

*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**

**13 January 2018**

**Saturday**

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

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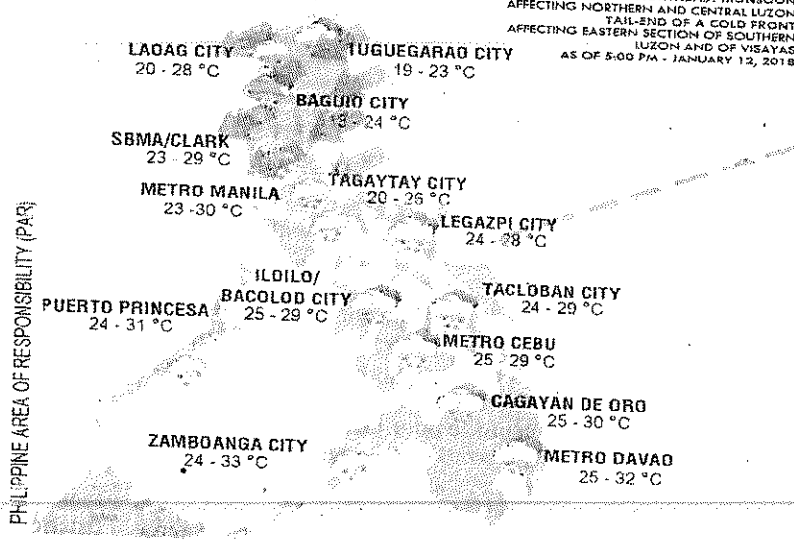
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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JANUARY 13, 2018 | SATURDAY**



**PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)**

**NORTHEAST MONSOON**  
AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON  
**TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT**  
AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON AND OF VISAYAS  
AS OF 5:00 PM - JANUARY 13, 2018

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:24 AM	5:45 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
3:05 AM	2:50 PM
LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON
JAN 9 6:25 AM	JAN 17 19:17 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
3:32 AM 0.04 Meter	7:45 PM 0.91 Meter


Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with minshowers

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


Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Light rains

	JAN 14	JAN 15	JAN 14	JAN 15	JAN 14	JAN 15		
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	21 - 28 °C	22 - 28 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	21 - 25 °C	22 - 26 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	24 - 29 °C	25 - 30 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	25 - 29 °C	25 - 29 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	22 - 30 °C	23 - 32 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	24 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	14 - 25 °C	15 - 25 °C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	25 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	25 - 29 °C	24 - 30 °C			



**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**11 AM & 5 PM**



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

1

13 January 2018

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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**DYING FROM HIGH PRICES** Public school teachers stage a "die-in" at the Department of Budget and Management to protest Secretary Benjamin Diokno's refusal to work on the salary increase that President Duterte had promised after he doubled the basic pay of soldiers and policemen. —NINO JOSE ORBETA



# Teachers threaten walkout over pay

By Jovic Yee  
and Jocelyn R. Uy  
@Team\_Inquirer

Thousands of public schoolteachers might go on leave should the Duterte administration walk back on its promise to increase their salaries, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) warned on Friday.

Benjamin Valbuena, ACT national chair, said the government faced more protests if it failed to adjust the salaries of the country's more than 600,000 public schoolteachers.

Valbuena said the increase was necessary, especially with the expected rise in the prices of

basic commodities due to the implementation of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act.

The group issued the warning two days after Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the salary increase of teachers might have to take a back seat to the administration's more pressing projects.

On Friday, ACT staged a protest at the Department of Budget and Management office in Manila to denounce Diokno's statement and to call for his resignation.

Liberal Party (LP) senators also called out Diokno for slamming the door on the salary increase of teachers, describing

his statement as "insensitive and heartless."

The senators said that if the budget department was able to find funds to double the pay of military and uniformed personnel, there was no reason why it could not do so for teachers.

"It's not certainly the way to treat our public schoolteachers, who have been seeking government's help for higher salaries and additional benefits so they can live decently," LP president Sen. Francis Pangilinan said in a statement on Friday.

Minority Leader Sen. Franklin Drilon also said there was no reason for Diokno to "whine" about the cost of increasing teachers'



Members of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) stage a protest in front of the Department of Budget and Management office in Manila. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

pay since it was able to produce funds for the pay hike of uniformed personnel.

"Instead of slamming the doors on the plea of the teachers, Secretary Diokno should use his wise judgment and skills to find the funds and put money

where it is most needed. Investments in the country's human resources, especially our teachers, can never go wrong," said Drilon.

On Tuesday, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque announced that Mr. Duterte might

double the salary of teachers. But he corrected himself on Thursday, saying that teachers' salaries might rise but would not be doubled.

Teachers earn a monthly salary ranging from P19,000 to P43,000. INQ

January 2018



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# Tokhang to be relaunched

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

**It's a bloodless approach to the drug menace, and the Philippine National Police promises to abide by the "true spirit" of "tokhang" as the PNP relaunched its war on drugs this month.**

PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said yesterday that he had ordered field commanders to resume Oplan Tokhang, which means to knock and plead in Cebuano, that resulted in the surrender of around 1.3 million drug users and pushers and the death of over 3,000 suspects in police operations.

"My instruction to them is to bring back Tokhang," Dela Rosa told reporters.

Under Oplan Tokhang, police officers knock on the doors of drug suspects and ask them to stop their illegal activities.

Dela Rosa clarified that Tokhang is actually a bloodless initiative if implemented properly and that previous problems stemmed from police scalawags who used the program for their own ends.

He warned police officers against using Tokhang for personal gain, saying, "I will hold them accountable for their foolishness."

The PNP stopped Oplan Tokhang and other operations against illegal drugs in October last year after President Duterte ordered the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) to take the lead in the government's campaign following

a public outcry over the killing of several teenagers in police drug enforcement operations.

The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act specifically designates the PDEA as the lead agency in fighting the drug menace, with the PNP and other law enforcement units providing support.

