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Walk of shame mayor shot dead

*Narco mayor maybe
deserved it – Rody*

By ED AMOROSO
and ARNELL OZAETA

BATANGAS – Tanauan City Mayor Antonio Halili, who paraded suspected drug dealers through the streets in what was notoriously known as the “walk of shame,” was shot dead yesterday while attending a weekly flag-raising ceremony for government officials, police said.

Halili was declared dead on arrival in a hospital from a gunshot to the chest, fired by a sniper as he and civil servants sang the national anthem in Tanauan, Batangas.

President Duterte claimed Halili was involved in illegal drugs and probably got what he deserved.

Duterte compared Halili to other mayors who had alleged links to illegal drugs and were killed, such as Reynaldo Panjilnog of Ozamiz City in Misamis Occidental and Rolando Espinosa of Albuera in Leyte.

“We are shocked, we are saddened,” Vice Mayor Joanna Villamor, who

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'Walk of shame'

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was standing beside Halili, told radio station *azBB* after the shooting.

What appeared to be a smartphone video of the shooting went viral on social media, showing a single shot ringing out as the anthem played, then screaming and pandemonium. The video could not be immediately verified.

Halili gained prominence for introducing a "walk of shame" parade of alleged drug dealers through Tanauan.

Halili was stripped of his supervisory powers over local police in October last year due to a proliferation of illegal drugs in Tanauan, amid allegations by the national police that he may have been involved. Halili denied the allegations.

"*Kawing si Halili sa Batangas - kumwari ipa-procession ang mga addicts, siya pala siya yun* (Earlier, Halili in Batangas. He shamed drug addicts by parading them, but he was involved in illegal drugs himself)," Duterte said last night during the anniversary of Maasin City in Southern Leyte.

"I suspect he was into drugs. I just suspect," he added in Cebuano.

In an interview with *Reuters* in August 2016 - the second month of the crackdown on illegal drugs after President Duterte assumed office - Halili said he backed the Chief Executive's campaign but believed drug kingpins should be the main targets, otherwise thousands of people would be killed.

He expressed concern over the way police conducted the war on drugs and the reliability of their intelligence, and

that he might be accused of colluding with narcotics gangs.

"No one is safe - mayors, governors, congressmen - just a false intelligence report by the police can end up with any of them being destroyed," he said in the interview.

"I have a feeling they (police) are going after the small fry to frighten the people," he said.

The mayor was rushed to CP Reyes Hospital yesterday but was declared dead at 8:45 a.m. while being treated by physician Alendrix Carandang, less than an hour after a suspected sniper's bullet hit him.

"*Hindi naman siya agawan bumagsak. Nakita na lamang naming may tamo at kumapit sa braso ni vice mayor.* (He didn't fall right away. But we saw that he was hit as he grabbed the arm of the vice mayor)," Gary Laresma, Tanauan public information officer, told *The STAR*.

Laresma said the gunshot came from a grassy area beside the city hall where the flag-raising ceremony was held.

"Even the police officers attending the ceremony were caught by surprise," he said, adding that everyone sought cover.

Laresma said they are now reviewing video footage taken by cameramen who covered the event.

He added that the mayor had been receiving death threats, which could be linked to his intensified campaign against illegal drugs.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Oscar Albayalde said they are looking into all possible mo-

tives of the shooting, noting Halili's "walk of shame" was very controversial.

"We have no report yet of what type of firearm was used in the shooting," he said, as he ordered a special investigation task group to be formed.

Acting on Albayalde's orders, PNP regional director Chief Supt. Edward Carranza has formed a group to investigate the killing.

Meanwhile, Supt. Chitadel Gaoiran, Calabarron police spokesperson, said they are still waiting for the autopsy results on Halili.

Gaoiran said scene of the crime operatives (SOCCO) did not recover any empty shell from where the gunman may have been and that the slug could still be in the mayor's body.

She said the sniper fired from an elevated mound on the right side of the city hall, around 100 meters away from where Halili was standing.

Police reports said the assassin may have used an M14 rifle.

Killing condemned

Malacañang yesterday condemned the killing of Halili and vowed to bring its perpetrators to justice.

"We condole with the family of (Halili). He was shot dead this morning and we condemn this kind of violence," presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said at a press briefing in Maasin, Leyte.

"The Justice promises to give him honor and to conduct a speedy investigation and prosecution of people responsible for his death," he added.

Roque said Halili was recognized as a mayor in one of the most progressive areas in Batangas. The mayor, however, was also one of the local execu-

tives in the list of politicians with alleged ties to the narcotics trade.

Roque said it is too early to conclude that the killing of Halili had something to do with illegal drugs.

"We do not know why (Halili) was killed. (He) was known for his shame campaign against drug pushers but at the same time, he was stripped of his police powers by the (National Police Commission). I do not know the relationship between the drug list and the killing of (Halili) but you can argue it both ways," he said.

"Others view him as a pillar of the campaign against illegal drugs and that is the reason why human rights groups are complaining about his shame campaign. But at the same time, he has the record of being included in the narco list. I think there is no basis to make conclusions for now because the investigation is not yet complete," Roque added.

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) officer-in-charge Secretary Eduardo Año also strongly condemned the killing of Halili.

"The DILG vehemently condemns the killing of (Halili) and we will not rest until the perpetrators of this heinous crime are brought to justice," Año said.

Senators, while also condemning the killing, yesterday pressed authorities to stop the spate of violence in the country.

"Criminality in the country has always been alarming, that's why we want government to come down hard on the criminals and not contradict efforts to do so," Senate President Vicente Sotto III said.

"Criminals have always

been bold. (This assassin) is a coward. A sniper was used," he said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chairman of the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs, said the "killing of priests, prosecutors and former and incumbent local officials in broad daylight and in full view of the public may be suggestive of the impunity and brazenness of those responsible for such acts."

