

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



**TEAM ARMY**  
Serving the people. Securing the land.

[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)  
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

07 February 2018

**Wednesday**

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

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 07 FEBRUARY 2018

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A17
<b>HEADLINES NEWS</b>			
2-4	SC upholds one-year martial law extension	Edu Punay	Phil Star p.1
5-6	Leave PH Rise alone – Duterte	Genalyn Kabling	Mla Bulletin p.1
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
7	Terrorist' tag forcing NPAs to surrender – Army	Mike Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p.14
8	Soldier killed, scores of insurgents wounded in Butuan encounter	Mike Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p.14
9	More guns recovered from Sulu village chiefs	Michael Punongbayan	Phil Star p.15
10	3 kids perish while playing with grenade	Mike Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p.14
11	Soldier slain in clash with NPA rebels	Ben Serrano	Phil Star p.15
12	5 Abu Sayyaf sumuko sa Basilan	Nonoy Lacson	Balita p.3
13	Army at robbery-kidnap group nagsagupa sa Zamboanga, marami patay	-	Police Files p.1
14	Photo: See you in Malacañang Comrades	Army Photo	PDI p.A2
15	Photo	-	Tempo p.1
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
16	SC upholds constitutionality of extended Martial law	Rey Panaligan	Mla Bulletin p.1
17	Ex- Reds to dine in Malacañang	Friston Lim	PDI p.A1
18-19	Supreme court: Congress may indefinitely prolong Martial law	Marlon Ramos	PDI p.A13
20-21	Tribunal backs ML extension	Ashxel Hachero	Malaya p.B1
22	DND inks P12-B deal for 16 Bell helicopters	Arnold Belleza	Mla Times p.A1
23	Rody to host dinner for rebel returnees	Edith Regalado	Phil Star p.15
24	President to host dinner ex-NPAs in Malacañang	Francis Wakefield	Mla bulletin p.1
25	Davao opens doors to Lumad fleeing atrocities	Antonio Colina	Mla bulletin p.14
26	PH assessing China sea builduo	Catherin Valente	Mal Times p.A7
27	Airforce gets 16 choppers nextyear	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.2
28	217 ex-rebels may dinner date kay Dlgong	Francis Wakefield	Balita p.1
<b>EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY</b>			
29	Utos ni Joma Sison sa NPA , “pumatay ng isang sundalo bawat araw sa bawat rehiyon”	Bobi tiglao	Bulgar p.1

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

## ONLINE NEWS

30	<b>Basilan attacks strike fear among contractors, exec says</b>	Inquirer	www.inquirer.net
31	<b>Driver nabbed for trying to enter camp using fake Army ID</b>	Matthew Reysio-Cruz	www.inquirer.net
32	<b>Army spokesman sees undetermined casualty in clash with robbery-kidnap group</b>	Julie Alipala	www.inquirer.net

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

February 2018



Page: A17

**PANAHON TV**

www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

BALANCED NEWS - FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 7, 2018 | WEDNESDAY**

**PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)**

**NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING LUZON AND VISAYAS LOW PRESSURE AREA ESTIMATED AT 125 KM EAST OF CULIYAN, EASTERN SAMAR as of 5:00 pm - February 6, 2018**

**LAOAG CITY** 18 - 26 °C

**TUGUEGARAO CITY** 17 - 26 °C

**BAGUIO CITY** 12 - 20 °C

**SBMA/CLARK** 20 - 29 °C

**METRO MANILA** 21 - 29 °C

**TAGAYTAY CITY** 18 - 26 °C

**LEGAZPI CITY** 24 - 29 °C

**ILOILO/ BACOLOD CITY** 24 - 30 °C

**TACLOBAN CITY** 24 - 30 °C

**PUERTO PRINCESA** 24 - 32 °C

**METRO CEBU** 24 - 31 °C

**CAGAYAN DE ORO** 23 - 31 °C

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** 24 - 32 °C

**METRO DAVAO** 25 - 33 °C

**SUNRISE** 6:23 AM

**SUNSET** 5:57 PM

**MOONRISE** 11:21 PM

**MOONSET** 11:22 AM

**LAST QUARTER** FEB 7 11:54 PM

**NEW MOON** FEB 16 6:05 AM

**LOW TIDE** 3:44 PM 0.12 Meter

**HIGH TIDE** 8:51 AM 0.59 Meter

**MANILA SOUTH HARBOR**

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

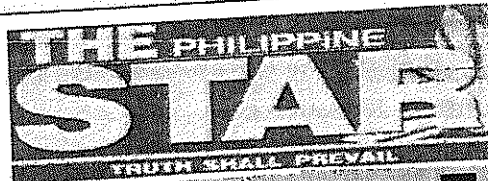
	FEB 8	FEB 9	FEB 8	FEB 9	FEB 8	FEB 9		
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	22 - 29 °C	22 - 30 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	19 - 26 °C	19 - 27 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	24 - 30 °C	24 - 29 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	17 - 26 °C	18 - 27 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	23 - 30 °C	23 - 29 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	20 - 27 °C	21 - 28 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	24 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	24 - 34 °C	24 - 33 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	12 - 21 °C	13 - 22 °C	<b>ILOILO/ BACOLOD</b>	24 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	24 - 33 °C	24 - 34 °C
<b>SBMA/ CLARK</b>	20 - 30 °C	21 - 32 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	<p><b>SAGOT NG PADALA HO!</b></p> <p><b>WEEKDAYS</b> 6AM, 6:30 PM &amp; 9PM <b>WEEKENDS</b> 6AM</p>		

**DZRH NEWS TELEVISION**

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

**PILIPINAS HD**

07 February 2018



Page: 1

# SC upholds one-year martial law extension

By EDU PUNAY

The Supreme Court has no power to review a decision of Congress, and serious threats to security remain in the south, the SC ruled yesterday as it upheld the one-year extension of martial law in Mindanao.

Voting 10-5 in session, the justices dismissed for lack of merit the consolidated petitions of former Commission on Elections chairman Christian Monsod, former Commission on Human Rights chairperson Loretta Ann Rosales, a group of congressmen led by Albay

1st District Rep. Edcel Lagman and another group led by Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate and Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao seeking to stop the one-year extension of martial law.

Agreeing with the position of Solicitor General Jose

Calida, the magistrates held that the SC has no power to review the decision of Congress to grant the request of President Duterte for the one-year extension.

Calida welcomed the ruling while opposition lawmakers

Turn to Page 10

said they were not inclined to file an appeal.

"Each House of Congress has full discretionary authority to formulate, adopt and promulgate its own rules; the exercise of this power is generally exempt from judicial supervision and interference," read the summary of the SC ruling penned by Associate Justice Noel Tijam.

The Court explained that it could only step in once there is clear showing of arbitrary and improvident use of power by Congress under Article VII, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution, which it said is lacking in this case.

It also rejected the argument of petitioners that the extension should have only been limited to 60 days, saying the Constitution does not set a limit to the number of times Congress can extend martial law declaration by the President.

The SC likewise ruled that the factual bases for the martial law declaration remain in Mindanao, citing the facts submitted by the Armed Forces during oral arguments last month.

"The rebellion that spawned the Marawi incident persists. Public safety requires the extension, as shown by facts presented by the AFP," it explained.

The AFP had told the SC that terrorist activities in Mindanao did not end when the government won the war against the Islamic State-linked Maute group in Marawi City in October last year.

It revealed that 48 foreign terrorists had in fact arrived in

Mindanao and were actively training recruits. The remaining members of Maute, AFP officials said, intensified their recruitment and their forces again ballooned to almost 400.

"When the President and Congress ascertain whether public safety requires the declaration and extension of martial law, they do so by calibrating not only the present state of public safety but the further repercussions of the actual rebellion to public safety in the future as well," it pointed out.

"The Constitution's requirement is met when there is sufficient factual bases to hold that the present and past acts constituting the actual rebellion are of such greater character that endanger and will endanger public safety," it added.

The high court also ruled that there are safeguards against abuse under martial law implementation under the Constitution as it dismissed as speculative the claims of human rights violations by the military.

The nine justices who concurred in the ruling were Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Teresita Leonardo de Castro, Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin, Mariano del Castillo, Estela Perlas-Bernabe, Samuel Martires, Andres Reyes Jr. and Alexander Gesmundo.