Dela Rosa said an oversight committee would monitor police commanders to ensure that the "true spirit" of Tokhang is followed in its relaunch.

He said the PNP does not want rogue police officers to take advantage of the program to extort money from drug suspects so that their names would be removed from the barangay watchlist.

"There have been incidents so we need to implement Tokhang properly," Dela Rosa said.

Asked if policemen on Tokhang operations would be required to wear body cameras, he said lawmen belonging to drug enforcement units are the priority for those equipment.

"Why would you need to wear a body camera when you will just knock and plead?" said Dela Rosa.

He warned policemen not to be involved in illegal activities now that they have received substantial increases in their monthly salaries.

Dela Rosa said there is no reason for police

officers to be involved in fraud in the first place.

"Even if their salaries did not increase, they should not commit wrongdoings. Now, they have no more reason to commit wrongdoings,"

Dela Rosa said in an ambush interview.

"They will not only face grave punishment but also immediate dismissal," he added.

The PNP chief will now receive a monthly salary of P121,143 starting this year, a 79-percent increase from his current pay of P67,500.

Dela Rosa said he did not expect a big increase in pay as he was expecting the priority are lawmen with the rank of Police Officer 1 who received a 100-percent increase in their base pay while they will only

get an increase of about 54 to 58 percent.

Around 76,000 PO1s who used to receive a monthly salary of P14,834 will now get P29,668 a month. The other ranks will have an average increase of 58.70 percent.

The increase was attributed to the implementation of a joint resolution that was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Duterte authorizing the increase in base pay of military and uniformed personnel effective Jan. 1.

At the turnover of 60 police cars donated by the Valenzuela City government, the PNP chief vowed a less bloody Tokhang, a term which has come to define the government's brutal police crackdown on illegal drugs.

In his speech to Valenzuela policemen and local officials, Dela Rosa said that the Duterte administration is a great opportunity to be part of the police force.

With an increase in pay, cops are expected to do better in their operations, Dela Rosa said.

He called on the police to bring back the "peaceful" spirit of the operation – knocking on

doors of suspected drug personalities and calling on them to go back to the fold of the law.

Joint Resolution No. 1 passed by Congress in December last year and signed by the President increased the base pay of the military and other uniformed personnel (MUP), with the biggest increases enjoyed by the entry level and highest ranking officers.

But apart from the men and women in active service, the resolution also has a provision on the increase in pension of retired MUPs.

The joint resolution provides for the indexation of pension of retired MUPs to base pay, but its implementation is suspended until Jan. 1, 2019 or upon effectivity of a pension reform law, whichever comes first.

Until Jan. 1, 2019 or upon the effectivity of the pension reform law, the indexation of the pension would remain based on the rates of the base pay schedule under Joint Resolution No. 4 approved by Congress in 2009.

One of the retirees who would benefit from the increase in pension is Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former PNP chief who retired in early 2001.

Lacson lauded Duterte for signing the joint resolution increasing the base pay of MUPs, which he said shows that the Chief Executive makes good on his promises.

Lacson pointed out that the new law would also benefit over 200,000 retirees.

### Killings

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) yesterday asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its order for them to submit documents relevant to the 3,806 individuals killed in reported legitimate police operations in connection with the Duterte administration's war on drugs.

In a 14-page motion for reconsideration, Solicitor General Jose Calida asked the SC to set aside its order dated Dec. 5, 2017 and recall its directive for the OSG to submit the information and documents mentioned in the order.

In its Dec. 5 order, the SC directed the OSG to submit within 60 days information/documents, namely: list of persons killed in legitimate police operations from Jan. 1, 2016 until Nov. 30, 2017; list of deaths under investiga-

tion from July 1, 2016 to Nov. 30, 2017; list of Chinese and Filipino-Chinese drug lords who have been neutralized; list of drugs involved whether shabu, cocaine, marijuana, opioids, etc; comparative tables on index crimes; statistics of the internal cleansing within the police force; drug watchlist in the affected areas; reports and documents regarding Ryan Dave Almora, Rex Appari and Jefferson Soriano; pre-operation and post-operation reports in the Sr. Ma. Juanita Dano incidents; number of buy-bust incidents in San Andres Bukid from July 1, 2016 to Nov. 30, 2017; list of warrants and warrantless arrest in the high valued target (HVT) police operations; and list of cases under investigation under Internal Affairs Service (IAS).

Named respondents in the petition were PNP chief Dela Rosa, all officers, agents or other persons acting under his authority and supervision; Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) acting secretary Eduardo Año, and all under his authority and supervision. – With Marc Cayabyab, Marvin Sy, Evelyn Macairan

13 January 2018

**BusinessMirror**

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# Harnessing the human terrain

BY RENE ACOSTA

**T**HE military is embarking this year on what it calls a “realistic objective” of crippling all terrorist organizations in Mindanao, including the New People’s Army (NPA), which has been categorized by President Duterte as a terror group, by capitalizing on the gains of its internal security operations in the region last year.

In fact, for most of the battle-scarred senior military commanders, “cripple” is a mild term to describe the projected after-effect of operations against all of Mindanao’s threat groups. The fitting word is “defeat,” which, ironically, has been a byword of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) against enemies of the state in past years.

Still, for a slight change, the military top brass has reissued the overly rehashed marching orders to its troops, but this time, with confidence and with certainty of results: End the remnants of the Islamic State (IS) group, the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), with focus on its two breakaway factions

aligned with the IS; and the NPA.

## ‘Doable’ objective

AGAINST the ASG, the mission is clear and doable, according to Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu, who is leading the campaign against terrorists in the southern area with wit and grit, and with brilliant operations, which the ASG may have never encountered before.

The objective, not only against the ASG, but even against all the other threat groups, becomes even clearer under the shadow and operational footsteps of martial law.

“We want it done as soon as possible, we are doing our best effort.

