

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



**TEAM ARMY**

**Serving the people. Securing the land.**

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**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**09 February 2018**

**Friday**

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

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

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 9, 2018 | FRIDAY**

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING LUZON  
LOW PRESSURE AREA ESTIMATED AT 470 KM EAST-NORTHEAST OF HINATLIAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR at or of 5:00 pm - February 9, 2018

CULIBEX SEA

<b>SUNRISE</b>  6:22 AM	<b>SUNSET</b>  5:58 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>  1:00 AM	<b>MOONSET</b>  12:47 PM
<b>LAST QUARTER</b>  FEB 7 11:54 PM	<b>NEW MOON</b>  FEB 16 5:05 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 12:19 AM 0.17 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 5:17 PM 0.74 Meter

FEB 10		FEB 11		FEB 10		FEB 11	
<b>METRO MANILA</b>  23 - 31 °C	 22 - 30 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>  19 - 27 °C	 18 - 27 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>  22 - 29 °C	 21 - 28 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>  23 - 30 °C	 22 - 29 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>  20 - 27 °C	 19 - 26 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>  23 - 30 °C	 22 - 30 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>  24 - 32 °C	 23 - 31 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>  24 - 33 °C	 24 - 34 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>  22 - 28 °C	 22 - 27 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>  24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>  23 - 30 °C	 22 - 30 °C		
<b>BAGUIO</b>  15 - 23 °C	 14 - 22 °C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>  24 - 30 °C	 23 - 30 °C				
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>  23 - 30 °C	 22 - 30 °C						

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

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



February 2018



Page: A

# Palace belittles EJK probe

Philip C. Tubeza  
ctubeza@INQ

lacañang on Thursday dis-  
sed as a waste of time and  
ources the "preliminary ex-  
amination" by the International  
xinal Court (ICC) of a com-  
nt that accused President  
erte of crimes against hu-  
nity in connection with ex-  
udicial killings (EJKs) in his  
on drugs.

Presidential spokesperson  
ry Roque told Palace re-  
ters the Philippine mission  
he Hague was informed that  
Office of the Prosecutor of  
ICC would start looking into  
ged acts "associated with  
campaign against illegal  
gs covering the period of Ju-  
016."

Opposition lawmakers said  
move offered a "ray of  
pe" to the families of thou-  
ids of victims of the drug  
r, but was "damning and  
naging" to the President.

The ICC was acting on the  
page complaint filed by Jude  
ue Sabio, a lawyer for con-  
sed Davao Death Squad hit  
m Edgar Matobato, in April  
7 against Mr. Duterte and 11  
ior officials that said crimes  
ainst humanity were being  
mitted "repeatedly, un-  
angingly and continuously"  
d killing drug suspects and  
ner criminals had become  
est practice."

"We view of course this de-  
sion of the prosecutor as a  
aste of the court's time and re-  
ources," Roque said.

## Sick and tired

He said he had discussed the  
sue "extensively" for two

hours the previous night with  
the President.

"The President has said that  
he also welcomes this prelimi-  
nary examination because he's  
sick and tired of being accused  
of the commission of crimes  
against humanity," said Roque,  
who taught international law at  
the UP College of Law.

"The President has said that  
if need be he will argue his case  
personally before the [ICC],"  
Roque said.

"He said he wants to be in  
court and put the prosecutor on  
the stand to ask, 'Who prodded  
you to proceed to preliminary  
examination?'" he added.

Roque said the President  
suspected "domestic enemies of  
the state" meant to embarrass  
him.

"But the President is a  
lawyer, he knows what the pro-  
cedures are. They will fail," he  
said.

ICC Prosecutor Fatou Ben-

souda said she decided to open  
the preliminary examination af-  
ter "a careful, independent and  
impartial review" of the situa-  
tion in the Philippines.

The Philippine probe is the  
ICC's first preliminary examina-  
tion in a Southeast Asian na-  
tion.

## Not above the law

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV,  
one of the President's archcrit-  
ics, said the ICC's move "should  
jolt Duterte into realizing that  
he is not above the law."

"More importantly, this is  
the first step for the victims'  
families quest for justice," Tril-  
lanes said in a statement.

"The ICC, stepping in, is a  
ray of hope amid the compro-  
mised rule of law under this ad-  
ministration," Magdalo Rep.  
Gary Alejano said.

Alejano and Trillanes last  
June filed a supplemental  
communication supporting

Sabio's complaint.

## 'Elated, vindicated'

In a statement, Sabio said he  
was "elated and vindicated" by  
the ICC action.

"At last, Mr. Duterte and his  
cohorts will face preliminary ex-  
amination by the ICC prosecutor  
as a prelude to formal criminal  
investigation," Sabio said.

"His system of death squad  
killings, which started through the  
Davao Death Squad and was con-  
tinued on a national scale through  
the war on drugs, will now be in-  
vestigated by the ICC and justice  
will be done," he added.

Akbayan Rep. Tom Villarin  
said the ICC action "will be  
damning and damaging to his  
administration in the eyes of  
our people and the internation-  
al community."

Villarin said this would also  
provide the "opportunity to im-  
plead other enablers of [EJKs],  
including possibly presidential

spokesman Harry Roque.”

Former Commission on Human Rights Chair Loretta Rosales said the preliminary examination was an important step in strengthening the rule of law and the beginning of a rigorous process to gather evidence before any trial.

“There is no room for politics in that process,” Rosales said. “Not for one moment should anyone use the ICC as a tool for propaganda and dealmaking.”

#### **‘Complementarity’**

While saying that the President welcomed the investigation, Roque also demanded “complementarity,” which states that the ICC will only exercise jurisdiction if the state party of the accused is “unable or unwilling” to prosecute the crime.

“The President has made it clear that he will communicate, he will assert the principle of complementarity, he will assert

the legality of the war against drugs as a valid exercise of sovereign powers and therefore the element required for a crime against humanity is lacking,” Roque said.

#### **Withdrawal from ICC**

Last December, Roque said it was possible that the Philippines may withdraw its membership from the ICC if it violated the principle of complementarity as three African states had done.

He said the ICC prosecutor’s action at this time was only intended to determine if there was reasonable basis to proceed with a formal investigation.

He said Manila would cooperate if the ICC prosecutor sought data on the drug war killings, adding that “the data alone will not prove anything.”

—WITH REPORTS FROM CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO, DJ YAP, DONA PAZZIBUGAN AND REUTERS INQ.



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## Kill 5 NPAs for every slain soldier – Rody

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Unfazed by threats, President Duterte warned that five New People's Army (NPA) rebels will be killed for every soldier slain by communist guerrillas. Communist Par-

ty of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Maria Sison had said the NPA would kill one soldier a day until the government returns to negotiating peace with the rebels.

"He said, 'go kill

one soldier a day.' Does he think I cannot do it too?... To the military, you kill five NPA rebels for every soldier killed," Duterte said, continuing his trash talk with Sison, his former college

Turn to Page 18

professor.

Speaking in Visayan dialect, Duterte said that he does not care whether the rebels are male or female as long as the order is carried out by the military.

The President made the remark when he welcomed over 200 former rebels who were brought to Manila for a tour of Malacañang last Wednesday.

On the same day, some 130 NPA rebels and sympathizers surrendered to the military in Bukidnon.

Asked for clarification, pres-

idential spokesman Harry Roque Jr said Duterte was clearly sending a message to Sison that he will not be threatened by the NPA nor by any other dissident group.

"I think the message is: you don't threaten us, Joma Sison. We are the state, if we haven't eradicated you, it's because we opted not to eradicate you as Filipinos. But if you want war, we are ready to go to war," Roque said.

With the vast resources of the government, Roque said the President wanted to em-

phasize that it can launch a war against the leftist groups but it has not done so to avoid killing fellow Filipinos.

Speaking to the former rebels, Duterte also lashed out at Sison after the CPP-NPA vowed to oust him from office this year.

"Now, where is Sison? Who am I? I'm the President, talking to you now, promising that I will do something. I have plans," Duterte said.

Duterte spewed invectives at his former professor.

"Son of a b\*\*\*\*. They are boastful. He wants to replace me. No doubt about it because he's a Filipino, too. I don't

know if he's really a Filipino. He looks like a Taiwanese," he remarked.

"He wants to run the government, he wants to have this kind of life. I'm not living here, okay? I live in the barracks. I will just cross the Pasig River," Duterte said.

Duterte also tried to shatter the political beliefs of the former rebels.

"Why would you even follow the NPA and not believe in God? Is that possible? You are believing in Sison and his brain," he said.

Duterte in November terminated the peace talks with the CPP-NPA, citing bad faith of

the rebels who attacked soldiers and policemen while negotiating peace with the government.

He said the NPA is making life difficult for Filipinos in the countryside.

Constantly under attack by the NPA, Duterte said the agricultural sector remains the "weakest link" in the economy.

"(The agricultural sector is) the slowest of all when everything is there already. There are factories and bridges already but agriculture remains to be hanging," he said.

The President blamed the NPA's collection of revolutionary taxes that hindered the growth of the country's agri-

culture sector.

"Because of the NPA no one will get into agriculture. Agriculture would have done miracles for the country," the President said.

Duterte cited the Mindanao region, which is largely agriculture-based, blessed with good soil and typhoon-free, but cannot prosper because of the presence of the NPA harassing the farmers from bringing their produce to the market.

Duterte said there would always be somebody who will buy produce from the farmers but people are afraid they might get ambushed by the NPA.

– With Gerry Lee-Gorit

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

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# Philippine Army enlisting 8,000 soldiers

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

**T**he Philippine Army continues to build up its forces to better serve and aid in the peace and development efforts of the government with the opening of about 8,000 slots qualified individuals interested in joining the armed forces.

Philippine Army spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Louie D. S. Villanueva said the figure is higher than the regular 3,600 annual quota replacement in the Army.

