

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

23 January 2018

Tuesday

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

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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JANUARY 23, 2018 | TUESDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

CELESTIAL SPA

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON
FASTER WINDS AFFECTING THE REST OF THE COUNTRY
at 5:00 pm - January 22, 2018

SUNRISE 6:25 AM	SUNSET 5:51 PM
MOONRISE 10:33 AM	MOONSET 10:56 PM
NEW MOON JAN 17 10:17 AM	FIRST QUARTER JAN 23 6:20 AM
LOW TIDE 9:01 AM -0.02 Meter	HIGH TIDE 1:08 AM 0.81 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 24	JAN 25	JAN 24	JAN 25	JAN 24	JAN 25		
METRO MANILA	24 - 30 °C	24 - 29 °C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 27 °C	21 - 26 °C	TACLOBAN	23 - 29 °C	23 - 28 °C
TUGUEGARAO	21 - 28 °C	21 - 28 °C	LEGAZPI	25 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C
LAOAG	21 - 28 °C	21 - 28 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 23 °C	15 - 23 °C	ILOILO/BACLOD	26 - 30 °C	26 - 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	22 - 30 °C	22 - 30 °C	METRO CEBU	23 - 28 °C	23 - 27 °C			

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

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

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INQUIRER

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Alert level up as Mayon explodes

By Mar S. Arguelles,
Ma. April Mier,
Rey Anthony Ostria
and Michael Jaucian
@InquirerSLB

LEGAZPI CITY—The day turned to night as thick ash clouds and smoke from Mount Mayon's explosions on Monday blocked sunlight over parts of Albay province.

Two successive 10-kilometer-high ash columns that Mayon belched out at noon sent volcanologists raising the alert at the volcano to Level 4, signifying a hazardous eruption is imminent.

Alert Level 5 signifies a hazardous eruption is under way.

Most active volcano

"We expect possibly more explosions and we're on the alert for stronger ones," Director Renato Solidum Jr. of the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said at a press briefing in Quezon City.

Mayon, the country's most active volcano, has been spewing ash, lava and pyroclastic material since Jan. 13.

Solidum advised residents and tourists to avoid the danger zone and airlines to avoid flying near the volcano summit.

The danger zone around the 2,462-meter volcano has been expanded to a radius of 8 km.

Ash that the volcano released around 12:45 p.m. fell on three villages in the town of Camalig.

Cedric Daep, head of the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office, said the ashfall also affected the entire third district, particularly Guinobatan town and

Ligao City.

The ash caused zero visibility to motorists and rescuers from the military and disaster responders, who were evacuating residents from the 8-km radius of the volcano.

Zero visibility

Residents and netizens also reported zero visibility in villages 13 km from Mayon.

The wind also brought the ashfall to the province of Camarines Sur, causing Gov. Miguel Luis Villafuerte to suspend classes at all school levels in Rinconada district. Heavy ashfall was noted around 4 p.m.

Rinconada includes the towns of Baao, Balatan, Bato, Buhí, Bula and Nabua, and Iriga City.

Before the day turned dark, residents in Guinobatan and Camalig towns said they had heard rumblings and an explosion from the volcano.

Phivolcs instruments at the Lignon Hill Observatory recorded two explosive events minutes of each other, indicating a hazardous eruption may happen within hours, said Phivolcs science and research specialist Paul Alanis said.

Alanis characterized the event as a "vulcanian" eruption that brought ash cloud, lava

and pyroclastic flow.

A vulcanian eruption results from the sudden release of large quantities of magmatic gas, ejecting materials high in the air to form the cauliflower clouds that were observed on Monday.

"What is dangerous here are the pyroclastic flows, which have a heat index of 1,000 degrees Celsius. They are also very fast [that] we can't outrun these flows unlike the lava that is slow moving," he said.

Solidum said Alert Level 4 was raised to forewarn residents of stronger eruptions so they could leave.

The groups of evacuees, who were permitted to come home to their villages outside the permanent danger zone (PDZ) in the cities of Legazpi and Ligao, were evacuated again.

The evacuees were allowed to go home after Phivolcs declared that those in danger from the volcano's activities were only those living inside the PDZ.

Miladee Azur, head of Legazpi City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, said responders evacuated anew 11,522 people, who had gone home on Friday.

38,000 evacuees

In Camalig town, disaster risk reduction and management officer Rommel Negrete said authorities were expecting evacuees to reach more than 12,500 people.

As of 2 p.m., at least 38,196 people had been evacuated in the towns of Daraga, Camalig, Guinobatan, Malilipot and Santo Domingo, and the cities of Legazpi, Tabaco and Ligao.

Some 20 flights to and from Bicol were canceled on Monday.

—WITH REPORTS FROM JAYMEE T. GAMIL AND JOVIC YEE IN MANILA AND REUTERS' INQ

3 January 2018



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6 dead in Cotabato, ComVal clashes

Firefights break out as NPA rebels attack gov't detachment, village

KIDAPAWAN CITY—At least six were killed as clashes erupted anew between soldiers and communist rebels in North Cotabato and Compostela Valley provinces on Monday and Saturday, police and military reports said.

The clashes broke out as the military launched renewed combat operations against rebels in the wake of President Duterte's proclamation that tagged the New People's Army (NPA) as a terror organization.

Chief Insp. John Felongco Medel, police chief of Makilala town, North Cotabato, said a militiaman and three NPA rebels were killed in the clash that erupted early Monday in a remote village there.

Attack

In a radio interview, Medel said the firefight started when an undetermined number of NPA rebels attacked an Army and militia detachment at Sitio Garing in Barangay Luayon, Makilala, at 12:45 a.m.

The attack, he said, triggered an hourlong exchange of gunfire that left a militiaman dead and five other paramilitary troopers wounded.



In Albay province, members of the New People's Army surrender and turn over their guns to military officials in Daraga town. —MARK ALVIC ESPLANA

The bodies of the slain NPA rebels were recovered by members of the 39th Infantry Battalion (IB) in nearby villages, where the rebels fled, according to Medel.

In Compostela Valley, two NPA rebels were killed while a soldier was wounded during a clash in New Bataan town on Saturday, the military said.

Soldiers under the 66th IB were responding to reports of an attack in Sitio Tadia, Baran-

gay Bantacan, when they clashed with the rebels, numbering about 30, around 8:56 a.m. on Saturday.

High-powered guns

Lt. Col. Palmer Parungao, the 66th IB commander, said the bodies of the slain rebels had been recovered, along with five high-powered firearms, nine improvised explosive devices (IED), two binoculars, a rifle

grenade, electrical wires and blasting paraphernalia.