"The (PNP) should feel challenged, if not taunted. And they must immediately consider stricter firearms control strategies before similar killings could reach ubiquitous levels," Lacson said.

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito also challenged the PNP to end the killings of priests and government officials.

"One requisite of a developed nation is to have a conducive atmosphere for business to grow. Violent assassinations are a black eye to this goal of achieving peace for economic development," Ejercito said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto lamented the killing of Halili, whom he considered a good friend.

"There's a sniper on the loose in Batangas. (Halili) was the latest politician in the province felled by a marksman's bullet," Recto, who hails from the province, said.

"The province is littered with bodies of victims of political assassinations and unsolved murders and each unsolved killing emboldens the next, creating a spiral of violence which authorities

cannot seem to stop," he said.

He said when the rule of law is flouted, "including by agents of the state who do it with impunity, it incentivizes people to take the law into their own hands and indicts the police for failing to stop it."

He said Halili had "a governance style that was unconventional in some aspects, but it effectively kept the city he loved safe and prosperous." Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the murder of Halili demands an immediate and thorough investigation by the authorities, just like the thousands of killings in the Duterte administration's drug war.

"While we did not agree with Halili's method of dealing with crime and illegal drugs in his city, his murder is condemnable," said Carlos Conde, HRW researcher.

"He may have deprived many Tanauan residents of due process but that doesn't mean he should be deprived of it too," he added.

"We reiterate our call for an end to the culture of impunity in the Philippines where thousands have been killed in extrajudicial killings of criminal suspects, activists, members of indigenous tribes, journalists, priests and politicians like (Halili). The only way this can happen is if perpetrators - including Halili's killers - are investigated, arrested, charged and tried in a court of law," said HRW. With Alexis Romero, Cecilie Suerte Felipe, Paolo Romero, Rhodina Villanueva Reuters

SNIPER KILLS MAYOR LINKED TO DRUGS

A bullet pierced the chest of Antonio Halili during Monday's flag ceremony outside Tanauan City Hall at 8 a.m. on Monday. The President said he had warned the local executive not to be involved in the narcotics trade.

By Maricar Cinco
@maricarcincoINQ

TANAUAN CITY—Antonio Halili came down hard on illegal drugs even as he also fended off allegations that he was a protector of drug syndicates and expressed fear for his life shortly after the Duterte administra-

tion launched its brutal crackdown on narcotics.

Until Monday, the tough-talking mayor of this city had been receiving death threats, but nothing specific.

Halili, who became controversial for parading drug suspects through the city streets and for landing on President

Duterte's "narcologist," was shot dead on Monday at a flag-raising ceremony in front of horrified employees.

A bullet, possibly fired from a sniper's rifle, pierced the chest of the 72-year-old mayor as he and around 200 municipal government employees sang the national anthem outside City

Hall at 8 a.m.

"We are shocked, we are saddened," Vice Mayor Ihoanna Villamor, who stood next to the mayor, told a radio station shortly after the shooting.

Halili was declared dead on arrival at C.P. Reyes Hospital

Police were looking at the mayor's slating campaign

against drug suspects and criminals as one of the possible motives for the attack.

Halili was the fourth mayor killed in Mr. Duterte's bloody war on drugs, which has left thousands of drug suspects dead and drawn condemnation from local and international human rights organizations.

The three other mayors killed were Samsudin Dimaukom of Datu-Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao province, in October 2016; Rolando Espinosa of Albuera, Leyte province, in November 2016; and Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. of Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental province, in July 2017.

A2

FROM A1

Elected to a second term in 2016, Halili talked and acted tough on drugs and crime like Mr. Duterte, earning him the moniker "Little Digo" in the city south of Manila.

Parade of crime suspects

Halili gained notoriety when he paraded drug pushers and petty thieves, while they carried cardboard signs specifying their offenses. Human rights officials were alarmed.

"[My intention] is to warn the people. If you see these people [tagged as drug users], you would not want any of your family near them," the mayor told the Inquirer in 2016 in defense of his shame campaign.

Halili's name later appeared on Mr. Duterte's so-called narcologist of officials allegedly linked to illegal drugs.

He was among 1,000 mayors who separately met with the President in Malacañang in January 2017 to clear their names.

In October 2017, Halili was stripped of supervisory powers over the local police as illegal drugs proliferated in his city amid allegations that he might have been involved. He denied the allegations.

Police crackdown

In August 2016, Halili said he supported Mr. Duterte's campaign but believed drug king-



Antonio Halili

pins should be the main targets. Otherwise, he pointed out, thousands would be killed.

In the interview with Reuters, Halili expressed apprehension over the way police carried out the crackdown and the reliability of their intelligence.

He voiced fears he might be accused of colluding with drug syndicates.

"If you are the mayor, and if somehow your views differ from the police, they will create a story, say you are into drugs and go after you and kill you. What can you do?" he said.

After Monday's shooting, investigators scoured a nearby grassy knoll from where the gun-

man might have fired the shot.

"They did not see anybody approach him. They just heard a gunshot, so the assumption or allegation was: it could have been a sniper shot," said Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Albayalde.

Extraordinary distance

Supt. Renato Mercado, Tapanan police chief, said the shot was fired from about 150 meters away.

"The distance from the position was extraordinary. It could not be done by an ordinary person. His skill can be compared to a trained sniper," Mercado said.

Albayalde said investigators were looking into the connection between the killing and Halili's "walk of shame" campaign.

"As a city mayor, he might have embarrassed and hurt people because that [campaign] was controversial," he told reporters at Camp Crame.

Last week, Halili submitted additional documents to the National Police Commission to clear his name of the drug allegations, according to city information officer Gerard Larema.

"Halili was telling us there were threats but nothing really specific. What he would always say was: if it's my time, it's my time," Larema said. —WIRE REPORTS FROM JAYMEE T. GAMIL, INQUIRER RESEARCH, REUTERS AT AND AFP INC.

Chinese coast guard placed under military command

China's coast guard is now under military command.

