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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

21 January 2118

Sunday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JANUARY 21, 2018 | SUNDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON
EASTERLIES AFFECTING THE REST OF THE COUNTRY
as of 5:00 am - January 21, 2018

SUNRISE 6:25 AM	SUNSET 5:49 PM
MOONRISE 8:31 AM	MOONSET 8:28 PM
NEW MOON JAN 17 10:17 AM	FIRST QUARTER JAN 25 6:20 AM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 7:38 AM -0.18 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 11:57 PM 0.99 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

JAN 21		JAN 22		JAN 23		JAN 24		JAN 25		JAN 26	
METRO MANILA	23 - 31 °C	23 - 30 °C	21 - 26 °C	21 - 28 °C	24 - 29 °C	25 - 29 °C	TACLOBAN	24 - 29 °C	25 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C	25 - 29 °C
TUGUEGARAO	21 - 31 °C	21 - 30 °C	24 - 28 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 29 °C	25 - 29 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 29 °C	25 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C	25 - 29 °C
LAOAG	22 - 31 °C	22 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C
BAGUIO	16 - 25 °C	16 - 25 °C	25 - 29 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	23 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

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

SABOT KO, PULALA MO!

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CHINA SHOOS AWAY US WARSHIP FROM PANATAG SHOAL

STORY BY REUTERS AND XINHUA NEWS AGENCY

The US Navy's guided missile destroyer USS Hopper sailed within 22 kilometers of Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal on Wednesday night, triggering an alert by the Chinese Navy and angering Beijing which, like the Philippines, claims the rock outcrop in the West Philippine Sea and calls it Huangyan Island. After driving the US warship away, China said it would take 'necessary measures' to ensure its sovereignty is protected. The shoal lies 230 km west of Zambales province.

Å

FROM A1

China's foreign ministry has accused a US warship of entering what it claims as its territorial waters in the West Philippine Sea without permission and said it would take "necessary measures" to ensure its sovereignty is protected.

The guided missile destroyer USS Hopper came within 22.22 kilometers (12 nautical miles) of Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea on Wednesday evening, a ministry spokesman said on Saturday.

China calls the shoal (Huangyan Island, a disputed rock outcrop in the West Philippine Sea, part of the South China Sea claimed by the Philippines as well as China. It is called Panatag Shoal by Manila and lies 230 km west of Zambales province.

This means it is within the 120-km exclusive economic zone of the Philippines.

China's Navy ordered the vessel to withdraw after deter-

mining its identity, foreign ministry spokesperson, Lu Kang, said in a news briefing in Beijing.

In Manila, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana was largely mum on the US warship's action.

"We do not have a say on whatever the Americans do in the South China Sea," Lorenzana said in a text message to the Inquirer.

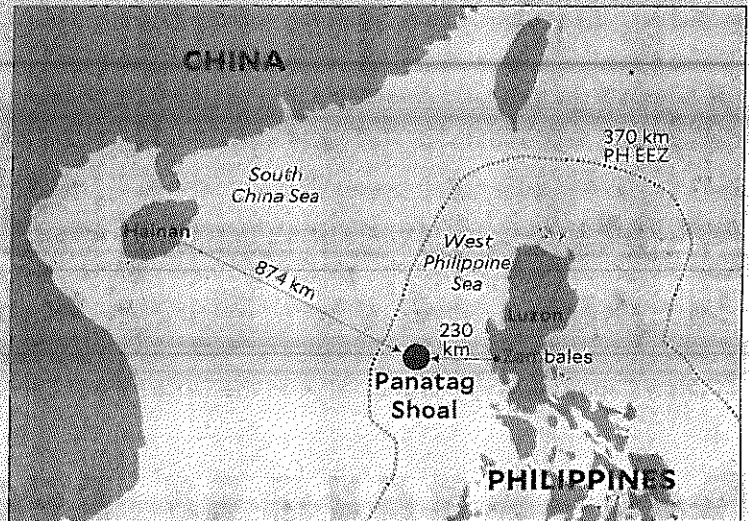
'Freedom of navigation'

Asked whether the Department of National Defense was aware of the USS Hopper's presence in the region, he said: "They do not inform us beforehand of their activities there."

A critic of the Duterte administration's policy in the West Philippine Sea, Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano, said the US warship was likely on routine "freedom of navigation" exercise in the region.

The Philippine government, he said, is no longer interested in patrolling the waters around Panatag Shoal. "We only patrol that area once a month," he said.

