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TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 January 2118

Monday

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

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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST JANUARY 22, 2018 | MONDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON
AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY
as of 8:00 am - January 21, 2018

LAOAG CITY 21 - 31 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 21 - 30 °C
BAGUIO CITY 16 - 26 °C	METRO MANILA 23 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK 23 - 32 °C	TAGAYTAY CITY 21 - 28 °C
HOLO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 31 °C	LEGAZPI CITY 24 - 30 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 31 °C	TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 31 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 32 °C	MELOLO CEBU 25 - 31 °C
	CAGAYAN DE ORO 23 - 31 °C
	METRO DAVAO 24 - 32 °C

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JAN 23 TUE	JAN 24 WED	JAN 25 THU	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JAN 23 TUE	JAN 24 WED	JAN 25 THU
METRO MANILA	23 °C 32 °C	23 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	20 °C 31 °C	21 °C 31 °C	21 °C 31 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C
LAOAG	22 °C 31 °C	23 °C 32 °C	22 °C 32 °C	METRO CEBU	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C
BAGUIO	16 °C 25 °C	16 °C 26 °C	16 °C 26 °C	TACLOBAN	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C
TAGAYTAY	21 °C 28 °C	21 °C 28 °C	21 °C 28 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
LEGAZPI	25 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 29 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 32 °C	23 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C

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

u January 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

DOE acts to avert summer blackouts

Power plants allowed to sell capacity at WESM

By MYRNA VELASCO

To avert a possible power shortage during the summer months, the Department of Energy (DOE) has allowed power plants without certificates of

compliance (COCs) to operate and sell their capacity at the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

"The Department of Energy and the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market agreed to allow power generation companies with expired ►6

DOE acts to avert...



COCs or with pending COC applications with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to operate and trade in the WESM,” Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi said.

The decision was anchored on Cusi’s “assurance that he will not allow any disruption in the country’s power supply as a result of the delay in the processing of applications before the ERC, including COC applications, due to the suspension of its four Commissioners.”

Power plants, before getting into commercial operations, are required to be thoroughly assessed and validated on their technical compliance as well as on parameters of cost recovery, because that will set the required level of reliability for the country’s power system.

In the ERC’s process, technical validation being done at power plants alone up to the completion of documentary requirements and processes would take 2-3 months, hence, it portends a not-so-promising summer months for Filipino consumers when it comes to electricity supply.

Cusi said “the move aims to protect electricity consumers by preventing disruptions in WESM transactions

while the ERC issue is being sorted out.”

He added that the decision was arrived at in a Resolution that was cemented by the board of directors of the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC), the operator of the electricity spot market.

“The paramount consideration is the overall protection of public interest and the security of the supply of power,” Cusi said, adding that “this is needed for the Philippines to meet its economic targets.”

The energy chief stressed that “this should take precedence over administrative issuances especially when an administrative body is unable to act.”

Power plants with 2,977.89-megawatt capacity have to renew their permits to operate while those with 1,971.49MW capacity have pending COC applications with the ERC.

It has been prescribed under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) and the corresponding rules of the restructured electricity sector that if power facilities with expired COCs will inject capacity into the grid so they can sell at the WESM, they are liable for penalties.

Energy Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella argued that “old plants with expiring COCs are supposed to file for renewal six months prior to expiration,” noting that with that as a process, these COCs could already be “deemed approved, so there are no penalties because these are deemed approved.”

He cited ERC Resolution No. 16 series of 2014 as legal ground, which stipulates that “COC is deemed approved when ERC fails to act on the same.”

He qualified though that these are still up for validation. “What I am driving at is: We will look into the details based on these rules and other options available under the law.”

Fuentebella added the DOE “will have to fill the gap from now until the new Commissioners come in.”

Under the DOE-PEMC resolution, it was specified that “power generation companies with expired COCs can continue trading upon proof of submission of their application for the renewal of their COC with the ERC.”

Further, the department emphasized that “new plants will also be permitted to trade or submit offers to the WESM upon proof of completion of testing and commissioning and other requirements for the issuance of a COC.”

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Soldiers battle Maute remnants; 6 wounded

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Government troops of the Joint Task Force “Ranao” encountered Maute-ISIS remnants and bombers in Lanao del Sur over the weekend, clashing for the first time since the govern-

ment declared victory over the terrorist group in Marawi City last October.