State-run news website *Global Times* said the order transferring the Chinese coast guard leadership from civilian authorities to the country's military took effect on July 1.

The report said a marine police corps under the Chinese People's Armed Police Force would be established to take charge of law enforcement at sea.

Xinhua news agency said the soon-to-be-formed body would guard China's marine rights.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, adopted the new setup last June 22. The State Oceanic Administration used to supervise the coast guard.

Song Zhongping, a military expert and TV commentator, said the change will put the coast guard under the direct administration of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) and enable the China Coast Guard (CCG) to be more involved in military drills and daily exercises with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy.

He said the coast guard can cooperate more efficiently with the PLA Navy when involved in emergencies and

war.

Song said coast guard ships would be armed with more powerful small diameter cannons instead of water cannons.

Under the leadership of the CMC, ship crews could also be authorized to carry firearms.

China said other countries should not feel threatened by its coast guard as long as they do not violate China's sovereignty and maritime rights.

In June, China defended its coast guards from accusations they were "forcibly taking" the catch of Filipino fishermen at Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, saying its coast guards have always acted "in accordance with the law."

"The Chinese coast guards have been safeguarding peace, order and tranquility in relevant waters and offered humanitarian aid to Philippine fishermen for many times. They have always acted in accordance with the law," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said.

He said China was allowing Filipino fishermen at Panatag Shoal "out of goodwill."

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano had said such arrangement was a show of "goodwill" by China and its acceptance by the Philippines was the right thing to do.

- Pia Lee-Brago



Better life ahead in Rody's 2nd yr

(Second of three parts)

The \$395-billion economy of the Philippines in the past two years under President Duterte was seen capitalizing on the rash of reforms adopted thus far and further expand a landscape considered one of the most promising in the region.

This was based on official data showing trend growth approximating 7 percent in terms of local output or the gross domestic product (GDP) this year alone and the promise of sustained expansion down the line provided the reformist track is similarly sustained.

As a consequence, Presidential Spokesperson Harry S. Roque on Monday said Filipinos could look forward to a perceptively better quality of life as the Chief Executive marks his second year in Malacañang.

There should be "better services for Filipinos during President Duterte's second year" in office, he said of what lies immediately ahead when ever more structural and policy changes are expected.

President Duterte has repeatedly demonstrated a complete aversion to official corruption and criminality and had been willing to pay what political price had to be paid to drive the message home.

In the economic realm, the President, with the full backing of the economic managers, started a reformist initiative designed to inject incremental revenues to the nation's coffers to help underwrite growth-boosting projects and programs aggregating some P1.5 trillion by the time his term ends in 2022.

TRAIN pushes on

The most prominent of these pertain to the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion or TRAIN Law that initially generated optimistic readings from the country's creditors and the investing public as a whole given that some 70 percent of anticipated revenues were set aside for a multi-year infrastructure buildup program.

The economic managers would later forecast greater GDP expansion averaging 6.7 percent

this year and have not given up on growth as high as 8 percent no matter the gathering momentum against the TRAIN.

Roque reiterated the TRAIN has made it possible for the economy to lift the so-called tax effort, or tax revenue as percent of GDP, to a 10-year high of P2.25 trillion on its inaugural year of implementation.

It was noted that when then President Aquino took over from President Arroyo, the economy would slip from a high growth rate exceeding 8 percent in one quarter to more or less 3 percent in subsequent quarters.

In the months following the adoption of the TRAIN Law, investor confidence in the economy would soar in terms of proposed investments exceeding P195 billion in the first four months this year alone. While these are not actual placements that generate real jobs for Filipinos and tax revenue for the national coffers, such are an indication of the regard the investing community has for the Philippines, Roque explained.

Foreign direct investments or FDI, a lead economic indicator

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showing actual bricks-and-mortar businesses put up by overseas entrepreneurs, similarly expanded to \$2.2 billion in the first three months this year from only \$1.5 billion a year ago.

"Efforts by the Duterte administration to afford all Filipinos the government service they deserve continue to be unrelenting," Roque said.

35 BBB projects

He particularly said that of the 35 big-ticket projects rolled

out under the Build, Build, Build program and stamped with approval by the National Economic Development Authority or NEDA, 10 were certain to have been completed by 2022 and only 19 were to be pursued by the next Malacañang occupant.

Roque also cited significantly higher growth in overseas visitor arrivals aggregating 642,757 in the first quarter this year alone, versus only 574,067 a year earlier.

As a result, foreign visitor arrivals for the period grew by 15 percent to 2,049 million

from only 1.784 million last year.

It was noted President Duterte's critics dwell on the fact that when he took over as Chief Executive in 2016, GDP growth swung from as high as 7.1 percent to as low as 6.5 percent over a 12-month stretch.

In the succeeding quarters, GDP expansion similarly swung as high as 7.2 percent to a low of 6.5 percent before accelerating again to 6.8 percent in the quarter ended March this year.

The proposition was for the President to lead a country beset by domestic and foreign volatility swings and for him to achieve a more stable output performance instead.

BSP sees 7% annual growth

The President's men led by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Nestor A. Espenilla Jr. has since asserted that continued and sustainable growth remain within expectations not just this year averaging more or less 7 percent but for the near term as well.

Espenilla based his optimism on actual GDP expansion recast to 6.8 percent in 2017 from 6.7 percent initially, a performance that helped extend to the BSP the policy space to support overall economic expansion.

This means the central bank has sufficient monetary equipment to combat rising inflation that tends to dampen

growth without having to hit both households and businesses with prospectively higher cost of money in the form of higher interest rates.

Thus far the economy has cooperated given that inflation, while elevated at 4.6 percent as of latest, was seen to moderate over the near term and approximate the target ceiling this year of only 4 percent, according to Espenilla.

Elevated inflation is generally unwelcome as it makes for more costly purchase of services or goods and a disincentive for savers.

Roque summed up the first two years under President Duterte as "generally fruitful."