INSIDE THE PHILIPPINES' EEZ



INFO GRAPHICS

Lu said the warship violated China's sovereignty and security interests and threatened the safety of its vessels and personnel in the vicinity.

The United States has criticized China for constructing islands and military installations in the region, saying they

could be used to restrict free nautical movement.

US vessels have conducted a series of "freedom of navigation" patrols in the region.

In a separate statement on Saturday, China's defense ministry said the repeated dispatch of US warships to the region

was “undermining regional peace and stability” and hurting bilateral relations.

The encounter between the two navies adds to long-standing tension between the US and China in waters contested by at least six nations, including Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Northeast gateway

The shoal is seen as a strategic point among the claimants because it is within easy striking distance of US forces stationed in the Philippines. A military outpost there could also stop other navies from using a northeast gateway to the area.

Beijing and Manila have tussled over the shoal on and off since 2013, when Manila took its case to an international arbitration tribunal in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The tribunal ruled last year that the controversial “nine-dash line,” which underpins Beijing’s claim to most of the South China Sea, had no legal basis.

President Duterte had said that he did not expect China to

build on Panatag Shoal because of Manila’s warming ties with Beijing.

Basic protocols

The US Navy’s behavior broke basic protocols of international relations, Lu said.

“China will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard its sovereignty,” he said, adding that Beijing has “indisputable sovereignty over Huangyan Island” and its adjacent waters.

Lu did not say what measures China would take if the US Navy sailed again near the islets and shoals it claims in the South China Sea.

“China respects and safeguards the freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea for all countries in accordance with international law, but resolutely opposes any country’s move to impair China’s sovereignty and security interests in the name of freedom of navigation and overflight,” Lu said. —REUTERS, XINHUA

NEWS AGENCY; WITH REPORTS FROM JAYMEE T. GAMIL AND DJ YAP INQ

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Reds continue drive to retake Leyte's upland areas – Army

TACLOBAN CITY – Armed rebels in Samar provinces continue to strengthen their organization in Leyte Island in an effort to regain their former strongholds, the Philippine Army has confirmed.

Philippine Army 802nd Brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Francisco Mendoza, said Friday a captured member of the New People's Army (NPA) from Northern Samar bared the plan.

"Rebels have only 40 members in Leyte province, but most of them are armed. The augmentation comes from Northern Samar," Mendoza said in an interview.

On January 4, two days after the end of the holiday truce, at least two NPA members were killed in the latest clash between rebels and government troops in the upland village of Hilapnitan in Baybay City.

The soldiers from the 78th Infantry Battalion acted on a report from residents about the armed rebels' extortion activities in the community.

The army also recovered two rifles from the rebels. No one from the government side was killed in the clash.

The most aggressive attempt was last August, which led to a five-day gun battle. The clashes led to the discovery of NPA camps and drove the rebels to go upland, farther from the settlements.

However, Mendoza clarified that the recent series of clashes in the province is not an indication of the strengthening force of the

insurgents but is rather "a manifestation of their effort to regain their lost grounds in Leyte."

"The rebel groups are having a hard time gathering support, convincing and recruiting residents in Leyte to join the movement," he said, attributing this to the intensified implementation of the government's infrastructure projects with livelihood programs and delivery of basic health services to far-flung villages in Leyte.

Mendoza added that the difficulty in recruiting new rebels is also an indication that the military and the Philippine National Police in Leyte are in full control of the peace and order situation.

"We intend to keep this until such time that we can declare Leyte as completely insurgency-free," he added.

Brig. Gen. Mario Lacurom, commander of the Army's 803rd Brigade, confirmed the move of rebels to send their men to Leyte as reinforcement.

About 150 armed rebels are operating in Northern Samar and the first legislative district of Samar province.

"We want to call the cooperation of everybody in our effort to secure peace and order because the military should not be at the forefront in the campaign but rather we should only be a support group. Insurgency cannot be solved through military operations, but by addressing the issues and concerns of people vulnerable to the influence of rebels," Mendoza said. **PNA**

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Pahina. 2

10 NPA sumurender

CAMP NAKAR, LUCENA CITY – Bunsod ng kahirapan ng buhay sa kabundukan at pagmamalabis ng mga matataas na lider, sampung miyembro ng teroristang New People's Army ang sumurender at nagbalik-loob sa pamahalaan, kamakalawa. Ayon kay AFP Southern Luzon Command Chief, Lt. Gen. Danilo Pamonag, nagtungo sa kampo ng 901st Infantry Brigade sa Daraga Albay sa pamumuno ni Brig. General Alden Juan Masagka ang mga rebelde at isinuko ang kanilang mga sarili kasama ang tatlong M16 armalite rifle, isang 12 gauge shotgun, isang M79 grenade launcher, isang IED, mga bala, medical kits, at mga subersibong dokumento. Isasailalim sa debriefing at makakakuha ng tulong mula sa pamahalaan ang mga sumukong sina alyas 'Erick', 'Mando', 'Shiela', 'Inoy', 'Ruzzle', 'Lupen', 'Tamoy', 'Lyka', 'Nonoy', 'Marie', at 'Enchong'. (Tony Sandoval)