CONTINUED ON A2



CONTINUED FROM A1

We are trying to get their leadership,” Sobejana said as he emphasized his tested strategy of neutralizing the key leaders of the ASG that resulted in the successive surrender of terrorist fighters.

According to Sobejana, the killing of top terrorist leaders has created a domino effect down to the ranks of the ASG, which prompted a considerable number to yield after they became “headless”.

“That is our priority for now, getting their leaders, neutralizing the leaders to really fast-track the defeat of the ASG,” he said.

“We strongly believe that [defeating the ASG], especially now that we are not alone in this fight. Government officials from the governor down to the barangay captains are with us, so to us, this is very doable, very doable,” Sobejana also said.

Sobejana belongs to the *crème de la crème* of warriors in the AFP, as he is a Medal of Valor awardee, along with Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon, who is heading the campaign against the ASG in Tawi-Tawi, being the head of Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi.

Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said he will push his men not only to defeat the ASG, but even the BIFF and the NPA in Central Mindanao and neutralize any remaining member of the IS.

He added, though, that the NPA, with its “insignificant” number, is being held at bay in his operational jurisdiction.

“That is our goal for the year, we will do it, it can be done,” said Galvez, who joined other senior military commanders for the traditional New Year’s call on Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana early this week.

While there had been reports of foreign fighters sauntering into Mindanao in support of their local IS colleagues, Galvez and Lorenzana said the military is yet to catch one, although the reports of such foreign presence are being continuously validated.

### Sulu redeployment

JUST before he embarked on his trip from Mindanao to Manila for the New Year’s call to the defense secretary at Camp Aguinaldo, Galvez has redeployed 11 battalions to Sulu to hasten the operations there against the

ASG, which is headed by Radullan Sahiron, considered the emir of the terrorist group.

The battalions were pulled out from Marawi City, where they have been deployed last year at the height of the operations against the IS and its affiliate, the Maute Group.

Galvez said the ASG in Sulu was already on the verge of collapse last year as a result of the successive operations by Joint Task Force Sulu, which killed a number of the group’s key leaders, although the trend was somewhat aborted by the pullout of soldiers.

He said the redeployment of the 11 battalions should send the ASG into its demise, especially with the objective of neutralizing its remaining leaders within the year.

### 300+ ASG ‘neutralized’

A REPORT released by Galvez’s command, through its spokesman, Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, said that a total of 352 ASG members were neutralized last year, as the Joint Task Forces Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga under Sobejana, Parcon, Brig. Gen. Juvymax Uy and Col. Leonel Nicolas, respectively, intensified their operations against the ASG.

Of the number, 144 have yielded to government forces, which represented 41 percent of the neutralized bandits.

The report also said that a total of 223 firearms were “recovered, seized and surrendered to the joint task forces.”

The four task forces also logged a total of 53 encounters with the ASG.

In Central Mindanao, the Joint Task Force Central under Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega also neutralized 243 members of the BIFF last year.

A total of 38 firearms were recovered and seized by the task force, which recorded a total of 44 firefights with the terrorist group.

The Western Mindanao Command has six task forces.

### Cutting NPA force by half

WHILE the military commanders in Mindanao are eyeing to end all terror groups in the region within the year, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero has drawn a “modest” goal against the NPA around the country by aiming to cut its forces by at least half of its

present number.

Guerrero said that currently, the guerrillas number to about 3,700.

The chief of staff ordered all area commands whose operational jurisdictions list the presence of rebels to sustain and intensify their operations against the group.

The head of the Armed Forces Eastern Mindanao Command, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, has already ordered his troops to resume operations against the NPA as soon as the cease-fire with the rebels ended on January 2.

The area command reported earlier that around 45 percent, or 2,000, of the total armed members of the NPA, operate within its areas.

Lorenzana said that since martial law has been extended in Mindanao, there's a good chance that the military could lick the communist rebels operating in the region, a belief that Guerrero shares.

The defense secretary said that since Duterte has tagged the NPA as a terrorist group, it is included in martial law's order of battle.

Guerrero added that if the measure is not extended, as he noted the petition against it before the Supreme Court, it will significantly affect their operation.

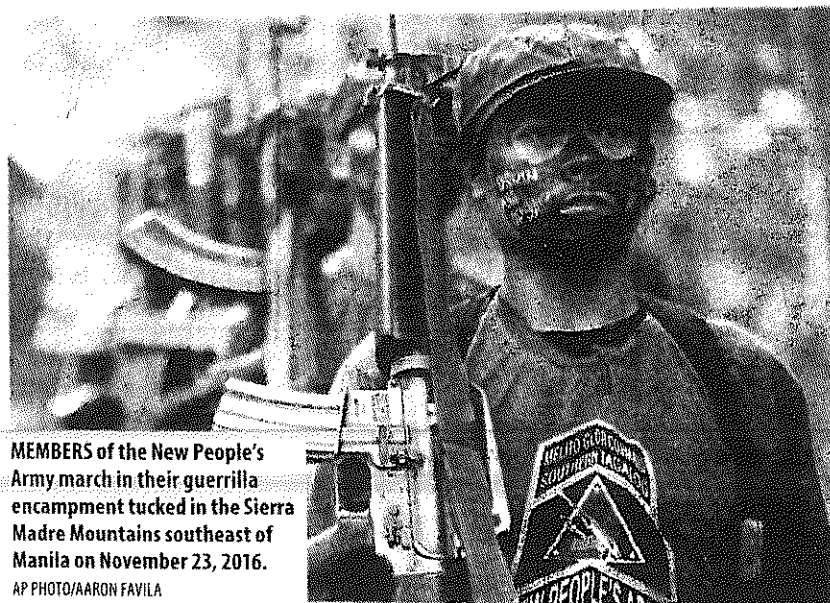
Specifically, it will affect the conduct of checkpoints, visibility patrols and the "intensified military operations," according to him.