"Much has been

accomplished but much more needs to be done. This is a work in progress to achieve and actualize the promise of a genuine and meaningful change for the Filipino people. The President cannot do it alone. Let us help the Chief Executive fulfill his goal of building a nation where opportunities abound and where citizens are empowered to realize their aspirations," Roque said.

(The final installment takes up the Duterte administration's independent foreign policy shift, the pursuit of improved welfare of overseas Filipino workers (OFW), reforms in the energy sector and upgrading of military and police capabilities).



Abilidad ng puwersa ng military at pulisya pinabubusisi

Hinikayat ni Good Government and Public Accountability Chairman Johnny Pimentel ang Armed Forces of the Philippines at ang Philippine National Police na busisin ang kanilang 'interoperability force' o iyong abilidad ng puwersa o mga kagamitan ng militar at mga pulis. Ginawa ni Pimentel ang sunestiyon matapos ang misencounter ng tropa ng militar at pulis sa Samar na ikinasawit ng anim na police officers kamakailan. Nanawagan naman si Pimentel sa AFP at PNP na magsagawa ng interoperability conference upang pag-usapan ang mga dapat ayusin at koordinasyon sa ground sakaling ma mga operasyon. (Genina A. Garcia)

South Cotabato board rejects coal mining

Church, local groups hail decision; firm says it respects voting result

By Bong S. Sarmiento
@inquirermindanao

KORONADAL CITY—Church and environmental watchdog readers on Monday lauded the decision of the South Cotabato provincial board to reject a coal mining project in the province where open-pit mining moratorium is banned in the last eight years.

On May 6-2, the board of 11 members rejected a resolution endorsing a project of Dagupan Area Minerals Inc. (DAMI) involving the extraction of coal deposits at Barangay Ned in Lake Sebu town.

DAMI's rights over the coal fields, as well as two other concession holders, had been acquired by San Miguel Energy Corp., a subsidiary of San Miguel Corp.

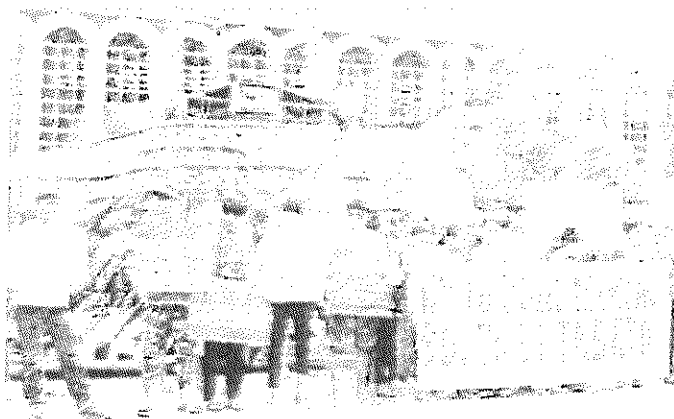
In a statement on Monday, DAMI said the board's "unscheduled, last-minute" voting "did not seem to take into account the social and economic significance of the project and the true wishes of the indigenous peoples of Barangay Ned and Lake Sebu."

However, the firm said it was "respecting the Sanggunian's final decision."

Victory

Sister Susan Bolante, executive director of the Oblate of Holy Family Mission-Based Foundation Inc., praised the provincial board's decision, calling it "a victory for the environment and our people."

"The spirit of God works through time and such decision will unburden your already overburdened Mother Earth," she said.



PROTEST In this photo taken in December last year, members of militant and indigenous peoples' groups stage a protest in front of the South Cotabato provincial capitol in Koronadal City to oppose coal mining and condemn the killing of tribal leaders in the province. —BONG S. SARMIENTO

The coal field is within Kalunat River Watershed Forest Reserve, a protected area covered by Proclamation No. 22 signed by President Joseph Estrada in 2006.

It lies above Aliak Valley Protected Landscape within the ancestral domain of the T'boli-Manobo S'itat Claimants Organization/Tamasco.

In December last year, eight tribal members were killed during a military operation at Barangay Ned, including Datu Victor Danyal, Tamasco chairman, who opposed coal mining and coffee plantation expansion projects in the village.

The military claimed that the slain tribal members were either members or supporters of the communist New People's Army.

Human rights groups disputed the military's version, describing the incident as a "massacre."

The coal field in Dagupan

mountain range, which straddles South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces, contains an indicated resource of 150 million tons, according to a detailed resource evaluation conducted by Toquec Geologists and Affiliates more than a decade ago in behalf of DAMI.

The provincial board rejected DAMI's bid to excavate 120 hectares of the 1,000-ha Dagupan coal field.

Code violation

Board Member Romulo Solivie, a critic of the coal project, said the proposed venture was a violation of the province's environment code, which prohibits open-pit mining.

Approved in 2010, the legality of the open-pit mining ban in South Cotabato had not been challenged in court by critics.

DAMI plans to extract coal deposits using strip mining method, which Solivie noted

was similar to open-pit mining.

"It will violate our environment code if we will allow it," he said.

But DAMI said it was "not an open-pit mining project," noting that the firm intended to extract coal through contour mining, which it stressed was a "more environment-friendly method."

Contour mining

"Contour mining will not result in a big, gaping hole on the ground. Rather, it involves only the removal of soil or 'overburden' on top of the coal seam. The soil is then replaced immediately and can be rehabilitated for use in farming and reforestation," it said.

DAMI said it was contracted by the Department of Energy to explore, develop and extract coal in South Cotabato.

"It can be recalled that as early as 2010, DAMI was already favorably endorsed by the barangay council of Ned and the Sanggunian Bayan of Lake Sebu," the statement said.

"In the years that we've worked to support the community in Barangay Ned and the rest of Lake Sebu, and explain to the people what we intend to do, they have always expressed support for the project," it added.

Lawless of Marbel Fisono Emerita Dinuaido Gutierrez also praised those who voted against endorsing the project.

