

*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

26 January 2018

Friday

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

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

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

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON  
TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON  
as of 5:00 pm - January 25, 2018

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
6:25 AM	5:52 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
12:46 PM	12:46 AM
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>	<b>FULL MOON</b>
JAN 25 8:20 AM	JAN 31 3:27 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
9:50 AM	5:26 PM
0.19 Meter	0.71 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
- Light rains

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	JAN 27	JAN 28	JAN 27	JAN 28	JAN 27	JAN 28		
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	22-29°C	22-29°C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	20-27°C	20-27°C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	22-30°C	22-29°C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	21-27°C	21-28°C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	23-30°C	24-31°C	<b>GAGAYAN DE ORD</b>	24-32°C	24-32°C
<b>LAOAG</b>	23-31°C	22-30°C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25-31°C	24-30°C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	24-32°C	24-32°C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	14-22°C	14-23°C	<b>ILOILO/BACLOD</b>	25-32°C	24-31°C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	24-33°C	24-33°C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	23-30°C	23-31°C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	23-30°C	24-31°C			

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

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

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# CONGRESS LEADERS REACH CHA-CHA DEAL

STORY BY CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO AND VINCE F. NONATO

Senate President Pimentel and Speaker Alvarez break a stalemate by agreeing to focus on crafting specific constitutional amendments and defer a decision on how the two chambers should vote on the proposals. **A2**

## FROM A1

By **Christine O. Avendaño**  
and **Vince F. Nonato**  
@Team\_Inquirer

The four top leaders of Congress have agreed to set aside their differences over how to amend the 1987 Constitution and concentrate on drafting proposed changes that they could present to the people for approval, reviving the Duterte administration's bid for federalism.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez of the House of Representatives met on Wednesday night to break a stalemate between the two chambers of Congress on how to vote on proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III and House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas were present at the meeting.

"Congress leaders have agreed to pursue the review of the 1987 Constitution by coming up with specific models and proposals in the form of actual constitutional provisions [that] hopefully could muster the required number of votes for these to be presented to the people in a plebiscite," Pimentel said in a text message to reporters after the meeting.

Fariñas showed reporters a picture of him with Pimentel, Alvarez and Sotto at the meeting and said in a mobile group chat: "Agreement [was] to first work on the proposed government structure & other constitutional provisions."

Fariñas said the two chambers could work first on their proposals because "the matter of proposing amendments to or revision of the Constitution is purely a legislative action,

which will then be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection.”

#### **Stalemate broken**

In a radio interview on Thursday, Alvarez confirmed a compromise had been reached to break the stalemate.

“We will talk first about the details, like the structure of the government, until we complete the [new] Constitution. Afterward, once we’re done, it will not make any difference anymore if we vote separately or jointly,” Alvarez said.

The question of joint or separate voting on proposed amendments had widely separated the two chambers.

The House insisted on sitting as a constituent assembly with the Senate and voting jointly on the proposals.

The Senate, however, pushed for institutional equality, calling its own assembly, which would vote alone on draft changes and reconcile conflicting propositions in conference with the House.

The disagreement stalled efforts at introducing amendments to the Constitution that would allow a shift to federalism, a top priority and campaign promise of President Duterte.

#### **No timetable yet**

In his radio interview, Alvarez said the leaders of Congress did not settle what substantial proposals to prioritize but Sotto, speaking on the same program, said the leaders only “agreed on the premise that we need to shift to federalism.”

But even after the impasse has been broken, there is still no timetable for the amendment of the Constitution and the submission of proposed changes to a plebiscite.

Alvarez said Congress would see if it could still rush

the amendments so that the plebiscite could be held simultaneously with the barangay elections in May.

If not, “there’s still the midterm elections” in May 2019, Alvarez said.

#### **SC asked to step in**

It wasn’t clear whether the end of the stalemate had mooted a petition filed by lawyer Arturo de Castro in the Supreme Court on Thursday.

