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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

05 January 2018

Friday

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

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JANUARY 5, 2018 | FRIDAY

LAOAG CITY 22 - 32 °C

TUGUEGARAO CITY 22 - 28 °C

BAGUIO CITY 17 - 24 °C

SBMA/CLARK 24 - 32 °C

METRO MANILA 24 - 32 °C

TAGAYTAY CITY 20 - 28 °C

LEGAZPI CITY 24 - 27 °C

ILOILO/BAGOLOD CITY 25 - 31 °C

TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 30 °C

METRO CEBU 24 - 30 °C

CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 31 °C

ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 32 °C

METRO DAVAO 25 - 32 °C

PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 31 °C

SUNRISE 6:22 AM

SUNSET 5:40 PM

MOONRISE 9:06 PM

MOONSET 9:05 AM

FULL MOON JAN 2 10:24 AM

LAST QUARTER JAN 9 6:26 AM

LOW TIDE 7:45 AM

HIGH TIDE 11:13 PM

MANILA SOUTH HARBOR

-0.35 Meter 1.29 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

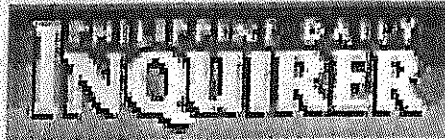
	JAN 5	JAN 6	JAN 6	JAN 7	JAN 7	JAN 7
METRO MANILA	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C		20 - 28 °C	19 - 28 °C	24 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	22 - 28 °C	21 - 28 °C		24 - 26 °C	25 - 29 °C	24 - 32 °C
LAOAG	22 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C		25 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 23 °C	16 - 22 °C		25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 32 °C	23 - 31 °C		24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY						
LEGAZPI						
TACLOBAN						
CAGAYAN DE ORO						
PUERTO PRINCESA						
METRO DAVAO						
ILOILO/BAGOLOD						
ZAMBOANGA						
METRO CEBU						

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

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

ISAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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LP: ADMIN PROPOSED 10-YEAR TRANSITION

STORY BY CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO

Another administration proposal floated is to let President Duterte make laws—like what dictator Ferdinand Marcos did via Amendment No. 6—while the federal government is not yet established, says Senator Pangilinan. **A1**

FROM A1

By Christine O. Avendaño
@10avendanoINQ

The term of President Duterte and those of members of Congress are to be extended under a 10-year transition once the country shifts to a federal form of government, opposition Sen. Francis Pangilinan said on Thursday.

Pangilinan, president of the Liberal Party (LP), said term extension was among the “proposals we gathered being presented by the ruling PDP-Laban and members of the House of Representatives aligned with the administration.”

PDP-Laban is Mr. Duterte’s political party and headed by Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III.

In a text message, Pangilinan said the term of the President and those of congressmen and senators would be extended as “no elections” (No-el) would be held in 2019.

His remains came after both Pimentel and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez raised on Wednesday the possibility of extending the terms of Mr. Duterte or lawmakers if Congress succeeded in pushing for Charter

change (Cha-cha) this year that would pave the way for a shift to federalism.

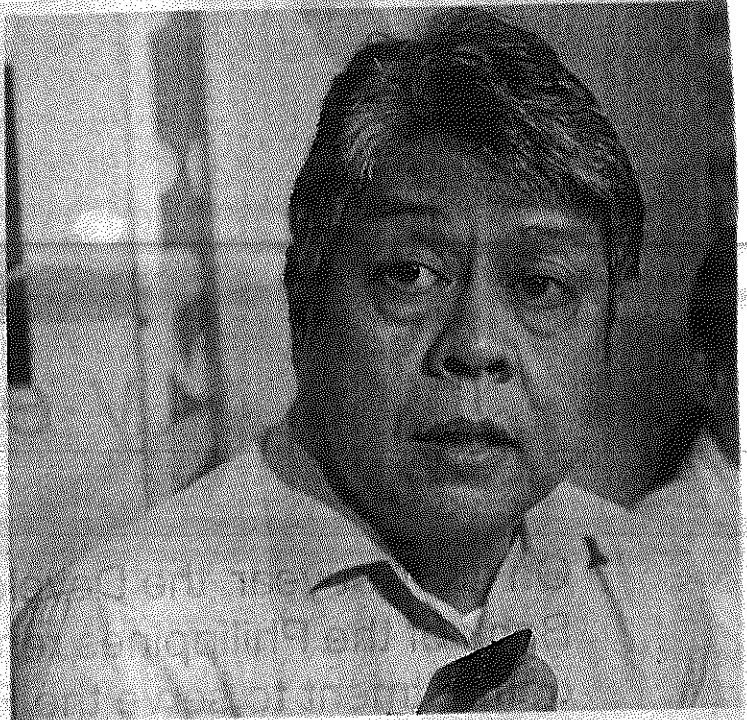
Proponents of federalism said a transition was needed to prepare for the change in the structure of government, such as creating states.

