

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



**TEAM ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

25 January 2018

Thursday

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

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January 2018

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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**PANAHON TV**  
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

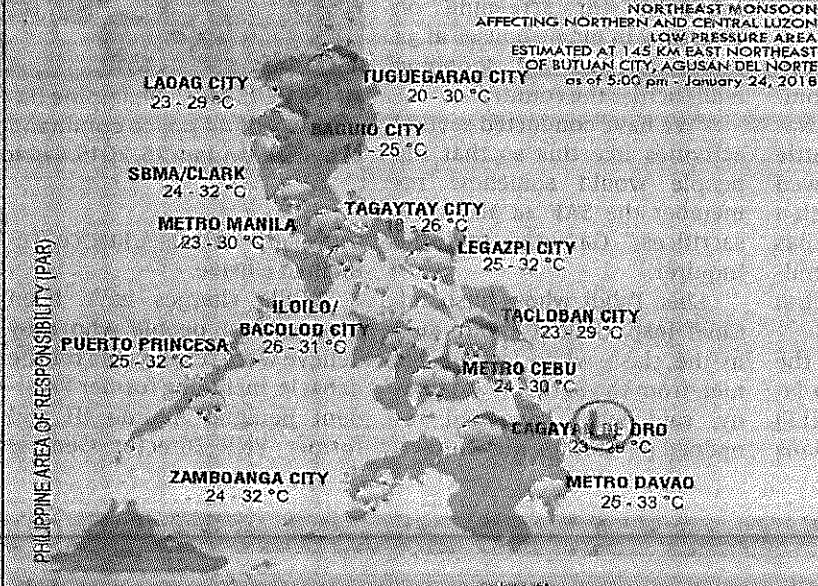


**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

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**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JANUARY 26, 2018 | THURSDAY**

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON  
LOW PRESSURE AREA ESTIMATED AT 145 KM EAST NORTHEAST OF BUTUAN CITY, AGUSAN DEL NORTE as of 5:00 pm - January 24, 2018



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
6:25 AM	5:52 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
11:59 AM	11:51 PM
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>	<b>FULL MOON</b>
JAN 25 6:20 AM	JAN 31 9:27 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
9:38 AM	4:49 PM
0.15 Meter	0.58 Meter

- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Cloudy slots with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Light rains

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MAY 27	JAN 27	JAN 28	MAY 27
<b>METRO MANILA</b> 23 - 30 °C 22 - 29 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b> 18 - 26 °C 17 - 25 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b> 23 - 30 °C 24 - 30 °C	
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b> 19 - 29 °C 19 - 29 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b> 25 - 32 °C 24 - 31 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE DRO</b> 24 - 31 °C 24 - 31 °C	
<b>LAOAG</b> 23 - 29 °C 22 - 28 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b> 25 - 32 °C 26 - 33 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b> 25 - 33 °C 25 - 34 °C	
<b>BAGUIO</b> 13 - 24 °C 13 - 24 °C	<b>ILDILO/BACLOD</b> 26 - 31 °C 26 - 32 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b> 24 - 32 °C 24 - 33 °C	
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b> 24 - 32 °C 23 - 31 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b> 24 - 30 °C 24 - 31 °C		

**DZRHNEWS TELEVISION**

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11 AM & 5 PM

**PILIPINAS HD**

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

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

## Rody From Page 1

Duterte said at least six Filipino women were driven to commit suicide due to abuses by their employers in Kuwait.

"Let me be blunt about this because Kuwait has always been an ally. But please do something about it and for all the other countries in the Middle East," he said.

Duterte lamented Filipinos had to endure rape, starvation, lack of sleep and long hours of work abroad for a pittance.

Duterte said he was hoping he was not committing a diplomatic faux pas for making such pronouncements but he stressed the need to address these concerns or he would not have the right to stay in his position a minute longer.

The President noted the large number of skilled Filipino workers deployed in the Middle East and their contribution to the economy and that he could not allow these abuses to continue.

"We have been sending Filipinos, doctors and nurses to help you also and in return, helping us in the very much-needed revenues for their families here," he said.

Duterte lamented how human rights

groups were assailing him over his drug campaign but would not raise an alarm over the abuses against OFWs.

"We have almost six Filipinas dying, committing suicide, jumping out of the window. *Mga p\* - ni hindi lang man kayo pinansin niyan* (These s\* --- they did not pay any attention)," Duterte said.

"And in their countries, they've been raping and here we are, I'm dealing with criminals and you're all noise. You can go to hell as a matter of fact," he said.

While the country benefits from the remittances of OFWs from the Middle East, Duterte said he still wants every Filipino to raise their heads in dignity even while working abroad as he acknowledged their sacrifices.

"As a matter of fact, the incomes there of the Filipinos contribute a lot to the GDP (gross domestic product) of the country. That is taken. (We have no question about that). You are of help," he said. "But if it ends up with misery, rape and everything, and my countrymen committing suicide, well, there's always a time" for reckoning.

"We are poor. We may need your help but we will not do it at the expense of the dignity of the Filipinos," Duterte added.

### Not too fast

In another development, acting Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) chief Bernard Olalia said the government needs

to conduct a thorough study before allowing the deployment of household workers to China in case Beijing lifts its restrictions.

Olalia made the statement in reaction to reports that China may soon grant work permit to Filipino HSWs employed by foreign executives.

"We have to form a technical working group to conduct a review. Not because they are allowing entry of HSWs we will already be sending our workers there," Olalia said.

Olalia stressed the thorough review is necessary to ensure the protection of OFWs.

"We need to undertake a study to avoid problems that will eventually force our government to ban deployment," Olalia said.

Olalia further explained that the Chinese government must first legislate or amend their existing laws to allow deployment of Filipino HSWs to Beijing.

Exiting laws in China, he said, restrict entry of foreign migrants.

But the Chinese new site ECNS reported last Tuesday that Beijing's Commission of Commerce is considering proposal to allow foreign domestic helpers of foreign executives to stay for the duration of their contracts as long as their employers can provide guarantees.

Recruitment industry welcomed the news as it claimed that there is a growing demand for Filipino domestic helpers in China.

25 January 2018

# Manila Standard

Page: A1

## ASG-linked Spaniard arrested in Basilan

TROOPS in Mindanao have arrested a Spanish man carrying grenades and bomb-making equipment and suspected of supporting a notorious militant group, authorities said Wednesday.

Abdelhakim Labidi Adib, 20, who described himself as a tourist, was detained Monday at an army checkpoint on Basilan island, a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom group, they said.

The Army said Labidi Adib, a Spanish citizen of Tunisian descent, was with a suspected Filipino member of the Abu Sayyaf who escaped.

“Labidi Adib is a known Abu Sayyaf sympathizer and ardent supporter of the establishment of [an] Islamic caliphate here in the Philippines,”

Capt. Exequiel Panti, special forces commanding officer in Basilan, said in a sworn statement.

“He was arrested. He threw [away] his bag containing explosives while his companion jumped from a cliff,” Panti told reporters on Wednesday after flying the suspect to the justice ministry in Manila.

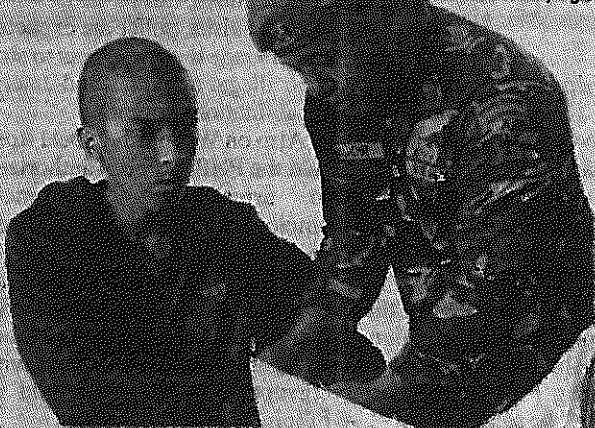
The Spaniard denied the military’s account.

Abu Sayyaf is infamous for kidnapping both locals and foreigners, and demanding ransoms of up to millions of dollars for their release.

Basilan has long been a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, which was founded in the 1990s with the help of Al-Qaida founder Osama Bin Laden.

Militants loyal to the Islamic State

*Next page*



**ALLEGED TERRORIST.** Soldiers escort Abdelhakim Labidi Adib, a Spanish national dubbed an alleged terrorist as he arrives Wednesday at the Department of Justice to attend inquest proceedings. Adib was arrested at a checkpoint in Maluso, Basilan on Monday with a rifle-grenade, a hand grenade, blasting cap, battery, cellphone, several IDs and other documents in his possession. **Norman Cruz**

## ASG-linked...

*From A1*

group, including Abu Sayyaf members, attacked Marawi City in May last year in what authorities said was part of a campaign to establish a Southeast Asian caliphate for IS.

