

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
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

11 February 2018

Sunday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS


11 FEBRUARY 2018

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast		PDI p.2
HEADLINES NEWS			
2-5	Marawi heroes 'Man of the Year'	Catherine Valente	Mla Times p.A1
6-7	Duterte unfazed by ICC	Argyll Cyrus Geducos	Mla Bulletin p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
8	Duterte wants more Lumad as CAFGUs	Yas D Ocampo	Mla Bulletin p.19
9	Rody to lumads: 20,000 for every NPA killed	Edith Regalado	Phil Star p. 7
10	Soldier nabbed for drugs	Alfred Dalizon	P tonight p.2
11	Militiaman killed in clash with NPAs	Mike Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p.19
AFP RELATED NEWS			
12	DND says no order yet to abort chopper deal	-	D Tribune p.1
13	Justice fear high court ruling paves way for a permanent martial law	Dona Z Pazzibugan	PDI p.A2
14	US Navy probes alleged drugs use by sailor in Japan	AFP	D Tribune p.5
15	Marawi jail escapee, 2 other terrorist slain in Ianao clash	Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca	P tonight p.1
16	Pagbili ng 16 helicopter sa Canada ipinatigil ni Duterte	Malou Escudero	Ngayon p.1
17	Sulu residents, execs give up 20 firearms	Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca	P tonight p.3
SPORTS			
18	Army-Airforce gets back at Phil Star in Epic Battle	Joey Villar	Phil Star p.18
ONLINE NEWS			
19	3 Maute members dead in clash with soldiers	DIVINA SUSON	inquirer.net
20-21	Many suppliers can meet PH demand for new helis: DND chief	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph


February 2018



Page: A2



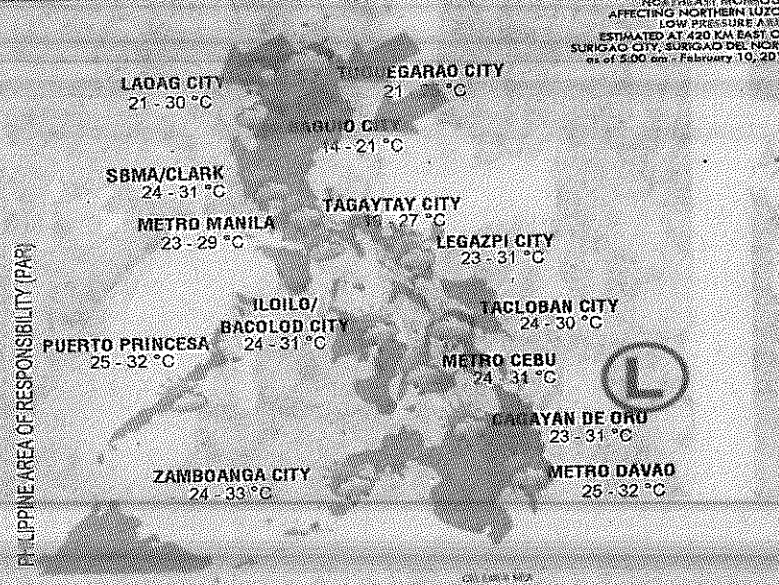
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST FEBRUARY 1, 2018 SUNDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON
LOW PRESSURE AREA ESTIMATED AT 420 KM EAST OF SURIGAO CITY, SURIGAO DEL NORTE as of 2:00 am - February 10, 2018



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:22 AM	5:59 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
1:49 AM	1:31 PM
LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON
FEB 7 11:54 PM	FEB 16 8:35 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
2:07 AM	6:10 PM
0.07 Meter	0.80 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
Light rain

CITY	Weather Icon	Temp Range	Weather Icon	Temp Range
METRO MANILA		23 - 29 °C		24 - 30 °C
TAGAYTAY		19 - 28 °C		18 - 27 °C
TACLOBAN		23 - 29 °C		24 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO		20 - 24 °C		22 - 27 °C
LEGAZPI		23 - 30 °C		23 - 29 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO		22 - 30 °C		22 - 30 °C
LAOAG		20 - 29 °C		21 - 30 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA		24 - 31 °C		24 - 29 °C
METRO DAVAO		24 - 31 °C		25 - 32 °C
BAGUIO		15 - 20 °C		15 - 21 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD		23 - 29 °C		23 - 28 °C
ZAMBOANGA		23 - 32 °C		24 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK		24 - 30 °C		24 - 29 °C
METRO CEBU		23 - 29 °C		24 - 30 °C

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINASH

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

February 2018

The Manila Times

Page: AT

THE MANILA TIMES AWARDS

Marawi heroes 'Man of the Year'

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

DAVAO CITY: The soldiers who defeated Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi City after five months of fighting were collectively given the "Man of the Year" award during *The Manila Times*' 7th Business Forum at Marco Polo Hotel.

The Manila Times
The 7th Business Forum
The Philippine Economic Outlook for 2018
"BUILD, CONSUME, GROW: Calling members
for an emerging economy to soar"

In his speech, *The Manila Times* President and Chief Executive Officer Dante Francis Ang 2nd said the "Man of the

Year" award was "meant to recognize an individual who had great impact on this country over the last year."

In 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte received the award "for capturing the imagination of the Filipino people and setting off a dawn of new politics."

