who came to power two weeks before the ruling came down, has refused to assert the Philippine victory, wooing China instead for loans and investments.

China has been only too glad to be neighborly to the Philippines but it has also been determined to finish its island fortresses in the South China Sea and present its rivals for territory in the waterway with a fait accompli when they sit down to negotiate the code of conduct.

Security analyst Jose Antonio Custodio questions Mala-

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3. Securing the land.

cañang's playing down China's militarization of the South China Sea in exchange for economic assistance.

"We are talking [about] trillions of dollars [in] natural resources and we are compromising our territorial claims. At the end of the day, these are not Chinese grants but loans so you don't have to be a rocket scientist to see the disadvantageous position the Philippines is putting itself into," Custodio said.

Jay Batongbacal, director of the University of the Philippines Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea, said the time when the Philippines should have protested China's militarization had long passed. But the situation worsened when the country refused to bring up the arbitration ruling at the Asean Summit in Manila last year.

"That helped China in doing

everything that needs to be completed. If ever the government one day realizes that those military aircraft are based there, definitely it has no one to blame but itself, because it did not act when the time to act was right," Batongbacal said.

**Claimants disunited**

Asean's silence on the arbitral ruling in favor of the Philippines during the Manila summit was a diplomatic score for China.

"Unity among the claimants is one of China's biggest fears," Batongbacal said.

"[The Chinese] see it as a huge threat when the surrounding countries are aligned. That's what they don't like the most because they think it's containment. The fact that Asean didn't come to unite about the disputes because we did not push through putting it on the table,

all of that really favored China. They had a big win and that's a huge relief for them," he added.

Carpio said the Philippines could have generated support from the international community if it asserted its victory over China in the arbitration case.

"If we are not aggressive, if we are sitting on the ruling and we are not enforcing it, the others will not support us," he said.

The military, for its part, cannot do anything but follow the government's foreign policy.

"We still navigate in those waters. But we are instruments of national policy so we just follow whatever our national leaders and policymakers decide," said a ranking military official who requested anonymity.

"Were there challenges [from China]? Yes, but we also challenged them, that's part of the rules of the road. But the

policies of the government are not only military, there's also political, economic and diplomatic. You can't confine it to the military," the official said.

**What's at stake**

If the Philippines does not assert its legal victory, it stands to lose 80 percent of its EEZ in the South China Sea, covering

381,000 square kilometers of maritime space, including the entire Recto Bank, or Reed Bank, and part of the Malampaya gas field off Palawan, as well as all of the fishery, oil and gas and mineral resources there, Carpio said.

"My estimate is 40 percent of water in the Philippines is in the West Philippine Sea, so

that's 40 percent of the fish that we can catch and we will lose that as a food source," he said.

"Malampaya supplies 40 percent of the energy requirement of Luzon. If Malampaya runs out of gas in 10 years or less . . . we will have 10 to 12 hours of daily brownouts in Luzon. It will devastate the economy," he added. INQ



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# Joma: NPA could kill 1 soldier a day

**By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**  
@dtmallarijrINQ

LUCENA CITY—Exiled Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria “Joma” Sison has downplayed the scenario where New People’s Army (NPA) rebels might arrest government peace negotiators in retaliation for the capture of National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace consultant Rafael Baylosis.

However, he warned that the NPA rebels could launch continuous attacks and kill one

government soldier a day to force the government to revive the peace talks.

### Respect the Jasig

“As NDFP chief political consultant, I advise the NDFP to recommend to the CPP and NPA to respect the Jasig (Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees) as a solemn agreement that protects the negotiating personnel of both the NDFP and GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines),” Sison said in statement issued from his base in Utrecht, the

Netherlands, on Sunday.

But Sison, who tagged Baylosis’ arrest as “extremely provocative,” warned that communist guerrillas were capable of killing one soldier a day or more than 500 troopers a month across the country.

“The NPA in 17 regions has actually the capacity of knocking out at least one AFP soldier every day per region. That eliminates at least 510 enemy troops or some five companies every month nationwide,” he said.

He added: “That translates to the elimination of some 60

companies or 20 basic battalions every year.”

Sison said the NPA had the advantage of being able to launch ambushes and raids by surprise.

### Hit squad

The NPA maintains a special partisan unit called “Sparu or Sparrow,” an urban-based hit squad that targets policemen, soldiers, government officials and the so-called “enemies of the revolution.”

However, the military is belittling the capabilities of the

NPA rebels and vowed to reduce by half its current estimate of at least 3,700 fighters spread throughout the country.

On Saturday, leftist solon Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao raised the warning that the arrest of Baylosis might prompt the communist guerrillas to retaliate and also capture government peace negotiators and consultants.

Sison said Casilao’s warning “is honest and well-intentioned.” “He is actually pressing Duterte to respect the Jasig,” Sison said. INQ



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MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## 8 NPAs yield in Sultan Kudarat

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Tired of being on the run from the military's relentless offensives, eight New People's Army (NPA) members yielded to government troops in Sultan Kudarat last Friday.

Reports said the eight insurgents decided to return to the fold of the law in order to have a normal and peaceful life.

One of them was Romeo Dongco, alias Taiwan, 29, who was among the tribal members who seized a large portion of a coffee plantation owned by Con-sunji family in September 2017.

Dongco explained that they seized the land to reclaim ownership of their ancestral land.

