

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



**TEAM ARMY**

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

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**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**16 February 2018**

**Friday**

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 16 FEBRUARY 2018

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	Business Mirror p.A2
<b>HEADLINES NEWS</b>			
2-3	FAT dynasties linked to worsening poverty	Philip C Tubeza	PDI P.A1
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
4	Army discovers NPA food, medical cache buried in Bukidnon	Bonita L Ermac	Mla Bulletin p.14
5	Top NPA leader in Quezon gets life term	Celso Lidot	Peoples Journal p.13
6	NPA commander, 6 pa sumuko sa Maguindanao		Police Files p.3
7	7 sa NPA, 3 Sayyaf sumuko	Nonoy E Lacson	Balita p.2
8	More NPAs yield in Maguindanao	Nonoy E Lacson	Tempo p.4
9	P25,000 reward for killing NPA	Genalyn D Kabling	Tempo p.2
10-11	Abus kidnap ARMM engineer; military launches manhunt	Francis T Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p.14
12	Abu Sayyaf seizes DPWH engineer	Francis T Wakefield	Tempo p.4
13	3 Abu Sayyaf sumuko		Bulgar p.4
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
14	AFP supports BOB gift-giving program	Francis T Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p.4
15	Final proposal for military pension fund out by year-end, DBM assures	PNA	Business Mirror p.A4
16	PMA seeks more land in Benguet to expand camp	Vincent Cabreza	PDI p.A12
17	Transgender lawmaker joins military	Jess Diaz	The Phil Star p.14
18	PH's first transgender solon joins military	Francis T Wakefield	Tempo p.2
19	Photo: Reserve Lieutenant	AFP	Mla Standard p.A3
20	Photo:	AFP	Tempo p.2
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			
21-22	REMINDER   Army Recruitment Management Center	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph
23	COMBAT OPERATIONS   JTF ZAMPELAN troops encounter lawless elements anew	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph

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

24-25	LTC GERALDINE ROMAN   First Transgender Solon joins AFP	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph
26	LOVE AFFAIR WITH NATURE   WESCOM participates in Mangrove Planting in Palawan	Alvin Santiago	www.dwdd.com.ph

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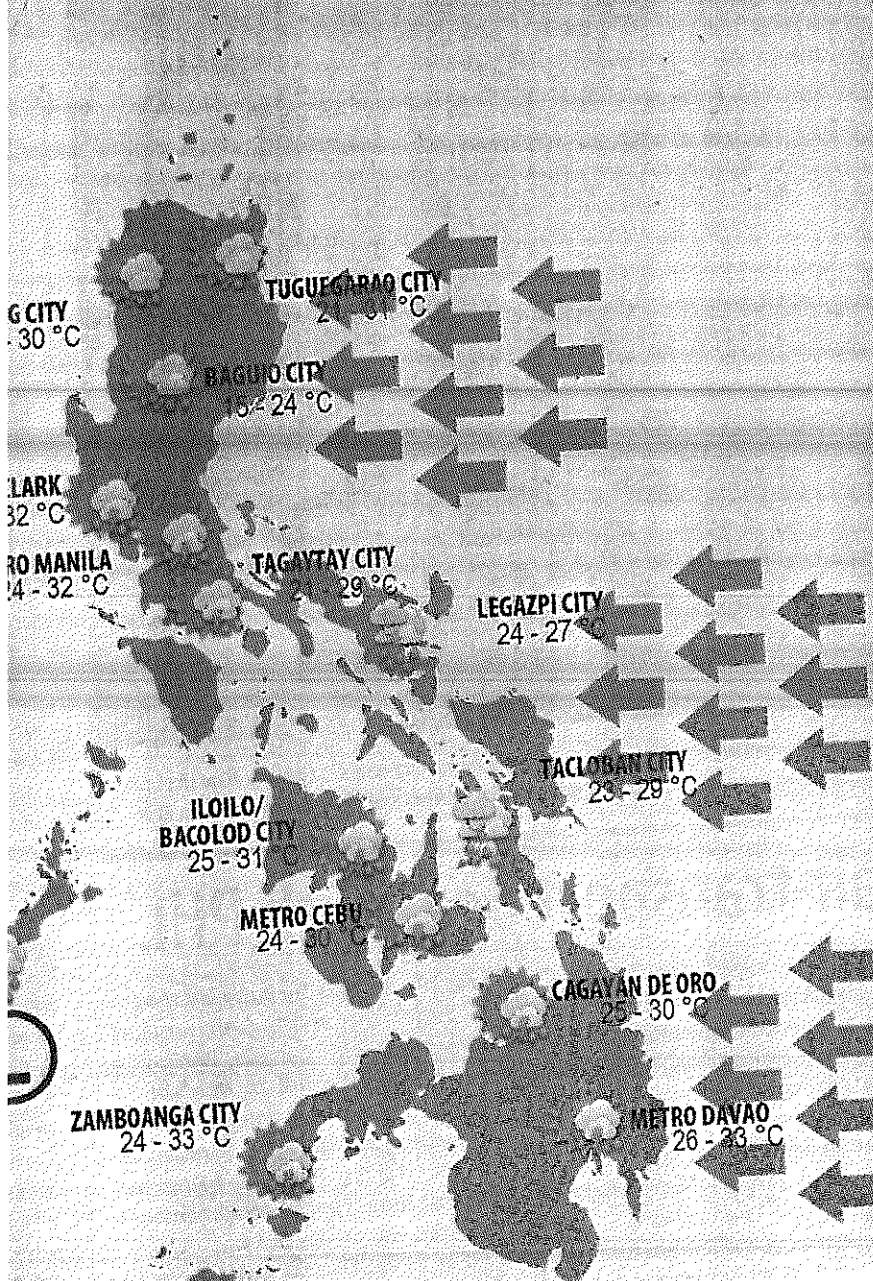
16 February 2018