De Castro asked the tribunal to resolve the question of voting on proposed amendments to the Constitution.

The framers of the 1987 Constitution have provided for a three-fourths vote by all members of Congress, a body with two chambers.

De Castro raised two constitutional issues in his petition—on the counting of the votes of the two chambers and whether the amendment of the Constitution is a political question outside of the Supreme Court’s jurisdiction.

Some senators welcomed the agreement among the Congress leaders to break the stalemate but sought a briefing from Pimentel, while others stressed that the Senate had not yet reached a consensus on whether there was a need to amend the Constitution.

In the House, opposition lawmakers said the lack of agreement and clarity could still render the Charter change (Cha-cha) bid futile.

Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice said the House and the Senate should first resolve the question of voting, while Akbayan Rep. Tomasito Villarín said Wednesday night’s meeting was just for a “cooling-off period,” adding that “the motive of no-elections is still not lost in the meeting of minds among our congressional leaders.”

—WITH A REPORT FROM JULIE M. AU-RELIO INQ

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# 2 NPA officers slain in Tarlac clash

## Cops, soldiers serving arrest warrants say rebels put up fight

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— Two suspected high-ranking officers of the New People's Army (NPA) in northeastern Luzon were killed on Wednesday in a firefight with government soldiers and policemen at San Manuel town in Tarlac province, a report from the Central Luzon regional police camp here confirmed on Thursday.

The report said Victorio Tesorio and Lolito Raza fired at soldiers and policemen who were serving them arrest warrants in the house of Jose Dallente Caroy at Barangay San Miguel.

Tesorio was reportedly the head of the NPA northeastern Luzon regional command, while Raza was the head of the Danilo Ben command of the NPA's northern front.

### Murder, rebellion

The warrants stemmed from cases of murder, frustrated murder, multiple murder and rebellion filed against Tesorio and Raza.

Police reported recovering two guns, two hand grenades, a laptop and antigovernment documents from the two men.

Police said Caroy faced charges for harboring criminals.

Chief Supt. Amador Corpus, Central Luzon police director, said the operation was a result of "concerted operations and diligent efforts of the police and the military to arrest all lawless elements in the region."

The Armed Forces' Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) said in a separate report that the NPA had stepped up attacks.

On Jan. 23, Nolcom tagged the NPA to be behind the killing of Johnny Adaol, a retired policeman, at Sitio Luyucan in

Tabuk City, Kalinga province.

### Kalinga clash

On the same day, a clash took place in Pinukpuk town, also in Kalinga, where two soldiers were killed and two others wounded.

The NPA, the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, had stepped up attacks in parts of Luzon before President Duterte unilaterally canceled the peace talks in late 2017. The attacks took place in Batangas and Northern Luzon provinces. —TONETTE OREJAS INQ

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## 2 NPA leaders slain in shootout with cops

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan** – Two New People's Army (NPA) leaders were killed in an alleged shootout with police officers in Tarlac on Wednesday.

Lolito Rasa, alleged leader of the Danilo Ben Command, and Victorio Tesorio, deputy secretary of the Regional Operation Command in Cagayan Valley, shot it out with police operatives who served warrants of arrest at their safe-house owned by a certain Jose Dallente in Barangay San Miguel, San Manuel, Chief Superintendent Luis Ventura, Tarlac police intelligence chief, said yesterday.

The NPA leaders have been charged with murder,

multiple murder, frustrated murder, attempted murder and violation of the Anti-Terrorism Act in connection with the killing of eight policemen in Cagayan in 2013.

Ventura said two caliber .45 pistols and two hand grenades were recovered from the rebels.

Police also arrested Dallente, who is facing charges for harboring criminals.

The Danilo Ben Command was also tagged in the killing of Chief Inspector Antonio Rueco, the police chief of Rizal, Cagayan, and his wife Senior Police Officer 2 Mary Ann in 2011.

