

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



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

06 February 2018

Tuesday

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

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST FEBRUARY 6, 2018 TUESDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING LUZON LOW PRESSURE AREA ESTIMATED AT 325 KM EAST OF GUIAN, EASTERN SAMAR at of 5:00 pm February 5, 2018

LAOAG CITY 20-26 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY 19-27 °C
BAGUIO CITY 19-22 °C
SBMA/CLARK 22-29 °C
METRO MANILA 23-30 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 27 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 25-27 °C
ILOILO/ BACOLOD CITY 24-29 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 24-29 °C
METRO CEBU 24-29 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 24-30 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 23-32 °C
METRO DAVAO 25-31 °C

SUNRISE 6:23 AM
SUNSET 5:57 PM
MOONRISE 11:21 PM
MOONSET 10:40 AM
FULL MOON JAN 31 9:27 PM
LAST QUARTER FEB 7 11:54 PM
LOW TIDE 8:34 AM 0.04 Meter
HIGH TIDE 1:31 AM 0.72 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

CITY	FEB 6	FEB 7	FEB 8	FEB 9	FEB 10
METRO MANILA	23-30 °C	24-31 °C	20-27 °C	21-28 °C	24-29 °C
TUGUEGARAO	19-26 °C	19-28 °C	23-27 °C	23-28 °C	24-31 °C
LAOAG	21-27 °C	22-28 °C	25-31 °C	26-31 °C	24-31 °C
BAGUIO	14-23 °C	14-23 °C	24-29 °C	24-30 °C	24-31 °C
SBMA/CLARK	22-29 °C	22-30 °C	24-30 °C	25-30 °C	24-31 °C
TAGAYTAY	27 °C	27 °C	27 °C	27 °C	27 °C
LEGAZPI	25-27 °C	25-27 °C	25-27 °C	25-27 °C	25-27 °C
ILOILO/ BACOLOD	24-29 °C	24-29 °C	24-29 °C	24-29 °C	24-29 °C
METRO CEBU	24-29 °C	24-29 °C	24-29 °C	24-29 °C	24-29 °C
TACLOBAN	24-29 °C	24-30 °C	24-29 °C	24-30 °C	24-30 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	24-31 °C	25-32 °C	24-31 °C	25-32 °C	24-31 °C
METRO DAVAO	25-32 °C	25-32 °C	25-32 °C	25-32 °C	25-32 °C
ZAMBOANGA	23-32 °C	23-33 °C	23-32 °C	23-33 °C	23-32 °C

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

SAGOT NG PADALA MO!

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



February 2018

The Manila Times

Page: A1

DENG VAXIA MESS

VACC, PAO sue Health officials

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

THE VOLUNTEERS Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) and the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) have filed administrative and civil cases against officials of the Department of Health (DoH) in connection with the controversial dengue immunization program.

Lawyers Nasser Maronomsalic, Glenn Chong and Manuelito Luna filed the VACC complaint before the Office of the President on Monday against Undersecretaries Carol Tanio, Gerardo Bayugo, Lilibeth David, and Mario Villaverde; Assistant Secretaries Lyndon Lee Suy and Nestor Santiago; Director Laureano Cruz; Directors Joyce Ducusin and Mar Wynn Bello; Director IV Leonila Gorgolon, Rio

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CHARGE FROM A1

VACC, PAO

Magpantay and Ariel Valencia, and Director Julius Lecciones

The VACC, which was joined by the Vanguard of the Philippine Constitution, Inc. accused the DoH officials of committing "grave misconduct and gross negligence" for "ill-advisedly, thoughtlessly, or imprudently" implementing the anti-dengue vaccine program.

"We accused them of gross negligence and grave misconduct. These two crimes are twin crimes, twin brothers or sisters, they go together on the ground that these people violated medical protocols in the consideration of the program, the Dengvaxia program, as well as violations of certain provisions of the Procurement Reform Law," Marohomsalictold reporters during an interview.

Now these medical protocols violated consist of the following: there were clinical trials but the clinical trials only reached up to Phase 3, there's supposed to be Phase 4. But despite the absence of

clinical trial four they implemented already Dengvaxia. They have already established or organized task forces. To top it all, there was no procurement yet of the Dengvaxia vaccine. It was only on [March 9, 2016] that the purchase order was signed by certain officials of the DoH and yet they made already the launch program and mass-vaccinated children," he added.

In the complaint, the VACC and Vanguard also asked Malacañang to suspend the DoH officials pending investigation to prevent them from using their power to "destroy, hide or tamper with the evidence as well as intimidate potential witnesses against them."

The DoH suspended the anti-dengue vaccination program in December 2017, after manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur revealed that Dengvaxia could cause severe dengue in individuals who did not contract the virus prior to immunization.

Over 800,000 children have been inoculated with Dengvaxia prior to the release of these new findings.

Questionable procurement

The two groups questioned the

procurement of Dengvaxia vaccine, which they claimed was "fast tracked" and might have violated the Government Procurement Reform Act.

"There is an urgent and imperious necessity to preventively suspend all the respondents pendente lite so that they may not use their power or influence to destroy, hide or tamper with the evidence as well as intimidate potential witnesses against them, or otherwise obstruct justice," it added.

On Friday, February 2, the VACC lodged a complaint before the Commission on Elections against former president Benigno Aquino 3rd, former Health Secretary Janette Garin, former Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, four former DoH officials, and 13 active DOH officials over the Dengvaxia fiasco.

The VACC accused Aquino and other respondents of violating Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code when they allowed the release of P3.5 billion in public funds for the procurement of the Dengvaxia vaccine.

Parents sue Garin, 30 others

The PAO on Monday assisted the

family of a Dengvaxia recipient in filing a complaint against 31 officials said to be responsible for the vaccination program.

Chief Public Attorney Persida Acosta assisted the family of 10-year-old Anjielica Pestilos when they filed the complaint at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court past 4 p.m.

The charges were filed in connection with the death of Pestilos, the first Dengvaxia case handled by PAO.

A civil case for damages amounting to around P4.1 million was filed against former Health secretary Janette Garin, former Health Undersecretary Vicente Belizario and former Undersecretary Kenneth Hartigan-Go.

Incumbent Health officials were also named in the complaint - Bayugo, Suy, Ducusin, Division Chief Rosalind Vianzon, and Director Mario Baquilod.