# BusinessMirror

Page. A2

FEBRUARY 16, 2018 | FRIDAY

**LOW PRESSURE AREA**  
 140 KM SOUTH SOUTHEAST OF  
 PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN  
**EASTERLIES**  
 AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY  
 as of 5:00 pm - February 15, 2018



TUGUEGARAO				21-31°C	22-31°C	22-31°C
LAOAG				20-30°C	20-30°C	20-30°C
BAGUIO				15-24°C	15-24°C	15-24°C
SBMA/ CLARK				23-32°C	23-32°C	23-32°C
TAGAYTAY				21-29°C	21-29°C	21-29°C
LEGAZPI				24-27°C	24-26°C	24-25°C
PUERTO PRINCESA				24-31°C	24-31°C	24-31°C
ILOILO/ BACOLOD				26-32°C	26-32°C	26-32°C

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 and via Pilipinas HD at 6:00 AM, 6:30 PM and 9:00 PM

February 2018



Page: A1

# 'FAT' DYNASTIES LINKED TO WORSENING POVERTY

STORY BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

**Fat political dynasties, which have three to 20 family members occupying government offices at the same time in the country's poorest areas, pose a threat to democracy, says a study by Ateneo School of Government.**

## FROM A1

By Philip C. Tubeza  
@pctubezaINQ

For the Philippines to get a real shot at having an antidynasty law, Congress should ban "fat" political dynasties but allow "thin" political clans, the dean of Ateneo School of Government said on Thursday.

Fat political dynasties have more than two family members occupying government offices, according to Dean Ronald Mendoza.

On the other hand, thin political dynasties are content with having members succeed each other in office, he said.

Mendoza said Ateneo School of Government had conducted a study, that showed fat political dynasties were behind the worsening poverty in the poorest areas of the country.

The study was published in the Oxford Development Studies journal.

"The average effect of political clan leadership in the country is that while there is a fat political clan, poverty deepens," Mendoza said at the Senate hearing on the antidynasty bill.

## No enabling law

"We are slowly becoming less democratic overtime, particularly in the poorest areas of the country and if we don't stop this, democracy will slowly die," he said

Mendoza spoke at the hearing called by Sen. Francis Pangilinan on the proposed antipolitical dynasty law. Pangilinan chairs the Senate committee on constitutional amendments and revision of codes and laws.

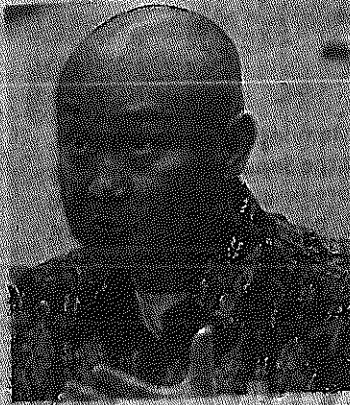
The 1987 Constitution bans political dynasties but Congress, which is dominated by political dynasts, has failed to pass an enabling law defining a political dynasty.

With the absence of an en-

## AVERAGE DYNASTIC SHARE

(2007 - 2016 elections)

Position	Dynastic share (in %)			
	2007	2010	2013	2016
Governor	69.6	82.3	86.3	81.3
Percentage increase/decrease		12.7	3.97	-5
Vice governor	62.0	70.9	75	81
Percentage increase/decrease		8.87	4.11	6.01
Representative	75.3	78.7	75.3	77.5
Percentage increase/decrease		3.44	-3.46	2.25
Mayor	57.6	67.2	67.5	68.8
Percentage increase/decrease		9.6	0.3	1.3
Vice mayor	40.6	51.2	52.6	56.9
Percentage increase/decrease		10.6	1.4	4.3



Ronald Mendoza. —LYN RILLON

but bar them from running for and securing different government posts all at the same time.

"I would consider allowing succeeding each other. In our evidence and data, the main failure does not lie with them. It's with the fat dynasties or those who run and win at the same time," he said.

### 'Delicadeza'

He said those who succeed each other still had "delicadeza." "They don't want to get [elected] all at the same time because that would really look bad."

Mendoza said this was also a "practical" compromise because "more than 50 percent" of the members of Congress were made up of "thin dynasty and nondynasty" members.

He added that thin dynasties might be prodded into agreeing to the proposal because voracious fat dynasties were taking over their posts and threatening their political survival.

Asked for comment, Pangilanan said Mendoza's proposal to ban fat dynasties would be considered in coming up with the antidynasty law. "All we have to do is to define it by law."

### Second degree

Pangilman said it could follow the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) law, which states that SK officials should not be related "within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any incumbent elected national official or any elected regional, provincial, city, municipal or barangay official in the locality where he or she is seeking election."

"I think two degrees is OK. That would include spouses, siblings, parents, children, grandparents and grandchildren in the prohibition. That seems like a reasonable definition," Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara said.

Sen. JV Ejercito, who authored the antidynasty provision in the SK law, said he also supported the passage of an antidynasty law. INQ

## POOREST PROVINCES, FAT DYNASTIES

Rank	Poorest provinces	Dynastic share in positions* (%)	Share of fat dynasties (%)
1	Lanao del Sur	57.9	39.2
2	Maguindanao	67.3	49.2
3	Northern Samar	65.1	43.1
4	Sarangani	41.5	19.5
5	Sulu	35.1	17.9
6	Bukidnon	56.4	30.0
7	Siquijor	52.1	27.3
8	Zamboanga del Norte	53.0	22.6
9	Sultan Kudarat	45.7	25.5
10	Agusan del Sur	44.9	29.0
11	Western Samar	50.2	25.9
12	Eastern Samar	52.0	23.6
13	Masbate	54.5	30.1
14	Negros Oriental	54.1	31.0
15	Lanao del Norte	39.7	17.7

\*Governors, congressmen, mayors, vice mayors

massacre, the kickbacks in road projects, black holes in terms of missing [internal revenue allotments], poverty," Mendoza said.