– **Raymund Catindig, Jaime Laude**

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### 3 Maute sympathizers arrested in Lanao del Sur

**By Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca**

**GOVERNMENT** forces arrested three sympathizers of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-inspired Maute Terror Group in an operation in Lanao del Sur.

Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Division spokesperson Maj. Ronald Suscano identified the suspects as Apao Macod Dimacaling, Brad Alexander and Jalal Ramal Berongon alias "Mayor."

Recovered from the suspects were two cal 45 pistols.

Authorities received a report about the presence of armed men in Bgy. Gacap, Piagapo, Lanao del Sur.

Troops from Joint Task Force "Ranao," Joint Task Group HARIBON, and the Philippine National Police immediately responded that led to the arrest of the suspects.

Philippine Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade commander Col. Generoso Porio said the suspects were involved in the killing of three Christian civilian vendors at the border of Piagapo and Balindong towns in Lanao del Sur last December 6.



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### 3 Maute terrorists held

LANAO DEL SUR – Three suspected members of the Maute terror group were arrested in Piagapo town in Lanao del Sur on Wednesday.

Apao Dimacaling, Alex Braad and Kalal Berongan, alias Mayor, yielded rocket-propelled grenades, bomb materials and a grenade launcher during a raid by soldiers of the 103rd Infantry Brigade and police operatives on their hideout in Barangay Gacap, Chief Superintendent Graciano Mijares of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police said yesterday.

Mijares thanked local officials and Maranao religious leaders for helping locate the suspects.

Police and local officials

confirmed that the suspects were among those who attacked and occupied Marawi from May to October last year.

The suspects were also accused of killing three civilians in Piagapo town last Dec. 6 said to be in retaliation for the death of their family members during the fighting in Marawi.

They are under the custody of the Lanao del Sur police.

The arrest of the militants came barely a week after soldiers clashed with a group of militants led by Najib Pundog, alias Bomber, in Masiu town. Various types of ammunition were recovered from the suspects.

– John Unson, Roel Pareño

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Page. B

## Sundalo binaril-patay sa tapat ng police station

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** – Nasawi ang isang sundalo ng Philippine Marines matapos barilin ng hindi pa natukoy na riding in tandem suspects sa daungan sa Isabela City, Basilan.

Kimilala rin Supt. Restituto Pangushan, hepe ng Isabela City Police Station, ang biktimang si Corporal Jhunrey Lauriaga, residente ng Barangay Binuangan, Isabela City.

Si Lauriaga ay nakadestino sa Jolo, Sulu, at umuwi lamang sa kanilang lugar.

Nabatid na ang insidente ay nangyari pasado 10:00 ng umaga malapit mismo sa tapat ng Maritime Police Station sa lugar.

Idineklarang dead on arrival ng attending physician sa Basilan Community Hospital ang biktima dahil sa isang malubhang tama ng bala sa ulo.

Ayon kay Pangushan, nakasakay sa kanyang motorsiklo ang biktima kung saan nakaangkas ang kanyang nobya nang barilin ng salarin sa ulo.

Isa sa imtingnang motibo ngayon ng pulisya sa insidente ay ang love triangle.

Nagsasagawa na ng imbestigasyon ang mga otoridad kasama ang militar upang matukoy ang identity ng mga salarin.

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## From noble warriors to noble bakers

SGT. Eric Ubalde is no ordinary soldier of the Special Operations Command of the Philippine Army. He's a man of many lives as his fellow soldiers would tell him. He had survived so many gun battles, had endured several gunshot wounds, four to be exact.

The first time he was hit was during the Zamboanga siege. They were attacked by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and was shot in his left leg. The second gunshot was during an encounter with a group of bandits in Jolo, Sulu where two Australian and Canadian nationals were abducted. He was hit in the shoulder.

Last November 29, 2016, Sgt. Ubalde was with the Presidential Security Group (PSG) as part of the advance party for President Rodrigo Duterte who was set to visit Lanao del Sur the following day, when they were ambushed and an improvised explosive device was detonated. Sgt. Ubalde was hit in the neck, sustaining his third gunshot wound.