Charges were also filed against officials of French pharmaceutical company Sanofi, namely Carlito Realuyo, Stanislas Camart, Jean Louis Grunwald, Jean-Francois Vacherand, Conchita Santos, Jazel Anne Calvo, Pearl Grace Cabali and Maria Ester Antoni, who exported the vaccines to the country.

Officials of distributor Zuellig

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Pharma Corp. were also cited in the complaint. Kasigod Jamias, Michael Becker, Ricardo Romulo, Imran Babar, Raymund Azurin, Nilo Badiola, John Stokes Davison, Marc Franck, Ashley Antonio, Ana Liza Peralta, Rosa Maria Chua, Danilo Cahoy, Manuel Concio 3rd, Roland Goci and Ma. Visitation Barreiro.

Ramil Pestilos, father of Anjellica, said that he was "thankful" that the case was finally filed.

"*Sana ho makamit na talaga namin yung hustisya* (I hope we really attain justice)," he told *The Manila Times*.

In a news briefing earlier, PAO forensic expert Erwin Erfe said results from Pestilos' autopsy indicated that her body was already weak when she received the vaccine.

This resulted in Pestilos contracting a viscerotropic-like disease, or acute multiple organ failure that occurs after a vaccination.

Erfe said Pestilos' body showed severe bleeding of lungs and other internal organs—familiar symptoms linked to severe dengue.

"Pestilos should have been excluded prior to the vaccination. She has no history of dengue," Erfe said.

WITH GLEE JALEA

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The National Newspaper

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Sanofi rejects full refund

Firm faces P4.1M damage suit

BY PETER TABINGO
AND GERARD NAVAL

SANOFI Pasteur, makers of Dengvaxia, yesterday rejected the Philippine government's demand for a full refund of more than P3 billion spent for the procurement of the dengue vaccines.

Thomas Triomphe, Sanofi's Asia-Pacific head, made the announcement at yesterday's continuation of the joint hearings by the House committees on health and good government and public accountability.

Triomphe said Sanofi Pasteur only agreed to refund the cost of unused vaccines amounting to P1.4 billion but cannot reimburse the cost of the used vaccines because it would give the impression that Dengvaxia is ineffective or unsafe.

Sanofi Pasteur, in a statement, insisted that Dengvaxia is effective in protecting the general public versus dengue.

In lieu of a refund, Sanofi said it is willing to provide new doses of the vaccine, free of charge, if the DOH decides to reinstate the community-based dengue vaccination program.

Sanofi also rejected the Department of Health's demand that it set up an indemnification fund for children who may be hospitalized after getting immunized with the dengue vaccine.

It said the initial results of the investigation of the Philippine General Hospital - Dengue Investigate Task Force (PGH-DITF) showed there is no evidence directly linking Dengvaxia to any of the 14 children's deaths attributed to dengue.

Sanofi reiterated its offer of assistance

to those who will be proven to have been adversely affected by Dengvaxia.

"Should there be any case of injury due to dengue that has been demonstrated by credible scientific evidence to be causally related to vaccination, we will assume responsibility," it said.

The Public Attorney's Office (PAO) filed a lawsuit against Sanofi demanding compensation of up to P4.1 million for the parents of 10-year-old Anjelica Pestilos, who allegedly died as a result of receiving the vaccine.

The civil case was filed before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on behalf of the family of Pestilos, of Bgy. Holy Spirit, who died last December.

Among the 31 respondents in the civil case are the board of directors and officials of Sanofi Pasteur, the board of

directors and officials of local distributor Zuellig Pharma Corp., former health secretary Janette Garin, resigned health undersecretaries Kenneth Hartigan-Go and Vicente Belizario Jr., Health Undersecretary Gerardo Bayugo, and other senior DOH officials.

PAO said Pestilos should not have been given the vaccine because a forensic examination showed she had lupus, a pre-existing disease.

PAO forensic expert Erwin Erfe told a news conference that Pestilos had severe bleeding from her lungs, liver, heart, and stomach, which was caused by the injection of Dengvaxia.

A separate administrative case was also filed on Monday before the Office

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FIRM

of the President by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption and the Vanguard of the Philippine Constitution.

Named respondents were DOH undersecretaries Carol Tanio, Gerardo Bayugo, Lilibeth David, and Mario Villaverde; health assistant secretaries Lyndon Lee Suy and Nestor Santiago; and directors Laureano Cruz, Joyce Ducusin, Mar Wynn Bello, Leonila Gorgolon, Rio Magpantay, Ariel Valencia, and Julius Lecciones.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said Sanofi Pasteur should even be sued in international courts.

“Let us look at the grievance procedure in the contract,” Pimentel said in a text message.

Lawmakers questioned the process by which Dengvaxia was allowed for distribution in the country despite what they cited as contrary regulatory policies of the Department of Health (DOH) and

the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Iloilo Rep. Ferjanel Biron said the vaccine had not secured a certificate from the European Medicines Agency (EMA), as its application was still pending, when it was allowed in the country.

“What is happening is that Sanofi is making us a guinea pig. We should have been strict and required strictly that this product should be registered in the French FDA before we allowed it to be exported to our country,” Biron said.

Melody Zamudio, officer-in-charge of the FDA’s Center for Drug Regulation and Research, explained that Dengvaxia complied with the requirements under the agency’s rules through the submission of “good manufacturing compliance and certificate of resale.”

Former Health Secretary Janette Garin was nearly mobbed by irate mothers after attending the House hearing on Dengvaxia.

It was under Garin’s watch at

the DOH that the procurement of Dengvaxia was approved to be administered to public school students in areas with the biggest concentration of dengue incidents.

Garin had just entered the elevator when four angry women tried to grab her, screaming that she was responsible for killing their children.

House security personnel and Garin’s companions were able to shield her from the assault.

The women later acknowledged that none of their children have died but said they are constantly worried about the health of their kids, particularly when any of them shows signs of being sick.

They appealed to government to ensure free treatment for their children and thousands of public school students who were vaccinated with Dengvaxia if only to allay fears that they could succumb to life-threatening complications from the vaccine at any moment.

They asked that the benefit include free health care support

including laboratory tests.

MORE AUTOPSIES

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II and Health Secretary Francisco Duque III rejected calls to stop the exhumation and autopsies on the suspected fatalities due to Dengvaxia vaccines since doing so will not bring out the truth behind their deaths.

Roque said it would be best if the autopsies will done by government doctors from the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital or the medico-legal experts from the National Bureau of Investigation because of their impartiality but said the Public Attorney’s Office can still perform the autopsies.