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Abu Sayyaf frees 2 Indonesians

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Two Indonesian sailors kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf bandits in 2016 were released in Sulu on Friday.

La Utu bin La Raali and La Hadi La Edi, captains of two Malaysian fishing vessels, were escorted by "unidentified emissaries" to the house of former Sulu governor Abdusakur Tan Sr. in Barangay Asturias, Jolo at about 7:30 p.m., reports reaching the Joint Task Force Sulu showed.

Tan alerted the task force on the release of the Indonesians after providing them with food

and other necessities.

The Indonesians were brought to a military hospital at Camp Bautista in Barangay Busbus for medical checkup.

The military did not give details on the circumstances leading to the release of the sailors.

Raali and Edi were snatched in the waters off Kuala Kinabatangan in Sabah near Taganak island, Tawi-Tawi on Nov. 5, 2016.

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding three other Indonesians who were taken with four other crewmembers of a fishing boat off Merabong near Kunak district in Sabah on Nov. 19, 2016.

A Dutch man, a Vietnamese and four Filipinos remain in the hands of the bandits.

With 11 additional battalions deployed in Sulu, the military has intensified its operations to neutralize Abu Sayyaf bandits and rescue their remaining hostages.

Sayyaf man falls

Meanwhile, Faizal Attong

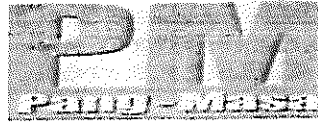
Sariul, alias Ziad, 35, a native of Barangay Landang Laum on Sacol island, was arrested in a village near a police camp in this city also on Friday.

Sariul has a standing warrant of arrest for kidnapping and serious illegal detention for taking Golden Harvest plantation workers in Barangay Tairan, Lantawan, Basilan on June 11, 2001, Chief Superintendent Billy Beltran, Zamboanga peninsula police director, said yesterday.

Sariul is the fourth Abu Sayyaf bandit arrested in connection with the Golden Harvest kidnapping in the past week.

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Pahina. 1

2 Indonesian hostages pinalaya ng Sayyaf

Dalawang bihag na tripulanteng Indonesian ang pinalaya na ng mga mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) nitong Biyernes ng gabi sa isang liblib na lugar sa Sulu.

Kinilala ang mga pinakawalang hostage na sina La Utu bin La Raali at La Hadi La Edi.

Sa ulat ni Sulu Provincial Police Office (PPO) Director P/Sr. Supt. Mario Buyucan, dakong alas-7:30 ng gabi nang palayain

ng mga kidnapers ang dalawang dayuhan.

Ang mga hostages ay ipinasa ng mga emisaryo sa tahanan ni dating Sulu Gov. Abdusakur "Sakur" Tan Sr. sa Brgy. Asturias, Jolo ng lalawigan.

Nang matanggap ang impormasyon, agad namang sinundo ang dalawang dayuhan ng tropa ng militar sa pangunguna ni Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu Commander Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana.

Ang dalawang bik-

tima ay kabilang sa mga tripulanteng binihag ng mga bandido matapos na harangin ang M/V Ching Kai Ling fishing vessel noong Nobyembre 5, 2016 sa pagitan ng karagatan ng Pegasus Reef at Kuala Kinatabangan malapit sa Taganak Island sa Tawi-Tawi.

Sumasailalim sa medical examination sa Kuta General Teodulfo Bautista Hospital ang mga pinalayang tripulanteng dayuhan (*Joy Cantos*)

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ARMY MEN CLASH WITH MAUTE

GOVERNMENT troops and 10 rebels identified with the ISIS-linked Maute group in Masiu, Lanao del Sur clashed shortly after midnight Saturday during combat operations by soldiers, military sources said.

The sources said troops from the 49th Infantry Battalion encountered the group of local terrorists in Barangay Kallangan at around 12:20 a.m. No casualties were reported from either side.

ISIS stands for Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and is an extremist militant group that rules by Wahhabi/Salafi law. In Arabic, the group is also known as Daesh.