Also recovered, Parungao said, were five mobile phones, a handheld radio, medical kits, personal belongings, food and antigovernment documents.

On Jan. 12, soldiers also clashed with communist rebels in Magsaysay town, Davao del Sur province. —EDWIN FERNANDEZ, WITH REPORTS FROM FRINSTON LIM, ANDELIE AGUIRRE INQ

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Gun parts, ammo seized in Zamboanga

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Government troops have recovered gun parts and several types of ammunition from an armed group following an encounter in Zamboanga del Norte.

Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Battalion and members of the Citizen Armed Forces

Geographical Unit were patrolling Sitio Balas, Barangay Poblacion, Kalawit on Friday when they encountered members of the Suminggal group.

The suspects fled toward Barangay Palalian after a 30-minute gunfight.

“There was no reported casualty, but several war ma-

terials... were... abandoned by the retreating armed group,” Maj. Ronald Suscano, spokesman for the Army’s First Division, said yesterday.

Suscano said parts of a grenade launcher and M16 rifle, a hammock, ammunition for an M16 rifle and an M14 rifle, a pair of combat

boots and an Arabic booklet were recovered from the suspects.

The Suminggal group, which is reportedly involved in extortion and land grabbing in Zamboanga del Norte, is headed by a certain Monib Aquila. – **Roel Pareño, Michael Punongbayan**

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3 NPA rebels, militiaman slain in clash

By JOHN UNSON

NORTH COTABATO – Three communist rebels and a militiaman were killed in an encounter in Makilala town yesterday.

Seven other militiamen were wounded in the clash.

Around 50 New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas fired at a detachment of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit in Sitio Garing, Barangay Luayon, triggering a gunfight, Chief Inspector John Felongco Medel said.

"The militiamen were outnumbered, but still held the line and prevented the

rebels from getting near them," First Lt. Lea Canseran, civil-military relations officer of the 39th Infantry Battalion (IB), said.

The Makilala municipal peace and order council said the attack could be in retaliation for the losses the communists incurred in recent encounters in Magpet, Arakan and President Roxas towns.

More than 20 NPA rebels were killed in gunfights with militiamen and soldiers of the 39th IB in the past three months.

Canseran said the 39th IB is bracing for more attacks by the rebels.

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The Manila Times

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3 NPA rebels, Cafgu slain in encounter

BY JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: At least three communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels and a member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), were killed while six others were wounded in an encounter on Monday in a remote village of Makilala, North Cotabato.

Chief Insp. John Felongco Medel, Makilala town police chief, said NPA rebels harassed an Army and militia detachment in Sitio Garing, Barangay Luayon, at about 12:45 a.m. that triggered an hour-long exchange of gunfire.

Soldiers and policemen recovered the bodies of the dead, including the Cafgu member, while the six other wounded militia were brought to a hospital.

Police identified the slain Cafgu member as Jolito Apala, while the wounded were Joel Dagan, Edgar Delima, Jose Angcog, Oligario Rollurta, Raffy Aguanan and Jimmy Gonzaga.

The remains of three dead NPA rebels were recovered by responding elements of the 39th Infantry Battalion (39IB) in adjacent villages where the rebels fled. Lt. Colonel Rhojun Rosales,

39IB chief, said pursuit operations against the NPA rebels were ongoing.

The clash erupted while the communist rebels from Guerilla Front 53 is holding captive the deputy police chief of President Roxas town, Senior Insp. Menard Cui who was abducted December 28.

Meanwhile, Medel gave the assurance that the national highway linking Davao del Sur and North Cotabato remains passable in spite of the clash

that happened about eight kilometers away from the highway.

At about 5:25 a.m. two attack helicopters from the 10th Infantry Division conducted air strikes against the fleeing rebels following a clash in Barangay Luayon.

Lt. Lea Canseran, 39IB civil military operations chief, the air strikes targeted fleeing rebels in the mountains of Barangay Santo Niño, also in Makilala.

WITH AL JACINTO

January 2018

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 03

3 NPAs, 1 militiaman dead in North Cotabato firefight

BY VICTOR REYES

THREE members of the New People's Army and a government militiaman were killed yesterday in an attack staged by the communist group on an Army detachment in Makilala town, North Cotabato.

Lt. Lea Canseran, spokeswoman of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion operating in the province, said about 20 rebels attacked the Luayon detachment in Barangay Luayon at around 12:15 a.m.

Militiamen manning the detachment traded fire with the rebels belonging to the NPA's Guerilla Front 72 for almost two hours, or until the insurgents withdrew.

The fighting resulted in the death of one of the militiamen,

identified as Julito Apala, and wounding of six others.

In Sultan Kudarat, 10 NPA rebels surrendered to the police.

Chief Insp. Aldrin Gonzales, spokesman of the Soccsksargen regional police office, said the returnees are members of the NPA's Guerilla Front 73 Cherry Mobile Platoon under one "Mac-Mac."

Gonzales said the rebels surrendered after negotiations with Mamerto Parong, chairman of Barangay Midtungok in Senator Ninoy Aquino town.

He said the rebels turned over three cal. 45 pistols, two cal. 38 revolvers, a home-made pistolized Garand, a home-made M14 rifle, and a home-made shotgun, and assorted ammunition.

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2 Army officers, several others charged in Italian priest's slay

By Julie M. Aurelio
@JMAurelioINQ

Following a reinvestigation, two military officials and several others have been charged in the Department of Justice for the 2011 murder of Italian priest Fr. Fausto "Pops" Tentorio.

The Central Mindanao office of the National Bureau of Investigation on Monday filed a murder complaint against Army Lt. Col. Joven Gonzales and Maj. Mark Espiritu, as well as members of a paramilitary group.

Also recommended for prosecution were Jimmy Ato, Robert

Ato, Jan Corbala, Nene Durado, Joseph Basol, Edgar Enoc, Romulo Taggos, William Buenaflo, several soldiers who allegedly conducted a "bayanihan" activity at Arakan Central Elementary School on the day of Tentorio's murder, and some members of the Bagani Special

Force, a paramilitary group.

Tentorio, 59, a staunch anti-mining advocate, was shot 10 times inside his parish, Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, in Arakan town, Cotabato, on Oct. 17, 2011.

A special oversight team during the term of then President

Benigno Aquino III recommended a reinvestigation of the Tentorio murder, saying there was a lack of sufficient evidence for a conviction of the perpetrators.

A panel of state prosecutors will conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if there is probable cause to file the case

before the courts.

"The complaint is for murder," Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong told reporters.