Roque said the UP-PGH will forward all its findings to the NBI after it has concluded with its investigation. – *With Evan Orias, JP Lopez, Raymond Africa and Ashzel Hachero*

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69th IB back to mother unit after 10 years

BY VICTOR REYES

AN Army battalion is back to its mother unit in Central Luzon after 10 years of fighting secessionist, terrorist, and communist forces in Mindanao.

The 69th Infantry Battalion, composed of around 500 men, was welcomed yesterday by the 7th Infantry Division in rites held at the division's headquarters in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Lijija.

The battalion will now be used in the renewed campaign against the New People's Army which has been declared by President Duterte as a terrorist group, together with the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The Duterte government cancelled formal peace negotiations with the communists in November last year. The military targets to degrade the NPA capability within the year. The NPA, the armed wing of the CPP, has some 3,700 men, according to the military.

The 69th IB will start with its new assignment after re-training, said Lt. Catherine Hapin, spokeswoman of the 7th ID.

The battalion became a major subordinate unit of the 7th ID in August 1989 and was first assigned

in Bataan. In 2007, it moved to Pampanga and later to Aurora. It was in August 2008 when the battalion was deployed to North Cotabato, under the operational control of the 6th ID based in Maguindanao, and battled secessionist forces.

A year later, the battalion was transferred to Davao del Norte, under the operational control of the 10th ID based in Compostela Valley, and operated against communist rebels.

In 2016, it was redeployed to Sulu, an area where the Abu Sayyaf operates, under the military's Joint Task Force Sulu. Sulu was the battalion's last deployment, prior its return to the control of the 7th ID.

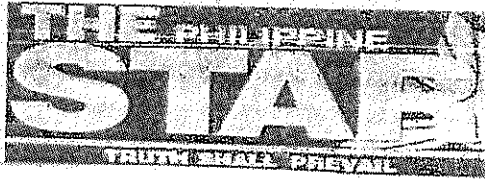
"During their stay in Mindanao, the 69th IB played an important role in the joint security operations for the apprehension of members of secessionist groups and in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf Group," said Hapin.

Maj. Gen. Filemon Santos, 7th ID commander, said he is glad the battalion is back with the 7th ID.

During the ceremony, Santos installed Lt. Col. Alcadio Posada as battalion commander, replacing Lt. Col. Ali-Luis Mucatawis, said.

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3 Sayyaf men surrender

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Three Abu Sayyaf bandits surrendered in Basilan over the weekend. Garama Sulayman, 21; Omar Jaljalis, 18, and Marhaban Pael, 34, turned over two M16 rifles, a 5.56 mm Carbine as well as rounds of ammunition to personnel of the Joint Task Force Basilan in Sumisip, JTEB commander Brig. Gen. Juvymas Uy said.

Sulayman, alias Abu Tarik, is with the group of Radzmil Jannatul while Jaljalis, alias Oman, is a follower of Furuji Indama.

– Roel Pareño

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POLICE FILES

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3 Abu Sayyaf sumuko sa militar sa Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Isinasailalim na sa custodial debriefing sa headquarter ng militar, ang tatlo pang akribong kasapi ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang dagdag na sumuko sa militar sa Basilan.

Ayon kay Joint Task Force Basilan Commander Brigadier General Juvymax Uy, ang mga sumukong bandido ay nakilalang sina Garama Sulayman, 21; Omar Lalajahs, 18, at Mahaban Facl, 34, pawang residente ng munisipyo ng Sumisip.

Isumuko rin nila ang mga bari kabilang ang M16 A1 rifle at 5.56mm carbine rifle na may dalawang short magazine at mga bala.

Inihayag ni Uy na umang nakipag-ugnayan ang tatlong ASG members kay Sumisip municipal Mayor Boy Hataman na siyang nagdala naman sa kanila sa militar.

Ayon sa tatlo (3) nagawa nilang sumuko dahil sa pagod, lurap at gutom na kanilang nararanasan sa loob ng teroristang grupong asg maliban pa dito ang kanilang nararanasang pang-aabuso sa kamay kanilang mga lider at kasamahan kagaya ng pambubugbog, pagmamaltrato at magsan pinaparatay, pahayag ni Uy.

Sinabi naman ni Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) Commander Lieutenant General Carlo G. Galvez, Jr. na umaabot na sa 170 ang kabuuang bilang ng mga miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf ang sumuko sa kanilang tropa simula noong Enero 2017.

Sa nasaibang orilang, Tinio ay nula sa Basilan 60 sa Sulu, 33 sa Tawi-Tawi at dalawa sa Zamboanga City.

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Pahina. 7

3 Abu Sayyaf terrorists, sumuko

NORTH COTABATO
- Tatlong Abu Sayyaf terrorists ang sumuko sa mga sundalo sa bayan ng Al-Barka, Basilan noong Linggo ng umaga.

Ayon sa ulat, kusang nagsisuko sa 74th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army ang tatlong Abu Sayyaf na sina Garama Sulayman 21, Omar Jaljalis 18, at si Marhaban Pael 24, mga nakatira sa Tipo-Tipo at Al Barka.

Ayon kay Lt. Gen Carlito Galvez, kabilang sa

mga isinuko ay ang dalawang M16-A1 rifles at 5 56-millimeter Carbine rifle at mga ammunition.

Batay sa ulat ng military, si Sulayman ay ika-9 most wanted na Abu Sayyaf sa Basilan sa ilalim ng kanilang sub-leader na si Radzmi Jannatul.

Si Jaljalis ay kabilang sa grupo ni Furuji Indama habang wala namang impormasyon kay Pael.

"Surrenderees in the

Basulta (Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi) areas continue to snowball as the Western Mindanao Command, through the different Joint Task Forces, sustains its security operations, particularly isolating the reformables from the hard core ASG members, through community-based dialogue, community support programs, and diplomatic mentoring," wika ni Galvez. **Rhoderick Beñez**

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AFP unfazed by Joma's 'one soldier a day' threat

Despite warnings coming from Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Joma Sison, the military is more than willing to carry out its mandate of protecting the country against all forms of threat.

This was emphasized by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Col. Edgard Arcvalo yesterday when sought for a comment regarding Sison's claim that the New People's Army (NPA) can kill at least one soldier a day to force the government to revive the peace talks.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines will continue to do its mandate of serving and protecting the people from such terrorists like the NPA," he added.

Arcvalo added that the CPP founder's claim only shows the true colors of the communist movement.