In Sultan Kudarat, Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, commander of the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion, said nearly all of the rebels operating in the province are members of local tribes.

"About 90 percent of the members of the Guerrilla Front 73 of the communist terrorist organization here in Sultan Kudarat are indigenous people. This is reflected by the fact that 100 percent of the surrenders in 2017 belong to the Dulangan Manobo and T'boli tribes," he said.

Cabunoc and his men are dealing with the rebels through a combination of "soft and strong hand" approaches, or a mixture of combat operations and community support operations.

"The decisive terrain in an insurgency is the human terrain. We need to dominate in the battle of opinion, in touching the hearts of the populace, and in getting the support of the people. To achieve this, the civil government and the military establishment must synergize their efforts toward a common goal," he said.



**MEMBERS of the New People's Army march in their guerrilla encampment tucked in the Sierra Madre Mountains southeast of Manila on November 23, 2016.**

AP PHOTO/AARON FAVILA

13 January 2018



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REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ITS OWN

# COMMUNISTS WON'T CONTEST 'TERRORIST' TAG IN COURT

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.  
@dtmallarijrINQ

LUCENA CITY—The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), would not participate in the court proceedings to oppose the "terrorist" tag labeled them by the government, top rebel leader Jose Maria "Joma" Sison declared on Friday.

Sison maintained that as

revolutionary forces, the CPP, NPA and their supporters from the ranks of workers and peasants had "their own revolutionary democratic government."

"On this principled basis, the CPP and NPA cannot and will not enter the court of the reactionary government to participate in proceedings," Sison, CPP founding chair, said in an online interview from his base in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II announced on Thursday that the government would file a petition in court, probably next week, to legally declare the CPP-NPA as terrorist groups.

President Duterte issued Proclamation No. 374 on Dec. 5, declaring members of the CPP-NPA as terrorists. Anyone proven to be financing the groups would also be held liable under the law, he said.

Once the court starts a full-blown trial, Aguirre said he expected the communist rebels to contest the government's contention that they were engaged in terrorism.

Under Section 17 of Republic Act No. 9372, or the Human Security Act of 2007, the Department of Justice must first seek clearance from the court before an organization, association or group of persons could be declared a terrorist. INQ

13 January 2018

# The Manila Times

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## NEW CHIEF OF ARMY'S 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSUMES POST

**GAMU, Isabela:** Brig. Gen. Perfecto Rimando Jr., assumed his post as new commander of the Philippine Army's 5th Infantry Division (5ID) here, vowing to continue and strengthen the government's campaign against terrorist groups. "Take the initiative and make yourselves professionally competent in your duties so you can best deliver the Army's core purpose of serving the people and securing the land," he told his men during the turn-over on Monday at Camp Melchor D. Dela Cruz in Barangay Upi here. Rimando is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Sinagtala Class 1986 and was deputy commanding general of the Eastern Mindanao Command in Davao City. He replaced Lt. General Paul Atal who served the division from August 2016 to December 2017 and now the new commander the Central Command in the Visayas. The 5th ID or Star Division, is the Army's primary infantry unit in Northern Luzon specializing in counter-insurgency with controlled Infantry Battalions in the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Kalinga, Apayao, Ifugao, Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and northern part of Nueva Vizcaya.

**LEANDER C. DOMINGO**





13 January 2018



Pahina. 2

### **5,500 sundalo kailangan ng AFP**

Nangangailangan ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ng karagdagang 5,500 sundalo para mapagtagumpayan ang kampanya kontra terorismo at iba pang banta sa seguridad sa bansa.

Ayon kay AFP spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo, sa 15,500 quota ng AFP ay nakapag-recruit na ng 10,000 at 5,500 na lamang ang kailangan para sa iba't ibang service commands ng tropa ng militar.

Kabilang sa ire-recruit ay 3,500 para sa hukbo ng Philippine Army, 1,000 sa Philippine Navy at 1,000 rin sa Philippine Air Force.

Samantala sa pagtaas ng suweldo ng mga sundalo na kapantay sa PNP, sinabi ni Arevalo na umaasa ang AFP na mapapabilis ang recruitment.

Sa ilalim ng Joint Resolution #1 na pinagtibay ni Pangulong Duterte, ang sundalong may ranggong Private na katumbas ng PO1 sa PNP ay tatanggap ng P29,668. Arevalo. (*Joy Cantos*)

13 January 2018

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

Page: 7

# Gov't extends livelihood assistance to former NPA rebels in Or. Mindoro

By **JERRY J. ALCAYDE**

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro – Six former New People's Army (NPA) rebels received a total of ₱390,000 livelihood assistance packages under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) of the national government.

Capt. Christopher Cuenca, spokesperson of the Philippine Army's 203rd Brigade said the former communist rebels got ₱65,000 each during a ceremony at the Filipiniana Hotel here last Wednesday, led by Oriental Mindoro Governor Alfonso V. Umali Jr. and other local government and police officials.

"You already have a reason to start a new life, a changed and good one. Never again support or participate in any form of armed struggle," Gov. Umali told the former NPA rebels who operated in various platoon guerrilla groups in Mindoro.

CLIP focuses on integration of members of the Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army and National Democratic Front who decided to abandon the armed struggle and rejoined the mainstream society, Cuenca said.

Under the said program, rebels who surrendered to the government with their firearms are given monetary assistance of ₱15,000 and ₱50,000 for liveli-

hood projects coupled with trainings and technical support from appropriate government agencies which are also accorded to their dependents to ensure sustainability.

The program is a joint undertaking of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process which is based on a memorandum of agreement signed on May 15, 2014.

Brigadier General Antonio G. Parlade Jr., commander of the 203rd Brigade lauded the local government units and partner agencies for jointly facilitating the release of the fund assistance to the former rebels.

