

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



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NEWS CLIPPINGS

23 February 2018

Friday

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

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

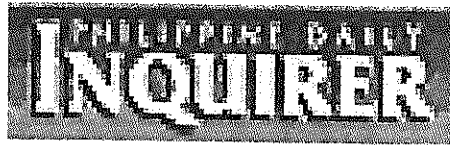
TABLE OF CONTENTS

23 FEBRUARY 2018

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.19
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	Don't play ISIS card, MILF told	Elloson Quismorio	Mla Bulletin p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
4	Turn Over unlicensed guns, soldiers told	Roel Pareño	Phil Star p.15
5	3 Communist rebels surrender	John Uson	Phil Star p.15
AFP RELATED NEWS			
6	Sision hints desire to resume talks	Ted Tuvera	D Tribune p.1
7-8	Edsa memories	Rexx Robles	Mla Bulletin p.1
9	Military frees MILF rebels smuggling guns	AL Jacinto	BusinessMirror p.A7
10-11	Zambo City local officials surrender 157 loose firearms	Francisco Tuyay	Mla Standard p.A3
12	Duterte slams' Joma' before rebels	Genalyn Kabling	Mla Bulletin p.4
13	3 Reds Surrender	Joseph Jubelag	Tempo p.4
14	157 loose firearms sa Zamboanga, isinuko	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p.7
15	Zambo officials yield 167 loose firearms	Francis Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p.14
16	Zambo city official nagsuko ng 157 loose firearms	Joy Cantos	PM p.2
17	Red reject terror tag but still open to talk	AP	PDI p.A9
18-19	Duterte: 50,000 reward for every NPA leader killed	Raymond Africa	Malaya p.B6
ONLINE NEWS			
20-21	Gov't asks court to declare communist rebels terrorists	-	newsinfo.inquirer.net
22	Former NPA guerrillas look to new life after surrender	<u>Nikko Dizon</u>	newsinfo.inquirer.net

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23 February 2018



Page: 119

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 23, 2018 | FRIDAY

AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON
AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY
as of 5:00 pm - February 22, 2018

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:16 AM	6:03 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
11:32 AM	11:37 PM
FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON
FEB 23 4:09 PM	MAR 2 5:51 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
11:20 PM 0.08 Meter	3:18 PM 0.72 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

METRO MANILA	25 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	22 - 29 °C	21 - 30 °C	TACLOBAN	22 - 29 °C	23 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	23 - 33 °C	22 - 32 °C	LEGAZPI	23 - 29 °C	23 - 29 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	20 - 30 °C	21 - 31 °C
LAOAG	22 - 32 °C	22 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26 - 31 °C	26 - 30 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	16 - 25 °C	16 - 25 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 - 30 °C	26 - 30 °C	ZAMBOANGA	23 - 31 °C	23 - 29 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 33 °C	26 - 34 °C	METRO CEBU	22 - 29 °C	23 - 29 °C			

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

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

23 February 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Don't play ISIS card, MILF told

B. ELLSON A. QUISNORIO

Iligan City Rep. Frederick Siao on Thursday asked Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Chairman Al-Hajj Ebrahim Murad “not to play the ISIS card” as the House of

Representatives endeavors to pass the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

Siao issued the warning after Murad reportedly identified Iligan and Cotabato as possible targets of a terrorist attack like the one launched in Marawi

City last year in case the BBL doesn't get Congress's nod.

“As the representative of Iligan City, I am deeply concerned about the statement of MILF Chairman Al-Hajj Ebrahim Murad that Iligan City and Cotabato may already be targets ▶ **6**

2

Don't play ISIS card...

of terrorist groups for a sequel of their siege of Marawi City, in case the Bangsamoro Basic Law fails to pass," Siao said in statement.

It was recalled that Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-inspired Maute gunmen occupied Marawi without warning on May 23, 2017. This sparked a gruelling door-to-door campaign by government troops, who would manage to liberate the city later in October.

Marawi sustained billions of pesos worth of damage, not to mentioned a forever damaged psyche.

While Siao said that he had since confirmed from military and defense officials that Iligan and Cotabato aren't under any imminent terrorist threat, he still hoped that Murad would talk to the same officials first before speaking to the media.

"The concern of the esteemed MILF chairman for the welfare of Iligan and Cotabato is much appreciated, but I also hope he would first confer with top officials of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines), DND (Department of National Defense), and DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government) instead of first making such statements to the news media," he said.

"Let me take this opportunity to assure Chairman Al-Hajj Murad that there is a good base of support in Congress for the passage of the proposed BBL and so there is no need to play the ISIS card while the BBL goes through the legislative process," added Siao, who is a vice chairman of the Committee on Tourism.

The enabling law of a 2014 agreement between the Philippine government and secessionist group MILF, the

proposed BBL primarily aims to usher in a period of peace and prosperity in Mindanao with the creation of a Bangsamoro juridical entity.

The Bangsamoro will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or ARMM.

The previous draft BBL – although aggressively pushed by the previous Aquino administration – failed to get the Congress approval due to its alleged plethora of unconstitutional provisions.

