

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

12 February 2018

Monday

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

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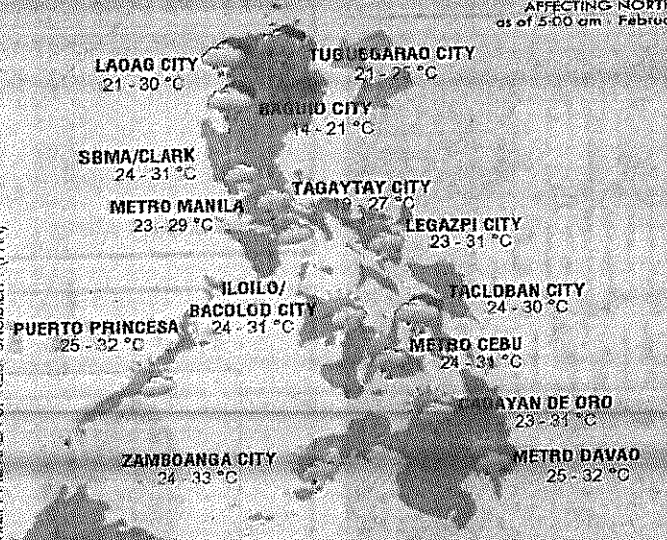
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 12, 2018 | MONDAY


NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON as of 5:00 am, February 11, 2018




PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


SUNRISE 6:21 AM	SUNSET 5:59 PM
MOONRISE 3:27 AM	MOONSET 3:05 PM
LAST QUARTER FEB 7 11:54 PM	NEW MOON FEB 16 5:05 AM
LOW TIDE 3:53 AM -0.08 Meter	HIGH TIDE 7:52 PM 0.91 Meter

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

FEB 11		FEB 12		FEB 13		FEB 14		FEB 15		FEB 16	
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	 SAGOT NG PADALA NDI					



MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM



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

12 February 2018



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CESSPOOL TAG UPSETS BORACAY RESIDENTS

STORY BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR., ALLAN NAWAL AND FRINSTON LIM

Townfolk and entrepreneurs welcome the President's six-month deadline for fixing the sewage problem but are dismayed by his comparison of the tourist destination to a pit of fecal matter.

A10

FROM A1

**By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.,
Allan Nawal
and Frinston Lim
@InqNational**

Residents and business operators on Boracay Island are unhappy with President Duterte likening the world-famous tourist destination to a pit of human waste.

But they welcome his directive to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to solve the sewage and garbage problem in Boracay in six months, or he would shut down the island resort.

"[C]alling the island a cesspool shows the President is probably misinformed of the nature and magnitude of the problems," said a resident business operator, who asked not to be named to avoid reprisal from the President or his supporters.

"Does he even think what will happen to the thousands of workers and their families who earn a living here if the island is closed down?" said the resident.

Another resident said the President's hardline stance could move other officials to take action. "Maybe the governor, congressman and local government units will wake up."

Unfinished drainage system

A business leader said Boracay's problems had worsened due to the inadequate support from the national government, citing the island's drainage system, which had yet to be completed more than 10 years after the project started.

"What we need is less reaction and condemnation and blame. We need actual ideas, solidly researched and organized plans, and leadership that will do the hard things to ensure Boracay can get through current difficulties," said another business leader.

In a speech during a business forum at the Marco Hotel in Davao City on Friday, the President said: "I will close Boracay. Boracay is a cesspool."

He said Boracay's sewage and garbage problem was destroying the island's ecosystem and posing a threat to the health of millions of visitors.



FAST FACTS

1,032	Area in hectares of Boracay Island
3	Villages composing Boracay
32,260	Estimated residents based on a 2015 census
2M	Estimated tourist arrivals on the island in 2017
P50B	Estimated annual tourism receipts
340	Estimated number of resorts, hotels, apartelles and pension houses in Boracay
293	Structures found in 2013 violating the rule that all buildings be at least 30 meters from the shore
443	Tricycles operating in Boracay

Compiled by Inquirer Research
SOURCES: Inquirer Archives, malay.gov.ph

"There will be a time that no more foreigner will go there because ... when he goes back to the plane, he will be full of shirt going back and forth to the restroom," he said.

In illustrating how serious the problem was, the President said garbage was just 20 meters away from the beach.

"At a distance, you see white sand. But you go into the water, it's smelly. Smell of what? Shit because everything that goes out in Boracay ... it's destroying the environment or the Republic of the Philippines and creating a disaster," Mr. Duterte said.

Shame

Tourism officials affirmed the President's assessment.

"It's a shame that Boracay, which has repeatedly been recognized by prestigious travel magazines as the world's most beautiful island, may yet end up a paradise lost if water contami-

nation continues," Tourism Secretary Wanda Teo said in a statement.

Ricky Alegre, the Department of Tourism spokesperson, said a number of establishments were draining their sewage directly into the sea.

Of the 150 business establishments recently inspected by the government, only 25 were connected to the sewage line, he said.

Many establishments were also building too close to the beach and spilling over into the roads of the 1,000-hectare island, Alegre said.

That was why, Mr. Duterte said, Cimatu should solve the problem in six months. "I'll give you six months. Clean the (fucking) thing."