### Grateful

"We're grateful that the Supreme Court decided in favor of the government by a vote of 10-5. This legal victory will usher in the prosperity of Mindanao after the rebellion is quelled," Calida

said in a text message.

Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno dissented from the ruling along with Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Associate Justices Marvic Leonen, Francis Jardeleza and Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa.

On May 23, Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao following Maute's attack in Marawi City. The SC upheld its legality in a ruling last July, which became final last month.

The initial declaration was supposed to end after 60 days, but Congress, in a joint session on July 22, approved Duterte's request to extend it until Dec. 31.

Senators welcomed the Supreme Court ruling, saying it showed the latter's respect for the prerogative of the executive branch to declare martial law whenever it thinks it is needed.

"That's (SC ruling) correct. They (SC) should defer to the 'political branches' when it comes to matters like this," Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III told reporters.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto, who voted for the extension of martial law, said the ruling was not surprising.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chairman of the committee on public order and dangerous drugs, agreed the matter of declaring and extending martial law is a political issue that is best resolved between the executive and legislative branches of government.

He said the SC even added a third element, which only requires probable cause to be determined by the President to justify martial law.

"At any rate, come to think of it, there are no extra powers given to the implementers of

martial law that are beyond the Bill of Rights provision in the Constitution," Lacson said.

He also cited the absence of validated reports of abuses committed by government troops deployed in Marawi City and nearby areas.

Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara also lauded the decision. "We know that this (declaration) complied with the Constitution and this is meant to stop the spread of terrorism in Mindanao," Angara said.

### No more appeal

In a news conference, Lagman said filing a motion for reconsideration "may be a futile attempt because the Supreme Court is no longer the court of last resort as it has become a court of no resort."

"The majority of the justices can be supreme even in their error," he said. "I don't see any valid reason for the high tribunal to sustain the decision to extend martial law in Mindanao."

He maintained the latest SC decision would "embolden President Duterte to continue violating the rule of law."

He noted that of the 10 justices who voted for martial law extension, four are Duterte appointees, while the other four are eyeing the post of Chief Justice Sereno, a target of impeachment of President's congressmen-allies.

Lagman and his opposition colleagues and other petitioners, including former solicitor general Florin Hilbay, had argued that the only justification for extending martial law is the "existence of actual rebellion" in Mindanao.

They said no such actual

**IN FAVOR**

TEJAM Noel  
VELASCO Presbitero Jr.  
LEONARDO-DE CASTRO Teresita  
PERALTA Diosdado  
BERSAMIN Luzas  
DEL CASTILLO Mariano  
PERLAS-BERNABE Evelyn  
MARTIRES Samuel  
REYES Andres Jr.  
GESHUNDO Alexander

**NOT IN FAVOR**

SERENO Maria Lourdes  
CARPIO Antonio  
CAGUIAO Alfredo  
LEONEN Marvic  
JARDELEZA Francis

INFOGRAPHICS: EUGENE BACASMAS

rebellion exists and that Duterte and the military had in fact declared the liberation of Marawi City from local and foreign terrorists.

They said the President and state forces could deal with the threats to security without lengthening martial law.

Lagman's opposition colleague Tom Villarin of Akbayan said with the SC decision, there is no stopping the President from declaring martial law nationwide.

He said the impeachment process in the House against Sereno has apparently "chilled out many of our justices."

Another opposition congressman, Gary Alejano of Magdalo, said the SC has "abdicated its role in the system of check-and-balance in our democracy."

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said it was

grateful to the SC for its ruling and promised to "faithfully" perform its duty to protect the people.

"The AFP expresses its gratitude to the Supreme Court for allowing us to perform the fresh mandate given to us by the President and by Congress," said AFP spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo.

"We would like to assure our people that your AFP will faithfully perform its duty to protect the people and secure the state respecting Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law," Arevalo added.

The AFP had stated repeatedly that martial law under the present administration is different from the martial law despised by many during the Marcos dictatorship. - With Jess Diaz, Paolo Romero, Michael Punongbayan

07 February 2018

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

# Leave PH Rise alone Duterte

## All foreign marine explorations stopped

By GENALYN D. KABILING

**I**n insisting the Philippine Rise is ours, President Duterte is putting a stop to the marine research and other exploration activities by

foreign groups in the area.

The President has decided that only Filipinos would be allowed to explore the Philippine Rise, previously known as Benham Rise, and directed military's air and naval assets to chase away ► 6

any foreign vessels in the area.

The President's latest directives were issued during a Cabinet meeting in Malacañang last Monday, according to Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol.

"President Rodry Duterte last night ordered the cessation of all marine explorations and studies by foreign scientists and directed the Philippine Navy to 'chase out' any vessel fishing or conducting researches in the 13-million hectare continental shelf east of Luzon formerly called the Benham Rise," Piñol said in a Facebook post.

The President has asserted the country's ownership of Benham Rise during the Cabinet meeting, according to Piñol.

"Let me be very clear about this: The Philippine Rise is ours and any insinuation that it is open to everybody should end with this declaration," Piñol

said, quoting the President.

"Henceforth, only Filipino scientists will be allowed to conduct researches and exploration in the Philippine Rise," Duterte added.

The Department of National Defense (DND) has also been ordered "to deploy Navy vessels and the Philippine Air Force to conduct fly-overs in the area to check on the presence of foreign vessels," Piñol said.

He said unmanned aerial vehicles would also be dispatched from military bases east of Luzon to monitor the expanse of the Philippine Rise.

Piñol said the Department of Agriculture (DA) would also send two vessels – BRP Lapu-Lapu and BRP Francisco Dagohoy – to monitor the presence of foreign vessels in Benham Rise. The DA issues Gratuitous Permits for Foreign Marine Explorations through the Bureau of Fisheries and

Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

He explained the Philippine Rise belongs to the country, saying it is a 25-million hectare continental shelf that extends from the eastern shores of Luzon towards the Pacific Ocean.

The government earlier approved application of China to conduct research in the resource-rich Philippine Rise. Some groups however voiced concern in allowing China to explore the area given the unresolved territorial dispute in the South China Sea.

The government has assured that it was not giving special treatment to China, saying applications of research firms from United States, Japan and South Korea were also approved.

### No research ban

Any foreign entity could still lodge a new application for marine research in the Philippine Rise but must now get the approval of National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Malacañang said.



Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque made clear there was no ban on future foreign exploration in the Philippine Rise, adding that President Duterte revoked only the existing foreign permits in the area to give priority to Filipino researchers.

"It's not really a ban. I guess it's just a directive that we want Filipinos to do it as much as possible, that we are reserving it for Filipinos," he added.

"I confirm that the President ordered that henceforth, only Filipinos will be allowed to conduct scientific research, lay submarine cables, and explore and exploit for natural resources in the Philippine Rise," he said.

He said all scientific research licenses are also "deemed cancelled." Citing information from the Department of Foreign Affairs, he said research works conducted by the United States, Japan, Korea and China have already concluded.

But several minutes later, Roque revealed that the President's position

limiting Philippine Rise exploration to Filipinos was "not an absolute rule."

#### Local exploration

Likewise, DA through the BFAR, which issues gratuitous permits for foreign marine explorations, will dispatch its new off-shore vessels to monitor the area for presence of foreign entities.

According to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Jonas Leones, the agency has not received any requests for foreign scientific studies.

But the DENR, through its Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), will be conducting its own exploration of the Philippine Rise until 2019.

"MGB will explore possible natural gas, while BMB will assess biodiversity and marine resources existing in the area," he said. (With a report from Eillalyn de Vera-Ruiz)

07 February 2018

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

# Terrorist' tag forcing NPAs to surrender

## – Army

BY MIKE U. CRISJUNDO

**C**AMP BANCASI, Butuan City – The regional Public Affairs Office (PAO) of the Army's Northeastern and Northern Mindanao Fourth Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) on Tuesday disclosed that declaring members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) as "terrorists" by President Rodrigo R. Duterte has led to the exodus of its fighters and supporters in various parts of Mindanao.

After declaring them as terrorists, the President also ordered the

re-arrest of negotiators of the CPP-NPA and National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) after the peace talks with the government were derailed.