His neighbor and fellow Yunit

Milisa member Jun Okom also surrendered. He said they were being supported by the NPA group Platoon Arabo.

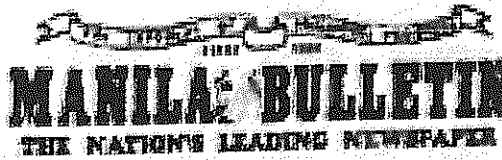
Okom confirmed Dongco's revelation about the coffee plantation takeover, saying that Platoon Arabo's "Ka Yoyo deployed his armed followers behind us."

Dongco and Okom were joined by relatives Nasio Dungco and Binta Ocom in surrendering to authorities.

The others who surrendered were Batoy Tayak, 49; Goong Tugi, 47; Justin Tugi, 21; and a 16-year-old child warrior. They were members of defunct Platoon Cloudphone.

Three of these surrenderers have executed an affidavit liking a local government official to the NPA.

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## 2 NPAs surrender in Abra

Two members of the communist-terrorist group New People's Army (NPA) surrendered to Mayor Guilbert Ballangan of Tubo, Abra last Thursday, a belated military report said.

The surrender of Christopher Balingoay, alias "Anghel," of Tubo, Abra; and Lovely Clerigo, alias "April," of San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan was facilitated by

joint elements of the army's 24th Infantry Battalion, the Police Intelligence Branch (PIB) of Abra, and the Tubo Municipal Police Station (MPS).

The two, currently being secured at the Abra Police Provincial Office (PPO) for interview and assessment, surrendered with their child who is a few months old (Francis T. Wakefield)

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## Tribal leader, son killed by NPA rebels in Davao

DAVAO CITY – A tribal leader of the Langilang-Manobo tribe and his son were shot dead by armed men inside their home in Barangay Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao del Norte yesterday morning.

The victims, Datu Banadjao Mampaundag and his son, Jhonard Mampaundag, were attacked around 4 a.m. inside their home by the armed men posing as soldiers but were believed members of the New People's Army (NPA).

AFP Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom) spokesman Maj. Ezra Balagtey said the attackers were Tagalogspeaking members of the NPA who entered the house of the Mampaundags and murdered the two tribal leaders.

Balagtey said a medical team from Talaingod was sent to give assistance but they stopped when the team heard an explosion.

The remains of Banadjao and Jhonard are still in Sitio Igang waiting to be retrieved.

The NPA members were believed to be in an ambush position and could possibly attack army troops who would respond to the incident.

The incident happened a day after Banadjao came home from the two-day "*Panagtagho Alang sa Kalinaw ug Kalambuan*," an

Indigenous Peoples Leaders Summit held in Davao City at the Green Height Convention Center on January 31 and February 1.

Banadjao was one of the participants of the gathering at the EastMinCom headquarters in Panacan, Davao City where President Duterte called on tribal leaders from four regions in Mindanao to "dissociate from the NPA."

"*Distansya mo sa NPA. Ayaw mo pakig away* (You distance yourselves from the NPA. Do not fight them," he had told them.

The two-day IP Leaders Summit was aimed at providing the "Lumads" with an avenue to air their concerns to the national government.

Two of the issues included security and lack of economic opportunities.

Banadjao was also one of those who signed a manifesto calling for a push on their struggle and fight for self-determination based on their customary laws, cultures and traditions passed by their ancestors that are deeply rooted in their communities.

In the manifesto, they vowed not to fail Duterte in his peace and development program spelled out in the administration's 10-point socioeconomic agenda. **PNA**



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## NPA rebels kill *lumad* leader, son

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – Suspected New People’s Army (NPA) rebels shot dead a *lumad* leader and his son in Talaingod, Davao del Norte yesterday.

Witnesses said Banadjao Mampaundag and his son Jhonard were in their house in Sitio Igang, Barangay Palma Gil, Talaingod when Tagalog-speaking rebels who posed as soldiers entered and shot them several times at around 4 a.m.

Responding medical personnel failed to bring the victims to a hospital when a bomb believed to be planted by the rebels went off as the ambulanced passed. The bodies of the victims have yet to be retrieved in Sitio Igang.

Mampaundag was reportedly among more than 1,000 *lumad* leaders who attended the Indigenous Peo-

ple’s Leaders Summit at Camp Panacan in this city on Friday.

The military said the perpetrators of the gun attack were still in the area yesterday afternoon.

In Sultan Kudarat, eight NPA guerrillas surrendered in Bagumbayan town on Saturday.

The rebels, who were led by a certain Romeo Dongco, surrendered through the intercession of officials of the 33rd Infantry Battalion, Bagumbayan Mayor Jonalette de Pedro and town police director Chief Inspector Garyflor Marfil, Capt. Arvin Encinas, public affairs officer of the 6th Infantry Division, said.

The surrender came two days after Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu released P20,000 in assistance to each of the 32 rebels who surrendered in the last quarter of 2017. – With John Unson



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## ASG extortion activities worsen in Basilan

ISABELA CITY – The Department of Public Works and Highways in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (DPWH-ARMM) has expressed fears about the possible delay in the implementation and completion of vital infrastructure projects scheduled this year in Basilan province due to the persistent threat posed by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) on its officials and workers.

DPWH-ARMM Basilan District Engineer Soler I Undug yesterday said renegade ASG leaders are threatening them with harm should they continue to refuse to extend them protection money.