The higher quota, he said, is also due to the ongoing activation of 10 additional Army Infantry Battalions aimed at further strengthening the Philippine Army's capability, to be more responsive in addressing the various threats, particularly terrorism that besets the country.

Most of the new recruits will be assigned to infantry, cavalry and artillery units.

Villanueva said the Philippine Army has set up recruitment centers to facilitate the influx of applicants in Cagayan de Oro City, Cebu City, and Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Additionally, interested applicant may browse the Philippine Army website or visit the nearest Army

their love for our country. There may be lots of vocation, occupation, and profession waiting around, but joining

the noblest profession, particularly the Army, is something different and worthwhile," Villanueva said.

base in their respective localities for inquiries.

"The continuous recruitment of the

Philippine Army is a good opportunity for our youth to discover a new dimension on how to better serve and show



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# PA continues to build its forces to better serve people, secure country

By Mario J. Mallari

The 85,000-strong Philippine Army continues to build its forces to better serve the people and secure the country from armed rebel forces, like the terrorists and communist insurgents.

Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva, Army spokesman, yesterday said the Army is projected to recruit 8,000 soldiers this year—much higher than the regular 3,600 annual quota replacement in the military's biggest service command.

According to Villanueva, the higher quota is due to the ongoing activation of 10 additional Army Infantry Battalions which aims to further strengthen the Philippine Army's capability, to be more

responsive in addressing the various threats, particularly terrorism that besets the country.

Apart from filling the gaps to better serve the public and secure the land, Villanueva said the recruitment of additional troops will offer a very good employment opportunity to the youth to show their patriotism.

"The continued recruitment of the Philippine Army is a good opportunity for our youth to discover a new dimension on how to better serve and show their love for our country," Villanueva said.

"There may be lots of vocation, occupation and profession waiting around, but joining the noblest profession, particularly the Army, is something different and worthwhile,"

he added.

Last year, the Army was able to fill its 2017 recruitment quota of about 350 new officers and about 13,900 new enlisted personnel.

The distribution of the quota is as follows: 350 officers (2nd Lieutenant); 8,892 soldiers for the special quota as approved by the President; 1,069 soldiers for the newly organized 54th Engineer Brigade, and the 3,600 soldiers representing the annual quota replacement in the Army.

Significantly, a total of 1,000 slots were allocated for Indigenous Peoples in 2017.

About 400 were successfully integrated into the rank Philippine Army and deployed mostly in the Eastern Mindanao area while there

are 348 who are still undergoing training.

Most number of new recruits will fill up the Army infantry, cavalry and artillery units.

There are also recruits who filled up the engineer, communication, logistics and other administrative functions of the Army.

The Philippine Army has set up recruitment centers to facilitate the influx of applicant, in three major areas such as Cagayan de Oro City, Cebu City and Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Additionally, interested applicant may opt to browse the Philippine Army website or visit the nearest Army base in the nearest Army base in their respective localities for inquiries.



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# BusinessMirror

Page. 1

## Army ups recruitment quota to 8,000 for '18

**T**HE Army will recruit an additional 8,000 personnel this year as it continues to build its forces amid the military's continuing campaign against all threat groups.

Army Spokesman Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva said the 8,000 is higher than the regular 3,600 annual quota replacement in the Army, which is in the forefront of the military's internal security operations.

"The higher quota is also due to the ongoing activation of 10 additional Army infantry battalions, which aims to further strengthen the Philippine Army's capability to be more responsive in addressing the various threats, particularly terrorism that besets the country," Villanueva said.

Last year the Army was able to fill its 2017 recruitment quota of about 350 new officers and about 13,000 newly enlisted personnel.

Of the number, 8,892 soldiers were hired to fill up the special quota approved by President Duterte, 1,069 went to the newly organized 54th Engineer

**“About 400 were successfully integrated to the rank, and deployed mostly in the Eastern Mindanao area, while there are 348 who are still undergoing training.”**

**—VILLANUEVA**

ing Brigade and the remaining 3,600 soldiers represented the annual quota replacement in the Army.

Villanueva said that a total of 1,000 slots were allocated for indigenous people in 2017.

"About 400 were successfully integrated to the rank and deployed mostly in the Eastern Mindanao area while there are 348 who are still undergoing training," he said.

Villanueva added that most of the recruits for will fill up the manpower needs of the infantry, cavalry and artillery units. There are also recruits who filled up the engineer, communication, logistics and other administrative functions of the Army.

Recruitment centers have been identified in Cagayan de Oro City, Cebu City and Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

"The continuous recruitment of the Philippine Army is a good opportunity for our youth to discover a new dimension on how to better serve and show their love for our country," Villanueva said.

"There may be lots of vocation, occupation and profession waiting around, but joining the noblest profession, particularly the Army, is something different and worthwhile," he added. *Rene Acosta*

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# BusinessMirror

A publication of the Army

Page. 2

## Army steps up counterinsurgency outreach program in Samar

**H**INABANGAN, Samar—Soldiers here have vowed to strengthen community-outreach activities in Samar provinces to sustain the drive against New People's Army (NPA) in one of the country's poorest communities.

Col. Alex Luna, commander of the Philippines Army's 801st Brigade based in Fatima village of this town said on Thursday that, while they intensify combat operations against armed rebels, they're not setting aside efforts to win the hearts of vulnerable villagers.

"Our main job here is to sustain peace in areas prone to the rebels' influence. Our efforts to dismantle rebels must continue. These humanitarian services are all in addition to that," said Luna, leader of the battalion tasked to fight insurgency in Samar and Eastern Samar provinces.

Outreach activities have been effective to counter recruitment activities of the NPA in the island of Samar, known as one of the rebels' strongholds in the country, Luna said.

"If people see us doing humanitarian

activities in their communities, we gain their trust and respect. Through these efforts, they're not easily convinced to join communist rebellion," he added.

The army official said government troops had been engaged in gun battles with the NPA in more than four decades, but insurgency remained as a serious threat to Samar's peace and order.

The two areas belong to the poorest provinces in the country. In the 2015 report by the Philippine Statistics Authority, Samar had a poverty incidence of 39.5 percent, while Eastern Samar recorded a 37.4-percent poverty rate.

Samar provinces have been a stronghold of armed rebels due to its terrain, which consists of densely forested mountainous areas, high poverty incidence and issue of widespread landlessness, according to a 2013 study of William Norman Holden of the University of Calgary in Canada.

The NPA launched its first tactical operation in the country in Calbiga, Samar, in 1974, when it ambushed an army scout patrol and seized a number of weapons. *PNA*

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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
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## 142 Reds surrender in Mindanao

By MIKE M. CRISMUNDO and BONITA L. ERMAC

**ILIGAN CITY** — A total of 142 communist-terrorist fighters, among them a vice commander of the New People's Army (NPA), surrendered to local authorities this week in the provinces of

Bukidnon and Compostela Valley, the military reported yesterday.

Captain Jerry S. Lamosao, regional spokesman of the Philippine Army's 10th Infantry (Agila) Division (10th ID),

said among the surrenderers were an NPA vice commander and three regular fighters from the Sandatahang Yunit Propaganda-Guerrilla Front Committee 27 (SYP-GFC 27) of the NPA's Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC).

Lamosao said the four, along with 10 other members of its Solid Mass Organization (SMO), gave themselves ▶ **16**

up to the command group of Lt. Col. Esteyven E. Ducusin of the army's 71st Infantry (Kaibigan) Battalion (71IB) in Purok 8, Barangay Nueva Visayas, Mawab, Compostela Valley.

"They yielded at 3 o'clock in the afternoon last Saturday where their families and relatives along with some local officials also witnessed during brief surrender rites," added Lamosao.

Meanwhile, 35 Militia ng Bayan (MNB) members, and 93 Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA (CPP-NPA) mass base supporters or members of the Underground Mass Organizations also surrendered in Northern Mindanao through the efforts of the 403rd Infantry (Peacemaker) Brigade (403 IB) of the army's 4th Infantry Division (4ID).

Mayor Jose Antonio A. Villo of Sumilao, Bukidnon, officiated the oath of allegiance to the government of the 128 communist-terrorists who returned to the fold of the law.

During the ceremony attended by Brigadier General Eric C. Vidoya, 403IB commander, they also surrendered 34 assorted firearms and one improvised explosive device (IED).

Speaking at the activity, dubbed "Kagsabuwa Para Hu Kalinaw" (Unity for Peace), Vidoya said: "This very significant moment is a great contributory factor in our bid to finally attain peace in our communities here in Bukidnon."

Brig. Gen. Reuben James Basiao, 701st Infantry Brigade commander,

said all rebel-returnees will undergo integration procedures, part of which is a program called "Happy Home" which would last up to four months.

The process starts with a 10-day political deradicalization which takes place shortly after their surrender and is quickly followed by psycho-social counseling, skills training by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and livelihood assistance programs.

Last Wednesday night, President Duterte hit CPP founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison before 215 former CPP-NPA rebels he invited for dinner at Malacañang.

Duterte criticized Sison, his former professor, saying the CPP founder thinks he owns the government and wants to be President.

"Sison is dreaming of his own government. He wants to replace me," Duterte said in Bisaya, his native tongue.

The President also teased his former professor by saying that Sison looks more like a Taiwanese than a Filipino.

Then, he addressed the rebel-returnees, asking them: "Give me one reason why you'd die for Sison."

Miffed at Sison's recent order to the NPA to kill one uniformed personnel (police or soldier) a day, the President said that for every slain soldier or policeman, the military will retaliate by killing five NPA fighters. (With reports from Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos and PNA)

February 18

The Manila Times

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# 3 IS supporters killed in Lanao del Norte clash

**IMBOANGA CITY:** Police and military forces clashed on Thursday with three supporters of the Islamic State (IS) and killed all of them in Lanao del Norte.