He stressed that such threats will not diminish the AFP's resolve in preserving the peace and aiding development in the countryside.

"(These threats) will not diminish our resolve to further enhance our services especially peace and development efforts, and infrastructure development particularly in the countryside," the military official pointed out.

Arcvalo added that the risk of

getting wounded or losing their lives in the line of duty is part and parcel of being a member of the AFP.

"To live in constant danger is part of the sworn duty of every serviceman. With or without threat to the lives of our soldiers, our troops will be there for our people in the communities where they are most needed," he stressed.

Meanwhile, presidential spokesman Harry Roque yesterday said he finds it suspect that a left-wing lawmaker hinted a possible threat from the NPA.

Talking to reporters at a Palace briefing, the official took note of Anakpawis partylist Rep. Ariel Casilao's statement the other day claiming that NPA combatants may retaliate on government peace consultants following the arrest of senior National Democratic Front (NDF) official Rafael Baylosis in Quezon City last week.

"Curiously, it appears that Casilao appears to be privy to information from inside the New People's Army," Roque said.

"To me, he sounded like he was speaking on behalf of the NPA with his warning that government negotiators may also be arrested by the NPA," he added.

But whether Casilao is an NPA mouthpiece, such threat turns tables

for leftist groups who keep on assailing state security forces of human rights violations on rebels claiming to be NDF "peace consultants."

The NPA, Roque stressed, cannot claim any state-like authority such as "arresting" government personalities.

"(Arresting government negotiators) will be a crime. That would be kidnapping, if not, a violation also of the International Humanitarian Law because combatants will be apprehending innocent civilians," Roque said.

"The peace negotiators are not combatants - I underscore that fact, and they're not facing any arrest warrants and only Philippine law enforcement agencies and the NPA have the power to effect these arrests," he added.

"The NPA has absolutely no legal basis to arrest members of the government peace panel. It is criminal, it is a war crime. It is the NPA that refused to follow the rule of law."

Casilao, for his part, said yesterday that what he said does not constitute any threat to government peace negotiators.

"My statement on the matter was a well-meaning concern and does not carry a shred of hostility toward

the (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) panel and its staff," the lawmaker said.

"In fact, it's a call for both parties, the NDF and the GRP to resume the peace talks to address the root causes of the armed conflict," he added.

Also, Roque clarified that President Duterte's desire to invite investors in Lumad ancestral lands is meant to foil NPA recruitment among the indigenous folks.

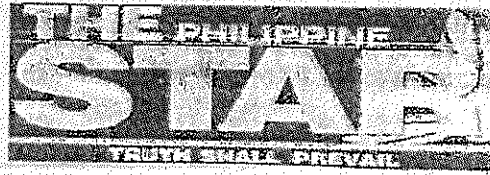
The Chief Executive does not intend to forcibly dislocate Lumads out of their lands, his spokesman argued.

"The President's reaction to that is the ones violating the rights of the Lumads are the NPA because they are forcibly conscripting the Lumads into the NPA. In fact, the statistics is something like 80 percent of them are already conscripted by the NPAs and they have no choice because they do it under the point of the barrel of a gun," Roque said.

"That's why the solution of the President is to create economic opportunities in the Lumads area, because generally poverty reduction will empower the individuals, the Lumad communities and will drive away the members of the NPA in the first place when there is increased progress," he added.

Ted Tuvera and PMA

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AFP unfazed by Joma's threat to kill soldier daily

BY MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is not going to be cowed by Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison's threat to have the New People's Army (NPA) kill one soldier a day to force the government to resume peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front (NDF).

"To live in constant danger is part of the sworn duty of every serviceman. With or without threat to the lives of our soldiers, our troops will be there for our people in the communities where they are most needed," military spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said yesterday.

"Such threat by Joma only shows the true color of the CPP-NPA, (but) that will not diminish our resolve to further enhance our services," he added.

Arevalo said the AFP would continue to do its mandate of serving and protecting the people from NPA rebels, now considered terrorists by the government.

For his part, Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva, spokesman for the Philippine Army, said soldiers always abide by the provision of human rights.

"What we are promoting is peace. We are not after waging war against (terrorists). We want to offer (them peaceful resolution)," Villanueva stressed.

Sison, in a statement, denounced the recent arrest of NDF consultants like Rafael Baylosis who, according to him, are protected by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

As its chief political consultant, Sison advised the NDF to recommend to the CPP and NPA to respect the JASIG as a solemn agreement that protects the negotiating personnel of both the NDF and the government.

"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," Sison said.

What the NPA can do, Sison added, to persuade the government to resume the negotiations is to carry out the CPP's tactical offensives against armed units of the AFP, Philippine National Police and auxiliary forces and to punish human rights violators, local tyrants, land grabbers, drug lords and other notorious criminals.

The AFP, on the other hand, believes that the NPA is weakened by combat military operations and efforts to educate the people of the false promises that the communist movement gives.

One proof of the rebel group's diminishing capability, the military claimed, was the surrender of 326 self-confessed members of the rebel group last month.

The NPA has no basis to arrest government negotiators.

Malacañang said yesterday, after a lawmaker warned that the capture of communist consultants could prod the rebels to retaliate.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Ariel Casilao has warned that the arrest of NDF consultants could prompt the NPA to capture members of the government negotiating panel.

Casilao made the remark days after government forces arrested NDF consultant Baylosis and his companion Guillermo Roque in Quezon City, the first communists to be nabbed since President Duterte classified the NPA and the CPP as terrorist groups.

But presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said the NPA rebels would commit a

criminal act or a war crime if they seize government negotiators.

"That will be a crime; that would be kidnapping, if not, a violation also of (international humanitarian law) because combatants will be apprehending innocent civilians. The peace negotiators are not combatants. I underscore that fact, and they're not facing any arrest warrants," Roque said in a press briefing.

Roque said Baylosis' arrest was pursuant to a lawful arrest order.

"He will have to defend himself in court as required by law, and he will have to prove that he is innocent of the criminal charges lodged against him," the spokesman said. — With Alexis Romero

Sison nag-utos sa NPA ng mga pag-atake laban sa gobyerno Papatay ng 1 sundalo kada araw!

HIMOK ni Com-
munist Party of the Phil-
ippines (CPP) na pinam-
an Jose Maria Sison
ang mga miyembro ng
New People's Army na
magsagawa ng mas ma-
raming pag-atake laban sa
gobyerno.