The Marawi siege lasted for five months and left more than 1,100 people dead and half the city in ruins.

Authorities said Labidi Adib arrived in the Philippines in October 2017, about the time the Marawi siege ended.

He had previously travelled to Morocco and Tunisia, said senior state prosecutor Peter Ong, citing information on his passport.

Labidi Adib, who on Wednesday

sported a jacket and shaved head, told state prosecutors he was in the Philippines on vacation and had come from “the jungle” of Basilan before his arrest.

But he repeatedly refused to answer questions about what he was doing in an island avoided by tourists over the kidnapping threat.

The Armed Forces charged Labidi Adib with illegal possession of firearms.

Adib underwent inquest proceedings before Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong and Assistant State Prosecutor Rodan Parrocha on Wednesday.

During the proceeding, the Adib said that the accusations against him were false and that he would provide evidence to prove his innocence.

He also denied knowing the

name of his Filipino companion, whom he claimed was his guide. He also denied owning the black and red backpack and the explosives found inside.

He said it was not his intention to go to Basilan and that he went to the Philippines for a vacation. He first went to Manila and then Davao and stayed for two months in Cagayan de Oro.

“There are many beautiful women here,” Adib said, in Spanish.

He claimed that his real bag contained his clothes and eyeglasses but these were not presented to the DoJ prosecutors on Wednesday.

But when he was asked again about the purpose of his visit to Basilan, he refused to answer.

**AFP with Rey E. Requejo**

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## Spanish terror suspect nabbed in Basilan

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

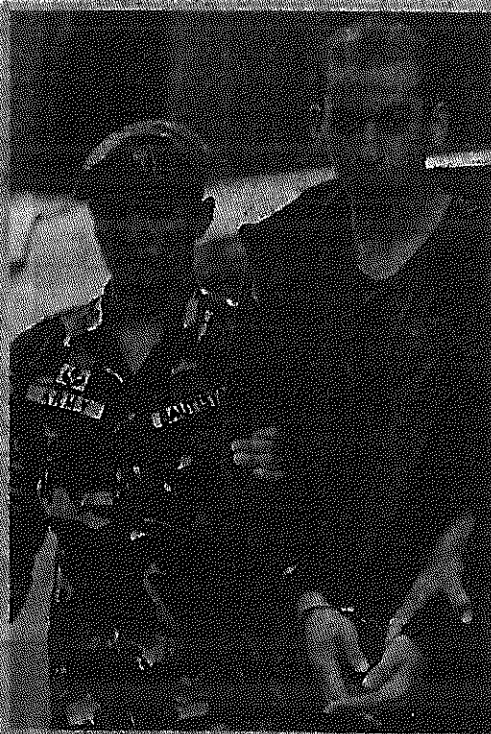
The military yesterday filed criminal charges against a Spaniard caught carrying grenades and bomb parts earlier this week in Basilan.

Abdelhakim Labidi Adib was charged before the Department of Justice (DOJ) for illegal possession of explosives. A team led by Army Capt. Exequiel Pantu filed the complaint.

Labidi Adib denied he owned the two grenades and bomb parts the military said belonged to him.

The 20-year-old Labidi Adib was caught at a roadside checkpoint in Masulo town last Monday. He was reportedly carrying a backpack.

Turn to Page 2



Suspected terrorist Abdelhakim Labidi Adib, a Spanish national, is escorted by soldiers to the DOJ building in Manila yesterday for an inquest following his arrest in Basilan, a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf.

EDU GUMBAN

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## Spanish terror From Page 1

containing a hand grenade, one rifle grenade, a cellular phone to be used as detonating device, his passport and some personal belongings with P8,520 cash.

Labidi Adib was captured in the hinterlands of Maluso town, where the Abu Sayyaf has presence, while a local militant with him managed to escape, the military said.

Panti added they set up a road checkpoint on intelligence reports of a foreign terrorist in the area.

"Labidi Adib is a known Abu Sayyaf sympathizer and ardent supporter of the establishment of (an) Islamic caliphate here in the Philippines," Panti said.

"He was arrested. He threw (away) his bag containing explosives while his companion jumped from a cliff," Panti told reporters yesterday after flying Labidi Adib to the DOJ in Manila.

The Spaniard denied the military's account.

Labidi Adib later told prosecutors that he "came from the jungle" in Basilan but refused to say why he traveled there and whom he met.

He said this was the first time he visited the Philippines and went to Basilan because he wanted to meet beautiful women. He claimed to have been arrested since Jan. 19.

But when he was asked again what he was doing in Basilan, the island province often avoided by tourists due to kidnapping threat by the Abu Sayyaf, he refused to answer.

Labidi Adib, of Tunisian descent, claimed he flew from Switzerland to Manila and went to Zamboanga before going to Basilan.

Authorities, however, said his passport only showed he went to Morocco and Tunisia.

Adib said he intending to go home to Spain when he was arrested.

Authorities said Labidi Adib ar-

rived in the Philippines in October 2017, about the time the siege in Marawi City ended.

Maute group militants loyal to Islamic State, including the Abu Sayyaf, attacked the southern city of Marawi in May last year in what authorities said was part of a campaign to establish a Southeast Asian caliphate for IS.

The Marawi siege lasted for five months and left more than 1,100 people dead and half the city in ruins.

The Islamist militants reportedly looted the city worth tens of millions of dollars during the five-month siege.

Sen. Ralph Recto urged the government to track down and recover the loot.

He said authorities must exert all efforts in seeing to it that "the fruit of the loot will not harm a single Filipino."

Recto said the intelligence funds appropriated by Congress to various agencies should be used to follow the money.

"If some has entered the banking system, then the protocols under AMLA (Anti-Money Laundering Act) should kick in, to prevent it from being laundered and re-circulated as clean," Recto said.

"We can only roll back terror if we stop those bankrolling it. Like any evil enterprise, money is the lifeblood of those who commit mayhem. We stop terror by stopping its financing," he said.

On gold and jewelry taken from Marawi City, Recto said other possible refuge or recycling places – like pawnshops – of stolen property, like gold and jewelry, must be put on notice by regulators to be on the lookout for any suspicious transaction.

Sen. Francis Escudero also called for the recovery of the loot but said it may not be that easy as most of it was in the form of cash, gold bars and jewelry.

– Paolo Romero, Roel Pareño, AFP, AP

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## ALLEGED SPANISH TERRORIST ARRESTED IN BASILAN

By Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

A SUSPECTED Spanish terrorist on Monday was arrested by members of the Joint Task Force Basilan in the province.

Abdelhakim Labidi Adib, 26, was nabbed at a checkpoint established by the Task Force led by JTF commander Col. Juvymax Uy.

Members of the 14th Special Forces Company received an information about the presence of the suspect in Bgy. Townsite, Maluso, Basilan.

Acting on the report, troops immediately set up a checkpoint that resulted in the arrest of the Spanish man.

Recovered from the suspect were two grenades, improvised device components, several identification card and cash amounting to P8,520.

An investigation showed that the suspect is a known sympathizer and



**ABDELHAKIM Labidi Adib (center) is escorted by Philippine soldiers as he arrives at the Department of Justice (DoJ) building in Manila yesterday. Adib, an alleged Spanish sympathizer of a notorious Philippine militant group, was arrested at a checkpoint set up by the Army in Basilan, a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom group.**

supporter of Islamic caliphate in the Philippines.

Adib is a Spaniard with Tunisian blood. He arrived in the country last October 10 from Switzerland.

Adib's tourist visa expired last December 8, making him an overstaying alien.

While in the Philippines,

the suspect strolled in Cagayan de Oro City, Davao and Metro Manila.

### CRIMINAL RAPS FILED BEFORE DOJ

THE AFP yesterday filed charges of violation of Republic Act 9516 or illegal possession of firearms before the Department of

Justice (DoJ) against Adib.

Adib underwent inquest proceedings before Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong and Assistant State Prosecutor Rodan Parrocha.

The suspect denied the allegations that he was a terrorist, saying he went to the Philippines for a vacation.