### Opponents scared

He said it was not surprising that fat dynasties were found in the poorest areas.

"There are no checks and balance. Even if you are wrong, the public would have a very hard time to get you out of office. Either you are scaring your opponents, you are the richest there, or you control all the mayors," he said.

"So, it is not a competitive environment anymore. If you have an election there, you're just going through the motions, but it's no longer democratic," he added.

### 'Most destructive'

The study showed that thin political dynasties were not related to "most destructive patterns" of bad governance.

"The evidence actually shows the most destructive patterns are related to fat dynasties. Thin dynasties do not correlate to bad governance," Mendoza said.

"It is clear in the data that dynasties can be found in poor areas while fat dynasties are in the poorest areas," he said.

Mendoza suggested that the Senate allow dynasties to have their members succeed each other in political office

governing law, political dynasties proliferated after the restoration of democracy in 1986.

"Seventy percent of governors in 2007 were dynastic. It is now 81 percent in 2016. For congressmen, 75 percent in 2007 were dynastic. By 2016, almost 78 percent of congressmen are dynastic," Mendoza said.

He noted that among mayors, 58 percent were dynastic in 2007. "By 2016, a mere nine years later, almost 70 percent of them are dynastic."

### Voracious

But some political dynasties are more voracious than others.

Mendoza said fat political dynasties were not content with having their members succeed each other in political

office.

These clans are so powerful that they occupy up to more than 20 political positions in their provinces, all at the same time, he said.

"This concentration of political power really has a detrimental effect on governance. It's not just two or three family members [holding different political offices at the same time] but 12 family members or 20 family members," Mendoza said.

He said fat political dynasties could be found in provinces like Ilocos Sur, Bulacan, Batangas, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and Maguindanao.

"According to our data, the worst features are those with [fat dynasties]. It's there that you can find the Ampatuan

16 February 2018

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

Page: 14

## Army discovers NPA food, medical cache buried in Bukidnon

By BONITA L. ERMAC  
and NONOYE E. LACSON

**ILIGAN CITY** - The military on Wednesday morning dug out approximately 40 sacks of rice and numerous food and medical supplies of the New People's Army (NPA) buried in a far-flung community in Valencia City, Bukidnon province.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) on Thursday also reported the surrender of seven members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Maguindanao.

Lt. Col. Randy O. Remonte, commanding officer of the 88th Infantry Battalion said the items placed in plastic containers were discovered by the soldiers who were conducting focused military operations near Sitio Bulacao in Barangay Concepcion around 8:00 a.m.

He said there were a total of 67 water containers filled with rice and two drums filled with medical supplies and assorted food items.

The military official said residents tipped off authorities of the presence of the NPA.

"We appreciate the support of the residents of Brgy. Concepcion, Valencia

City, most especially Punong Barangay Luzviminda P. Santillan. We would not be able to locate these items without their vigilance and cooperation," he said.

Remonte also warned those who continue to support the NPAs that such acts are unlawful.

"It is very unfortunate, however, that with the discovery of this food and medical cache, it appears that there are still those who continue to aid the CPP-NPA terrorists, especially the local businessmen and even the local officials. We would like to remind everyone that aiding terrorists is against the law and you will be liable under Section 4 of Republic Act 10168," he said.

### 7 NPAs surrender

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** - Joint Task Force Central (JTF-Central) Commander Maj. Gen. Arnel Dela Vega identified the NPA fighters who surrendered on Monday, Feb. 12 as Godus Sintaw, 36; Arnel Dimantukay, 21; Donie Diwan, 28; Ghagha Ansag, 25; Danilo Mingkay, 25; Larry Ugalingan, 34, and Jimmy Ulangkaya, 34.

Dela Vega said the seven also turned over to the military a 7.62mm M14 rifle, two M1 Garand rifles, a homemade M16 sniper rifle, a Springfield rifle, a Caliber .38 revolver, a hand grenade, and a landmine.

Dela Vega said that the surrenderers returnees were also made to undergo custodial debriefing and medical checkup upon their surrender.

"We have them medically checked in order to make sure that none of them is ill. If ever there are medical conditions that need attention, we will automatically have these treated while they are under our care," he said.

Since January 1, 2017, troops have already facilitated the surrender of 146 communist rebels in the Westmincom's area of operations. The military said a total of 42 NPA members have surrendered since January.



16 February 2018

Page. 13

# Top NPA leader in Quezon gets life term

By Celso Lidot

**CAMP GENERAL MATEO CAPINPIN, Tanay, Rizal** — A female high-ranking leader of the New People's Army on Wednesday was sentenced to life in jail by the Quezon Regional Trial Court.

Miguela Piñero alias "Ka Migs," who was arrested by members of the 85th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry

Division and the Quezon provincial police on February 5, 2012, was given a life sentence by Judge Mariam Biem of the Quezon Regional Trial Court Branch 153.

Piñero was found guilty of violation of Republic Act 9516 or Illegal Possession of Explosives and was sentenced from 20 to 30 years imprisonment.

She was also sentenced to imprisonment

from six to 12 years for violation of Republic Act 8294 or Illegal Possession of Firearms.