He may have survived Marawi last May but he didn't leave the war-torn province unscathed. While clearing one of the abandoned houses, the Maute terrorists fired at the soldiers, hitting him in the face. That was the last time he got shot.

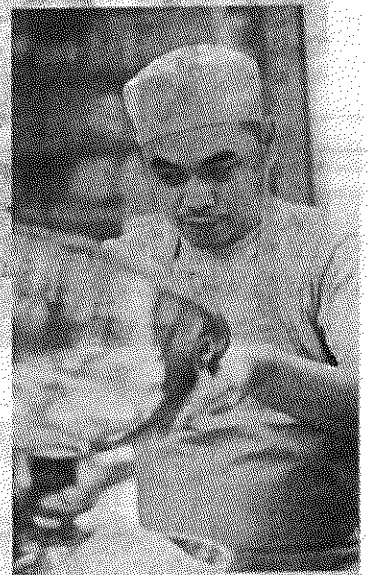
To date, three bullets remain inside his body. "Di ko masyado magalaw may tumutusok. Oopera-

han daw pag tumangat na yung bala Marami daw nerves na maapektuhan pag inopera," Sgt. Ubalde said.

For now he is confined inside Fort Magsaysay while recuperating from the gunshot wounds, he sustained. He is thankful not only for having survived but also for being given a new lease on life. He's been chosen as one of the beneficiaries of the Noble Bakers' Project of the Aboitiz Foundation, the corporate foundation of the Aboitiz Group, in partnership with the SOCOM Foundation, Inc. (SFI). The Aboitiz Foundation is the corporate foundation of the Aboitiz Group whose mission is to create safe, empowered, and sustainable communities.

Sgt. Ubalde along with 59 other wounded soldiers underwent a comprehensive bakery management training program provided by Pilmico Foods Corporation, the food subsidiary of Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. They were taught how to cost & develop bakery products, bake bread, cakes, cookies, pizza dough, and a lot more.

Apart from the training, the Aboitiz Foundation also donated heavy-duty baking equipment like oven, mixer and baking utensils. The bakery inside Fort Magsaysay was built by the SOCOM. The Noble Bakers' Bakery is now operational with captured market



(MIDDLE ROW) Maricar Bautista, Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV) Assistant Vice President for Media Relations; Danny Cerence, Aboitiz Foundation Assistant Vice President for Operations; Martin Yasay, AEV Vice President for Government Relations; Maribeth Marasigan, Aboitiz Foundation First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Col. Reynaldo Aquino, Deputy Commander of Philippine Army Special Operations Command (SOCOM); Col. Guinid Leodevic, Headquarters SOCOM; Wilburt Wong Plimico Technical Baker; Norman Roland E. Ocana III, Manager for Government Relations -AEV with Scout Rangers and injured soldiers from SOCOM during the opening of the Noble Bakers bakery in Fort Magsaysay

which includes the soldiers and residents inside Fort Magsaysay and even the adjacent schools.

According to Col. Rey Aquino, Deputy Commander of SOCOM, the earnings from the bakery will go to the dependents of the wounded soldiers. "Yung proceeds dito mapunta sa SFI, yung sa special operations foundation, yan po yung nagsu-support sa mga wounded personnel natin, habang nasa ospital sila yung kanilang mga kamag-anak na nagbantay, meron tayong pang-sustain doon," Col. Aquino explained.

The Aboitiz Foundation for its

part is committed to providing assistance to those who need help the most. "It is uplifting to know that the Aboitiz Foundation is able to help empower our soldiers. This project proves that we are able to make our resources more meaningful by using them to fulfill our promise of advancing business and communities by co-creating safe, empowered, and sustainable communities," Maribeth Marasigan, Aboitiz Foundation First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer said.

Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana also expressed his deep gratitude

to the Aboitiz Foundation for such innovative endeavor in lending assistance to the wounded soldiers.

"Allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate Aboitiz Foundation for the recent launch of the "Noble Bakers" project in collaboration with the SOCOM. Noble Bakers is a good project that aims to benefit our disabled soldiers. I encourage all other Commands of the military to replicate this project as it is beneficial to the military community, the military dependents, and our disabled soldiers who can still and should lead

productive lives", Sec. Delfin said.

For Sgt. Ubalde, he finds great joy in helping his fellow wounded soldiers not with the use of guns or bullets but rather with the use of baking pans and rolling pins. "Na-challenge ako na di lang pala pangge-gyera, kahit ganito lang nakaka-tulong din pala ako sa mga kasama ko na wounded. Kasi pupunta din sa mga tropa na mga wounded yung kikitain ng bakery", Sgt. Ubalde said.

Looking beyond, Sgt. Ubalde now has something to bank on when he retires from service as he hopes one day to put up his own bakery.

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**CRITICAL SITUATION**

## **STOP ATTACKS AROUND MAYON, AFP ASKS REBS**

LUCENA CITY--The military has appealed to communist rebels to stop launching attacks and allow the unhampered movement of representatives of government agencies helping evacuees fleeing the wrath of Mayon volcano in Albay province.

"Our fellow Filipinos are currently facing a critical situation. They need all immediate help that we can give. Let us temporarily put aside the fighting to provide them with unhampered quick assistance," said Col. Teody Toribio, spokesperson for the military's Southern Luzon Command.

"The situation around Mayon is critical. The NPA (New People's Army) should not make it hard and worse for the civilians," he said.

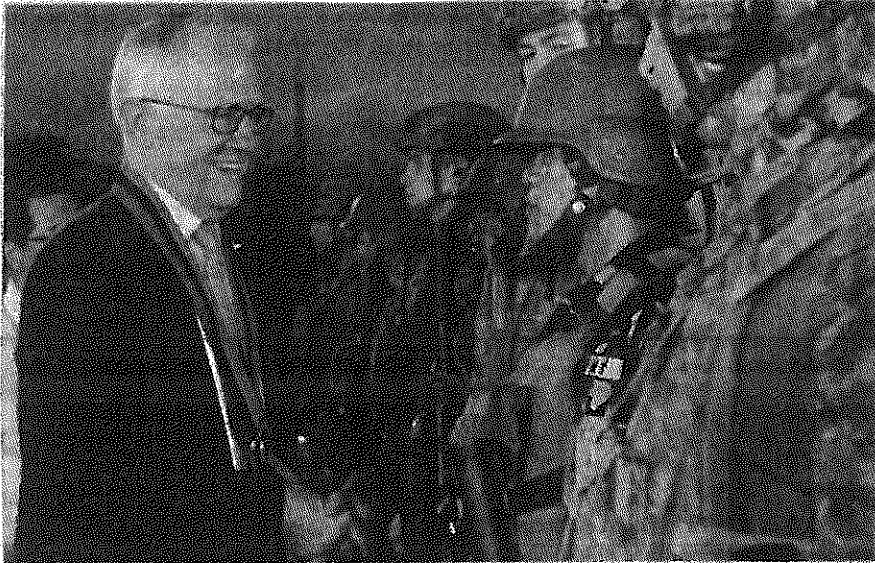
He made the call after a team of Army soldiers, who were on their way to assist evacuees, was attacked by a band of suspected rebels in the village of Malabago in Guinobatan town early on Monday.