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, President Duterte's top lieutenant in the House of Representatives, has repeatedly said that the Lower Chamber would conduct exhaustive discussions on the proposed statute in the current 17th Congress. In fact, committee hearings are being held about the BBL nearly every session day.

"Congress is simply in the process of ironing out the details to significantly increase the BBL's success factors during the implementation phase," Siao said.

He said that his city is still reeling from the effects of the Marawi siege last year.

"Iligan is one of the most progressive cities in Mindanao and is still recovering from the impact of the Battle of Marawi. The extension of martial law in Mindanao has helped stabilize the peace and order situation, as well as business confidence in Iligan and all over Mindanao."

Siao, in the same statement, hailed government troops and police for being steadfast in their defense of Mindanao against all security threats.

"Their commitment to their duty

has earned the admiration and respect of Iliganons," he said.

MILF fighters disarmed

Meanwhile, government forces seized on Tuesday high-powered firearms from MILF members for moving around Maguindanao without coordination with local authorities and ceasefire monitors.

According to reports reaching the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Camp Siogco, Maguindanao, heavily armed men on board a mini-cargo truck were seen along a village road in Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao.

Soldiers flagged down the vehicle loaded with MILF fighters, led by Orly Gampong, in Barangay Mileb. The rebels did not resist and peacefully handed over their rifles to elements of the 40th Infantry Battalion.

The seized firearms now in Army custody included 18 M-16 assault rifles, five M-14 assault rifles and an M-203 rifle fitted with a launcher for 40 millimeter grenade projectile.

Under the 1997 government and MILF ceasefire agreement, Moro rebels must coordinate with local military and police authorities when moving from its camps to other areas. The same applies for government forces if it operates in MILF identified areas.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana, spokesman for the 6th ID led anti-terror Task Force Central, said Gampong and his armed followers belonged to the MILF's 106th Base Command.

Besana said the military and police are determining if Gampong's group was to reinforce its comrades fighting another group of MILF in Abdullah Sangki, Maguindanao.

Fighting had erupted between MILF's 105th and 106th base command. (With a report from PNA)

23 February 2018



Page: 15

Turn over unlicensed guns, soldiers told

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Soldiers are not exempted from the campaign against loose firearms, a military official said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, said soldiers should turn over their firearms with expired licenses or have not been registered.

Galvez made the call after Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco-Salazar turned over 157 unlicensed firearms surrendered by village watchmen also yesterday.

“Soldiers with unlicensed

firearms are not exempted from the campaign against loose firearms...It includes us,” Galvez said.

“We directed military personnel to register their firearms or these will be subjected to seizure or confiscation,” he said.

At least 257 firearms have been recovered in areas under the jurisdiction of Westmincom.

The Zamboanga peninsula police said more than 25,000 of at least 29,418 unregistered firearms in the region have been accounted for.

– Roel Pareño



Westmincom chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco-Salazar and Senior Superintendent Narciso Verdadero check the firearms turned over at the military headquarters in Zamboanga City on Wednesday.

ROEL PAREÑO

4

23 February 2018



Page: 15

3 communist rebels surrender

SULTAN KUDARAT – Three members of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered to the military in Sultan Kudarat yesterday.

Crisanto and Wilnard, both surnamed Basalo, and Tikay Ambag of the Kilusang Rebolusyonyong Barangay, surrendered to Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc of the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion based in President Quirino town.

The communists said they operated at the border of Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato and collected so-called revolutionary taxes from its residents.

In Kalinga, Sabas Balcano, 21, of the NPA's Abraham Bannawagan Command was arrested at his house in Sitio Payao, Barangay Lower Uma, Lubuungan on Wednesday.

The arrest was based on a warrant for attempted murder issued by Tabuk Regional Trial Court Judge Neljoe Cortes.

– John Unson, Raymund Catindig, Artemio Dumlao

5

27 February 2018



Page: 1

Sison hints desire to resume talks

By Ted Tuvera



SISON

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) or the Department of National Defense (DND) to reject continued negotiations with the revolutionary movement.

President Duterte's move to know from state security forces whether or not his government should proceed with peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front (NDF) shows his lack of political will, Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Maria Sison said as he telegraphs an apparent desire to resume negotiations.

Sison, 79, said in a statement that it would be natural for the

Sison then? Sison is a millionaire who is living abroad. The son of a bitch has been there for so many years," Mr. Duterte said.

"The money that he is spending is the money that you worked hard for. What's your capital? Your blood and the lives of your fellow human beings. How much do they collect? How much do they collect from the mining companies? The mining companies would give 30, 40, 50 million [pesos]. How about the banana plantations? How much? You think it's just 5 million? You've been lied to," he elaborated.

With regard to his resolve to provide free housing to the former rebels, the Chief Executive said there are 1,000 housing units in Talomo and Bangkal in Mindanao.

"There are around 1,000 units, some are in Talomo and some are in Bangkal. It's almost done. It's supposed to be given to the military and police, but I'll give them to you instead," Mr. Duterte said.

"Get yourselves enlisted now because I'll give the 1,000 units to

you. You will have a house that comes complete with everything. There is a school as well. College education is free. So I will just give you your allowance," he added.