According to Lt. Col Ely Tono, commanding officer of the 85th IB, Piñero was nabbed in Bgy. Calantipayan, Lopez, Quezon for two counts of murder, rebellion, multiple frustrated murder, and robbery in band.

She yielded a cal. 45 pistol, one

hand grenade and assorted explosive materials for improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Piñero, now detained at the Correctional Institute for Women (CIW) in Mandaluyong City, is a top rebel leader operating in Southern Quezon and Bondoc Peninsula.

Her group was responsible for extortions, ambush of government troops and disrupting the govern-

ment implemented projects in the area.

2IF commander Maj. Gen. Rhoderick Parayno said the court's decision gave justice to the victims of CPP-NPA atrocities, particularly those members of the indigenous people who were brutally killed by the rebels. "It also proves that the terrorists cannot run away from the long arm of the law," Parayno said.



16 February 2018

**POLICE FILES**

Page. 3

## **NPA commander, 6 pa sumuko sa Maguindanao**

**KORONADAL CITY** – Dumagdag pa sa dumaraming bilang ng mga komunistang rebelde na nagbabalik loob sa gobyerno ang sumukong-pitong New People's Army (NPA) rebels, na kinabibilangan ng isang kumander sa probinsya ng Maguindanao.

Ayon kay 6th Infantry Division Maj Gen Arnel B. Dela Vega, sumuko sa 1st Mechanized Infantry Battalion sa Ampatuan Maguindanao ang pitong NPA rebels ay nagmula sa Platoon My Phone ng Guerilla Front 73, Far South Mindanao Regional Committee.

Ang nasabing mga rebelde ay pawang residente ng iba't ibang mga barangay sa Esperanza Sultan Kudarat.

Kasabay ng kanilang paghabalik loob sa gobyerno ay isinuko rin ng mga rebelde ang isang 7.62mm M14 rifle, isang 5.56mm M16 Bushmaster rifle, dalawang M1 Garand rifles, isang homemade M16 Sniper Rifle, isang homemade M14 rifle, isang Springfield rifle, at isang Cal 38 revolver, one hand grenade, at isang improvised explosive device na may wire at triggering device.

Nabatid na sumuko ang mga rebelde dahil daw sa hirap na dinaranas sa pagtatago sa kabundukan ng Sultan Kudarat.

Napagtanto rin daw ng mga ito na puro kasinungalingan ang pangako sa kanila ng mga communist leaders.

Dagdag pa ng mga ito, nakumbinsi rin sila ng kanilang mga kaanak at mga dating kasamahan na sumuko na sa gobyerno.

Matapos nito ipinasiguro naman ng militar na makatanggap ang mga rebeldeng ito ng benepisyo mula sa Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) ng gobyerno at makapamuhay na ng tahirik.

16 February 2018



Page. 2

## 7 sa NPA, 3 Sayyaf sumuko

Pitong kasapi ng New People's Army (NPA) at tatlong miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang sumuko sa militar sa magkakahiwalay na lugar sa Mindanao sa nakalipas na mga araw.

Sa report kahapon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom), isinuko rin ng pitong rebelde ang kani-kanilang armas sa Maguindanao.

Inihayag ni Joint Task Force Central (JTF-Central) commander Maj Gen Arnel Dela Vega na kabilang sa mga sumukong NPA sina Godus Sirtaw, 36; Arnel Dimantukay, 21; Donie Diwan, 28; Chagha Ansag, 25; Danilo Mingkay, 25; Larry Ugalingan, 34, at Jimmy Ulangkaya, 34.

Sinabi ni Gen. dela Vega na isinuko rin ng mga ito ang kanilang armas na kinabibilangan ng isang

7.62mm M14 rifle, dalawang M1-Garand rifles, isang homemade M16 sniper rifle, isang Springfield rifle, isang 38 caliber revolver, isang granada, at isang landmine.

Sa Basilan, tatlong miyembro ng ASG ang boluntaryo ring sumuko sa militar at pulisya.

Ayon sa militar, piruli nina Karim Abubakar, Jimboy Abubakar Aldam, at Imran Arajan Abdulajiz na mamuhay nang mapayapa para na rin sa kapakanan ng pamilya ng mga ito.

Ang mga ito, aniya, ay nag-operate sa ilalim ng ASG sub-leader na si Nurhassan Jamiri, bago sumuko sa Barangay Bana sa Tipo-Tipo, Basilan nitong Martes ng hapon.

Isinuko rin nila ang isang M16A1 rifle, isang Garand rifle, at iba pang armas.

**Nonoy E. Lacson**

16 February 2018



Page. 4

## More NPAs yield in Maguindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) yesterday reported the surrender of seven members of the New People's Army (NPA) members in Maguindanao. Joint Task Force Central (JTF-Central) Commander, Maj. Gen. Arnel Dela Vega, identified the surrendered guerrillas as Godus Sintaw, 36; Arnel Dimantukay, 21; Donie Diwan, 28; Ghagha Ansagi, 25; Danilo Mingkay, 25; Larry Ugalingan, 34; and Jimmy Ulangkaya, 34. Dela Vega said the seven also turned over to the military several firearms and explosives including a 7.62mm M14 rifle, two M1 Garand rifles, a homemade M16 sniper rifle, a Springfield rifle, a Caliber .38 revolver, a hand grenade, and a landmine. Over 45 communist rebels have surrendered to the AFP-WestMinCom since Jan. 1. **(Nonoy E. Lacson)**

16 February 2018



Page. 2

## ₱25,000 reward for killing NPA

President Duterte has raised the reward for the killing of communist rebels, saying he was ready to give ₱25,000 for every dead insurgent.

The President admitted that the bounty offer would be cheaper than waging a counter-insurgency campaign.