"The coal mining operation will be highly destructive. It will bring about serious man-induced dangers such as deforestation and siltation," Gutierrez said earlier. INQ AS

DOJ pursuing terror tag on 600 CPP-NPA leaders

By EDU PUNAY

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is pursuing its bid to

have the courts declare over 600 persons linked to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing the

New People's Army (NPA) as terrorists.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra reversed this yesterday following the cancellation of peace talks between the government and the communist rebels set last week in the Netherlands.

"We will continue with our petition in the court, unless and until the President and the government peace panel direct us otherwise," he told reporters, referring to the petition the DOJ filed before the Manila regional trial court (RTC) last March.

The DOJ submitted a list with over 600 personalities — including CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison, former Bayan Muna representative Satur Ocampo and UN special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz — that it wants to be tagged terrorists.

A former UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues chair, Corpuz was named UN special rapporteur in 2014. She founded the indigenous peoples advocacy and research group, Tebtebba Inc., and helped draft the Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples, which the UN

adopted in 2007.

She decried her inclusion in the list as "baseless, malicious and irresponsible."

Ocampo, on the other hand, is facing murder charges in the Manila RTC for his alleged involvement in the murder of suspected military spies in the communist movement in the 1980s.

Also in the list are alleged CPP leaders Benito and Wilma Diamzon, National Democratic Front (NDF) consultant Rafael Baylosis, former peace panel chief Luis Jaiandoni, human rights lawyer and former Baguio City councilor Jose Melintas and Cordillerans Joanna Cariño, Windel Farago, Balinget, Sherwin de Vera, Beverly Sakongan Longid and Jeannette Ribaya Cavinding.

'Dreaming'

Meanwhile, presidential spokesman Harry Roque yesterday said Sison must be dreaming when he announced a plan to oust President Duterte.

Roque stressed that the government is not to blame for the setback in the peace talks.

Sison, he added, is unaware of the real situation in the Philippines because he has been in

Europe too long.

"Imagine, he wants to oust the President, that he would not be able to finish his term. . . . Jose Maria Sison, wake up, dream on. You cannot oust a government while you are in Europe," Roque said at a press briefing in Leyte.

He added that the communist leader is "having a good time" in another place and no longer knows the country's prevailing conditions.

"Come home and live in the Philippines so you will realize that the conditions you are dreaming about will no longer happen. The economy of the Philippines is doing well and while there is still poverty, many have been freed from it," Roque stressed.

Last week, Sison said there is no point in pursuing the peace talks with the government and that it would be easier for the NDF to join efforts to oust Duterte. He later clarified that the peace talks are still on and that only the NDF Council could decide on the termination of talks.

Sison issued the statement after the NDF rejected Duterte's proposal to hold the resumption of talks in the Philippines. Communist

negotiators are insisting that the talks be held on neutral ground.

Roque said it was Sison, not the government, who detailed the peace negotiations and pointed out that Duterte even agreed to free six jailed communist leaders as a gesture of goodwill.

"The President said we are Filipinos and we should talk peace here. He (Sison) was guaranteed that he would not be jailed. But Sison is really arrogant. He thinks he is the savior of the country," he added.

Roque said he was puzzled as to why Sison is against Duterte's proposal to hold the talks in the Philippines. "Drop the talk. If you really want to help, come home and be part of a more comfortable nation for everyone," he added.

In the petition, signed by Senior Associate State Prosecutor Peter Ong, to declare the communist officers and members terrorists, the DOJ cited Republic Act 9372 (Human Security Act of 2007) in seeking the declaration of the CPP and NPA officials and members as terrorists. It accused the CPP-NPA of having an "evil plan of imposing a totalitarian regime" — With Alexis Romero, Jose Rodel Clapano ☐



DoJ pursues terror tag bid on Reds

The government will pursue a Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) petition seeking to declare the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), as terrorist groups.

"We will continue with our petition in the court, unless and until the President and the government peace panel direct us otherwise," Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said.

Guevarra also revealed that the Department of Justice (DoJ) has asked the courts to order the arrest of National Democratic Front (NDF) consultants and CPP leaders who were granted bail to participate in peace talks which were originally scheduled for last month.

He was referring to the petition filed by the DoJ before the Manila RTC last March seeking to declare communist leaders and their armed members as terrorists.

The DoJ submitted to the court a list of over 600 personalities, including CPP founder Jose Maria Sison, peace negotiator Luis Jalandoni, former lawmaker and leftist leader Saturno Gampago and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, UN special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

Also in the list are alleged CPP leaders Benito and Wima Tiamzon, National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant Rafael Baylison, former peace panel chief Luis Jalandoni, human rights lawyer and former Baguio City councilor Jose Molintas and Cordillerans Joaquin Carino, Windel Farag-ey Bolingat, Sherwin De Vera, Beverly Sakongan Longid and Jeannette Bibaya Cawidino.

The petition was filed following the termination of the peace talks between the government and the CPP

in November last year.

NPA attacks spoil talks

Duterte initiated formal peace talks with the NDF shortly after winning the presidency in 2016 but canceled them in November last year amid continued attacks of the NPA on government forces and civilians.

The President signed a proclamation in December 2017 declaring the CPP-NPA

The President signed a proclamation in December 2017 declaring the CPP-NPA as a terror organization using Republic Act 10168 or the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act of 2012 as basis.

as a terror organization using Republic Act 10168 or the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act of 2012 as basis.

In a 55-page proscription petition, the DoJ asked the Manila RTC to issue an order declaring the CPP and NPA, also known as the Bagong Hukbong Bayan, as terrorist and outlawed organizations, associations or group of persons pursuant to Section 17 of RA 9372 or the Human Security Act of 2007.

Terror grounds

The petition was basically based on two grounds that the organization, association or group of persons were organized for the purpose of engaging in terrorism; and that even if the organization, association or group of persons was not organized to engage in terrorism, it still commits acts of terrorism, such as murder and arson and other activities, for the purpose of sowing terror.