Other amendments

Pangilinan listed in a statement other possible amendments to the 1987 Constitution being “whispered about” in Congress.

- All local officials will be appointed because there will be no elections next year.
- Mr. Duterte will be given the power to make laws like Amendment No. 6 during the time of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos while the federal government is not yet established.
- Restrictions on foreigners’ exploitation of the country’s natural resources will be lifted so there will be no obstacles for China to come in and infuse billions of pesos in loans and businesses.

“Are these NBN-ZTE, North-rail scandals Part 2?” Pangilinan asked, referring to corruption allegations that hounded the administration of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with national broadband and railways pro-



Sen. Francis Pangilinan

jects offered by China then.

Jobs, not Cha-cha

Pangilinan said what people wanted were jobs, affordable food and additional income, not Cha-cha.

“We hope we can get more than just minority senators to oppose what appears to be self-serving efforts by certain groups to perpetuate them-

selves in power under the guise of a shift to a federal system of governance,” he said in the text message.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon earlier said the LP would oppose changes to the Constitution.

Pimentel did not want to comment on Pangilinan’s statements, saying he was too busy and that his time

would be wasted.

Reelection for President

Neither did the Senate President comment on lawyer Raul Lambino's assertion that PDP-Laban was supporting term limits under a federal system in which the President would be given a five-year term with one reelection, and lawmakers also a five-year term but without term limits.

"Since no proposal has been set in stone, each one's free to air his ideas," Pimentel said.

Like Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto voiced doubts that Congress would be able to revise the Constitution in a few months.

"For starters, I have not read any details on federalism, etc.," Recto said, adding that he expected the elections to push through next year.

Sen. JV Ejercito also expressed doubts Filipinos would accept the scrapping of elections in 2019. "People look forward to elections, which serve as a referendum on all elected officials," he said.

In a statement, Sen. Bam Aquino defended the holding of elections in 2019, which he likened to "an auditing of the first three years of the current administration and currently elected

officials, whether campaign promises are fulfilled or not."

Self-serving

Aquino said extending the stay in office of politicians would be "self-serving to incumbent officials whose term will end in 2019."

Lacson has a different take on Pimentel and Alvarez's move to float the term extension and No-el scenarios.

"The opposition need not invent the best antidote to Charter change. No less than the two leaders of both houses of Congress have started campaigning against it, albeit subliminally," he said in a statement.

He said this was because recent history showed that floating these scenarios "won't help their advocacy to shift to a federal form of government, inevitably via an amendment to the Constitution."

Pimentel said Lacson had a "point."

The Senate President said Alvarez should explain well the No-el scenario as this was the Speaker's view and not his.

Pimentel agreed with presidential spokesperson, Harry Roque that any term extension for the President was out of the question. INQ

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Rody term extension 'out of the question'

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – Prolonging his term is "out of the question" for President Duterte, his spokesman said yesterday, disputing a scenario raised by his top allies in Congress that he may have to stay in power after 2022 if the push for a federal form of government succeeds.

"The President has been very clear about it, that he does not wish to extend his term," presidential spokesman Harry Roque said in a press briefing here at the Malacañang of the South in Barangay Panacan. "The idea of prolonging his term is out of the question."

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez earlier floated a no-election scenario come 2019 while Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said a term extension for the President is possible to ensure a smooth transition to federalism.

Roque stressed that the President's vision of a federal state does not require his staying in power beyond 2022.

He said Duterte has also made it clear that midterm elections will push through in 2019 as mandated by the Constitution.

"The President has spoken on these issues. No. 1, the President is the chief implementor of the Constitution and the laws of the land. And unless and until the Constitution is amended and ratified by the people, elections will push through in 2019, and what the President promises is that if elections push through we will have credible and honest elections," Roque said.

"If the Constitution can be amended that would provide for federalism, provide for

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Rody From Page 1

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provisions that would strengthen public accountability, he said he is willing to cut short his term," he pointed out.

Asked what Duterte would do if amendments to the charter would require him to remain as president during the transition period, Roque maintained the Chief Executive had even voiced his wish for a shorter term.

"The President has stated clearly that if there are provisions that would intensify the fight against corruption, he would not mind if his term is shortened," he said.