This year, Armed Forces of the Philippines
➤ Heroes A2

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

PHOTO - Email address: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295



FOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT VALLIANTLY

The Manila Times President and Chief Executive Officer Dante Francis Ang 2nd (second from right) gives a commemorative cover page to Armed Forces chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, who received the Times' 'Man of the Year' award on behalf of the soldiers who liberated Marawi City from terrorists. From left: Editor in Chief Nerilyn Tenorio, Chairman Emeritus Dr. Dante A. Ang Sr., Guerrero, Ang 2nd, and Chief Operating Officer Blanca Mercado. PHOTO BY RUSSELL PALMA

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

in critical points of the city," he said.

"And so it was not a fighting in open space. Our soldiers are fundamentally trained or at least the most basic is really in a free range, in the mountains where the NPAs (New People's Army) are or even in urban areas, but not so many buildings and houses, not so many civilians to worry about," he added.

Duterte said he had ordered state forces to "reconfigure" and to "reinvent" their military doctrines.

"Because in Marawi, we were facing a cover of the enemies, cement and metal. Buildings. And they kept on sniping at us. And so I lost 167 soldiers and policemen," the President said.

"So when the policemen went there to arrest them, they were met with heavy gunfire. And the police was no match for any high-powered interdiction. So they had to call on the Marines and the Marines are battle-weary, maybe, but they are always ready and hardened soldiers, adept and ready to die. And indeed, they died," he added.

On May 23, Duterte was compelled to declare martial law in Mindanao, after the Maute group stormed Marawi City, burning public and private establishments and abducting non-Muslim civilians.

The siege laid by Maute fighters occurred while Duterte was in Moscow, Russia, for an official visit. The President cut short his trip to deal with the crisis in Marawi City.

The five-month long war, which ended on October 24, left the business district of the Islamic City in shambles.

Duterte earlier said rebuilding Marawi could cost more than P50 billion.

your support strengthen us for all the challenges that are yet to come. We fight for peace, for progress, [and] for our future," he added.

'A new kind of war'

The five-month standoff killed more than 900 terrorists. More than 800 high-powered firearms and almost 2,000 unexploded ordnances, improvised explosive devices and booby traps were seized. About 1,780 hostages were rescued.

In his keynote speech, Duterte said he was confident government forces would win in their fight against Islamic State-inspired extremists in Marawi City.

"Our 'Man of the Year,' he (Guerrero) heads the organization (military). I had no doubt in my mind that we would prevail," he said.

But the President admitted he was the reason why the war in Marawi took five months.

He said he stopped the bombing of a mosque where the terrorists were holding hostages as this would create more animosity and outright hostility toward the government.

"And I told the military in a command conference together with General Guerrero: Remember, it is to our national interest that we face this problem with sanity and not anger. Of course we have our different individual sentiments already...but the larger interest, the bigger view is that, remember we have two million-plus Filipinos working in the Middle East," he said.

The President also said the state forces were fighting "a new kind of war, a new environment."

"Aside from the hostages with them inside the building, they were

able to capture so many buildings in the downtown area and were really also able to preposition themselves in critical points of the city," he said.

"And so it was not a fighting in open space. Our soldiers are fundamentally trained or at least the most basic is really in a free range, in the mountains where the NPAs (New People's Army) are or even in urban areas, but not so many buildings and houses, not so many civilians to worry about," he added.

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HEROES FROM A1

Marawi heroes

onal pride

(02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

(AFP) chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero received the award on behalf of the state forces that liberated Marawi City.

Ang said the soldiers and policemen deployed to Marawi were recognized for their gallantry, dedication, and commitment during the battle with more or less 1,000 terrorists belonging to the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups, which had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

"It is to those who fought valiantly, including those who perished, that we offer *The Manila Times* 'Man of the Year' award for 2018," Ang said.

"Had our soldiers failed, we would not be here today. ISIS would have gained a toehold in the Philippines, and perhaps all of Mindanao would have been off limits for security reasons to many of you in attendance here today. Worse, this country would have been the springboard to larger, more destructive movements in the Asean region," he added.

Ang also said the award was the people's modest way of saying, "Thank you" to all government troops who fulfilled their mandate in serving and protecting the people and the country.

"We cannot let our guard down yet. As the government and other experts have said, the fundamentalist threat remains. We have validated this in our own investigative reports published earlier this year. The terrorists may have retreated from Marawi, but as we have seen time and again in many places around the world, such terrorists elements are opportunistic and nearly impossible to eradicate," Ang said.

"For now, we sleep well at night thanks again to the men and women whom we are honoring today. They not only shed blood and witnessed many of their brothers fall, but they remain ever vigilant and professional," he added.

Greater meaning

Guerrero thanked *The Manila Times*, saying "the sacrifice of life for country and people is given greater meaning with this recognition."

"The men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are humbled and deeply grateful to *The Manila Times* for the recognition that is being given to the brave soldiers who fought to liberate Marawi from the ISIS terrorists," Guerrero said in his acceptance speech.

"For our soldiers to be conferred with 'The Man of the Year' award and following the footsteps of the first awardee, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, makes this honor doubly significant. This award is shared by every soldier, airman, sailor and marine who continue to selflessly serve the nation and our people be it in times of armed conflict or disaster for peace and progress," he added.