An example of ISIS is the terrorist group that is known for kidnapping western journalists and aid workers as part of their tactics.

According to the military, the terrorists are members of a group headed by one Maute group (Daulah Islamiyah) leader Najib Pundog.

Troops recovered after the encounter an ISIS flag, drug paraphernalia, an M203 grenade

Turn to A2

launcher, binoculars, a hand grenade, an RPG, and RPG fuses, anti-tank RPG and 40mm ammunition, the sources said, adding troops were continuing to scour the area.

The Maute group, which has pledged allegiance to international terrorist group ISIS, seized Marawi City in late May, resulting in an armed conflict that dragged on for five months, which prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to impose martial law throughout Mindanao.

Remnants of the terrorist group are believed to be recruiting civilians around Marawi City in exchange for money.

The martial law declaration in the southern region, which was supposed to be lifted in July last year, has been extended until Dec. 31, 2018.

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Pahina. 1

Encounter: 7 sundalo sugatan

Pitong sundalo ang nasugatan makaraang makasagupa ang mga pinaghihinalaang stragglers ng Maute terrorist sa bayan ng Masiu, Lanao del Sur nitong Sabado Ayon kay Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., Deputy Commander ng Joint Task Force (JTF) Ranao dakong alas-2:00 ng madaling araw nang makasagupa ng tropa ng militar ang nalalabing Maute terrorists na nagtatago sa lugar.

Sinabi ni Brawner na ang bakbakan ay sumiklab kaugnay ng patuloy na pagtugis ng mga sundalo sa Maute terrorists na tumakas noon sa Main Battle Area (MBA) sa lungsod ng Marawi.

Sa nasabing engkuwentro ay nagkaroon ng palitan ng putok sa pagitan ng magkabilang panig na ikinasugat ng anim na sundalo.

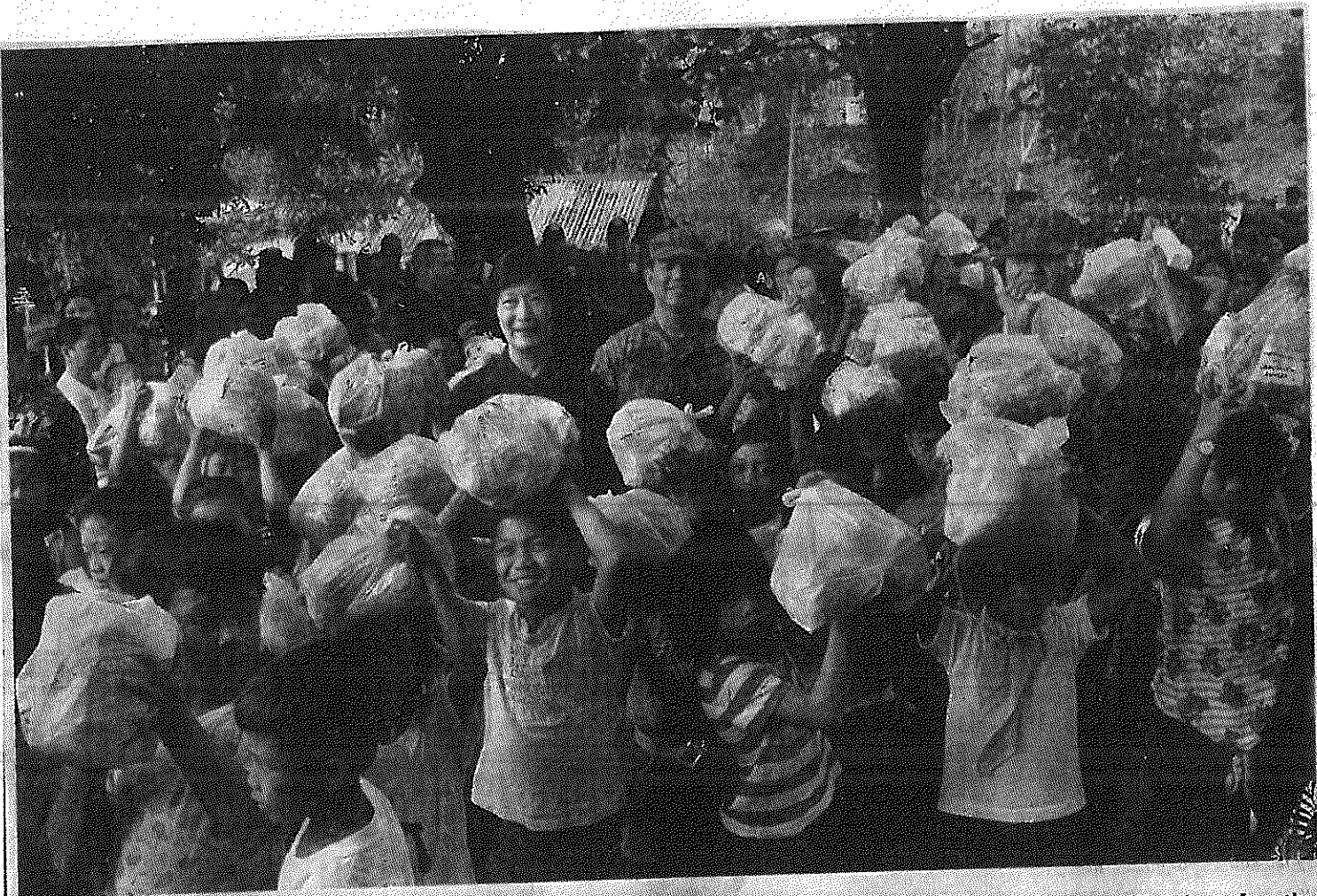
Nabatid rin ang bayan ng Masiu ay nasa 54 kilometro lamang ang layo sa Lanao Lake na kabilang sa pinagtayuan ng satellite camp ng mga terorista sa kasagsagan ng Marawi City siege.