"He did not say that he wants a term extension. The President was very clear on that and even the Senate President said that the President would have to (give his) con-

sent and given the emphatic statement of the President that he does not wish to stay one minute longer than his term, I don't think it is something that he finds attractive," he added.

Lessons Ignored

For Sen. Panfilo Lacson, proponents of Charter Change (Cha-cha) as springboard for federalism are in effect killing their own initiatives by raising no-election and term extension scenarios.

He said proponents of Cha-cha appear to have learned nothing from history, especially regarding the electorate's shunning attempts to extend the terms of elected officials through constitutional change.

"The opposition need not

invent the best antidote to Charter change. No less than the two leaders of both houses of Congress have started campaigning against it, albeit subliminally," Lacson said.

The senator said floating no-election and term extension scenarios, "as recent history would suggest, won't help their advocacy to shift to a federal form of government, inevitably via an amendment of the Constitution."

Liberal Party president Sen. Francis Pangilinan said that based on information from colleagues in Congress, several possible amendments to the Constitution would allow lawmakers to extend their term.

He said the transition period to federalism could be as long as 10 years, or longer than the term of office of elected officials.

Pangilinan said the Presi-

dent would be granted the power to create laws just like what the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos did using powers introduced in 1976 through amendments to the 1973 Constitution.

He said there would also be amendments to provisions regarding the exploitation of the country's natural resources by foreigners.

"Are we seeing the ZTE NBN, Northrail scandals part 2? Defend our democracy! The people want jobs, affordable food and higher wages, not Cha-cha," Pangilinan said, referring to controversies that hounded the Arroyo administration.

Asked to comment on Pangilinan's concerns, Pimentel said it would be a waste of time to respond to it as he was very busy.

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito said that it might be difficult

to make the people accept a no-election scenario.

"People look forward to elections which is a referendum of all elected officials," he said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto said that it would be difficult for the proponents of Cha-cha to revise the Constitution within a few months or before the 2019 elections.

"For starters I have not read any details on federalism, etc. I expect to have elections on 2019," Recto said.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec), through spokesman James Jimenez, said the people should not be deprived of their right to suffrage in the pursuit of federalism.

"The Comelec remains confident that such a shift—should it happen—can be accomplished without depriving the sovereign Filipino people of

their constitutionally guaranteed right to select their own leaders through free and fair elections," Jimenez said in a statement.

He said Alvarez might just be citing a "no elections" scenario as one of the possible outcomes of a successful shift to a federal form of government.

He added the Comelec is committed to fulfilling its mandate of conducting free and fair elections in accordance with the 1987 Constitution.

He also appealed to the public to participate in national discourse concerning constitutional amendments, particularly in connection with federalism.

He said the people should be fully informed when the time comes for them to vote for or against federalism.

- With Alexis Romero, Marvin Sy, Mayen Jaymalin

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The Manila Times

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NPA attacks troops in ComVal, Davao

AN hour before the government-declared ceasefire ended on Tuesday, communist New People's Army (NPA) members harassed several areas in Eastern Mindanao, triggering firefights with soldiers, the military reported on Thursday.

Capt. Jerry Son Lamosao, spokesman for the Army's 10th Infantry Division (10th ID), said the first attack happened at 6:40 p.m. at Barangay Cabuyoan, Mabini, in Compostela Valley where about six NPA rebels harassed a village detachment.

Lamosao said the rebels were about 200 meters away from the detachment.

"Firefight lasted for about 15 minutes. After which, the enemies withdrew toward unknown direction," he said in a report sent to reporters, adding there was no casualty on the government side but an "undetermined" number on the side of the NPA.

Another incident took place at Barangay Marayag, Lupon town, in Davao Oriental where about seven rebels also harassed a civilian patrol base at about 9:20 p.m., also on Tuesday.

Maj. Ezra Balagtey, spokesman for the military's Eastern Mindanao Command, said a three-minute exchange of fire happened with no casualties recorded on both sides.

At about 10:40 p.m., suspected NPA rebels planted an improvised explosive device some 15 meters away from the military's Calopogon detachment in Compostela Valley.

Lamosao said the explosion resulted in the wounding of one militiaman identified as Jerick Ciel Eday.

He added that there was an undetermined number of casualties on the side of the communist fighters.

Eday was brought to Montevista Provincial Hospital while troops

from the 72nd Infantry Battalion (IB) conducted clearing operations at Sifio Calapogon in Barangay Mapatat.

Maj. Gen. Noel Clement, 10th ID commander, said they strongly condemn atrocities committed by the NPA rebels while the truce was in effect.

"These incidents show that the NPA is not sincere in ending this insurgency problem. It's about time the people unite against them so that we will have peace and development in our communities," Clement added in a statement.