He said that around 30 witnesses in Arakan were "very spontaneous" with their recollection of the murder and were willing to testify. INQ

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Murder complaint refiled vs soldiers in Italian priest's slay

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) refiled a murder complaint yesterday before the Department of Justice against two Army officers and 10 other soldiers in connection with the killing of Italian priest Fausto "Pops" Tentorio in North Cotabato seven years ago.

The NBI-Central Mindanao filed the complaint against Lt. Col. Joven Gonzales, Maj. Mark Espiritu, Jimmy Ato, Robert Ato, Jan Corbala, Nene Durado, Kaing Labi, Joseph Basol, Edgar Enoc, Romulo Tappos, William Buenaflor and an alias Katong based on the recommendation of a fact-finding committee.

Senior State Prosecutor Peter Ong said they have yet to identify 20 other soldiers present at the Arakan

Central Elementary School during a *bayanihan* activity when Tentorio was killed, but some of the members of the paramilitary group called Bagani who were at the scene have been identified.

Tentorio, 59, who was also a known environmentalist, was in the compound of the Our Mother of Perpetual Help parish in Arakan, North Cotabato beside the school when he was shot. Some students and teachers reportedly saw the gunman.

Ong said he recommended the creation of a panel of prosecutors to handle the preliminary investigation of the case.

The prosecution earlier filed but withdrew the complaints for murder and frustrated murder against the soldiers. - Evelyn Macarjan

23 January 2018

The Manila Times

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TWIN EXPLOSIONS ROCK ROAD NEAR ARMY TRAINING CAMP

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: Police bomb experts are checking on the blast site in Barangay Semba where unidentified armed men set off explosives near the headquarters of the 6th Infantry Division (ID) in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao. Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the 6th ID, said the first explosion took place at about 6:35 a.m., on Friday followed by another blast about 10 minutes later. Encinas said the explosions took place near the training school of the 6th ID but no one was wounded. The bomb attacks came in the wake of the military's continued campaign against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Maguindanao. While the military had not pinpointed the culprits on the latest bomb attacks, similar incidents attributed to the BIFF happened in the province in recent days. These include the January 9 roadside bombing in Datu Unsay town, which killed a soldier. The Datu Unsay roadside bomb attack took place two hours after the BIFF also set off a roadside bomb along the national highway in Barangay Labo-Labo in Datu Hoffer town that wounded two passersby.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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Military truck nahulog sa bangin, 12 sugatan

Nilalapatan ngayon ng lunas ang 11 sundalo at isang school principal na nasugatan malapos na mahulog sa bangin ang sinasakyan nilang military truck sa gilid ng highway sa Barangay Salaan sa Zamboanga City nitong Sabado, ini-report ng pulisya kahapon.

Ayonsa imbestigasyon ng Zamboanga City Police Office (ZCPO), nangyari ang insidente sa Sitio Lugakit sa Barangay Salaan ng nasabing lungsod.

Giabang sugat ang tatano runa Sgt.

Roy Rodriguez, 37 anyos; T/Sgt. Paterno Ramillano, 43; Pfc. Ryan Magsayo, 25; Pvt. Jay-ar Galera, 24; Pvt. Jestony Parba, 26; Pfc. Cresly Olasiman, 26; Pfc. John Galapate, 25; Sgt. Raymon Bastonero, 39; Pvt. Mark Villaseñor, 25; at Pvt. Rene Jay Perin, 24 anyos.

Nasugatan din sina Cpl. Edward Obag, 31 anyos; at Joseph Abalo, 59, principal ng Baluno Elementary School.

Ayon sa report ng pulisya, nagsilbing escort ang mga tauhan ng Manne Barañon

Landing Team (MBLT-11) sa outreach program ng Baluno Elementary School sa Sitio Baluno sa Bgy. Salaan.

Pauwi na ang mga biktima at nagmenor ang truck sa pababang bahagi ng kalsada, subalit nawalan umano ng preno ang sasakyan.

Sinubukan umano ng iwasan ng driver na mabangga ang sinusundang truck kaya gumilid ito, pero tuluyang dumiretso sa bangin.

Joe P...

23 January 2018



Page. 4.

4 dead, 5 hurt in Cotabato clash

KIDAPAWAN CITY – Four were killed while five others were wounded when government troops exchanged fire with suspected communist guerillas in Makilala, North Cotabato,

early morning yesterday.

Lt. Col. Rhojun Rosales, newly-installed commander of the 39th IB, said one of those killed during the encounter was a member of the Citizens

Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU). The rest of the fatalities were members of the New Peoples' Army (NPA).

Rosales refused to divulge the name of the slain CAFGU member maintaining they will only do so after the family has been informed of the incident.

According to Rosales, the skirmish started around 3 a.m. with several NPA guerillas attacking a CAFGU detachment at Sitio Garing, Barangay Luayon in Makilala.

The rebels he said used villagers as shield while fighting off government forces. (Malu Cadelina Manar)

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POLICE FILES

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AFP: Teroristang nagre-recruit ng 'out of school youth,' tukoy na

MGA out of school youth na Muslim ang karamihan na na-recruit ng Maute-ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) sa Mindanao.

Ito ang ibinunyag ni 1st Infantry Tabak Division spokesperson Major Ronald Suscano.

Sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo kay Suscano, kanyang sinabi na tukoy na ng militar ang mga nasa likod ng recruitment mag-ingang bilang ng mga na-recruit at kung saang lugar isinasalamin sa pagsasabay ang mga ito.

Bagama't may intelligence report sila ukol dito, kailangan pa rin antiya ito isalalin sa validation.

May ginagawa na tin daw na hakbang ang mga concerned units ukol sa nasabing report.

Tumanggi naman si Suscano na hayag kung ilan na ang na-recruit ng Maute-ISIS terror group dahil operational details na ang mga ito.

Sa ngayon, lalo pang pinalakas ng militar ang kanilang operasyon laban sa teroristang grupo bagama't kaunti na lamang ang mga ito.