Army spokesman Major Ronald Suscano said six soldiers sustained minor shrapnel wounds as a result of the encounter.

The clash erupted after gov- ▶6

Soldiers battle Maute...

ernment forces encountered about 10 members of the Maute Group in a district in Lanao del Sur, a stronghold of the rebel group, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, Suscano said in a statement.

Major General Roseller G. Murillo, the commander of the army's 1st Infantry Division, disclosed that the encounter took place early Saturday morning when government forces responded to a report from concerned residents about the presence of armed militants.

The exchange of fire lasted about 35 minutes until the militants fled, said Murillo.

He added that the terrorists attempted to escape via the lake but soldiers were able to sink their two boats.

Operating troops collected one M-203 grenade launcher, two rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), three anti-personnel 60 mm RPG ammo, one anti-tank RPG ammo, three 40mm ammo, a hand grenade, two RPG fuse, one binocular, one ISIS flag, and several drug paraphernalia.

Murillo said this is the first encounter since the liberation of Marawi City was declared on Oct. 23, 2017.

He commended the operating troops for the successful operation.

“We shall continue to totally eliminate the remaining Daesh-inspired groups in Lanao Provinces and to sustain our efforts to prevent them from establishing Wilayat and spreading Daesh ideology in our joint area of operation,” Murillo said. (With a report from Reuters)

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11 soldiers, principal hurt as military truck falls into ravine

By **ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA**

ELEVEN soldiers and a school principal were wounded when a military truck accidentally fell into a ravine the other day in Zamboanga City.

Taken to the hospital for treatment were Sgt. Roy Romeo Rodriguez, 37; T/Sgt. Paterno Delgado Ramillano Jr. 43; Pfc. Ryan

Culipano Magsayo, 25; Pvt. Jay-Ar Padron Galera, 24; Pvt. Jestony Villacora Parba, 26; Pfc. Cresly Basalo Olasiman, 26; Pfc. John Mariing Galapate, 25; Sgt. Raymon Delaroso Bastonero, 39; Pvt. Mark Sarmiento Villasenor, 25; Pvt. Rene Jay Seraval Perin, 24; and Cpl. Edward Almonte Obad, 24, all of the Marine Battalion Team (MBLT) 11; and Joseph Naro Abalo, 59, school principal of Baluno

Elementary School and resident of Bgy. Pasonanca, Zamboanga City.

Reports said the incident occurred at 1:40 p.m. in Sitio Lugakit, Bgy. Sallaan, Zamboanga City.

Investigators said the victims were onboard a Philippine Marines M35 truck (SJM 292) driven by T/Sgt. Paterno Ramillo on their way back to their barracks after escorting a group that conducted an

outreach program.

When the military truck reached the said area, the truck's brakes failed, causing the driver to lose control of the steering wheel.

Investigators said the truck driver tried to avoid a vehicle ahead when it accidentally fell into a ravine down to the river bank.

Because of the strong impact of the accident, the passengers of the vehicle sustained minor injuries.

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GIFT-GIVING – Tarlac Heritage Foundation co-founder Dra. Isa Suntay in cooperation with Armed Forces of the Philippines Lt. General Rolando Joselito Bautista, Commanding General of the Philippine Army, Lt. General Emmanuel Salamat, AFP Commander NOLCOM, spearheaded the gift-giving mission to about 800 elementary school children in Tarlac City last Friday. The kids received snacks and gift packs. *Photo by JON-JON REYES*

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Ex-Army tiklo sa P50,000 shabu

Arestado ang isang dating tauhan ng Philippine Army makaraang makuhanan umano siya ng mga pulis ng P50,000 halaga ng ilegal na droga sa buy-bust operation sa Quezon City nitong Sabado.

Kinilala ni Supt. Rossel Cejas, hepe ng Batasan Police Station (PS-6), ang nadakip na si Athoniette Gerobiese, 42, dating operatiba ng

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Nauna rito, nakatanggap ang pulisya ng ulat tungkol sa pagbebenta umano ni Gerobiese ng droga sa karulang lugar sa Barangay Old Balara, Quezon City.

Matapos ang surveillance na nagberipika sa sumbong, ikinasa ng mga Drug Enforcement Unit ng Quezon City Police District

(QCPD) at PS-6, at Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) ang buy-bust bandang 10:00 ng gabi sa Don Francisco Street sa Bgy. Old Balara.