Undug said that if these series of threats will continue, the implementation and completion of vital government projects in the province might be delayed.

According to Undug the protection money that these ASG was asking for ranged from P200,000 or more, in areas where government projects were being implemented.

"We, in the government service, are not authorized to deal with them, more so, to give protection money to rebels like the Abu Sayyaf Group where government project we are implementing," Undug said.

"We don't deny that our fear is there, especially during our travel to the construction site as we might be ambushed by these ASG rebels anytime, while we are heading to the construction site in the province aboard government service trucks and vehicles," he said.

According to reports, ASG leaders Jaid Mawalil and Nur Hassan were

among those who have been trying to extort money from the DPWH officials in the province.

Mawalil is operating in the towns of Tuburan, Moh Ajul, Akbar while Hassan is operating in the towns of Tipo-Tipo, Tuburan and Lamitan City area, all in the province of Basilan.

As this developed, local residents have asked police and military authorities to conduct operations against the group in their suspected lairs in the province.

They urged the Joint Task Force Basilan, headed by Col Juvimax Uy, to

conduct surgical operations in known ASG lairs in the province in order to free the people from possible ASG harassment.

As martial law implementor in the province, they said Uy should show that the military is on top of the situation and can illuminate them (ASG) anytime without fear, they said.

A government official in the province said, they couldn't feel the implementation of martial law in the province as they can still see people moving around in public with their firearms in their waists. (Nonoy E. Lacson)

05 February 2018



Pahina. 3

### Misencounter: CAFGU patay

NASAWI sa umano'y maling engkuwentro sa mga miyembro ng Philippine Army ang isang kasapi ng Civilian Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu) sa bayan ng Pinukupuk sa Kalinga.

Namatay si Rashid Alunday nang makabakbakan ng grupo nito na nakatalaga sa isang observation post sa Barangay Tagay ang mga elemento ng 56th Infantry Battalion.

Nabatid mula kay Senior Supt. Alfredo Dangani, ang direktor ng Kalinga Police, posibleng hindi umano agad nakapag-ugnayan ang dalawang puwersa kung kaya't sila-sila ang nagkabanlan.

Wala pang ipinalalabas na pahayag ang Philippine Army patungkol sa insidente.

Paiuloy namang sinisiyasat ng Kalinga Police ang nangyari.

**JEFF GALLOS**

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**NPA denies killing unarmed Caggu member**

DAVAO CITY—A New People's Army (NPA) spokesperson on Wednesday said it was the military-backed Magahat militia, not communist rebels, who killed and beheaded a government militiaman in Surigao del Sur last month, a case which President Duterte blamed on NPA. Ariel Montero, spokesperson for the NPA's Northeastern Mindanao Command, said the paramilitary group Magahat, led by an Emerson Cuarteron, killed Mar Acebedo Bocales, a member of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Caggu). Mr. Duterte expressed rage at the killing of Bocales, saying the militiaman had also been beheaded, using the case as an example of what he said was the ruthlessness of communist rebels. —FRINSTON LIM



A communist rebel plays a native guitar in a camp in the Cordillera. —EV ESPIRITU

OS February 2018

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Army camp has new commander

AN Army general implicated, but later exonerated, in the supposed plunder of military resources has been named camp commander of Fort Bonifacio, home to the 80,000-strong Philippine Army.

Brig. Gen. Roy Devesa assumed the post of commander of the Army's Headquarters and Headquarters Support Group on Wednesday last week.

Devesa, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1985, was deputy commander of the Army's 5th Infantry Division based in Gamu town in Isabela, and commander of the 503rd Brigade based in Upi town, also in Isabela.

Devesa replaced Col. Kiram Azgar Grajo, deputy commander of the HHSG who was named acting after the retirement of Brig. Gen. Rodel Mauro Alarcon on January 27.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva said Devesa, as HHSG commander, is handling a very important job in the Army.

"He is the camp administrator. He is supervising the security of the camp, the headquarters of the Philippine Army. Located at the Army headquarters are various units providing support to troops on the ground," said Villanueva.

Devesa was among several military officers who were charged by former military comptroller Col. George Rabusa with plunder in

2012 in connection with the controversial "conversion" scheme in the Armed Forces.

Among the ranking officers charged by Rabusa were former AFP chiefs Efren Abu, Diomedio Villanueva and Roy Cimatu, and former military comptrollers Carlos Garcia and Jacinto Ligot.

Devesa was the executive assistant of AFP chief Angelo Reyes who committed suicide in 2011 amid allegations he also benefited from the illegal conversion scheme while he was the AFP chief from 1999 to 2001.

The Office of the Ombudsman dismissed the charges against Devesa and the other officers for lack of evidence, except for Garcia.

Garcia, his wife, and his three children were tried for the plunder of about P303 million. The charges were dismissed after Garcia entered into a plea bargain deal with the Ombudsman, which lowered the charges to direct bribery and facilitating money laundering.

As part of the deal, Garcia agreed to return of P135 million of the P303 million he and his family supposedly plundered.

Meanwhile, two senior Army officers were promoted Monday last week – Army chief of staff now Maj. Gen. Chad Isleta and now Brig. Gen. Henry Robinson, commander of the Army's 703rd Brigade based in Pangasinan.