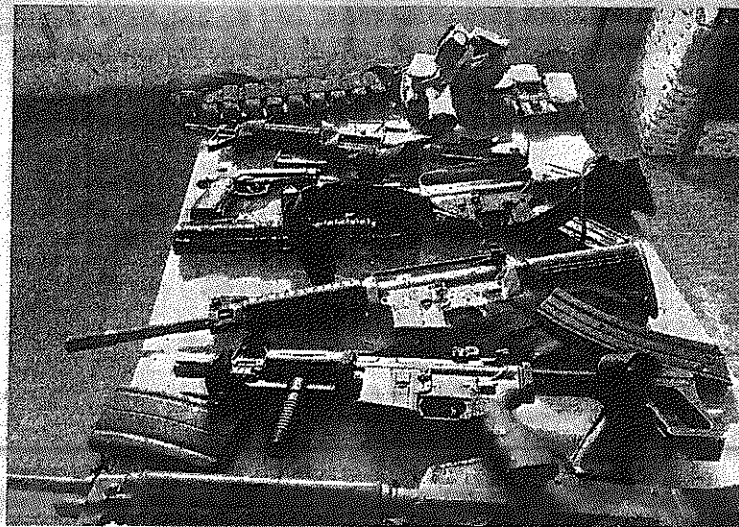
Army Brig. Gen. William Alunday, commander of anti-terror task group, said the trio opened fire on security forces out to arrest them in Barangay Imba Punud.

"The joint law enforcement operations of military and police neutralized the notorious Maute-IS remnants in Lanao del Norte early this morning," he said.

Maute is an IS-inspired terrorist group that last year laid siege to Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, in May of last year.

Alunday tagged the slain Maute remnants as "terrorists."

One of the slain bandits was identified as Omar Daiser, a known drug pusher who escaped from



**ARMS HAUL** A military photo shows weapons seized by soldiers and policemen from slain Islamic State supporters in Pantar, Lanao del Norte. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

prison and joined IS in May during the Marawi siege.

Daiser was also a follower of for-

mer Marawi Mayor Solitario Ali, who was accused by authorities as involved in the illegal drug trade.

"Daiser had a standing warrant of arrest for robbery with homicide issued by the Marawi City Regional Trial Court. He was known to be an illegal drug user and pusher and a follower of Solitario Ali, former mayor of Marawi City, who is involved in the illegal drug trade," Alunday said.

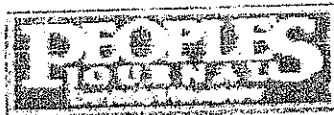
He added that troops recovered the bodies of the slain terrorists, including their weapons—four M16 automatic rifles, one M203 grenade launcher, one FAI automatic rifle and one police Beretta 9mm pistol and assorted ammunition and bandoliers.

The bodies were claimed by Bokari Abdulgani, a town council member.

Meanwhile, Army Major Gen. Roseller Murillo, 1st Infantry Division commander, said "government forces will continue to intensify its internal security operations to neutralize the remnants of terrorist groups in Marawi." **AL JACINTO**



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## Soldier nabbed for drug selling in Leyte

A MEMBER of the Philippine Army was arrested by members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in a buy-bust in Palo, Leyte last Monday, PDEA chair Director General Aaron N. Aquino said yesterday.

Army trooper Jerry Delgado, 53, was placed under arrest during the entrapment operation in Pawing, Palo town con-

ducted by members of the PDEA Regional Office 8 and the local police, said the PDEA chief.

Recovered from the suspect's possession were three plastic sachets containing around 0.3 gram of shabu with a local market value of P1,5000 and the marked money he received from the undercover officer.

Aquino said the sus-

pect is now facing charges for violation of Section 5 (Sale of Dangerous Drugs), and Section 11 (Possession of Dangerous Drugs), Article II of Republic Act 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

The soldier will also be facing administrative charges for grave misconduct. **Alfred Dalizon**



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**POLICE FILES**

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## Aplay na! 8,000 Army kailangan ng AFP ngayon



**KARADAGANG** walong libong sundalo ang kailangan ngayong taon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Sinabi ni Lt. Colonel Villanueva, spokesperson ng Philippine Army, na layunin nilang mapalakas pa ang kanilang mandato nangiprotectahan ang seguridad at mapanatili ang kapayapaan ng bansa.

Ang pag-recruit sa 8,000 bagong sundalo ay bukas sa lahat ng mga Filipino na nais maglingkod sa bayan.

Ang AFP ay may 3,600 quota sa regular na recruitment kada taon.

Ang mataas na quota ngayong 2018 ay bahagi rin ng pagbuhay ng karagdagan 10 Army Infantry Battalion upang mapalakas ang hanay at kapabilidad ng Philippine Army sa pagtugon sa iba't ibang banta sa seguridad tulad ng terorismo sa bansa.

Ang mga bagong recruit ay itatalaga sa mga Army infantry, cavalry at artillery unit, pati na sa engineer, communication, logistics at administrative.

Sa mga nais mag-apply, sinabi ni Villanueva, na magtungo lamang sa recruitment centers na itatalaga ng Army sa Cagayan De Oro City, Cebu City, Port Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Iinagdag din ni Villanueva na maaring bumisita sa Philippine Army website o magtungo sa pinakamalapit na Army base sa lugar na kaniyang nasasakupan.

(Mark Oblada)

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### 3 Maute napatay sa Lanao

**TODAS sa mga sundalo ang tatlong hinihinayang miyembro ng Maute-ISIS group kasunod ng sagupaan sa Pantar, Lanao del Norte kahapon.**

Nabatid mula kay Pantar Police chief, Senior Insp. Mohammad Doro na nagsasagawa ng operasyon sa Barangay Lumba Punod ang mga tauhan ng 4th Mechanized Battalion nang magkasagupa ang mga suspek.

Nakilala ang isa sa mga napatay na si Omar Mustapha Daiser, residente ng nabanggit

na barangay. Hindi pa tukoy ang pagkakakilanlan ng isang suspek.

Samantala, kasunod ng pagkatalo ng Maute-ISIS group sa Marawi City noong nakaraang taon, karamihan umano sa mga tumakas na mga bandido ay nagtatago sa ilang bayan ng Lanao del Sur at pinamumunuan ng isang Abu Dar.

Inilarawan ni Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander ng Task Force Ranao, si Abu Dar na isa sa mga sub-leader ng Maute group at panguna-

hing kanang kamay ng napatay na lider na si Omarkhayyam Maute.

"The alleged recruitment efforts for training of new fighters of ISIS-Maute terrorist group were also monitored in the municipalities of Piagapo, Lumbacaunayan, and Sultan Dormalondong," ani Brawner.

May patong umano sa ulo na P3 milyon si Abu Dar na ginagamit ang mga larawan ng pagkawasak ng Marawi City para makapanghikayat ng mga batang miyembro.

**JEFF GALLOS**

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HANDOG PANGKABUHAYAN, Armed Forces of the Philippines Lt. General Rolando Josellto Bautista (2nd from left), Commanding General of Philippine Army and Tarlac Heritage Foundation Inc. Co-Founder Dr. Isa Suntay (2nd from right) turn over to one of the recipient Narciso Gragasin (right) an imparted cows. Also in photo, were Maj. Gen. Felimon Santos Jr., Commander 7th Infantry Division, Brig. Gen. Henry Robinson, Brig. Gen. Felicissimo Budiongan, during the distribution of 24 cow, 7 carabaos, 5 goats, and 11 ducks to 47 new animal recipients. A total of 110 family beneficiaries have been served since the program's inception. They have cared for their animals well and have produced the required animal offspring which enable the continuity of the program during the Tarlac Heritage Foundation held at the Bgy. Abogado, Paniquil, Tarlac Wednesday.

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# PHILIPPINE ARMY INQUIRER

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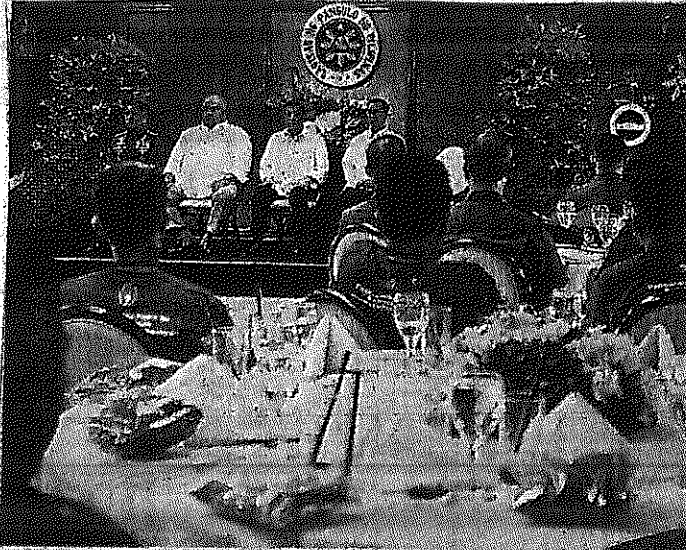


**HIGHER MODELS** Former Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin inaugurates lower variants of the Bell-412 helicopter acquired by the Air Force in 2015. The Air Force has ordered 16 higher models of the helicopter supposedly for humanitarian operations and disaster response. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

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# INQUIRER

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**WARNING TO NPA** In his meeting with former New People's Army (NPA) rebels, President Duterte said he had ordered the military to kill five guerrillas, male or female, for every soldier they killed. —JOAN BONDOC



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

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**BANGSAMORO  
LAW  
HEARING**  
– A Muslim  
woman  
attends a  
heavily  
guarded  
Senate  
hearing  
on the  
Bangsamoro  
Basic  
Law at  
Notre  
Dame  
of Jolo  
College  
in Sulu  
Thursday.  
(Jansen  
Romero)



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## Female ex-NPAs offered China trip

The next time President Duterte makes a trip to China, he may be bringing along dozens of female former communist guerrillas who have surrendered to his government.

The President told 215 former members of the New People's Army (NPA), the

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armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), that he wanted to show them how life has improved after China turned to capitalism.

The President said he wanted to take female former Red fighters on a tour to China and Hong Kong, similar to the trip he had arranged as a reward for female soldiers who fought Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi City.