First incident

Maj. Gen. Raul Farnacio, commander of the Samar-based 8th ID, said in a separate report that troops from the 78th IB encountered about 20 communist fighters at Barangay Hilapnitan in Baybay City, Leyte.

He added that a firefight ensued that lasted for almost an hour, killing two rebels.

An M16 rifle and an M653 rifle were recovered from the rebels.

No casualty was reported on the government side.

According to Farnacio, military forces in the area were conducting pursuit operations against the communist rebels.

Last December, President Rodrigo Duterte set the schedules of the Christmas and New Year ceasefires to be observed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines—from December 23 at 6 p.m. until December 26 at 11:59 p.m., and from December 30 at 6 p.m. until January 2 at 11:59 p.m.

On Christmas Day, while the first set of ceasefire dates was in effect, two attacks were reported also by the 10th ID in Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley.

DEMPSEY REYES

5 January 2018

Manila
Standard

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2 NPAs killed in clashes

By Francisco Tuyay

TWO New People's Army rebels were killed while a militiaman was wounded after hostilities erupted anew, barely days after the military resumed offensive against the terrorist group after the holiday truce ended.

The killing occurred in the outskirts of Baybay City in Leyte after government troops encountered dozens of insurgents at about 10:45 p.m. Thurs-

day, the military said. Maj. Gen. Raul Farnacio, commander of the 8th Infantry Division, reported that a composite platoon of Scout Rangers

under Lt. Edgardo Bernas Jr. were on combat mission in the vicinity of Barangay Hilapnitan when they encountered some 20 rebels.

He said the firefight lasted for almost an hour, then the rebels retreated, leaving their two comrades dead while the government suffered no casualty, the military said.

In the clearing operations, the troops recovered the two slain rebels along with an M16 rifle and an

M653 rifle, before pursuing the rebels.

It was not known where the bodies were brought to.

Fighting also erupted on two fronts at the outskirts of Compostela Valley, a day after the holiday truce, wounding a militiaman following two separate rebel attacks in military post in the villages of Marapat and Cabuyoan.

Reports said the rebels hurled an Improvised Explosive Device 15 meters

away from the Colapogan detachment in Sitio Colapogan at about 9 p.m. last Tuesday.

The wounded militiaman was identified as Jerick Ciel who sustained a forehead wound.

Few hours after the attack at the Colapogan post, the rebels attacked the Cabuyoan detachment, forcing the soldiers manning the post to retaliate.

After 15 minutes of fighting, the rebels withdrew.

Maj. Gen. Noel Clement, commander of the 10th Infantry Division, condemned the rebel attacks.

"We strongly condemn the atrocities done by the terrorist NPA even during while ceasefire is in effect. This incident shows that the NPA is not sincere in ending their insurgency problem," Clement said.

"It's about time the people unite against them so that we will have peace and development in our communities," he urged.

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Fresh clashes end holiday truce; 2 NPA rebels killed

By Mario J. Mallari

Atrocities between government troops and the communist New People's Army (NPA) immediately resumed in various parts of the country after the lapse of the holiday ceasefire - leading to the killing of two rebels and the wounding of a militiaman.

Chief Insp. Ma. Bella Rentuaya, spokesperson of the Eastern Visayas regional police, reported that an encounter between Army troops and NPA rebels erupted at around 10:45 a.m. yesterday along Sitio Tugas, Barangay Hilapnitan in Baybay City, Leyte.

She said that elements of the Army's 78th Infantry Battalion (IB), led by Lt. Herobemu Labado and Lt. Edgardo Bernas Jr., encountered more or less 18 communist rebels.

"Firefight lasted for about one hour. After which, the enemy withdrew towards northwest direction," Rentuaya reported.

The firefight resulted in the killing of at least two NPA rebels, whose bodies were recovered from the encounter site, along with a M16 rifle and an M658 rifle.

No casualty was reported on the government side.

In Compostela Valley province, a militiaman was wounded in two successive attacks by suspected NPA members in Maparat town.

Gafgu Active Auxiliary Jerick Ciel was wounded in the forehead after the rebels detonated a homemade bomb about 15 meters away from the Army's Colapogon Detachment at Barangay Maparat, Compostela Valley, the 10th Infantry Division reported.

The attack, which the military claimed was perpetrated by members of the Guerilla Front 25

of the NPA's Southern Mindanao Regional Committee, reportedly happened at around 10:40 p.m. on Tuesday.

Hours earlier, the rebels also reportedly harassed the Cabuyoan Detachment of the 72nd Infantry Battalion located at Barangay Cabuyoan, Mabini, also in the same province, triggering a brief firefight.