AFP

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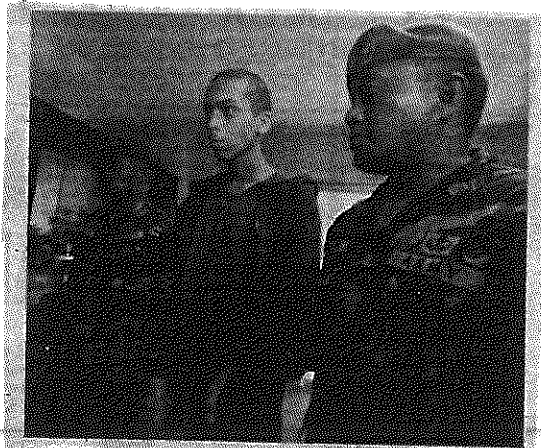
**THIS WAY, SIR** Inalalayan ng mga sundalo ang hinihinalang terorista na si Abdelhakim Labidi Adib, Spanish, sa pagpunta nito sa Department of Justice para sa inquest proceedings kahapon. Inaresto si Adib sa military checkpoint sa Maluso, Basilan noong Lunes. Nakuha sa kanya ang isang rifle, granada, iba't ibang identification (ID) cards, mga cell phones at iba pang mga dokumento.

**JANSEN ROMERO**

25 January 2018



Pahina. 2



BANTAY-sarado ng mga sundalo ang pinaghihinalang terorista na si Abdelhakim Labidi Adib, isang Espanyol, nang dumating ito sa tanggapan ng Department of Justice (DOJ) makaraang maaresto sa checkpoint ng militar sa Maluso. Basilan kung saan nakuha sa kanya ang isang rifle, granada, mga identification card, cellphone at mga dokumento.

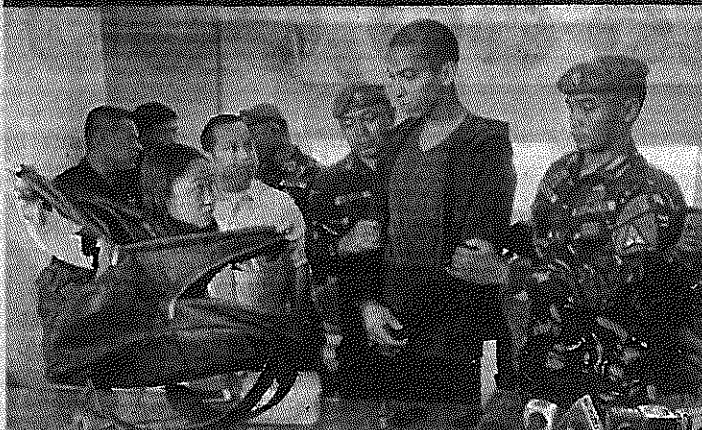
JHUN MABANAG

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

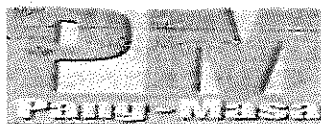


Presented before justice department prosecutors, Abdelhakim Labidi Adib denies owning the backpack that allegedly contained grenades and bomb parts. —GRIG MONTEGRANDE

**Troops capture suspected Spanish terror supporter**

Army troops manning a checkpoint have captured a Spaniard they say was carrying grenades and bomb parts and is believed to be supporter of Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Basilan province. Capt Exequiel Panti and two other Army Special Forces officers filed complaints of illegal possession of explosives on Wednesday against Abdelhakim Labidi Adib, a Spanish citizen of Tunisian descent, before Department of Justice prosecutors. Adib, who described himself as a tourist, denied he owned the two grenades and bomb parts the soldiers said belonged to him. They said they captured Adib on Monday in the hinterlands of Maluso town, where the Abu Sayyaf had a presence, and a local militant with him managed to escape. Adib, 20, told prosecutors he “came from the jungle” in Basilan but refused to say why he traveled there. “Labidi Adib is a known Abu Sayyaf sympathizer and ardent supporter of the establishment of [an] Islamic State caliphate in the Philippines,” said Panti, head of Special Forces in Basilan. “[When] he was arrested, he threw [away] his bag containing explosives while his companion jumped off a cliff.” —AP AND JEROME ANING

25 January 2018



Pahina. 2

### Spanish terrorist, arestado

Isang pinaghahinalang Spanish terrorist ang naaresto sa operasyon ng tropa ng Joint Task Force (JTF) Basilan kamakalawa

Kinilala ang nasakoteng suspek na si Abdelhakim Labidi Adib nang makomer sa checkpoint

Ang suspek ay nasakote ng 14<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Company matapos na makatanggap ng intelligence report hinggil

sa dayuhang suspek na kahina-binalala ang kilos habang gumagala sa Brgy Townsite Maluso, Basilan

Nasamsam sa suspek ang dalawang granada, improvised device components, sari-saring identification card at cash na nagkakahalaga ng P8,520

Ang suspek ay kitalang sympathizer at supporters ng Islamic caliphate sa Pilipinas na dumating sa Pilipinas galing Switzer-

land noong Oktubre 10, 2017 at overstaying na sa bansa dahil ang tourist visa nito ay nag-expire na noong Disyembre 8, 2017

Habang nasa Pilipinas ay naglibot na rin ang suspek sa Cagayan de Oro City, Davao at Metro Manila na ikinatwirang maraming magandang Pinay sa bansa kaya siya bumiyaheng dito. - Joy Cantos

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Pahina. 4

# Spanish terrorist

## tiklo sa Basilan

### NI JOY CANTOS

Naaresto ng tropa ng Joint Task Force (JTF) Basilan ang isang pinaghihinalang Spanish terorist sa operasyon sa lalawigan nitong Lunes.

Kinilala ang dayuhang terorista na si Abdelhakim Labidi Adib na hindi na nakalapag sa tropa ni JTF Basilan Commander Col Juvymax Uy matapos siyang makorner

sa checkpoint.

Ang suspek ay nasakote ng 14<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Company matapos na makatanggap ng intelligence report hinggil sa dayuhang suspek na kahina-hinala ang kilos habang gumagala sa Brgy. Townsite, Maluso, Basilan.

Nasamsam sa dayuhan ang dalawang granada, improvised device components, sari-saring identification

card at P8,520 cash

Si Adib ay kilalang sympathizer at supporter ng Islamic caliphate sa Pilipinas. Siya ay may dugong Tunisian na dumating sa Pilipinas galing Switzerland noong Oktubre 10, 2017.

Lumilitaw na overstaying na si Adib dayuhan sa Pilipinas dahilang tourist visa nito ay nag-expire na noong Disyembre 8, 2017.

Habang nasa Pilipinas ay naglibot na rin ang suspect sa Cagayan de Oro City, Davao at Metro Manila na ikinatwirang maraming magagandang Pinay

sa bansa kaya siya bumiyahе dito.

Kaugnay nito, ipina-quest na ng AFP sa Department of Justice (DOJ) ang nasakoteng dayuhang terorista.

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## 2 SOLDIERS KILLED IN CLASH

### WITH NPA IN KALINGA

**TWO soldiers on Tuesday were killed while two others were wounded in an encounter with suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Pinukpuk, Kalinga.**

Armed Forces of the

Philippines - Northern Luzon Command public information officer Lt Col Isagani Nato said the identities of the slain soldiers and those wounded were not yet available.

A platoon of the 50th

Infantry Battalion of the Joint Task Force "Tala" under the 5th Infantry Division went to Sitio Matayog, Bgy Baay, Pinukpuk town at 10 a.m on Tuesday to verify reports that a group of armed

men believed to be NPA terrorists were harassing the community.

The troops were approaching the area when they were welcomed by a volley of fire from the NPA rebels belonging to the

Komiteng Larangang Gerilya Baggas of the Ilocos-Cordillera Regional Committee led by Ruby Daguitan alias "Pinpin."

A firefight ensued that resulted to the killing of two soldiers and the

wounding of two others.

The wounded troopers were immediately given first aid and were evacuated to the nearest hospital for treatment.

**Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca**

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**2 Army soldiers killed in Kalinga clash**

CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, ISABELA—Two Army soldiers were killed while two others were wounded in a clash on Tuesday with suspected communist rebels in Pinukup town, Kalinga province. Reports reaching this military camp said Pfc. Edward Boggat and Cpl. Jeather Langcay died in the firefight in Sitio Matayog, Barangay Baay. Wounded were S/Sgt. Virgilio Jacinto and Pfc. Keaven Macaiba. —VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.



25 January 2018

1981 1984  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## 2 soldiers killed, 2 others wounded in Kalinga clash

By **FREDDIE G. LAZARO**

**CAMP MELCHOR F DELA CRUZ, Gamu, Isabela** — Two soldiers of the Philippine Army's 50th Infantry Battalion were killed while two others were wounded in an encounter with New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Sitio Matayog, Barangay Baay, Pimukpuk, Kalinga province on Tuesday.