Task force

The President earlier approved the creation of a task force to deal with the problems

in Boracay

Cimatu himself had warned owners that their establishments on the island would be shut down if they were found releasing sewage into the sea.

He said a "a serious and honest-to-goodness crackdown" was needed to bring Boracay back to what it was—clean beach and unspoiled environment.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) earlier urged officials of Malay town, Panay province—to which Boracay belonged—to require establishments and residents to connect to the island's sewerage system to prevent untreated wastewater from flowing into the sea.

"It's not just establishments, but even the houses of local residents are not connected to the sewerage system," Jim Sampulna, director of the DENR in Western Visayas, previously said.

2M tourists

Sampulna said overpopulation was also a problem for the island-resort. Some 50,000, many of them workers, live in Boracay.

The island also hosts at least 2 million tourists yearly and brings in P56 billion in annual revenues, according to tourism department and industry sources.

As a result, the carrying capacity of the island has been exceeded since 2010, according to Sampulna. —WITH REPORTS FROM JAYMEE T. GAMIL AND AFP INQ

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DoJ criminal raps vs Spanish 'Abu sympathizer' out this week

The Department of Justice is set to come out this week with its resolution on the criminal complaint filed by the military against a Spanish "militant sympathizer" who was arrested in Basilan last month.

The investigating panel had already finished its preliminary investigation over the case last January 31.

"It might come out this week," said Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong.

Abdelhakim Labidi Adib sought the dismissal of charges of illegal possession of explosives filed by the Army's 14th Special Forces Company against him.

Adib, 20, a Spanish citizen of Tunisian descent, was arrested last January 22 at a military checkpoint in Basilan.

Turn to page 2

From page 1

Government troops claimed he was accompanied by an Abu Sayyaf group member who was one of their targets.

His companion, however, managed to elude arrest.

Seized from Adib's possession were grenades and bomb-making equipment.

In his counter-affidavit, Adib refuted the allegations against him, claiming that the pieces of evidence presented were "planted by the arresting officer."

"I vehemently deny and assert that I don't own and I have nothing to do with the alleged recovered evidence which are the hand grenade and the alleged improvised explosive device (IED)," he stressed.

"I was illegally arrested by civilian persons, I was just walking on the

any crime nor was about to do a crime. Besides, there is no checkpoint. It must be noted that the evidence seized, although alleged to be inadvertently discovered, was not in plain view. It was planted by the arresting officer because I never have those items in my bag nor in my possession," part of Adib's 10-page counter-affidavit stated.

He said he arrived in Manila last Oct. 10, 2017, and went to Davao where he visited several attractions before proceeding to Cagayan de Oro, where he met a certain "Abuzaid" who claimed to be a member of the Yakan tribe.

He said Abuzaid offered to take him to his tribe and introduce him to its culture.

"I went here in the Philippines as a tourist. I have no intention whatever to aid anyone in any terrorist activity, especially in causing trouble to the

The suspected militant sympathizer had previously traveled to Morocco and Tunisia, citing information on his passport.

According to Adib, he chose the Philippines because he heard a lot of "good reviews" about the country.

"I began thinking about going to the Philippines when I heard so many good reviews and feedback about the country that it is a touristic place with beautiful islands and scenery and above all, splendid people who are very accommodating and hospitable," he said.

He added it was not his intention to go to Basilan and that he went to the Philippines only for a vacation.

Adib said he stayed for two months in Cagayan de Oro.

'Not a happy experience'

From Cagayan de Oro, he said they proceeded to Zamboanga and eventually to Basilan, a known

for-ransom group, to visit the Yakan tribe.

While in Basilan, he said the three weeks he spent with the tribe were "not a happy experience."

"There is no food, no shower, no electricity, no proper shelter and it was not a comfortable stay," he lamented, adding he was afraid, especially after the group showed him photos of dead people.

"I decided to go home. I really regret my decision in going to Basilan. Nobody explained to me that Basilan is a dangerous place," he said.

Before he was allowed to leave, he said the tribe members took his money, mobile phone and some of his personal belongings.

He said he was escorted to Isabela City, Basilan, on January 19 where he was arrested by armed men.

He also countered the military's claim, stressing he was nabbed on

7 February 2018

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Soldiers drive away NPA rebs in Cagayan town

SOLDIERS successfully drove away more than 10 New People's Army rebels sowing terror in Barangay Masi, Rizal town in Cagayan province on Saturday.

Lt. Col. Camilo Saddam, com-

mander of the Army's 17th Infantry Battalion, said his men received reports that a group of communist rebels were doing the rounds in Barangay Masi threatening residents if they do not support the underground

movement.

Saddam said his men chanced upon the rebels at around noon last Saturday which triggered a 15-minute gun battle and forced the enemy to withdraw toward Mt. Zinundungan.

Brig. Gen. Bartolome Bacaro, commander of the Army's 502nd IB, ordered the deployment of additional forces to hunt down the rebels. No one was hurt on the government side. – *Raymond Africa*

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POLICE FILES

Page. 3

7 NPA sumuko sa militar sa Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY – Isinasailalum na sa debriefing ang umano y pitong miyembro ng teroristang New People's Army (NPA) na nabibilang sa Militia ng bayan na boluntaryong sumuko sa militar sa Brgy Masi, Rizal, Cagayan.