"Said enemy positioned more or less 200 meters distance from the said detachment. Upon noticed, the troops returned limited gunfire toward the suspected enemy position," the 10th ID reported.

"Firefight lasted for about 15 minutes after which the enemies withdraw towards unknown direction," it added.

The harassment occurred just 40 minutes after the expiration of the ceasefire, which was observed both by the government and the NPA.

The attacks drew condemnation from the military, saying it undermined the confidence building measure that has been exerted by the government toward the rebels.

Maj. Gen. Noel Clement, commander of the 10th ID, branded the Compostela Valley attacks as clear proof of the communist disregard to their own ceasefire.

"We strongly condemn the atrocities done by the terrorist NPA even during while ceasefire is in effect. This incident shows that the npa is not sincere in ending this insurgency problem," Clement said.

"It's about time the people unite against them so that we will have peace and development in our communities," he added.

The government and the rebels declared their separate unilateral truce to celebrate the New Year up to 6 p.m. on January 2.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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RED ALERT - An armored personnel carrier (APC) is stationed along the highway in Aleosan, North Cotabato as the armed forces remain on red alert to thwart the attacks of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) who are operating in the boundary of the provinces of North Cotabato and Maguindanao. (Keith Bacongco)

5 January 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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BIFF burns 19 Teduray houses in arson attacks

BY ALIZ MACAALAND

COTABATO CITY — Nineteen houses of Teduray tribesmen were torched by combatants of the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in a rampage in Maguindanao purportedly meant to avenge their heavy losses in an ongoing military operation.

At least 285 Teduray families fled their homes after the BIFF combatants led by Daesh-inspired Esmael Abdulmalik killed a Teduray farmer and torched 19 houses in a rampage prompted purportedly by the death of four comrades and five others in military airstrikes in Datu Hofer, Datu Saudi, Shariff Aguak and South Upi towns.

Bulletin sources said BIFF combatants banner the Daesh black flag first razed to the ground three houses on Dec. 26 and 16 more houses on Dec. 29 in Teduray villages of Datu Hofer town in Maguindanao.

The first arson attack happened in barangay Lipongo while the second attack was staged in a village near Mount Firis, known as an ancestral hallowed ground or sacred site for Teduray hill

tribe people, sources said.

Provincial Budget Office chief Lynette Estandarte, focal person of Governor Esmael Mangudadatu's People's Relief and Medical Mission, yesterday provided local media with the names of the owners of the torched houses.

All 19 houses were gutted as they were all made of light materials, investigators said.

Estandarte said she got the identities of the home owners during their attempt last Wednesday to conduct a

relief and medical mission.

Abdulmalik's group also reportedly sustained fatalities and scores were wounded in an earlier military airstrike in Carmen, North Cotabato.

The military said five soldiers were wounded in a ground battle with BIFF rebels ensuing from the airstrike in Carmen.

The Army's 6th Infantry Division said it would pursue "no letup" operations against the BIFF alerting though civilians in affected areas to watch out

for possible retaliatory attacks by the Islamic State-espousing combatants.

Estandarte said that several improvised explosive devices (IEDs) had been planted in Datu Hofer town.

Last Sunday, one police element of adjacent Shariff Aguak town was killed and five other cops were wounded when their patrol car was hit by an IED explosion planted on a road leading to a secluded village being infiltrated by BIFF bandits.

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Pahina. 2

2 NPA lusaw sa encounter

Dalawang teroristang New People's Army (NPA) ang napasiang makaraang makasagupa ang tropa ng militar sa Barangay Hilapnitan, Baybay City, Leyte kahapon ng umaga. Ayon kay Major Gen. Raul Farnacio, commander ng Army's 8th Infantry Division, bandang alas-10:45 ng umaga nang makasagupa ng tropa ng Army's 78th Infantry Battalion ang grupo ng mga terorista. Nabatid na rumesponde ang tropa ng 78th Infantry Battalion sa pamumuno ni Lt. Col. Danilo Dupiag kaugnay sa presensya ng NPA terrorists na nangha-harass at nangongotong sa mga residente. Gayunman, papalapit pa lamang ang militar ay agad na sinalubong ng pagpapaulan ng bala ng mga terorista na nauwi sa bakbakan. Tumagal ng halos isang oras ang bakbakan kung saan bumulagta ang dalawang NPA terrorists kaya inabandona ng mga kasamahan. Narekober sa pinangyarihan ng bakbakan ang M16 rifle at M653 rifle. *Joy Cantos*

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Pahina. 1

Cafgu sugatan sa NPA attack

Sugatan ang isang Cafgu Active Auxiliary (CAA) sa magka-hiwalay na pag-atake ng mga teroristang New People's Army (NPA) sa Compostela Valley kaugnay ng pagtatapos ng idineklarang tigil-putukan kaugnay ng pagdiriwang ng Kapaskuhan at pagsalubong sa Bagong Taon.