Nagpapatuloy naman ang pinaigting na opensiba ng tropa ng mga sundalo laban sa Maute stragglers at iba pang grupong banta sa pambansang seguridad. *(Joy Cantos)*

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The Manila Times

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HERITAGE GIFT Some 800 public elementary school children from various villages in Tarlac province receive gift packages from the Heritage Foundation with the Armed Forces of the Philippines. PNA PHOTO

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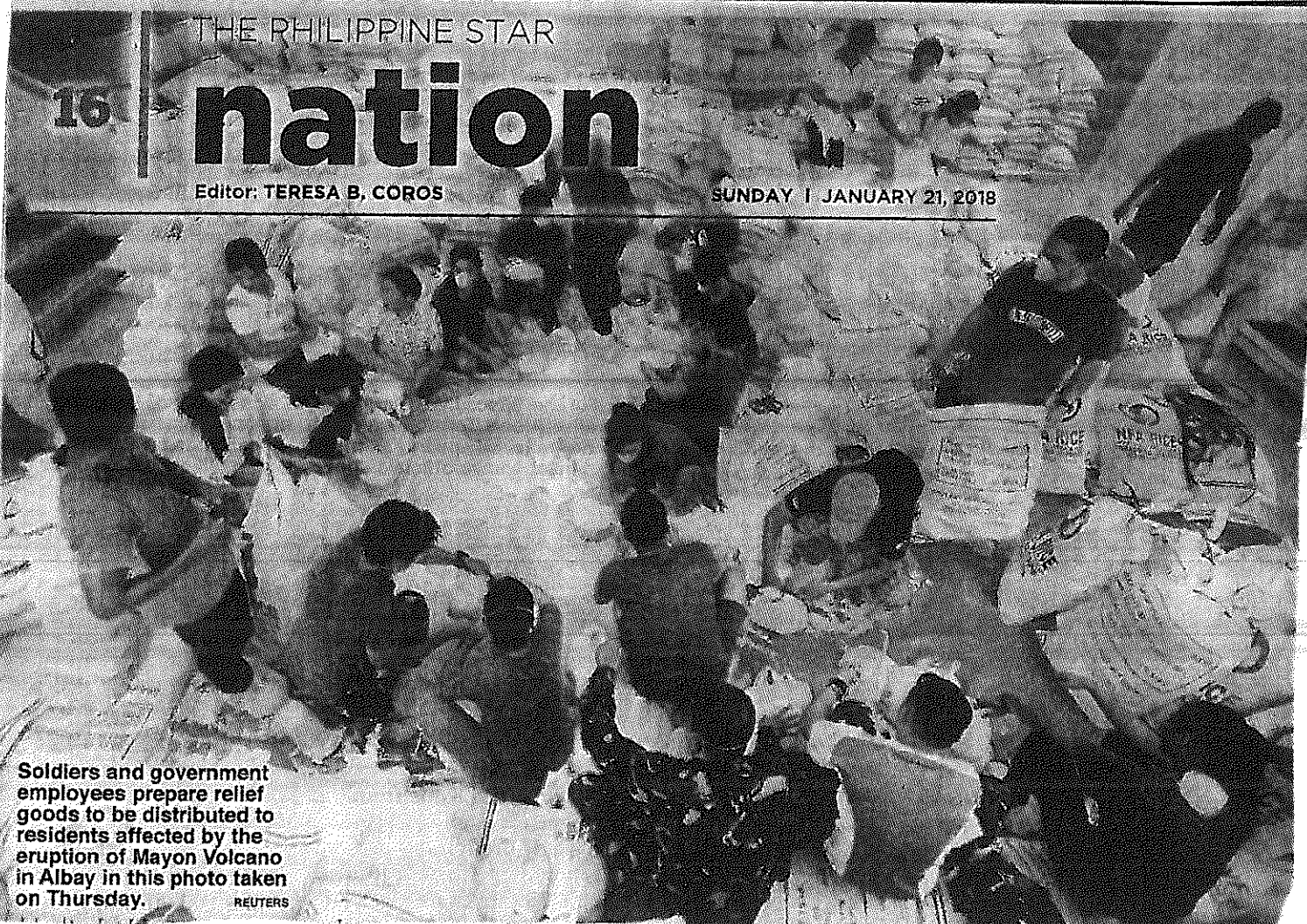
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