Sa eksklusibong panayam ng Bombo Radyo Tuguegarao, sinabi ni Lt Col Gamillo Saddam, commanding officer ng 17th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army na ang pagsuko ay resulta ng nangyaring engwentro sa pagitan ng militar at humigit kumulang na 10 miyembro ng NPA na tumagal ng 10 minuto.

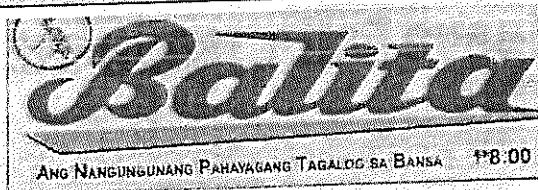
Pinabulaanan din ng militar ang paratang ng grupo ng Karapatan Cagayan Valley na sapilitang humuli sa isang checkpoint ang isang pinaminiwalaang miyembro ng Militia na si Rafael Guimay.

Paliwanag ni Saddam na ipambita lamang nila si Guimay upang isailahin sa pagtatanong sa kaugnayan nito sa naturang grupo. Wala rin umano ng nilabag na karapatan ang militar dahil iprimisinta naman si Guimay sa mga barangay officials ng Masi at kay Rizal Vice Mayor Joel Ruma.

Sinabi ni Saddam na sumunod na bumaba at sumuko ang anim na iba pang umanoy miyembro ng NPA na hindi na pinangalanan pa para sa kanilang seguridad.

Amanado naman umano ang mga sumuko na sila ay ginagamit ng mga rebeldong grupo sa kanilang mga aktibidad.

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10 NPA sa Cagayan napaatras sa bakbakan

Napaatras sa kalahating oras na bakbakan sa mga tauban ng Philippine Army (PA) ang aabot sa 10 miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) na nag-o-operate sa Cagayan Valley, nitong Sabado ng umaga.

Dakong 10:30 ng umaga nang maispatan ng Charlie Company, na pinamumunuan nina 1st Lt

Lyndolf Kanola at 2nd Lt Joseph Escubio, sa ilalim ng 17th Infantry Battalion ng PA, ang nasabing grupo ng rebelde sa Sitio Calanitan, Barangay Masi sa Rizal, Cagayan.

Tumagal ng 30 minuto ang bakbakan ng dalawang panig hanggang sa mapaatras na lamang ang mga miyembro ng NPA.

Walang nauulat na nasaktan o

nasawi sa panig ng pamahalaan.

Hindi pa rin matiyak ng militar ang dami ng mga nasugatan sa panig ng mga rebelde.

Kaugnay nito, inalerto na rin ang pulisya sa lugar para manmanan ang mga rebelde na nais manakot sa nabanggit na lugar.

Liezle Basa Inigo

12 February 2018



Pahina. 3

NPA todas sa militar; lider ng tribu dedo sa NPA

TODAS sa pakikipag-engkwentro sa militar ang hinihinalang miyembro ng New People's Army sa bayan ng Sallapadan, Abra province kahapon.

Tumagal ng 28-minuto ang labanan na nagsimula dakong alas-7:30 ng umaga sa pagitan ng mga nagpapatrilyang elemento ng 24th Infantry Battalion at mga rebelde sa Sitio Mabongnot, Barangay Uld-udiao

Ayon kay Major Gen. Felmon Santos, 7ID commander, pinaputukan ng mga genliva ang mga sundalong tumesponde sa lugar dahil sa sumbong na nangingkil umano ang mga miyembro ng NPA sa lugar.

Nasamsam mula sa pinangyarihan ng labanan ang tatlong M16 rifle at isang two-way radio.

Hindi pa tukoy ng militar ang pagkakakilanlan ng napatay na

rebelde habang walang nasaktan sa panig ng mga sundalo.

Samantala, utas ang isang dakula o lider ng tribong Mamanwa matapos umanong barilin ng mga miyembro ng New People's Army sa Algeria, Surigao del Norte noong Biyernes.

Batay sa naantalang ulat, nagsasaka ang biktimang si Guillermo Tiambong, 58-anyos nang paslangin siya sa buluburduking bahagi ng Barangay Camp Edward.

Sinasabing dating tagasuperta ng NPA si Tiambong subalit pumanig sa gobyerno. **JEFF G**

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• NPA rebel killed

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija – A New People's Army (NPA) rebel was killed in an encounter with the military in Barangay Lidiao in Salapadan, Abra Saturday morning. Major General Felimon T. Santos Jr., 710 commander, said that the Charlie Company of 241B, led by 1st Lieutenant Ricardo N. Francisco Jr., was patrolling the area of Sitio Mabongtot in Brgy. Lidiao at around 7:30 a.m. after receiving reports from the locals regarding the presence and illegal activities of the NPA rebels. The military said some 10 rebels opened fire, which triggered the encounter that led to the death of one rebel. Three M-16 rifles and a radio set were also recovered from the fleeing rebels. (Franco G. Regala)

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Pahina. 4

5 MIYEMBRO NG ASG SUMUKO

BASILAN— Limang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang sumuko, kamakatawa sa Philippine Army (PA) na nakabase sa lalawigang ito.