Samantala, tuloy din ang

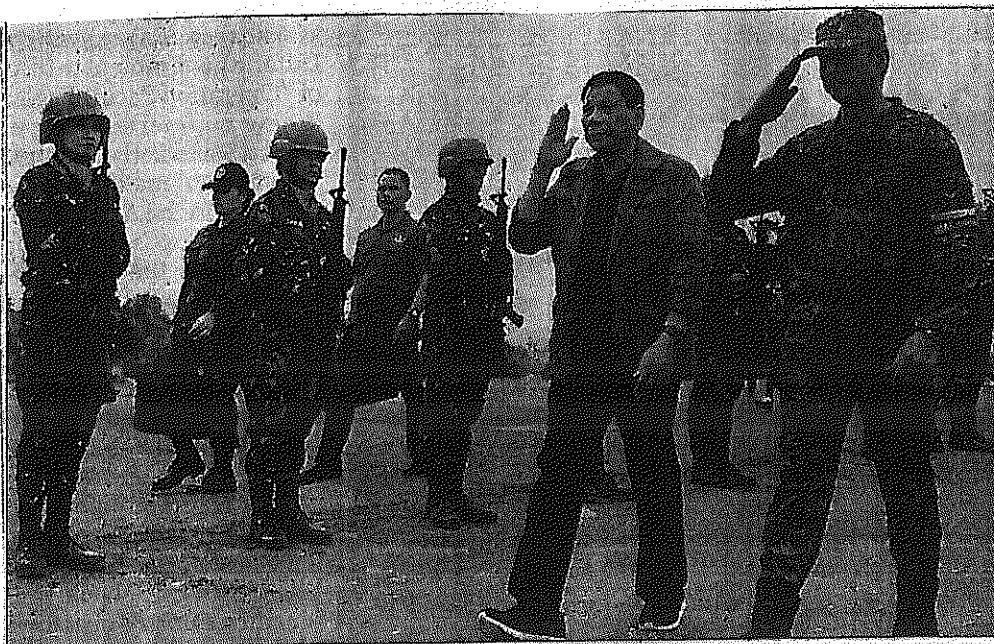
pagugis sa mga banyang terorista na may kaugnayan sa Daesh inspired group na nasa likod sa pagre-recruit ng bagong miyembro.

Ilan din ng militar na nahihirapan sila sa clearing operations dahil marami pang improvised explosive device ang nakatanim sa main battle area.

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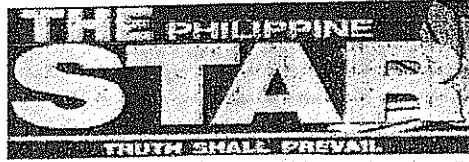
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President Duterte arrives at Camp General Manuel Yan in Mawab, Compostela Valley, where he graced the establishment of the TienDA para sa mga Bayani yesterday. Accompanying him is 10th Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. Noel Clement.

Kf

January 2018



Page: 1

Duterte threatens to slap Joma if they meet

By EDITH REGALADO

Let's meet and I will slap you. This was President Duterte's message yesterday to Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison, days after saying he was ready for a one-on-one

with the rebel leader. Duterte said Sison, his former professor in political thought at the Lyceum of the Philippines University, is "desperate" because rebel leaders are getting old and "there is no second echelon" in their organization. "Kita tayo, Sison. Sampalin kita. Oo walay

binuang (Let's see each other, Sison. I will slap you. Yes, I am not joking)," Duterte said during the launch of an agriculture project for wounded soldiers in Compostela Valley. The President issued the remark a week after he expressed openness to meet with

Turn to Page 4

Sison in private to discuss the collapsed peace talks between the government and communists. He earlier scrapped the negotiations after the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the communist rebels, launched a series of attacks that harmed civilians.

Aside from this, he also issued a proclamation classifying the NPA and the CPP as "terrorist organizations."

He blamed the rebels for the termination of the talks, noting that the communists are pushing for a coalition government—a setup he described as unconstitutional because it would force him to "share" the country's sovereignty.

Duterte ordered the armed forces to "destroy the NPA," noting that Sison's followers continue to dwindle and that the communist organization now relies mainly on foreign funds to operate.

He also taunted Left for

losing many of its intellectual members as only the older ones have remained.

"Filipinos will remain poor as long as there is NPA. You think you are god... You just kill people at whim," he said.

Duterte said the communist rebels are wrong in trying to scare him about not pursuing the peace talks as he stands pat on his position not to give in to a coalition government that the leftists are demanding.

He claimed the communists continue to commit atrocities despite his efforts to reach out to them, giving them the chance to talk peace and even appointing some so-called progressive personalities to positions in government.

Among the perceived former radicals appointed to state posts were former agrarian reform secretary Rafael Mariano, former social welfare secretary Judy Taguiwalo, National

Anti-Poverty Commission lead convenor Liza Maza, labor undersecretary Joel Maglunsod and Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor chairman Terry Ridon.

Mariano's and Taguiwalo's appointments were rejected by the Commission on Appointments while Ridon was dismissed over alleged junkets.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Malacañang also lambasted Sison for urging the Filipino youth to launch anti-government protests similar to those staged during the First Quarter Storm of 1970. The First Quarter Storm protest refers to the mass demonstrations against the administration of former president Ferdinand Marcos.

"We don't attach too much importance to Joma Sison. I hope he has enough grandchildren to heed this call. The problem with Joma Sison is he stuck in history. He never moved beyond the first quarter storm," Roque said in a press briefing.

- With Alexis Romero

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Rody: If Joma were bright he'd have been President

By Frinston Lim
and Allan Nawal
@Team_Inquirer

MAWAB, COMPOSTELA VALLEY—President Duterte on Monday taunted Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chair Jose Maria "Joma" Sison, saying if his former professor were really bright he would have become the country's leader.

Speaking before soldiers at the headquarters of the Army's 10th Infantry Division in Barangay Tuburan here, the President also said Sison was "desperate" because he did not have the pulse of the people anymore.

"Sison said I should see a doc-

tor and have my head examined. Hey, Sison, if you were bright, you should have become President already," Mr. Duterte said.

Stuck in history

At Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque dismissed Sison's call for the youth to emulate the riots of the "First Quarter Storm" of 1970 against the Duterte administration.

The chief ideologue of the country's communist movement was "stuck in history," Roque said.

"We don't attach too much importance on Joma Sison. I hope he has enough grandchildren to heed his call," he said,

referring to the student-led uprising in the first quarter of 1970 against the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Sison urged the youth on Sunday to launch mass protests against Mr. Duterte.

"(The) problem with Joma Sison is he is stuck in history. He never moved beyond the First Quarter Storm," Roque said.

No second echelons

In his speech, the President said that Sison felt alone in self-exile in Utrecht, the Netherlands, because there were "no more second echelons" in the communist movement.

"The intellectuals are gone.

You old ones, you hoped that we will still talk. I'll chew you," Mr. Duterte said.

The President again ordered the military to "destroy" the communist insurgents and to "not believe" in human rights when they go after them.

He said the problem with the rebels was that they did not recognize human rights as well.

"I already warned you, I do not believe in human rights," Mr. Duterte said. "You give human rights first to people who do not want violence before I'll accord it to you. It is mutual. But if you shoot and kill people, you return what you owed." —WITH A

REPORT FROM PHILIP C. TUBEZA INQ

23 January 2018



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Rody to name Guerrero as next Marina chief

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero will be the next administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).