"Do you want to go to Hong Kong? All my female soldiers who fought in Marawi, from the police and the military, I sent them to Hong Kong for a vacation. And it may be the same for you," Mr. Duterte said in a speech to rebel returnees in Malacañang on Wednesday night.

There were 48 female former guerrillas in the audience.

### No definite date yet

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said there was no definite date for the President's visit to China, adding that he had a standing invitation from Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"And the invitation was: it can be state, official, private, you are always welcome to come to China," Roque said.

The President made the pitch to convince the former insurgents to turn a new leaf and reject the communist ideology.

"You communists would say life is good [under communism]. Now that China is no longer communist, you take a look," he said.

The CPP and the NPA were established at the height of China's "cultural revolution" when China battled "capitalist roaders."

The CPP still follows Mao Zedong's protracted "people's war" strategy of surrounding the cities from the countryside.

Following Mao's death,

Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping ascended to the top leadership position and opened China to the global economy.

### Harsh words for NPA

While he wooed the female former guerrillas, Mr. Duterte had harsh words for those still fighting the government, ordering troops to kill five NPA members for every soldier they killed.

"Women or men, as long as they're NPA, kill them. Let's see," he added.

Mr. Duterte was reacting to a statement from CPP founding chair Jose Maria Sison, who said the NPA was capable of killing at least one soldier a day.

Sison on Thursday said he was just making an estimate and that he was in no position to order the rebels to conduct offensive operations.

Roque said the President was sending a message to Sison that he should not make threats.

"We are the state, if we haven't eradicated you, it's because we opted not to eradicate you as Filipinos," Roque said. "But if you want war, we

are ready to go to war."

In a statement on Thursday, Sison said he was "quite different" from Mr. Duterte who "boasts of his brutal and bloodthirsty character."

"I cannot order the NPA to kill anyone. Certainly, I cannot order them to launch any offensive campaign or operations against the (Armed Forces of the Philippines)," he said in a statement.

### Birthday wish

In an online interview with the Inquirer on Thursday as he marked his 79th birthday, Sison said his birthday wish was to "Oust Digong, unless he can make up and do good for the country."

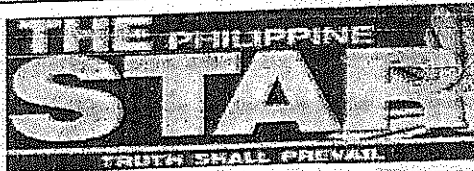
"I'm giving him a second chance to resume peace negotiation and do not disrupt it," he said.

Sison and his wife, Juliet, have been in self-exile in the Netherlands since 1987, after the collapse of the peace negotiations under then President Corazon Aquino. They have never set foot in the country since then. —REPORTS FROM PHILIP

C. TUBEZA AND DELFIN T. MALLARI JR. INQ

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## Coast Guard to conduct patrols in Phl Rise

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) will send a patrol vessel to the Philippine Rise to keep intruders at bay, in compliance with President Duterte's order that unauthorized foreign vessels be barred from the 13-million-hectare, resource-rich eastern waters.

PCG commandant Rear Admiral Elson Hermogino said the

Turn to Page 7

patrol would be done in coordination with the Philippine Navy.

The President's order came after Chinese ship *Ke Xue Hao* completed its "scientific research" in the vast Philippine Rise off Aurora.

"We are waiting for official orders... We would be conducting the immediate patrol. We are just awaiting (instructions) from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) since they were the ones that gave clearance for our officers to board the Chinese research vessel as Filipino observers," Hermogino said.

He did not say if more vessels would be deployed in the future.

"We will definitely deploy in coordination with the Philippine Navy. I have talked to the flag officer-in-command," he said, referring to Rear Admiral Robert Empedrad.

"It will be a joint or complementary patrol or alternate patrol to ensure the directive of the President" is followed, he added. He stressed the patrol would also be on alert for local vessels engaged in illegal operations.

The PCG official revealed they had long been sending patrols in the area but bad weather would hamper the deployment. He said they might also send aerial patrol – using Islander turboprop aircraft – over the Philippine Rise on a case-to-case basis.

The presence of a Chinese vessel in the Philippine Rise had sparked concerns among some lawmakers and members of the opposition. It turned out the Chinese' activities in the area had the blessings of President Duterte.

Aside from possessing vast mineral and gas deposits, Philippine Rise is a major source of marine and aquatic resources.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has also highlighted the importance of Philippine Rise as a major food source as its rich and diverse ecosystem attracts migratory commercial fish like tuna, blue marlin and mackerel.

On Wednesday, President Duterte said the Chinese could be counted upon to respect the country's sovereign rights over the Philippine Rise.

In remarks before rebel returnees at Malacañang on Wednesday, Duterte also allayed fears by some sectors that his decision to allow the

"We are asserting an independent foreign policy. We are not giving out territory, we are protecting our sovereign rights and at the same time, we are doing the best that we can, given our state of preparedness," he said.

"So, the difference is, we are not willing to be used by other states that want to challenge the dominance, alleged dominance of China in the region, because we have ceased to be a lackey of any other state. We stand on our own," Roque said.

In an online interview, Roque said the Philippines will have a chance to occupy the disputed islands but only after Beijing leaves them for good.

"There will come a time when China's might have ceased, when we will have to thank them for the islands because it is only the Philippines that can legally build on those artificial islands," Roque said.

"Clearly, eventually, those artificial islands will be ours if we can ask China to leave," he said.

Roque issued the statement following reports that China had finished building infrastructure in the artificial reefs, without so much resistance from the Philippines.

Meanwhile, militant fishers group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya-Pilipinas) lashed out at BFAR for declaring the country could share resources from Philippine Rise with China and other countries. – With Christina Mendez, Michelle Zoleta

Chinese to conduct maritime research in the area might lead to Beijing's claiming rights over it.

"They're now saying they recognize sovereignty and jurisdiction of the Philippines. They gave a statement. I have received it," he said.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. also maintained that the Philippines has sovereign rights over the area.

"In the first place Philippine Rise is undisputed. It was awarded to us by the UN Commission on the Extended Continental Shelf. So that award is recognized even by China, it was never disputed by any state, whether be it official, unofficial. China has reiterated that it recognizes our sovereign rights," Roque said.

When pressed anew about China's flexing its muscles in the West Philippines Sea, Roque reiterated the Duterte administration's independent foreign policy.



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# CANADA TO REVIEW \$233-MILLION SALE OF 16 BELL HELICOPTERS TO PH

OTTAWA—Just one day after signing a \$233-million (P12-billion) agreement to sell 16 helicopters to the Philippines, the Canadian government on Wednesday ordered a review of the deal amid concerns the aircraft could be used to fight local rebels.

Canadian Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said that the deal—formally signed on Tuesday—was struck in 2012 on the understanding the helicopters would be used for search-and-rescue missions.

But Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, the deputy chief of staff for plans and programs of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told Reuters on Tuesday that the Bell-412EPI helicopters would “be used for the military’s internal security operations.”

Padilla added that the helicopters could also be used for search-and-rescue and disaster relief operations.

“When we saw that declaration . . . we immediately launched a review with the relevant authorities. And we will obviously review the facts and take the right decision,” Champagne told reporters, without giving more details.

## Weapons sale rules

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, asked later whether he was concerned the helicopters might be used against Filipino citizens, replied, “Absolutely.”

Canada has very clear regulations about to whom it can sell weapons and how they can be used, Trudeau said during a question-and-answer event at the University of Chicago.

“We are going to make sure before this deal or any other deal goes through that we are abiding by the rules . . . that Canadian governments have to

follow,” he said.

In Manila on Thursday, the military denied it planned to use the helicopters as attack aircraft against local insurgents.

“They must not politicize the acquisition,” Padilla said.

“You must understand that these are utility helicopters, not attack helicopters,” he told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the military would “consider the possibility of procuring from other sources” if Canada did not want to sell to the Philippines.

Roque insisted the Bells would be used for humanitarian missions and disaster response.

## Bemused

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who signed the deal on Tuesday with Canadian Commercial Corp., which is licensed to sell the American military aircraft, expressed bemusement at news of the review.

“I met with the Bell people in Singapore two nights ago and they have not indicated any hitch in the project,” Lorenzana said in a text message to reporters.

Later, in a statement, he said the helicopters were not attack or close-support aircraft and they would be used for personnel and supplies transport, ferrying wounded troops, humanitarian operations and disaster response.

The Bell helicopters would replace the secondhand Vietnam War-era UH-1H “Huey” rotary aircraft, the workhorse of the Philippine Air Force.

The Philippines acquired the Hueys from the United States.

The military employs attack helicopters and planes to support ground troops battling Moro rebels in Mindanao, as well as communist New People’s Army



guerrillas in other parts of the country.

The Bell helicopters are scheduled for delivery early next year as President Duterte refocuses the military's modernization program to tackle growing domestic threats posed by communist rebels and pro-Islamic State militants in Mindanao.

This will be the second time the Philippines is acquiring Bell helicopters. In 2015, it bought eight lower variants of the aircraft for P4.8 billion.

#### Not attack helicopters

A spokesperson for the Department of National Defense said on Wednesday that the Air Force would use the new batch of Bell helicopters for disaster response and humanitarian missions, but also for "antiterrorism" operations.

Padilla said on Thursday this did not mean the aircraft would be used as "attack helicopters."

"Not at all. They are purely for utility purposes, ergo, transport purposes, especially during HADR operations," Padilla said, using a military term for disaster response.

Bell Helicopter had said the Philippine military would use the aircraft "for a variety of missions such as disaster relief, search and rescue, passenger transport and utility transport."

Canadian Ambassador to Manila John Holmes said on Wednesday the versatility of the aircraft would improve the "search-and-rescue and disaster relief capabilities" of the Philippines and would be a "real benefit" to its citizens.

A spokesperson for the Canadian Embassy in Manila

said it did not have a comment to make on Thursday.