The AFP chief said the victory over the terrorists in Marawi "showed not only the uncommon valor of our troops but also the binding commitment of every Filipino to the flag and to freedom."

"The decisiveness of the victory is testament to the undaunted spirit of the Filipino soldier who will put everything on the line in the name of service. Rest assured that the AFP will remain faithful to our sworn mandate of serving and protecting our country and our people," Guerrero said.

"Ours is a tradition of gallantry, discipline and determination, the long history of the AFP enriched by the bravery and patriotism of those who came before us... Your trust and

February 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Duterte unfazed by ICC probe

President's message to int'l prosecutor: 'I hope you come... we can be together in a room'

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

President Duterte is not blinking. He wants International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to come

to the Philippines and question him on supposed crimes against humanity allegedly committed under his administration's "war on illegal drugs."

Earlier, the ICC said its Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) is launching a

preliminary examination on allegations brought forth by lawyer Jude Sabio, with self-confessed hitman Edgar Matebato as witness, for alleged killings ordered by Duterte in Davao City through the so-called Davao Death Squad ► **10**

Duterte unfazed by ICC... ◀1

or "DDS."

According to Duterte, he is not afraid if the OTP proceeds with an investigation and expressed that he is ready to face trial so he can defend himself. In fact, he welcomes the ICC prosecutor to talk to him.

"I hope you (Bensouda) come. And I hope that we can be together in a room. I would ask for that rare privilege of talking to you. [Just] the two of us in a room. I'll welcome you. And if you want to find me guilty, go ahead. So be it," he said in a press conference in Davao City Friday night.

'Why me?'

The President said he cannot find a reason why the OTP would choose to review the events in the Philippines first when there are many other incidents and deaths happening in other parts of the world.

"I cannot see the reason why I'm the first head of state to be chosen by these idiots when there are so many things (happening elsewhere)," Duterte said.

'It's all politics'

The Chief Executive said that he knew beforehand that there was going to be an examination that was going to be launched against him.

"I have this transmittal. I was already listening to the tapes of their conversation. It was provided to me by another country but the conversation was in Philippines and New York. And there was this, 'See you in the headquarters when the case is filed,'" he said.

"I knew in advance that they were [doing] it. Problem is this case, from the looks of it, it's all politics," he added.

Impossible case

Duterte also said that it was impossible for the ICC to imprison him because any international treaty is not bigger than the Constitution being implemented in the country.

"The treaty shall form part of the laws of the land. In this city, in this country, alam ninyo 'yan (you know that), every penal or punitive measure must be published in the Official Gazette. That is required [because] without that, you

denied me my due process," he said.

"Paano mo ako makukulong ngayon? Because certainly, a treaty cannot be more powerful than a Constitution, it's just an agreement incorporated to form part the law of our land. But it does not release people in government from complying with the rules of the Constitution," he added.

Die like Rizal

But in case that the ICC review on him flourishes, the Chief Executive said he wants to be killed for doing something right for his country like Philippine national hero Jose Rizal, instead of being locked away.

"If you convict me, find a country that promotes death penalty and kill me by a firing squad. I would be very happy to face them," Duterte said.

"It would be a distinct honor for me because our foremost hero, Mr. Rizal, he's our greatest hero, he was shot by the Spaniards on that spot [in Rizal Park and] his monument is [there] right now because of his defiance," he added.

"I'm no Rizal. I am not bright as Rizal. But I would like just to imitate the way Rizal died. And I would be happy to – before they pull of the trigger, I would say, 'F*** you guys,'" he continued.

No jurisdiction

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) believes that the ICC has no jurisdiction to conduct a preliminary examination against the President and other government officials in the country over allegations of crimes against humanity.

Lawyer Erik Dy, OSG spokesperson, pointed out the ICC cannot replace the country's courts.

"The ICC may only exercise jurisdiction where domestic courts are incapable of carrying out the proper proceedings," Dy said in a statement.

"There are adequate laws and remedies in our country to address the issue of alleged extra-judicial killings," the lawyer pointed out.

Dy reminded that "petitions against the administration's War on Drugs are now pending for resolution before the Supreme Court"

"This negates the need for the ICC

to take cognizance of the matter," he stressed.

The OSG issued the statement after the Office of the President received notification that the ICC would conduct a preliminary examination into the allegations of crimes against humanity against Duterte and 11 other government officials.

Senate president

Citing the same view, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said it will take "just a matter of time" before the ICC dismisses its examination into these supposed crimes.

"I believe that simply is the procedure in the ICC they give every complaint an initial chance to survive," Pimentel said in a text message to reporters Friday night.

"But after this initial review my prediction is that the complaint will be dismissed. It's just a matter of time. Ground: Lack of jurisdiction."

The ICC conducts an independent and impartial preliminary examinations, investigations and prosecutions of the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in accordance with the Rome Statute, which the Philippines has entered into in November, 2011.

But Pimentel, a known ally of Duterte, believes that it will not prosper as "there are no grounds" to continue investigation into the complaint filed by lawyer Jude Sabio, a counsel of self-confessed hitman Edgar Matobato who claimed to be a part of the "Davao Death Squad" that supposedly operated on Duterte's orders.