16

nation

Editor: TERESA B. COROS

SUNDAY | JANUARY 21, 2018



Soldiers and government employees prepare relief goods to be distributed to residents affected by the eruption of Mayon Volcano in Albay in this photo taken on Thursday.

REUTERS

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Search for bombs delays

Marawi rehab

MARAWI CITY—Government soldiers continue to find unexploded bombs in areas that had become battlefields during the war on terror here, delaying the start of rehabilitation efforts, according to a high-ranking military official.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy chief of Joint Task Force Ranao, which supervises security operations in the city, told Inquirer while soldiers had not encountered any more Islamic State (IS) followers in the city, they continued to find unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted by fleeing terrorists.

Some of the unexploded ordnance were artillery heads fired by either the military or the IS-affiliated Maute and Abu Sayyaf Group. They also included bombs dropped by military planes that did not explode.

Slow task

The IEDs were planted by Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen to deter the advance of government soldiers, but were



This area in Barangay Lilod Madaya in Marawi City remains off-limits to civilians. —DIVINA SUSON

left unexploded when the terrorists fled.

Since President Duterte declared the city liberated from terror in October, Brawner said soldiers had already recovered and safely disposed of at least 560 unexploded bombs and IEDs.

He said as of Friday, the Joint Task Force Ranao had finished clearing only three of nine sectors of the battle area. The task force had divided the main battle zone into nine sectors to make the work of clearing these more efficient.

At least 35 percent of the

main battle area had been cleared, but more unexploded bombs were believed to be in at least three sectors that were the sites of the fiercest clashes between government soldiers and terrorists in the city, according to Brawner.

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Nine sectors

These areas, he said, were the last strongholds of terrorists and were adjacent to the lake.

Clearing operations by military and police bomb disposal teams are ongoing in a sector composed of the villages of Kapantaran and Wawalayan Marinaut, Brawner added.

Clearing operations were not moving as fast as authorities wanted it to because some of the unexploded bombs were buried deep in the ground and “difficult to excavate”. Some bombs were buried 10 meters deep, he said.

No civilians

The military expects clearing operations to be finished by April. Brawner said by that time, the Task Force Bangon Marawi could start rebuilding efforts.

Until the main battle zone, composed of at least 24 villages, had been cleared, it would remain off limits to civilians, including government officials, Brawner said.

—DIVINA SUSON INQ

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Arrest order vs Tiamzons violates agreement – Joma

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

ABS-CBN

The order for the re-arrest of peace consultants Benito Tiamzon and his wife Wilma violates the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) between the government and Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

Jose Ma. Sison, CPP founding chairman and NDF chief political consultant, made the allegation over the weekend as he stressed that JASIG is a vital agreement that guarantees the legal immunity of rebel peace negotiators.

"The (government) violates the JASIG and does not respect its own signature on solemn agreements. It does not generate trust and confidence but the opposite," Sison claimed over

The Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 32 issued warrants for the re-arrest of the Tiamzon couple and co-accused Adelerto Silva on Wednesday. The three are facing murder charges over the killing of 15 civilians in Leyte province.

Benito is identified as the chairman of the CPP-NPA while Wilma is the alleged secretary general.

The Tiamzons were arrested in 2014, but were granted temporary freedom to be able to participate in the peace talks in Oslo, Norway in 2016. However, President Duterte issued Proclamation 360 late last year to revoke the peace negotiations with NDF.