#### Human rights violations

During the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit in Manila last November, Trudeau said he had called out President Duterte over "human rights, the rule of law, and specifically extrajudicial killings" in the Philippine leader's brutal war on drugs.

Mr. Duterte later described Trudeau's comments as "a personal and official insult."

Trudeau was the only world leader who raised human rights in discussions with Mr. Duterte on the sidelines of the summit.

Nearly 4,000 people have been killed by police in the drug war since June 2016.

Human rights groups claim the death toll is much higher.

They also accuse police officers of carrying out illegal killings, staging crime scenes and falsifying reports.

"Human rights is a key element of our foreign policy and of our trade policy," Champagne said on Wednesday.

The Philippine National Police says officers shoot drug suspects only in self-defense.

The PNP rejects human rights monitors' description of the killings as a crime against humanity.

—REPORTS FROM REUTERS, AFP, PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE INQ

#### WHAT WENT BEFORE

In 2015, the Philippine Air Force received eight Bell helicopters as part of its modernization program.

The Bell-412EP helicopters were built by Bell Helicopter Textron Canada, a unit of Textron Inc.

Bell Helicopter is a producer of commercial, military and vertical-lift aircraft.

The Air Force bought the Bells for P4.8 billion and it used the aircraft for humanitarian, disaster response, and air-transport operations.

Five of the Bells were assigned to the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing, while the remaining three were given to the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing.

The Bell-412EP can accommodate up to 14 passengers and has a maximum capacity of 2,295 kilograms.

Another model of Bell helicopters earlier acquired by the government, the Bell UH-1H, was readied for security preparations for the Philippines' hosting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit in 2015. —INQUIRER

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# Lumads protest SC ruling on martial law

By EDU PUNAY

Lumads from Mindanao trooped to the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday to protest its decision upholding the legality of the

one-year extension of martial law declaration in the south.

Accompanied by human rights advocates, the indigenous peoples' group slammed the SC justices who voted to dismiss the petitions challenging the constitutionality of martial law extension in Mindanao.

Jong Monzon, secretary-general of the Pasaka Confederation of Lumad Organizations in Southern Mindanao, specifically questioned the decision of the high court that claims of

human rights violations by the military were speculative.

"When martial law was declared, there were 18 incidents of aerial strikes by the military that hit lumad communities, while 68 lumad leaders were victims of extrajudicial killings. Around 7,000 lumad families have been displaced due to military operations," he told reporters in an interview.

Monzon said that 44 lumad schools run by non-government organizations and church groups were forcibly closed due to intimidation by soldiers and paramilitary.

Datu Isidro Indao, Manobo leader of Inananon-Kulamanon Lumadnong Pan-aghuisa (Tikulpa), said they went to Manila to "expose the real condition" in Mindanao.

"The military is the one sowing terror in the communities in Mindanao," he said in Filipino, and that the SC ruling was "like rubbing salt to our wounds."

Another group, Barug Katugod Mindanao, claimed that there had been an increase in extrajudicial killings in Mindanao since martial law was declared in the region in May last year.

"There are already 126 victims of political killings in Mindanao in the wake of Duterte's all-out war and martial law," the group claimed in a statement.

Last Tuesday, the high court voted 10-5 to dismiss for lack of merit the consolidated petitions of former Commission on Elections chair 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 extended implementation of martial law as approved by Congress.

Among the key points in the ruling was 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 10 justices in the majority ruling were Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin, Mariano del Castillo, Estela Perlas-Bernabe, Noel Tijam, Samuel Martires, Andres Reyes Jr. and Alexander Gesmundo.

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

The SC has yet to release the 12 different concurring and dissenting opinions of the justices.

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

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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
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## Ambol group leader killed in clash with lawmen

By **NONOYE LACSON**

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** - The leader of a notorious criminal group, known for its involvement in the illegal drug trade, piracy and other forms of criminality, was slain in an encounter with police and military authorities in Dinastown, Zamboanga del Sur last Wednesday morning.

Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (West-MinCom) Spokesman Capt. Jo-Ann D. Petinglay identified the suspect as Salik Samin, who is also known as Kumander Karding. Samin is also the region's third most wanted person and has pending cases for murder, attempted murder, and frustrated murder.

Samin was killed after he shot it out with government forces in Sitio Matabang, Barangay Benuatan in Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur.

According to Petinglay, the Ambol Group is engaged in illegal drugs trade, criminalities, and piracy and operates in the coastal municipalities of Dinas, San Pablo, Dimataling, Margosatubig and Tabina, all in Zamboanga del Sur.

"The Joint Task Force ZamPelan and the police units were serving the arrest warrant on Samin, who evaded arrest and initiated a gunfight, prompting our forces to return fire," Petinglay said.

In a related development, military troops recovered two grenades and war materials in a clash with 20 members of the New People's Army in a remote village in Kalawit, Zamboanga del Norte at noon Monday.

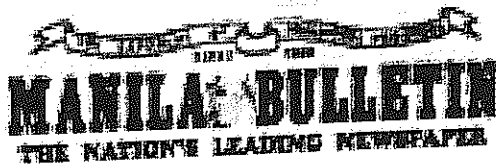
Joint Task Force ZamPelan Commander Brig Gen Roseller Murillo said yesterday elements of the 42nd Infantry Battalion were conducting combat operation when they encountered the group led by a certain Waway in Barangay Daniel Maing, Kalawit, Zamboanga del Norte at about 12:08am last Monday.

Murillo said the 30-minute armed confrontation resulted in the recovery of a KG9 machine pistol with two magazines and 20 rounds of ammunition, a rifle grenade, a fragmentation hand grenade, 20 empty shells of Caliber 5.56 and of 7.62 ammunition, a binocular, and other personal belongings of the bandits.

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# NPA presence sends hundreds fleeing for safety in ComVal

By ANTONIO L. COLINA IV

**D**AVAØ CITY – About 1,000 residents of Barangay Langawisan in Maragusan Municipality, Compostela Valley fled their homes in fear after members of the New People's Army (NPA) entered their community at 11 a.m. on Tuesday.

Maj. Ezra L. Balagtey, chief of the Public Information Office of the Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMincom), said in a text message Thursday that the lumads, who came from Sitios Lumad, Maapdo, and Caloyapi, are now staying in a covered court and a school in Barangay Coronobe, also in

Maragusan.

Balagtey added they have yet to get an update from the military's 66th Infantry Battalion under Lt. Col. Palmer M. Panungao on the alleged presence of the heavily armed NPA combatants.

In a report released by the military, the armed group, who came from Sitio Mandaopan, Barangay Bahi, allegedly threatened the local residents, including community leaders and teachers.

It added the residents fled due to the "heavy presence and coercion" of the armed group in the area.

The military is now coordinating with local government of Maragusan and Municipal Disaster Risk Reduc-

tion and Management Office of New Bataan, headed by Lynne M. Dollolasa, in terms of the security and distribution of food supplies and interventions for the displaced residents.

EastMincom commander Lt. General Benjamin Madrigal Jr. condemned the NPA members for the alleged harassment in Barangay Langawisan, and vowed to immediately restore normalcy there.

"We condemn this NPA terroristic act as it adds misery to this far-flung community. We are taking the necessary action to restore normalcy in the area and coordination with concerned offices are being done to mitigate the misery of the community," he said.

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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
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**Dureza:  
Let's  
give  
BBL a  
chance**

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD and MARIO B. GASAYURAN

**P**residential Peace Adviser Secretary Jesus G. Dureza urged officials in Jolo, Sulu to rally behind the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) which is being pushed by the Duterte administration.

"Let's give this (BBL) a chance to make it work," he told a gathering of local officials inside the municipal hall of Jolo on Wednesday.

Dureza lauded the Bangsamoro Transition Commission's draft of the BBL as an inclusive and "more improved version" compared to the previous versions of the bill.

He was referring to the previous BBL which failed to pass congressional scrutiny due to issues in the Constitution.

The Presidential Adviser said his presence in this island province is to ensure that the local leaders and public will be clarified on the content of the BBL.

"Jolo is the model place. What Jolo will feel will resonate to other municipalities in Sulu," he said, adding "We would like to hear from you if there are doubts on the BBL."

"We are here to listen," he said.

According to him, it is vital for the residents in the Autonomous Region to support the creation of the new Bangsamoro government. "Even if we sign an agreement and Congress passes the law, but if there's no support from the people, nothing will happen," he said.

"It should be acceptable to the people in order to address the historical injustices and give the Moros their right to self-determination," he pointed out.

He said in order to achieve it, the current efforts of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process is to simultaneously

promote both the peace process and development.

Undersecretary Nabil Tan said President Duterte expanded the members of the BTC from 15 to 21 to ensure that the BBL is inclusive.

Tan said the passage of the BBL is crucial for putting back on track the peace agreement so it can be fully implemented, such as the decommissioning of the MILF's combatants.

**Fiscal powers**

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph G. Recto pressed the national government yesterday to submit data to support the "awesome" fiscal powers of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

Recto thus requested Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, chairman of the Senate local government subcommittee undertaking public hearings on the BBL, to show "facts and figures that would bolster the financial feasibility" of the Bangsamoro self-ruled homeland.

The submission of these would clarify ambiguities in the provisions in the BBL bill and "hasten its passage in the Senate," Recto said.

"Like any bill, if you scratch the surface of a provision of the BBL, you will find the price tag underneath," he stressed.

Among the data Recto requested are "national revenue collections in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) since its creation to the present, as well as budget utilization of ARMM, including relevant financial statements, from the time it was created."

Included in the request are "budget allocations and subsidies lodged in different national government agencies, earmarked and off-budget revenue sources."



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# Manila Standard

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## Rody counters Joma jab: Kill 5 rebels a day

By Vito Barcelo

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte threatened to kill five rebels for every government soldier killed by the New People's Army, after Communist Party of the Philippines founding chairman Jose Maria Sison vowed to kill one soldier a day if the government does not resume peace negotiations.