13 January 2018



Pahina. 3

### **Mga de-kalibreng armas ng NPA nasamsam**

**NAREKOB** ng militar ang iba't ibang malalakas na kalibre ng baril na umano'y mula sa teroristang New People' Army (NPA) sa Davao del Sur kamakalawa.

Sa report ni Army Lt. China Castro, civil military operations officer ng 73rd Infantry Battalion, nasa siyam na bilang ng armas ang kanilang nakuha sa encounter site sa bulubunduking bahagi ng bayan ng Magsaysay.

Nagsasagawa umano ng checkpoint ang mga sundalo mula sa 72nd at 73rd IB sa Brgy. Tacul nang sila ay paputukan ng apat na miyembro ng NPA na sakay ng dalawang motor-siklo. Kabilang sa nasabat ang anim na M16 rifles, dalawang AK47 rifles at isang M14 rifle.

Nakuha rin ang isang IED, at iba't ibang uri ng bala at magazines, 2 Honda TMX motorcycles at maging ng ilang subersibong dokumento.

**JEFF GALLOS**

13 January 2018

POLICE FILES

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## AFP, tinawag na hibang ng CPP

TINAWAG ng Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) na hibang ang Armed Forces of Philippines sa pahayag nitong tatapusin o pahihinain nito ang mga komunistang rebelde ngayong taon.

Ipinahayag din ng CPP na taliwas sa pahayag ng AFP ang sinabi ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na malayo ang posibilidad na tapusin ang mga komunistang rebelde sa loob ng isang taon.

Tinawag din ng grupo na hibang si Lorenzana sa paniniwala nito na ang

pakikipag-alyansa ni Duterte ay dahil sa bankrupt na ang CPP.

Ngayong aringo ipinahayag ni AFP Chief General Rey Guerrero na target ng militar na manangalaha ang 700 miyembro ng New People's Army ngayong taon.

Gayundin, sinabi ni Lorenzana na "far-fetched" ang pagpapabagsak sa NPA sa loob ng isang taon.

Nagbanta naman ang CPP na patuloy na

magpapatakas ang NPA at maglulunsad ng mas marami at mas malalaking opensiba.

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**POLICE FILES**

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### **23 NPA sumuko sa Sultan Kudarat**

**KORONADAL CITY** – Ikinatuwa ng 33rd Infantry Battalion Philippine Army sa pangunguna ni Lt. col Harol Cabunoc ang sunod-sunod na pag-surrender ng mga kasapi ng New People's Army (NPA) sa Sultan Kudarat.

Napag-alaman na panibagong 23 terorista mula sa NPA Guerilla Front 73 ang sumuko kahapon sa Senator Ninoy Aquino Sultan Kudarat na kinabibilangan ng isang revolutionary captain ng itinatag na Kilusang Rebolusyunaryo for Barangay at dalawang recruiters. Isinako rin ng mga rebelde ang kanilang mga armas at pampasabog.

Napag-alaman na ang nasabing mga rebelde ay mga lumad na mula Palimbang at Senator Ninoy Aquino Sultan Kudarat.

Ayon sa militar, sumuko ang 23 rebelde dahil hinimok na rin sila ng dating lider ng NPA na si Kumander Andix na bumalik sa gobyerno dahil pagod na umano silang makipaghabulan sa mga sundalo sa bundok.

Idagdag pa rito na gusto na rin nilang bumalik sa normal na pamumuhay kasama ang kanilang mga pamilya at magkaroon ng magandang kinabukasan.



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Pahina. 5

## Finance logistic officer ng NPA terrorist sumuko

Sumuko sa mga awtoridad ang isang Platoon Finance Logistic officer ng mga teroristang New People's Army (NPA) sa Poblacion Ilawod, Cuartero, Capiz nitong Huwebes.

Kinilala ni Police Regional Office (PRO) 6 Spokesman Sr. Supt. Gilbert Gorero ang sumurender na si Arsenio Magbanua alyas Ka Gamay, 40, tubong Brgy. Putian, Cuartero.

Si Ka Gamay ay

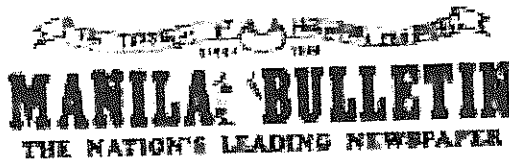
tumatayong Section Cadre/Squad Leader/Platoon Finance Logistic officer ng NPA terrorists na nago-operate sa lalawigan.

Bandang ala-1:20 ng hapon nang sumurender si Ka Gamay sa himpilan ng Cuartero Municipal Police Station sa Poblacion Ilawod, Cuartero sa tulong ni Brgy. Chairman Ness Fuyonan na nakipagnegosasyon para sa mapayapa nitong pagsuko.

Sa inisyal na interrogasyon, inamin ng suspek na nagbalikloob siya sa batas matapos na mapagtanto na mali ang ideolohiyang kaniyang ipinaglalaban gayundin upang makapagbagumbuhay na sa piling ng kaniyang pamilya.

Kasalukuyan nang sumasailalim sa masusing tactical interrogation ng mga awtoridad ang sumukong lider ng NPA terrorists. (Joy Cantos)

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• **CAFGU man shot**

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Suspected New People's Army (NPA) members shot dead on Thursday night a militiaman inside a karaoke bar in Arakan, North Cotabato. Supt. Bernard Tayong, spokesperson of the Cotabato police provincial office, identified the victim as Tani Adiaman, a member of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU), assigned in Arakan town. Police said the victim was drinking inside a karaoke bar in Barangay Datu Layon, Arakan town when unidentified men accosted him and dragged him outside the bar. Witnesses they then heard gunshots fired before they discovered Adiaman lying on the pavement in a pool of his own blood. (Joseph Jubelag)

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## 'Pay hike for soldiers, policemen funded under 2018 budget'

Sen. Loren Legarda yesterday said the increase in base pay of military and uniformed personnel in the government is funded under the 2018 national budget.