Sa isang Statement
sinabuhin Sison na sa gan-
itong paraan mapapilitan
ang gobyerno na pagpapal-
itoy ang alok na usapang
pangkapayapaan sa re-
beldeng grupo.
Nabimula pa rin Sison na
may kakayahang ang NPA
na pumalit ayon sa isang sun-
dalok kada araw sa labimpit-
rong eskalyon sa bansa.

Ayon kay Sison, aabot
sa limang daan at sampu
ping sundalo ang mapapal-
itoy ng NPA kada ahon-
wan.

Itutabas ni Sison ang



bagong kaunsa sa NPA
matapos arestuhin ng mga
pulis kamakailan si NDF

consultant Rafael Baylo-
sis sa Quezon City
Sa kabila ng panghi-

himok ni Sison sa NPA
na magsagawa ng mas
maraming pag-atake sa
gobyerno, pinayuhan
naman nito ang rebeldeng
grupo na igalang pa rin
ang Joint Agreement on
Safety and Immunity
Guarantees o JASIG.

Pero ayon kay Presi-
dential Spokesman Har-
ry Roque, wala nang
saysay ang JASIG dahil
matagal nang kinansela ni
Pangulong Rodrigo Du-
terte ang alok na usapang
pangkapayapaan sa
rebeldeng grupo.

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Military unfazed by Sison threat to kill 1 soldier daily

The Armed Forces of the Philippines is unfazed by Communist Party of the Philippines founding chairman Jose Maria Sison's threat that the New People's Army can kill one soldier per region every day to force the government to revive the peace talks.

According to AFP spokesman Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo, Sison's threat doesn't affect and will not diminish their resolve to further enhance their services, especially peace and development efforts, and infrastructure development particularly in the countryside.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines will continue to do its

mandate of serving and protecting the people from such terrorists like the NPA," Arevalo said. "To live in constant danger is part of the sworn duty of every serviceman. With or without threat to the lives of our soldiers, our troops will be there for our people in the communities where they are most needed," he added.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva said the PA always abides by human rights. "What we are promoting is peace. We are not after waging war against them because if we will continue to pursue *yung magiging sabi nga na inhumane* approaches, *hindi naman matatapos ang problema*

sa bansa natin. So as much as possible what we want to offer to these terrorists is a peaceful resolution," Villanueva said.

Sison, also the National Democratic Front of the Philippines chief political consultant, had earlier said that the NPA has the capacity of knocking out at least one AFP soldier every day per region in all of the country's 17 regions to force the government to revive the peace talks.

"That eliminates at least 510 enemy troops or some five companies every month nationwide. That translates to the elimination of some 60 companies.

(Turn to Page 12)

Military...

(From Page 7)

or 20 basic battalions every year," Sison said in a statement he posted online and titled "On JASIG and what the NPA can do to compel GRP to resume peace negotiations with NDFP."

"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," he added. (Francis T. Wakefield)

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Page. 2

NPA BAPATAY NG 1 SUNDALO ARAW-ARAW

Palasyo kay Joma: Manood ka!

Ni Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos

Naandigan ang Malacanang na hindi na makitapas (gawap) sa mga tumutulong-ebelde sa kabila ng bansa ng Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding Chairman Joma Sison na sundalan ninyo ang New People's Army (NPA) na pumalay na pang sundalo kada araw. Kung tumanggap ang gobyerno na ititloy ang usapang pangkapayapaan.

Vagbanta si Sison, dalawang buwan nakaraan ang anselasyon Pangulong Duterte ang pedetalks sa CPP dahil tumano sa kawalang susundad ng mga komunistang partikular na sa paglabag sa deasepre.

Sinabi kahapon na Presidential spokesperson, Joma Roque na susulano ng mamarte ni Sison ang mawala sa ang gobyerno at makalapat ng kontrolado ng CPP-NPA, NPA, National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

“Isa ito kani taluhod? Ano ba ang kakamara (Sison) sa bukong Sandatahan, kani mamarte kaya? Manood siya!” sabi ni Roque.

“Araw- araw ang Presidente sana na tumatak ng dugo, pero wag niyang tarakon ang gobyerno na parang kontrolador na ang teritoryo ng Pilipinas, dagdag sa Roque. “Go ahead, make all the threats, he wants.”

Na pag-usap nang ang kapayapaan binigyan na ng a-sta ng free passes, pagdadala pasula sa Norway, all expenses paid, patuloy pa rin ang pagpapatay nila ng sundalo. Aring mangyari sa atin diyari, dagdag pa ni Roque.

Umaang sinabi ni Sison, chief political consultant ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines (ANDFP) na kaya ng NPA, kani kakalabsa 17 rehiyon sa bansa, pagpapatay sa isang sundalo bawat araw, sa kada rehiyon.

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Malacañang, military dismiss Joma threat

**BY RAYMOND AFRICA
AND VICTOR REYES**

MALACAÑANG yesterday said government will not give in to threats issued by Jose Ma “Joma” Sison, founding chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines, to force government to resume peace negotiations with the communist group.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Armed Forces and the PNP are ready to crush the New People’s Army, the commu-

nist party’s armed wing.

The military is also unfazed by Sison’s warning that NPA could step up attacks and kill one soldier in each of the 17 regions everyday to force government to resume the talks.

“To live in constant danger is part of the sworn duty of every serviceman. With or without threat to the lives of our soldiers, our troops will be there for our people in the communities where they are most needed,” said AFP spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said there is nothing new in Sison’s threat.

“What else is new? They have been killing our men in greater number before. Mabuti ‘yan para the battle lines are clear (It’s good so that battle lines are clear),” he said.

On Sunday, Sison said what the NPA can do to compel the Duterte administration to resume the peace talks is intensify tactical offensives against government forces, punish

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MALACAÑANG

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

“With or without Duterte as president, the GRP will decide to negotiate peace when the people’s war can inflict larger casualties on enemy troops,” said Sison who has been on self-exile in the Netherlands since the late 80s.

Sison said the NPA has the capacity to knock out one soldier every day per region, or five companies every month. A military company is composed of around 100 to 120 officers and men.

Roque said Sison’s statements are nothing new. He said the NPA as always targeted men in uniform, even while the peace talks were ongoing.

“We will not bow down to them. Maybe he is belittling the might of the Armed Forces. Just he wait and

see. Sison is issuing statement as if he in full control of the territories of the country,” Roque said.

He also said the President does not want war but Sison should no threaten government as if he controls the Philippines.