Brigadier General Perfecto M. Rimando Jr., the commander of the Philippine Army's 5th Infantry Division, confirmed the presence of the casualties from the government troops during the encounter happened at about 10:00 a.m.

"We expressed our deepest sympathy to the family of our soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in serving the people of Kalinga from the hands of the communist terrorists. All the benefits intended for them will be received by their families the soonest possible time," said Rimando.

The identities of the slain soldiers

were withheld pending notification of their relatives.

Lieutenant Colonel Martin S. Daiz Jr., 50th Infantry Battalion commander, said that before the encounter, his troops responded acted on a tip provided by civilians regarding the presence of NPA rebels conducting extortion activities in the area.

The soldiers were on their way to the identified area and were met with gunfire by the rebels.

As government forces gained on the enemy during the skirmish, the NPA rebels retreated, dragging with them an undetermined number of wounded comrades.

Rimando ordered the immediate evacuation of the wounded soldiers and at the same time the conduct of pursuit operations against the fleeing rebels.

"There will be no let up in our operations in Kalinga province until the last NPA rebel is either neutralized or has yielded to the government," stressed Rimando.

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## 2 soldiers slain in clash with NPA rebels

Two Army soldiers were killed in an encounter with New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Pinukpuk, Kalinga on Tuesday.

Cpl. Jether Langkay and Pfc. Dwight Bonggat were with a group of soldiers of the 50th Infantry Battalion who responded to reports that rebels led by Rudy Daguitan, alias Ka Pinpin, were extorting money from residents of Sitio Matayug, Barangay Ba-ay when they were fired at.

Sgt. Virgilio Jacinto and Pfc. Kevin Macaiba were wounded in the firefight.

The military said several guns and personal belongings were recovered from the rebels.

In Isabela, around 10 NPA guerrillas attacked Army patrol bases in Barangays San Jose and Casala, San Mariano, triggering a gunfight. There was no reported casualty on both sides.

The Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) said the rebels are members of the group led by Melicio Casisola of the NPA's Northern-Central Luzon committee.

"The police and all military units at Nolcom were alerted and instructed to intensify security operations and monitor NPA terrorist plans," Nolcom said in a statement.

### Retired cop killed

Also in Kalinga, retired police officer Johnny Adaol was cleaning his lot in Sitio Lucuyan, Barangay Lacnog, Tabuk when he was shot by NPA rebels.

Four bullet shells for a caliber .45 pistol were recovered at the scene.

Pursuit operations for the communists are ongoing.

– Jaime Laude, Victor Martin, Ding Cervantes, Raymund Catindig, Artemio Dumlaog

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## 2 sundalo todas, 2 sugatan sa engkwentro vs NPA sa Kalinga

**DALAWANG** sundalo ang nasawi at dalawa ang nasugatan sa engkwentro sa pagitan ng militar at New People Army (NPA) sa Pinukpuk, Kalinga.

Nakilala ang mga nasawing sundalo na sina PFC Edward Boggat at Cpl Jeather Langcay, habang sugatan naman sina SSgt Virgilio Jacinto at PFC Keaven Macaiba, pawang nakatalaga sa Joint Task Force Fala ng 50 Infantry Battalion.

Ayon sa opisyal ng Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), dakong 10:00 ng umaga nang makasagupa ng mga elemento ng 50th IB ang di batid na bilang ng mga rebelde mula sa Komiteng Larangang Gerilya (KLG) "Baggas Baggas" ng Ilocos-Cordillera Regional Committee sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Ruby Daguitan alias Pinpin sa Sitio Matayog, Brgy Baay, Pinukpuk.

Nagsagawa ng operation ang mga sundalo nang makatanggap ng report na mayroon mga namataan armadong grupo mula sa mga residente sa nasabing lugar.

Nang mamataan ang palapit na mga sundalo ay pinaputukan ang mga ito ng mga rebelde at nagkabakbakan ng ilang minuto, kungsaan nasawi sina Boggat at Langcay, at nasugatan sina Macaiba at Jacinto. Habang mabilis na tumakas ang mga rebelde sa iba't ibang direksyon.

Hinala ng mga sundalo ay mayroon mga sugatan sa panig ng mga tumatakas na rebelde base sa mga bakas ng dugo sa mga dinanaang lugar sa pagtakas. (Mark Obleada)

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### Army vs NPA: 2 sundalo utas, 2 malubha

#### TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan

- Dalawang sundalo ang nalagas habang dalawa pa sa kanilang kabaro ang kritikal kasunod ng kanilang engkuwentro laban sa mga New People's Army (NPA) sa Sitio Matayug, Brgy. Ba-ay, Pinukup, Kalinga noong Martes.

Sa report na nakarating kay Brg. Gen Perfecto Rimando, 5th Army Division Commander,

nakasagupa ng mga tropa ang hindi natukoy na bilang ng mga armadong terorista sa ilalim ni Commander Rudy Daguitan aliyas Ka Pinpin dakong alas-10.15 ng umaga.

Nabatid na nagresponde ang mga sundalo sa report ng pananatili ng mga NPA sa lugar. Bumulagta sa bakbakan sina Cpl. Jether Langkay at Pfc. Dwight Bonggat habang agaw buhay sina

SSgt. Virgilio Jacinto at Pfc. Kevin Macaiba na mga kasapi ng 50<sup>th</sup> IB ng Philippine Army.

Inaalam pa rin ang bilang ng armas at kagamitan na natangay ng mga NPA sa mga nasawi at nasugatang sundalo.

Nadiskubre rin sa lugar ang pinagkutaan ng mga rebelde na tinatayang maaaring pagkasyahan ng 15 o higit pang katao **Raymund Catindig/Joy Cantos/Victor Martin**

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Pahina. 4

## MILF nagbakkakan: 2 patay, 6 sugatan

**NORTH COTABATO**  
- Dalawa katao ang nasawi habang sugatan ang anim na iba pa sa sagupaan ng 118th at 105th base command ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front o MILF sa Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao.

Ang dalawang nasawi at dalawang sugatan ay mula sa panig ng 118th base command, habang ang apat na iba pang sugatan ay mga miyembro naman ng 105th base command.

Unang sumiklab ang

gulo sa pagitan ng dalawang grupo ng MILF noong Sabado ng gabí at nagpapatuloy hanggang kahapon. Pero nilinaw ni MILF-Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities chairman Butch Malang na ang bakkakan ay hindi sa pagitan ng dalawang MILF base commands kundi sa pagitan ng mga pamilya na miyembro nila na sina Haon Sindatuk at Datu Andap sa Barangay Madia, Datu Saudi Ampatuan.

Nabatid na aabot sa

dalawang libong pamilya ang apektado na ng bakkakan at marami sa kanila ang lumikas sa mga paaralan at bahay ng kanilang mga kamag-anak.

Samantala, nanawagan si Maguindanao Gov. Esmail Mangudadatu, na siya ring chairman ng provincial peace and order council, sa Malaysian-led International Monitoring na mamagitan na sa naturang gulo para hindi na tumagal at kumalat pa sa ibang lugar. **Rhoderick Beñez**

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Pahina. 2

## 2 sundalo patay, 2 sugatan sa NPA

Nasawi ang dalawang sundalo habang dalawa pa ang nasugatan nang makasagupa nila ang mga teroristang New People's Army (NPA) sa lalawigan ng Kalinga, kamakalawa.

Hindi muna pinangalanang ang mga nasawi at nasugatang sundalo hangga't hindi pa ito ipinabatid sa kanilang mga pamilya.

Sa ulat ni AFP Northern

Luzon Command Spokesman Lt Col Isagani Nato, dakong alas-10:00 ng umaga ay nagresponde ang Army's 50th Infantry Battalion sa Sitio Mata-yog, Brgy Baay, Pinukpuk Kalinga matapos makatanggap ng impormasyon hinggil sa presensya ng mga armadong NPA terrorists na mga miyembro ng Komiteng Larangang

Gerilya Baggas ng Ilocos-Cordillera Regional Committee na pinamunuan ni Commander Ruby Daguitan alyas Ka Pinpin na nangha-harass at nangongotong sa mga residente sa lugar.

Ang engkuwentro ay nagresulta sa pagkasawi ng dalawang sundalo habang dalawa pa ang nasugatan - Joy Cantos.

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# Terror suspect caught with bombs charged

By **JEFFREY G. DAMICOG**

A Spanish national was charged yesterday before the Department of Justice (DoJ) after government forces caught him in Basilan with a bag of improvised explosive devices (IED).

Members of the Philippine Army (PA) brought Abdelhakim Labidi Adib, 20, a Spaniard with Tunisian descent, before Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong for inquest for illegal possession of explosives.