"Gaya ng mga NPA. Sabi niya, 'You kill one soldier a day.' Oh really? Ang sabi ko rin sa lahat, 'You kill.' Tinataasan ko na ngayon. 'You kill an NPA today and I'll pay

you 25,000,'" Duterte said during his visit to Cebu last Tuesday.

Duterte, who has terminated the peace talks with the communist rebels for the deadly attacks on government troops, said the reward would even save the government billions from the war on rebels.

"Kwenta-kwenta ko kasi kung mag-abot itong four years. P\*\*\*, mahal masyado. Gyera eh. Kung bayaran ko na lang 'yung buhay

na ₱25,000, makamura ako by about 47 percent," he said.

"I translated into billions. You know, we're maintaining a war. 'Di sabi ko 'Sige,'" he added.

The President recently offered to pay indigenous people ₱20,000 for each communist insurgent they kill. He said the government could train the Lumads as Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit and pay them for their work. **(Genalyn D. Kabiling)**

16 February 2018

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

Page: 14

## Abus kidnap ARMM engineer; military launches manhunt

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD  
and TAJ BASMAN

The military yesterday said that follow-up operations are now being conducted after suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorists abducted a Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) engineer in Jolo, Sulu on Wednesday morning.

Joint Task Force Sulu Commander Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, identified the victim as Engr. Enrico Nee of the DPWH-ARMM Sulu 1st District Engineering Office.

"JTF Sulu has alerted all checkpoints to possibly intercept the suspects and safely recover the victim. Massive rescue efforts are also being undertaken by the units of JTF Sulu and the Sulu PNP (Philippine National Police (PNP)," Sobejana said.

"We already recovered the getaway vehicle and closely tracking the escape route. We will not stop our rescue efforts until all kidnap victims are recovered safely," he added.

Sobejana said the involvement of LGUs in their campaign is also needed against all forms of terrorism in the Province of Sulu.

"We are appealing to the public to immediately inform us on any monitored hostile plans of the terrorist group like the ASG so that we can take immediate appropriate action. The public should be aware that security is everybody's responsibility," Sobejana said.

"Ang ginagawa po ng JTF Sulu ay para magiging tahimik at progresibo ang Sulu (What we are doing at JTF Sulu is to make Sulu peaceful and progressive) and the main beneficiaries of all our undertaking are none other than the Tausog residents of Sulu," he added.

Reports earlier said that the kidnapping incident took place at about 7:45 a.m., at Kasalamatan Village, Jolo, Sulu.

Sobejana said the victim was forcibly taken at gunpoint by a still undetermined number of men onboard a black and red Tamaraw type jeep.

Prior to the incident, the victim was waiting for a tricycle ride approximately 20 minutes from his residence when he was suddenly approached by a person at gunpoint who alighted from the mentioned vehicle and forcibly took him towards Brgy. Anuling, Patikul, Sulu.

Sobejana expressed belief that the incident may be part of the express kidnapping of the ASG to get ransom payment and sustain their terror activities. (Francis T. Wakefield)

#### **Nearing retirement**

**COTABATO CITY** - The regional secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways said the nearing retirement of the engineer, who was abducted in Sulu yesterday, is a possible motive of the kidnapers.

In an interview Thursday, Regional Secretary Don Loong told Manila Bulletin that the capture of those nearing retirement has been going on since 10 years ago as kidnapers target them for their retirement benefits. He said the usual victims of kidnapping are teachers, engineers and other professionals who are about to retire.

"Tuloy ang pagkabahala at pagkatakot ng aming mga empleyado sa Basilan at Sulu," Loong lamented. Loong said the DPWH-ARMM is now coordinating with the military and the police to secure all its ground personnel.

#### **4 Abus surrender**

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** - Three members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) surrendered to the military and another was captured by the police in Basilan province in the midst of the sustained military and police operations in the province.

Joint Task Force-Basilan (JTF-Basilan) Commander Brig Gen Juvymax Uy identified the three ASG members as Karim Abubakar, Jimboy Abubakar Aldam, and Imran Arajan Abdulajidz.

Uy said the three who were operating under ASG Sub-leader Nurhassan Jamiri, surrendered to the 4th Special Forces Battalion, Special Forces Regiment-Airborne, Special Operations Command stationed at the village of Bana in the town of Tipo-Tipo in Basilan province at 4:45pm, Tuesday Feb 13.

Meanwhile, Police Director for Zamboanga Peninsula Chief Supt Billy Beltran reported that another ASG member - Said Arik alias "Amlah" who is facing seven counts of kidnapping and serious illegal detention was arrested by police operatives of Isabela City, Wednesday morning. (With a report from Nonoy E. Lacson)

16 February 2018



Page. 4

# Abu Sayyaf seizes DPWH engineer

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The military is conducting hot pursuit operations against suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorists who abducted a Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) engineer in Jolo, Sulu on Wednesday.

Joint Task Force Sulu Commander Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, identified the victim as Engr. Enrico Nee of the DPWH-ARMM Sulu 1st District Engineering Office.

Reports said the kidnapping incident took place at about 7:45 a.m., at Kasalamatan Village, Jolo, Sulu.

Sobejana said the victim was forcibly taken at gun point by still undetermined number of men onboard a

colored black and red Tamaraw type jeep which has since been recovered by the government forces.

"We already recovered the getaway vehicle and closely tracking the escape route. We will not stop our rescue efforts until all kidnap victims are recovered safely," he added.

Sobejana expressed belief that the incident may be part of the ASG's efforts to earn money to sustain terror activities.