Nakilala ang mga sumuko na sina Hamdi Bareo, Hasib Mion, Marhaban Pael, Omar Jalhalis at Garama Sulayman, pawang miyembro ng ASG na nakabase sa mga lalawigan ng Basilan, Sulu at Tawi-Tawi.

Ayon sa ulat, nagpasya umanong magbalik-loob sa pamahalaan ang limang miyembro ng ASG dahil nais na nilang magbagong-buhay. Isinasailalim na ngayon sa taktikal na interogasyon ang mga sumukong ASG.

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High hopes for Army in Ronda

FROM the battlefields to the roads, cycling members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) bring guts in search of glory and in honor of their fellow brothers in arms in the 2018 IBC Ronda Pilipinas.

Going to "war" as the Philippine Army Bicycology team are three-time Southeast Asian Games champion Sgt. Alfie Catalan, Tour veteran Pfc. Cris Joven, Sgt. Mercurio Ramos, Jr., Pfc. Marvin Tapic, Sgt. Alvin Benosa, Sgt. Reynaldo Navarro, Cpl. Lord Anthony Del Rosario and Pfc. Kenneth Solis.

"Our countrymen supported them while trying to defend our democracy, and we wholeheartedly back them up now as they display anew the Filipino soldiers' resilience and bravery in

any kind of challenges," said SEA Games champion swimmer and cycling enthusiast Eric Buhain.

Buhain, who himself once fought for the rights of the Filipino athletes and former chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), and partner John Garcia of Bicycology Shop are making sure that the Philippine Army Bicycology team are "armed to the teeth" when it battles with the country's best cyclists in the annual bikathon.

"We want our countrymen see the other side of our heroes, and let's support them as they soldier on in one of the toughest sporting events we have." This early 4, my partner John Garcia and the Bicycology Shop salute Sgt. Alfie Catalan, Tour veteran Pfc. Cris Joven, Sgt. Mercurio

Ramos, Jr., Pfc. Marvin Tapic, Sgt. Alvin Benosa, Sgt. Reynaldo Navarro, Cpl. Lord Anthony Del Rosario and Pfc. Kenneth Solis," added Buhain.

Captained by Joven, the Philippine Army Bicycology team has already dedicated its campaign this year to the whole Philippine Army, especially to their brothers who fought in Marawi City.

"Hindi lang ito laban namin. Laban ito ng buong Philippine Army. Marami po kami kasama na nagbuwis ng buhay para sa demokrasya, kaya ang pagsali naming ngayong taon ay taalay namin sa kanila. Para sa mga kasama nating stong laban na to," said Joven, who finished third overall in individual class in last year's Ronda.



Bicycology Shop owner and Olympian Eric Buhain (right, standing) and business partner John Garcia poses with members of the Philippine Army Bicycology cycling team during the shop's second year anniversary.

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The Manila Times

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PUBLIC HEARING Soldiers join hands with (from right) Senators Juan Edgardo Angara and Joseph Victor Ejercito; Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza; former Gov. Abdusakur Mahail Tan; Senators Juan Miguel Zubiri, Risa Hontiveros and Sherwin Gatchalian at the sidelines of a public hearing on the Bangsamoro Basic Law at Notre Dame of Jolo College in Sulu. PNA/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

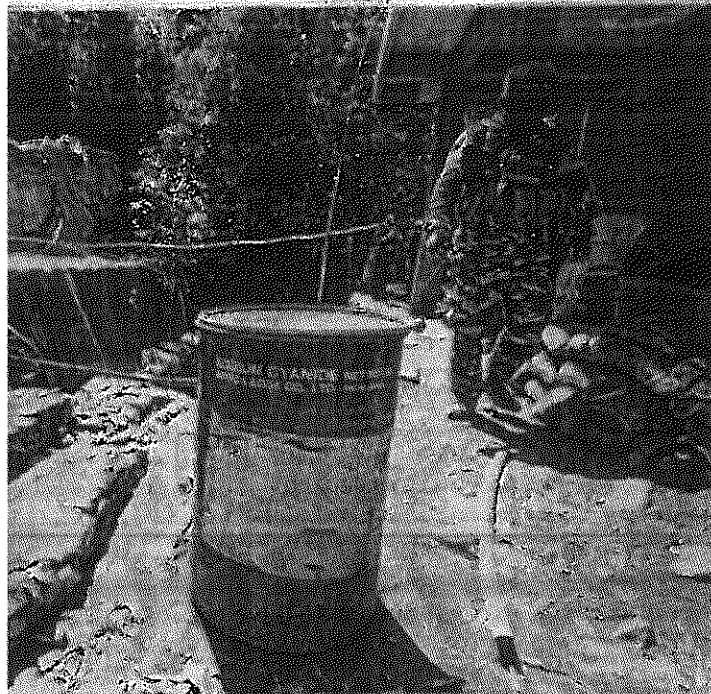
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Page: AK

Crackdown on illegal mining starts

200 members of DENR team raid, shut down 15 tunnels in community near Philippine Military Academy



Drums of cyanide, like this, were seized during the raid on illegal mining in a community near the Philippine Military Academy.