Duterte resumed formal peace talks with the CPP-NPA-National Democratic Front of the Philippines in August 2016. Sison is the NDFP’s chief political consultant.

Duterte cancelled the negotiations in November last year because of continued NPA attacks on government forces, even while the talks were ongoing. The following month, he declared the CPP and NPA as terrorists groups and ordered the arrest of about 20 communist personalities he released in 2016 to allow them to participate in the talks. The first to fall was Rafael Baylosis, NDFP consultant, who was arrested in Quezon City on Wednesday last week.

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The Manila Times

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Palace vows to push back vs NPA rebels

THE Philippine government will not back down in its campaign against members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF). Malacañang warned on Monday amid the threat of CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison that the rebel group would kill one soldier per day to force the government to revive the peace talks.

"We will not kneel. What does he think of our Armed Forces? That we will not push back? Watch us," Palace spokesman Harry Roque said.

"There is no difference in the position of the NPA because even during the height of the peace talks, they were killing soldiers. What's new?" he added.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman, said Sison's threats only shows the "true colors" of the communists.

"Such threat will not diminish our resolve to further enhance our services especially peace and development efforts, and infrastructure development particularly in the countryside," Arevalo said in a statement. "To live in constant danger is part of the sworn duty of every serviceman. With or without threat to the lives of our soldiers, our troops will be there for our people in the communities where they are most

needed," he added.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Sison's statement cleared battle lines.

"What else is new? They have been killing our men in greater [number] before. That's good so that the battle lines are clear." According to Sison, the NPA has the "advantage" since it enjoys the support of the people and can 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," he said.

Roque warned Sison to stop threatening the government.

"The President does not want any blood to drop but he [Sison] should not threaten the government like he controls the Philippines. The government had peace talks because we want to let all Filipinos live in peace. But they did not want to, [they broke ceasefires]."

"Even during peace talks and even if they were given free passes, all expenses paid trips to Norway, they continued killing our soldiers," Roque said.

The peace talks between the CPP/NDF and the government were cancelled in November last year.

RALPH EDWIN U. VILLANUEVA AND DEMPSEY REYES

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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NPA and extortion

The disclosure made by Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba that the communist New People's Army rebels operating in his province stands to collect thru extortion some of P80 million from the P20 billion Department of Public Works and Highways appropriation for 2018 is really shocking, as the bandits have really turned into a criminal extortion ring like the Mafia.

Since the amount of P80 million would be sourced from the private contractors implementing the government projects, this would mean the latter would have to set aside funds 'to buy peace' to enable them to carry out said projects.

If this is true, it means that the NPAs are now considered an 'added cost' from the point of view of the contractors and a cut on their profits, forcing them to make do of what were left out of their funds, thus implementing substandard infrastructures.

President Rodrigo Duterte's decision to scrap the peace talks with the CPP-NPAs could be the right move since the latter shows they no longer are interested in coming out with a peace deal with the government because they stand to lose hundreds of millions of pesos from their extortion activities.

I hope that some national government and local officials like governors and mayors would follow the lead of Gov. Mamba and expose the extent of the extortion and other criminal activities of NPAs operating in their respective localities. — JOMARIE KAYE PATALINGHUG, Cebu City

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Manila Standard

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NPA told: Arrest of peacekeepers a war crime

By Vito Barcelo and Francisco Tuyay

MALACANANG vowed on Monday to protect the safety of the government's peace panel amid threats by the New People's Army to "retaliate" by killing a soldier a day for arresting National Democratic Front consultant Rafael Baylosis and Guillermo

Roque.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said President Rodrigo Duterte wanted to avoid bloodshed but would not kneel to the Communist Party of the Philippines after CPP founder Jose Maria Sison threatened to punish the Duterte administration by launching tactical offensives across the country.

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NPA

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Roque said. The NPA has absolutely no legal basis to arrest members of the government peace panel. It is criminal. It is a war crime.

He explained Baylosis' arrest was lawful in connection with the NDF consultant's murder raps over the 1985 Inopacan Leyte massacre.

"We'd like to underscore first that the arrest of Baylosis was pursuant to a lawful arrest order. Now as such, we should allow the legal process to proceed so that our justice system can take its due course," Roque said.

In a related development:

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said it would not be cowed by the recent threats of the CPP-NPA to eliminate one soldier daily in the 17 regions where it operates as soldiers normally live in danger in the pursuit of its mandated duty to serve the country.

AFP spokesperson Col. Edgard Arevalo emphasized that the threats of the CPP-NPA against peacekeepers was a decade-old illusion and a far-fetch reality

by the communist movement as it suffered continued defeat in different fronts.

"To live in constant danger is part of the sworn duty of every serviceman," Arevalo said, referring to the recent threat by Sison.

On Saturday, Sison issued a statement vowing to kill one soldier a day per region that could eliminate 510 enemy troops or some five companies every month nationwide, a threat after the government terminated the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees that eventually resulted in the arrest of Baylosis and three others.

Sison also ordered NPA cadres to conduct tactical offensives against the military and the police purportedly to compel the government to resume the peace negotiations.

Sison warned the government he would ask the NPA to continue the attacks on the government and kill one soldier per day until the government wanted to talk peace with them.

"The President is committed to ensuring the safety of the government's peace panel, and our security forces are ready to perform their mandate at all times," Roque told a press briefing.

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INQUIRY

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NHA: Sale of Kadamay house 'not isolated'

Housing agency starts validating records of Bulacan housing site occupants

By Jaymee T. Gamil
@GamilINC

The sale of a government housing unit in Bulacan province, which was brokered by a member of the urban poor group *Kaipunanang Damayang Mahahirap* (Kadamay), was not an isolated case, an official of the National Housing Authority (NHA) said on Monday.

A video footage taken by a supposed buyer, which started circulating online last week, shows a Kadamay member striking up a deal for the sale of a unit at the Padre Pio resettlement site in Barangay Cacarong Bata, Pandi town.

Validation process

"Is this an isolated case? No. There are reports coming in that we are already validating," John-Christopher Mahamud, NHA chief of staff, said on Monday.

The NHA, after the controversial video surfaced, started revalidating the 8,494 Kadamay members who occupied the housing units in Bulacan.

In a statement, Kadamay called the NHA's allegations of widespread selling of Kadamay-occupied units a "smear campaign."