President Duterte, during his visit yesterday to Camp General Manuel T. Yan Sr. in Compostela Valley, said he would appoint Guerrero as MARINA chief to replace former agency administrator Marcial Amaro III.

"Iyang si Jagger pagkataspos niyan, siya iyong magha-



Guerrero

wak ng MARINA na pinaalis ko kay sige Travel (Jagger will handle MARINA after his term to replace Travel)," Duterte said, referring to Guerrero and Amaro.

Duterte fired Amaro for excessive foreign travels, with at least 24 made since he was appointed to his post in 2016.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy class of 1984, Guerrero reached the mandatory retirement age of 56 last Dec. 17.

The President has extended Guerrero's term to April 24.

After his retirement, Guerrero will join the more than 50 former military officials who are now handling civilian posts.

23 January 2018

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Guerrero assured of golden parachute

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said he will appoint Armed Forces chief Rey Leonardo Guerrero as the next administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) after he retires from military service in April.

“Iyang si Jagger (Guerrero), pag-

katapos niyan, siya ‘yung maghawak ng MARINA na pinaalis ko kay sige travel,” the President said during the launch of the “Tienda Para Sa Mga Bayani (Tienda Farmers and Fisherfolks Outlet in partnership with Armed Forces of the Philippines)” in Camp Yan in Mawab in

See GUERRERO > Page B6

Compostela Valley. (“Guerrero, after he is done, he will be in charge of MARINA, after I relieved the one who was always on travel).”

Guerrero was originally set to retire in December 2017 when he reached the compulsory retire-

ment age of 56 but the President extended his term until April to enable him to complete a six-month term as AFP chief.

He was a former commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command before he was appointed Chief of Staff in October 2017.

Guerrero is a member of the

Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Maharlika class of 1984.

He will replace MARINA administrator Marcial Amaro III who was fired earlier this month due to excessive trips abroad. Malacanang investigations showed that he made 24 travels – 18 in 2017 and six in 2016 – while in office.

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The National Newspaper

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Duterte: I want NPA destroyed

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said he wants the New People's Army "destroyed," similar to ongoing efforts to eradicate illegal drugs in the country.

He said the public should not mind what human rights groups would again say because the communist insurgency situation only adds to the suffering of the Filipinos.

"Just like drugs... destroy the NPA. Destroy the organization," he said in Compostela Valley during the launch of the "Tienda para sa mga Bayani" outlet in partnership with Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Duterte also chided businessmen and groups that tolerate the communist rebels by paying the NPA "revolutionary tax" or extortion money.

Duterte said that long ago, the idea of communist-socialism was

See DUTERTE: I WANT ► Page B6

popular that some groups had even funded the communist movement.

In some instances, he said, the funds went to the pockets of some of the current communist leaders, some of whom are abroad and have enjoyed stays in hotels and good food, while the local armed groups are poor and continuing to fight.

Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been on

self-exile in the Netherlands since the late 1980s.

Duterte reopened peace talks with the CPP-NPA-National Democratic Front of the Philippines shortly after he became President in 2016. Last November, he cancelled the talks because of continued attacks by the NPA on government forces, even while the talks were ongoing. Last month, he declared the CPP and its armed

wing, the NPA, as terrorist groups.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque dismissed Sison's call for the youth to organize a mass protest against the President and even emulate the riots of the "First Quarter Storm" (FQS) of 1970.

"We don't attach too much importance on Joma Sison. I hope he has enough grandchildren to heed his call," Roque said adding that the problem with Sison is that he is stuck in history and had "failed to move beyond the First Quarter Storm."

27 January 2018



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Rody: Reds get funding from foreign socialists

By Ted Tuvera

Foreign groups could be funding local communist rebels in the Philippines, President Duterte said yesterday.

In a speech at Compostella Valley, the Chief Executive assailed elements of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) of receiving funds from so-called "socialists" from abroad.

Duterte hinted that instead of maximizing the use of such funds for the entire revolutionary movement, it is likely that only the top leaders of the Communist Party are enjoying it.

"They have foreign supporters. These white socialists who are paying up the communists here," Duterte said in the local Visayan tongue.

"For all we know, these funds



DUTERTE

are being pocketed only by their leaders," he added, asking low-level CPP-NPA members to demand accountability from their ranking leaders.

The Commander-in-Chief stressed that the NPA will never stand a chance against the government amid its ideological

idealism.

Duterte also lamented how he did his best to "try to make peace with everybody," but was only wasted by the rebel group.

For instance, he said he appointed communists in his Cabinet, and even gave a top rebel leader, Leoncio Pitao, alias Kumander Parag, recognition.

But the rebel group, he said, stabbed him behind his back by killing his soldiers despite a ceasefire in place.

He also noted what he said were the group's extortion activities through their so-called revolutionary taxes.

Meanwhile, presidential spokesman Harry Roque, at a Palace briefing yesterday morning, downplayed Sison's call for the youth to stage mass protests against the administration.

"We don't attach too much

important on Joma Sison. I hope he has enough grandchildren to heed this call," Roque quipped.

"The problem with Joma Sison is he's stuck in history. He never moved beyond the First Quarter Storm," he added.

The First Quarter Storm or FQS refers to the series of mass action protests against former President Ferdinand Marcos during the first three months of 1970.

Last Sunday, Sison urged the youth to "launch huge mass marches and rallies in the National Capital Region and in the provinces, like during the FQS of 1970."

"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," he said in an interview with a daily broadsheet.

25 January 2018



Page: 5

Sacked PN chief to shed light on his involvement in Navy warship deal

By Mario J. Mallari

Believed Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado yesterday maintained that he only stood by the Philippine Navy's stance on what combat management systems (CMS) should be installed on two warships contracted with South Korea.

This, as Mercado vowed to tell during the upcoming Senate inquiry into the controversial frigate acquisition program of the Philippine Navy which caused his relief as the Navy chief.

"There are insinuations now that I pushed (Thales Tacticos) but the thing is when I took over, that was the position of the Navy...once I present it, everyone will know," Mercado said during a chance interview in Camp Aguinaldo.

Members of the opposition in the Senate have already filed a resolution calling for the investigation of the frigate acquisition project.

"It's an opportunity for me to provide (clarification to) this issue," Mercado said.

Mercado, who was unceremoniously relieved last December as Navy chief, said that the Navy technical working group, which he previously headed, and later one became the project management team, included the CMS specifications in the P15.4-billion contract with Hyundai Heavy Industries.