Terrorist tag important – AFP

There is an urgent need for the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), to be declared as terrorist groups as they are no different from the Abu Sayyaf and Maute Group, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Datuin said.

"It is important to declare the NPA as terrorist group, for their pretentious image of fighting for the people to stop. For being terrorists, they are now in the same rank of Abu Sayyaf and Maute," he added.

Also, in the past few months, Datuin said the entire country had witnessed terror acts committed by the rebels that included kidnapping, killing of innocent civilians and torching and destruction of numerous properties, both private and public, and extortion activities.

And should the CPP-NPA be declared terrorist groups, the AFP said that all of their supporters would be made liable to the government under Republic Act 10168 (The Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act of 2012).

In the same vein, Datuin said the entire AFP is urging the remaining NPAs in the mountains to cease their armed struggle and reintegrate themselves back to society.

"That is why the Armed Forces of the Philippines is calling on the remaining NPAs in the mountains that it is time to end the armed conflict and return to the fold of the law. The government is ready to help them start new lives," he added.

Turn to page 3

"It is unbelievable that Duterte has abdicated his role as political leader and commander in chief and has become the subordinate of his military subordinates on the crucial question of peace negotiations," Sison said.

Sison pointed out that the Commander in Chief could pass the blame to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana if talks with the NDF fails.

Lorenzana, the communist leader assailed, is taking orders from the United States.

"It is obvious that Duterte is evading responsibility for sabotaging and terminating the peace negotiations," he said.

"Duterte is probably insinuating that Lorenzana can overrule him anytime because his Department of National Defense (DND) secretary takes orders directly from the US," he added.

Sison, Mr. Duterte's college professor in the mid 1960s, warned his former student to

watch out for Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) elements which he claimed are cooking up plots against him.

"What should worry Duterte most is the existence of at least two key groups of active and retired AFP officers at the level of generals and colonels who are trying to persuade and mobilize other officers to withdraw support from Duterte for betraying national sovereignty, adopting policies inimical to the people and committing outright crimes of great proportions," Sison claimed.

Meanwhile, talking to the second batch of supposedly surrendered New People's Army (NPA) combatants hosted in Malacañang, the President stressed that those who adhere to their dream to overthrow government have not earned anything from Sison's leadership.

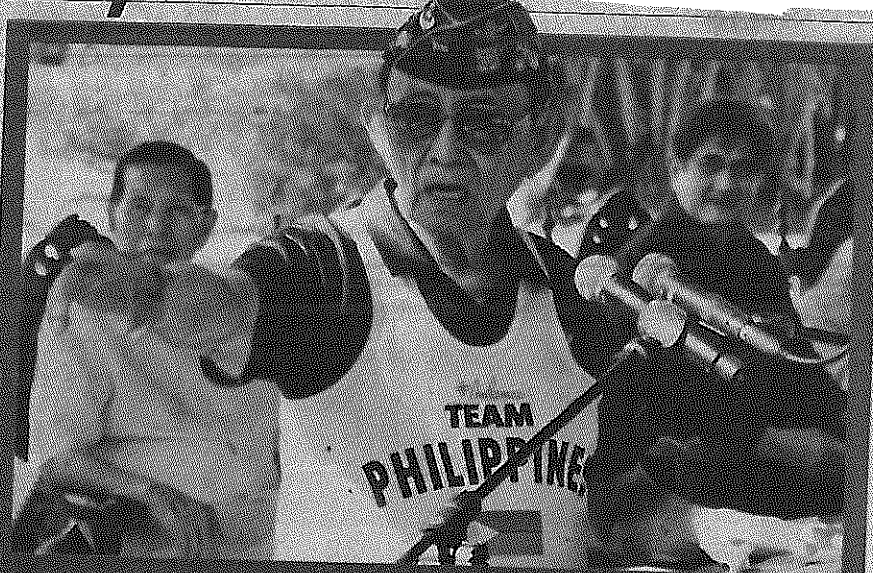
Body: What did you get from Joma?

"So what have you gotten from

23 February 2018



Page: 1



PEOPLE POWER ANNIVERSARY – Former President Fidel Ramos gives a speech during the celebration of the 32nd anniversary of EDSA People Power at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City Thursday. Behind him are former Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Gringo Honasan, who like Ramos figured prominently during the 1986 revolt. (Ali Vicoy)

EDSA Memories
'Never resort to violence to pursue our ends'
(Last part)

By REX HOBLES

Events quickly followed one another after this meeting. We had our first press conference at the National Press Club on July 4, 1985 where we swore "never to resort to violence to pursue our ends." ▶6

7

‘Never resort to violence... ◀1

Rodney Tasker of the FEER talked to me and wrote a seminal article, “The Hidden Hand” about the reform movement.

An emissary from the Pentagon, Col. William “Bill” White materialized at the door to my quarters one rainy evening in the first week in June 1985 and asked for a meeting with RAM leaders. He bore a message for the RAM from the Pentagon and the State Department with US President Reagan’s imprimatur:

“Do not resort to violence. Do not harm Pres. Marcos and we will protect you from arrest.”