"We believed that the orders of the President made these NPA regulars and supporters voluntarily surrender to field units as some of their officials were also arrested," First Lt. Teresita Inghente of the 4th ID-PAO said.

The proclamation of the CPP and NPA as terrorist groups, which is in accordance with the Human Security Act (Republic Act No. 9372), also allowed Executive Secretary Salva-

dor Medialdea to instruct the Department of Justice (DOJ) to pursue charges against communist rebels and their leaders.

The 4th ID-PAO cited the recent separate arrests of the two high-ranking CPP-NPA officials in Misamis Occidental and Butuan City that caused the surrender of more NPAs in Mindanao.

"The NPAs are also tired of continuous running in the mountains and already wanted to live peacefully and be productive citizens in their respective localities," the officer of the 4th ID-PAO said.

She added that the peace, liveli-

hood and development programs of the government also helped in convincing the NPA regulars and supporters to surrender.

Just recently, six members of the SYP Platoon 3 of the CPP-NPA Southern Mindanao Regional Committee surrendered to Lt. Col. Jaime R. Datuin of the Army's 75th Infantry Battalion (75th IB) in Barangay Maharlika, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur.

Inghente said the surrenderers were convinced by their families, through the continuous information provided by the 75th IB in coordination with the local government unit (LGU) on the plans and programs of the government, including the Comprehensive Local Integration Plan, to return to the fold of law.

She said the surrenderers usually cited as reasons for their giving up life on the lam as their hunger, hardships in living in the mountains and fear of possible encounter with the government forces.

07 February 2018



Page: 14

## Soldier killed, scores of insurgents wounded in Butuan encounter

**BUTUAN CITY** – An Army soldier was killed, while an undetermined number of New People's Army (NPA) terrorists were believed wounded, when a gun battle erupted between government security forces and communist terrorists in highland upper Sitio Patagon of Barangay Anticala, this city Monday afternoon.

Killed was Pfc. Roger D. Badajos of the 42nd Division Reconnaissance Company (42nd DRC) of 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division.

Initial report reaching the regional command and tactical operations center of Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 based in Camp

Colonel Rafael C. Rodriguez here from the Butuan City Police Office (BCPO) said the encounter occurred while a platoon from 42nd DRC and an operational control (OPCON) unit of 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade were conducting patrol in highland upper Patagon when they were engaged by an undetermined number of NPA terrorists at 12:15 p.m.

The encountered communist terrorists were members of Squad 21-SECOM 21 of guerilla-Front Committee 21-C of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee, the report said.

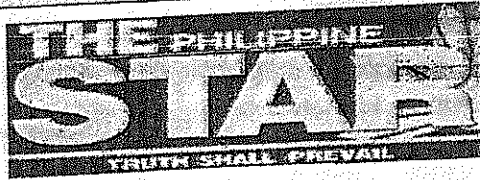
The initial encounter lasted more than five minutes, which was followed by a running gun battle as the NPAs fled towards the Patagon area.

The latest field report said that elements of 42nd DRC were still pursuing the fleeing NPA terrorists while following the bloodstains along their escape route.

Meanwhile, all line unit commanders, directors and town's chief of police of PRO 13 were alerted and directed to conduct checkpoints, in coordination with the AFP counterparts, and to check hospitals and clinics where wounded terrorists could have been taken for treatment. (Mike U. Crismundo)

2

07 February 2018



Page: 15

## More guns recovered from Sulu village chiefs

At least 11 rifles and various types of ammunition have been recovered from barangay captains and residents of a town in Sulu as the military intensifies its campaign against loose firearms.

The chairmen of Barangays Luuk Tulay, Sangkap, Nyog-Nyog, Kamawi and Andallan in Pata turned over an M16 and eight M1 Garand to the 31st Marine Company of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 1 led by Lt. Col. Stephen Cabanlet on Monday, Capt. Maria Rowena Dalmacio, director of the Marine Corps Public Affairs Office, said yesterday.

Dalmacio said two residents of Barangays Kawayan and Kanjarang also turned over a Garand and an M16.

"The series of civil-military operations in the area motivates local leaders to co-

operate with the Marines to have a gun-free community," Cabanlet said.

Maj. Gen. Alvin Pareño, Philippine Marine Corps commandant, lauded the troops and called on local government officials to help security officials ensure peace in Mindanao.

On Friday, Pata Mayor Anton Burahan and several barangay officials turned over a .50-caliber Barrett, four M16, three M14 and five Garand rifles; three 81mm mortar tubes, a recoilless rocket and an M79 grenade launcher with rounds of ammunition, assorted magazines and clips.

Five M16-A1 and M1 Garand rifles as well as several magazines and rounds of ammunition were received by the 31st Marine Company in Barangay Saimbangon on Saturday.

– Michael Punongbayan

07 February 2018

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

### 3 kids perish while playing with grenade

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – Three children were killed after an M203 grenade they were playing with exploded in a house in Purok 6, Sitio Neptune, Barangay Diatagon in Lianga, Strigao del Sur Monday night.

Authorities identified those who were killed as Rynna G. Tui, 12; Renz P. Galdiano, 3; and his one-year-old younger brother Reden.

Elements of the Alfa Company of the 75th Infantry (Marauder) Battalion (75th IB) and Lianga Municipal Police Station (MPS), together with Barangay Diatagon officials, proceeded to the area to verify

the reported incident and provide necessary assistance to the victims.

Upon arrival, the responding team saw the bodies of the three children on the terrace of a certain Reger Galdiano's house.

Based on the initial report of the Lianga MPS and 75th IB, the victim Renz was playing with the M203 grenade at the terrace with Rynna and Reden when the ordnance went off.

Neighbors heard the explosion and immediately checked on the Galdiano household where they found the children's bodies sprawled on the ground. (Mike U. Crismundo)

67 February 2018



Page: 5

### **Soldier slain in clash with NPA rebels**

BUTUAN CITY – A soldier was killed in an encounter with New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Barangay Anticala in this city on Monday.

Capt. Al Anthony Pueblos, 402nd Infantry Brigade spokesman, identified the fatality as Pfc. Roger Badayos, 27, a native of Cagayan de Oro.

Pueblos said government troopers were patrolling the area after receiving reports on the presence of NPA guerrillas when they were fired at.

The military said the NPA also suffered casualties, citing bloodstains along the rebels' escape route.

– Ben Serrano

February 2018



Page. \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 Abu Sayyaf sumuko sa Basilan

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** - Limang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang sumuko sa militar sa Basilan, nitong Linggo, matapos mapagtugumpayan ng mga sundalo ang kanilang opisiba laban sa mga terorista sa Basilan-Sulu-Tawi-Tawi (BaSulTa) areas.

Sinabi kahapon ni Joint Task Force Basilan commander Brig. Gen. Juvymax Uy na sumuko sina Hasib Sarikin Mion at Hamdi Nor Bareo sa mga tauhan ng 74th Infantry Battalion, sa ilalim ng pamumunori Lt Col. Jonas Templo, sa Barangay Macalang, Albarka, Basilan, dakong 2:00 ng hapon nitong Linggo.

Sa 68th, 18th, at 64th Infantry Battalions naman sa JTF-Basilan sumuko sina Garama Sulayman, 21; Omar Jalalis, 18; at Mathaban Pael, 34, bandang 7:00 ng gabi nitong Sabado.

Isinuko ng limang terorista ang dalawang M16A1 rifle, isang 5.56mm Carbine rifle, at dalawang short magazine na may 21 bala.

"Mion is an Abu Sayyaf member under Furuji Indama and Bareo is listed under the AFP's list as a member of the group of Nurhassan Jamiri. Mion and Bareo yielded their two USM1 Garand rifles to the troops," ani Uy.

Isasailalim naman sa custodial debriefing sina Mion at Bareo sa Bgy. Cabangalan, Ungkaya Pukan, Basilan, samantalang dinala ang tatlo pa sa headquarters ng JTF-Basilan para sa kaukulang disposisyon.

"Sulayman and his companions surrendered to the troops with the assistance of Mayor Boy Hataman of Suntisip, Basilan," sabi ni Uy.