"JTF Sulu has alerted all checkpoints to possibly intercept the suspects and safely recover the victim. Massive rescue efforts are also undertaken by the units of JTF Sulu and the Sulu PNP (Philippine Na-

tional Police (PNP)," Sobejana said.

Sobejana said the involvement of LGUs in their campaign is also needed against all forms of terrorism in the Province of Sulu.

"We are appealing to the public to immediately inform us on any monitored hostile plans of the terrorist group like the ASG so that we can take immediate appropriate action. The public should be aware that security is everybody's responsibility," Sobejana said.

"Ang ginagawa po ng JTF Sulu ay para magiging tahimik at progresibo ang Sulu and the main beneficiaries of all our undertaking are none other than the Tausog residents of Sulu," he added.

16 February 2018



Pahina. 4

### 3 ABU SAYYAF SUMUKO

**BASILAN**— Tatlong miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang sumuko sa Philippine Army (PA), kamakalawa sa Bgy. Banah, Tipo-Tipo sa lalawigan ito.

Kinilala ang mga sumuko na sina Imran Abdulajid, Karim Abubakar at Jimboy Aldam, pawang ASG members na nag-o-operate sa Basilan.

Ayon sa ulat, isinama rin ng mga ASG member sa kanilang pagsuko ang mga dala nilang armas, pampasabog at mga bala.

Smabi ng mga sumukong ASG members na nais na nilang magbagong-buhay kay nagpasya silang magbalik-loob sa pamahalaan.



February 2018



Page: 4

## AFP supports BOB gift-giving program

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will extend due assistance in the distribution of gift bags to some 10,000 underprivileged families in 21 cities and municipalities around the country starting today to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Soldiers and military equipment will be deployed to support the gift-giving program.

The AFP, in partnership with the Metrobank Foundation Inc. (MBFI) and GT Capital Holdings will be holding the Bags of Blessings (BOB) Project 2018 until February 23.

The project is aimed distributing P10 million worth of assorted food items to underprivileged families.

This is a complementary activity of soldiers as part of community relations and parallel to the AFP's peace and development efforts.

AFP Public Affairs chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel R. Garcia, said the AFP's goal is to ensure the safe transport and peaceful distribution of the gift items, particularly in depressed and conflict areas.

The distribution areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) are the cities of Manila, Taguig, Pasay, Marikina, Quezon, Makati, Navotas and Caloocan covering 4,000 families.

Gift bags will likewise be distributed in parts of General Trias, Cavite, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Baras, Rizal, Infanta, Quezon, Botolan, Zambales, Iloilo City, Cebu City, Biliran, Ormoc City, Davao City, Surigao City, General Santos City and Talocogon, Agusan del Sur.

The AFP has been an active partner in the BOB Project since 2015.

It was launched in 2011 by MBFI and GT Capital Holdings and has become a tradition of giving back every Chinese New Year.

The AFP's support to the nationwide gift-giving activity is a manifestation of its commitment to nation building.

It also reflects the AFP's peace and development efforts through community engagements aimed at providing basic services and needed aid to our people in need, Garcia said.

16 February 2018

BusinessMirror

Page. A4

# Final proposal for military pension fund out by year-end, DBM assures

**A**N actuarial study on the feasibility of a Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)-run pension system for the military, which will have three types, is expected to be completed before end-2018.

Budget Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno, in a briefing on Wednesday, said GSIS officials have finished the

preliminary actuarial study on the proposal, but its results have yet to be presented to economic managers.

He added officials of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), for one, had discussed with their counterparts in the GSIS issues, such as how much a pension system would cost the government and how

much the GSIS needed to assume the responsibility of running the system for the government.

"I can assure you before the end of the year this will be done," he said. Diokno said three types of pensioners are being considered for this proposed military pension.

The first type will cover the ex-

isting pensioners, who receive pensions that are indexed to the salary of incumbent personnel.

"We will honor our contract. We'll continue paying them," Diokno said. The second are those who are in current service, who will be asked to pay contribution to make the system sustainable, but will receive the benefit

of the old system.

"They have to understand that they need to contribute, especially now that they have a hefty salary increase," he said.

The third type is for new entrants, who will be covered by new set of pension rules that has yet to be developed.

Diokno added the proposed mili-

tary pension system would be handled by the GSIS but would be different compared to the system for other state workers.

"[It will] be funded by proceeds from land and other assets of the military," he said, but clarified that the government will not be selling military assets just to fulfill the pension system. *PNA*

16 February 2018



Page: A12



The Philippine Military Academy, the country's top military training institution, is looking to expand its reservation in Baguio City through a presidential proclamation. —EV ESPIRITU

## PMA SEEKS MORE LAND IN BENGUET TO EXPAND CAMP

BAGUIO CITY—The Philippine Military Academy (PMA) wants to expand its military reservation and has asked President Duterte to issue a proclamation extending the area of Fort Del Pilar here by another 105 hectares.

This was disclosed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, a member of PMA Class of 1970, during his visit to Fort Del Pilar on Wednesday.

The area being sought by the academy is located in nearby Tuba town in Benguet province. It is being used as its firing range and for field exercises for cadets undergoing military assault training.

In a letter to Mr. Duterte, Cimatu said granting the PMA the additional land would "assure the academy of a secure water source and help protect the area from intrusions, encroachments and other forms

of adverse claims."

The forested hill covering 373 ha at Barangay Loakan, where Fort Del Pilar is located, has been home to cadets since the 1950s. The camp was relocated from Camp Henry Allen near the Baguio City Hall to Loakan to accommodate the growing number of cadets.

### Expansion area

According to Cimatu, the PMA first asked for the additional land in 2015 when it informed the Office of the President about the academy's need for a bigger training area.