Duterte made the statement in front of former communist rebels whom he treated to a meal in Malacañang, saying he could match each soldier's death with the lives of five NPA rebels.

"Go kill one soldier a day. To the military, you kill five NPA rebels for every soldier killed. Does he think I cannot do it, too?" Duterte said, referring to Sison.

"I can order the military to kill five rebels for every soldier killed. As long

Next page

as they are NPA members, whether male or female, kill them," Duterte said in Bisaya.

Duterte also took a swipe at his former professor in political science at the Lyceum of the Philippines, saying Sison is desperate to rule.

"His brain is already melting. What did he teach you? Kill people, ask money from the poor and the rich though arms. His work is like holding up everyone in the Philippines," he said.

The President also told the former rebels that the government is doing all it can to provide them free education, jobs and other benefits that many ordinary Filipinos enjoy.

In criticizing the GCP leader, Duterte asked his audience, "What did Sison do? Do you know that person? He wrote a book about communism. Europe was also poor before, that's also what they wanted. But now, Russia is the number one communist. And here in Asia, China is the capitalist."

He also told the more than 200 rebel returnees, "Where is Sison now?"

He said Sison wanted many things but could provide them only weapons.

"Do you want to get the government through arms? Because the Filipinos have a government. It has leaders. I am here, General Guerrero is here, the officials. They are not rich," he said.

"Communism remains. What do they do? They get the government through arms. That's the difference," the President said in a speech that ran almost two hours.

Duterte also asked the rebels: "Who is your god? Is it Sison? Where did the sacredness come from? His book is being taught to you and to others. You will also follow."

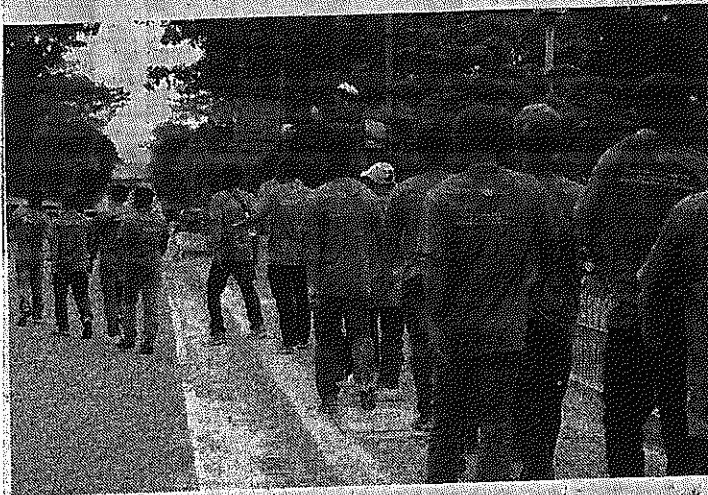
But Duterte also recalled that when he was mayor of Davao, the NPA were his friends.

"Remember I went to the mountain and talked to you because I had to rescue some people. Police and soldiers. Then I went there because I [was] just a mayor. I'm only interested to work," he said.

LB

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## CPP disowns 'rebel returnees,' brands as military's tactics



A group of rebel returnees walks toward the bus that will take them to a tour at the Malacañang Palace where they met President Duterte last Wednesday. PNA

**By Ted Tuvera**

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) yesterday assailed that the so-called "rebel returnees" presented to President Duterte on Wednesday night in Malacañang did not belong to their fold.

In a statement, the CPP noted that the number of New People's Army (NPA) surrenderees could be "fake news" generated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to create a "media spectacle and mount a propaganda offensive to paint the NPA as a waning force."

The communists even assailed that the military is merely making money out of such "press releases."

"The public should take these claims with a healthy dose of skepticism," the CPP said.

According to the rebels, AFP programs such as the "Balik Baril" Program and the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) are "AFP money-making rackets where field and division commanders recycle surrendered weapons and come up with lists of ghost NPA surrenderees."

However, the rebels did not Army Core Purpose: Serving

deny that there are indeed a number of their comrades who have decided to forego their ideals.

"The surrender of a few individuals form part of the realities of war," the CPP said.

"This, however, does not represent a trend nor does it negate in anyway the reasons that compel more and more Filipinos to rise up and resist in various forms of struggle, including the armed struggle," it stressed.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, during a Palace briefing, warned CPP founding member Jose Maria "Joma" Sison not to threaten the government.

Sison earlier remarked to have the NPA kill one soldier a day to force the government to resume the peace talks.

"You don't threaten us, Joma Sison. We are the State, if we haven't eradicated you, it's because we opted not to eradicate you as Filipinos. But if you want war, we are ready to go to war," he said, adding that the Armed Forces are always ready for battle to protect the State.

Duterte recently said that he wants the AFP to kill five NPA combatants for each government troop killed.

the people. Securing the land.

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The Manila Times

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# Sulu leaders drag feet on Bangsamoro region

BY BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO

**J**OLO, Sulu: Some local leaders and residents here are apprehensive of joining the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BAR), the new entity that will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao under the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law.

Some members of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) on Wednesday briefed Sulu local leaders, including Gov. Abdusakur "Toto" Tan 2nd and his father, former Gov. Abdusakur "Sakur" Tan, on the need to create the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BAR) through BBL.

Tan and his father expressed concern about how the BBL would affect their current setup, particularly about jurisdiction and management of municipal waters.

They opposed the plan to rename the Sulu Sea to Bangsamoro waters. The Tans are opposed to a provision in the BBL that requires areas under the ARMM to vote in a plebiscite whether they accept the BBL.

"It's not that we don't like the BBL. I think it would better of we give our (Muslim) brothers (and sisters) the freedom of choice," the older Tan said.

"If this is really good, BBL will win. Give us the opportunity to give our people the chance to understand it so that our grandchildren would not blame us in the future if it will not succeed," Sakur said.

He explained that he and some of his constituents do not want to

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merely answer "yes" or "no" when the BBL is subjected to a plebiscite.

"This is what I ask from you, can we make it more democratic?" Sakur said. Toto shared his father's sentiments.

He cited Sec. 4, Article 15 which provides that the establishment of the Bangsamoro should "take effect upon ratification of the BBL by majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite to be conducted among others, in the present geographical area of the ARMM."

He said in previous organic acts, amendments and related laws "recognized the right of every Muslim to vote whichever way he pleases, as evidenced by the inclusion in the ARMM of only those who voted favorably."

"The present (BBL) deviates and attempts to construct a monolithic whole from the forcible assimilation of the minority who may choose to vote negatively based on different persuasions vis-a-vis the creation of BBL," he said.

"This, then, is a guarantee to-

wards the road to failure. Socio-cultural differences between and among Muslim communities and voting provinces may just be the unrecognized factor why previous efforts failed in the first place," Toto said in a position paper submitted to the panel.

The governor said "there can never be absolute homogeneity in a genuine and true democracy due to the inherent but unique nuances of each and every Muslim province especially thriving in an archipelagic state such as ours."

"Insistence on the automatic creation of the entire Bangsamoro based only on the mathematical simple plurality rule of obtaining the (approval of the) majority foments strife and dissent because when the minority opts not to join, they will be compelled to do so by the very law which purports to protect them from the tyranny of the majority," he said. "This will result to a hostage situation of those who would participate in a plebiscite called for the purpose

of ascertaining their true will, then proceeding to railroad acceptance of what they would have potentially rejected.

He said that a plebiscite should only guide government in identifying previous Muslim communities who opted to participate but not to institutionalize the existence of the present set up "because the proposed BBL should usher in fresh beginnings, not shackled by failed experiments of the past."

"Participative democracy, not appeasement should be primordial if true and lasting peace is the ultimate goal," he added.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, chairman of the Senate subcommittee on BBL, on Thursday conducted a public hearing on the BBL here to get the pulse of the residents to be affected by the BBL.

Senators Juan Edgardo Angara, Joseph Victor Ejercito, Sherwin Gatchalian, and Risa Hontiveros joined Zubiri in the "listening tour" to help them craft a constitutionally-acceptable BBL.



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## DIGONG JONA GUSTONG MAGING PRESIDENTE

Gusto umanong maging pangulo ng bansa si Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Maria Sison.

Ito ang sinabi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte nang handugan niya ng merienda kahapon ang nasa 200 NPA rebels sa Malacanang matapos na sumuko ang mga ito sa pamahalaan noong Miyerkules sa Camp Crame.

"He wants to succeed me. No question about that. He's a Filipino. Actually, I don't know if he is one. He looks like a Taiwanese

national. He wants to run for president, no question about that," wika pa ni Duterte.

Iniutos rin ni Pangulong Duterte sa AFP at PNP na pumatay ng 5 NPA sa kada sundalo na mapapaslang ng mga rebelde bilang buwelta sa naging banta ni Sison na magtutumba ang NPA ng isang sundalo araw-araw hanggang mapilitan ang gobyerno na bumalik sa peace talks.

"I can order the military to kill five rebels for every soldier killed. As long as they are NPA

members, whether male or female, kill them)."

Ibinunyag din ni Duterte na ambisyon ni Jona na palitansiya bilang Pangulo ng bansa at maupo Ito sa Malacanang.

Magugunita na himok ni Sison ang NPA na maglunsad ng pag-atake sa mga sundalo hanggang sa mapilitan ang gobyerno na bumalik sa peace talks.

Ang 200 sumukong NPA rebels ay sumasalalim na sa proseso upang sumanib sa AFP bilang mga CAFGU. -Rudy Andal-

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## NPA rebels occupies sitio, residents flee

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Hundreds of families have reportedly been displaced after suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels reportedly entered Tuesday Sitio Kaluyapl in Barangay Langgawisan, Maragusan, Compostela Valley Province.

Reports disclosed the terrorists came from nearby Sitio Mandaopan in Barangay Bahi.

They took over the sitio at about 11 a.m., allegedly holding hostage community leaders as well as teachers and several

select individuals, before asking others to evacuate the area.