"Ayon sa tatlo, nagawa nilang sumuko dahil sa pagod, hirap 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 mihsan pinapatay," pahayag pa ni Uy.

Ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez na simula Enero 1, 2017 hanggang Pebrero 4, 2018 ay umabot na sa kabuuang 172 sa ASG ang sumuko sa Joint Task Forces sa ZamBaSulTa area.

**Nonoy E. Lacson**

12

07 February 2018

**POLICE FILES**

Page. 1

## Army at robbery-kidnap group nagsagupa sa Zamboanga, marami patay

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** - Inula't kahapon ng military na marami ang nasawi at nasugatan sa armadong grupo na nakasagupa ng militar sa Kalawit, Zamboanga del Norte.

Ayon kay Major General Roseller Murillo, kumander ng 1st Infantry Division ng Army na naka-base sa Pulacan, Zamboanga del Sur, ang engkwentro ay nangyari sa Sitio Monob, Barangay Daniel Maeng bandang 12:00 ng tanghali, sa pagi-

taa ng tropa mula sa 42nd Infantry Battalion at robbery-kidnap group na pinamumunuan ng isang "Waway".

Sinabi ni Murillo na walang casualty sa mga Army, pero sa robbery-kidnap group ay marami umano ang nasawi at nasugatan.

Narekober ng Army ang isang KG9 Luger machine pistol na may 2 magazines, hammocks, pandigmang uniforms, backpacks, hand grenades, binoculars, flashlights, at cellular phones pagkatapos ng bakbakan.

Nagpapatuloy pa ang pagtugis ng militar sa ibang tumatakas na kasamahan ng nasabing grupo.

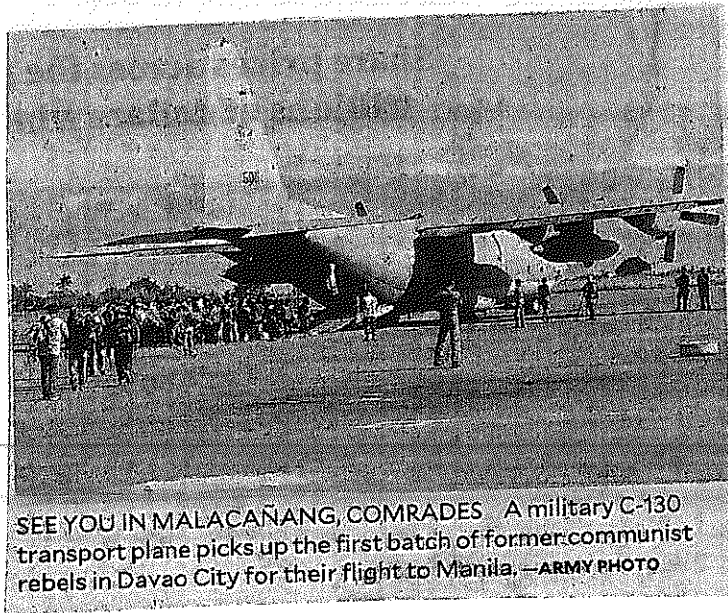
13



07 February 2018

PHILIPPINE ARMY  
**INQUIRER**

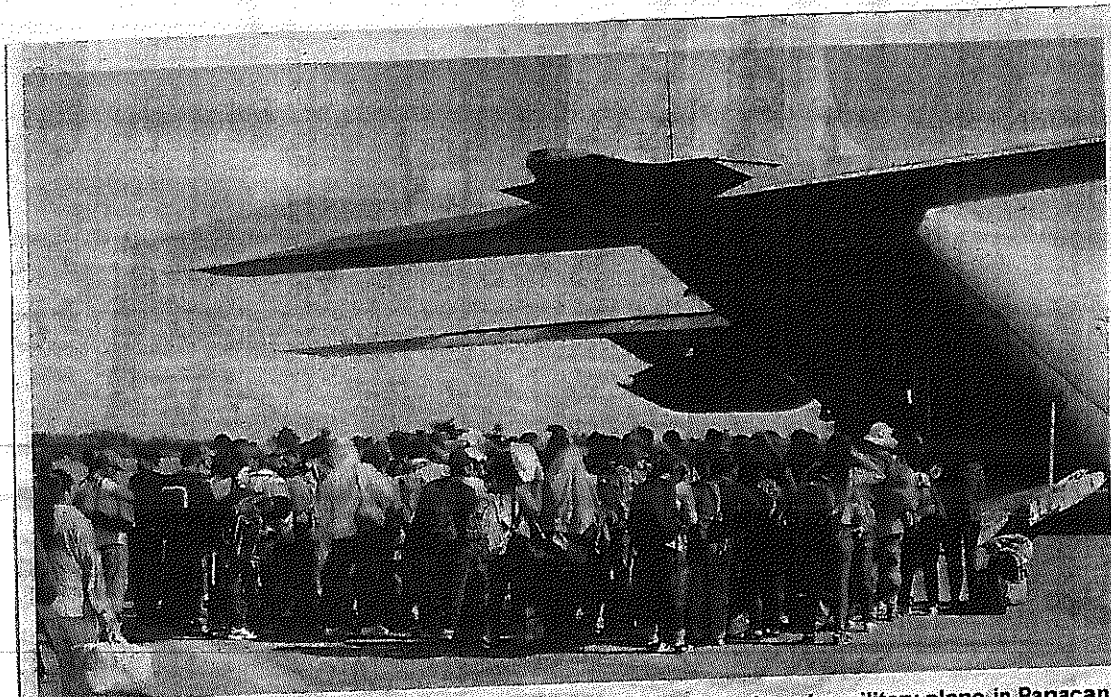
Page: 12



07 February 2018

**Tempo**

Page. 1



**FORMER** members of the New People's Army, totalling 217, climb aboard a military plane in Panacan, Davao City that would take them to Manila for a merienda to be hosted by President Duterte today in Malacañang. They were among 683 NPA fighters who have surrendered to the Eastern Mindanao Command.

15

07 February 2018

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: \_\_\_\_\_

# SC upholds constitutionality of extended martial law

By REY G. PANALIGAN

Finding sufficient factual bases, the Supreme Court (SC) declared constitutional yesterday President Duterte's extension of martial law and suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas cor-

pus in Mindanao until Dec. 31, 2018.

Ten justices, led by Noel G. Tijam who wrote the decision, voted in favor of the extension. Five justices dissented.

"Wherefore, the Court finds sufficient factual bases for the issuance of Resolution of Both Houses No. ►6

4 and declares it as constitutional. Accordingly, the consolidated Petitions are hereby dismissed so ordered," the SC ruled.

In a press briefing and quoting from the decision, Spokesman Theodore O. Te said: "The President and Congress had sufficient factual bases to extend Proclamation No. 216. The rebellion that spawned the Marawi incident persists. Public safety requires the extension, as shown by facts presented by the AFP" (Armed Forces of the Philippines)."

Martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao was first imposed by President Duterte for 60 days on May 23, 2017 as a result of the attack in Marawi City by the Maute Group and its followers through Proclamation No. 216. It was extended by Congress until Dec. 31, 2017 on the request of the President.

When challenged before the SC, the High Court ruled last July on the constitutionality of the President's proclamation with a declaration that Proclamation No. 216 has sufficient factual bases.

On the request by the President, the House of Representatives and the Senate voted 240-27 for the extension until Dec. 31, 2018.

Four petitions challenging the constitutionality of the extension was filed before the SC which conducted oral arguments.

The first petition was filed last December 27 by a group of congressmen led by Albay 1st District Rep. Edcel Lagman. This was followed last January 8 by the group led by Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate and Anakpawis

Representative Ariel Casilao.

Former Commission on Human Rights (CHR) chairperson Loretta Ann Rosales filed the third petition, while the fourth case was lodged by the group of former Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chairman Christian Monsod.

Almost all the petitions claimed that there was no actual rebellion in Mindanao that would justify the extension of martial law.

Other petitioners alleged that "the President's request for extension was approved baselessly and with inordinate haste."

Solicitor General Jose Calida, representing the government, sought the dismissal of the four consolidated petitions.