Nakumpiska umano mula sa dating sundalo ang limang sachet ng hinuhinalang shabu na nagkakahalaga ng P50,000, at P500 marked money.

**Alexandria Dennise
San Juan**

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Pahina. 6

Ex-soldier, 3 pa timbog sa droga

Isang dating sundalo at tatlong iba pa ang naaresto sa isinagawang buy bust at "bloodless drug operations" ng mga tauhan ng Quezon City Police District (QCPD) at nakumpiska mula sa kanila ang nasa P50,000 halaga ng droga sa Quezon City kamakalawa ng gabi.

Kinilala ni QCPD Director, P/Chief Supt. Guillermo Eleazar ang mga suspek na sina Anthonette Gerobiese, 42, dating kagawad ng Philippine Army na residente ng No. 474, Villa Beatriz St., Brgy. Old Balara, Federico Co, 48, ng Brgy. Sta. Lucia; Erwin Tuazon, 38,

ng Brgy. Tatalon at Jerry Darri-guez, 29, ng Panay Avenue corner Timog Avenue, pawang sa Quezon City.

Ang mga suspek ay nadakip dakong alas-10:00 ng gabi sa isinagawang buy bust operation ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng mga tauhan Station Drug Enforcement Unit ng Batasan Police at Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency-National Capital Region (PDEA-NCR) sa Don Francisco St., Brgy. Old Balara, Quezon City.

Ayon kay Gen. Eleazar,

nakatanggap ng sumbong ang kanyang mga tauhan mula mismo sa mga residente sa lugar hinggil sa pagtutulak ng bawal na gamot ng mga suspek kaya isinagawa ang surveillance operation.

Nang makumpirma na positibo ang rekiamo ay isinagawa ang 'bitag' sa mga suspek na nagresulta ng kanilang pagkaka-aresto.

Nakumpiska mula sa mga suspek ang limang white plastic sachet na naglalaman ng droga na nagkakahalaga ng P50,000. (Mer Layson)

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Pahina. 5

GOOD VIBES

Mga sundalo libreng sakay ng isang taon sa LRT-2

Nagkaloob ng libreng sakay sa loob ng isang taon ang Light Rail Transit 2 (LRT-2) sa mga sundalo na kasapi ng Armed Forces of the Philippines na sinimulan noong Sabado.

Ito ay kasunod ng paglagda sa memorandum of agreement ng AFP at pamunuan ng Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) noong December 2017.

Layon ng MOA na kilalanin ang sakripisyo ng mga sundalo para sa bayan lalo na ang mga nakipaglaban sa giyera sa Marawi.

Kabilang sa libreng sakay sa LRT-2 ang lahat ng military personnel kung saan ipipresenta lamang nila ang kanilang mga identification cards (IDs) bilang access pass sa libreng sakay.

Dahil dito, lubos naman ang pasasalamat ni AFP chief of staff Gen. Leonardo Guerrero sa ibinibigay na pagpapahalaga sa mga sundalo na walang humpay na nagsasakripisyo para sa kapakanan ng sambayanan.

Ang naturang memorandum ay epektibo na ngayong buwan ng Enero at tatagal hanggang December 2018. **(Betchai Julian)**

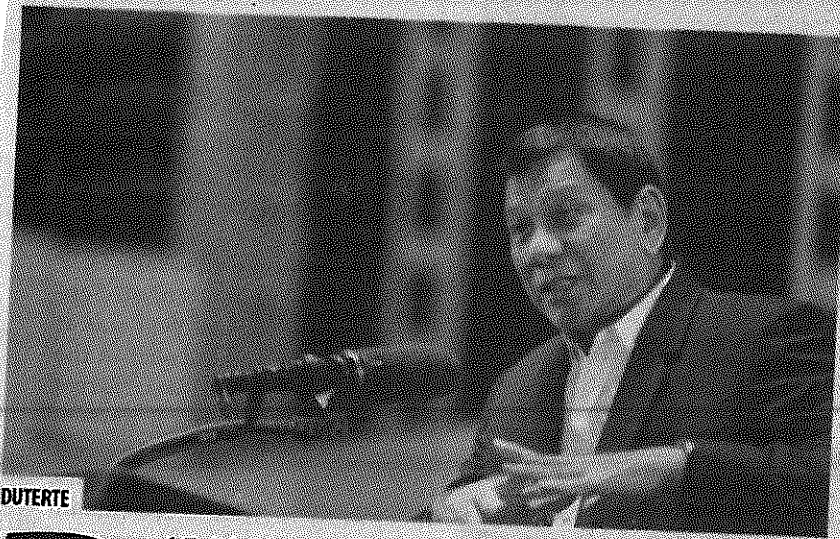


21 January 2018

BusinessMirror

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Duterte welcomes 2 NPA surrenderees



DUTERTE

DAVAO CITY—President Duterte last Saturday vowed an inclusive government for all as he welcomed two New People's Army (NPA) rebel returnees.