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Manila  
**Standard**

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# Tit for tat: Reds vow to retaliate

## *One soldier a day—Joma*

By Francisco Tuyay

**T**HE Communist Party of the Philippines has threatened to eliminate one soldier daily in the 17 regions where it operates in retaliation for the government's decision to junk the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees and arrest National Democratic Front consultant Rafael Baylisis last week

In a statement, CPP founder Jose Maria Sison also threatened to punish the Duterte administration by launching tactical offensives across the country.

"The NPA in 17 regions has... the capacity of knocking out at least one AFP soldier every day per region. That eliminates at least 510 enemy troops or some five companies every month nationwide. That translates to the elimination of some 60 companies or 20 basic battalions every year," Sison said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines was quick to dismiss Si-

son's threat as a desperate ploy as more New People's Army rebels were giving up the armed struggle and rejoining mainstream society.

"Sison is hallucinating," said a military official who asked not to be named.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the CPP are delusional if they think they can win and establish a communist government in the Philippines.

"The empty talk of the CPP-NPA will not diminish our defenders' resolve to finally put a stop to the communist-terrorists."

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**WARRIORS.** This file photo taken on July 30, 2017 shows guerrillas of the New People's Army in formation in the Sierra Madre mountain range, located east of Manila. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the cancellation of peace talks with communist rebels waging one of Asia's longest insurgencies in a blow to efforts to end a half century-long conflict. **AFP**

### Tit for tat:...

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decades-long exploitation of indigenous peoples and rural communities. For far too long, they have impeded progress, denying the Philippines a chance to fully develop and depriving the Filipino people the opportunity to improve their quality of life," Lorenzana said

Reacting strongly to the termination of the Jasig, Sison advised NPA foot soldiers to intensify tactical offensives against armed units of the AFP, the Philippine National Police and

auxiliary forces to compel the government to resume the peace negotiations.

He said the government should stop arresting NDF negotiating personnel and violating the Jasig.

"It is good to keep open the possibility of resuming the peace negotiations rather than violate the Jasig and undermine confidence in the peace process in a longlasting way," he added.

Sison said with or without President Rodrigo Duterte, the government will decide to negotiate peace when the "people's war" inflicts larger casualties on soldiers, "including notorious

human rights violators, local tyrants, land grabbers, drug lords and other notorious criminals."

"The NPA has the advantage of having a just cause and enjoying the support of the people and being able to launch ambushes and raids by surprise. In sharp contrast, the reactionary troops are hated by the people, are exposed to public view and are practically deaf and blind in operations against the NPA most of the time," Sison said.

At present, the military said a total of 320 NPA regulars have surrendered, bringing along their firearms since the military stepped up its operations.

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## NPA forces dwindling, AFP confident of neutralizing rebs

By Mario J. Mallari

The communist New People's Army (NPA) continued to dwindle in numbers as more than 300 rebels voluntarily surrendered to the government in January alone, the military yesterday claimed.

Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia, public affairs chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), said a total of 326 rebels surrendered to the government from January 1 to 31 this year.

"The unprecedented number of

*Turn to page 2*



## NPA forces dwindling, AFP confident of neutralizing rebs

**From page 1**

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," he stressed.

Noteworthy among the former rebels, Garcia said, was Gemma Quiroga, 35, of Davao Oriental who surrendered to the 28th Infantry Battalion (IB) last January 27.

"She was a squad medic of the NPAs operating in Davao Oriental and was also designated as chairperson of Anakpawis, a known leftist organization, in Mati City," the military official added.

Five rebels also surrendered to the 25th IB in Compostela Valley on January 29, including a 16-year-old alias RM.

"This is the latest case of NPA recruitment of minors which has already been documented in the past," Garcia stressed.

The military said seven NPA rebels from Arayat, Pampanga, surrendered last January 30 and nine from Talacogon, Agusan del Sur, last January 28. Ten other members of NPA operating in Bicol also surrendered this month.

This adds up to the mass

surrenders of seven NPA regular members and 35 members of Militia ng Bayan operating in Balud, Masbate, last January 21.

"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," Garcia said.

"The AFP hopes that the influx of surrenderees will encourage other rebels to lay down their arms, abandon violent extremism and embrace the peaceful path toward change," he added.

The government is offering livelihood and financial assistance to rebel returnees to help them in joining mainstream society.

Apart from surrendering NPA rebels, there are also communist fighters being killed during the conduct of focused military operations against them throughout the country since the peace talks bogged down last year.

The President has tagged the NPA as terrorist group after he suspended peace negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front after NPA rebels continued to launch atrocities despite the ongoing talks.



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• **326 NPAs yield**

The spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday said that the surrender of 326 New People's Army (NPA) rebels just for the month of January 2018 is "unprecedented" and proves that their campaign against communist is effective. Colonel Edgar Arcvalo said the surrender of the NPA rebels could be attributed to their desire to return to mainstream society and live normal lives. Arcvalo said that aside from having normal lives and growing tired of the hardships in living in the jungles and fighting government troops, the effectiveness of community based dialogues and promise of economic packages is also a factor. (Francis T. Wakefield)

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## AFP sees NPA threat being degraded

By **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is optimistic that the country's insurgency problem will be resolved soon, citing the diminishing strength – if not the imminent defeat – of the New People's Army (NPA).

The AFP issued the statement following the surrender of 326 NPA guerrillas last month. "Should the trend continue, the AFP is confident that it could hit its target," AFP spokesman Col. Edgard

Arevalo said yesterday.