He added that the ICC's move is nothing but a formality "to show that they are not discriminating the filer" and that "anybody can file a complaint."

When asked to expound on his prediction that the case will be junked due to lack of jurisdiction, Pimentel replied: "Look at the crimes under the ICC's jurisdiction. Do you honestly believe what has happened here in Philippines falls under any of those very serious and grave crimes? Honestly?"

"Even those who despise President Duterte PLEASE be honest. Kayo na sumagot sa tanong niyo," he added. (With reports from Jeffrey G. Damicog and Hannah L. Torregosa)

February 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 19

Duterte wants more lumad recruited as CAFGUs

By YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY — President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has given marching orders for the military to recruit more lumad to become members of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) in the wake of the killing of a datu and his son last week by members of the New People's Army (NPA).

The President even went as far as setting a bounty for each NPA who would be killed by government forces.

"Isang NPA mapatay ninyo, kayong mga lumad na maging CAFGU, I'll pay you... you want money? I'll give you money," the President said in a briefing with reporters at the Matina Enclaves late Friday afternoon.

"I will make it P20,000 per head. Sige. Marami mang pera ang gobyerno. Kung magbayad kayo ng tax ninyo mas lalong marami ako (Go on. The government has so much money. If the NPA is getting so much from taxes, the government has so much more)," he stated.

Duterte appeared frustrated at the continuing actions of the rebel group, which he branded as terrorists through a presidential proclamation earlier this year.

The President had earlier said he was getting tired of hearing reports of rebels continuing to seek revolutionary taxes from businesses and homes in the countryside.

Along with the killings of police and military officers in the midst of several ceasefires, Duterte has repeatedly been ambiguous about his desire to return the government peace panel in talks with the political arm of the terrorist group.

Meanwhile, Duterte said that lumad fearing for their lives should just seek the protection of the military.

"In the meantime, they would just live near the camps of the military," Duterte said.

"Or if they want, if they are well trained enough, give me about three months, I will train them as CAFGU and give them firearms and go out and hunt for those who killed their comrades."

Duterte's comments came after the NPA claimed that the two slain lumad two killed were "no heroes," as the group took responsibility for the crime.

Killed were CAFGU leader Banadjao Mampaundag and son Jhonard, who was also a member of the CAFGU, in Sitio Igang, Brgy. Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao del Norte on February 4.

"The two were armed and attempted to open fire against the Red fighters. Seized from them were .45 caliber pistol and a shotgun," NPA southern Mindanao Regional Command spokesperson Rigoberto Sanchez said.

"Mampaundag was no hero or benevolent tribal leader of Talaingod but a longtime CAFGU member and rabid recruiter of the notorious Alamara paramilitary forces under the payroll of the 10th Infantry Division-AFP," Sanchez said.

"He was responsible for crimes against the people such as land grabbing, theft and extortion, grave abuse, and a host of other human rights atrocities."

"Despite appeals from his relatives and civilians in the community, he pushed for building a military detachment in the area and organized Alamara forces for counter-revolutionary and anti-people operations. Lumad villagers who refused to enlist in the Alamara and CAFGU training were ordered to leave their homes and farms. Mampaundag was also active in intelligence gathering and psychological warfare campaign in the area."

February 2018



Page: 7

Rody to *lumads*: P20,000 for every NPA killed

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte has offered at least P20,000 for every New People's Army (NPA) rebel that a *lumad* turned-Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) member will kill.

"If you got one NPA, I will pay you. I'll offer a reward. I'll pay you... you want money? I'll give you money," the President told *lumads* at a press conference at the Matina Enclave Residences here the other night.

The President said that in the meantime, the indigenous people would have to just live near military camps.

The offer was made after the NPA killed a *lumad* leader and his son inside their house in Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

The tribal leader was among those who attended the Indigenous People's Summit that the President also addressed last week in Camp Panacan.

"Or if they want, if they are well trained enough, give me about three months, I will train them as CAFGU and give them firearms and go out and hunt for those who killed their comrades," the President added.

Meanwhile, the NPA in Southern Tagalog yesterday vowed to continue conducting tactical offensives against government forces.

Jaime Padilla, spokesman for the Melito Glor Command-NPA-Southern Tagalog, also accused Duterte of committing grave crimes against the Filipino people.

Padilla said they are steadfast in their campaign to end Duterte's regime within the year.

"Duterte has committed grave crimes against the Filipino people including mass murder, negligence of responsibility to give the proper social and economic needs of the people and selling out the resources of the country to his imperialist master, the United States and other capitalist and imperialist countries around the world despite the broad masses' clamor for their democratic rights and national sovereignty," Padilla said.

He said Duterte worsened his crimes by using state fascism against the uprising masses that are only calling for their legitimate rights. – Edith Regalado, Jose Rodel Clapano

11 February 2018



Page. 2

Soldier nabbed for drugs

A DRUG-DEALING member of the Philippine Army was arrested by agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in a buy-bust operation 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 conducted by members of the PDEA Regional Office 8 and the local police, said the PDEA chief.

Recovered from the suspect's possession were three heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets containing around 0.3 gram of shabu with a local market value of P1,500 and the marked money he received from the undercover officer.

Aquino said that the suspect 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.

The soldier will also be facing administrative charges for grave misconduct, an offense that will merit his dismissal from the military service once proven guilty.