Kinilala ang biktima na si CAA Jerick Ciel na nagtamo ng tama ng bala sa noo matapos na magpasabog ng homemade bomb sa may 15 metro ang layo mula sa Army's Golapogon Detachment sa Brgy. Maparat, Compostela, Compostela Valley bandang alas-10:40 ng gabi kamakalawa.

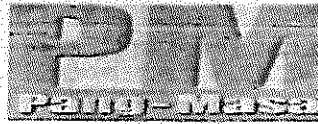
Ayon kay Captain Jerry Lamosao, spokesman ng Army's 10th Infantry Division, natukoy naman na ang grupo ng Guerilla Front 25 ng NPA's Southern Mindanao Regional Committee ang sangkot sa pangha-harass.

Samantala, ilang oras pa ay sumunod namang inatake ng mga terorista ang Cabuyoan Detachment ng Army's 72nd Infantry Battalion sa Brgy. Cabuyoan, Mabini na nagresulta sa bakbakan.

Ang palitan ng putok ay tumagal ng 15 minuto bago nagsitakas ang mga umaatake ng NPA terrorists na naghiwa-hiwalay ng direksyon patungo sa kabubatan.

Inihayag ng opisyal na nangyari ang pag-atake ng NPA terrorists may 40 minuto sa pagtatapos ng holiday ceasefire na kapwa idineklara ng pamahalaan at ng NPA terrorists na nagtapos bandang alas-6 ng gabi noong Enero 2, 2018. (Joy Gantos)

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Pahina. 1

Mag-utol, sundalo dedo sa motor

Isang magkapatid at isang sundalo ang nasawi matapos na bumangga ang kanilang mga simasakyang motorsiklo sa magkahiwalay na lugar sa Maguindanao at North Cotabato.

Sa ulat, nasawi ang magkapatid na sina Romel, 24 at Freddie Francis matapos na sumalpok ang simasakyan nilang motorsiklo sa Barangay Looy, South Upi, Maguindanao, ka-

makalawa.

Batay sa ulat minamaneho ni Romel ang motorsiklo angkas ang dalawang kapatid na sina Freddie at Melvin nang iwasan nila ang asong tumatawid kaya't nahulog sila sa kanal na naging dahilan ng kamatayan ng magkapatid.

Patay din ang sundalong si Jerry Parete Apayao, ng Barayong,

Magsaysay, Davao del Sur matapos na bumangga ang kanyang minamanehong motorsiklo sa isang pampasaherong dyip sa national highway sa harap ng BSP Camp, Barangay Old Bulatukan, Makilala, North Cotabato.

Ang biktima ay nakatalaga sa ilalim ng 29th Infantry Battalion na nakabase sa Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte. *Rhoderick Beñez-*

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Military resumes operations vs NPA

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO – The military has resumed offensives against communist rebels after the lapse of the holiday ceasefire on Tuesday.

Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr. directed all military units in Eastern Mindanao to resume operations against the New People's Army (NPA) in the region.

"Continue protecting vulnerable communities from armed threats and deception

of the NPA as they intend to conduct more terroristic acts as pronounced during their anniversary," Madrigal said, referring to the 49th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Madrigal said the NPA violated its own truce with the government on several occasions.

Over the weekend, two soldiers were hurt in an encounter with the rebel group in Tarragona, Davao Oriental.

Soldiers figured in a 30-minute firefight with some 50 NPA members when they responded to reports that armed men

were harassing residents of Barangay Tubaon.

Communist guerrillas also kidnapped Insp. Menardo Cui, deputy police chief of President Roxas town in North Cotabato last week.

Madrigal added the militiamen in Laak, Compostela Valley was harassed by NPA rebels during the ceasefire.

NPA rebels also harassed Army units in Mabini, Compostela Valley.

Madrigal said the government is having difficulty in delivering relief goods and services to communities af-

ected by Tropical Storm Vinta (Tembin) and Agaton (Bolaven), citing the harassment of NPA rebels.

"Our efforts on assisting other line government agencies in facilitating the delivery of government services in the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas must also continue and be pursued," Madrigal said.

Meanwhile, two suspected NPA rebels were killed by government troops during an encounter in a remote village in Baybay, Leyte yesterday.