During the presentation of the NPA rebels at Matina Enclaves here, the Chief Executive pledged that NPA surrenderees would be welcomed and accepted.

Duterte expressed his gratitude to the two former rebels for deciding to surrender to government.

At the same time, Duterte appealed to the former NPA members for their continued support to his administration.

The President assured the rebel returnees of government's protection and assistance as they begin to immerse in the civilian way of life.

In previous statements, Duterte urged members of the NPA to surrender, vowing to provide them with houses and jobs.

Earlier, the President said it is his obligation to protect the rebels who will surrender to the government.

Each of the former rebels was given a transitory housing unit, cash and financial assistance, food packs and a smartphone.

Meanwhile, Duterte reiterated his desire for peace, noting that the war between the government and the communists has went on for an extended period of time.

According to the President, the economy in Mindanao, as well as in the whole country, would improve once peace is achieved.

He recalled that, in his years as the mayor of Davao City, his friendship with the communist rebels was forged by the shared experience of poverty.

The President referred to this as a common ground in understanding ideology and social issues.

Duterte, however, said that, as President, addressing the country's national security is his top priority and sought for the communists' understanding. *PNA*

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21 January 2018

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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Joma calls for mass protests vs Du30

LUCENA CITY—Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria “Joma” Sison on Sunday urged the youth to emulate the riots of the “First Quarter Storm” (FQS) of 1970 against the Duterte administration.

But President Duterte reiterated in Davao City that the communist movement in the country had become irrelevant after meeting on Saturday with communist leaders who had recently surrendered.

“The student youth of today can and should launch huge mass marches and rallies in the National Capital Region and in the provinces, like during the First Quarter Storm (FQS) of 1970,” Sison said in an online interview from his base in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Sison was referring to the social turmoil in 1970 caused by riots and demonstrations from late January to March of that year that then President Ferdinand Marcos used as a pretext to declare martial law.

Sison cited recent controversial events, like the Tax Re-

form for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law, moves to amend the Constitution and moves against press freedom, to incite the public against the government.

“With the signal act of the student youth, the rest of the people—workers, the peasants, women, youth of other sectors, cultural workers, professionals and religious—will participate in the mass-protest movement,” Sison said.

Surveys not true

Sison disputed the recent results of surveys conducted by Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia, whose questions and sampling methods he criticized as “not correct.”

“It is not true that Duterte enjoys high trust rating and popularity,” Sison said.

“We should not forget that Duterte was elected by a minority of the total electorate in 2016, only 39 percent, 25 [percent] of that in Mindanao and Cebuano part of Visayas and 14 [percent] from the bailiwicks of

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President Duterte engages in a discussion with the two rebel returnees from the New People's Army who were presented to the President at Matina Enclaves in Davao City on Jan. 20. —MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Marcos, Danding Cojuangco, Arroyo, Estrada and Remulla in Luzon," he said.

Lost relevance

But Mr. Duterte reiterated that the communist movement had lost relevance because people are already questioning the sincerity of their cause.

Mr. Duterte made the com-

ment when he met with National Democratic Front-Far South Mindanao Region (NDF-FSMR) spokesperson Noel Legazpi and his wife, Wendy Bendalian, who both surrendered.

Legazpi, also known as Ka Efren Aksasato, and his wife voluntarily surrendered to the military in Koronadal City on Jan. 15 through the help of South

Cotabato local officials.

Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander, the 27th Infantry Battalion commander, said Legazpi had voluntarily surrendered through the help of South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes.

"Governor Fuentes helped a lot in convincing Ka Efren to come down," Leander said, adding that Legazpi, 58, had

been NDF-FSMR spokesperson for 20 years, while Bendalian was the chief medic of the New People's Army's medical team.