DoJ pressing to have Reds tagged as terrorists

By Hector Lawas

THE Department of Justice (DoJ) will pursue its bid seeking to declare over 600 persons linked to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), as terrorists.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra revealed this following the cancellation of the scheduled peace talks between the government and the communist rebels set last week.

"We will continue with our petition in the court, unless and until the President and the government peace panel direct us oth-

erwise," he said.

A petition was filed by the DoJ before the Manila Regional Trial Court last March seeking to declare communist leaders and their armed members as terrorists.

The DoJ submitted to the court a list of over 600 personalities, including CPP founding chair Jose Maria Sison, former Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and UN special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz. It tagged as terrorists

Also in the list are alleged CPP leaders Benito and Wjima Tiamzon, National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP)

consultant Rafael Bayolisa, former peace panel chief Luis Jalandoni, human rights lawyer and former Baguio City councilor Jose Mojantas and Cordillerans Joanna Carino, Winal Farag-et, Bolinget, Sherwin De Vera, Beverly Salangan Longid and Jeannette Ribaya Cawiding.

The petition was filed following the termination of the peace talks between the government and the CPP in November last year.

In its petition, the DoJ cited Republic Act 9372 (The Human Security Act of 2007) in seeking the declaration of the CPP and NPA officials and members as terrorists.

Red's October plan killed peace—DND

By Evalea Casaljay
and Rey E. Requejo

THE real reason peace talks were canceled was that the communist rebels were plotting since 2017 to oust President Rodrigo Duterte by October this year, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Sunday night.

In a statement, Lorenzana said during the unilateral ceasefire from 2016 to January 2017, the Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army and the National Democratic Front called a People's Congress during which they created a three-year plan that included the ouster of Duterte if he rejected a coalition government.

Duterte rejected the NDF demand for a coalition government in November 2017, calling it "pure nonsense."

An ongoing review of all peace documents

Next page



Oust...

From A2

and agreements showed that they lay the foundation for power sharing under a coalition government, Lorenzana added.

The Defense chief said the communists used the lull created by the ceasefire and peace talks to regain lost ground and rebuild their base, as well as to obtain the release of top party members who were detained.

"Based on the foregoing deliberate actions of the CPP-NPA-NDF, it is obvious that they are not sincere to talk peace and end the armed conflict. They are employing the revolutionary dual tactics to show semblance of peace but continually conducting violence and terror acts on the ground," he added.

The communist rebels also failed to agree to the conditions set by Duterte for peace talks to resume, including a stop to its collection of "revolutionary taxes" which the government brands as extortion. This, he said, showed that the communists were not sincere.

"They [CPP-NPA] have been tagged as a terrorist organization locally and internationally. They had their chance to work for peace when President Duterte appointed four of their members to the Cabinet. But they betrayed the government when they used their positions to advance the CPP's revolutionary movement," the DND chief added.

The Justice Department, meanwhile, has restarted proceedings to declare more than 600 people linked to the CPP and NPA as terrorists.

"We will continue with our petition in the court, unless and until the President and the government peace panel direct us otherwise," acting Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said on Monday following the termination of the peace talks between the government and the communist rebels set last week in The Netherlands.

The DOJ earlier filed before the Manila City Regional Trial Court last March a petition seeking to declare communist leaders and their armed members as terrorists.

The Justice Department submitted to the court a list of over 600 names, including those of CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison, former Bayan Muna Rep. Sauro Ocampo and UN special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, it tagged as terrorists.

Corpuz, a former chairman of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, was named UN special rapporteur in 2014. She decried her inclusion in the list as "baseless, malicious and irresponsible."

She founded the indigenous peoples advocacy and research group, Tebtebba Inc., and helped draft the Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the United Nations in 2007.

Ocampo is facing murder charges in the Manila RTC for his alleged involvement in the murder of suspected military spies in the communist movement in the 1980s.

Also in the list are alleged CPP leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, National Democratic Front of the Philippines consultant Rafael Baylosis, former peace panel chief Luis Jalandoni, human rights lawyer and former Baguio City councilor Jose Molintas and Cordillerans Joanna Carino, Windel Farag-ey Bolinger, Sherwin De Vera, Beverly Sakongan Longid and Jeannette Ribaya Cawiding.

The petition was filed following the termination of the peace talks between the government and the CPP in November last year.

"The CPP and NPA are merely buying time by deceiving the Philippine government in entering into peace talks, while their main purpose is to mobilize all their forces in preparation for the people's war aimed at overthrowing the duly constituted authority, seizing control of the Philippine government, and imposing a totalitarian regime," the DOJ petition stated. **With PNA**

Sison thinks he's PH savior—Palace

By Christine O. Avendaño,
Jeannette I. Andrade and
Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
@Team_Inquirer

Malacañang on Monday denounced Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chair Jose Maria Sison for thinking he was the country's "savior" and said the government was open to holding talks with other leaders of the insurgents.

Calling the self-exiled CPP leader "arrogant," presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said Sison was dreaming when he said that the insurgents could bring down the Duterte administration.

Speaking in Maasin, Leyte,

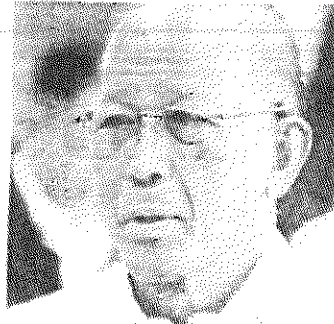
where he accompanied President Duterte, Roque said it was not the government's fault that the peace talks had not resumed.

He reminded Sison that Mr. Duterte had guaranteed his safety if he returned to the country for the peace talks.

'Dream on'

"But Sison is really arrogant. He thinks he is the savior of the country. Can you believe it, they will oust the President, that he will not be able to finish his term," Roque said.