He admitted that the preference of the Philippine Navy for the CMS was Thales Tacticos - which is widely used by navies of other countries such as Indonesia and the United States.

"Other navies obviously go top

systems that are proven...that's a combat ship, if you want our country to be defended well, to our troops at least they have that assurance that our ship can put up a fight," Mercado said.

Mercado also stressed that based on the assessment of the project management team Hanwa of South Korea - the other proponent for the CMS, was not capable of meeting the Philippine Navy's specifications.

At the same time, Mercado confirmed that his successor Rear Admiral Robert Empedrad, who also served as head of the project management team for the frigate project, was called in Malacañang to present the Philippine Navy position.

Mercado said Empedrad told him about the Malacañang presentation.

"He told me 'sir, I will present in Malacañang'... (I told him) okay, make it good," Mercado said.

Asked what Empedrad would be presenting to Malacañang, Mercado said "that he would defend the position of the Navy."

Empedrad's Malacañang presentation happened after a letter, which endorsed Hanwa as supplier of CMS, was sent to Mercado by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who initially thought it came from Special Assistant President Secretary Christopher "Bong" Go - President Duterte's most trusted aide.

Mercado said that Empedrad was also for Thales Tacticos when he was still with the Philippine Navy's project management team. However, there were insinuations that only Mercado was pushing for Thales Tacticos which cost him his post.

23 January 2018



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Ex-Navy chief pushes ₱18-B frigate project

Former Flag-Officer-in-Command Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado yesterday expressed hope that the ₱18-billion Frigate Acquisition Program of the Philippine Navy would be a success despite the controversies surrounding the project.

Mercado, in a chance interview in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, explained that he, including officers, sailors, and Marines, wants the project to push through and succeed as part of efforts to modernize the 24,000-strong Navy.

"Well sa amin lang naman is I like that frigate because everyone in the Navy wants that frigate kasi it's a combat ship. Anong mangyayari sa Navy natin kung walang punch di ba?" Mercado said.

"You cannot have only transport ship, we should have a punch. The frigate is the, it's a capital ship and this is the first in the history of the Navy that we will have a frigate newly constructed then missile capable, air surface, undersea," he added.

Mercado said he won't recommend scrapping the contract and wants the project to be fulfilled following the provisions of the contract.

"I do not want something like what happened to the helicopter controversy several years ago. You know everything will be subjected to audit later on. Kawawa naman yung mga bata who affixed their signature, tapos sinabing bakit ganun?" he said.

The program became controversial when Special Assistant to the President Christopher "Bong" Go allegedly interfered with the PN's decision to choose the type of weapons system for the frigates.

Go has denied the accusation which claims that he wanted Hanwha Thales of South Korea to provide the combat management systems of the frigates over another brand. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

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23 January 2018



Pahina. 2

Banta ni Digong sa susukong NPA P1 MILYONG AREGLO AT PUGOT-ULO

Inalok ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ng P1 milyon ang bawat miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) kapalit ng isusukong armas sa pamahalaan.

Ipinahayag ng Pangulo ang kaniyang alok sa pagbisita kahapon sa Camp General Manuel T. Yan, Sr sa Mawab, Compostela Valley na kilalang isang sa baluarte ng mga rebelde.

Sinabi ng Pangulo na may pagkakataon pa ang mga NPA na mamuhay ng tahimik sa

pamamagitan ng pagbali-loob sa pamahalaan.

Katunayan aniya ay marami na ang sumukong NPA kasama ang kanilang armas dahil sa hirap ng kanilang buhay sa mga kabundukan at kapalit nito ay pera at trabaho mula sa gobyerno.

"At no other time, maraming nag-surrender may armas talaga, and there's a lot of stories. And it's simply because it's hard life at sa sakripisyo. Bakit hindi kayo manahimik? Mag-

surrender na lang kayo, bigyan ko kayo ng trabaho automatic, may pera pa kayo," pahayag ng Pangulo.

Pero may banta rin ito sa mga rebeldeng komunista na susuko sa gobyerno na kaniya upang pupugutan ng ulo.

"Kung marami kayong armas dala, bibigyan kita. Kung mag-surrender ka ng isang Howitzer diyan o V.150 bayaran kita P1 milyon kaagad yan. Mag-capture kayo ng... diyan sige, isauli mo sa akin,

bayaran kita, mag-surrender ka tapos putulan kita ng ulo p*****a kal" sabi ng Pangulo.

Hindi maitagong Pangulo ang inis at galit sa mga NPA at nabubuwisit umano siya mga ito kaya't kung ano ang ginawa laban sa mamamayan ay aanihin din ng mga ito.

Nagbabala pa ito sa mga rebelde na hindi makakaligtas ang mga ito sa kanilang ginawang pagpatay lalo na sa mga mosenteng mamamayan

dahil ibibigay niya rin ito sa kanila.

"Mag-warning ako sa inyo ha. Kasi may kadugtong yan eh. Kung 'yung mga tao mag-surrender, pinapatay ninyo na mga Sparrow, magbaba dito, I will remember you. Panahon na baka sakali, mag-surrender. Huwag kang mag-surrender. Huwag kang sumurender at lumabankang husto. Kasi 'yung utang mo, napatay mo isang tao dahil manahimik na, ibibigay ko rin sa'yo. My policy is I'm a hardliner. At kayong hindi makinig bantay kayo cause you will go forever around and around to the rest of your life kasi matsambahan kita. Pag nagbaril ka ng tao, nagpatay ka. Isauli mo 'yung utang mo," dagdag pa ni Pangulong Duterte. (Aileen Taliping)

23 January 2018



Pahina. 6

10 NPA terrorists, sumuko

Boluntaryong sumuko sa mga awtoridad ang sampung teroristang New People's Army (NPA) sa Sillo Lee, Barangay Midtungkok sa bayan ng Senador Ninoy Aquino, Sultan Kudarat kamakafawa ng hapon. Batay sa ulat ng pulisya, dakong alauna ng hapon nang mag-sisuko ang mga terorista na mga kasapi ng Guerilla Front 73, Cherry Mobile Platoon sa ilalim ni Commander Mac-Mac. Isinuko rin ang kanilang mga armas na kargado ng mga bala. Nabatid na ang mga terorista ay nagdesisyong sumuko sa tulong ni Chairman Mamerto Parong ng nasabing barangay. Inamin naman ng mga sumakong terorista na nagdesisyon silang magbailk-loob sa pamahalaan matapos na mapagtantong mali ang ideolohiyang kanilang ipinaglalaman. *Jby Cantos*

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Bong Go unfairly linked to Navy mess

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) should have given online news outfit Rappler enough time to correct its "unconstitutional" lapse of not being 100-percent Filipino-owned, before closing it down.