On substantive issues raised in the petitions, a summary of the decision released by Te stated: "The manner of Congress' deliberation with respect to the President's request for extension of martial law in Mindanao for one year is not subject to judicial review. Each House of Congress has full discretionary authority to formulate, adopt, and promulgate its own rules; the exercise of this power is generally exempt from judicial supervision and interference, except on a clear showing of such arbitrary and improvident use of the power such as would constitute a denial of due process. The alleged inordinate haste in approving the request for extension cannot serve as a ground to nullify the extension.

Likewise, it ruled: "The Court finds no merit to the petitioners' (Cullamat) theory that the extent of the threat to public safety to justify a declaration or extension must be such that the government is unable to sufficiently

govern, assure public safety, and deliver government services. Reading this theory into the Constitution would be to incorporate something that does not exist in the Constitution's text.

"The requirement of "necessity to the public safety" as it presently appears admits of flexibility and discretion on the part of Congress.

"Petitioners failed to satisfy the requisites for the issuance of an injunction. The claims of violation of human rights are speculative and lack a nexus between the exercise of martial law powers and their apprehension of such violations."

Those who concurred in the decision were Justices Presbitero J. Velasco Jr. (with separate opinion), Teresita J. Leonardo-De Castro, Diosdado M. Peralta, Lucas P. Bersamin, Mariano C. Del Castillo (with separate opinion), Estela M. Perlas Bernabe (with separate opinion), Samuel R. Martires (with separate opinion), Andres B. Reyes Jr., and Alexander G. Gesmundo.

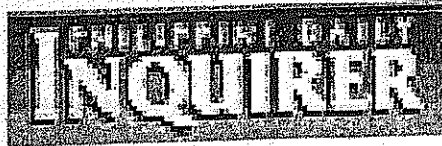
The dissenters were Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P.A. Sereno, Senior Justice Lourdes T. Carpio (with separate opinion), and Justices Marvic M.V.F. Leonen (with separate opinion), Francis H. Jardelleza (with separate opinion), and Alfredo Benjamin S. Caguioa (with separate opinion).

Calida lauded the decision of the SC to declare as constitutional the one-year extension given to martial law over Mindanao.

"We're grateful that the Supreme Court decided in favor of the government by a vote of 10-5," he said in a statement.

"This legal victory will usher in the prosperity of Mindanao after the rebellion is quelled," he added. (With a report from Jeffrey G. Damicog)

07 February 2018



Page: A1

## EX-REDS TO DINE IN MALACAÑANG

By Frinston Lim  
@flimINQ

DAVAO CITY—Will red wine be served at the “dine and meet” scheduled for Wednesday in Malacañang between President Duterte, a self-proclaimed socialist, and more than 200 former Red fighters?

Or will it be something familiar to the former rebels—beer or perhaps gin?

Dinner with Mr. Du

A2

Duterte is part of the itinerary of the former members of the New People's Army (NPA) who were flown to Manila on Tuesday, according to the military.

The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which has been waging war on the government for almost 50 years.

At least 217 former communist rebels left Davao City on a C-130 military cargo plane around 9 a.m. on Tuesday “for their educational tour of Malacañang Palace and other historic places in Manila,” said Maj.

Ezra Balagtey, spokesperson for the military's Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom).

In addition, Balagtey said, the former guerrillas would tour farm enterprises in Bulacan province as part of their reintegration into society.

### Carrot-and-stick approach

The “dine and meet” with Mr. Duterte could be part of his carrot-and-stick approach to the communist insurgency.

The dinner and trip to Manila came in the wake of the government crackdown on the Left following Mr. Duterte's scuttling of peace talks with communist rebels last December.

Mr. Duterte has said the enemies of the state could expect the full force of the government, stressing his orders are to destroy the apparatus of the insurgency.

Balagtey said the former NPA rebels comprised the first batch of 683 ex-communist guerrillas, who were scheduled to be sent to the capital to meet and talk with the President.

The second batch of former NPA rebels would be meeting with the President and touring Manila next week.

The President promised the former communist guerrillas livelihood assistance, even as he urged other rebels to return to the fold and avail themselves of

financial aid and rewards.

### Fake surrenderers

The NPA, however, has branded as fabrication the reported surrender of its members, particularly 32 *lumad* in Sultan Kudarat province.

Ka Dencio Madrigal, the NPA Far South Mindanao spokesperson, said the so-called surrenderers were “folks accused as NPA members and charged with trumped-up cases.”

“They were relentlessly harassed and threatened by the military, and were beguiled by false promises of easy money if they yield,” Madrigal said in a statement. INQ

7

7 February 2018

## INQUIRER

Page: A13

# SUPREME COURT: CONGRESS MAY INDEFINITELY PROLONG MARTIAL LAW

By Marlon Ramos  
@MRamosINQ

Congress may indefinitely prolong President Duterte's martial law order in Mindanao even without judicial review, the Supreme Court declared on Tuesday.

Voting 10-5, the high court affirmed the constitutionality of Joint Resolution No. 4, which the Senate and the House of Representatives approved on Dec. 13, 2017, extending Mr. Duterte's Proclamation No. 216 up to the end of 2018.

The proclamation placed the entire Mindanao under martial law and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus after Islamic State-inspired Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists overran Marawi City last May 23.

In a ruling that seemed to have clipped its own judicial authority, the Supreme Court said the joint congressional resolution had "sufficient factual bases" as it threw out the four separate petitions questioning the yearlong extension of military rule in Mindanao.

### Constitutional silence

"The Constitution is silent on how many times Congress may extend a proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus," the court said in a decision written for the majority by

Associate Justice Noel Tijam.

"The manner of Congress' deliberation with respect to the President's request for extension of martial law in Mindanao for one year is not subject to judicial review," it added.

The court said the 30-year-old Constitution "does not fix a period for the duration of any extension of a proclamation or suspension but expressly leaves the matter to Congress."

"Congress has the power to extend and determine the period of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus under Article VII, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution," the court said.

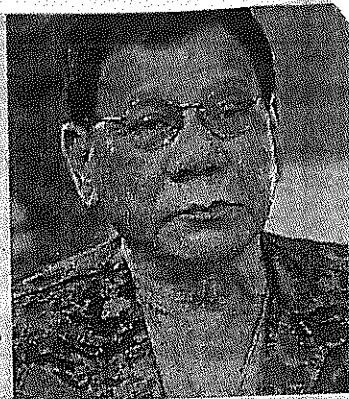
"If the Constitutional Commission had intended to limit any extension to 60 days, it would have been expressly stated and would not have been left to Congress," it ruled.

### Rebellion persists

Although President Duterte had already declared victory in Marawi, the tribunal said the "rebellion that spawned the Marawi incident persists."

Moreover, the justices said the constitutional requirement was "met when there is sufficient factual bases to hold that the present and past acts constituting the actual rebellion are of such character that endanger and will endanger public safety."

"The court's power to re-



President Duterte

view the extension of martial law is limited solely to a determination of sufficiency of factual basis," the court said.

It was the fourth time the Duterte administration had hurdled a legal challenge to President Duterte's executive action.

Tijam, the President's second appointee to the tribunal, was joined by Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin, Mariano del Castillo, Estela Perlas-Bernabe, Samuel Martires, Andres Reyes Jr. and Alexander Gesmundo in upholding the martial law extension.

Like Tijam, Martires, Reyes and Gesmundo had also been appointed by Mr. Duterte to the country's highest judicial body.

Those who dissented were Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Senior Associate Justice

13

Antonio Carpio and Associate Justices Marvic Leonen, Francis Jardeleza and Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa.

Solicitor General Jose Calida, who defended Mr. Duterte's order during oral arguments in the high court, expressed his gratitude to the justices, saying the legal victory "will usher in the prosperity of Mindanao after the rebellion is quelled."

#### 60-day limit

The justices said the 60-day limit for the initial proclamation of martial law "cannot be considered to apply to any extension as determined by Congress."

It said the Senate and the House had "full discretionary authority to formulate, adopt and promulgate its own rules," a legislative power "generally exempt from judicial supervision and interference" save for "a clear showing of such arbitrary and improvident use of the power."

According to the court, the petitioners failed to back up their claim that the enforcement of martial law in Mindanao had led to human rights violations.