Toribio said a soldier was wounded in the five-minute firefight. —DELFIN T. MALLARI JR. INQ

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1898 1988  
MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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**Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull meets members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines training with members of the Australian Defence Force on 13 November 2017. Australia provided surveillance support to Philippine troops at the height of armed fighting in Marawi.**

# ONLINE NEWS

## 26 JANUARY 2018

ONLINE NEWS  
2018-01-26

www.dwdd.com.ph

# CRSAFP | CRGs Joint Change of Command Ceremonies

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)

**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** –The Civil Relations Service, Armed Forces of the Philippines (CRSAFP) will be having a Joint Change of Command Ceremony for the 1<sup>st</sup> Civil Relations Group, 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Relations Group and 7<sup>th</sup> Civil Relations Group to be held tomorrow, January 26, 2018 at the CRSAFP Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

BGen Bienvenido R Datuin, Commander CRSAFP will lead the activity to be assisted by Col Antonio Z Francisco, Deputy Commander, CRSAFP. Awards will be presented to the Outgoing Group Commanders.



The outgoing Group Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> CRG, LTC Leopoldo Acerden will now head the 7<sup>th</sup>CRG, he will be replaced by Maj Ericson Bulosan, the current CRSAFP Inspector General. LTC Emmanuel Garcia, outgoing Group Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> CRG is now the Public Affairs Officer, AFP, he will be replaced by Col Jose Victor Vargas, outgoing head of the 7CRG. **AES**

www.dwdd.com.ph

# DISGRUNTLED | 188 NPAs Surrender in First 3 Weeks of January 2018

Posted by Alvin Santiago

**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – A total of 188 terrorists New People's Army (NPA) surrendered to government forces in the first three weeks of January.

This happens in the wake of President Rodrigo Duterte's invitation to surrender and offer to protect and provide assistance in his Dec 21 talk to more than 600 former rebels in Davao City .

Mobile phones were also distributed by the President encouraging former rebel leaders to communicate the efforts of the government to their former comrades who are still fighting for a lost cause.

In January 20, President Rodrigo Duterte also met with rebel returnees Nilo Legaspi (former regional Spokesman of the NPA) and his wife Wendy in Davao City. The President gave the couple housing unit and financial assistance.

In January 21, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (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 in to joint elements of 2nd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army and the Police in Masbate City. The group surrendered 13 firearms.

In Sultan Kudarat, 10 communist NPA members have returned to government folds and surrendered eight firearms.

Other 82 surrenders were had in the Provinces of Albay, Compostela Valley, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato, Agusan del Norte, Bukidnon, Davao Oriental, Sarangani, Kalinga, Surigao del Sur and in the City of Davao.

The AFP believes that the series of surrenders reflects the efficacy of the combined efforts of local government units, the communities, the PNP, and the AFP thru community-based dialogues.

The AFP expects more NPAs to yield due to demoralization in their ranks amidst their mounting trust on President Duterte.

The surrenders are also attributed to the growing void in the NPA leadership due to the surrender of their leaders who opted to return to the folds of government citing corruption in the higher levels of NPA hierarchy as among the reason. **AFP PAF / MCAG**



www.pna.gov.ph

## 2 ranking NPA leaders killed in Tarlac law enforcement warrant op

By Priam Nepomuceno

**MANILA** -- Troopers of the Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) and their police counterparts shot and killed two New People's Army (NPA) leaders during an arrest warrant operation in Barangay San Miguel, Tarlac on Wednesday.

The incident took place at 3:10 a.m., NOLCOM spokesperson Lt. Col. Isagani Nato said in a message.

He identified the slain NPA leaders as Victorio Tesoro, also known by aliases "Dong", "Rico", "Dado", "Merto", "Ikoy", and "Reto", reportedly the 1st Deputy Secretary and Commanding Officer of the Regional Operations Command, Komiteng Rehiyon-Hilagang Silangang Luzon; and Lilito Raza, alias "Lanlan", Commanding Officer of the Danilo Ben Command, Westcom, Northern Front, KR-HSL.

Nato said the two were killed after resisting arrest.

The slain rebel leaders have pending arrest warrants for multiple murder, attempted murder, frustrated murder, and rebellion.