Legarda, chairman of the Senate committee on finance and co-sponsor of the Joint Resolution Authorizing the Increase in the Base Pay of Military and Uniformed Personnel in the

Government, said under the 2018 General Appropriations Act, P62.8 billion was allocated under the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund for the increase in the base pay of military and uniformed personnel.

"This is good news for our soldiers, policemen and other uniformed personnel in government because they will now

receive the long overdue salary increase that they deserve," said Legarda, a reserve officer in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The base pay schedule of military and uniformed personnel was last increased eight years ago.

"We cannot overemphasize the value of the arduous mission our soldiers and policemen have to

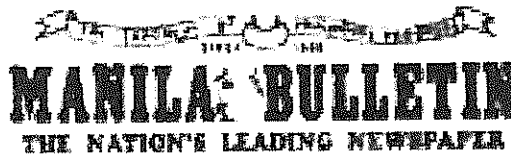
undertake in order to maintain peace and order by protecting the people and the State from lawless violence, invasion, rebellion, terrorist acts and other activities that might affect public safety and bring harm to the independence of our nation. It is about time that their base pay is increased to better compensate for the hazards they face in the course of performing

their duties," she added.

The modified base pay schedule applies to all military personnel under the Department of National Defense and uniformed personnel under the Department of Interior and Local Government, Philippine Coast Guard and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

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## Albay honors fallen son who served in Marawi

By **INO N. LUCES**

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay – The remains of Philippine Marines Pvt. Alejandro A. Balaen, who sacrificed his life to liberate Marawi City from terrorists, arrived to a hero's welcome in Sto. Domingo, Albay Friday morning.

Relatives, friends, neighbors and local officials were on hand to welcome his remains in Barangay Lidong.

Pvt. Balaen, 27, the youngest of 7 siblings, is a member of 7th Marine Company of the Marine Landing Team 7, was killed in action on June 9, 2017.

His elder sister is a 2nd Lieutenant of the Philippine Army, while his only brother is also enlisted with the Philippine Army.

Two of his sisters are teachers.

He completed his elementary education at Lidong Elementary School, went to Pagasa National High School Extension in Legazpi City and graduated with a hotel and restaurant management degree in Legazpi City.

The remains of Balaen arrived Friday morning from Philippine Marines Headquarter in Taguig City, after a full military honor last January 9.

According to his sister, her fallen brother joined the Philippine Marines last August 2016 and was deployed in Marawi City which was attacked by the Maute Group in May 2017.

During a skirmish on June 9, a bomb explosion killed the Bicolano soldier.

Due to heavy fighting, however, his body was not immediately retrieved.

His body was recovered by August.

A series of DNA tests were conducted to confirm that the recovered body was that of Pvt. Balaen.

Early this year, his body was flown to Manila and brought to the Philippine Marines Headquarters and accorded full military honors.

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## AFP closely guarding PH southern borders

The Armed Forces of the Philippines is keeping a tight watch on the country's southern borders where foreign militants have reportedly entered to reinforce terror forces in Mindanao.

"We cannot discount the possibility of foreign fighters surreptitiously able to enter the country given our vast and porous borders," AFP spokesman Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

"That is why we are also keeping a tight watch over the country's crevices. We have enhanced our own monitoring and security posture to keep our sea and air

ports in check," Arevalo added.

Arevalo said they are doing these with the help of other relevant domestic and international agencies as well as local government units.

"We (also) have conventions and agreements with other regional and global partners like trilateral joint patrol agreements with Malaysia and Indonesia," Arevalo said.

"But at the end of the day, we need the vigilance, cooperation, and active participation of our people in the communities who can monitor and report arrival of new faces in the neighborhood," he added. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**



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## OPAPP 'quietly' working on reviving peace talks

SECRETARY Jesus Dureza on Friday said the Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process is quietly working to salvage the peace negotiations with the communists, despite the termination of peace talks last November.

Despite President Rodrigo Duterte's order to cancel peace talks with the leftists, the doors to peace "have not been totally shut," Dureza said.

"The work of OPAPP is to look for ways and means to move the peace process forward. So we're doing that but in a very unofficial and quiet way, because we have to take the directive coming from no less than the President," he told Bloomberg TV Philippines on Thursday.

Dureza, however, said these moves aren't back-channel talks. The OPAPP still continues to work on the peace process with the communists, but has to take the clear directive of the President.

"Nothing at all, in defer-

ence to the President's directive," he said.

Duterte had earlier tagged the Communist Party of the Philippines, along with its armed wing, the New People's Army, as a terrorist organization following his decision to end peace talks with the communist rebels.

In the same interview, Dureza said he is confident that Congress will "find a way" to pass the Bangsamoro Basic Law because it is the "desire of the President."

He alluded to the President making it "very clear" that Congress must pass a BBL "in justice to the Bangsamoro."

"I'm sure Congress will find a way, in spite of that cluttered and that very busy schedule of them, to look for ways and means on how to move this forward, because that is the desire of the President," he said.

Dureza acknowledged that the executive and the legislative branches of government are "two different, independent bodies."

**John Paolo Bencito**

B January 2018

The Manila Times

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# Former Army chief named BCDA head

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has appointed retired Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda to the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

Duterte signed Miranda's appointment paper on January 8 that was released to the media on Friday.

Miranda was named as member of the board of directors of the BCDA to serve the unexpired term of office of Serafin Salvador.

He will assume his post until June 30, 2018.

Miranda, a member of the

Philippine Military Academy "Matikas" Class of 1983, served as the acting commanding general of the Philippine Army from December 2016 until his retirement in October 2017.

Duterte has been outspoken in appointing former members of the military to his government.

In an earlier speech, the President was confident that tapping



Retired Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda

Miranda as a member of BCDA board could help in fighting corruption within the agency.