"Illegal possession of explosive is a predicate of terrorism," Ong told reporters.

"However, you still have to prove that the commission of that act is for the purpose of sowing terror, panic, extraordinary fear among the populace in order to coerce the government to lofty

demands," he explained.

Adib was arrested on the evening of January 22 by members of the PA at a check point in Maluso, Basilan, an area known for the presence of the Abu Sayyaf.

Though Adib's companion believed to be a member of the Abu Sayyaf managed to escape, the military recovered the back pack the Spaniard threw away and found inside cash, rifle grenade, blasting caps and detonation devices.

Adib was given a chance to file his counter-affidavit on January 31 after he waived his right for arbitrary detention.

"So you have to remain in detention habang dinedepensahan mo ang sarili mo," Ong said.

During the inquest proceedings, Adib denied owning the back pack as well as his companion who

managed to evade arrest.

He also claimed he was arrested last January 19 and, while in military custody, was hurt by members of the military.

It was learned that Adib arrived in the country on October 10 from Switzerland on a tourist visa which expired on December 8.

After arriving in Manila, Adib said he travelled to Zamboanga and then to Basilan.

The Spaniard, who had travelled to other countries including Morocco and Tunisia, said he arrived in the Philippines for a vacation for the first time.

He, however, refused to answer why he went to Mindanao.

Though he admitted he had just come out of the jungle when he was arrested, he also refused to say what he was doing inside the jungle.

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## SANDIGANBAYAN JUNKS PLEA OF ARMY OFFICER IN SEX SCANDAL

**THE Sandiganbayan Sixth Division has found enough basis to proceed with the trial of a former colonel of the Philippine Army who was charged with three separate counts of violation of Anti-Sexual Harassment Act.**

The Anti-Graft Division denied the motion of ex-Col. Jessie Mario Borja Dosado, then serving as commanding officer of the Philippine Army Procurement Center (PAPC), to junk his alleged violation of Republic Act 7877 or the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1997.

The Sandiganbayan rejected the argument of

Dosado that the Anti-Graft Division has no authority over the charges because of his Salary Grade 26 or Full Colonel rank.

The Court mentioned the prosecution's position that the accused's post was covered by its jurisdiction.

Dosado was accused

of using his position to allegedly ask sexual favors from "Jane," not her real name, and a subordinate employee at the PAPC in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on May 16, 2013.

"By ordering her to watch him, as she did in fact, watch him having sexual intercourse and per-

forming other sexual acts with "Miss Glacy," and asking her to join them in an orgy, which sexual favors and advances resulted in a hostile or offensive working environment for Jane," the information alleged.

In a separate case, "Marie," Dosado's secretary, said her naked boss

allegedly asked her on Oct. 22, 2013 to wipe his back and told her to give him a bath.

Marie also said Dosado uttered foul language on Oct. 25, 2013 while the accused was allegedly applying lotion to his private part.

**Ryan Ponce Pacpaco**

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## 2 soldiers killed in clash with Reds

By ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA

**TWO soldiers were killed while two others were wounded in an encounter with suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) the other day in Pinukpuk, Kalinga.**

Lt. Col. Isagani G. Nato, Public Information Officer of Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), said the identities of the slain soldiers as well as those wounded were not yet available as of press time.

Nato said the encounter occurred at around 10 a.m. at Sitio Matayog, Bgy. Baay, Pinukpuk.

A platoon of the Army's 50th Infantry Battalion of Joint Task Force "Tala" under the 5th Infantry Division went to the area to verify reports that armed men believed to be NPA terrorists were harassing the community.

When the troops reached the area, they were greeted with bullets from the NPA terrorists belonging to Komiteng Larangang Gerilya (KLG) Baggas of the Ilocos Cordillera Regional Committee (ICRC) led by Ruby Daguitan, alias Pinpin.

A firefight ensued that resulted in the killing of two soldiers and wounding of two others who were immediately given first aid on site and evacuated to the hospital.

Earlier, troops recovered an encampment of NPA terrorists in Bgy. Babalasioan, Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur.

The said encampment can accommodate 15 persons. Meanwhile, the AFP yesterday reported that a total of 188 NPA members surrendered to authorities in span of three weeks following the invitation of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for them to return to folds of the law and avail of government protection and assistance.

AFP-Public Affairs Office (PAO) Chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel R. Garcia said on January 21 alone, the AFP received 52 former rebels who surrendered from the provinces of Masbate and Sultan Kudarat.

Seven NPA regulars and 35 members of Militia ng Bayan turned themselves to joint elements of 2nd IB and Masbate Police Station in Masbate City. The group surrendered 13 firearms.

In Sultan Kudarat, 10 have returned to government fold and surrendered eight firearms.

Other NPA members surrendered from the provinces of Albay, Compostela valley, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato, Agusan del Norte, Bukidnon, Davao Oriental, Sarangani, Kalinga, Surigao del Norte and Davao City.

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# Duterte in India for summit

By DJ Yap  
@deejayapINQ

NEW DELHI—President Duterte arrived here on Wednesday to take part in a regional summit with leaders of India and the Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean), and to begin exploratory talks on the purchase of cheap medicines from the subcontinent.

He arrived at 8:15 p.m. (Manila time) along with a high-level delegation that included Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez, and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

## Delhi Declaration

Mr. Duterte was to have a bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shortly after arriving here, with the former broaching the possibility of a trade deal with the Indian pharmaceutical industry.



President Duterte troops the line with Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Leonardo Guerrero —JOAN BONDOC

The Asean-India Commemorative Summit, scheduled on Thursday, will focus on maritime cooperation and on regional and international issues.

At the end of the two-session summit, the Asean and Indian leaders were expected to sign the Delhi Declaration that features a roadmap for cooperation between Asean and India, which are celebrating 25 years

of relations in 2018.

## Republic Day

Mr. Duterte and the nine other Asean heads of state have been invited to India's Republic Day celebration on Jan. 26, according to Assistant Secretary Hellen de la Vega, head of Asean affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Modi personally invited Mr. Duterte to visit India when the

two met in Manila during the Asean Summit in November.

It was at that meeting where the President told Modi that he would welcome Indian investments that could give Filipinos better access to cheap medicines.

Mr. Duterte is expected to attend a lunch to be hosted by Indian President Ram Nath Kovind.

## Top Asean partner

This is Mr. Duterte's first trip abroad in 2018 after castigating and firing two officials for having too many foreign travels.

India, with 1.3 billion people, is one of Asean's top trading partners. In 2016, total trade volume between the regional bloc and India amounted to \$58.45 billion.

In 2017, India became one of Asean's top five partners in development assistance, with funded projects and programs amounting to \$55.5 million.

Asean and India established dialogue relations in 1992, with India becoming a full dialogue partner of Asean in 1995. INQ

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# Maute supporters fall in Cotabato, Lanao ops

## Army says 3 men nabbed in Lanao Sur 'aggressive sympathizers' of terror group

COTABATO CITY—Police arrested at least four suspected supporters of the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute terror group, among them the wife of one of the slain leaders of the group, in separate raids in Cotabato City and in Piagapo town, Lanao del Sur province, on Tuesday.

Najiya Karon-Maute, an engineer, was nabbed in her house in Barangay Rosary Heights 3 in Cotabato City past 2 p.m. Tuesday, said Senior Supt. James Allan Logan, chief of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (CIDG-ARMM).

Chief Insp. Allan Uy, spokesperson for CIDG-ARMM, said Karon-Maute was the widow of Mohammad Khayyam Maute, one of the Maute brothers who led the siege of Marawi City on May 23 last year.

### Rebellion

Karon-Maute was 22nd on the list of those charged with rebellion in an order issued by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on June 5 last year, barely two weeks after President Duterte issued Proclamation No. 216 which placed the entire Mindanao un-



Najiya Karon-Maute —PHOTO FROM CIDG-ARMM

der martial law.

Mohammad Khayyam was reportedly killed in the early days of the fighting, which ended in October last year when the last of the Maute brothers, Omar-khayyam, who led the siege, was killed along with Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

Karon-Maute and her family members declined to speak to reporters.

"(She) is still undergoing tactical interrogation about her role in the terror group," Uy said.

In Lanao del Sur, a military operation on Tuesday nabbed

suspected Maute supporters Jamal Ramal Berongan, also known as "Mayor," Ibrahim Alek Undi, also known as "Brad Alexander," and Apao Dimacaling.

### Guns seized

Maj. Roger Suscano, officer in charge of the public affairs office of the Army's First Infantry Division, said soldiers recovered from Dimacaling and Berongan two .45-cal pistols.