"NHA is trying to [destroy]



Members of the urban poor group Kadamay take over unoccupied units in a government housing site in Pandi town, Bulacan province. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Kadamay because we exposed them. In truth, no one has been held responsible for their negligence in the government housing program. They want to evict Kadamay and slander the progressives who exposed their sins," said Gloria Arellano, Kadamay chair.

Arellano believed that the supposed buyer shown in the video was a "trap" set by the NHA itself.

Protest

In March last year, members of Kadamay occupied 5,278 idle low-cost housing units in Pandi as a form of protest against

what they called as slow and unproductive pace of the government's housing program.

President Duterte, in April last year, allowed Kadamay members to stay in the occupied houses, with both chambers of Congress issuing a resolution allowing the redistribution of housing units intended for personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

Romuel Alimboyao, NHA department manager for Central Luzon region, said that of the 1,483 units occupied by Kadamay members in the Padre Pio site, 667 were observed to

have "changing occupants," sign that these were possibly being rented out.

Illegal sale

NHA records showed that families in Pandi were found to have been awarded government housing units in the past 19 others had pending applications for other units.

Mahamud called on the public "not to fall prey to unscrupulous practice of illegal sale [government] properties."

"We will not recognize sale ... so aside from liability your money will be wasted said. INQ

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SHIFT TO FEDERALISM

'BANGSAMORO STATE COULD BE MODEL FOR FEDERALISM'

By **Christine O. Avendaño**
@oavendanoINQ

Two former members of the 1986 Constitutional Commission said on Monday that the Bangsamoro region to be put up under the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) could be a model for federalism that the country could learn from.

Former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr and Florangel Rosario Braid said Charter change for a shift to federalism could be postponed for five or 10 years while the country was studying the experience of the Bangsamoro region.

Davide and Braid spoke at the resumption of the public

hearing on the proposed BBL by a subcommittee of the Senate committee on local government chaired by Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Davide said he favored the approval of the proposed BBL ahead of Congress' move to push Charter change.

He expressed hopes that President Duterte would certify the proposed BBL as urgent. "Without it, we will have another Marawi war," he said.

Braid agreed with Davide that the Bangsamoro state could be a template for federalism. She said a five-year postponement would give the country the opportunity to learn from BBL's implementation. INQ

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Palace downplays China's 'almost done' militarization in SCS

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Malacañang yesterday downplayed reports that China is almost done militarizing seven Philippine-claimed reefs in the South China Sea, saying the Chinese built the structures before President Duterte assumed office.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the islands, located off Palawan, were reclaimed during the administration of former president Benigno Aquino III.

"You know when I saw the headline, yes it's a fact perhaps but is that news? I don't think so. I think the moment that they start the reclamation,

they declared that they will use it, they will have military facilities into the islands," he added.

"If the Aquino administration was not able to do anything about these artificial islands, what (do) they want us to do? We cannot declare war. Not only is it illegal, but it is also because it's impossible for us to declare war at this point," Roque said in a press briefing.

In 2013, the Aquino administration filed a case with the UN-backed arbitral tribunal based in The Hague contesting China's massive claim in the South China Sea. Three years later, the tribunal issued a ruling invalidating Beijing's

claim and reaffirming Manila's maritime entitlements.

But the ruling did not stop China from building artificial islands over Kagitingan (Fifery Cross), Panganiban (Mischiefs), Zamora (Subi), Burgos (Gaven), Kennan (Hughes), Mabini (Johnson South) and Calderon (Cuarteron) Reefs, which are all within Philippine territory.

Duterte, who has been seeking closer ties with China, has set aside the ruling but promised to bring it up before Chinese leaders within his term. Malacañang has said the Philippines would continue to rely on China's promise that it would not reclaim new islands.

"Those islands were reclaimed during the time of the former administration. They were complete in fact during the time of the previous administration, and I think whether or not we like it, they intended to use them as military bases," Roque said.

"So, what do you want us to say? All that we could do is to extract a promise from China not to reclaim any new artificial islands," he added.

"As I said, this militarization, if you can call it militarization, did not happen during the Duterte administration alone. It's been long militarized and the question is, what can we do? What did

the past administration do and what can we do?"

Roque said China has not built new artificial islands since Duterte assumed office in 2016. He brushed aside claims that China's construction activities would allow it to have de facto control of Philippine-claimed islands in the South China Sea.

"I don't think there's been an instance when China has curtailed freedom of navigation despite the fact that they have weapons in these reclaimed islands," the spokesman said.

"We hope not because after all, all countries that (have claims) are under obligation

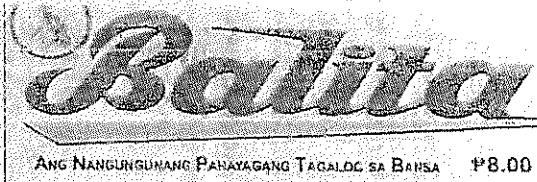
to refrain from the use of force, that is illegal under international law," he added.

Roque also shrugged off remarks from Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio that relying on the good faith of China is like relying on the good faith of a thief.

"This is a democracy, he's entitled to his opinion. But I would expect that next time, we would read his opinion in the form of a court decision because that's the function of the judicial branch of government. Or as I said, he could run an elective, legislative position if he wants to make policy for government," he said.

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NPA vice commander sumuko sa ComVal

Ni MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - Boluntaryong sumuko sa militar ang isang umano'y vice commander ng Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA)-Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC) nitong Sabado.

Ayon kay 71st Infantry (Kaibigan) Battalion commander Lt Col Esteveyn Ducusin, bukod sa vice commander, sumuko rin ang 1-tiba pang maadrigma ng kalsada sa Purok 8, Barangay Nueva Visayas sa Mawab, Compostela Valley.

Nilinaaw ni Ducusin na ang mga sumuko ay kaanib ng Sandatahang Yunit Pangpropaganda ng Guerrilla Front Committee 27 (FC 27) ng CPP-NPA.

Hindi muna ibinunyag ng militar ang pagkakalalaran ng mga ito para na rin sa kanilang seguridad.

Sinabi ni Ducusin na isinasailahin nila sa debriefing ang mga naturang

rebelde.

Nitong nakaraang linggo, aabot din sa walong miyembro ng NPA, na kaanib naman ng guerrilla-Front Committee 2, SRC 2 ng CPP-NPA-SMRC, ang sumuko rin sa kaparehong military unit.

Isinuko rin nila ang mga subersibong dokumento, kabilang ang mga reading materials na may titulong "100 Taon Rebolusyong Oktubre," iba't ibang bala, at isang cell phone, kung saan naka-record ang mga high-intelligence value information.