Meanwhile, agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency on Thursday busted the no. 1 drug personality in Southern Mindanao after he and his cohort conspired to sell shabu to an undercover officer in Compostela Valley, PDEA chair, Director General Aaron N. Aquino said.

Aquino identified the suspects as 46-year old Saidel Taha Sahid, tagged as the no. 1 drug dealer in Region 11 and his accomplice Alhakim Sakkam Ismael, 25.

Alfred Dalizon

10

February 2018



Page: 19

Militiaman killed in clash with NPAs

BUTUAN CITY — A member of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit Active Auxiliary (CAA) was killed, while an undetermined number of New People's Army (NPA) terrorists were believed wounded, when a gun battle erupted between militiamen and about 20 Communist rebels in Sitio Mambuco, Barangay Limot in Veruela, Agusan del Sur.

Killed in action was Arnold L. Adorio, 41 and resident of La Fortuna, Veruela, in Agusan del Sur. He was hit in the chest in the initial, 10-minute

exchange of gunfire, police and military reports said.

The CAFGU Active Auxiliary (CAA) units of Del Monte and La Fortuna, both under the 26th Infantry Battalion (26th IB), were on-patrol in the area when they were engaged by the NPA terrorist at around 2 p.m. Friday in the Mambuco area, the reports said.

The NPAs were believed to be from the guerrilla-Front Committee 3 of the CPP-NPA Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC). (Mike U. Crismundo)

February 2018

THE DAILY
tribune
Philippine Daily News

Page: 1

DND says no order yet to abort chopper deal

The Department of National Defense (DND) has not received any direct order from President Duterte to cancel the \$233 million (P11.65 billion) contract to purchase 16 new helicopters from Canada despite Mr. Duterte's statement on aborting the deal, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

"I have not heard about cancelling. As of now, I am optimistic that it would proceed and the choppers will be delivered on time," Lorenzana said.

Acquisition of these helicopters is part of the AFP Modernization Program Horizon 2 and will be used in High Availability Disaster Recovery (HADR) and related missions, he said.

As expected, President Duterte ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) last Friday to cancel the deal.

Mr. Duterte made this announcement in a press briefing in Davao City last Friday in the wake of reports that the Canadian government wanted to review the contract after supposedly learning that the aircraft would be used for operations against rebel forces.

"I want to tell the Armed Forces to cut the deal. Do not continue

Turn to page 2

DND says no order yet to abort chopper deal

From page 1

(with it) and somehow we will look for another supplier," Mr. Duterte said, adding that he respects the decision of Canada.

Mr. Duterte said he wanted to discontinue the deal because Canada "always had a condition attached" to the contracts with the government.

AFP Deputy Chief-of-Staff for Plans, Major Gen. Restituto Padilla, earlier said the Bell Helicopter and Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) were aware that the military will be using the 16 Bell 412 choppers under contract as a "combat utility helicopter".

Padilla added that the intended use of the 16 helicopters is both for peacetime and contingencies such as natural disasters and other emergencies.

"Its intended use as combat utility helicopter is for the transport of troops, especially combat casualties and for troop sustainment. It is not an offensive platform and not armed as such. We have dedicated attack

helicopters as offensive platforms for such operations," Padilla said.

Since the Philippines lies in the path of the Pacific Rim of Fire, a disaster-prone area, Padilla said the nation's disaster response plan had tasked the AFP to take the lead in undertaking humanitarian assistance and disaster response during such times of contingencies.

The DND signed the deal for the purchase of helicopters last Dec. 29.

Bell Helicopter said in an announcement of the deal that the aircraft were intended "for a variety of missions such as disaster relief, search and rescue, passenger transport and utility transport".

"If I cannot use the gunship, the helicopter, then I might as well surrender this government to them," he said, referring to the rebels.

"The reason I'm buying helicopters is because I want to finish them off," Duterte added.

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said Thursday that an "extremely rigorous human rights review" would be undertaken before any export permit was

issued over the helicopter contract, facilitated by the Canadian Commercial Corp.

"The prime minister and I have been very clear about the Duterte regime's human rights abuses and the extrajudicial killings," she told parliament.

"I have the authority to deny a permit if I feel that it poses a risk to human rights, and I am prepared to do so," Freeland added.

Trudeau said in November he had called out Duterte over "human rights, the rule of law, and specifically extrajudicial killings".

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

The Philippine government says police have only shot suspects in self-defence and rejects human rights monitors' description of the crackdown as a crime against humanity.

DND: Easy to find new supplier

There are more than enough suppliers to provide the local requirement for combat utility helicopters (CUHs) should the country's contract with Bell Helicopter and Canadian

Commercial Corp. (CCC) fall through, Lorenzana added.

"Are there other suppliers if the Canada deal will not push through? Yes, there are," Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said in a message Friday night.

He, however, did not mention these possible suppliers.

Lorenzana issued the statement after Mr. Duterte's order to the military to cancel the contract for the 16 Bell 412 EPis.

Lorenzana, however, said the DND has yet to receive any order regarding the President's directive.

These aircraft are fully configured and equipped with advance features, including an electronic engine control, a glass cockpit display system, and Garmin touchscreen navigation system.