"They are not on the official list of the Maute group as members but they are verified [to be] aggressive sympathizers of the IS-inspired group because they are armed and willing to kill [soldiers] and suspected assets of government forces," Suscano said.

Senior Supt. John Guyguyon, Lanao del Sur provincial police director, said a review of their records showed that the three men were also behind the killing of three furniture vendors, who were natives of Misamis Oriental province, in Piagapo last month.

Guyguyon said the suspects had told investigators they killed the vendors as a way of exacting revenge for the deaths

of their relatives during the Marawi siege.

But according to Guyguyon, the police can not charge them based on their confession alone because the law protects them against self-incrimination.

"This is our challenge. It is difficult for us to pursue our case because no one will come out to [stand] witness against them," he said.

The least the police could do was to charge them for illegal possession of firearms, he added.

### Pursuit

The military had identified Piagapo as among the areas in Lanao del Sur where the Maute group maintained its presence before the Marawi siege. Several Maute gunmen were killed in a clash with soldiers in Piagapo in April last year.

Authorities have been pursuing remnants or supporters of the Maute group since the siege of Marawi started in May last year.

More than 90 people had been arrested but some of them were eventually cleared.

—EDWIN FERNANDEZ AND DIVINA SUSON INQ

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# Manila Standard

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## 56,000 overcrowd evac sites in Albay

LEGAZPI CITY—Thousands more have fled the erupting Mayon Volcano here, relief workers said Wednesday as foreign tourists arrived to watch the flaming lava and giant cauliflower clouds spurring from its crater.

More than 56,000 residents are now crammed in schools and other buildings two weeks after Mayon volcano began showing signs of unrest.

In other developments:

- Health department has ordered a P5-million quick-release fund to finance various activities, including the continuous monitoring of Mayon volcano.

The funds will also be used to buy supplies including water containers, hygiene kits, medicines and mosquito nets for the affected families.

- The Australian government on Wednesday announced a donation to help the communities affected by the eruption of Mayon volcano.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said

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## 56,000...

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P31.6 million (A\$775,000 worth of assistance would be provided through the Philippine Red Cross to provide the 30,000 people living in the evacuation centers with tarpaulins, sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans and hygiene supplies.

Volcanologists on Monday warned of a hazardous eruption within days and a no-go zone was extended from six kilometers of the crater to nine kilometers, forcing local officials to order further evacuations as ash rained down on communities.

At the shelters, people sleep on the floor and each shares a single toilet with 49 other people, the Philippine Red Cross said.

"Their numbers ballooned after the danger zone was expanded," Rose Rivero, Red Cross administrator for the region, told AFP.

Mostly farmers and their families, the evacuees are surviving on food handouts from the government and charities, with the Red Cross pitching in with drinking water, counseling, and hygiene items, she added.

"If we go back to its [Mayon's] history of eruption, it would take three to four months before we could send them back to their homes," Rivero said.

The state volcanologist office said there was little chance of that happening soon.

It reported five episodes of "intense but sporadic lava fountaining from the summit crater" overnight Tuesday, along with ash plumes five kilometers high.

Lava and incandescent rocks also rolled down the volcano's flanks, it said in a Wednesday bulletin.

The eruption is also drawing curious American, European and South Korean tourists, local hoteliers said.

"They are attracted by Mayon's activity. They want to have a closer look," Nics Ortonio, a receptionist at the packed four-star Oriental Hotel in Legazpi, told AFP.

Guests rush out of their 5,600-peso (\$110) per day rooms to watch Mayon's periodic outbursts in safety from the hotel's terrace restaurant along with local diners, she added. AFP, with Rio N. Araja, Macon Ramos-Araneta and PNA

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# Manila Standard

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## Maute widow falls; 2 killed in 3-hour clash of Moro factions

By Francisco Tuyay

SECURITY forces arrested the widow of the Maute group chieftain at her residence in Cotabato City Tuesday afternoon.

Senior Insp. Jemar de los Santos, spokesman for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police identified the suspect as

Najriya Dilangalen Karon-Maute, 37, widow of Mohammad Khayam Maute, the top leader of the Islamic State-inspired Maute group.

The suspect was included in the Department of National Defense arrest order No. 2 dated June 5, 2017 for the crime of rebellion.

Mohammad Kayam Maute was killed during the

last stretch of intense fighting with security forces inside the main battle area in Marawi City in October.

Aside from Kayam Maute, also killed in the Marawi fighting was Isnilon Hapilon, the Abu Sayyaf Group chieftain and emir of ISIS in Southeast Asia.

Karon-Maute, 37, was being interrogated about her

role in the terrorist group.

The DND has issued arrest orders in pursuit of suspected terror group members in all parts of Mindanao, which has been placed under martial law since May 2017.

In Maguindanao, fighting between two groups of Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels sent more than 2,000

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### Maute...

From A1

families fleeing from their homes in the last two days, police said Wednesday.

A teacher, identified by the Datu Saudi Ampatuan police office as Baidido Kamansa, 44, was hit by stray bullet in the head while a kilometer away from warring MILF fighters in Barangay Madia, Datu Saudi Ampatuan town.

Sr. Supt. Agustin Tello, Maguindanao police director, said those involved in the firefight were members of MILF 105th base command under Commander Haon Sindatuk and MILF's 118th base command headed by Commander Datu Adam.

Two fighters from both sides were reportedly killed, according to police while six others were injured.

The group of Adam attacked the group of Sindatuk Monday morning, police said.

Heavy fighting lasted for about three hours.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmel Mangudadatu said intervention by an international monitoring team eased tensions by Wednesday morning. **With PNA**

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## Two Marwan cohorts get protection from BIFF

By KEITH BACONGCO

MAGUINDANAO – Three years after the death of Malaysian bomb maker Zulkifi bin Hir (Marwan), two terrorists who worked closely with him are still holed up in the peripheries of Liguasan Marsh in Central Mindanao and being protected by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), a splinter group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Three years ago today, the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) launched "Oplan Exodus" and killed Marwan in a hut in Barangay Tukanalpao, Mamasapano, Maguindanao, an MILF territory.

Marwan had a \$5-million ► 11

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# Two Marwan cohorts...

◀1

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bounty from the US govt while the Philippine govt offered a P7-million bounty. The operation led to the massacre of 44 SAF troopers and 18 Moro rebels, a tragedy that led to the scrapping of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) in Congress following a public outrage.

A seasoned intelligence officer disclosed to Manila Bulletin that Singaporean Abdullah Alih, known as Muawiyah and Malaysian Amin Baco or Yohan the two understudies of Marwan are being protected by BIFF commander Esmael Abdulmalik, alias Abu Torayfe.

"Muawiyah is still in the area of Datu Salibo and Mamasapano towns in Maguindanao and being protected by Torayfe," the intel officer assured requesting anonymity.

Baco, the officer said shared a hut with Marwan. "During the raid, Baco was able to escape through the window at the back of the hut and fled along with (Basit) Usman," Muawiyah, who arrived in Mindanao in the early '90s has a \$500,000 bounty.

But the intel officer said he has not monitored the movement of Baco after fighting with the Maute group during the Marawi siege. The intel officer said it was Baco who took the surveillance video around the city prior to the siege. Baco arrived in Mindanao in 2014 and joined the IS-Ranao group of the Maute brothers.

Also included in the manhunt is Salahuddin Hassan, who carries a P1.3-million bounty, he added.

"Hassan used to be part the MILF's elite force and among the close-in guards of the late MILF chair Hashim Salamat. But when Salamat died, Hassan and some of his colleagues left the MILF and formed the Al-Khobar Group," the officer claimed.

The Al-Khobar Group is reportedly behind the bombing and extortion activities on bus firms and business establishments in Central Mindanao.

But the MILF denied allegations that Al-Khobar is composed of former MILF fighters.

## High-value targets

Sixth Infantry Division spokesperson Lt. Colonel Gerry Besana confirmed that Hassan and Muawiyah are

operating along with the BIFF in the "SPMS box," referring to the towns of Shariff Aguak-Pagatin-Mamasapano-Shariff Saydona.

"If there's military operation in the area, they will retreat to the neighboring town of Aleosan (North Cotabato) and sometimes all the way to Carmen," Besana added.

The military received reports that Muawiyah was among those injured during the airstrike last November.

Aside from Baco and Muawiyah, dozens of Indonesian and Malaysian terrorists are hiding in Liguasan helping the BIFF make explosive devices and train jihadists, Besana said.

During the oral argument at the Supreme Court last week on the extended martial law in Mindanao, the AFP claimed to have monitored 48 foreign terrorists Mindanao.

