

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

NEWS CLIPPINGS

30 January 2018

Tuesday

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

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PANAHON TV
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JANUARY 30, 2018 | TUESDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON
as of 5:00 pm - January 29, 2018

SUNRISE 6:25 AM	SUNSET 5:54 PM
MOONRISE 4:36 PM	MOONSET 4:50 AM
FIRST QUARTER JAN 25 0:20 AM	FULL MOON JAN 31 9:27 PM
LOW TIDE 4:33 AM -0.30 Meter	HIGH TIDE 8:42 PM 1.19 Meter

METRO MANILA 23 - 31 °C	TAGAYTAY 19 - 27 °C	TACLOBAN 24 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO 21 - 27 °C	LEGAZPI 23 - 30 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO 23 - 31 °C
LAOAG 23 - 28 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA 24 - 31 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO 15 - 21 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD 25 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA 24 - 33 °C
SBMA/ CLARK 23 - 31 °C	METRO CEBU 24 - 31 °C	

SAGIT KO, PROALA MO!

DZRHNEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

PILIPINASH

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

30 January 2018

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A1

PALACE SUSPENDS DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN

STORY BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque says Melchor Carandang has been meted out disciplinary action for leaking alleged bank records of President Duterte and his daughter Sara.

A2

FROM A1

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

Malacañang on Monday suspended for 90 days Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang for grave misconduct and other administrative offenses after he disclosed alleged bank records of President Duterte.

The Palace said it had the power to discipline Carandang.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the Palace was confident that the Supreme Court would "revisit" its decision in 2014 that the Office of the President (OP) had "no power of discipline over the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman."

"The OP wants to revisit that ruling. OP is confident it can reverse anew," Roque said in a text message.

He said the Office of the Executive Secretary on Friday found that there was probable cause to charge Carandang with three administrative offenses in the OP and to put him under preventive suspension for 90 days.

"He (Carandang) was now made to answer [within 10 days]," Roque said in a press briefing.

'Impeachable offense'

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, who released the bank records of Mr. Duterte during the presidential

campaign in 2016, said Malacañang's move against Carandang was an "impeachable offense."

In a statement, Trillanes said the move violated Section 5 of Article XI of the 1987 Constitution, "which clearly states the independence of the Office of the Ombudsman and its Deputies."

The senator said the Supreme Court had already resolved this matter. "Clearly, this is another Duterte tactic that's meant to bully democratic institutions into submission so he could go on with his dictatorial and corrupt ways."

Carandang started an investigation of the Duterte family's alleged illegal wealth based on a complaint filed by Trillanes.

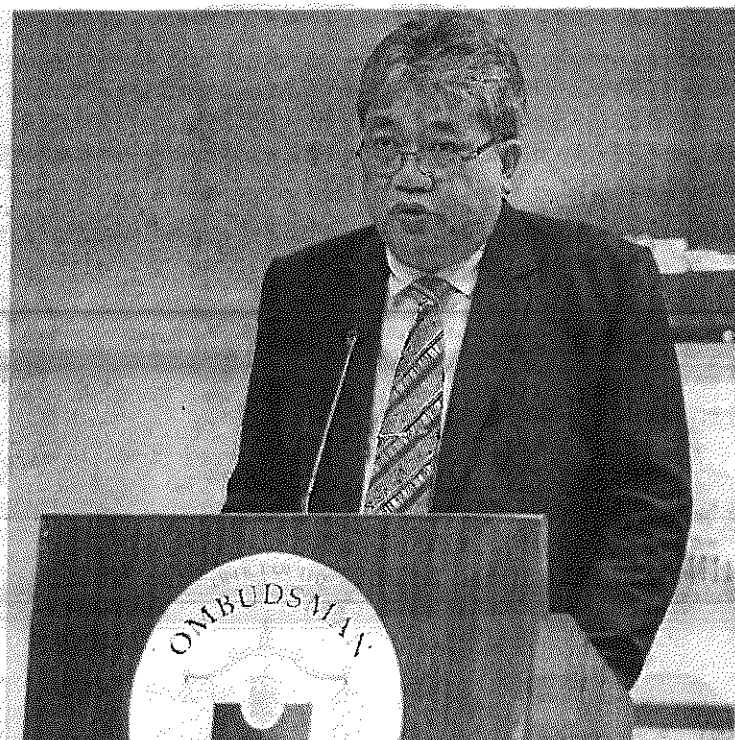
Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales has inhibited herself from the inquiry, as Mr. Duterte's daughter Sara is married to her nephew.

Alleged offenses

According to Roque, Carandang's alleged offenses include:

- Grave misconduct and grave dishonesty for misuse of confidential information and disclosing false information.

- Violation of Section 3-E of Republic Act No. 3019 for causing any undue injury to any party, including the government, or giving any private party any unwarranted benefits, advantage of preference in the discharge of his official administrative or judicial function through manifest partiality, evident bad faith



Melchor Arthur Carandang —INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

or gross inexcusable negligence.

- Violation of 3-K of (the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act) in relation to Section 2 Rule 5 of OMB Administrative Order No. 7 for divulging valuable information of confidential character acquired by his office or by him on account of his official position to unauthorized persons or releasing such information in advance for its authorized release date.