We paid a call on Cardinal Sin sometime in September 1985. He had a secret message for us: “Do not make it too bloody.” (Almonte claims he persuaded RAM leaders to contact Cardinal Sin much later, in early January of the following year.)

I was present at Teddy Benigno’s residence late October, 1985 when the agreement between Cory Aquino and Doy Laurel was forged. Doy would give way to Cory, and in turn Cory will serve only half of the term, then turn the presidency over to Doy.

We met Cory on December 8, 1985, after her first political rally in Batangas, not in Times Street as claimed by Almonte in his book, but at the residence of Commodore Alberti’s sister.

We pledged to work for clean and honest elections and to protect her vote. Honasan provided an all female security escort. (Cory was then complaining of a sore shoulder caused by an enthusiastic mob trying to touch her).

Elections and the walk-out of Comelec computer operators led by Linda Kapunan, Red’s wife, followed after the snap elections in 1986. They first hid at Red’s quarters. I was a next door neighbor. We gave pep talks and

reassurances to the young nervous “activists” (They later presented me with a plaque of appreciation.)

JPE (Juan Ponce Enrile then the Defense Minister) and Ramos (then General Fidel V. Ramos, the AFP Vice Chief of Staff and concurrent Philippine Constabulary chief), announced their withdrawal of loyalty to the Commander-in-Chief on Feb. 22, 1986. I watched the proceedings on TV at Col. Cho’s residence. I gave a series of interviews with the international press. Melinda Liu was the first to find me.

Marcos departs for Hawaii (Feb. 25, 1986). There is jubilation everywhere.

Back at the DND, I arrived late for a meeting with JPE who was in the midst of issuing instructions and dictating decrees. I started to write but ran out of paper. I proceeded to continue taking notes using the margins of my driver’s license.

Back at home on Feb. 26, at almost noon, I looked at everything with new eyes.

My rabbits survived three days without food. My pet birds were noisily chirping. I looked at the garden. The lilies have never bloomed this way – four blooms to a plant. I sat down on the flattened boulders between the twin coconut trees in my front yard. I looked up at the sky. It was light blue and clear of clouds.

The future was ours for the taking.

(The author, a member of PMA Class 65, is a retired Navy Commodore. He currently works as a consultant for Taganito Mining Corporation and also helps Senator Honasan map out a development plan for the Defense Department. He will be 75 in May. In this series, Robles shares memories of the EDSA Revolution from where he was then – in the middle of the People Power Revolution.)

23 February 2018

BusinessMirror

Page. A7

A broader look at today's business

Military frees MILF rebels smuggling guns

BY AL JACINTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY: The military freed at least two dozen Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels who were intercepted trying to smuggle a cache of firearms in restive Maguindanao province on Wednesday while 157 unlicensed guns were surrendered by at least four village officials.

The weapons were illegal and had no documents from the Philippine National Police.

It was unclear why the rebels led by Orly Campung under the 106th Base Command of the MILF were freed and their weapons returned to the group despite serious violations of laws prohibiting the carrying of firearms without permits.

The rebels were traveling in a truck with the weapons when soldiers stopped them at a checkpoint in Barangay Melib, Sultan Sa Barongis town.

The soldiers discovered the gun cache during a security inspection and held the rebels but the military eventually released all of them and returned 24 automatic rifles owned by the MILF, which signed an interim peace deal with Manila in 2014.

Only recently, a West Jakarta district court had linked two MILF rebels – Marod and Dato – to terrorists

trafficking illegal arms in Indonesia.

The two sold firearms to Suryadi Mas'ud who traveled to General Santos City with his wife Rita Anyar as a cover in 2015.

Suryadi, 45, also fought alongside the MILF against Filipino soldiers in Maguindanao from 1996 to 2000.

Terrorist leader Iwan Darmawan Muntho, alias Rois, who is on death row in Indonesia, reportedly funded Suryadi's travel to Mindanao to purchase 17 automatic rifles and five pistols worth \$30,000 for the MILF.

Suryadi was also implicated in the bombing of a fastfood outlet in Makassar, South Sulawesi, in 2002.

He also trained jihadists in Aceh in 2010 until his capture.

Surrendered firearms

While the military freed the rebels,

9

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city officials led by Mayor Ma. Isabelle Climaco-Salazar turned over 157 unlicensed firearms, mostly old Carbine rifles, from village officials and watchmen in Zamboanga City to Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, at its headquarters in Camp Navarro, Calanian, here on also Wednesday.

The firearms came from *barangay* (village) officials in Arena Blanco, Tigtabon, Mercedes and Cabaluay.

Of the 157 firearms, 29 are 16 caliber .30 and M1 Garand rifles which were handed over to the Philippine Army's 11th Infantry Battalion; eight M1 Garand rifles

to the Marine Battalion Landing Team-11; and four M1 Garand rifles and a 6mm HE Rocket launcher to Joint Task Force Zamboanga.

Similarly, the Zamboanga City Police Office also presented to Galvez 128 loose firearms that include 92 shotguns, an M16 rifle, 15 9mm pistols, eight caliber revolvers, 11 caliber .45 pistols and a caliber .22 pistol.