Generally, these helicopters are capable of carrying 14 passengers and flying at a maximum speed of 140 knots (about 259 km.), cruise speed of 122 knots (226 km. per hour) and a range of 402 nautical miles (745 km.). They are powered with an enhanced Pratt and Whitney PT6T-3D Twin Pac.

February 2018



Page: 42

POWER TO REVIEW

JUSTICE FEARS HIGH COURT RULING PAVES WAY FOR A PERMANENT MARTIAL LAW

By **Dona Z. Pazzibugan**
@dpazzibuganINQ

The Supreme Court's validation of the extension of martial law in Mindanao may have opened the door to a permanent state of martial law, according to one of the five magistrates who disagreed with the decision.

Associate Justice Francis Jardeleza said the Supreme Court abdicated its power to review presidential declarations of martial law when it upheld the government's argument that military rule was necessary because of the rebels' "capability" to sow discord.

"Worse, it would open the country to the possibility of a permanent state of martial law, as the Philippines has a long history of rebellions motivated by diverse religious, ideological, regional and other interests," Jardeleza said in his dissenting opinion.

Public safety

Moreover, Jardeleza maintained that the government failed to prove actual rebellion and actual threat to public safety that could have justified the extension of martial law in Mindanao.

He said the acts of rebel

groups showed that rebellions were "episodic" and were considered continuing crimes under Philippine jurisprudence.

"This criminal law doctrine, however, was never envisioned to be a justification to declare martial law whenever and wherever a rebel may be found," Jardeleza stressed.

10-5 vote

In a 10-5 vote, the tribunal last week upheld Congress' Joint Resolution No. 4 on Dec. 13, 2017, granting President Duterte's request to extend martial law.

After the President imposed martial law in Mindanao on May 23 last year, Congress even extended the imposition beyond the 60 days prescribed in the Constitution, he said.

In denying various petitions against the extension, Jardeleza said the high court was saying it had no power to review the decision of Congress.

Jardeleza argued there was also no "reasonable proof of scale" to determine that the President was justified in exercising his power to impose martial law.

"Ensuring that the President has enough flexibility and discretion on when to impose

martial law is not sufficient justification for taking on a 'permissive' approach," he pointed out.

Jardeleza said the military gave data on the rebels' manpower and firearms, the barangays they controlled, as well as the number of violent incidents they had initiated against government troops.

"[But] there is nothing in the record to show that there are hostile groups engaged in actual and sustained armed hostilities with government forces," Jardeleza said.

He said there was no proof that rebels were holding territory and preventing authorities from carrying out their duties.

There are likewise no proof of the claimed links between local and foreign terrorist groups, such as Islamic State.

"Lest I be misunderstood, I am not discounting or belittling the damage to life, limb and property caused by the reported continued attacks of the hostile groups," Jardeleza said.

"Granting all of the government's allegations to be true, however, I do not find these to be sufficient basis to warrant any continued restriction or of suspension of fundamental civil liberties," he said. INQ

February 2018



Page: 5

US Navy probes alleged drug use by sailors in Japan

TOKYO – The US Navy yesterday said it was probing sailors at a base in Japan over alleged drug use and vowed no tolerance for any misconduct.

“Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) is investigating Yokosuka-based sailors for alleged drug use and distribution,” the 7th Fleet said, referring to its home base southwest of Tokyo.

“The Navy has zero tolerance for drug abuse and takes all allegations involving misconduct of our sailors, navy civilians and family members very seriously,” it said in a comment emailed to AFP.

It added the allegations were still under investigation and would not comment further.

The response came after the Wall Street Journal reported that at least a dozen sailors were being investigated on suspicion of buying, selling and using LSD, ecstasy and other drugs.

Some of them were serving aboard the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier whose home port is Yokosuka, the journal quoted navy officials as saying Friday.

The navy was also probing whether US sailors were using the internet to buy or sell drugs or were distributing them to local Japanese residents, it said.

The drug allegations come at a time when Japan is touting its security alliance with the United States to counter missile and nuclear threats from North Korea.

The 7th Fleet has also been hit by a string of accidents in the last year.

In August, the destroyer USS John S. McCain collided with a tanker off Singapore, killing 10 sailors and injuring five others.

Two months earlier in June, another destroyer, the USS Fitzgerald, and a cargo ship smashed into each other off Japan, leaving seven sailors dead. **AFP**

February 2018



Page. 1

Marawi jail escapee, 2 other terrorists slain in Lanao clash

By **ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA**

THREE suspected terrorists including a notorious remnant of the Maute-Islamist State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terror group were killed in an encounter with government forces yesterday morning in Lanao del Norte.

This was confirmed by Major Ronald E. Suscano, spokesperson of Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Division (1D).

Suscano identified one of the terrorists as certain Omar Daiser, a fugitive who escaped from Marawi City Jail and joined the Maute-ISIS terror group.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo showed that troops of Joint Task Group Lanao del Norte (JTG LDN) under Joint Task Force "ZamPeLan" and Pantar PNP conducted joint law enforcement operation against the suspects yesterday morning at Barangay Lumba Punud, Pantar, Lanao del Norte.

During the operation, the suspects resisted arrest and tried to harm the team triggering a brief encounter that led to the killing of the suspects.