– With Jaime Laude

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AFP offensives to target Sayyaf leaders

ZAMBOANGA CITY - The military aims to neutralize Abu Sayyaf leaders by the first quarter of the year.

"We have impending operations in Sulu. The targets are high-value Abu Sayyaf members," Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, said yesterday.

Galvez said among the targets are Radullan Sahiron and Hatib-Hajan Sawadjaan.

Sahiron was earlier reported to have sent surrender feelers, which the military said was a hoax and only meant to delay the military operations.

Galvez said local government and barangay officials are also helping in the campaign against the Abu

Sayyaf, citing the surrender of more than 100 bandits last year.

He said last year's operations to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf and recover its remaining hostages were hampered by the crisis in Marawi after government troopers were deployed to help fight Maute militants.

At least 11 battalions were redeployed in Sulu to run after Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Galvez said addressing the security problem in Sulu is crucial in the implementation of various development programs in the province. He said the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao government has allocated P500 million for infrastructure projects in Sulu.

- Roel Pareño

05 January 2018



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EastMinCom resumes operations

By **ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA**

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)-Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom) has resumed its military operations against members of the New People's Army (NPA) to protect civilians in the community.

Eastmincom spokesperson Maj. Ezra Balagtey said with the start of the New Year, Eastmincom commander Lt. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr. directed all military units in their area to resume the conduct of proactive measures to protect communities from harassment of NPA terrorists following the

termination of the suspension of military operations (SOMO) on Jan. 2, 2018.

It can be recalled that President Rodrigo Duterte declared a unilateral ceasefire from 6 p.m. on December 23, 2017 until 11:59 p.m. of Dec. 26, 2017 and 6 p.m. of Dec. 30, 2017 to 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 2, 2018.

During the SOMO, the NPA tried to abduct CAA Arbilito A. Catampao on Dec. 25, 2017 in Sitio Madian, Bgy. Tubaon, Tarragona, Davao Oriental.

On separate occasion, a CAA patrol base in Bgy. Melale, Laak, Compostela Valley Province, was also harassed by an undetermined number of NPA terrorists during the suspension.

On Dec. 23, 2017 at around 11 p.m., NPA terrorists ransacked houses and took over the whole Purok of Sitio Mabugnao, Bgy. Las Arenas, Pantukan, which prompted the Army's 66th IB to respond and prevented further NPA atrocities.

Also on Jan. 2 at 2:20 p.m. and 6:40 p.m., NPA rebels harassed two units of the Philippine Army stationed at Bgy. Panansalan, Compostela and Bgy. Cabuyan, Mabini, both in Compostela Valley, prior to the termination of SOMO.

Madrigal said the atrocities were perpetrated by the NPA during the implementation of SOMO and while the military units on the ground strictly followed it.

In his directive, Madrigal ordered his troops to continue protecting vulnerable communities from armed threat and deception of the NPA as they intend to conduct more terroristic acts as pronounced during their anniversary.

He likewise ensured the public of the sustained conduct of Community Support Program in the different far-flung communities in Eastern Mindanao.

"Our efforts on assisting other line government agencies in facilitating the delivery of government services in the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) must also continue and be pursued," he said.

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'NCR joint task force ready vs terrorists'

NEWLY appointed Joint Task Force-National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) commander Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado's expertise in counterterrorism will greatly aid in securing Metro Manila against the threat

"His record of service speaks of his capability, capacity and commitment. Your expertise and experience in counterterrorism will be of great value in our peace and security efforts here in NCR," Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero said on Wednesday.

Arrojado, a member of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1984, gained his counterterrorism expertise commanding the 501st Infantry Brigade and Joint Task Force Sulu, units tasked to go after the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorist threat.

He also commanded the 601st Infantry Brigade in North Cotabato, where it helped in containing the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

Arrojado also served as deputy commander of the Cebu-based Central Command. Guerrero said Arrojado's expertise on counterterrorism is evident, "having served in positions of major responsibility" against the ASG and BIFF.

Arrojado replaced Brig. Gen. Jesus Mananquil, a member of PMA Class of 1985, who is now the incoming commander of the Bicol-based 9th Infantry Division. *PNA*

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AFP tutulong na rin sa war on drugs

KASALI na rin sa kampanya kontra-droga ng pambansang antiterrorist na Armed Forces of the Philippine

Ito ang imbayan ng apangalawang pinuno ng JTF-NCR na si Brig. Gen. Allan Arrojado matapos ang turnover of command ceremony sa Camp Aguinaldo.

Ayon kay Arrojado, pangunahing papel ng JTF-NCR ang pagbibigay ng intelligence information.