CARLSTON LAPNITEN

BAGUIO CITY—Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered a nationwide crackdown on illegal mining operations, starting with pocket mines at the outskirts of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) here.

The campaign against illegal mining would be formally launched on Feb. 14 but it was piloted on Saturday at PMA's Fort Del Pilar by the National Task Force on Mining Challenge on Cimatu's instructions, said retired Maj. Gen. Mario Chan, chief executive assistant at the office of the environment secretary.

Chan supervised the closing of at least 15 tunnels around PMA and confiscated equipment and ore taken from these areas. He also deployed 200 men from the police, the military and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to five small-

scale mining areas in the village of Kias near PMA grounds.

NPA financing source?

Chan said the government considered illegal mining a "big problem" because of allegations some operations in the provinces had been used to finance the New People's Army (NPA).

But the Benguet Federation of Small Scale Miners Inc. (BFSSMI) said that was not the case in the province where the first mines started.

None of the miners here have paid so-called "revolutionary taxes" to communist rebels, said BFSSMI president, Lomino Kaniteng.

He also said miners had applied for the establishment of a "Minahang Bayan" site but the government had not yet acted on it. Former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez had identified an open

pit mine in Itogon town as an appropriate site for Benguet's first Minahang Bayan.

The tunnels and mills inspected and deactivated by the DENR task force were located at the base of the mountain where tributaries of the Bued River flow.

Task force members seized mining tools, containers filled with cyanide, metal carts and small conveyor belts. They also took samples from leachate ponds and hauled out extracted mineral ore.

Security sentinel

Soldiers were sent to secure the mining tunnels and mills that were ordered closed by the government.

No miners were arrested during the operation. However, tension rose in one of the mining areas when residents from neighboring communities tried to discourage the task force from dis-

rupting their livelihood.

Kaniteng said closing pocket mines in Benguet would bring hardship to small-scale miners who rely on the industry to feed their families. "If we tell them to stop immediately, where will they get money to send their children to school and put food on the table?" he said.

BFSSMI has 23,000 members operating mine tunnels in seven towns with bigger concentrations in Itogon, Tuba and Mankayan which host large-scale mines.

During peak season, small-scale miners in Benguet produce an average of three tons of gold, Kaniteng said.

It was not clear, however, whether Cimatu's order would also lead to closure of mines in Mt. Diwalwal, where a gold rush has led to the rise of communities dependent on mining.

—KARLSTON LAPNITEN INQ

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DUTERTE OFFERS 'LUMAD' P20,000 BOUNTY FOR EVERY REBEL KILLED

By Allan Nawal
and Frinston Lim
@inquirermindanao

DAVAO CITY—President Duterte has offered the "lumad" (indigenous people) P20,000 for each New People's Army (NPA) guerrilla they kill, raising fears of an escalation of violence that has driven thousands of natives to flee their communities to avoid getting caught in the crossfire between government forces and communist insurgents.

Mr. Duterte announced the bounty he had offered to the lumad during a talk with reporters here on Friday.

Hunt for lumad killers

The President said he also offered to train the indigenous people in fighting the NPA.

"Give me about three months, I will train them as Cagfu members," he said, referring to the militia group Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit.

The President has repeatedly accused the Left of using the lumad to fight the government.

He said he would arm the indigenous people and deploy them to hunt down "those who killed their comrades."

Mr. Duterte was referring to the recent killing of a tribal leader and his son, which the President blamed on the NPA. The insurgents have never denied nor owned up to the killings.

"You want money? For every NPA that you can kill, you lumad who would become Cagfu, I'll pay you," Mr. Duterte said.

Kerlan Fanagel, chair of the Pasaka Confederation, an umbrella organization of 39 lumad groups from an area that extends from the Caraga region to Central Mindanao, said Mr. Duterte's plan was alarming.

"He's now using the lumad

as bait," Fanagel said. "What kind of solution would it bring?"

Instead of ending the insurgency, he said, giving the lumad a prominent role in fighting the guerrillas would further divide the natives.

More killings

The bounty would lead to more killings of lumad, especially those tagged as communist insurgents or sympathizers of the communists, he said.

"It's not the responsibility of the lumad to run after insurgents," said Fanagel, who is a B'laan.

"The government should protect us from those causing us suffering, like large corporations," he said.

The solution to the communist insurgency, he added, is to deal with its roots, like poverty.

Mr. Duterte has not stopped ranting against the communist insurgents since he terminated peace talks with them late last year.

Rallying lumad

At a meeting with selected lumad groups earlier this month, Mr. Duterte tried to rally the natives against the NPA.

After the meeting, a lumad leader who supported the government, Datu Banadjao Mampaundag, and his son, Jhonard, were killed allegedly by NPA guerrillas in Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

On Wednesday, lumad leaders supporting the government's counterinsurgency campaign threatened to wage a tribal war to avenge the killing of Mampaundag and his son.