According to Brig. Gen. William A. Alunday, AFP Commander of Joint Task Group Lanao del Norte, "Omar Daiser is a fugitive who escaped from Marawi City Jail, joined the Maute-ISIS group and was utilized as ISIS contact person in Pantar during the Marawi rebellion.

"The subject has a

standing warrant of arrest for the crime of 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 illegal drug trade," Alunday said.

Recovered from the suspect's possession were four M16 armalite rifles, one M203 grenade launcher, one FAL rifle and one Pieteco Beretta 9 mm pistol with markings PNP property,

assorted ammunitions and bandoleers.

In line with this, Major General Roseller G. Murillo AFP, 11D Commander, assured the public that the government forces will continue to intensify its internal security operations in Joint Task Force ZAMPELAN's area of operations to neutralize the remnants of terrorist groups in Marawi.

The cadavers were taken by the PNP Pantar for proper disposition claimed by Bokari Abdulgani, Municipal Councilor of Pantar.

15

11 February 2018



Pahina. 1

Pagbili ng 16 helicopters sa Canada ipinatigil ni Duterte

Ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Duterte sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang pagkansela sa kontrata ng pagbili ng Pilipinas ng 16 na helicopter sa Canada.

Ayon sa Pangulo, hahanap na lamang ng bagong supplier ang Pilipinas matapos sabihin ng Canada na magbebenta lamang ito ng helicopters sa Pilipinas kung gagamitin ito sa evacuation at sa emergency.

Napaulat na nagdesisyon ang Canadian government na magsagawa ng review sa kontrata ng 16 helicopters na bibilhin ng

Pilipinas dahil sa mga ispekulasyon na gagamitin lamang ang mga ito sa paglaban sa mga rebelde.

"Kasi sabi nila, magpabili lang sila sa atin but only for evacuation and emergency, hindi natin pwede gamitin yung para sa anti-insurgency, because if it is used against the Filipino rebels, hindi nila ibigay... So this is my reaction: I want to tell the Armed Forces to cut the deal, 'wag na ituloy and somehow we will look for another supplier," pahayag ng Pangulo sa Manila Times' 7th Business Forum sa Davao City.

Pero sinabi rin ng Pa-

ngulo na inirerespeto niya ang desisyon ng gobyerno ng Canada.

"We respect the policy of the Canadian people, well and good, do not buy anything that has something to do with arms," pahayag ng Pangulo sa kanyang talumpati.

Tiniyak rin ng Pangulo na magkaibigan pa rin ang Pilipinas at Canada kung saan maraming naninirahang mga Filipino.

"We are friends, we do not hate you, we love Canadians because there are a lot of Filipinos there," anang Pangulo. (Malou Escudero)

16

11 February 2018



Page. 3

Sulu residents, execs give up 20 firearms

THE government's intensive campaign against loose firearms gained grounds as Sulu residents and local officials turned over 20 more high powered firearms and war materials to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

This was confirmed yesterday by Captain Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson of AFP-Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom).

Petinglay said local officials and residents of Pata, Sulu gave up the firearms and war materials to Joint Task Force Sulu Commander Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana at around 10:05 a.m. on Friday at the 31st Marine Company detachment in Barangay Simbangon, Pata, Sulu.

"This was the result of our forces' relentless drive against loose firearms to pave the way for peace and progress in the province of Sulu," Sobejana said.

It can be recalled that on February 2, Pata Island Mayor Anton Burahan and some barangay officials voluntarily surrendered a cache of weapons and ammunition, consisting of three 81MM Mortar tubes, a 90 RR crew-served weapon, a barrel of Cal 50 MG, four M16 rifles, three M14 rifles, five Garand rifles, an M79 Grenade Launcher, and a hundred rounds of ammunition.

The surrender came following a successful combat operation launched by the Philippine Fleet-Marine

Ready Force Sulu that led to the discovery of an arms cache in Barangay Pisak Pisak, Pata Island on January 31.

"We are intensifying our intelligence and combat operations to monitor and gather loose firearms in line with the President's directive to immediately confiscate all unlicensed firearms including those of soldiers and policemen," Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command said.

"We encourage all those who have a stake in the future of Sulu to take steps against terrorism and support our campaign to remove all tools and implements for violent extremism," he added.

Petinglay said in a span of 10 days, 48 firearms were already seized from Pata Island, Sulu.

Of this number, one was recovered in Barangay Pisak Pisak, last January 31; 18 firearms by Pata Island Mayor Burahan, nine from Barangays Niyog-Niyog, Kayawan and Kanjarang were surrendered last February 5 and another 20 firearms yesterday.

"We are looking for more positive results under and effective implementation of Martial Law in Western Mindanao," Galvez added.

Galvez assured the people in their area that their armed forces through West- MinCom are serious in removing all the vehicles of violence all over the region. **Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca**

17

February 2018



Page: 18

Army-Air Force gets back at Phl Stars in Epic Battle

By JOEY VILLAR

Army-Air Force leaned on victories by Antonio Chavez Jr., Alfredo Rapanot, Kevin Mirano and Lennon Hart Salgados to score a 7.5-4.5 victory over the Phl Young Rising Stars and stay alive after the third of the scheduled four-round match dubbed "The Epic Battle" at the PACE office in Quezon City Friday night.