"The Philippine National Police has recorded a total of 29,480 loose firearms as of this moment but because of the implementation of Republic Act 10591, there are only 25,245 firearms left," according to Senior Supt. Nar-

ciso Verdadero, deputy for operations of the Police Regional Office 9 (PRO-9).

Verdadero represented Chief Supt. Billy Beltran, PRO-9 regional director.

"If Zamboanga City can do their share of commitment to a peaceful community, I am also sure the others in ZamBaSuLTa can also do the same," Galvez said as he expressed gratitude to the city officials for their support to the campaign.

ZamBaZulTa is composed of the provinces of Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

With the 157 firearms recently surrendered, a total of 257 guns were already turned over to authorities – 52 by municipal and village officials in Sulu; 30 from the former warring clans after settlements in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur; nine recovered by troops from reinforcement operations in Lanao del Sur; and nine surrendered by local officials in Maguindanao.

The surrender was in light of the campaign of the military and President Rodrigo Duterte against loose firearms.

**WITH REPORTS FROM
JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL
AND DEMPSEY REYES**

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23 February 2018

**Manila
Standard**

Page. A3

Zambo City local officials surrender 157 loose firearms

By Francisco Tuyay

THE government's intensified campaign against the proliferation of unregistered and loose firearms, particularly in Mindanao, continued to gain ground after local officials in Zamboanga City surrendered 157 loose firearms to the military.

No less than Zamboanga City Mayor Ma. Isabelle Climaco-Salazar led the hand-over of the high-powered firearms to Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. in simple rites in Camp Navarro, Calarian town at about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson of Western Mindanao Command, said the firearms were part of the guns from four village officials in Zamboanga City whom they turned over to Col. Leonel Nicolas, commander of Task Force Zamboanga.

"Barangay officials from Arena Blanco, Tigtabon, Mercedes, and Cabaluay yielded the said firearms to military and police units as an offshoot of the sustained campaign against the proliferation of unregistered and loose firearms," Petinglay said.

Petinglay said turned over were 29 firearms composed of 16 caliber of 30 Garand rifles, 8 M1 Garand rifles, 4 M1 Garand rifles and a 66MM rocket launcher.

"We are just here to show our commitment and support to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. This turnover only showcases the success of the cooperation between the military and the police," said Climaco-Salazar in her short message during the turnover rites.

"On behalf of our barangay officials, I want to extend my gratitude to Lieutenant Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. for ensuring the security of Zamboanga City," Climaco-Salazar added.

For his part, Westmincom chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez lauded the mayor's commitment and support to the AFP to stop the proliferation of loose firearms within her jurisdiction.

"The Western Mindanao Command extends its sincerest gratitude and compliments to the local officials present here today, headed by Hon. Ma. Isabelle Climaco-Zalazar, for putting their trust in the armed forces as the Westmincom seeks to neutralize loose firearms and disarm armed groups in Zamboanga-Basilan-Sulu and Tawi-Tawi [ZamBasulTa] area," Galvez said.

The surrendered firearms brings to 257 the total number of loose guns recovered by the military in joint operations from January to February this year.

11

23 February 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 4

Duterte slams 'Joma' before former rebels

By GENALYN D. KABILING

For a brief candid moment, President Duterte offered to turn over the reins of national government to a group of former rebels during a recent meeting in Malacañang.

The President, however, quickly insisted on taking back the government if "chaos" erupts under the leadership of the rebel returnees.

Duterte made the offer to a group of former rebels after criticizing Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison for letting poor insurgents fight his war while enjoying a millionaire's life abroad.

"All he wants is to take over the government. Well, here you are now. I'll give it to you now. Let's sign the agreement now while we're all here. I will give Malacañang to those who surrendered. Here, take it. Lead the government as well," the President said in the Visayan dialect during a merienda hosted for 238 rebel returnees at the Palace last Wednesday.

"But if chaos erupts tomorrow, I'll get back to you. This is what he wanted and you're here now so I'll give you the government now. We'll sign the papers. Can you do it? Can you? Because

I will really sign it. You won't take it," he added.

Duterte, now on his second year in office, admitted that leading the country was not an easy task. "I myself have a hard time trying to run this government even though I have a lot of people working for me. Do you think you can do it?" he asked the former rebels.

At the same event, the President slammed Sison for duping the rebels to fight a futile cause.

He said while rebels have become separated from their families, grown poor and have died for their cause, Sison has taken the profits and now have a comfortable life abroad.

"What have you gotten from Sison then? Sison is a millionaire who is living abroad. The son of a b*tch has been there for so many years," he said. "The money that he is spending is the money that you worked hard for. What's your capital? Your blood and the lives of your fellow human beings," he added.

Duterte revealed that that local communist group have extorted as much as P50 million from mining companies while P15 million from plantations.