Roque said the charges stemmed from the complaint filed by lawyers Manolito R. Luna and Elijo P. Mallari, who accused Carandang of trying to destabi-

lize the Duterte administration.

Roque rebuts claims

Roque noted that Carandang had claimed that the Office of the Ombudsman received bank transaction records from the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) concerning the President's supposed bank accounts.

He added that Carandang had also claimed that, when the transactions were added up, it could reach over P1 billion.

But the AMLC issued a statement saying Carandang had asked it to investigate Mr. Duterte's sup-

posed bank accounts but it had yet to evaluate the request or start any investigation.

"It has neither provided the Office of the Ombudsman with any report as a consequence of any investigation of subject accounts for any purpose," Roque quoted the AMLC as saying.

He said the AMLC also pointed out that the alleged bank transactions representing outflows and inflows were added together, thus the resulting total amounts were wrong and misleading.

Roque also noted that the AMLC had clarified that the documents used by Trillanes in his plunder complaint filed against Mr. Duterte in the Office of the Ombudsman during the 2016 presidential campaign did not come from the council.

Intel-sharing purposes

Carandang said the details in the documents that Trillanes made public during the 2016 campaign were "more or less" the same as the bank transaction history records the Office of the Ombudsman had received from the AMLC.

But Carandang said these records were used by the AMLC and the Ombudsman for intelligence-sharing purposes.

Carandang reiterated that the AMLC had yet to furnish the Ombudsman a copy of its own report on the allegation that Mr. Duterte and members of his family had accumulated unex-

plained wealth.

He also said the Office of the Ombudsman had always "observed confidentiality" in its investigation of Trillanes' complaint.

Trillanes' documents

Documents that Trillanes furnished the media in 2016 showed that from 2006 to 2015, Mr. Duterte held seven joint accounts with his daughter, Sara, at the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) branch on Julia Vargas Avenue in Pasig City, nine joint accounts at the BPI Edsa Greenhills branch and one joint account at Banco de Oro Uni-bank-1 in Davao City.

At BPI Julia Vargas alone, father and daughter received total deposits and transfers of P1.74 billion.

Mr. Duterte, according to Trillanes, did not declare at least P227 million in his 2014 statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

In his 2014 SALN, Mr. Duterte reported a net worth of P21.97 million. He also reported cash assets worth P13.84 million.

Mr. Duterte initially denied the existence of the bank account at the BPI branch on Julia Vargas Avenue in Pasig but later admitted that it had less than P200 million.

He also said that he did not declare the big amount in his SALN in 2014 because he had already spent it. —WITH REPORTS FROM CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO AND INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ

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NPA officers surrender in Compostela Valley

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – A supply officer, three squad leaders and a medical officer of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered to the Army's 25th Infantry (Fireball) Battalion (25th IB) during their weeklong peace and development activities in their areas of responsibility (AOR) in the provincial boarder of Agusan del Sur and Compostela Valley (ComVal), said 25th IB Civil Military Operations (CMO) officer Capt. Alan Bapara, on Monday.

Sixteen members of NPA Solid

Mass Organization (SMO) also yielded without firearms to the operating troops of the 25th IB during the peace and development activities that started on January 20, Bapara said in a statement sent to The Manila Bulletin.

He said the five NPA officers who yielded to their unit belonged to the Pulang Bagani Command 8-SRC 1, SDG Section 3-SRC 4 guerilla-Front Committee 15 of the CPP-NPA Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC).

The identities of the 3 squad leaders

and supply officer from Sta. Emelia, Veruela, Agusan del Sur and medical officer from Purok 7, Barangay Salvacion, Monkayo, Comval province, were temporarily withheld for security reason, the 25th IB CMO officer said.

Their surrender was facilitated by the local leaders, particularly the local government units (LGUs), and barangay and purok leaders.

"Their voluntary surrender was due to the experienced hardships, homesick, fear of death and most of all the realization of the futility of their cause in the organization," also said 25th IB Commander Lt. Col. Oscar B. Balignasay Jr., in the same press statement sent to the Manila Bulletin.

"They also felt the pressure of our relentless combat operations, conducted by all field units of the Army's 10th Infantry (Agila) Division (10th ID) and social pressure from

the contagious Community Support Program (CSP) and Peace and Development Program (PDP)," claimed the 25th IB commander, as he acknowledged the untiring support of the local populace, civil society organizations, local government units/agencies and other stakeholders in their Area of Responsibility (AOR).

"The answer for the call to surrender by the President (Rodrigo Roa Duterte) for the NPAs has already gained grounds with the untiring efforts of the all stakeholders for peace in the nation," Balignasay said.

He added that the 10th ID encouraged all people in the area to spread the words of surrender for peace to the NPA brothers and sisters, their families and love ones.