## Amin Baco

"Baco is more of a computer expert. He used to be an assistant of Marwan and he had the list of their contacts abroad because Marwan doesn't know how to use a computer very well," the officer disclosed.

PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa claimed Baco is believed to be the next emir of the IS in Southeast Asia.

"Let's wait for the ISIS itself to announce the replacement of Hapilon, they will post that in YouTube," the intel officer said.

Latest report posted online quoted MNLF leader Yusop Jikiri as saying that Baco is being protected by his Filipino father-in-law, Abu Sayyaf kidnaper leader Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan in the mountains of Patikul, Sulu.

The intel officer believes those who survived the Marawi battle would still regroup the reason for the close monitoring of "sleeper cells" in different parts of Mindanao which could be possible launch pads for kidnappings and terroristic attacks.

"The death of Hapilon doesn't matter to the IS-inspired groups because he was just a figurehead. Another one may soon be anointed by the ISIS," noted the intel officer who is a veteran in dealing with the insurgency in Mindanao.

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## Hundreds flee fighting between two MILF factions

**MAGUINDANAO** – About 1,000 local residents in Datu Saudi Ampatuan town have fled their homes after fierce fighting broke out between two warring groups of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Capt Arvin Encinas, civil military operations officer of Sixth Infantry Division (6th ID), said government troops were deployed in several villages in Datu Saudi Ampatuan to secure the evacuees who fled their homes to escape being caught in the crossfire between warring groups of 118th MILF Base command led by Haon Sindatuk and 105th MILF Base Command led by Datu Adam in Barangay Madia, Datu Saudi Ampatuan last Tuesday.

At least two members of the MILF 118th Base Command were killed, while four members of the MILF 105th Base command were wounded in the gun-battle.

He said the evacuees came from Barangay Madia and neighboring villages of Elian, Gawang and Dapiawan who are housed in public schools in Barangay Elian.

Encinas said local officials and members of the MILF-Coordinating Council on the Cessation of Hostilities have undertaken steps to defuse the tension between the two warring groups. (Joseph Jubelag)

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# Existence of shadow NPA gov't being monitored

By JOSEPH JUBELAG

**I** SULAN, Sultan Kudarat – Local authorities are closely monitoring a shadow government that has reportedly been established by the New People's Army (NPA) in the hinterland villages of this province.

Sr. Supt. Raul Supiter, Sultan Kudarat police director, said police and military authorities uncovered the existence of a bogus government organized by NPA, armed-wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), after dozens of NPA members from the towns

of Palimbang and Senator Ninoy Aquino surrendered to local authorities.

According to those who surrendered, the NPA has appointed village officials composed of barangay chairpersons and councilors to head the Kilusang Rebolusyonaryong Barangay, an NPA political structure which is patterned after the barangay local government unit of the government.

Some 40 NPA members from Palimbang and Senator Ninoy Aquino towns had earlier surrendered to police and military authorities after they complained of the non-fulfillment of the NPA

of their salaries and livelihood assistance after they joined the communist underground movement.

The NPA surrenderers, who are mostly Manobo-Dulangan tribesmen, belonged to the NPA Guerrilla Front 72 operating in the boundary of Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato.

One of the NPA surrenderees Andet Bandy said a certain NPA commander Yuan had appointed him as village chieftain together with some other barangay councilmen to the KRE structure.

He said their NPA recruiter promised them with salaries and livelihood

assistance once they joined the NPA.

He decried that four years since, they have to receive the salary and livelihood assistance promised them.

"We were gypped by the NPA which assured us of salaries and livelihood once we opt to join the rebel group," Bandy said.

Supiter said government forces are tracking down the NPA rebels who are holed out in the mountain villages of Palimbang and Senator Aquino towns.

"We are having difficulty to hunt them down since they (NPA) are always on the run," Supiter said.

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## **4 PATAY SA BAKBAKAN NG AFP AT NPA SA COTABATO**

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY** – Panuloy parang kimkilala ang mga labi ng tatlong kasapi ng New People's Army (NPA) na napatay sa bakbakan sa Makilala, North Cotabato.

Ito ang imhayag sa Bombo Radyo ni Army Lt. Lea Canseran, tagapagsalita ng 39th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army.

Aniya, ang grupo ng mga ito ang sinasabing nang-harass sa patrol base ng militar sa Sitio Garing, Barangay Luayon, Makilala noong Enero 22.

Tunagal umano ng halos dalawang oras ang palitan ng putok bago tuluyang umatras ang mga bandido.

Nabatid na maliban sa tatlong rebelde, isang kasapi rin ng Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) ang nasawi mula sa tropa ng gobyerno.

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## NPAs earned ₱1.48 B in 2017 thru extortion – AFP

By ANTONIO L. COLINA IV

DAVAO CITY – Some ₱2.48 billion had been lost to alleged extortion activities and attacks launched by New People's Army terrorists last year, Eastern **11**

## NPAs earned ₱1.48 B... ◀1

Mindanao Command (EastMinCom) commander Lt. General Benjamin R. Madrigal revealed Tuesday.

At the sidelines of the Mindanao Business Briefing at Seda Hotel here, Madrigal said that at least ₱1.48 billion came from extortion from mining and agricultural companies in Eastern Mindanao, covering Davao Region, Caraga and parts of Soccsksargen and Northern Mindanao.

With ₱1.48 billion, Madrigal said the NPAs could buy 23,333 AK47 rifles or 31.1 million rounds of ammunition.

The other ₱1 billion came mostly from the damages incurred on the box plant of the Lorenzo family-owned Lapanday Foods Corporation

in Mandug after the NPAs burned it on April 29, 2017, he added.

The EastMinCom chief appealed to businesses to stop giving in to the demands of the terrorists because they only worsen the insurgency problem by funding their operations with revolutionary taxes.

"They (NPA) will continue to ask if some will continue to provide also," he added.

Madrigal said they hold regular meetings with companies to educate owners on the consequences of paying revolutionary tax and how and where to report NPA harassments.

He assured a strengthened military presence in conflict-affected and resources-rich areas to stop extortion activities.

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Pahina. 5

### 188 NPA terrorists sumuko sa loob lamang ng 3 linggo

Sa loob lamang ng tatlong linggo ng buwang kasalukuyan (Enero) umaabot na sa 188 mga terorista ng New People's Army (NPA) ang sumuko sa pamahalaan.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia, Chief ng AFP Public Affairs Office, ito'y kaugnay ng determinadong opensiba ng tropa ng pamahalaan upang tuldukan ang pamamayagpag ng NPA terrorists sa bansa.

Nitong Disyembre 21 ng nakalipas na taon ay pinagkalooban ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ng livelihood project ang nagsisukong 600 NPA communists terrorists.

Pinaniniwalaang ang nasabing hakbangin ng pamahalaan ang nakakumbinse sa iba pang NPA terrorists para magbalik-loob sa batas.

Kabilang sa mga nagsisuko ayon sa opisyal ay ang 52 NPA nitong Enero 21 ng taong ito mula sa mga lalawigan ng Masbate at Sultan Kudarat.

Samantalang nasa pitong NPA at 35 pang mga miyembro ng Militia ng bayan ang sumurender rin sa mga elemento ng Army's 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion sa Masbate City na nagsuko rin ng nasa 13 sari-saring mga armas. (Joy Cantos)

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# SolGen seeks dismissal of 4 petitions vs. ML extension

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan January 24, 2018, 8:13 pm

**MANILA** -- The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) asked the Supreme Court (SC) to dismiss the four consolidated petitions seeking to void the full-year extension of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao.

The top government counsel on Wednesday filed its 99-page memorandum on the four petitions questioning its constitutionality of one-year extension of martial law in Mindanao.

Solicitor General Jose Calida said the high court already ruled that President Rodrigo Duterte had "sufficient factual bases" to show that actual rebellion exists in the region.

"The rebels are committing atrocities and causing civilian casualties. Public safety requires the extension for one year," Calida said.

"The effect of martial law is obviously more than psychological as the perception of public safety heightened with increased military presence, unabated checkpoints, and undeterred offensives against rebels or terrorists," he stressed.

"The actions of the military have, in effect, addressed the widespread fear and panic among peace-loving Filipinos in Mindanao," Calida added.

The Solicitor General opined that there is no need to show the magnitude of the rebellion, and placing the requirement of public safety on a scale, or even continuum, will not only prevent the application of the laws but undermine the Constitution.

"Martial law as an option of the President exists precisely to address a rebellion that endangers public safety. The fact that our countrymen, both Christians and Muslims, have somehow managed to go about their daily lives in Mindanao does mean that there is no need for the extension of the proclamation of martial law and suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus," Calida noted.