"The claims of violation of human rights are speculative and lack a nexus between the exercise of martial law powers and their apprehension of such violations," it said.

It also did not give weight to

the petitioners' argument that there was no need to impose military rule since the government was still able to function in the entire southern Philippines.

"Reading this theory into the Constitution would be to incorporate something that does not exist in the Constitution's text," it pointed out.

"When the President and Congress ascertain whether public safety requires the declaration and extension of martial law, they do so by calibrating not only the present state of public safety but the further repercussions of the actual rebellion to public safety in the future as well," the court said.

In a press briefing after the decision came down, opposition Rep. Tomasito Villarín said the Supreme Court "abdicated what its function should be," which is "to serve as the check and balance to a very powerful Executive."

#### Marcos Supreme Court

Villarín said the current Supreme Court composition was "just like the Marcos Supreme Court under [the late Chief Justice Enrique] Fernando, who abdicated the role as a constitutional balance."

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said appealing the decision would be futile, although he found no valid reason to uphold the extension of martial law.

"When the Supreme Court,

which is the court of last resort, is not anymore the court of any resort, then that emboldens the President to continue violating the rule of law," Lagman said.

"When the majority of the justices fall in cadence with the President and Congress in violating the Constitution, then the country is abandoned in the quagmire of tripartite derogation of civil liberties," he added.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate said the Supreme Court "failed to see the suffering of Mindanaons who are victims of military abuses due to martial law."

With the Supreme Court's decision, he said, the military would "be further emboldened to commit atrocities against 'lumad' and other Mindanaons."

"We must continue to defend our rights," Zarate said.

Drieza Lininding, chair of the Moro Consensus Group, said the decision would only worsen the plight of the Maranao, who have already suffered from the effects of the conflict in Marawi City.

"The [martial law extension] means that they can loot whatever is left of our properties, they can continue to terrorize us and violate our human rights," Lininding said, referring to rights violations reported by Marawi residents displaced by the conflict. —WITH REPORTS FROM VINCE F. NONATO AND JIGGER JERUSALEM INQ

07 February 2018

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

Page: B1

# Tribunal backs ML extension

BY ASHZEL HACHERO

THE Supreme Court yesterday dismissed consolidated petitions questioning the one-year extension of martial law (ML) and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao.

SC spokesman Theodore Te said the magistrates voted 10-5 to junk the petitions filed by former Elections chair Christian Monsod, former Human Rights chair Loretta Ann Rosales, a group of congressmen led by Edcel Lagman, and another group led by Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate and Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao.

A decision penned by Associate Justice Noel Gimenez Tijam said the court found “sufficient, factual bases” in Congress’ approval of President Duterte’s request for another extension of martial law.

Those who concurred in the ponencia are Associate Justices Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., Teresita J. Leonardo-De Castro, Diosdado M. Peralta, Lucas P. Bersamin, Mariano C. del Castillo, Estela M. Perlas Bernabe, Samuel R. Martires, Andres B. Reyes Jr., and Alexander G. Gesmundo.

Those who dissented are Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio, and Associate Justices Marvic Leonen, Francis H. Jardeleza, and Alfredo Benjamin S. Caguioa.

Lagman said the decision may give rise to more civil rights problems and will only serve to “embolden” President Duterte “in flouting the rule of law because he can seek refuge behind the robes of majority of the Supreme Court justices.”

Lagman also noted that four of the 10 SC justices who voted in favor of the extension are Duterte’s appointees.

“Another four of the concurring justices are possible contenders to replace Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno who is facing impeachment proceedings,” he said.

Zarate said the tribunal “failed to see the suffering of Mindanaons who are victims of the military abuses due to martial law.”

The military said the decision is a vote of confidence for the Armed Forces and assured the public it will “faithfully perform its duty to protect the people and secure the state respecting Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.”

Defense Secretary and martial law administrator Delfin Lorenza-

See TRIBUNAL > Page B6

20

na said with the decision, “the whole of government can now fully pursue with great vigor its efforts in ending the continuing rebellion in Mindanao decisively.”

President Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao on May 23 last year, hours after the Maute terror group attacked Marawi City. Before the 60-day martial rule lapsed, he asked for an extension and was granted a year, ending on Dec. 31, 2017. In December last year, Duterte again sought an extension, citing as reason, among others, a continuing terrorist threat despite the end of the Marawi conflict on October 23. Congress gave him another extension, also lasting a year, on December 13, with congressmen and senators voting in a joint session, approving Resolution of Both Houses No. 13.

Lagman has been saying the third extension is unconstitutional because there is no actual rebellion or actual invasion in Mindanao.

In dismissing the petitions, the high court said the manner

of Congress’ deliberation with respect to the President’s request for extension of martial law in Mindanao for a year is not subject to judicial review.

“Each house of Congress has full discretionary authority to formulate, adopt, and promulgate its own rules, the exercise of this power is generally exempt from judicial supervision and interference, except on a clear showing of such arbitrary and improvident use of the power such as would constitute a denial of due process,” the SC said.

It also said Congress has the power to extend and determine the period of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus under Article VII, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution.

“The Constitution is silent on how many times Congress may extend a proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. It also does not fix a period for the duration of any extension of a proclamation or suspension but

expressly leaves the matter to Congress — for a period to be determined by Congress,” the SC said.

### SUFFICIENT BASES

The SC said Duterte and Congress had sufficient factual bases to extend Proclamation No. 216 for one year, saying the rebellion that spawned the Marawi incident persists and that public safety requires the extension, as shown by facts presented by the military.

It also said that it finds no merit to the petitioners’ theory that the extent of the threat to public safety to justify a declaration or extension must be such that the government is unable to sufficiently govern, assure public safety, and deliver government services.

“Reading this theory into the Constitution would be to incorporate something that does not exist in the Constitution’s text,” it said adding that “the requirement of necessity to the public safety as it presently appears admits of flexibility and discretion on the part of Congress.”

The SC stressed that when the President and Congress ascertain whether public safety requires the declaration and extension of martial law, they do so by calibrating not only the present state of public safety but the further repercussions of the actual rebellion to public safety in the future as well.

“The Constitution’s requirement is met when there is sufficient factual bases to hold that the present and past acts constituting the actual rebellion are of such character that endanger and will endanger public safety,” it added.

The SC also said there are safeguards against abuse as well as legal remedies for violation of human rights in areas covered by the martial law extension, citing the writs of amparo and habeas data, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as Republic Acts 7438 (Act Defining Certain Rights of Person Arrested, detained Or Under Custodian Investigation), 9372 (Human Security Act of 2007) and 9745 (Anti-Torture Act of 2009). — *With Peter Tabingo and Victor Reyes*



07 February 2018

# The Manila Times

Page: A1

## DND inks P12-B deal for 16 Bell helicopters

**SINGAPORE:** The Department of National Defense (DND) has signed a purchase agreement with aerospace company Bell Helicopter for the purchase of 16 aircraft that will be used by the Philippine Air Force (PAF). The deal for 16 Bell 412EPI helicopters is part of the modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The country acquired eight 412EP units in 2015.

Patrick Moulay, executive vice president for global sales at Bell, said initial deliveries would be made later this year. Most of the aircraft will arrive in 2019 and the order is expected to be completed in 2020.

Previous reports put the value of the purchase, which was concluded

► **HelicoptersA7**

via government-to-government contract with state-owned Canadian Commercial Corporation, at P12.07 billion. The previous purchase — also done via GCC as the units were made in Canada — cost the government P4.8 billion.

The twin-engine helicopters will be used for disaster relief, search and rescue, and passenger and utility transport.

The 412EPI, described as an improvement on the basic 412 platform, comes with the BasiX Pro avionics system and technical improvements that Bell touts as increasing the aircraft's safety, handling and lifting capabilities.

Powered by Pratt & Whitney engines, the 412EPI has a top speed of 259 kilometers per hour, a maximum range of 674 kilometers and can carry up to 15 people including the pilot.

"We are honored that the Bell 412 will continue to serve the Philippines through the Philippine Air Force for many more years to come," Bell Helicopter Asia Pacific managing director Sameer Rehman said in a statement.

"Bell's helicopters have been a key component for the Philippine Air Force in the past and we look forward to bringing these aircraft into service quickly to serve the citizens of the Philippines."