The FSMR covered the provinces of Davao del Sur, South Cotabato, Sarangani and part of Sultan Kudarat and Davao del Sur.

Doing the right thing

One of the sources present at the President's meeting with the surrendered rebels said Mr. Duterte praised the couple for doing the right thing and called on others to follow suit.

Aside from meeting Legazpi, Mr. Duterte also attended the reunion of the Ateneo de Davao University High School Batch 1961, whose members—including Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez—were his classmates.

In his speech, Mr. Duterte said the Jesuit principles of social justice, selfless service and equality echoed "the government's unwavering call for genuine change in our country."

REPORTS FROM DELFIN T. MALLARI JR., ALLAN NAWAL AND EDWIN FERNANDEZ INQ

22 January 2018



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BOAT CAPTAINS

2 INDONESIANS HELD BY ABU SAYYAF FREED

By Julie Alipala
and Frinston Lim
@Team_Inquirer

ZAMBOANGA CITY— Two Indonesians abducted near Taganak Island in Tawi-Tawi in November 2016 have been freed by their Abu Sayyaf captors in Sulu, the military said on Sunday.

A military report said Indonesians La Utu bin La Raali and La Hadi La Edi were handed over to former Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan on Friday.

Tan told the Inquirer in a text message that he did not know the circumstances surrounding their release since the Indonesians were only brought to him.

Rear Adm. Rene Medina, commander of the Naval Forces in Western Mindanao, said the two Indonesians who were both boat captains of fishing vessels, were kidnapped off Taganak Island on Nov. 5, 2016.

"We were informed that JTF (Joint Task Force) Sulu commander (Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana) received a telephone call from former Gov. Sakur Tan Sr. indicating that two Indonesian kidnap victims were brought to his residence at Barangay Asturias, Jolo, Sulu, by a concerned citizen," Medina said.

Debriefing

He said the two freed kidnap victims were immediately fetched by operatives from the JTF Sulu for medical examination and debriefing.

The military had been trying to free the remaining kidnap victims in Sulu, according to Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command.

Based on the record of the military, nearly a dozen people—including foreigners—still remained in Abu Sayyaf captivity to date.

In September, two Indonesians kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf on Nov. 19, 2016, walked free after a clash between the military and the bandits in Sulu.

Saparudin bin Koni, 43, a boat skipper, and his deputy, Sawal bin Maryam, 36, were on a public utility vehicle when spotted by soldiers at a checkpoint at Barangay Bunot in Indanan, Sulu.

The Indonesian sailors were among foreigners snatched by the Abu Sayyaf from the waters bordering the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. INQ

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22 January 2018

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INQUIRER

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SENATE COMMITTEE TO PROBE NAVY'S P16-B WARSHIP PURCHASE DEAL

**By Christine O. Avendaño,
Jocelyn R. Uy
and Leila B. Salaverria**
@Team_Inquirer

The Senate committee on national defense and security will open inquiry into the controversial purchase of two Navy frigates next month, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said on Sunday.

Opposition senators called for the inquiry after President Duterte's closest aide had been reported to have meddled in the P16-billion deal.

Lacson, vice chair of the committee, said he and committee chair Sen. Gregorio Honasan II had agreed to hold the inquiry in February upon the request of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

Lacson said in a radio interview that Trillanes had to take a trip and would return in February, and that Honasan wanted to study the voluminous documents that had been sent to him.

Empedrad, Mercado

To be invited were new Navy chief Robert Empedrad and his predecessor, Ronald Joseph Mercado.

President Duterte's chief aide, Christopher "Bong" Go, would also be asked to appear because he was the "central figure" in the controversy, according to Lacson.

Go has been accused of taking special interest in the frigate acquisition project when he supposedly sent an unsigned letter to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana overruling the Navy's choice of a combat management system (CMS) for the frigates.

Go allegedly pushed for a CMS offered by another company.

Go has denied the allegation and both Lorenzana and Mercado have said he never intervened in the Navy project.

Opposition Rep. Gary Alejano also blamed Go's supposed intervention for the relief of Mercado last month. Mr. Duterte has designated Empedrad as Mercado's replacement.

AFP modernization

Go has denied having intervened in the project. In a statement, he said he would cooperate in congressional hearings "and face the false and malicious accusations" against him.