He said the higher number of surrenders in January alone indicated what to expect in the coming months, although the military is careful not to claim that victory is at hand when it comes to neutralizing the NPA.

While many are turning themselves in, Arevalo said the AFP is doing its best to prevent the communist group from recruiting new members.

"We're going to deny them the opportunity to recruit. Not only will our combat and focused military operations con-

tinue, but also our programs to inform the would-be recruits of what awaits them through the help of their local government and communities if they change their ways," he said.

The unprecedented number of NPA surrenderees can be attributed to President Duterte's call for the rebels to lay down their arms, AFP public affairs office chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia said.

He said among those who recently surrendered to the military was 35-year-old Gemma Quiroga of Davao Oriental, who turned herself in to the

Army's 28th Infantry Battalion on Jan. 28.

Quiroga served as a doctor for the rebels and chairperson of Anakpawis, a known leftist organization in Mati City.

Garcia said the AFP is hoping that the influx of surrenderees would encourage other rebels to also lay down their arms, abandon extremist violence and go for peace.

The AFP commended its various units on the ground for effectively using military pressure against the NPA and for the humane treatment of those who surrender.

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Military confident of reducing NPA strength this year

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday said it is confident of degrading the capability of the communist New People's Army within the year in the wake of the surrender of about 326 rebels throughout the country in January alone.

The NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has about 3,700 men,

according to the military.

"The surrenders are actually unprecedented," said AFP spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo.

The 326 rebels include Gemma Quiroga, 35, an NPA squad medic and chair of the leftist party-list group Anakpawis in Mati City, who surrendered on January 27 in Davao Oriental.

"If the present trend continues, then we're going to hit our target...

We would not like to say it's imminent but we're confident that we will be able to hit our target if we are going to base it on the trend," said Arevalo.

Told the NPA may be recruiting new fighters, Arevalo said it is but natural for the NPA to do so. However, he said, he has no information as to the number of

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### MILITARY

rebels recruited last month.

"It's not surprising if they are going to have recruitment activities... We're going to deny them the opportunity to recruit. That is why our focused military operations are continuing," said Arevalo.

Arevalo said the military establishment is also conducting information drives, targeting the youth who he said "may be influenced, fooled and promised (by the rebels) with things that we all know are false promises."

The surrenders came a month after President Duterte declared the NPA and CPP as terrorist groups. A month earlier, Duterte cancelled the peace talks with the CPP-NPA-National Democratic Front of the Philippines mainly because of continued NPA attacks, even while the talks were ongoing. He also ordered the arrest of communist leaders he released from jail to participate in the peace negotiations.

First to fall was Rafael Baylosis, NDFP consultant, who was arrested in Quezon City on January 31.

Early last month, AFP chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero said the military is aiming to reduce by half the strength of the NPA.

Arevalo said the military is doing its best to sustain the trend of NPA surrenders, through combat operations and pursuit of development projects and delivery of services, in partnership with local government officials and other stakeholders.

Citing accounts of NPA members who surrendered, Arevalo said the 326 gave up due to pressure from focused military operations.

"Second, they are already tired of

fighting, running and hiding," said Arevalo, adding that the 326 also surrendered because they want to avail themselves of the "amelioration package" provided by the government to rebels who surrender.

"The bottom line of their surrender is not only to avoid their possible neutralization during encounters with government forces. They are also seeing the opportunity to be with their families, live a new life because there is an economic package that they can get (from government) to start a new life," said Arevalo.

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# BusinessMirror

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## AFP recovers loose firearms from civilians in Sulu

By RENE ACOSTA @reneacostaBM

**T**HE military's twin campaigns against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the recovery of loose firearms in the hands of civilians in Sulu are continuing to gather steam as more firearms were surrendered to troops over the weekend.

Marine Spokesman Capt. Maria Rowena Dalmacio said five residents of Barangay Kiput, Pata, Sulu, turned over firearms to members of the Philippine Marines Ready Force—Sulu under Col. Arnel Totalo.

The surrender of firearms to the 31st Marine Company of Marine Battalion Landing Team 1 stationed at Barangay Saimbangon, Pata, was facilitated by Barley Sahid, barangay chairman of Kiput.

The loose firearms that were yielded included three M16 rifles with five magazines and 104 rounds of ammunition and two pieces of M1 Garand rifles with four clips and 29 rounds of ammunition.

The turnover of firearms last Saturday followed the surrender of high-powered firearms to Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana by the local officials of Pata, headed by Mayor Anton Burahan, and even by other officials.

Sobejana said among those surrendered were three 81mm mortar tubes, a 90mm and a cal. 50 barrel; four M16 rifles, M14 rifles, five Garand rifles; and one M-79 grenade launcher.

It also included 149 rounds of M16 ammunition, 176 rounds of cal. 30 machinegun and round for 40mm, six pieces magazine clips for M16, six magazines for M14 and 27 clips for Garand.

"The genuine gesture of Mayor Burahan

“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

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,” said Sobejana, commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu.

“The surrender is brought about by the relentless campaign of JTF Sulu against illegally possessed firearms. It is really our goal to make Sulu a gun-free province,” he added.

Last Wednesday Marine personnel also recovered several firearms and ammunition at Barangay Pisak Pisak, also in Pata following the surrender of ASG members.