According to Calida, since the SC already declared that there is rebellion in Mindanao, the burden lies on the petitioners to show that the rebellion has been completely quelled.

"Since petitioners have not shown facts to the contrary, they cannot ask the court to set aside the extension of the proclamation and suspension," Calida noted.

He also chided the petitioners for asking the nullification of the extension on the flimsy ground that petitioners believe that the exercise of a more benign Commander-in-Chief power would suffice. "It is not the place of the petitioners to dictate on the President which of the three Commander-in-Chief powers is most appropriate in dealing with the ongoing rebellion."

The SC received four petitions filed by the congressmen led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman et al; another group led by Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate and Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao, et al;

former Commission on Human Rights chair Etta Rosales; and a group led by Christian Monsod, one of the framers of the Constitution seeking to declare the martial law extension in Mindanao as unconstitutional.

All petitions stated that the extension, which was approved by Congress in a joint 240-27 vote last December, lacked sufficient factual basis as Marawi City was already liberated and key leaders of the rebellion were reported dead.

The solicitor general, however, argued that the liberation of Marawi City did not signal the end of the rebellion in the whole of Mindanao.

He likewise said that the petitioners failed to prove that Congress acted in grave abuse of discretion when it granted the request of President Duterte to extend martial law in Mindanao as well as demonstrated that there was a clear breach of the Constitution in such a move.

In their separate memorandum, the National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL) is one of the petitioners challenging the factual basis of President Rodrigo Duterte's year-long extension of martial law in Mindanao.

"It is Petitioners' firm assertion that it is the public safety requirement and not rebellion or invasion alone, which is the most decisive element in the martial law powers of the President," members of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers said in their memorandum filed before the SC.

They raised that the SC "must step out of the traditional understanding of public safety and must contextually define, nuance or at least describe the level of threat to public safety, which 'requires' the imposition of martial law and not merely 'necessitates' the calling out powers of the President."

Last January 17, the high court ended the two-day oral arguments on the four consolidated petitions against the martial law extension in Mindanao.

On Dec. 13, 2017, a total of 240 members of Congress voted to approve to extend martial law in Mindanao, while only 27 voted against it. The approved extension would take effect beginning Jan. 1, 2018 until Dec. 31, 2018.

In December last year, the high court upheld with finality the constitutionality of Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

The SC's 82-page landmark decision, penned by Associate Justice Mariano Del Castillo, said that the 1987 Constitution granted Duterte the prerogative to put any part of the country under martial rule. **(PNA)**

pna.gov.ph

## Ex-Army officer's bid to dismiss sexual harassment case junked

By Perfecto Raymundo, Jr. January 24, 2018, 5:32 pm

**MANILA --** The Sandiganbayan has junked the motion of a former Philippine Army officer to dismiss the case filed against him for allegedly asking sexual favors on three occasions from two of his female subordinates in 2013.

In a resolution promulgated on January 18, the Sandiganbayan Sixth Division said there is a basis to try former Army Procurement Center Commanding Officer Col. Jessie Mario Dosado for three counts of violation of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act.

Prosecutors of the Office of the Ombudsman related that on May 16, 2013, Dosado ordered a female master sergeant to watch him have a sexual intercourse and perform other sexual acts with a certain Miss Glacy.

Dosado then allegedly asked the female officer to join them in an orgy.

On two separate instances on Oct. 22 and 25, 2013, the Army officer allegedly called his secretary to ask for sexual favors again.

In his motion to dismiss, Dosado argued that the government suffered no damages from his acts and the case does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan due to his Salary Grade 26 (SG-26) rank of full Colonel.

He added the case information failed to allege the intimate relationship or connection to his sexual harassment charges as an Army officer.

The Ombudsman argued that Dosado's rank falls within Presidential Decree No. 1606, which created the Sandiganbayan, and as amended by Republic Act. 10660, or the "Act Strengthening Further the Functional and Structural Organization of the Sandiganbayan."

The Sandiganbayan decided in favor of the Ombudsman, saying the anti-graft court has jurisdiction over Dosado's case "regardless of his salary grade."

It added the alleged sexual acts were connected to his office, since the victims were under his immediate supervision.

"In other words, the official position held by the accused made it possible for him to have allegedly committed the crimes charged. Thus, it can be said that the crimes charged are intimately connected to his office," the Sandiganbayan resolution said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines dropped Dosado from the service in 2016 over other cases against him. **(PNA)**

pna.gov.ph

# AFP files raps vs. alleged Spanish terrorist

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan January 24, 2018, 4:46 pm

**MANILA** -- The Armed Forces of Philippines (AFP) filed criminal charges on Wednesday before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against a suspected terrorist who was arrested in a checkpoint in Basilan.

Spanish national Abdelhakim Labidi Adib, 20, was charged with violation of Republic Act 9516 or illegal possession of firearms, after he was reportedly caught carrying a backpack containing a hand grenade, one rifle grenade, a cellular phone used as a detonating device, credit card, identification card, passport and cash worth PHP8,520.

Adib's arrest came after the AFP's 14th Special Forces Company received intelligence information that two suspicious personalities, one believed to be a foreigner, were to pass Barangay Townsite in Maluso, Basilan.

He was then arrested at the military checkpoint in Barangay Townsite on January 22 while his companion, a member of the Abu Sayyaf group, was able to flee.

During their investigation, the military learned that Adib arrived in the country last October 10 last year and his tourist visa was valid until December 8, therefore was already expired.

Adib underwent inquest proceedings before Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong and Assistant State Prosecutor Rodan Parrocha on Wednesday.

During the proceeding, the suspect said that the accusations against him were false and that he would provide evidence to prove his innocence.

Adib arrived in the country from Switzerland on Oct. 10, 2017.

He also denied knowing the name of his Filipino companion whom he claimed was his guide. He also denied owning the black and red colored backpack and the explosives found inside.

He said that it was not his intention to go to Basilan and that he went to the Philippines for a vacation. He first went to Manila and then Davao and stayed for two months in Cagayan de Oro. "There are many beautiful women here," Adib said in Spanish. He added that the cellular phone found inside the bag was not his. He reportedly left his cellular phone to someone, whom he did not name, in Basilan even if he was already intending to leave the island and travel to Zamboanga.

He claimed that his real bag contained his clothes and eyeglasses but these were not presented to the DOJ prosecutors on Wednesday.

But when he was asked again about the purpose of his visit to Basilan, he refused to answer.

He was reportedly intending on returning to Spain before he was arrested. From Basilan, he was supposed to take a ferry ride to Zamboanga where he would wait for the money that would be sent by his father to buy his airplane ticket to get home. According to his counsel from the Public Attorney's Office, Adib sought to file a waiver of detention and undergo a thorough preliminary investigation to answer the allegations hurled against him.

The DOJ scheduled the preliminary investigation on Wednesday at 2 p.m. where Adib is set to file his counter-affidavit to the complaint. (PNA)



Pna.gov.ph

# NOLCOM on alert after series of NPA attacks

By Priam Nepomuceno January 24, 2018, 12:37 pm

**MANILA** -- The Tarlac-based Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) has placed all its units on alert following a series of attacks by communist rebels in Kalinga and Isabela on Tuesday.

Lt. Col. Isagani Nato, NOLCOM spokesperson, said a retired police officer identified as Johnny Adaol was killed in an attack by New People's Army (NPA) members in Sitio Luyucan, Barangay Lacnog, Tabuk, Kalinga.

He added the two unidentified NPA assassins shot and killed the victim at 10:50 a.m. while the latter was cleaning his project site.

The suspects immediately fled after seeing Adaol slumped to the ground.

Recovered from the crime scene were four spent shells and two slugs of .45 caliber pistols.

At around 9:10 p.m. on the same day, 10 NPAs fired on the San Jose Patrol Base in San Mariano town, Isabela.

Nato said the rebel attack lasted for five minutes.

No government casualties were reported in this attack.

At 9:15 p.m., the Casala Patrol Base, located in the same town, also came under NPA fire for five minutes.

In both instances, troops in the above-mentioned facilities managed to return fire, driving away the NPAs who are under Melicio Casisola alias "Milis," leader of the Platoon Remo, Central Front, Komiteng Rehiyon-Hilagang Sentral Luzon.

"All military units in NOLCOM AOR, including the PNP, were alerted and were instructed to intensify the conduct of security operations and monitor NPA terrorist plans to prevent them from executing hostile actions against soft targets, including the business sector and vital installations prone for sabotage," Nato concluded. *(with reports from Raymart T. Lolo-OJT/PNA)*