Sison said the Duterte administration has "undertaken priorly and subsequently other acts to escalate a counter-revo-

lutionary war against the people and the revolutionary forces"

He added that the government relies too much on brute force and intimidation and unwittingly incites the people and revolutionary forces to fight back.

Sison said the government is obliged to respect the JASIG, which requires a 30-day written notice in advance to the NDF to give safety allowance to negotiators, consultants and staff.

It also requires the government and the NDF to comply with the immunity guarantees for the afore-said negotiating personnel of either

side during and after the peace negotiations

"Said personnel should not be targeted for any surveillance, harassment and punitive action," Sison said.

He added that the NDF would still be working closely with peace advocates for the

resumption of peace talks either during Duterte's term or that of his successor.

The 78-year-old communist leader is also considering the possibility of asking the CPP-NPA "revolutionary court" to issue a warrant for Duterte's arrest for allegedly

sabotaging the peace negotiations.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Duterte earlier said the JASIG is deemed no longer in effect because the government has terminated the peace talks with communist rebels.

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Sayyaf man in 2001 beheadings falls

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Abu Sayyaf member tagged as the one who beheaded two Filipino workers in 2001 in a bloody gesture of mocking the then Arroyo administration has been arrested, the military said.

Abu Sayyaf had described the beheadings as an “Independence Day gift” to then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in retaliation for her refusal to call off military offensives against the terror group.

17 years in hiding

Faizal Attong Sariul, alias Ziad, was tagged by witnesses as the one who beheaded two of the 17 workers of Golden Harvest, a company that runs a coconut and rubber plantation in Lantawan, Basilan, who were kidnapped by the terror group on June 11, 2001. Sariul was just



Army soldiers on their way to the coconut and rubber plantation of Golden Harvest on June 11, 2001, following the kidnapping of workers by Abu Sayyaf. —DENNIS SABANGAN

17 years old then.

Senior Supt. Fergen Torred, head of the Western Mindanao police's intelligence division, said Sariul, who is now 38 years old and had been in hiding for 17 years, was arrested in the vil-

lage of Mercedes in this city by police serving a warrant.

Torred said witnesses pointed to Sariul as the Abu Sayyaf member who beheaded Golden Harvest workers Primitivo Falcasantos and Crisanto Suela on

June 12, 2001, a day after they were kidnapped and just as the country celebrated Independence Day.

Heads in a box

The terrorists, in a gesture of mocking Arroyo, placed the workers' severed heads in a carton box and left it on a roadside in Lantawan town, Basilan for all to see. When news of the gory display spread, Abu Sayyaf issued a statement declaring the heads to be their Independence Day gift to Arroyo.

Several weeks after the two workers were beheaded, Abu Sayyaf also beheaded one of its foreign hostages, American national Guillermo Sobero, to taunt Arroyo and scoff at military operations that had failed to pin the terrorists down. —JULIE ALIPALA INQ

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Active-duty troops to get 'free ride' in LRT-2

Starting yesterday, all troopers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will be able to ride the trains of the Light Rail Transit 2 (LRT-2) free of charge.

This is to honor the heroism and sacrifices made by soldiers in safeguarding the country against all forms of security threats, AFP public affairs office chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia said.

Last December 19, the AFP signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) for a partnership, giving due recognition to the sacrifices of men in uniform by offering them a free ride on LRT-2 trains.

Garcia said the MoA stipulates that all active military personnel, even in civilian attire, are entitled to ride the LRT-2 (Santolan-Recto), free of charge, upon showing their AFP identification cards as access pass.

The MoA was signed by then AFP Civil Relations Service head Maj. Gen. Ronnie Evangelista and LRTA administrator Reynaldo Berroya.

Garcia said the MoA was noted by AFP Chief-of-Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero and approved by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

"We are very thankful to the LRT Authority for their show of support to our troops in performing their duties. This is a big help to our soldiers. This certainly boosts the morale of our troops and gives us more reason to perform better in our mandate of serving the people and protecting the state," Guerrero said.

Aside from this partnership, both parties are looking forward to advance coordination to enable the AFP to provide ambulance and medical teams to assist the LRTA in emergency and crisis situations.

Meanwhile, the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) operator Light Rail Manila Corp. (LRMC) and Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad) inaugurated recently five additional drinking fountains to bring the total to 10 units across ten LRT-1 stations.

Now, more passengers have access to potable water at the Doroteo Jose, Tayuman, R. Papa, United Nations, 5th Avenue, Baclaran, Monumento, Roosevelt, Carriedo and Balintawak Stations.