But that, too, would be dangerous, according to Fanagel, because it could lead to the targeting of lumad who had been tagged as communist insurgents. INQ

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Duterte offers P20K bounty for head of every NPA rebel

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte offered a P20,000 bounty for the head of every member of the New People's Army (NPA) who continue to harass the Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

This was the President's reply when asked about the killing and continued threats on IP leaders who do not support the cause of the communist groups.

Duterte bared at a press conference on Friday night at the Malina Enclaves in Davao City that he wants the IPs to be trained as Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu) for them to be able to fight against the rebels.

"Go out and hunt those who killed your comrades," he said.

He said the IP would be trained for three months, after which they would be given firearms to use in fighting the rebels.

"I'll put a reward to those Lumads (IP) who will become Cafgu,

one NPA you will kill I'll pay you. You want money, I give you money, I'll make P20,00 per head," he said.

Anyway, he said the government has money. However, in the meantime, the President advised the Lumads who are being harassed by the NPA to evacuate temporarily to areas near the military camps or other places.

The Eastern Mindanao Command has reported the death of Datu Banadjao Mampaundag and his son Jhonard inside their home in Sitio Igang, Barangay Palma Gil in the town of Talaingod, Davao del Norte on February 4.

The rebels allegedly strafed the house of Mampaundag using a vehicle to appear they were soldiers.

Aside from killing the victims, the rebels also tried to ambush the responding ambulance to rescue them.

On February 8, the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative

(IPMR) of the Mamanwa Tribe in Alegria, Surigao del Norte identified as Dakula Guillermo Tiambon was shot dead in front of his family in their farm at Sitio Palo 10, Barangay Camp Edward, Alegria, Surigao del Norte on Friday afternoon.

According to the victim's daughter, her father received death threats from the NPA for being an active advocate of peace and development.

On February 8, Lumad leaders in Talaingod launched a protest seeking justice for the killing of the Mampaundags.

Last January 31 to February 1, Lumad leaders from four regions in Mindanao convened in Davao City upon the initiative of the President to hear their concerns.

The two pressing issues raised by the Lumads were on their security and lack of economic opportunities to uplift their lives.

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BBL lasting solution vs terrorism – AFP exec

Mario J. Mallari

The passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) will significantly lessen the threat of terrorism and extremism in Mindanao, a ranking military official said.

According to Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the military's Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), since the BBL is designed to address the root

causes of the Mindanao conflict, it will dissuade people from joining extremists and the terrorists like the Abu Sayyaf group and the Islamic State-inspired Maute Group.

"The enactment of the BBL will significantly help in lowering the threat of extremism and terrorism, particularly the Abu Sayyaf," Galvez said during a public hearing conducted by lawmakers in Basilan regarding BBL.

He stressed that with the passage of BBL, terror groups will now find it hard to recruit members and carry out attacks.

"Right now, the terror groups are trying to change the narrative of the conflict in Mindanao," he said, adding the extremists are taking advantage of the frustrations of the Bangsamoro people against the government.

Galvez said the military fully

supports the Duterte administration's peace agenda, particularly the implementation of the peace agreements the government has signed with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

He earlier said the "outcome of the peace process has a direct correlation with our problem on terrorism."

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Senators led by Juan Miguel Zubiri, who chairs the subcommittee on the BBL, went on Saturday to Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi and the city of Zamboanga for public consultations.

During the public hearing in Basilan, Zubiri stressed the implementation of the BBL will help in the campaign against terrorism.

"They (security forces) are the ones who want peace more than all of us. It is them who also wish that the BBL be achieved," he said.

Basilan Gov. Hadjiman Hataman Saliman said there is a need to fully address violent extremism in his province.

"We have a problem on terrorism. We experienced terrorism since 1991. That's why while we are discussing the BBL, let's free Basilan and other areas in ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) from terrorism," he said.

The Senate and the House of Representatives are simultaneously conducting public hearings on the BBL.

Congress targets to pass the BBL by March.

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The Manila Times

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Defense chief: We can look for other chopper sources

BY DEMPSEY REYES

THE Philippines can look for different country sources that can supply choppers similar to those from a Canadian manufacturer whose P12-billion contract with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) had been ordered terminated by President Rodrigo Duterte.

In a text message, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Sunday said Russia, China, South Korea, Turkey and India can be the new sources for choppers with capabilities similar to the Bell 412 EPI from Bell Helicopter.

On Friday night, Duterte ordered the AFP to scrap the multibillion deal with Bell Helicopter and Canadian Commercial Corp. (CCC).

His order stemmed from reports that the Canadian government had ordered a review of the helicopter

contract after *Reuters* said the Bell choppers will be used in operations against the communist New People's Army.

"Are there other suppliers if the Canada deal will not push through? Yes, there are," Lorenzana said.

"They [Canada] can think of anything they want to. For me, I maintain that they should not meddle since we bought [the helicopters] from them, not asked for [them]. One more thing, these are not attack helicopters but medium-lift [helicopters]," he added.

Last week, Arsenio Andolong, spokesman for the Defense department, said Canada should reconsider its decision to review

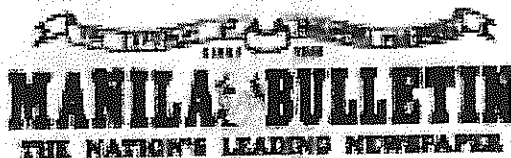
the contract, adding that human rights violations allegedly committed by the military should be verified first.