"Our forces will continue to pursue peace and development efforts in the area of responsibility (AOR) through Focus Military Operations (FMO), Community Support Program (CSP), information gathering efforts and collaboration with all stakeholders in 10th ID AOR. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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5 NPA officials, 16 pa sumuko

Ni MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - Isang umano'y supply officer, tatlong squad leader, at isang medical officer ng New People's Army (NPA) ang boluntaryong sumuko sa 25th Infantry (Fireball) Battalion (25th IB) ng Philippine Army sa isang linggong peace antdevelopment activities sa mga lugar sa hangganan ng Agusan del Sur at Compostela Valley (ComVal), ayon kay 25th IB Civil Military Operations (CMO) officer Capt. Alan Bapara.

Bukod dito, 16 na miyembro rin ng NPA Solid Mass Organization (SMO) ang sumuko nang walang bitbit na armas sa mga tauhan ng 25th IB simula nitong Enero 20, ayon kay Capt. Bapara

Aniya, kasapi ng Pulang Bagani Command 8-SRC 1, ng SDG Section 3-SRC 4 ng guerilla-Front Committee 15 ng CPP-NPA Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC) ang limang opisyal na sumuko.

Pansamantalang hindi pinangalanan ang tatlong squad leader at isang supply officer ng

Barangay Sta. Emelia, Veruela, Agusan del Sur, at medical officer mula sa Purok 7, Bgy. Salvacion, Monkayo, Comval na nagsisuko sa militar sa tulong ng mga lokal na opisyal

"Their voluntary surrender

was due to the experienced hardships, homesick, fear of death and most of all the realization of the futility of their cause in the organization," sabi ni 25th IB Commander Lt. Col. Oscar B. Balignasay Jr.

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7 NPA rebels surrender to military in Masbate

LUCENA CITY—At least seven communist rebels operating in Masbate province surrendered to the military last week. Col. Teody Toribio, spokesperson for the military's Southern Luzon Command, said the New People's Army (NPA) rebels turned over seven rifles and pistols and an improvised explosive device to the Army's 2nd Infantry Battalion. At least 35 others, said to be members of the NPA's "people's militia" in Balud town, also turned themselves in and surrendered six handguns. Earlier this month, at least 10 top NPA officers in the Bicol region also surrendered to the military in Daraga town, Albay province. —DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

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5 more ASG members surrender to military

By Mario J. Mallari

Five more Abu Sayyaf terrorists voluntarily surrendered to government troops in Western Mindanao on Sunday, the military said yesterday.

Those who surrendered in Sulu province to the Philippine Marine Ready Force, under the Joint Task Force Sulu, were Kadra Arajun Sawadjaan, Alnajar Arajun Sawadjaan and Arad Sahiyul, who yielded an M16 rifle, one M79 grenade launcher and a .45 caliber pistol.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, JTF-Sulu commander, said that the trio was picked up by soldiers along the vicinity of Barangay Bunot in Indanan town as arranged.

"As a procedure, we let them undergo immediate medical treatment at our station hospital in Busbus, Sulu in order to address any medical conditions that needed care," Sobejana said.

During the debriefing, it was found out that the three were recruited by the late Abu Sayyaf Sub Group leader Alhabsy Misaya.

All three were also previously seen in a recovered video showing Abu Sayyaf members marching in formation in Indanan, Sulu, taken sometime in August 2015.

In Tawi-Tawi, two other Abu Sayyaf members gave themselves up to the military's JTF-Tawi Tawi led by Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon

Jr. They were Jun Hassan and Tting Alhassan, alias Iyot Panday, both residents of Sitangkai town. They yielded an M1 Garand, and M16 rifle with short magazine and 22 pieces of 5.56 ammunition.

Both Hassan and Alhassan were included in the Department of National Defense's Arrest Order Number 8 where Alhassan was listed as No. 1.

"He (Alhassan) was involved in the series of kidnapping incidents in the high seas such as the sea-jacking of Vietnamese flag vessel *M/V Giang Hat* on Feb. 17, 2017," Parcon said.

Based on the initial debriefing conducted, Jun Hassan is the

brother of slain kidnapping ring leader Butchoy Hassan, who was neutralized last March 2017 by elements of JTF Tawi-Tawi in Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi.

"Subject is one of the financiers of the kidnapping of Taiwanese National Evelyn Chang at Pompom Island Resort, Sabah, Malaysia last November 2013," Custodio said.

As of yesterday, a total of 164 Abu Sayyaf personalities have already surrendered to units under the Western Mindanao Command since January 2017. Of the number, there were 72 from Basilan; 57 from Sulu; 33 from Tawi-Tawi and two from Zamboanga City.

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7 Sayyaf men surrender

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Seven Abu Sayyaf bandits surrendered in Sulu and Tawi-Tawi in the past two days, the military said.

Udat Mohammad Salan, 24, and Mustafa Salihin Ahajabi, 19, surrendered yesterday and turned over their rifles to Brig. Gen. Divino Rey Pabayø, 101st Brigade commander.

Kadra and Alnajar, both surnamed Sawadjaan, and Sherul Sahiyul turned over an M16 rifle, a grenade launcher and a caliber .45 pistol to the Philippine Marine Ready Force-Sulu in Barangay Bunot, Indanan, Sulu on Sunday, Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana of the Joint Task Force Sulu said.

Jun Hassan and Titing Alihassan, who were on the arrest order of the Department of National Defense, surrendered to personnel of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi and turned over a Garand and M16 rifles and ammunition.