12

23 February 2018



Page. 4

3 Reds surrender

BAGUMBAYAN, Sultan Kudarat – Three suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) yielded to military authorities here on Wednesday. Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, 33rd Infantry Battalion commander, identified the surrenderees as Tikay Ambag, Wilhard Basalo, and Crisanto Colano, who were allegedly designated as NPA leaders operating in a remote village in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. The three are just the latest in a wave of surrendering guerillas in Sultan Kudarat. At least 120 other NPA members yielded in the region earlier. **(Joseph Jubelag)**

13

23 February 2018

NGAYON
Diyaryong cleante ng masang intelihente

Pahina. 7

157 loose firearms sa Zamboanga, isinuko

NI JOY CANTOS

Nasa 157 loose firearms o mga baril na walang kaukulang lisensya ang isinuko ng mga lokal na opisyal sa lungsod ng Zamboanga kamakalawa.

Ang mga isinukong mga armas ay iprinisinta kina AFP-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-Westmincom) Commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. at Zamboanga City Mayor Ma. Isabelle Climaco-Salazar sa isinagawang ceremonial turnover na ginanap dakong alas-2:30 ng hapon sa Camp Navarro, Calarian sa Zamboanga City.

"Barangay officials from

Arena Blanco, Tigtabon, Mercedes, and Cabaluay yielded the said firearms to military and police units as an offshoot of the sustained campaign against the proliferation of unregistered and loose firearms," pahayag ni Colonel Leonel Nicolas, Commander ng Task Force Zamboanga.

Ang mga isinukong armas ng mga opisyal ay bahagi ng kampanya kontra sa hindi rehistradong mga armas.

Kabilang naman sa mga isinuko ay 92 shotguns, 28 M1 garand rifles, isang M16 rifle, 15 9mm pistols, 8 Caliber Revolvers, 11 Caliber .45 pistols, isang Caliber

.22 pistol at isang 66mm HE Rocket Launcher.

Sa kanyang mensahe, nagpasalamat si Galvez sa lahat ng mga lokal na opisyal ng Zamboanga sa pangunguna ni Mayor Climaco-Salazar sa patuloy na pagtitiwala at pakikipagtulungan sa Western Mindanao Command na isulong ang kampanya para disarmahan ang armadong grupo sa Zamboanga-Basilan-Sulu-Tawi-Tawi area.

Sa tala mula Enero

1 hanggang Pebrero 21 ng taong ito, umaabot na sa kabuuang 257 ang mga narerekober na mga loose firearms mula sa iba't ibang lugar na nasasakupan ng AFP Western Mindanao Command.

Samantalang base sa tala ng PNP, umaabot sa 29,480 ang mga loose firearms pero dahilan sa mahigpit na kampanya laban sa loose firearms ay nasa 25,245 na lamang ang target.

14

23 February 2018



Page: 14

Zambo officials yield 157 loose firearms

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Local officials turned-over 157 loose firearms to the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) on Wednesday.

The surrendered firearms were presented by Zamboanga City Mayor Ma. Isabelle Climaco-Salazar to AFP-WestMinCom chief Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr. in a ceremonial turnover held in Camp Navarro, Calarian, at 2:30 pm on Wednesday.

"Barangay officials from Arena Blanco, Tigtabon, Mercedes, and Cabaluay yielded the said firearms to military and police units as an offshoot of the sustained campaign against the proliferation of un-registered and loose firearms," Colonel Leonel Nicolas, commander of the Task Force Zamboanga, said.

Turned over were 29 firearms composed of 16 Caliber 30 M1 Garand rifles through the 11th Infantry Battalion, eight M1 Garand rifles through the Marine Battalion Landing Team-11, four M1 Garand rifles and a 66mm HE Rocket Launcher through the JTF Zamboanga.

The Zamboanga City Police Office also presented to the WestMinCom chief

128 loose firearms, consisting of 92 shot-guns, an M16 rifle, fifteen .9mm pistols, eight Caliber Revolvers, eleven Caliber .45 pistols, and a Caliber .22 pistol.

"The Philippine National Police (PNP) has recorded a total of 29,480 loose firearms as of this moment, but because of the implementation of Republic Act No. 10591, there are only 25,245 firearms left," said Police Senior Superintendent Narciso Verdadero, deputy for operations of the Police Regional Office 9, representing Police Chief Superintendent Billy Beltran, regional director of the Police Regional Office 9.

"We believe that these loose firearms were used in different forms."

The Mayor of Zamboanga City, Mayor Isabelle Climaco-Salazar said: "We are just here to show our commitment and support to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. This turnover only showcases the success of the cooperation between the military and police."

"On behalf of our barangay officials, I want to extend my gratitude to Lieutenant General Galvez Jr. for ensuring the security of Zamboanga City.

Meanwhile, Galvez said the Western Mindanao Command extends its sincer-

est gratitude and compliments to the local officials who were present headed by Mayor Climaco-Salazar, for putting their trust in the armed forces as the WestMinCom takes strides to neutralize loose firearms and disarm armed groups in ZamBaSulTa area.

The activity brings to 257 the total number of loose firearms recovered by the Joint Task Forces in the joint area of operations from January 1 to February 21, 2018.