"Jose Sison, wake up, and dream. You cannot oust a government while you are in Europe. You have been staying



Delfin Lorenzana



Jose Maria Sison

there for so long now, come home and see how conditions are here now," he added.

In a radio interview on Monday morning, Roque said the government was not giving up

on the peace talks.

"If there are others who want to talk, we will talk peace with them," he said, in response to Sen. Panfilo Lacson's call for the government to negotiate with region-

a commander of the CPP's armed wing, New People's Army (NPA).

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana recommended the shelving of the peace talks late Sunday, citing the insurgents' "insincerity" in pursuing peace

Three-year plan

According to Lorenzana, the insurgents have crafted a "three-year plan" to "advance the revolutionary movement," including a plot to oust Mr. Duterte should he disagree with the establishment of a coalition government.

The plan, he said, was the product of the second People's Congress of the CPP-NDF (National Democratic Front) and the

CPP Central Committee Plenum from October to December 2016.

"Based on the foregoing deliberations of the CPP-NDF/NPA, it is obvious that they are not sincere to talk peace," Lorenzana said.

But in a statement, the CPP said Lorenzana was fearful of becoming irrelevant if the peace talks succeeded.

"He wants no nonmilitary end to the civil war in the Philippines. He fears losing significance if the present civil war in the country is settled politically through peace negotiations," the CPP said. —WITH REPORTS FROM FATE COLBONG AND IANNA GAYLEAGUE INC. *AG*

Palace tells Joma: Dream on

By Angie M. Rosales

Dream on.

Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said this yesterday in retaliation to Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison claims that it's relatively easier and more productive to participate in the oust-Duterte movement than in peace negotiations with the government.

"But Joma Sison is really boastful. He thinks he is the savior of the country. He said he will oust the President, the term will not be finished," Roque said.

"Joma Sison, wake up. You're dreaming. You cannot oust a government while you are in Europe. You come back and live here in the Philippines so that you will see the condition here. Our economy is in very good condition," he added.

The Palace official further scoffed at Sison whose latest statements had him saying that only a miracle could lead to the resumption of the peace talks given the hardline stance of President Duterte on the conditions set by the CPP National Democratic Front-New People's Army (CPP-NDF-NPA).

Sison said they would consider returning to the negotiating table if the President will revoke Proclamation 369 which formally terminated the peace talks in November last year as well as

Proclamation 373 which declared the CPP and NPA as terrorist organizations and respect all peace accords that had been reached since 1992.

The Palace spokesman rebuked the CPP leader for the cancellation of the peace talks saying that it's Sison who has balked at the resumption of the negotiations despite Duterte taking initiatives in confidence-building measures such as assurance of safe conduct pass.

Roque said, however, talks should be held in the country. Mr. Duterte even ordered the release of some key communist leaders to take part in the negotiations.

The Palace official said Sison, at the time when the President was still Davao City mayor, had repeatedly reached out to Duterte in the hope of forging peace.

Come home to help

"Stop talking. If you really want to help, come home and be part of building a comfortable nation for the Filipino people," Roque said.

Roque said Sison should accept the invitation of Mr. Duterte to conduct peace negotiations in the Philippines and not in other countries.

"It is not the government's fault that peace talks did not push through. It was Joma who backed out. We are Filipinos. What the President had said, let's talk peace here," Roque said.

He said Sison should not worry about his safety since Duterte has assured him that he will not be detained in the country.

Roque said while poverty still remains a problem in the country, "many" have been lifted out of poverty.

The President said he would continue to reach out to the enemies of the states, including the Moro rebels in Mindanao, to bring genuine peace in the country.

Palace to CPP founder Joma Stop dreaming of ousting Duterte

By **ERREN MONTAÑO**

MALACANANG yesterday urged exiled communist leader Jose Maria Sison to stop dreaming about ousting President Rodrigo Duterte, saying he has been away for so long that he is out of touch with realities in the country.

Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), said last week that the movement to remove Duterte from power was growing and had become strong enough to eventually oust the President.

The CPP, in a statement over the weekend, cited the implementation of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Incentive Law, war on drugs, anti-tambay operations, and counter-insurgency operations as among the ways Duterte has allegedly antagonized the public.

"Jose Sison, chairman of the movement to oust

Duterte, is participating in a parasitic ng gobyerno ibang ilaw ay nasa Europa. Napakatagal mo na diyari Unruw ka rin. Ilaw ay mabuhay din sa Pilipinas nang makita mo ibang ang kondisyon." Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said in a news conference in Manila City.

Roque said the country's continued economic growth has lifted "many" Filipinos out of poverty.

"At young sahod, ninyang hindi maitatapos ang termino, unang una nananaginip nga kas, sasanta anyos na ne nagsabanto na patalsikan ng CPP-NPA (CPP-New People's Army) ang gobyerno, hindi nangyayari. Sa another 50 years umasa ka (Sison) pa rin, managinip ka pa rin, di mo pa rin maitatapos ang gobyerno ng Pilipinas," he added.

The Palace official reiterated its call for Sison, who has been in self-exile in The Netherlands since 1987, to return to the Philippines

and talk peace with the government.

Sison earlier said the communist movement would be better off working for Duterte's ouster and prepare for peace talks with the next administration.

Duterte mocked Sison's threat and suggested to just watch the alleged sex video of staunch critic Senator Leticia Da Lima.

The communist leader later clarified that the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, CPP's political arm of which he is the chief political consultant, is not yet terminating the peace negotiations with the Duterte administration.

The formal resumption of peace talks was meant to proceed on June 28 in Norway, but fell through because Duterte said that he needed more time and more consultations before resuming the talks.

A stand-down agreement was signed on June 5 and was supposed to take

effect on June 21, a week before the opening of formal talks.

Meanwhile, Roque is not ruling out now the possibility that Catholic Church leaders are convening with communists to oust Duterte.