Alihassan was tagged in kidnappings in the high

seas and the hijacking of Vietnamese vessel *MV Giang Hai* on Feb. 17, 2017. He is also the most wanted person on the watchlist of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi.

Hassan is reportedly the brother of a certain Butchoy, an Abu Sayyaf sub-leader neutralized in a military operation in Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi in March 2017.

“Butchoy is one of the financiers of the kidnapping of Taiwanese Evelyn Chang at Pompom island resort in Sabah in November 2013,” Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon Jr., task force commander, said.

The military said 164 Abu Sayyaf bandits have surrendered in the areas within the jurisdiction of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) since last year.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Westmincom chief, said 72 of the surrenderees came from Basilan, 57 from Sulu, 33 from Tawi-Tawi and two from this city. – **Roel Pareño, Michael Punongbayan**

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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5 ASG fighters yield in Sulu, Tawi-Tawi

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Five members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), three from Sulu and two from Tawi-tawi, surrendered to soldiers of the Joint Task Forces on Sunday.

The military said Abu Sayyaf members Kadra Arjun Sawadjaan, Alnajar Arjun Sawadjaan and Sherul Arad Sahiyul, all with high-powered firearms, yielded to the Philippine Marine Ready Force-Sulu of the Joint Task Force Sulu.

The former bandits were picked-up by soldiers in Barangay Bunot, Indanan, Sulu after earlier arrangements had been made to ensure their safety and security.

In his report to the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) chief, Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu Commander Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana

said that the Abu Sayyaf fighters also surrendered an M16 rifle, an M79 Grenade Launcher; and a cal 45 pistol upon their surrender.

“As a procedure, we let them undergo immediate medical treatment at our station hospital in Busbus, Sulu in order to address any medical conditions that needed care,” Sobejana said.

During the debriefing, it was found out that the three were recruited by the late Abu Sayyaf Sub Group leader Alhabsy Misaya.

All three were also previously seen in a recovered video showing Abu Sayyaf members marching and in formation in Indanan, Sulu taken sometime in August 2015.

Meanwhile, two more Abus also yielded to the soldiers of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi at 3 p.m. Sunday.

Jun Hassan and Titing Alihassan alias Iyot Panday, both residents of Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi, voluntarily surrendered to the Marines bringing along an M16 rifle, an M1 Garand rifle; and a short magazine for M16 rifle with 22 pieces ammunition for cal 5.56mm.

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BIFF bandit killed; bombs recovered

A suspected member of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) was killed in an encounter with soldiers in Maguindanao on Friday.

The fatality was identified as Gabriel Amado, 49, a resident of Sitio Minanga, Barangay Bacat, Radjah Buayan, Maguindanao.

Personnel of the 61st Reconnaissance Company were patrolling Sitio Minanga, Barangay Bacat at around 5 p.m. when they were fired at, Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, Western Mindanao Command spokesperson, said.

Troops recovered an improvised explosive device (IED), ammunition for a shotgun and personal belongings of the BIFF.

In Sulu, personnel of the Naval Task Group Sulu and Marine Ready Fleet Sulu recovered two IEDs in Sitio Buling-Buling, Barangay Suh in Panamao and Bagsak, Talipao also on Friday.

"We are still trying to determine who was responsible for laying the IEDs," Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said. – **Michael Punongbayan, Roel Pareño**

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Maguindanao clash kills BIFF, bomb seized

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: A member of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) was killed in a five-minute gunfight with the Army troops of the Joint Task Force Central in Maguindanao.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) on Monday said troops of the 61st Division Reconnaissance Company under 2Lt. Roy John Atoga encountered five BIFF members while conducting combat operations at Sitio Minanga, Barangay Bakat, in the town of Radjah Buayan, Maguindanao.

Petinglay said the firefight resulted in the death of BIFF member Gabriel Amado, 49, of Barangay Bakat.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, JTF Central commander, said troops also recovered an improvised explosive device (IED), 20 rounds of live ammunition for a shotgun and personal belongings of the BIFF bandits.

No casualty was reported on the side of government troops.

Meanwhile, five more members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), including those listed at the top of Department of National Defense (DND) Arrest Order No. 3 in Sulu and Tawi-Tawi surrendered to soldiers on Sunday.

ASG members Kadra Arajun Sawadjaan, Alnajar Arajun Sawadjaan and Sherul Arad Sahiyul, carrying high-powered firearms, yielded to the Philippine Marine Ready Force-

Sulu of the Joint Task Force Sulu following the surrender of other ASG late last year.

Soldiers picked up the former bandits at Barangay Bunot, Indanan, Sulu after earlier arrangements had been made to ensure their safety and security.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of Joint Task Force Sulu, said the ASG members also surrendered an M16 rifle, an M79 Grenade Launcher, and a cal. 45 pistol.

Those who surrendered were recruited by slain ASG sub-group leader Alhabsy Misaya and previously seen in recovered video marching and in formation with other Abu Sayyaf members in Indanan, Sulu in August 2015.

ASG members Titing Alihassan and Jun Hassan of Sitangka, Tawi-Tawi also surrendered to the manes bringing along an M16 rifle an M1 Garand rifle and a short magazine for M16 rifle with 22 ammunitions for caliber 5.56mm.