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Ronald Joseph Mercado

The Senate minority filed Senate Resolution No. 584 last week directing the committee on national defense and security and the congressional oversight committee on the Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Act to conduct an inquiry into the status of the modernization program and the purchase of two frigates.

Opposition senators wanted the inquiry to establish whether there were violations of the government's procurement laws and if the President's aides intervened in what they said was the first military procurement of the Duterte administration.

The project was first initiated by the Aquino administration in October 2015 to beef up the

country's territorial defense and disaster response capabilities.

Mercado on Saturday said he was willing to appear at the Senate inquiry. He insisted that nobody from Malacañang intervened in the program.

In an interview with Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar over Radyo ng Bayan, Mercado said he would take the hearing as a chance to present his side and that of the Navy's project management team.

He reiterated his earlier statement that Go did not meddled in the matter.

Lorenzana

The allegation of Palace interest in the project arose after Defense Secretary Lorenzana was given a document in Malacañang that favored a South Korean weapons systems supplier for the frigates.

The document assailed the Navy's preference for the Tacticos CMS made by Thales of the Netherlands but highlighted the advantages of the Naval Shield integrated CMS of South Korean Hanwha Systems.

Lorenzana gave the document to then Navy chief Mercado, telling him it came from Go and asking him to prepare a rebuttal.

Go's office also sent a letter to then Commodore Empedrad, who headed the frigate project's technical working group, to attend a meeting in Malacañang to discuss the selection of the CMS.

Lorenzana has since said he had wrongly assumed that the document had come from Go and that the latter had not intervened in the project.

In the radio interview on Saturday, Mercado said he had met Go several times, but the secretary had never asked him about or expressed any interest in any Navy project.

The President has never shown a similar interest in the project either, he added.

Mercado also said that whenever the Navy received communication from Malacañang, somebody from the Palace would call to follow it up. But there was no such call with regard to the document about the frigate that had been given to him. INQ

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22 January 2018



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Abu henchman nabbed in Basilan

By JOHN UNSON

COTABATO CITY – Authorities yesterday arrested a senior henchman of Abu Sayyaf leader Furudji Indama in Maluso, Basilan.

Chief Supt. Graciano Mijares of the Regional Police Office-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said agents cornered Andaang Mataun San, 47, in the town

proper of Maluso after a month-long surveillance.

In a report to Mijares, the Basilan provincial police said San turned himself in when he was shown an arrest warrant for murder issued by Judge Leojay Principe of the Regional Trial Court in Basilan.

The operation that resulted in the arrest of San was jointly carried out by combined personnel of the

Maluso municipal police, Basilan provincial police office, Military Intelligence Group 9 and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Mijares thanked officials of Maluso for helping the police locate San, a resident of Barangay Upper Mahayahay.

San is one of the key henchmen of Indama, the leader of a big Abu Sayyaf

group in Basilan.

Tausug and Yakan community elders confirmed that San started as a follower of an Abu Sayyaf sub-leader named Junaiver under Isnilon Hapilon, who was killed by pursuing soldiers in Marawi City in October last year.

San bolted Hapilon's group in 2015 and joined the Abu Sayyaf faction led by Indama.

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11 January 2018

The Manila Times

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Duterte to protect NPA surrenderees

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has vowed protection and assistance for New People's Army (NPA) rebels who will surrender to government authorities.

He made the assurance during the presentation of two former NPA rebels who surrendered over the weekend at the Matina Enclaves in Davao City.

"The Chief Executive pledged that NPA surrenderees would be welcomed and accepted; assured the rebel returnees of the government's protection and assistance as they begin to immerse in the civilian way of

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Duterte

life," the Palace said in a statement on Sunday.

The President also thanked the former rebels for laying down their arms and appealed for their support to the Duterte administration.

Each of the former rebels was given a transitory housing unit, cash and financial assistance, food packs and a smartphone.

The President first made the call to the NPA to lay down their arms in exchange for jobs back in November.

At that time, the President made the pitch in connection with the initiative of his daughter, Mayor Sara Duterte, to localize the peace

talks with the National Democratic Front (NDF)—the umbrella group of all communist organizations in the country – in Davao City.

The mayor said in July 2017 that she had an obligation to pursue a just and lasting peace and that the localized peace process would be comprised of the City Social Services and Development Office from the city government and representatives from the private sector "capable of offering alternatives to the rebels," such as providing livelihood and employment.