About 6:30 p.m. of the same day, an estimated 150 individuals from the Sitios of Lumad, Maapdo, and Caloyapl all in Barangay Langgawisan were seen trooping to Barangay Coronobe's covered court and school.

They allegedly fled their homes due to the presence of NPAs.

In response, the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion under Lt. Col. Palmer M. Parungao has coordinated with the Local Govern-

ment Unit of Maragusan and the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of New Bataan under Lynne M. Dollolasa, in securing as well as feeding the displaced families.

Meanwhile, Lt. General Benjamin Madrigal Jr., head of the Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom), condemned the NPA's exploit, deeming it a "terroristic act" that only serves to add "misery to far flung communities."

"We are taking the necessary action to restore normalcy in the area," he added.

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Pahina. 1

## Berdugo ng Abu sumuko

Kusang sumuko sa tropa ng Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) ang isang tinaguriang executioner o berdugo ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sa Brgy. Tuyang, Talipao, Sulu kamakalawa.

Kinilala ni Captain Rowena Dalmacio, director ng PMC Public Affairs Office ang sumurender na bandido na si Aldimar Tahil, 20, taong gulang, taga-Brgy. Mahala ng naturang probinsya.

Ayon kay Dalmacio, si Tahil ay sumurender sa Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT) sa Brgy. Tuyang, Talipao Sulu. Isinulat ni Tahil na marami pa sa kanyang mga kasamahan mula sa grupo ni Bernan Lutian ang maising sumuko sa tropa ng militar upang makapagagurnabuhay.

Isinuko rin ni Tahil ang kaniyang 9 MM submachine gun "UZI" kung saan agad naman itong isinailalim sa medical check-up at custodial debriefing.

Nabatid na si Tahil ay miyembro ng ASG simula pa noong 2014, at ginawang tagapagbantay sa mga hostage ng mga bandido at isa ring mensahero ng mga kidnappers.

Bukod dito ay sangkot din sa pamumugot ng ulo ng mga hostages at ng kanilang mga kasamahan tumatalkod sa ekstremistang paniniwala ang grupong kinabibilangan ni Tahil.

Kasalukuyan nang sumasailalim sa masusing tactical interrogation ang sumukong Abu Sayyaf member. -Joy Cantos-

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## Unexploded IED found

DAVAO CITY – A road near Brgy. Lasang here was locked down for several hours yesterday after operatives of Task Force Davao (TFD) were informed of an abandoned bag containing an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) being found in the area, which is only some 1.2 kilometers away from a military checkpoint. "May nagreport lang sa Lasang Detachment na may suspicious item sa gilid ng kalsada, thus our K-9 and EOD proceeded to the area to verify and validate the info. It turned positive and EOD rendered safety procedure to recover said Improvised Explosive Device (IED)," TFD Commander Col. Nolasco Mempin said. **(Yas D. Ocampo)**

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# Canada pinarerepaso ang helicopter deal sa PH

**Ottawa (Reuters)** – Isang araw lamang matapos lagdaan ang \$233 milyon kasunduan para magbenta ng 16 na helicopter sa Pilipinas. Ipinagtutos ang gobyerno ng Canada nitong Miyerkules ang pagre-repaso sa kasunduan sa gitna ng mga pangamba na posible itong gamitin laban sa mga rebelde.

Sinabi ni Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne na ang deal – pormal na nilagdaan nitong Martes – ay napagkasunduan moong 2012 sa tinawanan na gagamitin ang helicopters para sa search-and-rescue missions.

Sinabi ni Major General Restituto Padilla, deputy chief of staff for plans and programs ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), nitong Martes na gagamitin ang helicopters para sa internal security operations ng militar, adunagdag na maaan rin nitong ipadala sa search-and-rescue at disaster relief operations.

"When we saw that declaration... we immediately launched a review with the relevant authorities. And we will obviously review the facts and take the right decision," ani Champagne sa reporters, nang hindi nagbibigay ng mga detalye.

Ang Bell 412EP1 helicopters ay nakatakdang i-deliver sa unang bahagi ng susunod na taon habang nagtatanda ang AFP na paigtingin ang mga operasyon laban sa Islamist at komunistang

rebelde. Tinanong si Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, kung nababehala siya na maaaring gamitin ang helicopters laban sa Filipino citizens, sumagot siya na "Absolutely."

Malinaw ang mga regulasyon ng Canada sa pagbebentahan nila ng mga armas at kung paano gagamitin ang mga ito, sinabi niya sa question and answer events sa University of Chicago.

"We are going to make sure before this deal or any other deal goes through that we are abiding by the rules... that Canadian governments have to follow," aniya.

Inakusahan ng human rights at arms control groups ang sandatahang lakas ng Pilipinas ng extrajudicial killings, torture at iba pang kalupitan habang nilalaban ang Islamic militants sa Mindanao at mga komunistang rebelde sa ibang ibang bahagi ng bansa.

May polisiya ang Canada na hindi maaaring magbenta ng military equipment na posibleng magamit sa pang-aabuso sa mga karapatang pantao.

## SAIBANALANG

Maaari namang sa ibang bansa na lamang bumili ng military aircraft ang Pilipinas sakaling tumanggap na ang Canada na magbenta ng kanilang helicopters sa bansa, sinabi ng Malacañang

kahapon.

"If they don't want to sell, well we may consider the prospect of procuring them from other sources," sinabi ni Presidential spokesman Harry Roque sa press briefing sa Palasyo.

Pinasimulang itong din ni Roque ang mga espekulasyon na ang helicopters na bibilihin mula sa Canada ay gagamitin bilang attack aircraft laban sa mga rebelde. Tinuyak niya na ang utility aircraft ay gagamitin lamang para sa humanitarian missions.

"Malinaw po ang dahilan kung bakit natin gustong bumili ng Bell helicopters. Ito po ay gagamitin para transportasyon ng personnel, supplies, humanitarian missions, ferrying of wounded and injured soldiers and other forms of humanitarian assistance and disaster response," diimtiya.

**Mayulat nina  
Roy C. Mabasa at  
Genalyn D. Kabilang**

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## ONLINE NEWS

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

#### Unattended bag yields IED as Davao City prepares for anti-terror drills on Feb. 28

From the Philippine News Agency (Feb 8): **Unattended bag yields IED as Davao City prepares for anti-terror drills on Feb. 28**

Motorists passing by Lasang were asked to turn around early Thursday morning while authorities attended to a bag that yielded an improvised grenade.

**A press release from Task Force Davao said civilians reported to the Task Force Davao's Explosives and Ordnance Disposal and K9 Team in Lasang at around 6:30 a.m. about the unattended bag, some 50 meters from the footbridge going to Davao City and 1.2 kilometers from the Task Force Davao checkpoint in Sitio Licanan, Barangay Lasang.**

TF Davao said the bag was apparently thrown there. Traffic returned to normal at around 7:30, it said.



*Improvised grenade found in an unattended bag in Lasang, Davao City, early Thursday morning, 08 February 2018. Photo courtesy of Task Force Davao*

**The improvised explosive device (IED) was made of PVC pipe, detonating cord, blasting cap and ammonium nitrate fuel oil or fertilizer mixed with diesel fuel.**

**"These materials are also used for dynamite fishing although NPAs (New People's Army) use the same,"** Task Force Davao said.

**Col Nolasco Mempin, Task Force Davao commander said the improvised grenade was not detonated since it needed to be ignited first before it will explode.**

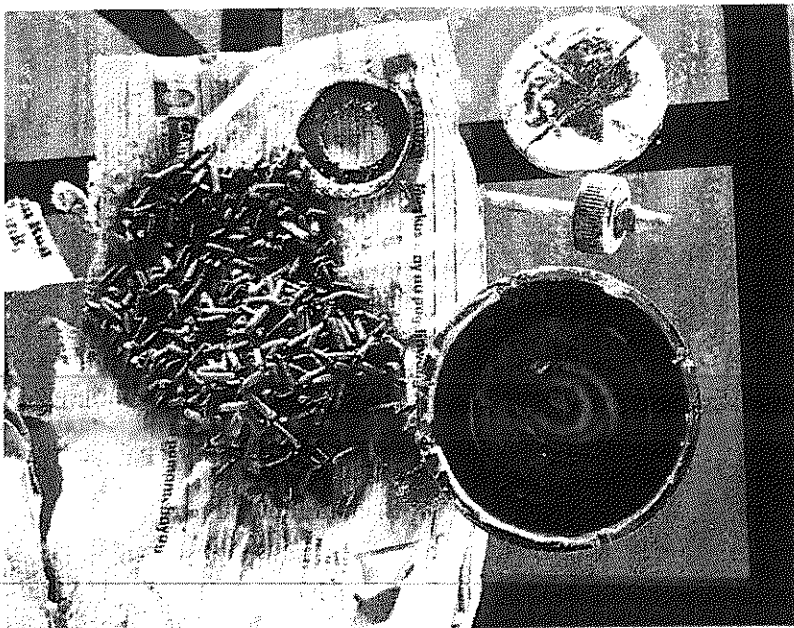
He said an investigation is ongoing to identify the person who left the bag.

**Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, Deputy TF Davao Commander,** told MindaNews the area was cordoned off as precautionary measure.

“Dinalhan namin ng K9 and the sniffing dogs sat near the bag, an indication of probable explosives content,” he said.

The swift response of authorities in Lasang was lauded by residents.

The recovery of the IED came as the city is preparing for “Southern Storm Drills,” a series of anti-terror exercises that will be implemented nationwide but piloted in this city on February 28.



*Parts of the improvised explosive device found in an unattended bag in Lasang, Davao City, early Thursday morning, 08 February 2018. Photo courtesy of Task Force Davao*

Mayor Sara Duterte urged Dabawenyos to be patient and to prepare themselves for “Southern Storm Drills.”

“I encourage the participation of the barangays and the public, medyo taasan nila ang ilahang pasensya,” the City Information Office quoted the mayor as saying. the “little inconvenience on the part of the public during the simulation will save lives in the future.”