"Titing Alihassan is number one in our wanted list of Abu Sayyaf members and included in the DND Arrest Order No. 3," said Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon Jr., commander of Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi.

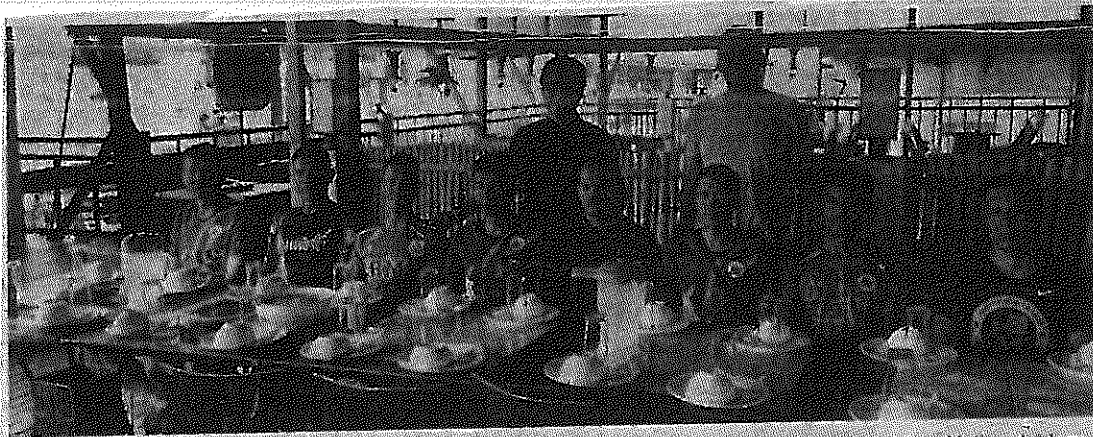
Alihassan was involved in the sea-jacking of Vietnamese flag vessel (*M/V Giang Hai*) in February 2017, according to Parcon.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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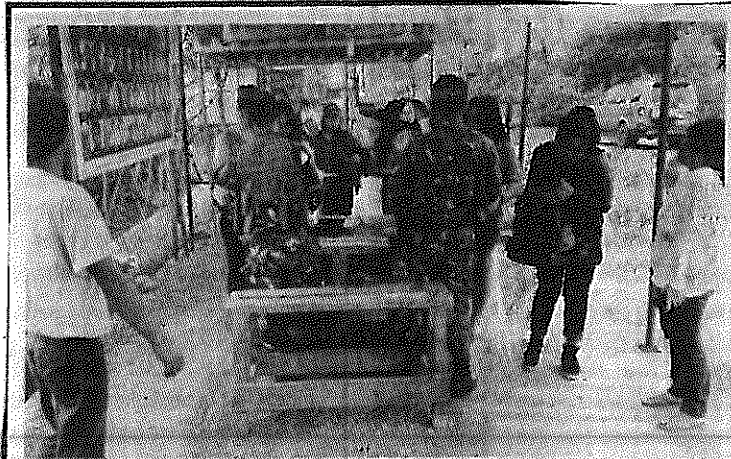


TEAM ARMY BICYCOLOGY! Mas determinado at palaban ang Team Army na binubuo nina dating National riders at multi-titled Cns Joven, Alfie Catalan, Mercurio Ramos, Jr., Reynaldo Navarro, Marvin Tapic, Alvin Benosa, Lord Anthony Del Rosario, at Kenneth Solis sa pagsikad ng LBC Ronda sa pagkakaroon ng bagong 'Godfather' sa katauhan nina Olympian swimming icon Eric Buhain (kahan) at John Garcia ng Bicycology Shop. Ipinakilala ang Team Army sa pagdiriwang ng isang taong anibersaryo ng mapagkakatwalaang bicycle shop nitong weekend. Ang Bicycology shop ay may sangay sa Paranaque, Las Pinas at Daang-Hari sa Alabang.

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SECURITY CHECK Soldiers have tightened security in Mindanao following the series of deadly attacks by the New People's Army rebels. Travelers are frisked and their bags searched for weapons or explosives in this photo taken on Monday in Bukidnon province and Davao City. PHOTO BY AL JACINTO

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700 COPS, SOLDIERS TAPPED TO SECURE ABRA SPORTS MEET FOLLOWING BLAST

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET— About 700 policemen and soldiers have been deployed to secure 7,000 school athletes and coaches who will participate in a Cordillera sports event in Abra province from Feb. 4 to 9.

Many parents have expressed concern about this year's

Cordillera Administrative Region Athletic Association meet, following the grenade blast at La Paz town in Abra on Jan. 25.

Two policemen were killed and 26 people, including Abra Rep. Joseph Bernos and his wife, La Paz Mayor Menchie Bernos, were wounded in the explosion

that had remained unsolved.

On Monday, Abra Gov. Joy Bernos assured participants and their parents that they would be safe during the meet, the largest sporting event in the region.

She met officials at the Cordillera office of the Department of Education (DepEd) here

to discuss the final arrangements for the event.

Delegates from Baguio City and six Cordillera provinces will be billeted in Bangued, the capital town of Abra, as well as in nearby towns, including La Paz.