Chavez, Rapanot, Mirano

and Salgados bested Woman FIDE Master Alleney Jia Doroy, FM Alekhine Nouri, Jeth Remy Morado and Rhenzi Kyle Sevillano, respectively, to power the enlisted military chessers to their first win after dropping the first two, 4-7, Thursday and, 5.5-6.5, the next day.

FM John Marvin Miciano provided the lone win for the Young Rising Stars at the expense of International Master Joel

Pimantal at second board while the rest ended up in fighting draws.

WGM Janelle Mae Frayna, IM Paulo Bersamina, FM Daniel Quizon, FM Stephen Rome Pangilinan, WFM Shaina Mae Mendoza, Chester Neil Reyes and Michael Concio Jr. split the point with GM Darwin Laylo, IM Barlo Nadera, National Master Ronald Llavanos, NM Carlo Rosaupan, Kevin Arquero, NM Bob Jones Liwagon and Raquil Suan.

Army-Air Force guns for a win in its final match at press time to force blitz tiebreak.

Otherwise, the Young Rising Stars, whose majority are using this duel as part of their preparation for the ASEAN Youth Championship set in Davao City in June, will be running away with the winning prize worth P30,000.

The losing squad goes home with P20,000.

ONLINE NEWS

11 FEBRUARY 2018

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3 Maute members dead in clash with soldiers

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:20 AM February 10, 2018

PANTAR, Lanao del Norte—Three suspected members of the homegrown terror group Maute were killed in a clash with soldiers here on Thursday.

One of them was among those who escaped from the Marawi City jail at the height of the war there between Islamic State forces and government soldiers. Senior Insp. Mohammad Doro, Pantar police chief, said soldiers of the 4th Mechanized Battalion were conducting an operation in the village of Lumba Punod when they clashed with the suspects.

Doro said two of the slain suspects remained unidentified. The other was Omar Mustapha Daiser, a resident of the village, who was among more than 100 inmates sprung by the Maute Group during the war in Marawi on May 23. —DIVINA SUSON AND RICHEL UMEL

www.pna.gov.ph

Many suppliers can meet PH demand for new helis: DND chief

By Priam Nepomuceno February 10, 2018, 11:55 am



MANILA -- There are more than enough suppliers to provide the Philippine requirement for combat utility helicopters (CUHs) should the country's contract with Bell Helicopter and Canadian Commercial Corp. (CCC) fall through.

"Are there other suppliers if the Canada deal will not push through? Yes, there are," Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said in a message Friday night.

He, however, did not mention these possible suppliers.

Lorenzana made the statement in the wake of President Rodrigo R. Duterte's order to the military to cancel the PHP12-billion contract for the 16 Bell 412 EPs following reports that Canada would review the purchase of the aircraft on the grounds that they might be used in operations against rebel groups.

As of Friday night, Lorenzana said he has yet to receive any order regarding the President's directive.

"I have not heard about cancelling. As of now, I am optimistic that it would proceed and the choppers will be delivered on time," the defense chief said.

Earlier, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) deputy chief-of-staff for plans, Major Gen. Restituto Padilla, said that from the onset, both Bell Helicopter and CCC were aware that the soon-to-be acquired 16 Bell 412 EPI choppers will be utilized as "combat utility helicopters".

"The AFP deal for the acquisition of the Canadian Bell 412 as a combat utility helicopter is a very transparent one. From the very onset, the contract has specified that we are acquiring a Combat Utility Helicopter (CUH)," Padilla added.

"Its intended use as combat utility helicopter is for the transport of troops, especially combat casualties and for troop sustainment. It is not an offensive platform and not armed as such. We have dedicated attack helicopters as offensive platforms for such operations," he said.

Since the Philippines lies in the path of the Pacific Ring of Fire — a disaster-prone area — Padilla said the nation's disaster response plan had tasked the AFP to take the lead in undertaking humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) during such times of contingencies.

"Hence, the CUH will be employed for numerous lifesaving tasks as well. The Canadians were among those who helped us following the wrath of Super Typhoon Yolanda and employed similar helicopters. We are confident that they are fully aware of the utilization of the CUH. Having said that, we hope that this deal will not be politicized," Padilla added.

Earlier, the Canadian government said they would review the contract after reportedly learning that the aircraft would be used for operations against rebel forces.

On Dec. 29, 2017, Lorenzana and representatives of Bell Helicopter and CCC signed the deal for the purchase of the helicopters worth PHP12 billion.

Representing Bell Helicopter in the contract signing was James Williamson, while CCC was represented by its director for Asia, Yvonne Chin. Delivery of the first Bell 412 EPI helicopter units is expected to commence by the first quarter of 2019 while the last batch will be handed over by the second quarter of 2020.

Acquisition of these helicopters is part of the AFP Modernization Program Horizon 2 and will be used in HADR and related missions.

These aircraft are fully configured and equipped with advance features, including an electronic engine control, a glass cockpit display system, and Garmin touchscreen navigation system.

Generally, these helicopters are capable of carrying 14 passengers and flying at a maximum speed of 140 knots (about 259 km.), cruise speed of 122 knots (226 km. per hour) and a range of 402 nautical miles (745 km.). They are powered with an enhanced Pratt and Whitney PT6T-3D Twin Pac. **(PNA/Photo by Priam F. Nepomuceno)**