"We are very excited to partner with Maynilad for the Ginha WASH program and hopeful to explore more locations for more drinking fountains for our passengers," said LRMC president and CEO Juan F. Alfonso.

"We look forward to more partnerships with Maynilad in the future, for a *biyaheng* better everyday experience for our riding public," the official added.

LRMC and Maynilad both aim to increase access to water, sanitation and hygiene as part of the station improvements of LRMC for LRT-1.

Since taking over last 2015, the private operator has undertaken a P500-million station improvement program, which is targeted for completion end-2018.

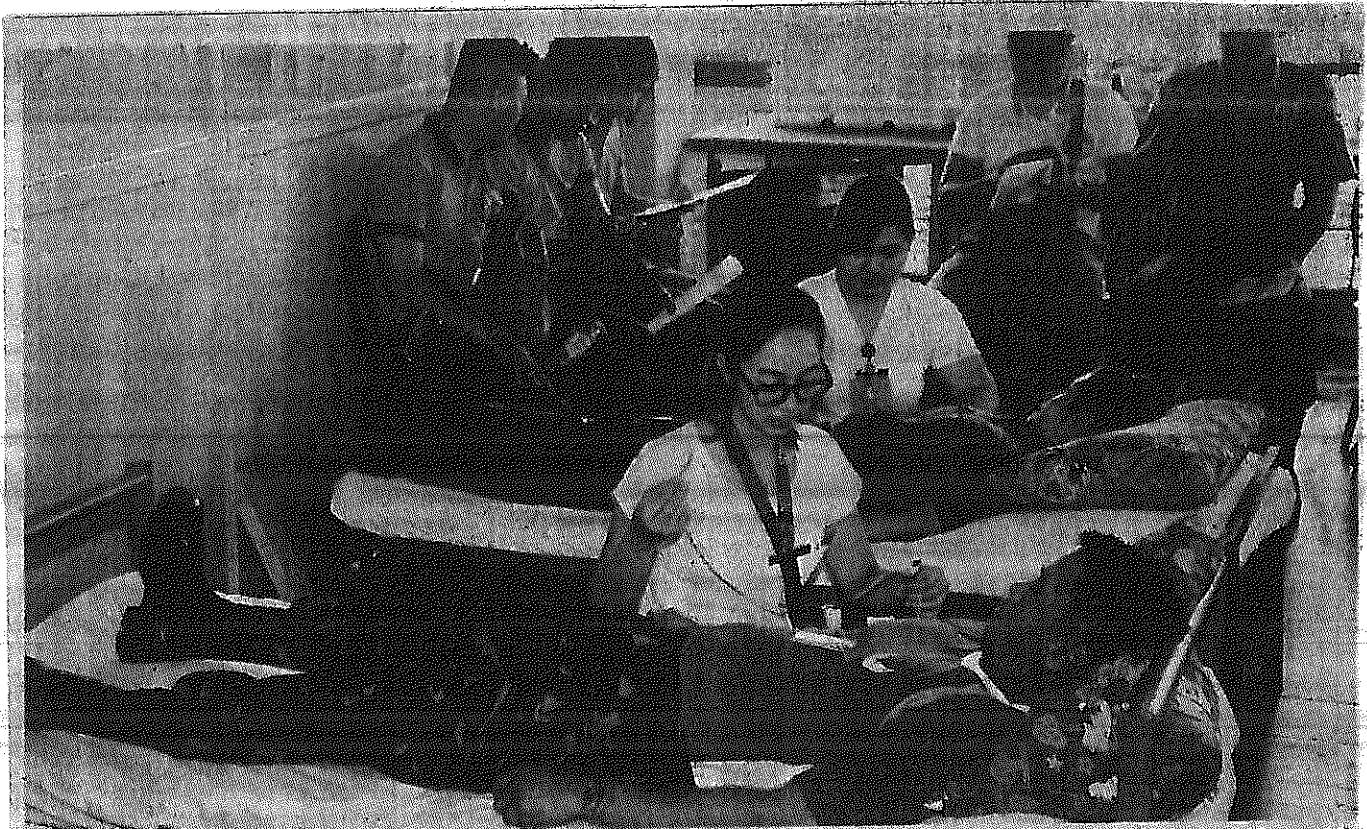
Ed Velasco and PNA

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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BLOOD DRIVE—Uniformed personnel are the first ones to answer to the call of a blood donation drive by the San Fernando City government at the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center in Barangay 2, San Fernando City, La Union last Friday. (Erwin G. Beleo)

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