The meet will officially open on Feb. 4 with an afternoon pro-

gram that will be attended by Director General Ronald dela Rosa, chief of the Philippine National Police. A highlight of the program will be a fireworks display.

Based on a report presented during the DepEd meeting, covert security teams will also be deployed "for monitoring of threat

groups, left-leaning organizations and for information gathering."

A security task force believed armed groups based in Abra and nearby provinces could cause a disturbance and bring "embarrassment to the host province," officials were told. —KARLSTON LAPNITEN INQ

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• **AFP cheer**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines Northern Luzon Command (AFP-Nol.Com) recently brought smiles and cheers to more than 800 school children following the distribution of gift packs in public elementary schools in Tarlac. No less than Army chief Lt. Gen. Joselito Bautista led the joint gift-giving program held in a number of public elementary schools which include Barangay Ballos Elementary School and Barangay Pagaac Elementary School both in Camiling, Tarlac; and San Jacinto Elementary School in San Manuel, Tarlac last January 19. The said activity was spearheaded by Dra. Isabel Cojuangco Suntay, founder of the Tarlac National Heritage Foundation. (Francis T. Wakefield)

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UNTV CUP AFP in semis

Two-time champion Armed Forces of the Philippines clinched the No. 1 seed in the semifinals even as reigning titlist Philippine National Police foiled Malacañang-Philippine Sports Commission's outright semis bid in the 6th UNTV Cup held over the weekend at the Pasic City Sports Center.

With Boyet Bautista at the helm, the AFP Cavaliers topped the second round of elims in Group A with a 98-90 victory over the PDEA Drug Busters.

Bautista, who played for Letran

during his collegiate days and Purefoods (now Magnolia Hotshots) in a brief PBA stint, led four AFP players in double figures with 25 points as they finished No. 3 with a 6-4 mark.

The loss of Malacañang-PSC paved the way for the NHA Builders to clinch the second outright berths in the tournament organized by UNTV president Daniel Razon.

The PNP Responders leaned on hot-shooting Olan Omiping to beat the Malacañang Kamao, 77-58.

The Builders topped Group B with an 8-2 mark followed by Malacañang (7-3), Judiciary (6-4) and PDEA (2-8).

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SHOOTING STRAIGHT

BOBIT S. AVILA

Destroy the commies and usher an era of peace

There is no doubt that peace has its dividends. For instance, one can fly to Dubai and drive to Abu Dhabi a hundred kilometers away even in the dead of night and that's because these are two Muslim nations that are at peace. In 2005, then Cebu Governor Gwen F. Garcia (she is now Deputy Speaker of the House) was the only Governor in the Philippines to declare that Cebu was "Insurgency Free" and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the New People's Army (NPA) declared that the streets of Cebu would become "Rivers of blood." Well, that never happened and you can drive your car in the dead of night and the only danger on the road is the occasional drunk or dogs on the street. But in war, everybody loses!



By now, everyone knows that the CPP/NDF/NPA has waged a war in our countryside for the past four decades, calling themselves as "revolutionaries" in the lines of Fidel Castro and Che Guevarra, whose revolution against the Cuban Dictator Fulgencio Batista was embraced by the Cuban people because for the Cubans, communism was a far better option than the Batista dictatorship. Alas, the Cubans do not know that communism in these times is already passé.

For the CPP, they had a "justifiable" revolution in the light of the Marcos dictatorship that lasted for 14 years until the EDSA revolt of 1986 (where the CPP/NDF/NPA were unfortunately absent) and then one of the first things that President Cory Aquino did was release imprisoned CPP chairman Jose Maria "Joma" Sison without deals for peace or anything in return. This is why many pundits would write that Tita Cory must have paid Joma a favor, which has evolved into many conspiracy theories.

But 30 years after the EDSA revolution and even after EDSA II, the Philippines has been a working democracy. Sure, political families and oligarchs still have a vise-grip control of the Philippine economy, but at least we have peace in our country, except for many parts in Mindanao controlled by Moro separatists and the NPAs. You can drive in Luzon even at night, but not in Mindanao where you are strongly advised never to go out in many parts of Mindanao because of roaming armed groups that patrol at night. Many of them wear military uniforms so you can never tell if they are members of the Philippine military or they are NPAs or armed Muslim groups.

Over the weekend, President ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to continue the fight against the NPAs where they can be found. Truth to tell, I have never seen a Philippine president like Pres. Duterte who is so determined to end the 40-year old communist insurgency and I reckon that the AFP under the command of Pres. Duterte is so fired up, well-trained and well-paid that we can say the days of the communist insurgency are numbered. There are only a few hardcore ideologues in the CPP left and many of them are not even in the Philippines.

Now back on the issue of our shift from our current unitary form of government and into a federal form of government. I'm really glad that over the weekend right after his arrival ceremonies from India, Pres. Rodrigo Duterte clarified that he would rather see a federal system established in the entire Philippine archipelago before they approve the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and I totally agree with the President.