The Duterte administration last year called off peace negotiations with the NDF because of the communists' supposed violation of a ceasefire agreement and attack on a presidential convoy.

LLANESCA T. PANTI

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Pahina. 2

Sa dami ng itinanim na bomba AFP, PNP hirap sa clearing ops sa Marawi

Aminado ang militar at pulisya na nahihirapan sila sa isinasagawang clearing operations sa may 24 barangay sa Marawi City kahit halos tatlong buwan nang natapos ang labanan sa pagitan ng tropa ng gobyerno at Maute/ISIS.

Ito ay dahil sa pagkakatuklas ng Joint Task Force Ranao at Marawi City Police na maraming ibinaong hindi pa sumasabog na bomba ang mga terorista sa kasagsagan ng mainitang engkwentro noong nakaraang taon. Ayon kay Marawi City

Police Office Director Supt. Ebra Moxsir, na bagamat nasa 560 units na ng improvised explosive devices (IEDs) at mga hindi pa sumasabog na bomba ang narekober at nai-dispose ay nasa anim na sektor pa ang hindi nila nagalaw kasama ang militar.

Giit ni Moxsir na maingat na pumapasok ang mga tauhan ng Explosives Ordnance Division katuwang ang Army engineers, at K9 unit ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa ground zero dahil hindi pa nagalaw ang mga hindi pa sumasabog na bomba na nakalibing ng hanggang 10 metro ang lalim.

Sa kasalukuyan ay nakatutok na umano ang mi-

litar at pulisya sa kanilang clearing operations sa Sector F mula sa siyam na sectors na pinagpugaran ng mga terorista.

Nauna na ring inamin ni Joint Task Force Ranao Deputy Commander Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. na mas nahirapan ang government forces na mag-sagawa ng clearing operations sa Sectors G, H at I dahil ito ang mga huling area na pinagtaguan ng mga terorista.

Matatandaan na noong Mayo 23 nagsimula ang bakbakan sa pagitan ng gobyerno at teroristang Maute/ISIS at idineklara ni Pangulong Duterte ang liberation ng Marawi City noong Oktubre. (Gemma Garcia)

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22 January 2018



Pahina. 2

AFP at PNP hirap sa clearing operations sa Marawi City

Kahit halos tatlong buwan nang tapos ang giyera sa Marawi City ay inamin ng militar at pulisya na sila ay nahihirapan sa isinasagawang clearing operations sa may 24 barangay sa lungsod.

Matapos ang pagkakatuklas ng Joint Task Force Ranao at Marawi City Police na maraming ibinaong bomba na binaon ng Maute ang hindi pa sumasabog.

Ayon kay Marawi City Police Office Director Supt. Ebra Moxsir, nasa 560 units na ng improvised explosive devices (IEDs) na hindi pa sumasabog ang kanilang narekober at nasa anim na sektor pa ang hindi nila nagagalaw.

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Rody praises NDF couple surrenderers

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte had his hands full on weekend even as he met with Noel Legazpi, spokesperson of National Democratic Front (NDF) in the Far South Mindanao Region (NDF-FSMR), and his wife, Wendy Bendalian, at the Matina Enclaves in Davao City.

The two rebel leaders both surrendered to the military in Koronadal City on Jan. 15.

Duterte praised the couple, stressing that continuing to fight the government would have been futile.

The President had been calling on communist rebels to surrender, saying they would get houses and jobs if they do instead of dying for a "lost cause."

In December, Duterte pledged to "protect" rebels who would yield.

Legazpi, also known as Ka Efrén Aksasato, volun-

tarily surrendered with the help of South Cotabato officials, according to Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander, commander of the 27th Infantry Battalion.

He said 58-year-old Legazpi had served as NDF-FSMR spokesperson for the past 20 years while Bendalian was the chief medic of the medical team of the New People's Army.

Leander said the couple's surrender came about after months of negotiations with the help of South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes.

The FSMR covers the provinces of Davao del Sur, South Cotabato, Sarangani, and parts of Sultan Kudarat and Davao del Sur.

Aside from meeting Legazpi, Duterte was also scheduled to meet US-based gastroenterology specialist Dr. Pedro Dayrit, whom he had befriended years back. **Efrén Montano**

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6 wounded, as troops fight first clash with militants since Marawi battle

Reuters

Posted at Jan 21 2018 12:08 AM | Updated as of Jan 21 2018 12:52 AM

Government troops clashed briefly with pro-Islamic State militants in the volatile south on Saturday, the army said, in their first engagement since the government retook Marawi city in the country's biggest battle since World War Two.