It was a capricious decision on the part of the SEC without an obvious go-signal from Malacañang.

Now the entire press in the democratic world is blaming President Duterte for Rappler's shutdown, calling it repression of press freedom.

Mr. Duterte, ever the macho man, had to defend the SEC decision since the agency is under the executive department.

If I knew the President, he

wouldn't order the closure of any news outfit no matter how critical it is of his administration.

Apparently, most of the SEC commissioners, who are Noynoy Kuyakoy appointees (only one is a Duterte appointee), wanted to please the President so they would be reappointed.

In street lingo, such a gesture is called "sipsip."

The issue of Special Assistant to the President Bong Go being dragged into the Navy mess is not of his own making but that of Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Lorenzana has since apolo-



ON TARGET
RAMON TULFO

gized for his mistake since Go only forwarded to him a letter from an obvious sour grapes who criticized the frigate purchase deal.

But the damage has already

been done.

Lorenzana tends to shoot his mouth off. Take the case of the report about China driving away a US Navy warship from Panatag Shoal, where he defended the intrusion, but Malacañang adopted a "hands-off" policy.

He could have first consulted with the President before making that comment that the US warship had the right to pass through the controversial shoal.

Lorenzana should remember that Manila and Beijing were reaching out to each other.

PO1 Arnisah Sarip Acmad of the Pasay City police shot and

wounded Dindo dela Cruz Jr., a 16-year-old student from Barangay Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, last week.

She claimed that Dela Cruz tried to rob her using a pen gun, but that she was able to draw her gun and fire at the boy.

Oh, yeah? At the time of the "holdup" Acmad was in full uniform and even the greatest fool would stay away from a uniformed cop.

Dela Cruz was shot in the back, bolstering his claim that he was hit by a stray bullet fired from Acmad's gun which was meant for a bag snatcher.

To rub salt into the boy's wound (no pun intended), he's

now facing charges of robbery, direct assault and attempted homicide.

Trivia: President Duterte was honored on Sunday by his high school classmates from Ateneo de Davao's Class of 1962 during a reunion at Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City. There was no mention or banter about the President being expelled from Ateneo for being a "bad boy."

Erstwhile "copra king" Douglas Lu Ym of Cebu, an avid Duterte supporter, has raised more than P7 million for the families of the fallen heroes of Marawi City through his Ludo-30 Golf Tournament. INQ

ONLINE NEWS

23 JANUARY 2018

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CHANGE OF CHIEF OF OFFICE | PA installs new Chief of OG1 and OACPA

FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Metro Manila (DWDD) – Army installs new Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel and Army Chief Public Affairs in a Joint Change of Chiefs of Office Ceremony held Friday, January 19, 2018.



Col. Allan D. Hambala



Lt. Col. Louie D. Villanueva

Col. Allan D. Hambala is now the Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel (OG1, PA). He replaced Col. Perfecto P. Peñaredondo who was the Acting Chief of OG1, PA. Peñaredondo remained at his post as the Deputy of OG1, PA. Hambala will also be the Acting Director of the Philippine Army Management Center (APMC.)

Meanwhile, Lt. Col. Louie D. Villanueva is now the Army Chief Public Affairs. He replaced Lt. Col. Ray C. Tiongson who is set to take up the Command and General-Staff Course at the AFP Command and General Staff College, one of the requirements to be a Battalion Commander.

Brigadier General Danilo Chad D. Isleta, Army Chief of Staff, led the turnover of posts held at the Headquarters Philippine Army Conference Room. HPA-based officers and civilians employees witnessed the event.

Hambala is a member of the Philippine Military Academy “Sambisig” Class of 1991. Prior to his post, he was the Director of the APMC in 2017. He was also the Chief of Staff of the 1st Infantry Division in 2017 and the former Battalion Commander of the 15th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division in 2009. He had filled various personnel management posts such as Personnel Officer of the OG1 in 2004, and as Deputy of OG1 in 2000 at the 4th Infantry Division.

Meanwhile, Villanueva is a graduate of the Officer Candidate School “Tanikala” Class 11-94. He has a degree in Political Science and a master’s degree in Public Administration. Prior to his post, Villanueva was the Commanding Officer of the 70th Infantry Battalion, 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army. He also led and commanded the 84th Infantry Battalion and the 56th Infantry Battalion, both of the 7th Infantry Division.

Villanueva is not new in the field of Public Affairs of Civil-Military Operations as he has been assigned with the CMO School and held various positions with the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for CMO (OG7) at the Headquarters, Philippine Army.

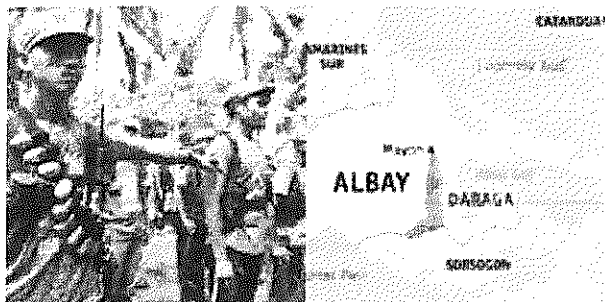
“I urge our newly appointed chiefs Col. Hambala and Lt. Col. Villanueva to remain steadfast to the performance of their mandate. I challenge you to register more in the transformation initiative of our organization as well as in the fulfillment of the AFP Development Support and Security Plan “Kapayapaan,” said Brig. Gen. Isleta, Army Chief of Staff. OACPA / MCAG

www.dwdd.com.ph

FOR A BETTER LIFE | 10 NPAs surrender to SOLCOM Troopers

By [Alvin Santiago](#) on January 20, 2018 at 10:10 AM

CAMP GUILLERMO NAKAR, Lucena City (DWDD) – A total of (ten) 10 communist terrorists voluntarily surrendered to Brigadier General Alden Juan C Masagca AFP, Commander of the 901st Infantry (Fight 'Em) Brigade, 9th Infantry (Spear) Division, PA which is under the operational control of SOLCOM. The surrender took place at their headquarters in Brgy. Villahermosa, Daraga, Albay at 5:00 PM on January 18, 2018.



The 10 NPAs brought with them three (3) M16A1 rifles; one (1) 12-gauge shotgun with live ammunition; one (1) M79 grenade launcher with ammunition; one (1) rifle grenade; one (1) improvised explosive device; several rounds of ammunition; medical kits and NPA documents of high intelligence value.

Meanwhile, the former rebels will be enrolled in the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) for the mainstreaming and social integration process. Relatedly, they will receive cash rewards for the surrendered firearms, livelihood assistance and other social benefits.