Of the 257 firearms recovered this year; 52 were surrendered by municipal and barangay officials in Sulu; 30 were surrendered by former warring clans after Rido settlements in Marawi City; nine were recovered by the troops following a law enforcement support operation in Lanao del Sur; nine were surrendered by local officials in Maguindanao; and 157 were turned over today in Zamboanga City.

"We would like to urge other officials and residents to do the same in order to free communities from these vehicles of violence," Galvez said.

"If Zamboanga City can do their share of commitment to a peaceful community, I am also sure the others in ZamBaSulTa can also do the same," he added.

23 February 2018



Pahina. 2

Zambo City officials nagsuko ng 157 loose firearms

Nasa 157 loose firearms o mga baril na walang lisensya ang isinuko ng mga lokal na opisyal sa Zamboanga City kamakalawa.

Ipinisinta kina AFP-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-Westmincom) Commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. at Zamboanga City Mayor Ma. Isabelle Climaco-Salazar sa isinagawang ceremonial turnover ceremony na ginanap dakong alas-2:30 ng

hapon sa Camp Navarro, Calarian sa Zamboanga City.

Ang mga isinukong mga armas ng mga opisyal ng Barangay ay mula sa Arena Blanco, Tigtabon, Mercedes, at Cabaluay sa mga Police at military units, bilang bahagi ng kampanya kontra sa hindi rehistradong mga armas.

Kabilang naman sa mga isinuko ay 92 shotguns, 28 M1 garand ri-

fles, isang M16 rifle, 15 9mm pistols, 8 Caliber Revolvers, 11 Caliber .45 pistols, isang Caliber .22 pistol at isang 66mm HE Rocket Launcher. Sa tala mula Enero 1 hanggang Pebrero 21 ng taong ito, umaabot na sa kabuuang 257 ang mga narerekober na mga loose firearms mula sa iba't ibang mga lugar na nasasakupan ng AFP Western Mindanao Command. *Joy Cantins*

14

23 February 2018



Page: A1

Reds reject terror tag but still open to talks

Communist guerrillas said on Thursday a government court petition to have them designated as terrorists was a desperate attempt to alienate them from the people, but insisted they were still open to talks to peacefully settle one of Asia's longest-raging insurgencies.

Regional rebel commander Jaime Padilla said by telephone that President Duterte would fail like past leaders to defeat New People's Army (NPA) rebels so he's resorting to "fake news" to undermine the Maoist guerrillas, who have managed to

wage an insurgency for nearly half a century with what he said was the people's support.

The Department of Justice asked a Manila court on Wednesday to formally designate the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, NPA, as terrorist groups. It cited deadly attacks and violence committed by the insurgents, including bloody internal purges of suspected military spies, in seeking the designation.

Padilla rejected the assertion that the NPA was similar to ex-

tremist groups notorious for beheadings and other atrocities.

"The Abu Sayyaf is heaven and earth different from the NPA," Padilla said, referring to the brutal Islamic militant group blacklisted by the US and Philippine governments.

Selected targets

He said rebels attacked government forces who raided or infiltrated guerrilla zones but the guerrillas did not assault innocent civilians or ransack their homes like the Abu Sayyaf.

"If they withdraw the petition that will be good because it's baseless," said Padilla, who leads a rebel force that has a presence southeast of Manila.

Despite the government legal offensive, Padilla said the rebels remained open to a resumption of negotiations to end the hostilities.

Mr. Duterte resumed peace talks with the guerrillas after he rose to power in 2016. He granted concessions by appointing three left-wing activists to his Cabinet, but the cordial relations rapidly deteriorated. —AP



Members of militant groups gather on Mendiola Bridge near Malacañang on Feb. 5 to demand the release of jailed communist leader Rafael Baylosis. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

17

23 February 2018

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B6

Duterte: P50,000 reward for every NPA leader killed

BY RAYMOND AFRICA

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday upped the reward for those who will kill New People's Army rebels.

Duterte offered the reward after Jose Ma. Sison, founding chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines, said earlier this month that the NPA in the 17 regions in the country could kill one soldier a day to force government to resume

the peace talks which Duterte cancelled in November last year.

In reaction, Duterte initially said he ordered the military to kill five NPA rebels for every soldier killed. Last week in Cebu City, he said he will give P25,000 to anyone who kills an NPA member.

Yesterday, Duterte said a P50,000 reward will be given to anyone who can kill an NPA squad leader or an official.

There will also be rewards for those who will kill NPA medical officers and collectors of "revolutionary tax," or extortion money. He did not say how much.

"I have a counter-offer, and I hope these fools are listening. If you kill a squad leader or official, I'll give you P50,000," he said during a visit to the 303rd Brigade

See DUTERTE > Page B6

18

DUTERTE

in Camp General Adriano Hernandez in Barangay San Jose, Dingle, Iloilo.

He said those who have killed a rebel need not bring their body to him as proof.

“Just wrap the head with plastic and put in a bucket full of ice then show it me. That will be fine,” he said.

Duterte was at the military camp to award the Lapu-Lapu Presidential Awards to seven soldiers wounded in an NPA ambush in Iloilo last October.