"I really salute General Miranda. That is why [automatically] he

will be a member of the board of this [BCDA]. No military man is running that," Duterte said.

"I need somebody there from your sector so, I said, you can look into how it is being run. Now, [if] there is corruption, you can flog [those involved]," the President added.

The BCDA, a government-owned and controlled corporation or GOCC, is mandated to transform former US military bases for "alternative productive civilian use."

Among those converted were Bonifacio Global City in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, and Newport City in Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

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## Duterte appoints ex-AFP exec to BCDA

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte has appointed former Armed Forces officer-in-charge Glorioso Miranda as board member of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

Malacañang released yesterday a copy of Miranda's appointment, which follows serial administration moves to appoint retired and former military and police officials to key government posts.

Miranda, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1983, will serve the unexpired term of Serafin Salvador Jr. that started on July 1, 2017 and will end on June 20.

Duterte first announced Miranda's forthcoming

designation in his speech during the Army's change of command and retirement ceremony at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City last Oct. 5. Miranda reached the mandatory retirement age of 56 last Oct. 8.

Yesterday, Malacañang also released the appointment papers of Nomer Canlas as director III of the Department of Public Works and Highways; Pelagio Paguican as member of the board of directors of the Philippine Postal Corp; Nestor Jardin, member of the board of trustees of the Cultural Center of the Philippines; and Leticia Damasco, member of the board of directors of the Land Bank of the Philippines, Leasing and Finance Corp.

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# 3RD PETITIONER VS MARTIAL LAW: SC MUST DEFINE IT

By Marlon Ramos  
@MRamosINQ

What really is martial law?

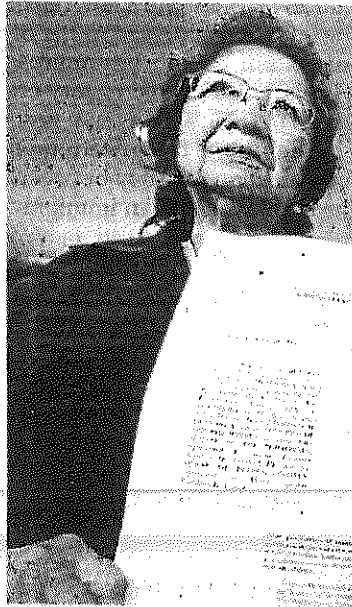
Etta Rosales, former chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), on Friday asked the Supreme Court to answer this critical question in a 33-page petition that challenged the constitutional basis for the yearlong extension of military rule in Mindanao.

Rosales' petition was the third legal action brought before the high court that questioned President Duterte's decision to extend martial law in Mindanao until Dec. 31.

"The basic problem with the jurisprudence of the Supreme Court right now is that (it has) allowed the President to exercise martial law powers, but (the magistrates) have not defined what martial law is all about," said Rosales' counsel, former Solicitor General Florin Hilbay.

"And because (the high court) has not defined martial law, you have these (questions) on what the President can do, what the military can do, and the real purpose of martial law," Hilbay added.

The Palace "welcome(s) the filing of the suit because that is



Etta Rosales —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

also a right of any citizen under the 1987 Constitution," presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said in a press briefing in Malaybalay City on Friday.

## Legal, factual basis

But the President's decision to extend martial law for a year "enjoys an overwhelming presumption of constitutionality, given that both the executive and the legislative branches of government have found both legal and factual

basis for (it)," Roque said.

In asking the magistrates to void the extension of martial law in Mindanao, Rosales said the high court had already ruled that the President's "extraordinary power to declare martial law may be exercised only when there is actual invasion or rebellion and public safety requires it."

"This is so because martial law is the law for the theater of war, where there is a need to supplant or supplement civilian law with military law," Rosales said.

The former CHR chair also disputed claims that Mindanao residents welcomed the President's extension of martial law even after the military had ended the five-month occupation of Marawi City by the Islamic State-allied Maute terror group.

In fact, Rosales said, a recent survey showed that more than 60 percent of Filipinos were not supportive of Mr. Duterte's Proclamation No. 216, which placed Mindanao under military rule and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

Hilbay meanwhile sought the tribunal's permission for him to participate in the oral

arguments next week on the two similar petitions filed by opposition lawmakers and members of the Makabayan bloc.

## Separate petitions

Earlier, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman and militant lawmakers filed separate petitions questioning the legal basis for the extension of martial law.

In its petition, the Makabayan bloc accused Mr. Duterte, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III of "hav(ing) entered into an unholy alliance" by "peddling imagined fears of the persistence of enemies (that) the government had claimed to have already vanquished."

The government itself, said petitioner Carlos Zarate of the Bayan Muna party-list group, had admitted that the Maute group was already on the run.

The irony, Zarate said, was that when the battle in Marawi was raging, Congress only extended martial law for five months.

"Now that the battle in Marawi was over, Congress extends (martial law) by one year. This is absurd," he said. —WITH A REPORT FROM ALLAN NAWAL INQ

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# SC receives 3rd petition vs martial law extension

By REY G. PANALIGAN

Former Human Rights (CHR) chairperson Loretta Ann Rosales yesterday asked the Supreme Court (SC) to declare unconstitutional the extension of martial law in Mindanao until Dec. 31, 2018.

Rosales told the SC that mere threats of violence do not justify the declaration of martial law because the Constitution provides that the imposition of martial law and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus can be done only in case of invasion, rebellion or when the public safety requires it.

The Rosales petition, filed through former solicitor general Florin ►6

Hilbay, is the third case elevated to the SC questioning the extension that was approved by Congress by a vote of 240-27 and the Senate by a vote of 14-4 last December 13.

The High Court set oral arguments starting January 16 on the first two petitions filed by the group of Rep. Edcel Lagman and a group of Party-List members of Congress through the National Union of People's Lawyers.