Right now many of us in the Visayas and many parts of Mindanao do want this shift to a federal form of government for the age old reasons that Imperial Manila gets most of the economic development. Anti-federalists argue that Metro Manila contributes so much to the national coffers and it is unfair to shift into a federal system where Metro Manila only gets a small contribution as compared to the other federal states.

I call this a very simplistic thinking. If the Philippines were a federal nation years ago, the other parts of the country would have had a bigger contribution to the coffers of the state. But due to our unitary form of government, the distribution of the nation's wealth was badly imbalanced in favor of Imperial Manila. Again let me point out that our serious lack of justice is an ugly trait of Imperial Manila wherein there is only one Office of the Ombudsman that controls the keys against corrupt government officials.

But with a consultative committee being set up, I hope that the framers of the new federal constitution would include a parliamentary form of government and the constitution itself should have a proviso to prevent the existence of political dynasties. What Pres. Duterte is doing in this push for a federal system is nothing less than revolutionary. In the case of the CPP/NDF/NPA, they want us to shift to a communist type of government, which is why we can never have peace with the commies.

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ONLINE NEWS

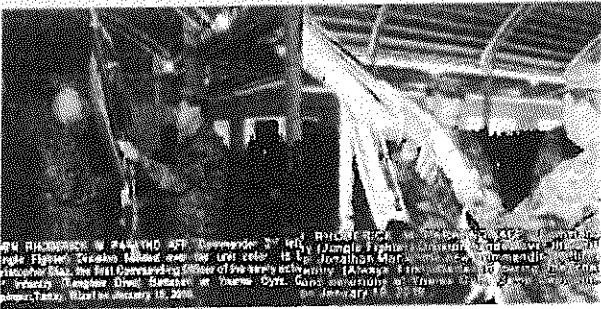
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FORCE STRENGTHENING | 2ID held Historical Military Ceremony

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)

CAMP CAPINPIN, Tanay, /Rizal (DWDD) – The 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division, Philippine Army held the historical activation of the 92nd Infantry (Tanglaw- Diwa) Battalion and the Change of Command of 1st Infantry (Always First) Battalion at Ynares Gym, Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal on January 19, 2018.



The newly activated 92nd IB is the last battalion numeric of all the battalions of the Philippine army for now, while the 1st IB was the first created army battalion, and is both assigned in 2ID.

Major General Rhoderick M Parayno, the Commander, 2ID presided the joint activation and change of command ceremony.

According to MGen Parayno, the activation of the 92nd IB was part of the Armed Forces of the Philippines program to strengthen its force. It is also one of the 10 battalions to be activated by the AFP in order to fully address the NPA terrorists in the country.

The newly activated battalion is now commanded by its first Commanding Officer, LtCol Christopher Diaz.

Meanwhile, on the Change of Command Ceremony of 1st IB, LtCol Jonathan S Manio assumed as the 40th Commanding Officer.

The Change of Command is a military tradition that represents a formal transfer of authority and responsibility for a unit from one commanding or flag officer to another. The passing of unit color from an outgoing commander to an incoming one ensures that the unit and its soldiers is never without official leadership, a continuation of trust, and also signifies an allegiance of soldiers to their unit's commander.

MGen Parayno enjoins the two battalions and all Jungle Fighters that we each have a mission to undertake.

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

"Let's give our best in our respective tasks. Our government and the Filipino people have given us a substantial increase in our pay, and an overwhelming trust and support. Let's repay these with what we do best—a higher standard of discipline and professionalism. Let's give them the service that they want and the service that they deserve. As true Jungle Fighters, this is natural to us", he added. 2ID / MCAG

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WANTING PEACE | Another 7 NPAs, 35 supporters surrender to SOLCOM Troopers

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)

CAMP GUILLERMO NAKAR, Lucena City (DWDD) – Another seven (7) communist terrorists and 35 members of Militiang Bayan voluntarily surrendered to troops of the 2nd Infantry Battalion under the 903rd Infantry Brigade, 9th Infantry (Spear) Division, PA in Masbate on January 21, 2018, three days after 10 NPAs yielded in Daraga, Albay.

The 7 NPAs brought with them two (2) M16A1 rifles; one (1) cal.30 garand rifle, three (3) cal. 38 pistols, one (1) cal.45 pistol and one (1) improvised explosive device.

Likewise, the 35 members of Militiang Bayan, who turned-over six (6) assorted short firearms, are supporters of the NPAs in Brgy. Victory, Balud, Masbate who decided to relinquish their support and surrendered to the government.

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

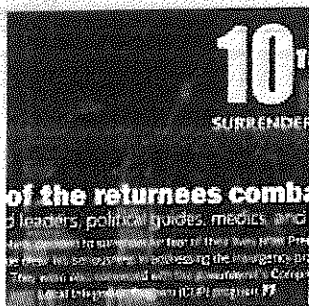
"The series of surrender indicates that the move of the government and the efforts of the AFP is taking its toll on the rebel group and they heard the call of our president to lay down their arms and abandon the armed struggle," said Lt Gen Danilo G Pamonag AFP, Commander, Southern Luzon Command.