Bell's H-13 Sioux was the first helicopter

to enter into service with the PAF in 1955. Variants of the Bell UH-1H, meanwhile, have been put in service since the late 1960s and first 412s — two units — were delivered in 1994.

Five of the eight helicopters delivered under the previous purchase deal were assigned to the PAF's 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing while the rest were deployed to the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing.

Last year, the Philippine National Police (PNP) tapped Bell for a brand-new aircraft costing P435.8 million that is expected to be delivered in March.

The Asia-Pacific region is driving Bell's sales — orders were up 75 percent in 2017, according to Moulay — with China alone having contracted for more than 200 helicopters in 2017.

The Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand were also noted as significant markets. Thailand has a fleet of old Bells that are up for replacement and the Thai police in 2016 ordered eight aircraft for emergency medical service use.

Bell Helicopter is a wholly owned subsidiary of Textron Inc., a producer of commercial and military, manned and unmanned vertical-lift aircraft. Textron's aircraft brands include Cessna and Beechcraft.

**ARNOLD E. BELLEZA**

07 February 2018



Page: 15

## Rody to host dinner for rebel returnees

DAVAO CITY – At least 683 former New People's Army rebels will have dinner with President Duterte at Malacañang.

The first batch of 217 rebel returnees left this city on Monday on a C130 plane for the dinner set last night. A welcome ceremony was held for the former rebels at Camp Aguinaldo at about 8 a.m. yesterday.

The President will host dinners for rebel returnees until Saturday.

Duterte invited the rebel returnees to Malacañang during the Indigenous People's Summit held at the East-

ern Mindanao (Eastmindom) headquarters last Friday.

The Eastmindom said the invitation was expected to encourage the active participation of former rebels in nation-building.

The rebel returnees will also have a tour of Malacañang, Intramuros and other historical sites in Manila.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority will bring the surrenderees to a mushroom plantation and other farms in Bulacan to help them get ideas on how to improve their lives and be self-sustaining.

– Edith Regalado

07 February 2018

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

## President to host dinner for ex-NPAs in Malacañang

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Some 217 of the 683 former members of the New People's Army (NPA)

who had surrendered to the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Eastern Mindanao Command (AFP-EastMinCom) are now in Manila for a scheduled ▶ 6

dinner in Malacañang with President Duterte tonight.

Major Ezra Balagtey, spokesman of the AFP-EastMinCom, said the first batch of NPA rebels who returned to the fold of the law were sent off at the Tactical Operation Group 10 in Sasa, Panacan, Davao City about 9 a.m. yesterday.

In a statement, Balagtey said the dinner to be held starting at 5 p.m. Wednesday is meant to encourage the active participation of the former rebels in nation-building and peace efforts.

Prior to the dinner, the rebel-returnees will be welcomed at Tejeros Hall in Camp Aguinaldo at 8 a.m. today which will be presided by Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Rey Leonard Guerrero.

The former rebels will also have an educational tour in Intramuros and Malacañang in Manila, and other

historic places.

In coordination with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Balagtey said the former rebels will then be brought to the mushroom production and other farms in Bulacan to help them get ideas on how to improve their lives and be self-sustaining.

The trip will be all-expense paid, Balagtey said.

AFP spokesman Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo earlier said that the surrender of many NPA rebels is "unprecedented" and proves that their campaign against the communists is effective.

Arevalo said just for the month of January, 2018 alone, some 326 NPA rebels have already surrendered to authorities to lead new lives in mainstream society. (With a report from Yas D. Ocampo)

24

07 February 2018

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

## Davao City opens doors to lumad fleeing atrocities

By ANTONIO L. COLINA IV

DAVAO CITY - Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio said the city was ready to accommodate lumad evacuees, who may be forced to flee their homes in the hinterlands due to the reported atrocities allegedly committed by members of the New People's Army (NPA).

Duterte said she has already asked the military commanders in the city to report those people who need assistance from the government so that they can immediately act on their concerns, especially those lumad who are caught in the crossfire.

The mayor said the evacuees could take refuge and temporary shelter at the city-run evacuation facility in Los Amigos, Tugbok District that can house up to 1,000 individuals.

Duterte said she supported her father President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's issuance of Proclamation no. 374, designating the NPA and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) as terrorist groups.

She hoped the national government and military forces will "work on ending this conflict and this problem the military way, or in another way or the peaceful way."

"We just want resolution for all the issues that have beset our country for the past 50 years," she said.

25

7 February 2018

The Manila Times

Page: 17

## PH 'assessing' China sea buildup

THE Philippine government has been "assessing" China's continued militarization in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), President Rodrigo Duterte's top security adviser said on Tuesday amid reports that Beijing has nearly completed military installations in at least seven reefs in the contested waters.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said the government would look into the new structures in the artificial islands as it "could be used against us."

"We are assessing all of them. So what are the purposes of those structures? They could be for civilian use but we should look to possibilities that they could be used against us. If they are for military use, then that is something that we should look into," Espe-

ron told reporters in an interview.

He issued the statement following a newspaper report which said that Kagitingan (Fiery Cross), Calderon (Cuarteron), Burgos (Gaven), Mabini (Johnson South), Panganiban (Mischief), Zamora (Subi), and McKennan (Hughes) reefs had nearly been transformed into air and naval facilities based on aerial photos.

Esperon said the government had been in possession of the photos "months back."

Asked if the Philippine government would lodge a diplomatic complaint against China's militarization, Esperon said, "That's part of the array of options that we can take. Kaya pinag-aaralan natin ng mabuti (That's why we are studying it carefully)."

Esperon, who heads the task force on the

West Philippine Sea, said the government was considering an "array of courses of action" to undertake.

"Leave it us. We are trying our best under the circumstances to protect and watch over what is ours whether by virtue of sovereign rights or by sovereignty," he said.

Esperon said the Philippines would remain friendly with China as it could not afford to declare war.

"What do you want us to do? Go to war? There are actions that we are doing," he said.

"We can work out things. Keep calm. The South China Sea or the West Philippine Sea is not the sum total of our relationship with other countries. This West Philippine Sea is not everything but it is very important."

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE**

07 February 2018

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

Page: 62

## Air Force gets 16 choppers next year

BY VICTOR REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has signed a contract with Bell Helicopter, an American aerospace manufacturer, for the acquisition of 16 helicopters worth P12 billion under the AFP modernization program.

The 16 Bell 412EPI helicopters, which will be for the use of the Philippine Air Force for search and rescue operations and other missions, are expected to be delivered starting first quarter of next year.

The Air Force has scores of Bell helicopters in its inventory, some of them assigned with the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing for the use of President Duterte and government officials.

Lorenzana signed the contract with representatives of the Texas-based company on December 29 at the DND building in Camp

Aguinaldo, the DND's public affairs service said yesterday.

The acquisition is separate from the eight lower variant Bell 412EP helicopters bought by the defense department in 2014, also for the use of the Air Force, for P4.8 billion. The eight were delivered in two batches in 2015.

In a statement, Bell Helicopter said the 16 helicopters purchased by the DND are "fully configured and equipped with advanced features."

"We are honored that the Bell 412 will continue to serve the Philippines through the Philippine Air Force for the many more years to come," said Sameer Rehman, managing director of Bell Helicopter Asia Pacific.

Apart from search and rescue, the helicopters can be used for other functions like disaster relief, passenger transport, and utility transport.

07 February 2018



Page. 1

### GAGAWING MAKABAYAN

## 217 ex-rebels may dinner date kay Digong

NI Francis T. Wakefield

Inihayag ng militar na 217 sa 683 dating miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) na ipinansinang nitong Disyembre 21, 2017 sa Armed Forces of the Philippines-Eastern Mindanao Command (AFP-EastMindCom), ang nasa Manila para sa dinner date sa Malacañang, kasama si Pangulong Duterte, ngayong Miyerkules ng gabi.

Sinabi ni Maj. Ezra Balagtey, lagapagsalita ng Armed Forces of the Philippines-Eastern Mindanao Command (AFP-EastMindCom), na ang unang batch ng mga rebelde na sumuko na sa batas ay napaalala na sa Tactical Operations Group Xisa Saca, Panapan, Davao City bandang 100 umaga kahapon.