The expansion area is near the Lwliw creek and a public forest. It is outside a property being disputed by the PMA and an indigenous peoples' family that has been operating small-scale mines there. —REPORTS FROM VINCENT CABREZA, KARL LAPNITEN AND KIMBERLIE QUITASOL JNO

16 February 2018



Page: 14

## *Transgender lawmaker joins military*

The first transgender member of Congress, Rep. Geraldine Roman of Bataan, has joined the military.

Roman said she took her oath as a reserve officer of the Army on Wednesday, "making me the first transgender military officer of the country."

"I commend the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for allowing LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) members to serve the country in uniform," she said.

"All patriotic Filipinos must be allowed to apply for military service, regardless of gender, sexual orientation and identification. After all, war and disaster do not recognize gender," she added.

Roman proposed the restoration of the Reserve Officers'

Training Corps program for Grades 11 and 12.

She was given the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana administered her oath in ceremonies attended by AFP chief of staff Rey Leonardo Guerrero and Roman's mother Herminia, whom she succeeded as representative of Bataan's first district.

Roman is eyeing a Senate seat in next year's elections under the ruling party PDP-Laban. She was a former member of the Liberal Party.

Roman joined the ranks of lawmakers who are military reservists, including Senators Manny Pacquiao and Loren Legarda and House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas.

– Jess Diaz, Jaime Laude

16 February 2018



Page. 2

## PH's first transgender solon joins military

Bataan Rep. Geraldine Roman formally became the country's first transgender military officer when she took her oath as a reservist of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in a ceremony at the Department of National Defense Hall of Flags in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Wednesday.

Roman, also the country's first transgender solon, joined the Philippine Army Reserve Force with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Two other solons, Edwin Marino Ongchuan of Northern Samar and Divina Grace Yu of Zamboanga del Sur, also took their oath as

lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve Force.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana administered the donning of ranks and oath-taking ceremony that was also attended by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero and other defense and security officials.

Roman applied to the AFP Reserve Force in February 2017.

She commended and thanked the AFP for allowing individuals from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community to apply for the military.

"War and disaster do not

recognize gender. It affects everybody, and everyone must defend and serve our communities, and our country, that is why I am joining the AFP Reserve Force," Roman said.

Roman is an advocate of the revival of the mandatory Reserve Officers Training Course for Grades 11 and 12.

She expressed her support to the program during the ROTC Corps Commanders' Summit and Senior Reservist Commanders' Conference last Feb. 22, 2017 in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. (Francis T. Wakefield)

16 February 2018

Manila  
Standard

Page: A3



**RESERVE LIEUTENANT.** This handout photo taken on Feb. 14, 2018 and released by the Department of National Defense shows Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (right) donning an epaulet to reserve lieutenant colonel and congresswoman, Geraldine Roman (center). Lorenzana was assisted by General Ray Leonardo Guerrero (back row, left), military chief and Roman's mother, Herminia Roman (left), during a ceremony at the defense office at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, suburban Manila. Geraldine Roman became the first transgender politician to win a congressional seat in the predominantly Catholic Philippines in 2016. **AFP PHOTO**

16 February 2018

# Tempo

Page. 2



DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (right) leads the oath-taking for newly-appointed lieutenant colonel and congressman Edwin Marino Ongchuan of Northern Samar (left), Rep. Divina Grace Yu of Zamboanga del Sur, and Rep. Geraldine Roman (center) of Bataan as reservist officers in the Philippine Army during a ceremony in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. In May 2016, Roman became the first transgender politician to win a congressional seat in the predominantly Catholic Philippines. (AFP)

# ONLINE NEWS

## 16 FEBRUARY 2018

www.dwdd.com.ph

# REMINDER | Army Recruitment Management Center

Posted by Alvin Santiago

To all the General Public:

This is to inform everyone on the existence of different Facebook pages pretending to be the Official Recruitment Pages of the Recruitment offices under the Army Personnel Management Center (APMC) of the Philippine Army. These bogus facebook pages copied the names, profile pictures, photos and post of the recruitment pages of the Center.

These bogus facebook pages usually post details on the recruitment of the Philippine Army, Philippine Military Academy, Philippine Navy, Philippine Air Force and even Philippine Coast Guard pretending to be the official facebook page of the Philippine Army. However, these bogus recruitment pages are also posting slanderous/inappropriate statements in their account carrying the name of Philippine Army. Recently, they posted false AFPSAT schedule in the Visayas and Mindanao area and being shared by legitimate facebook pages and even our own troops creating confusion on the authenticity of the post.

For your information and reference, the following are the Official Recruitment pages of the Center:

NAME

URL

Army Recruitment office  
Luzon Authorized Page

<https://www.facebook.com/AROLuzonOfficialPage/>

Army Recruitment office-  
Visayas

<https://www.facebook.com/AROVisayasOfficialPage/>

Army Recruitment office-  
Mindanao

<https://www.facebook.com/AROMindanaoOfficialPage/>

Army Recruitment office-  
Zamboanga

<https://www.facebook.com/AROZamboangaOfficialPage/>



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

Likewise, below are the **Fake Facebook Recruitment Page** circulating in the Social Media:

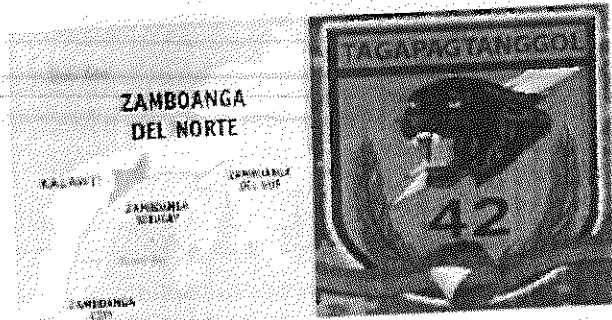
NAME	URL
Army Recruitment Office	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/PhilippineArmyRecruitment/">https://www.facebook.com/PhilippineArmyRecruitment/</a>
Army Recruitment Office Luzon	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ArmyRecruitmentOfficeLuzon/">https://www.facebook.com/ArmyRecruitmentOfficeLuzon/</a>
Army Recruitment Office Mindanao	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ArmyRecruitmentOfficeMindanao/">https://www.facebook.com/ArmyRecruitmentOfficeMindanao/</a>

For further inquiries, you may call the Division Public Affairs Office (DPAO) Hotline  
Numbers: 09171128088/09177938341. 1DPAO / MCAG

# COMBAT OPERATIONS | JTF ZAMPELAN troops encounter lawless elements anew

Reported by Arvin Santiago

**KUTA SANG-AN, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur (DWDD)** – The combined troops under Joint Task Force "ZAMPELAN" and Philippine National Police Kalawit once again encountered the "lawless elements" at Sitio Monob, Brgy Daniel Maing, Kalawit, Zamboanga del Norte, early morning on February 6, 2018.



The operating troops of 42<sup>ND</sup> Infantry "Tagapagtanggol" Battalion led by Captain Reynante R Macario and Kalawit police led by Police Inspector Junedel S Mormolindo were conducting combat operation at the vicinity of the said area when they clashed with the "Suminggal" lawless group.

Earlier, on January 19, 2018, the same group was encountered by the government forces at the vicinity of Brgy Poblacion of the same municipality where the latter recovered some war materials.

Suminggal Group is allegedly headed by Monib Aquilan with more or less 20 members conducting extortions and land grabbing activities in the southern part of Zamboanga del Norte.

The firefight which lasted for about thirty (30) minutes compelled the enemy to withdraw heading towards the northeast direction of Kalawit, ZDN.

After the firefight, the troops recovered one (1) KG9 rifle with magazines; one (1) rifle grenade; one (1) hand grenade; ten (10) pieces hammock; one (1) cellular phone and several personal belongings.

The 42IB under the stewardship of Lt Col Danilo G Ambe is conducting pursuit operation to trackdown and eventually defeat the said lawless group that disturbs the normal life of the affected civilian community.

"Our soldiers stand ready to respond and address any attempt by the armed threat groups threatening the safety and well-being of the people", said Maj Gen Roseller G Murillo AFP, 1<sup>st</sup>ID Commander as he lauded the operating troops for the successful encounter.

"Let us continue to actively support Law Enforcement Support Operations until the final defeat of the said armed group", he added. **1DPAO / MCAG**

# LTC GERALDINE ROMAN | First Transgender Solon joins AFP

Posted by Alvin Santiago

**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – Bataan Representative Geraldine Roman, the country's first transgender congresswoman, took her oath as a Reservist Officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in a ceremony held Wednesday, 14 February 2018, at the Department of National Defense (DND) Hall of Flags, here.



*From right: Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana dons the epaulet to Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Geraldine Roman assisted by General Rey Leonardo Guerrero, AFP Chief of Staff and Roman's mother, Herminia Roman, in a Donning-of-Ranks ceremony on 14 February 2018 at the Department of Defense Building in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. (Photo by PH3 Jayson Rutao/PAOAFP)*

Representative Roman donned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as she officially joined the Philippine Army Reserve Force. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana administered the donning of ranks and oath-taking ceremony that was also attended by General Rey Leonardo Guerrero, AFP Chief of Staff, and other defense and security officials.

Lieutenant Colonel Roman announced her application to the AFP Reserve Force in February 2017. She also commended and thanked the AFP for allowing individuals from the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Community to apply for the military.

"War and disaster do not recognize gender; it affects everybody, and everyone must defend and serve our communities, and our country, that is why I am joining the AFP Reserve Force", Congresswoman Roman said.

The first transgender military officer is also an advocate for the revival of the mandatory Reserved Officers Training Course (ROTC) for grades 11 and 12. She expressed her support for the program during the ROTC Corps Commanders' Summit and Senior Reservist Commanders' Conference held on 22 February 2017 in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"We in Congress are working to make the ROTC experience a significant, beneficial and meaningful learning experience for those who will join and we will ensure that the value of Patriotism will be inculcated among the youth through this course," she said.

Two other House Representatives, Congressman Edwin Marino Ongchuan of Northern Samar and Congresswoman Divina Grace Yu of Zamboanga Del Sur's 1<sup>st</sup> District also took their oath as Lieutenant Colonel in the Army's Reserve Force. **DND PAS / MCAG**

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



From left: Newly-appointed Lieutenant Colonels Congressman Edwin Marino Ongchuan of Northern Samar, Congresswoman Divina Grace Yu of Zamboanga Del Sur's 1<sup>st</sup> District, and Congresswoman Geraldine Roman take oath as Reservist Officers in the Philippine Army in a ceremony presided over by Defense Secretary Deffin Lorenzana on Wednesday, 14 February at the Department of National

www.dwdd.com.ph

# LOVE AFFAIR WITH NATURE | WESCOM participates in Mangrove Planting in Palawan

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)

**PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan (DWDD)** –The Western Command participated in “Love Affair with Nature” mangrove planting with a theme: “Kalikasan ay pangalagaan para sa ating kinabukasan”, in connection with its forthcoming 42nd founding anniversary and in partnership with the City Government of Puerto Princesa held at Sitio Baringbing, Barangay San Manuel, Puerto Princesa City on February 14, 2018. **WESCOM / MCAG**