Army spokesman Major Ronald Suscano said six soldiers were wounded in the encounter.

The clash erupted after government forces encountered about 10 members of the Maute group in a district in Lanao del Sur, a stronghold of the rebel group, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, Suscano said in a statement.

The military in October declared victory over the Maute group, which seized control in the southern city of Marawi on May 23, after killing the remaining militants, including a few foreign fighters.

More than 1,100 people, including 165 soldiers, died in the five-month conflict.

The siege of Marawi, the country's biggest security crisis in years, has stoked wider concerns that Islamic State loyalists have learned how to thrive in impoverished Muslim areas of the island of Mindanao and use its jungles and mountains as staging posts to launch attacks.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has extended martial law for all of this year in Mindanao, an island he called a "flashpoint for trouble" and atrocities by Islamist and communist rebels.

(Reporting by Karen Lema, Editing by William Maclean)

JCI treats Marawi soldiers to day of wellness

By Marilyn Galang January 21, 2018, 5:49 pm



FORT RAMON MAGSAYSAY, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija -- A group of young people treated members of the Special Operations Command (SOCOM) here for a day of wellness on Saturday.

Initiated by the Junior Chamber International-Golden Grains Chapter (JCI-GG) in Cabanatuan City, the gesture was to thank the soldiers for their sacrifices in liberating Marawi after a five-month siege by Islamic extremists.

"They got so much stress in Marawi it is about time we pampered them as a way to thank them," JCI-GG president Ervine Carla Abesamis said.

The wellness day for the soldiers began with a fun-filled Zumba session at the SOCOM Special Forces School here.

Abesamis said the soldiers who had joined the government security forces in the 153-day Marawi crisis were also given free manicure and massage therapy by wellness professionals.

The activity was done in cooperation with the provincial government of Nueva Ecija, particularly the Provincial Manpower Training Center and the Office of the Governor.

A Dagupan City-based fraternity also joined the activity, which also featured the military band performing love and patriotic selections as they shared food in a boodle fight.

Goods, including sacks of rice, were likewise raffled off for the soldiers. It was the first time the JCI Cabanatuan City ventured into this kind of service, according to Abesamis.

"It was touching to mingle with people whom you know dedicatedly fight for your safety, for the freedom of your beloved country," she said. Capt. Regidor Duldulao, who led a team of over 70 soldiers, said such treatment from the JCI speeds up the wounded soldiers' recovery. Duldulao, himself, was hit by shrapnel from a Maute-planted bomb. He said the gratefulness being expressed by some people affirms the soldiers' feeling that they did the right thing in Marawi.

"Thank you. This is a big help that boosts the morale of our soldiers because the troops have some bad experiences in Marawi. With this kind of activities, we are reminded that what we did was for the sake of our nation," he said. (PNA)

Pres. Duterte welcomes two NPA surrenderees

January 21, 2018, 9:45 am

DAVAO CITY -- President Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday vowed an inclusive government for all as he welcomed two New People's Army (NPA) rebel returnees.

During the presentation of the NPA rebels at Matina Enclaves here, the chief executive pledged that NPA surrenderees would be welcomed and accepted.

President Duterte expressed his gratitude to the two former rebels for deciding to surrender to government.

At the same time, Duterte appealed to the former NPA members for their continued support to his administration.

For his part, the president assured the rebel returnees of government's protection and assistance as they begin to immerse in the civilian way of life.

In previous statements, President Duterte had urged members of the NPA to surrender, vowing to provide them with houses and jobs.

He earlier declared that it is his obligation to protect the rebels who will surrender to the government.

Each of the former rebels was given a transitory housing unit, cash and financial assistance, food packs, and a smart phone.

Meanwhile, President Duterte reiterated his desire for peace, noting that the war between the government and the communists has went on for an extended period of time.

According to the President, the economy in Mindanao, as well as in the whole country, would improve once peace is achieved.

He recalled that in his years as the mayor of Davao City, his friendship with the communist rebels was forged by the shared experience of poverty.

The President referred to this as a common ground in understanding ideology and social issues.

Duterte however said that as a President, addressing the country's national security is his top priority and sought for the communists' understanding. **(PND)**