On December 29 last year, Lorenzana and representatives of Bell Helicopter and CCC signed the contract for the purchase of the helicopters that will be used by the Philippine Air Force for humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) operations and for ferrying injured soldiers from the battlefield.

Delivery of the first batch of Bell helicopters had been expected by the first quarter of 2019.

Purchase of these helicopters is part of the AFP modernization program.

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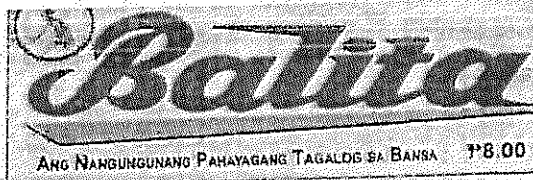


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• **More weapons surrendered in Sulu**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Local officials and residents of Pata, Sulu surrendered 20 more high-powered firearms and war materials to the Joint Task Force Sulu on Friday morning. Armed Forces of the Philippines Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Commander Lt Gen Carlito G. Galvez, Jr. said that among the firearms surrendered to the military were four M16 rifles, an M653, a Bar for Caliber .30, 1.9 Garand rifles, a Sig 7.62; rounds and magazines of various caliber. Galvez said the firearms and war materials were turned over by the municipal and local officials and residents to JTF-Sulu commander Brig Gen Cirilito Sobejana at the detachment of the 31st Marine Company in Barangay Simbangon, Pata, Sulu at 10:05 a.m., Saturday. This was a result of the relentless efforts of our forces in the campaign against loose firearms to pave the way for peace and progress in the province of Sulu," Sobejana said. (Nonoy E. Lacson)

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High-powered guns, sa AFP at PNP lang

Tanging ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Philippine National Police (PNP) ang awtorisadong bumili ng high-powered guns o matataas at de-kalibreng armas sa bansa.

Ito ang inihayag ni Pangulong Duterte bilang bahaging mas istrikto ng gun control measure.

Ipinagbawal ng Pangulo sa alin mang gun store na magbenta ng high-powered firearms maging sa mga opisyal ng gobyerno, at sinabing ang ganitong mga armas ay marapat na maibalik sa national police headquarters.

"I am ordering also the police to control the sale of — all gun stores are no longer allowed to sell high-powered guns, even to governors and mayors. Only the military and police can buy," pahayag ni Duterte sa Davao City

nitong Biyernes.

"And they should be taken off their shelf and returned to (Camp) Crame and that must be reflected there kung sinong nagbili, sinong tao, anong ranggo, saang unit" dagdag pa niya.

Nais ng Presidente na higitan ang pagbili ng baril sa bansa upang mapigilan itong mapasakamay ng mga kalaban.

Binalaan din ni Duterte ang puwersa ng pamahalaan laban sa pagbebenta ng karilang armas sa mga kalaban.

"If you are a soldier, you buy bullets there and somehow it reaches into the hands of the enemies of the state, be careful," anang Pangulo. "I will be unforgiving. You will not only be discharged, I will insist that you will be in jail."

Genalyn D. Kabling

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AFP opens scholarships to soldiers' dependents

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has renewed its partnership with the Mercury Drug Foundation Inc (MDFI) to grant full scholarship to dependents of soldiers completing their bachelor's degree in Pharmacy.

AFP spokesperson Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said with the renewed partnership, military dependents taking up pharmacy may enjoy free tuition and miscellaneous fees in accredited colleges in the Philippines starting this school year.

Aside from the full scholarship, monthly allowances will also be provided to scholars to cover for food and transportation expenses.

Jobs at Mercury Drug Corporation upon graduation will also be offered.

The scholarship program is a nationwide effort between the AFP and MDFI that was initiated in February 2017 and has been renewed this year.

It is part of the effort of civilian stakeholders to recognize the sacrifices and services of soldiers, especially those in the frontlines.

Qualified applicants are dependents of soldiers who are in the active service, killed-in-action, incapacitated (combat or non-combat), or died in the line of duty.

They must be in the last two years of their studies in Pharmacy or willing to transfer to schools that are members of the Philippine Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

The AFP extends its gratitude to the MDFI, and all stakeholders for being partners in uplifting the morale and welfare of soldiers.

The AFP hopes that more organizations will extend assistance to the AFP in helping soldiers and their families secure a better future.

For further information on accredited schools and other requirements on the AFP-MDFI scholarship program, applicants may contact the following numbers: 912-9606 or 911-6001 loc 6009/6010; 0917-507-6617, 0999-993-3376, 0932-843-5446.

Application is until February 28.

Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

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The National Newspaper

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AFP renews partnership with Mercury Drug

DEPENDENTS of soldiers taking up BS Pharmacy may enjoy free tuition and miscellaneous fees in accredited colleges in the country through the Armed Forces' renewed partnership with Mercury Drug Foundation Inc.

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the AFP said.