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## Huge arms cache surrendered by Pata, Sulu mayor

BY NONOYE LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A municipal mayor of Sulu together with his village chief personally surrendered a cache of weapons and ammunition to Joint Task Force Sulu (JTF-Sulu) Friday, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) reported yesterday.

JTF-Sulu commander Brig Gen Cirilito Sobejana said Pata, Sulu Mayor Anton Burahan, together with some barangay officials surrendered the arms cache in Pata Island, Sulu on Friday, February 2.

Sobejana said Burahan personally surrender the cache of weapons and ammunition, which contained three 81mm mortar tubes, a 90 RR crew-served weapon, a barrel of caliber .50 MG, four M16 rifles, three M14 rifles, five Garand rifles, an M79 grenade launcher, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

Sobejana said the surrender of Burahan came following the recovery of an arm cache in Barangay Pisak Pisak, Pata Island on January 31 during a combat operation launched by the Philippine Fleet-Marine Ready Force Sulu (PMRFS).

"One of our Abu Sayyaf surrenderer gave information about the cache and we immediately launched an operation in the area," he said.

According to Sobejana the PMRFS on January 31 recovered a .50-caliber machine gun, 150 rounds of ammunition for .50 caliber machine gun, three base plates for an 81mm mortar, a bipod for an 81mm mortar, a tripod for an 81mm mortar, eight rounds of ammunition for an 81mm mortar, four rounds of ammunition for a 90RR, and 50 rounds of ammunition for a 60mm mortar.

"We have reasons to believe that there are other war materiel that are being kept since there were mortar base plates and ammunition for mortar and 90RR recovered," Sobejana added.

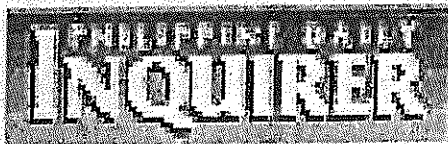
"This led to our further search and the eventual turn-over of mortars, machinegun and anti-tank weapons by Pata, Sulu Mayor and barangay officials," He further said.

The surrendered firearms and rounds of ammunition are part of the arms cache recovered by the Marine troops on January 31.

"The islands of Pata, Capual and Tongkil are known sources of firearms and war materials. We have monitored lawless groups getting their guns and ammunition from these area," added Sobejana.

"More so, the islands are also known safe havens of pirates, bandits and terrorists." As per WestMinCom data, Pata island is lair of the Muktadil brothers, an Abu Sayyaf sub group leader that is known for notoriety of conducting kidnapping and piracy beyond Tawi-Tawi waters," he said.

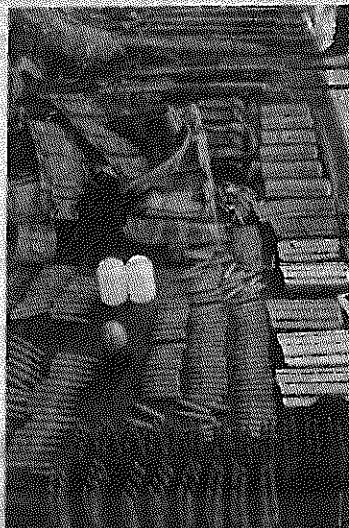
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**General says unlicensed guns down to 4,100 in Sulu**

**ZAMBOANGA CITY**—A military commander said relentless operations by government forces led to a sharp decline in the number of unlicensed guns in the province of Sulu, a known lair of the terror group, Abu Sayyaf. Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Sulu military chief, said the number of unlicensed guns believed to be still in circulation was down to just 4,100 or 10 guns per village in the province with 410 villages in 19 towns. In 2002, former Sulu military chief Col. Romeo Tolentino estimated the number of illegal firearms at 33,000. Sobejana said raids and surrender of guns helped reduce the number of unlicensed guns. The latest surrender of guns was made by Anton Burahan, mayor of Pata town, and his village chiefs. —JULIE ALIPALA



The military shows rifles and bullets surrendered by a mayor and his village chiefs in Sulu province. —PHOTO FROM NAVAL FORCES WESTERN MINDANAO

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## Arms caché ng Sulu mayor, isinuko

NI NONOY E. LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Isinuko na ni Pata, Sulu Mayor Anton Burahan sa Joint Task Force Sulu (JTF-Sulu) nitong Biyernes ang sangkaterbang armas at mga bala na nakaimbak sa kanyang bahay, iniulat kahapon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom).

Paliwanag ni JTF-Sulu commander Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, kasama ni Burahan sa pagsuko ng mga armas ang mga opisyal ng barangay sa Pata Island.

Kabilang sa isinuko ng alkalde ang tatlong 81MM mortar tubes, isang 90 RR crew-served weapon, isang barrel ng caliber 50 MG, apat na M16 rifle, tatlong M14 rifle, limang Garand rifle, isang

M79 grenade Launcher, at daandang rounds ng mga bala.

Nilinaw ni Sobejana na nagawang isuko ni Burahan ang nakatago nitong mga baril matapos masamsam ng militar ang isang arms caché sa Barangay Pisak Pisak, Pata Island, sa combat operation nitong Enero 31.

"Our Abu Sayyaf surrenderee gave information about the caché and we immediately launched an operation in the area," paliwanag ni Sobejana.