Sa isang pahayag, binanggit ni Balagtey na layunin ng naturang hapunan na gaganapin bandang 5:00 ng gabi, na ikayatin ang mga dating rebelde na maging aktibong bahagi ng nation-building at peace-building.

Bago ang hapunan, ang mga sumukong rebelde ay bahandugan ng welcome ceremony sa Tejeros Hall sa Camp Aguinaldo, gapap na 8:00 ng umaga ngayong araw, na pangungunahan ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Ray Leonardo Guerrero.

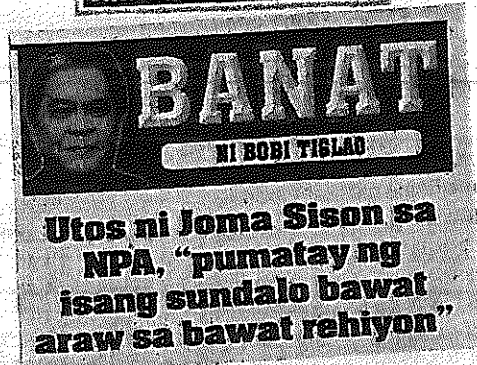
Paanayahan din ang mga dating rebelde ng di-automal hours Intermates at Malacañang sa Manila, at iba pang magsasagang lugar upang buhayin ang kamitang pagiging makabayan.

28

07 February 2018



Pahina. 1



DIREKTIBA, kamakailan, ng komunistang lider na si Jose Maria Sison sa New People's Army (NPA) na, "pumatay kayo ng isang sundalo bawat araw sa bawat rehiyon."

Ayon kay Sison, kapag nagawa raw ito sa 17 rehiyon kung saan may NPA ay 510 mga sundalo ang mapapatay kada buwan, 20 batalyon ng hukbo ng Pilipinas ang mapapatay bawat taon. Kaya ilang taon lang daw ay maubos na ang Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Siyempre, hindi na niya sinabi, pero ang ibig niyang sabihin ay kung mangyari nga ito, ang maghahari sa bayan natin ay ang Partido Komunista at NPA na itinatag niya noong 1968 at 1969.

Initutos ito ni Sison mula sa kanyang bahay sa Utrecht sa The Netherlands, kung saan siya namumuhay nang masarap mula noong pinayagan siya ni dating Pangulong Cory Aquino na umalis noong 1987.

Pinalaya ni Aquino si Sison noong 1986, na inaresto ng mga pulis ni Marcos noong 1976 dahil sa salang pagpatay sa maraming tao sa Central Luzon.

Si Sison ang nagtatag ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas at ang armadong grupo nito na NPA noong 1960. Lumabas ang tootong katauhan ni Sison sa pag-utos niya na pumatay ang NPA ng isang sundalo kada araw.

Wala siyang pakialam kahit may pamilya, nanay at tatay, mga kapatid, asawa at anak ang mga sundalong ipinapatay niya sa mga NPA na naloko niya sa ideolohiya niyang natatunayan na mali apat na dekada na ang nakararaan.

Para kay Sison, numero lang daw ang buhay ng isang sundalo na bibilangin lang kung gaano karami ang kailangang makitil

para mapabagsak ang ating demokratikong gobyerno. Inumpisahan ni Sison at ng mga kasama niya ang proyekto nilang pabagsakin ang demokratikong gobyerno noong 1968.

Sinasabi niya noon na mahusay ang sistemang komunismo na pinatutunayan ng mga malalaking bansang Russia at Tsina noon.

Nang napabagsak ng mga komunistang Vietcong ang gobyerno sa Vietnam noong 1974 at naagaw daw ang kapangyarihan, sabi niya ay sandali na lang at babagsak din ang pamahalaan ng Pilipinas.

Apat na dekada na ang nakaraan mula noon, humina ang NPA at halos naging mga bandido na lang na nakakalat sa malalayong lugar.

Libu-libo ang mga namatay dahil sa maling paghuhimagsik ni Sison sa panig ng sundalo ng Pilipinas na kinakailangang ipagtanggol ang demokrasya sa panig ng mga kapwa Pilipino nating naloko ni Sison na sumapi sa NPA at sa panig ng mga mosenteng sibilyan na napa-giina lang sa labanan.

Anong klaseng tao itong si Sison na inutusan ang NPA na pumatay ng isang sundalo ng Pilipinas bawat araw?

Sana naman ay mag-isip-isip ang mga kabataang Pilipino na naloko ni Sison at lumalabas na maling-mali ang kilusang komunistang ito. Hanggang sa katandaan niya ay nagdedeliryo si Sison na siya ang Mao Zedong o Ho Chi Minh ng Pilipinas at sandali na lang ay mananalala na ang NPA niya at siya ang maghahari sa bayan.

Wala raw siyang pakialam kung gaano karami ang mamamatay na Pilipino, mga NPA man o sundalo ng bansa. Tatal napakasarap ng buhay niya sa The Netherlands, habang nagbibida raw siya na lider siya ng rebolusyon.

29



## ONLINE NEWS 07 FEBRUARY 2018

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net>

# Basilan attacks strike fear among contractors, exec says

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:17 AM February 07, 2018

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Security camera footage showed four suspected Abu Sayyaf members, between 14 and 24 years old, planting explosives outside the house of Basilan district engineer Solder Undug in Lamitan City on the night of Feb. 1.

No one was hurt in the blast, but Undug said it was the third explosion that hit his house.

He said these attacks and extortion attempts by bandits delayed the completion of a number of government road projects in the province.

Wary about their safety, contractors had either backed out of the projects or had proceeded slowly, he said.

Contractors in Mohammad Adjul and Ungkaya Pukan towns had withdrawn from the projects, Undug said.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command based here, said the bandits did not want road projects on the island as it would shrink areas under their control.

The 55-kilometer Transcentral Road project, which would connect Lamitan City and Sumisip town, for instance, would reach the remaining Abu Sayyaf-controlled areas by the middle of this year, Galvez said. —*Julie Alipala*

[www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net)

## **Driver nabbed for trying to enter camp using fake Army ID**

**By: Matthew Reysio-Cruz- @inquirerdotnet**

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:06 AM February 07, 2018

A Grab car driver was arrested for posing as a soldier and using a fake ID to enter a military camp in Western Bicutan, Taguig City, on Monday night.

According to a report to the Southern Police District (SPD), Jerick Lee Ayuman, 30, was arrested for usurpation of authority. He remains detained at the Taguig City Police Station.

A check of his Hyundai Accent also yielded a Philippine Army uniform with a nameplate that bore his surname.

Pfc. Christopher Obat, who was stationed at the entrance to the Military Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Support Group in Fort Bonifacio, arrested Ayuman on the spot after the Grab driver introduced himself as a soldier and presented the fake ID.

"They know all the soldiers there so if they see an unfamiliar face, [they become] suspicious," said SPD spokesperson Supt. Jenny Tecson.

Chief Insp. Ramon Christian Laygo, Taguig police investigation section head, said a check showed that Ayuman had twice successfully entered the military camp and this was his third attempt.

It was not known what he had done there during his past visits.

The Taguig police said they were trying to verify if Ayuman used to be a soldier.

www.inquirer.net

# Army spokesman sees undetermined casualty in clash with robbery-kidnap group

By: Julie Alipala- @inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Mindanao / 04:59 PM February 06, 2018

ZAMBOANGA CITY-The military on Tuesday claimed that a still undetermined number of armed men were either killed or wounded in a clash with soldiers in Kalawit, Zamboanga del Norte.

Major General Roseller Murillo, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division based in Pulacan, Zamboanga del Sur, said the clash took place in Sitio Monob in Barangay Daniel Maeng around 12 noon and involved troops from the 42nd Infantry Battalion and a robbery and kidnap group headed by a certain Waway.

The Army commander said there was no casualty on the Army's side but the robbery-kidnap group had an undetermined number of casualty.

Army soldiers recovered a KG9 Luger machine pistol with two magazines, hammocks, (battle dress attire) uniforms, backpacks, hand grenades, binoculars, flashlights, and cellular phones after the clash, Murillo said.

A pursuit operation against the gunmen was continuing, he added.