Earlier, Solicitor General Jose Calida – in behalf of government agencies named as respondents – asked the SC to dismiss the petition filed by Lagman's group not only on a technicality but also on substantial legal grounds.

Calida was ordered to file his comment on the second petition not later than 5 p.m. today.

It is expected that the Rosales petition, if found without technical defect, would be consolidated with the first two petitions and included in the oral arguments.

## No actual invasion

In her petition, Rosales said President Duterte sought the extension of martial law in Mindanao to ensure total eradication of local and foreign terrorist groups since “despite the death of [Isnilon] Hapilon and the Maute brothers, the remnants of their groups have continued to rebuild their organization through the recruitment and training of new members and fighters to carry on the rebellion.”

But Rosales said the Constitution provides that to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion, the President's calling-out power

should be exercised by directing the military to prevent such violence, rebellion or invasion.

“Actual invasion or actual rebellion presupposes the existence of a theater of war that requires the imposition of military law on the civilian population. Thus, in the absence of an actual invasion or actual rebellion, necessarily, there is no factual basis for extending martial law,” she said.

In urging the High Tribunal to act favorably on her petition, Rosales said “the Honorable Court is the last institution that can prevent the misuse and ‘normalization’ of martial law for ordinary peacekeeping and governance activities.”

Martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao was first imposed by President Duterte for 60 days on May 23, 2017 following the attack on Marawi City by the ASG/Maute Group. It was extended by Congress until Dec. 31, 2017 upon the request of the President.

The High Court ruled on the constitutionality of the President's proclamation on May 23, 2017.

## Factual, legal basis

But Malacanang insists the one year extension of martial rule has firm factual and legal basis.

“We welcome the challenge but the two branches of government - the executive and the legislative - have already found factual and legal basis for the declaration of martial law,” Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said in a press briefing in Bukidnon.

“The declaration of martial law, the extension for a year enjoys overwhelming presumption of constitutionality,” he added.

## Instruction No. 1

Meanwhile, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Governor Mujiv Hataman warned absentee and non-performing local chief executives of sanctions following the issuance of Martial Law Instruction No. 1 by Martial Law administrator and defense secretary Delfin Lorenzana Monday.

The order called for a close monitoring of the performance of local chief executives in Mindanao.

Lorenzana said the absence of local chief executives, “in some cases, results in the total failure in the delivery of vital basic services to their constituents.”

“This situation presents a very serious concern as the lack of basic services leads to a general dissatisfaction with government, which has been determined to be one of the leading causes for individuals to join rebel, or extremist groups,” Lorenzana said.

In Instruction No. 1, Lorenzana directed the military, the police and other law enforcement agencies in the area to assist Hataman and provincial chief executives in monitoring the local chief executives.

“At the end of each month, regular compliance and evaluation reports are to be consolidated at the provincial level and submitted to the Office of the Martial Law Administrator,” the order read.

Some local officials in Mindanao are seldom seen in their areas of responsibility after election. (with reports from Genalyn D. Kabling and Nonoy E. Lacson)



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### PEACEKEEPERS | 4ID Welcomes 65th Infantry 'Stalwart' Battalion

*Atin Santiago*

**CAMP EVANGELISTA, Patag Cagayan de Oro City (DWDD)** – The AFP's Eastern Mindanao Command deployed an additional peacekeeping battalion to the 4th Infantry Division today, January 10, 2018, in an effort to allay fears of the people in Northern Mindanao on the threats posed by the terrorists NPA.

The 65th Infantry (Stalwart) Battalion of the 9th Infantry Division, Philippine Army headed by LtC Richard B Rabaca was formally welcomed at the Hqs of the 4th Infantry Division. Aside from their traditional military operations against threat groups, the 500 strong soldiers boost the army's capability in responding to natural and manmade calamities.

The deployment of 65IB would help hasten 4th infantry Division's operations to defeat the terrorist NPA. The full might of the battalion shall be employed against armed terrorist, while the battalion will also initiate community-based dialogues to enlighten the members of illegal secret associations organized by the terrorist NPAs in the villages.

On behalf of MGen Ronald Villanueva, 4th Division Commander, the Assistant Division Commander for Operations, BGen Cristobal Zaragoza, warmly welcomed the officers, men, and women of 65th Inf Bn as he reminded them to maintain the Army's highest standard of discipline as well as perform with excellence their mandate of protecting the people against all threats.

He said, "To all of you, soldiers of this battalion, we expect that you will always bear the professionalism as you execute your tasks. We support the intent of our Commander-in-Chief to protect the state and the people. Again, be reminded that you have to perform only your duty as a disciplined soldier."

*"Build bridges from among the people, earn their respect and gain friends. There is no room for any Human Rights violations. We have already gained an immeasurable people's support in this part of the country. Don't let one mistake destroy what we have sacrificed for our Country."* BGen Zaragoza underlined. **4DPAO / MCAG**



www.dwdd.com.ph

## TOKEN OF RECOGNITION | AFP Pay Increase a Morale Boost

Alvin Santiago

NSFA, Panacan, Davao City (DWDD) – Lt. General Benjamin Madrigal Jr., Commander of Eastern Mindanao Command welcomes the salary as troops morale boosting after President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed and approved the Joint Resolution increasing the salary of military and police.

*“This is a big morale boost to our troops and our respective family. While soldiers don’t count the cost of serving the country and our people, this is a token of recognition of the dedication and services of our soldiers, some of whom have offered the supreme sacrifice, in defending the country against threats to national stability. “*

*“This will also surely boost not only their morale as public servants, but their sense of dignity and honor as defenders of the country and its people as well.”*

*“Not only will this added take-home pay enable them to provide more for their families’ needs but this will also serve as a support to them in preparing for their future.”*

*“We thank the President for this increase as this only affirms the national government’s commitment to recognize and support those who put their lives at stake for the country. Rest assured that this will further inspire us to do even more to serve our beloved nation.”***EASTMINCOM MCAG**