Paliwanag ni Arrojado, mabusay ang intelligence gathering capability na millitary ang mga makukuha nilang informasyon ay mapasa sa Philippine National Police at PIDEA maliban akompanya sa war on drugs campaign.

Aniya, sa ngayon ay hahatid ang kanilang partisipasyon sa pakikipag-cooperate sa dalawang ahensya pero kung darating ang panahon na kailangan ang mas malaking papel sa war on drugs ay handa ang JTF-NCR na tugunan ito.

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Duterte OKs 3-star promotion of 2 AFP commanders

By JAIME LAUDE

Two military area commanders, who both played major roles in the liberation of Marawi City, were given their third stars by President Duterte, the commander-in-chief.

Promoted to the rank of lieutenant general were Maj. Gen. Paul Atal, commander of the Cebu-based Armed Forces of the Philippines-Central Command (AFP-Centcom) and Maj. Gen. Danilo Pamonag, chief of the Lucena City-based AFP Southern Luzon Command (AFP-Solcom).

Atal's and Pamonag's former military units, the Isabela-based 5th Infantry Division and the Army Special Operations Command (Socom) respectively, were among the military forces deployed in Marawi to fight the Islamic State (IS)-inspired foreign jihadists and the local Maute terrorists.

Also promoted by the President to the rank of major general were former Brig.

Generals Fernando Trinidad, AFP deputy chief of staff for Intelligence (J2), Rene Glen Paje, AFP deputy chief of staff for Civil-Military Operations (J7) and Jose Antonio Carlos Motril, chief of the AFP Human Rights Office.

Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Headquarters Academic Group Head Col. Joseph Villarueva was also promoted to brigadier general.

Duterte approved the promotions of these senior officers last Dec. 18 but which were only released yesterday following the donning of ranks, presided by AFP chief of staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero at the Hall of Flags at Camp Aguinaldo.

"The promotion to the next rank as general of these senior officers of the AFP is both a testimony and an inspiration that hard work and innumerable sacrifices, sterling competence and leadership skills acquired through years of experience are rewarded," AFP spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

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Ranking military commanders get new stars

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA -- Commanders of the Cebu-based Central Command (CENTCOM) and Lucena-headquartered Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) formally donned their third star during short ceremonies Thursday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief-of-Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero spearheaded the ceremonies at the Hall of Flags, General Headquarters Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Major Gen. Paul Atal, CENTCOM head, is now promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General. Also promoted to three-star rank is SOLCOM commander Major Gen. Danilo Pamonag, AFP spokesperson Col. Edgard Arevalo said in a statement.

Also promoted to Major Generals were Brig. Gen. Fernando Trinidad, the AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, J2; Brig. Gen. Rene Glen Paje, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil-Military Operations, J7; and Brig. Gen. Jose Antonio Carlos Motril, Chief of the AFP Human Rights Office.

While Col. Joseph Villanueva, the Head of the Headquarters Academics Group, Philippine Military Academy, is promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

The ad-interim appointment of named Generals was approved by the Commander-in-Chief, President Rodrigo Duterte last Dec. 18.

"The promotion to the next higher rank as General of these senior officers of the AFP is both a testimony and an inspiration that hard work and innumerable sacrifices, sterling competence, and leadership skills acquired through years of experience are rewarded," Arevalo added.

"These Generals contributed immensely to the successful accomplishment of AFP's mission in Marawi, at the Philippine Military Academy, at the General Headquarters, and in Northern Luzon," he stressed. **(PNA)**

www.pna.gov.ph

New Joint Task Force-NCR head a counter-terrorism expert: AFP chief

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA -- Newly-appointed Joint Task Force-National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) commander Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado's expertise in counter-terrorism will greatly aid in securing Metro Manila against the threat.

"His record of service speaks of his capability, capacity and commitment. Your expertise and experience in counterterrorism will be of great value in our peace and security efforts here in NCR," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero said Wednesday.

Arrojado, a member of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1984, gained his counter-terrorism expertise commanding the 501st Infantry Brigade and Joint Task Force Sulu, units tasked to go after the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorist threat.

He also commanded the 601st Infantry Brigade in North Cotabato where it helped in containing the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

Arrojado also served as deputy commander of the Cebu-based Central Command.

Guerrero said Arrojado's expertise on counter-terrorism is clearly shown "having served in positions of major responsibility" against the ASG and BIFF.

Arrojado replaced Brig. Gen. Jesus Manangquil, a member of PMA Class of 1985, who is now the incoming commander of the Bicol-based 9th Infantry Division.

"We are confident that BGen Arrojado will sustain the momentum set by his predecessor," the AFP chief said. **(PNA)**