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Raymond Africa

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FOR CHEATING GOVT

AFP-RSBS LEGAL CHIEF GETS 55 TO 98 YEARS IN JAIL

By Vince F. Nonato
@VinceNonatoINQ

The Sandiganbayan has meted out prison terms of 55 to 98 years on the legal executives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefit System (AFP-RSBS) for underdeclaring the value of the land purchased for the Presidio Royale project in Iloilo City by P46.35 million, cheating the government of capital gains taxes.

The court's Seventh Division found former legal department chief Meinrado Enrique Bello and documentation division head Manuel Satuito guilty of five counts of graft and six counts of falsification. They were also fined P30,000 and permanently banned from government employment.

Discrepancies

Also ordered jailed was Grand Manor Iloilo Realty Corp vice president Minviluz Camiña, who brokered the transactions.

The case arose from the discrepancies in the registration of the deeds of sale for six parcels of land bought from November 1996 to July 1997, defrauding the government of the corresponding capital gains taxes.

Although the purchases were declared to have a total worth of P13.54 million, the prices actually amounted to P59.89 million.

At the same time, the court found the six landowners' signatures in the registered deeds of sale to have been "conspicuously" forged. At least two of the sellers have come forward to disown their signatures in the documents. INO

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DND: Navy's P18-B frigate deal still on

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Despite controversy, the military's P18-billion frigate acquisition project (FAP) with South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) is proceeding as planned.

Department of National Defense (DND) spokesman Arsenio Andolong said yesterday that the purchase of military sea vessels for the Armed Forces of the Philippines remains on track.

He said there has been no word from South Korea about the scrapping of the deal.

"The project is continuing," Andolong said. "We are still going for the milestones that are outlined and (in the) timeline. (The project is) just proceeding as planned."

The frigate deal was marred with controversy after Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado was relieved from his

post as Philippine Navy chief in December 2017 allegedly in connection with the project.

The HHI has been banned from participating in any South Korean tenders for two years after a top executive of the firm was found guilty of allegedly offering bribes in order to win the bid to supply parts for four nuclear reactors to be constructed in the United Arab Emirates in 2013.

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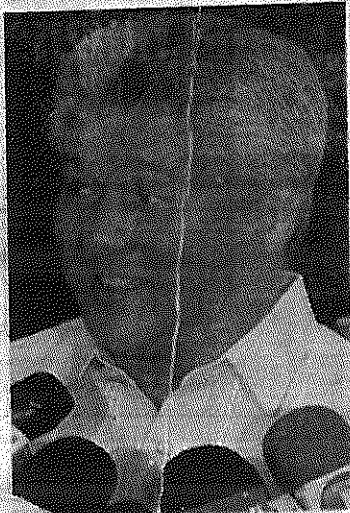
Navy frigate project still on despite HHI 'troubles'

The Philippine Navy's P18-billion Frigate Acquisition Project (FAP), which was awarded to South Korean shipbuilder Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI), is "still proceeding on schedule."

This was the remark of Department of National Defense (DND) spokesman Arsenio Andolong when asked about the program's status after HHI was banned from participating in any South Korean tenders for two years after its top executive was found guilty of offering bribes in order to win the bid to supply parts for four nuclear reactors to be constructed at the United Arab Emirates.

The case stemmed in 2013 and in 2015, HHI was convicted and was penalized by a two-year ban.

It sought to have the ban



ANDOLONG

nullified in 2015 and the South Korean Supreme Court on Dec. 22, 2017 ruled with finality against the shipbuilder.

"There's no official word from the Republic of Korea (including its Embassy in Manila) as of today, the project is continuing, we are still going for the milestones that are outline(d) and (in the) timeline, (the project is) just proceeding as planned," he added, when pressed on whether the South Korean government has advised the DND to terminate its contract with HHI.

The FAP is one of the key pieces of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' modernization program, as it seeks to provide the country with the capability to deal with air, surface and sub-surface threats.

It will be armed with a variety of missiles and guns capable of defeating such threats.

Magdalo partylist Rep. Gary Alejano earlier claimed that the

frigate project is riddled with anomalies and that its design was altered from the original.

This includes the alleged preference for the Hanwha combat management system, the lawmaker said.

"There is a proper process prescribed in RA 9154 (Government Procurement Reform Act) concerning the termination of a procurement project and there are specific conditions that must be present in order to invoke it, none of which are existing at the moment in this project," Andolong earlier said.

The DND spokesman also said the anomalies claimed by Alejano are "mere allegations and *innuendos*" which hardly constitute grounds for termination of the project.

PNA

ONLINE NEWS

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Rebel killed in Abra clash

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA -- A New People's Army (NPA) rebel was killed in an encounter with government troops in Abra early Sunday.

In a statement, Lt. Col. Isagani G. Nato, Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) public information officer, said the clash took place at Sitio Mabungtot, Ud-Udiao, Sal-Lapadan, Abra at around 7:30 a.m. Sunday.

The clash erupted between troops and around 10 NPA rebels while the former were conducting focused military operations (FMO) in the area.

The 28-minute fight resulted in the killing of one NPA brigand and the recovery of four high-powered firearms and equipment consisting of three M16 rifles, one carbine rifle and a two-way radio.

No loss or injury was incurred by the government forces.

Additional troops were already deployed to hunt down the NPA brigands. (PNA)