General Pamonag also expressed his confidence that more communist terrorists will return to the folds of the law the moment they realize the futility of fighting against the government. **SOLCOM / MCAG**

DUE TO HARDSHIPS | 10 NPAs surrender to SOLCOM Troopers

Posted by Alvin Santiago

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



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

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

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

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

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

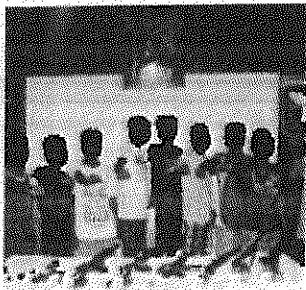
Lieutenant General Pamonag reiterated the call of the AFP to the members of the NPA who continue to engage in the armed struggle to surrender and return to the folds of the law and be a productive citizen of the society through the assistance of the AFP, Local Government Units (LGUs) and other agencies.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

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FRUSTRATED | Nine (9) NPA members Yield to 26IB

Posted by Alvin Santiago

TALACOGON, Agusan del Sur (DWDD) – Nine (9) NPA regulars and militia ng bayan (MB) members with their firearms submitted themselves to the 26th Infantry "Ever Onward" Battalion on January 28, 2018.



The Former Rebels (FR) gave themselves up due to the hardship they have been experiencing and the fear of being pursued by the Philippine Army troops. Five (5) of the FRs formerly belong to the Guerilla Front 88 operating in San Luis and La Paz while the four (4) others belonged to Guerilla Front 34 which is active in Loreto and Veruela areas. They brought along with them nine (9) Class A light weapons that includes five (5) assault rifles, two (2) shotguns and two (2) handguns.

Aka "Wanted", one of the surrenderees, related his miserable and dark experiences inside the underground movement. *"nahadlok na kaayo me, kay daghan nang namatay sa among kauban sa mga sunod-sunod nga engkwentro tali sa 26IB, perteng gutoma ug hastang paita kay walay tarung kaon ug tulog sa bukid, kapoy na kaayo samtang ang among mga labaw sige ra ug mandu, walay maayong suporta sa among pamilya"*, he stressed.

Undeniably, the effort of the San Luis and Loreto LGUs particularly the Municipal Peace and Order Council and Bayanihan Oversight and Advisory Committees of both municipalities have consistently put forth the offer of peace and development to their constituents, hence the positive turn out of the former rebels.

Colonel Andres C Centino, Commander of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade based in Brgy Awa, Prosperidad Agusan del Sur, lauded the commitment of the LGUs for the attainment of peace and development. *"We will continue to intensify our collaboration with the different stakeholders especially to the Local Chief Executives to pave way for the realization of peaceful communities in Agusan del Sur"*.

"Sa tanang miyembro sa walhong grupo nga gikapoy na, amo kamong gi-awhag nga magbalik na sa sabakan sa atong gobyerno aron makab-ot nato ang tinud-anay nga kausaban ug malahutayong kalambuan", he added. **26IB CMO / MCAG**

NEW LEADERSHIP | Joint Change of Command for Commanders of 3CMOBN and SSBN, 3ID

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)

CAMP PERALTA, Jamindan, Capiz (DWDD) –Joint Change of command ceremony of Civil Military Operations & Service Support Battalion was held on January 24, 2018 at the covered gym of 3rd Infantry (Spearhead) Division.

LTC Egberto O Dacoscos INF (GSC) PA, a former group commander of the Military Intelligence Group 48 was assumed as the new commanding officer of 3rd Civil Military Operations Battalion, while LTC Jessie M Trinidad OS (GSC) PA who is a former commanding officer of Headquarters Support Unit, Armed Forces of the Philippines Procurement Service took over the command of Service Support Battalion.

BGen Dinoh A Dolina AFP – 3ID Commander personally presided the change of command ceremony. He commended the outgoing commanding officers for a job well-done despite being designated on acting capacity. He also shared a quote of a famous chief of staff he have worked with “Always treat your job like it is always your first day, if you will do that you will always find challenge in your respective jobs” and advised them to pray when they encounter adversaries and difficulties, always have a healthy mind and body, and always be cheerful and have a very relaxed approach.

Moreover, he expressed his full trust and confidence to the newly installed commanders of the said units and challenged them to perform the best of their ability to implement their mandate in sustaining the peace and progress within their area of responsibility. *“If we will just do our job, rest assured that the President is with us”* he added. **3ID /MCAG**



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JOINT VENTURE | TienDA para sa Bayani established at 10ID

Alvin Santiago

CAMP GEN MANUEL T YAN SR., Mawab, Compostela Valley (DWDD) – On January 22, 2018, 8:00 a.m., a “TienDA para sa Bayani” was established at Headquarters 10ID, Barangay Tuburan, Mawab, Compostela Valley Province.

The TienDA para sa mga Bayani is a joint venture project of Department of National Defense (DND) and Department of Agriculture (DA) which aims to provide affordable Agri-products, poultry, livestock, and other commodities to our soldiers and their dependents which they commonly buy in the market.

With this project, the farmers and other qualified entrepreneurs have direct market for their products and they can sell at reasonable prices. It is an economic opportunity for them and it encourages also those small business owners to be competitive in terms of product quality.

The establishment of TienDA para sa mga Bayani was graced by the presence of our very own President of the Philippines, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. **10ID / MCAG**