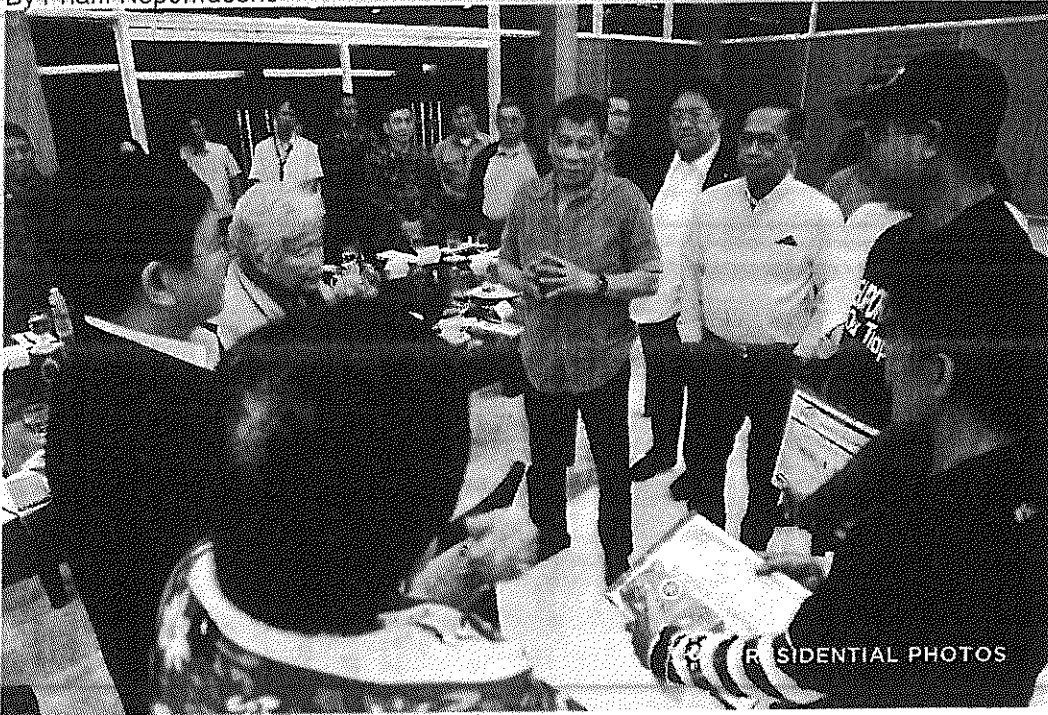
Also nabbed was Jose Dellente Caroy, the alleged caretaker of the suspects' hideout.

Recovered were two .45-caliber pistols, one Llama and one Colt, and subversive documents.

"NOLCOM will continue to provide support to Law Enforcement Operations to ensure (the) safety of the Filipino people and the stability of its area of operation. NOLCOM will also continue to thwart all NPA hostile plans that may hinder economic development in Northern and Central Luzon," Nato said. *(With reports from Raymart T. Lolo, OJT/PNA)*

# NPA mass surrenders due to internal corruption: AFP

By Priam Nepomuceno



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte engages in a discussion with some members of his cabinet after two rebel returnees from the New People's Army were presented to the President at the Matina Enclaves in Davao City on January 20, 2018. Also in the photo are Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Eduardo Año, Education Secretary Leonor Briones, Agrarian Reform Acting Secretary John Castriciones, and Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza. *(Photo by Ace Morandante/Presidential Photo)*

MANILA -- The recent spate of New People's Army (NPA) rebels returning to the fold of the law reflects the demoralization being experienced in their ranks due to internal corruption, the Armed Forces of the Philippines said Thursday.

AFP public affairs office chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia made this statement after 188 NPA members surrendered in the first three weeks of January alone.

"The AFP is expecting more NPAs to yield since there is demoralization in the NPA's ranks as some leaders have already returned to the folds of law brought by internal corruption," Garcia stressed.

He also stressed that the series of mass surrender is reflective of the combined efforts of the local government units, communities, Philippine National Police and the AFP thru-community based dialogues. *(With reports from Raymart T. Lolo, OJT/PNA)*