"The significant number of NPAs who surrendered almost every day is a manifestation that some NPA terrorists are already tired and because of this we continue our focused military operation to hunt down remaining communist terrorists who continue their violent acts against our constituents," pagdidin pa ni Ducusin.

Kaugnay rito, ibinunyag ng pulisya sa Agusan del Norte na nananatiling baranta pa rin sa kapayapaan at kaayusan ang pananatili ng NPA sa lalawigan.

Paliwanag ni Supt. Ometer, deputy director for operations ng

Agusan del Norte Police Provincial Office (PPO), nagagambala ang mga negosyo sa kapatagan, gayundin ang mga residente sa kanayunan sa pagmamalupit ng mga rebelde.

Aniya, tinalakay din nila ang usapin sa mga opisyal at miyembro ng Provincial Advisory Council (PAC) nitong Biyernes.

Tinukoy din ni Ometer na nakapagsagawa na sila ng siyam na combat operations laban sa NPA, habang aabot naman sa 726 na combat security patrols ang isinagawa ng pulisya, lalo na sa mga liblib at bulubunduking lugar sa lalawigan.

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Hustisya sa pinugutang CAFGU, giit

PROSPERIDAD - Agusan del Sur - Hustisya ang hiling kahapon ng isang limang-buwang buntis na ginang para sa brutal na pagkamatay ng kanyang mister sa kamay ng umang'y New Peoples Army (NPA) sa Sitio Hagimitan, Barangay Bolhoon sa San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

Umapela ni si Roselyn Q. Bocales, 30, kay Pangulong Duterte, sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), at sa Philippine National Police (PNP) na pagtuunan ng pansin ang pag-aresto sa pumatay sa asawa niyang si Mar Acevedo Bocales, miyembro ng tribung Manobo na nasa Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit Active Auxiliary (CAA), at nakatalaga sa CAA-Army Los Arcos Detachment ng Bgy. Los Arcos sa Prosperidad.

Enero 27 nang ipulat ang pagkawala ni CAA Bocales habang naghahanap ng para-para na maibebenta para makatutulong sa gastusin sa pagpapagamo ng kanyang anak.

Subalit wala nang buhay nang matagpuan ang biktima, isang araw matapos maulat ang kanyang pagkawala.

Sinabi ni Capt. Francisco P. Garelo,

Jr. Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer ng 36th Infantry (Valor) Battalion, na pinahirapan at pinugutan ang biktima ng mga humihinalang rebelde.

Inilarawan ang asawa na simple at pangarap na mapagtapos ang kanilang mga anak, nangangamba ngayon ang ginang kung paano niya bubuhayin ang tatlong anak.

Tinuyak naman ni Lt. Col. Xerxes A. Trinidad, commander ng 36th IB, kay

Roselyn na naayos na ng unit sa 9th SFC ang mga kaukulang dokumento para sa agarang tulong sa pamilya Bocales.

Sinabi ni Capt. Garelo na si Bocales ay dating miyembro at liaison man ng Milisya ng Bayan sa Section Command 21 ng NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee, at sumuko sa militar noong Disyembre 11, 2016, bitbit ang kanyang M14 rifle.

Mike U. Crismundo

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Pahina. 5

BANTA NG NPA SPARROW UNITS

ULYANIN naba o nagbibiro lamang itong si Jose Maria Sison at nagbanta siyang maaaring ilunsad na naman ng New People's Army (NPA) ang operasyon ng Sparrow Units nito?

Hindi biro ang mga binitiwan niyang pananalita na kaya ng NPA na pumatay ng isang sundalo sa bawat araw hanggang 510 kada buwan.

Nananakot itong si Joma na iyan ang mangyayari kapag hindi bumalik sa peace talks ang gobyerno makaraang patigil ni Pangulong Rodrigo "Digong"

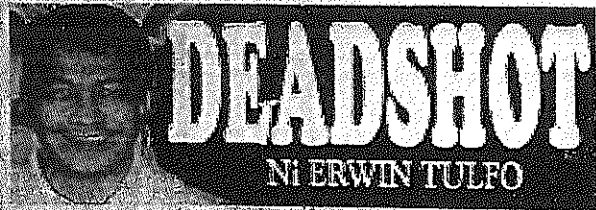
Duterte ang usapang pangkayapaan.

Hindi siguro naisip ng ulyanin na ito na lalo lamang magkakaroon ng katibayan ang gobyerno na may banta ng terorismo sa bansa.

Matatandaan na maraming pulis din ang naging biktima ng NPA Sparrow units, pati ang mga inosenteng pulis na nagtatrapik sa kalsada.

Mayroong mga pulis na pauwi sa pamilya, inambus ng Sparrow units sa Kamaynilaan.

Sana nga ay ulyanin o



nagbibiro lamang talaga itong lider ng mga komunista.

Kung ganyan ang mangyayari, magkakaroon ng takot ang publiko at pati na ang mga dayuhan na mag-sadya sa Pilipinas.

Kahit wala akong duda na may kakayanan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines na puksain ang NPA pati na ang Sparrow

Units, ang taumbayan pa rin ang talunan sa ganyang sitwasyon.

Maaaring may masakitan na mga inosenteng tao at maaapektuhan din ang ekonomiya ng bansa.

Maliwanag pa sa sinag ng araw na may banta ng terorismo sa bansa dahil sa sinabi ni Joma.

Amoy-lupa na nga 'to, nanggugulo pa!!!

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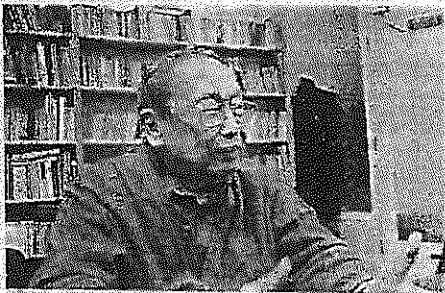
06 FEBRUARY 2018

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net>

Joma: NPA could kill 1 soldier a day

By: Delfin T. Mallari Jr. - @inquirerdotnet

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 07:05 AM February 05, 2018



Jose Maria Sison INQUIRER.net file photo

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.

"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.

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

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.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net>

General says unlicensed guns down to 4,100 in Sulu

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:17 AM February 05, 2018



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

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*

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<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net>

NPA denies killing unarmed Cagfu member

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:16 AM February 05, 2018



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

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 Rodrigo 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 (Cagfu).

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**

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