The mayor said the simultaneous exercises “will require a lockdown of the city and the members of our communities need to be informed.”

She stressed the importance of emergency preparation in the city, especially in responding to disasters and terror attacks.

"I am asking for your patience because the public will greatly benefit if we are well-prepared – whether it is for incidents considered as acts of God or by people with bad intentions since I do not want casualties," she said.

"The D-day for the anti-terrorism drill is on February 28," Senior Inspector Ma. Teresita Gaspan, spokesperson of the Davao City police, said at the iSpeak Media Forum at City Hall. She said "the drills will also address weaknesses in the event of a terror attack and other emergencies.

Gaspan said the schedules of the simulation exercises have been disseminated to the barangay officials and will be taken up during the next meeting of the City Peace and Order Council.

The drills will include simulated scenarios like "bomb explosions, fire incidents, hostage situations, and active shooting," the City Information Office said.



www.pna.gov.ph

## **Eastern Visayas army welcomes new recruits**

From the Philippine News Agency (Feb 8): **Eastern Visayas army welcomes new recruits**

**The Philippine Army 8th Infantry Division has welcomed 128 new soldiers who completed their training at a military camp in Hinabangan, Samar Wednesday.**

**The new soldiers will be enlisted to military units under the 8th Infantry Division in Eastern Visayas.**

**Their primary task is to address the insurgency problem especially in Samar Island.**

National Economic Development Authority Regional Director Bonifacio Uy graced the graduation of the new soldiers and led the entrustment of firearms to new soldiers.

The entrustment of firearms symbolizes the responsibilities and commitment to the people and the country, the nationalism and loyalty among soldiers upon entry to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. It also symbolizes the responsibility soldiers will bear in their entire career in the armed forces.

In his message, Uy reminded the new soldiers to always remember their learnings in their training and serve the country to the best of their ability.

"Always uphold the virtues of the army. Serve this nation and this region to the best of your ability. Remember that your fight in the battlefield is also a fight against the social ills in our society. Take courage to do what is right and just," Uy said.

He told soldiers to always remain faithful to their mandate of protecting the constitution and the fulfilment of the goal of achieving a peaceful and progressive region.

**Major General Raul Farnacio, commander of the 8ID,** lauded the Division Training School personnel who were responsible to produce new soldiers.

The newly enlisted privates will boost the current troops who have been fighting the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army that affects the development of the region.

www.pna.gov.ph

## **NPA rebels, sympathizers yield in Bukidnon**

From the Philippine News Agency (Feb 8): **NPA rebels, sympathizers yield in Bukidnon**

**The government's relentless anti-insurgency campaign in Northern Mindanao had resulted to the surrender of at least 130 members and sympathizers of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) in Bukidnon province, the military said Thursday.**

**Among those who surrendered were two active combatants, 35 members of the Militia ng Bayan, and 93 civilian supporters of the NPA, said Capt. Norman Tagros, spokesperson for the Philippine Army's 403rd Infantry Brigade, a unit of the 4th Infantry Division (4ID).**

**The surrenderees also brought along themselves 34 assorted firearms and an improvised explosive device, Capt. Tagros said.**

**Tagros said the rebels and their sympathizers surrendered to the First Special Forces Battalion in Sumilao town, in Bukidnon, on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018.**

Bukidnon has been known as one of the region's flashpoints that has a significant presence of NPA fighters and mass-based supporters, especially in the hinterlands of Mount Kitanglad, Mount Kalatungan and the Calabugao valley areas.

The province has at least four guerrilla fronts or fighting units that operate within those mountains. The Communist insurgents are also known to be operating in some parts of the Caraga Region.

The surrender, Tagros said, was the product of the military's sustained "community support programs" as well as its combat operations against the rebels.

**Brig. Gen. Eric Vinoya, the brigade commander**, called the surrenderees as a "significant moment" that greatly contributes to the government's "bid to finally attain peace in our communities here in Bukidnon."

Vinoya also assured the surrenderers they will be provided economic assistance as they start a new life through livelihood projects and capacity development programs of the government.

"The government has prepared a program for you such as the Comprehensive Local Initiative Program wherein our brothers who are former members of the NPA will receive cash and livelihood assistance, housing, employment assistance, among others," Vinoya said in a statement.

www.pna.gov.ph

## **Rebels torch heavy equipment in Davao Sur town**

From the Philippine News Agency (Feb 8): **Rebels torch heavy equipment in Davao Sur town**

**Suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) burned down a backhoe heavy equipment on Wednesday night at a quarry site in Purok 4, Barangay New Ilocos here.**

**Senior Inspector Edilberto P. Cabillo, chief of the Magsaysay Municipal Police Station, said the suspects numbering to more than 20 poured a gallon of gasoline into the Sunward backhoe and set on fire the equipment with Serial Number SWE 21001054 and owned by Alejandro Tolero of Barangay Colorado in Digos City.**

Cabillo said the equipment was used in the quarry operation in the site owned by Edwin Brieta of Barangay Blocon, Magsaysay.

He said a hot pursuit operation was immediately conducted but proved futile since the suspects were nowhere to be found after fleeing to unknown direction.

**This came after Army soldiers seized several high-powered firearms from the communist rebels two weeks ago in Barangay Tacul here.**

**The presence of these lawless elements delayed multi-million road concreting projects here particularly the P140-million Barayong-Mabini-Bala-Upper Bala Farm to Market Road (FMR) project and the P90-million Poblacion-San Isidro-Tacul FMR project due to threats.**

With this, additional police and Army personnel have been deployed here to augment security forces to safeguard several heavy equipment involved in the construction of government projects.

www.pna.gov.ph

Nolcom wants more capable planes for PH Rise patrol

From the Philippine News Agency (Feb 8): **Nolcom wants more capable planes for PH Rise patrol**

To ensure better monitoring of the Philippine Rise (formerly known as Benham Rise), the Tarlac-based Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) is requesting the use of more capable aircraft in its maritime patrol missions.

This despite the availability of aircraft from the Air Force's Tactical Operations Group 2 and 3, which Nolcom spokesperson Lt. Col. Isagani Nato said was also utilized for air support missions against other security threats.

Aircraft being requested by Nolcom for air patrol missions over the Benham Rise and other maritime areas under its control include the long range Lockheed C-130 "Hercules" cargo aircraft, Airbus Military C-295 medium transport, which also doubles as a recon plane, and the speedy Mach 1.5 capable KAI FA-50PHs.

"But we (are also) ask(ing) the HHQS (Armed Forces higher headquarters) for the utilization of fixed-wing air assets and bigger planes like C-130 and C-295 incl FA-50 (aircraft, which are) capable (of) stable and long-range maritime air patrol," Nato added.

Earlier, the Nolcom spokesperson said air patrol missions off maritime areas under their jurisdiction are a regular affair with three to four missions a month. Last Jan. 31, a Japanese-donated TC-90 conducted its first maiden patrol over the Bajo De Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), Zambales and other areas under Nolcom supervision.

"Given the task, the (T)C-90 plane, with a tail number of 390, made its maiden flight at 9:45 a.m. of January 31, 2018, in the area of Bajo De Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), Masinloc, Zambales. It has flown around the shoal for about 800 feet above sea level sighting four Filipino fishing boats, together with nine Chinese vessels comprising of four Chinese Coast Guard vessels, four unknown Chinese vessels and a Chinese fishing vessel. Moreover, the Filipino pilots heard no challenge from the Chinese Coast Guard," Nato earlier said.

TC-90 with tail number 390, one of the two Japanese aircraft donated to the Philippines last March 27, was activated during short ceremonies at Naval Base Heracleo Alano, Sangley Point, Cavite City last Nov. 21.

The TC-90s have a range of over 1,000 nautical miles, and a cruising speed of 260 knots and capable of carrying eight passengers along with the pilots.

As of this time, the Navy is operating around six Norman Britten "Islander" patrol aircraft, four GAF "Nomad" planes, five AgustaWestland combat utility helicopters and one Robinson R-22 training helicopter.

The TC-90, which was part of the Beechcraft King Air aircraft family, was offered by Japan shortly after the Agreement Concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology was finalized last Feb. 29, 2016.

Two of the TC-90s were delivered to Sangley Point, Cavite last March 27 with the remaining three to be delivered in the first quarter of 2018.



www.manilatimes.net

## **Police release photos of Cagayan NPA rebels**

From the Military Times (Feb 8): **Police release photos of Cagayan NPA rebels**

**THE Police Regional Office 2 (PRO2) in Camp Marcelo Adduro in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan on Wednesday made public photos of 11 alleged active members of the New People's Army (NPA) in the region.**

**Chief Supt. Jose Mario Espino, PRO2 regional director, said the police infographic material released on social media is for the public to know the NPA members who are actively operating in the region.**

"They are the ones who sow fear and terror in many communities in the Cagayan Valley region," Espino said.

He said there is a need to make known important information to the people about the rebels and for the public to easily identify NPA members who still roam around their respective communities.

"We are doing this because we believe this is one way to protect citizens from the rebel group," Espino said as he called on the public to cooperate with the authorities by giving correct information "to stop once and for all the problem of insurgency."

Espino said he believes that the rebel group membership has been diminishing because of the support received by the government from residents of affected communities.

Intelligence reports the community confirmed said the communist rebels continue to recruit in remote and upland areas in Region 2.

The NPAs have also intensified its attacks on police and military stations after President Duterte called off the peace talks between the government and leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front-NPA late last year in the wake of unabated atrocities committed by the rebels.

But the police officer said the military's and the police's continuing offensives in cooperation with citizens have also weakened NPA forces and that "insurgency in the country will soon be a thing of the past."

**Meanwhile, arrested members of the rebel group – Rey Busania, Raul Merano and Arnold Jamias – who were allegedly responsible for the April 2017 attack in Maddela town police station in Quirino province that resulted in the death of Police Officer 2 Jerome Luwi Cardenas, are now facing criminal charges in court.**