Nakumpiska sa nabanggit operasyon ang isang .50 caliber Machine Gun, 150 rounds ng mga bala ng .50 caliber Machine Gun, tatlong base plates ng isang 81mm mortar,

isang bipod ng 81mm mortar, isang tripod ng 81mm mortar, walong rounds ng ammunition ng 81mm mortar, apat na rounds ng ammunition ng 90RR, at 50 rounds ng mga bala ng 60mm mortar.

"We have reasons to believe that there are other war materiel that are being kept since there were mortar base plates and ammunition for mortar and 90RR recovered. This led to our further search and the eventual turn-over of mortars, machinegun and anti-tank weapons by Pata, Sulu mayor and barangay officials," pahayag pa nito.

Aniya, kiialang pinagkukunan

ng matataas na kalibre ng baril at mga kagamitang pandigma ang mga isla ng Pata, Capual at Tongkil sa Sulu.

"We have monitored lawless groups getting their guns and ammunition from these area. More so, the islands are also known safe havens of pirates, bandits and terrorists. As per WestMinCom data, Pata island is lair of the Moktadil brothers, an Abu Sayyaf sub group leader that is known for notoriety of conducting kidnapping and piracy beyond Tawi-Tawi waters," sabi pa nito.

May ulat ni Fer Taboy



LUMAMBOT DINI isinuko ni Pata, Sulu Mayor Anton Burahan at ng isang barangay chairman sa militar ang matataas na kalibre ng armas na nakaimbak sa bahay ng alkalde.

NONOY E. LACSON

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The Manila Times

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## Sulu village chief surrenders more firearms, ammunition

**MORE** firearms have been turned over to the military by a *barangay* (village) chairman in Pata, Sulu, on Saturday morning amid a campaign against illegal possession of firearms in the province, the Philippine Marine Corps reported on Sunday.

Cpt. Rowena Dalmacio, Marines spokeswoman, said Barley Sahid of Kiput village in Pata surrendered the firearms and ammunition owned by five residents of his village to the Marine Ready Force in Sulu on Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Turned over to authorities were five M16 rifles with five magazines and 104 rounds of 5.56mm ammunition and two M1 Garrand rifles with four clips and 29 rounds of ammunition, Dalmacio added.

The 31st Marine Company received the firearms for turn-over to the Marine Ready Force

headquarters in Sulu.

"The series of surrenders of ASG [Abu Sayyaf Group] and firearms was due to the joint efforts of the members of the local government units and the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Sulu to win and maintain the peace in the area," Dalmacio said in a statement.

Last week, Joint Task Force Sulu reported that local officials of Pata, including its municipal mayor, surrendered heavy firearms and mortars to the military.

According to Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of Joint Task Force Sulu, the military launched the operations against loose firearms on a tipoff by an Abu Sayyaf surrenderer about an arm cache in Pisak Pisak village in Pata.

DEMPSEY REYES



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## More guns, ammo recovered in Sulu

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

More high-powered guns and various types of ammunition have been recovered from civilians in Sulu.

Five M16-A1 and M1 Garand rifles as well as several magazines and rounds of ammunition received on Saturday by the 31st Marine Company of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 1 in Barangay Sambangon, Pata were presented to the Philippine Marine Corps yesterday.

Barley Sahid, the chairman of Barangay Kiput, alerted Marine soldiers on the surrender of the firearms by five residents of the village, Capt. Maria Rowena Dalmacio, Marine Corps public affairs officer, said.

On Saturday, the military also presented several firearms and ammunition surrendered by a municipal mayor and those that were recovered in Sulu recently.

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

The turnover of the firearms came three days after the Philippine Marine Ready Force-Sulu recovered a cache of war materials, rockets and ammunition based on information provided by an Abu Sayyaf surrenderee.

The Joint Task Force Sulu has launched a relentless campaign against illegal possession of firearms in the province.

## ONLINE NEWS

### 05 FEBRUARY 2018

www.pna.gov.ph

# AFP confident of neutralizing NPA as surrenders continue

By Priam Nepomuceno

**MANILA --** With January's record number of surrendering New People's Army (NPA) members at 326, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) expressed confidence it would be able to meet the target of neutralizing the communist rebels soon.

"Ayaw nating sabihin na imminent but we're confident that we will be able to hit our target kung ang ating titingnan ay itong trend na ito, kasi ganyan na karaming (surrenders) January lang, magandang indicator to say the least," AFP spokesperson Col. Edgard Arevalo said Sunday.

Earlier, the AFP vowed to reduce NPA's strength nationwide by half, if not totally by this year.

"Mahirap-tayong magsalita ng conclusive lalo't lalo na January pa lang naman ngayon, that's why very carefully sinasabi natin if this trend is going to continue we are confident that we will be able to hit our target," Arevalo said.

From Jan. 1 to 29, military records revealed that 310 NPAs surrendered from various parts of the country 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," AFP public affairs office chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia said.

One of the notable surrenderees is Gemma Quiroga, 35, of Davao Oriental who surrendered to the 28th Infantry Battalion last Jan. 27.

Garcia said the former was a squad medic of the NPAs 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 is hoping the recent surrenders will encourage other rebels to lay down their arms, abandon violent extremism and embrace the peaceful path towards. **(PNA)**

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

## Tribal leader, son killed by suspected NPA rebels

A tribal leader of the Langilang-Manobo tribe and his son were shot dead by armed men inside their home in Barangay Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao del Norte on Sunday dawn.