Also, Duterte launched the “TienDA Para sa mga Bayani” in the camp, wherein local farmers and fishermen can sell their produce directly inside the camps, preventing NPA rebels from targeting soldiers buying food at the marketplace.

Duterte on Wednesday afternoon met with 241 former NPA rebels in Malacafiang, and again criticized Sison who has been on self-exile in the Netherlands since the late 80s.

He said Sison has been living extravagantly while in exile while NPA members are suffering in the mountains fighting government forces in a bid to overthrow the government.

“The money that he is spending is the money that you worked hard for. What’s your capital? Your blood and the lives of your fellow human beings. How much do they collect? How much do they collect from the mining companies? The mining companies would give P30, P40, P50 million. How about the banana plantations? How much? You think it’s just P5 million? My god. You’ve been lied to,” he said.

The 241 compose the second batch of former NPA men to meet with Duterte in Malacafiang. There is yet to schedule for the third batch. The former rebels are part of the 683 who surrendered to authorities in the Eastern Mindanao region in Davao last December.

Duterte has declared the CPP-NPA as terrorist organizations. On Wednesday, the justice department formally asked a Manila court to tag the CPP-NPA as a terror group.

The CPP-NPA has been in the US list of foreign terrorist organizations since 2002.

The Armed Forces yesterday said once the court formal declares the CPP-NPA as terror groups, it will go after the communist groups’ financiers.

– *With Victor Reyes*

ONLINE NEWS

23 FEBRUARY 2018

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Gov't asks court to declare communist rebels terrorists

Philippines Daily Inquirer / 07:44 AM February 22, 2018

The government on Wednesday asked a court to declare the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), terrorist organizations, dashing already faint hopes of recovering the tattered peace process.

The petition filed by the Department of Justice before the Manila Regional Trial Court sought to formally terminate peace talks with Maoist rebels, a week after a Norwegian diplomat tried to convince President Duterte to restart negotiations that he had scrapped in anger at what he considered duplicity by the communists.

The government has a policy not to negotiate with terrorists, like the Abu Sayyaf militants.

'Merely buying time'

State Prosecutor Peter Ong said the rebels were "merely buying time by deceiving the government in entering into peace talks" because their main agenda was to overthrow the duly constituted authorities.

Mr. Duterte is particularly aggrieved by the failure of a peace process that he made a priority and restarted in August 2016, within a few weeks of taking office. He freed some rebel leaders from jail and gave Cabinet posts to several known leftists as a show of good faith. Activist groups

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos

Isagani Zarate said the government move could result in more human rights abuses against critics of the Duterte administration as state forces go after alleged "support structures" of the CPP-NPA such as activist groups deemed to be legal fronts.

Philippine National Police chief Ronald dela Rosa said the rebels deserved the terrorist tag.

"I am sorry for them. They had it coming. They have committed many acts of terror," Dela Rosa told reporters.

He accused the rebels of sabotaging countryside development to keep rural areas poor.

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newsinfo.inquirer.net

Former NPA guerrillas look to new life after surrender

By: Nikko Dizon - Reporter / @NikkoDizonINQ

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 07:42 AM February 22, 2016

Ex-rebels requested media not to publish their names to keep them safe from possible retaliation by their former comrades.



A young rebel returnee is training to become a soldier while another looks forward to earning a living as a reflexologist.

The two men were among the 241 former members of the New People's Army (NPA) who met with military officials at Camp Aguinaldo on Wednesday morning — relieved that they can finally start their lives anew after years of fighting.

At the camp grandstand, they listened to military commanders, wearing their bright blue shirts that said "I am a Filipino for peace."

Col. Erwin Bernard Neri, the commander of the Army's 101st Infantry Brigade, said that the rebels' surrender in his area of responsibility was "significant" because of the sheer number of returnees.

The 101st Infantry Brigade covers eight municipalities of Compostela Valley, five municipalities of Davao del Norte and one town in Agusan del Sur.

"They had many reasons for coming back. Most of them cited poverty and the failure of the NPAs to fulfill the promises made when they were recruited," Neri said.

"Cardo" fought the military for four years, starting when he was recruited at age 17.

But those years of fighting lost their luster after the NPA leaders failed to deliver their promise of giving Cardo and his family a better life, he said.

Cardo, now 21, was a team leader of an NPA unit. Early last year, he escaped from his guerrilla front, joined by other comrades, literally walking away from the Maoist rebellion.

"It was in the dead of night. We walked down the mountains and met up with the soldiers with whom we arranged our surrender," Cardo said.

With a smile, he said he was now training to become a soldier.

"Rene" turned 30 on Wednesday. "I do reflexology and can heal people and relieve them of their body pain," he said, adding that practicing reflexology on his comrades was among his tasks as a fighter.

Rene also escaped last year, while his comrades were having lunch and went straight to a military camp.

At the gate, he raised his arms in surrender. Rene recalled that the soldiers were skeptical at first, wondering if he was indeed an NPA fighter. After a few minutes talking to him, they were convinced.

It so happened that a soldier was celebrating his birthday on the day Rene surrendered and so the former rebel was welcomed back to the fold with a lunch treat that included lechon.

22