"This voluntary surrender is an indication that our efforts to reach out and encourage the NPAs to abandon the armed struggle is paying off and we hope and expect that more rebels will return to the mainstream of society and be an active partner in the peace and development efforts of the government," said Lt Gen Danilo G Pamonag AFP, Commander, Southern Luzon Command.

Furthermore, the 10 NPAs identified on their aliases for security reasons are all on the watch-list of the AFP and members of the Bicol Regional Party Committee namely: @Erick/Jack; @Jing/Cris; @Andoy/Mando; @Sherly/Yna; @Inoy/Tony; @ Ruzzie/Marie; @Lupen/Enchong; @Tamoy; @Lyka and @Nonoy.

According to the former rebels, they decided to leave the rebel group due to hardships experienced in the organization, they wanted to quit their senseless fight against the government and live a peaceful life with their families.

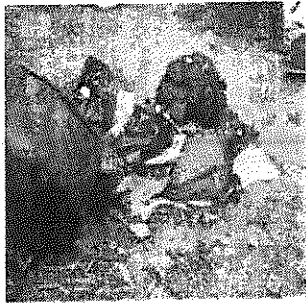
Lieutenant General Pamonag reiterated the call of the AFP to the members of the NPA who continue to engage in the armed struggle to surrender and return to the folds of the law and be a productive citizen of the society through the assistance of the AFP, Local Government Units (LGUs) and other agencies. **SOLCOM PIO / MCAG**

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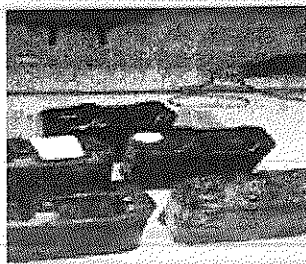
ENCOUNTER | 4 NPAs Killed in Davao Oriental Skirmish

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on July 23, 2018 at 11:49 AM

MATI CITY, Davao Oriental (DWDD) – Troops of 28th Infantry Battalion based in Mati City, Davao Oriental encountered an undetermined number of armed men belonging to the New People's Army (NPA) at Sitio Palo Palo, Barangay Marayag, Lupon, Davao Oriental on January 16, 2018 at around 1:25 o'clock in the afternoon.



Based on the report of 28th IB, the residents from Brgy Marayag reported that the NPAs demanded money from the community. Acting on said report, the troops moved to secure the said Brgy but were fired upon by around 20 NPAs. A firefight ensued for almost 10 minutes and after which the NPAs fled to a forested area leaving four bodies of their comrades. Recovered were four (4) low powered firearms and 1 (one) Improvised Explosive Device. No soldier was harmed while bloodstains scattered at the scene an indication of casualties among the NPAs.



It can be recalled that the NPA is a signatory to the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIL) which prohibits the employment of landmines and other IEDs which might endanger the lives of the civilians in the community.

Last month, an encounter also erupted at the neighboring Municipality of Tarragona, Davao Oriental, where residents evacuated as a result of the armed conflict, while the 59 mass supporters of NPAs in the area surrendered and took allegiance to the government.



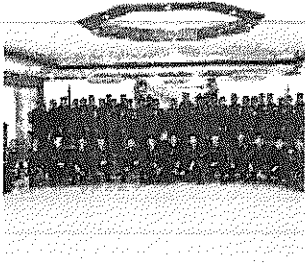
The troops are constantly visiting the local communities thru Community Support Program (CSP) to facilitate the livelihood projects being implemented by the Local Government Units and Line Government Agencies in partnership with the 701st Infantry Brigade in Davao Oriental Province.

Brigadier General Reuben S Basiao AFP, Commander 701st Brigade in his statement said *“the NPA is desperate in implementing their recruitment efforts by forcing the residents to attend their meetings and extort the communities for their survival. The community is tired in believing their false promises realizing that the people did not benefit from the terrorists and would rather prefer to have the government on their side.”* 28IB / MCAG

www.dwdd.com.ph

GREATER HEIGHTS | TOC Re-Designates its Tactical Operations Wing

By [Alvin Santiago](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



EDWIN ANDREWS AIRBASE, Zamboanga City (DWDD) – The men and women of the Tactical Operations Command of the Philippine Air Force witnessed last January 18, at the Multi-Purpose Hall of Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City the re-designation ceremony of the Tactical Operations Wing.

Presided by its TOC Commander, Major General Domingo B Palisoc Jr AFP re-designated the following TOWs to:

1st Tactical Operations Wing – Tactical Operations Wing Northern Luzon (TOWNOL)

2nd Tactical Operations Wing – Tactical Operations Wing Central (TOWCEN)

3rd Tactical Operations Wing – Tactical Operations Wing Western Mindanao (TOWWESMIN).

TOC/MCAG



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | Senate Officials, Employees Hail Marawi Heroes

Photo by: [Alvin Santiago](#) / [Dwdd.com.ph](#)

MANILA (DWDD) – Officials and employees of the Senate of the Philippines extended their gratitude and appreciation for members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who helped liberate the City of Marawi and the neutralization of Daesh-inspired Maute terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute.



Senate Secretary Lutgardo Barbo led workers of the Senate in thanking the 15 members from the elite 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion, led by Captain Aris Gerero and Captain Jommel Ray Parreño, who served as guests-of-honor for the regular Monday morning flag rites.

Barbo reiterated that the Senate is thankful for the heroic actions of the commandos, who were art of the group responsible for the killing of Hapilon and Maute on October 16, 2017.

Hapilon was considered as the Islamic State “emir” in Southeast Asia, while Maute, along with his brother Abdullah, spearheaded the five-month long attack in Marawi City.

“In behalf of Senate President Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, and the rest of the senators and the employees of the Philippine Senate, we express our thanks, our eternal gratitude to you in taking back from the Maute group the beautiful city of Marawi,” Barbo said.



Barbo lauded the soldiers *“for the gallantry and bravery you have shown in fighting against the lawless enemy.”* *“Remember they were fighting lawless elements who did not have a single ideology, and who simply wanted to sow terror,”* he said.

Barbo said the soldiers' efforts would benefit not only the people of Marawi or Filipinos today, but also “the Filipinos yet unborn.”

In response, Parreño, representing the commandos, thanked the Senate for the help and support it gave to the soldiers before, during and after the Marawi siege.

“Thank you for the comforting thoughts, the prayers, and the support which inspired us to finish the fight, and come back home,” he said.

“We could not have finished the fight without you and the entire Filipino public,” he said. **SENATE PRIB / MCAG**

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