The victims, Datu Banadjao Mampaundag and his son, Jhonard Mampaundag, were attacked around 4 a.m. inside their home by the armed men posing as soldiers but were believed members of the New People's Army (NPA).

AFP Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom) spokesperson Maj. Ezra Balagtey said the attackers were Tagalog-speaking members of the NPA who entered the house of the Mampaundags and murdered the two tribal leaders.

Balagtey said a medical team from Talaingod was sent to give assistance but they stopped when the team heard an explosion.

The remains of Banadjao and Jhonard are still in Sitio Igang waiting to be retrieved.

The NPA members were believed to be in an ambush position and could possibly attack army troops who would respond to the incident.

The incident happened a day after Banadjao came home from the two-day "Panagtagbo Alang sa Kalinaw ug Kalambuan," an Indigenous Peoples Leaders' Summit held in Davao City at the Green Height convention Center on January 31 and February 1.

Banadjao was one of the participants of the gathering at the EastMinCom headquarters in Panacan, Davao City where President Rodrigo Duterte called on tribal leaders from four regions in Mindanao to "dissociate from the NPA."

"Distansya mo as NPA. Ayaw mo pakig away (You distance yourselves from the NPA. Do not fight them," he had told them.

The two-day IP Leaders Summit was aimed at providing the "lumads" with an avenue to air their concerns to the national government.

Two of the issues included security and lack of economic opportunities.

Banadjao was also one of those who signed a manifesto calling for a push on their struggle and fight for self-determination based on their customary laws, cultures and traditions passed by their ancestors that are deeply rooted in their communities.

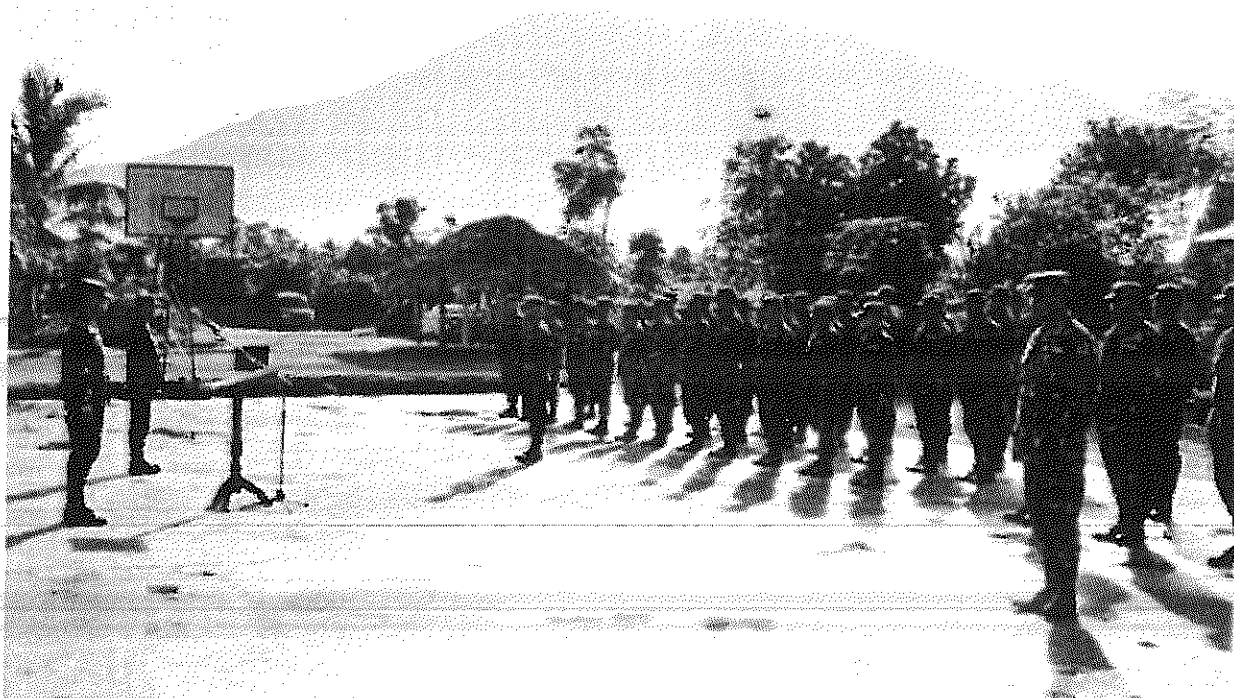
In the manifesto, they vowed not to fail Duterte in his peace and development program spelled-out in the administration's 10-point socioeconomic agenda.

www.inquirer.net

# Cafgu member killed in misencounter with soldiers in Kalinga

By: Villamor Visava Jr. - @inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Northern Luzon / 01:11 PM February 04, 2018



With Mt. Isarog in the background, members of the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu) stand in formation in Camp Elias Angeles in Pili, Camarines Sur province. INQUIRER FILE / JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

TABUK CITY – A member of the Civilian Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu) was killed in an alleged misencounter with soldiers at Pinukpuk town in Kalinga province last Friday, a belated police report said.

Rashid Alunday died in the clash in Barangay (village) Tagay when his team stationed at an observation post in the mountains battled with what turned out to be a squad from the 56th Infantry Battalion, said Senior Supt. Alfredo Dangani, Kalinga police director.

The Army has yet to issue a statement. The Kalinga police are investigating the incident. /cbb