"Baka marami nga sa kanila (Catholic Church leaders) ay hindi nila tatanggapin sa Presidente kayo nga hindi malayo na maglansang yan. Ilang kanila ng CPP-NPA na patalsikan sa Presidente Duterte," said Roque yesterday in a briefing in Manila, Southern Leyte.

The CPP is the Communist Party of the Philippines while the NPA is its armed wing, the New People's Army.

Roque also claimed that prominent members of the Catholic Church only became outspoken in their criticism of Duterte when "their candidate" in the 2016 presidential elections was beaten by the incumbent.



President Duterte
Davao City mayor

"Ayan mo naman, na yung patalsikan ng simula, at el nagsamala naman yun natin natabo nang kasalanan nila nang eberton," said Roque.

Malacanang is making the main about the church at a time when it is trying to dialogue with religious groups and setting up a meeting between the CBCP and Duterte.

Special Assistant to the President Bong Go said on Monday that the meeting between CBCP president



Sison
Davao Archbishop Romulo Valdes and Duterte is set to take place on the week of July 5.

It also contradicts Roque's statement the previous week when he said the Palace does not think the church is involved in any destabilization plot.

The talks with the religious group are supposed to be the Palace's response to the outrage of several Catholic Church leaders, Christian churches, and religious groups over Duterte's "God is stupid" remark on June 22.

Forensic analysis sought on Samar misencounter

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

Forensic experts will be asked to conduct an analysis on the cellular phones of the policemen and soldiers involved in the misencounter in Samar last June 25, the chief of the Board of Inquiry (BOI) said yesterday.

BOI head Director Rolando Felix said the cellular phones of the policemen will be retrieved and analyzed to establish the timeline before, during and after the encounter in Sta. Rita in Samar which led to the death of six policemen and the wounding of nine others.

Felix, concurrent chief of the Directorate for Integrated Police Operations (DIPCO) in the Visayas, said the move was meant to analyze the sequence of events from all the calls and text messages of the cellular phones that were re-

portedly used in coordinating with the local military forces.

"Actually, we're asking that cell phones be retrieved so that we can conduct forensic examinations in relation to their allegations on the coordination, that calls and text messages were made. So, we are still waiting for the results," Felix told reporters at a briefing.

He said about 50 people were involved in the so-called misencounter - 17 from the military's side and 33 from the Philippine National Police (PNP) - thus, they are still in the process of assessing the information.

"Many people were involved. Almost one platoon on the side of the PNP. That's about 30 persons. On the other side, it's one section, it's half of the platoon and we are looking into other units that were informed about the co-

ordination," he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Felix and other members of the BOI personally went to Samar, conducted an ocular investigation and interviewed some police personnel in the area.

"What we have established so far is that there was coordination. But whether or not this coordination reached the people that should have been informed is not yet finalized," he said.

The retrieval of data from the cellular phones used in the coordination is important to identify the persons involved in the coordination, according to Felix.

"Our policemen have been saying that coordination was made through cellular phones. We are trying to get these call numbers for the conduct of forensic examination to the allegations because accordingly

text messages were sent and calls were made," he said.

"We will come out with our own findings based on what we saw, based on evidence," he added.

PNP chief Director General Oscar Albayalde said they hope to release initial findings of the BOI by Wednesday.

"Finally, within the week, we expect the Board of Inquiry in coordination with our AFP counterparts to wrap up its investigation into that unfortunate mistaken encounter in Sta. Rita, Samar," Albayalde said.

He noted that there had been sufficient information, evidence and inputs to put all the pieces together and reconstruct the circumstances on that fateful day.

Probe to continue

The probe on the clash in Samar will continue even if

President Duterte has taken full responsibility for the incident, Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said there is a need to finish the investigation on the encounter so that similar clashes can be avoided.

"When it comes to providing justice, the President said it is important to avoid a repeat of the incident wherein government forces clashed with one another. The solution really is better coordination, especially during combat operations," Roque said in a press briefing in Leyte.

"But I think we have to wait for what the BOI will say. On the part of the President, he took full responsibility. Let's accept the fact that nobody really wanted this to happen, but this is without prejudice to the final outcome of the

investigation to be conducted by the BOI," he added.

While the BOI has not yet completed its probe, Duterte said the ultimate blame was on him as commander-in-chief of the military.

"While the investigation is ongoing, we will see what can be done. But based on the initial assessment of the President, there was complete lack of coordination," Roque said.

"It was saddening and while we are still awaiting the results of the investigation, I do not think there was criminal intent. I don't think the soldiers will target the policemen. But let us see if there was negligence," he added.

Roque said the government would provide all the necessary assistance to the families of the slain policemen.

— With Alexis Romero

Malacañang wants to ensure Samar 'misencounter' the last

MALACAÑANG yesterday said the Duterte administration is bent on doing all it takes to ensure that the recent "misencounter" between government forces in Samar would not be repeated.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, Jr. reiterated that President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has taken full responsibility for the incident.

He then assured families of the slain policemen that the government would provide them with all their needs while investigations are ongoing.

"Lahat naman pong purwedeng malibay sa mga biktima nitong misencounter na ito ay ibibigay ng gobyerno," Roque guaranteed.

"Kaya nga po ito kinauon ng Presidente para matipili na 'yung sisihan sa parte ng Hukbong Sandatahan at sa parte ng Philippine National Police (PNP)," he added.

On the other hand, Roque clarified that a proper investigation would still be conducted as the President ordered. This is to make sure that the blunders committed during the operation would not be repeated, he explained.

"Tuloy pa rin po ang imbestigasyon dahil ayaw natin na maulit ito," the Spokesperson said, as he stressed the need for a closer coordination between the AFP and the PNP particularly during combat operations.

Furthermore, Roque asserted that the administration

sees no criminal intent on the part of the security forces, although the probe could reveal that there was indeed a complete lack of coordination.

"Tanggapin natin na walang gustong mangyari ito pero without prejudice to the final outcome of the investigation to be conducted by the Board of Inquiry (BOI)," he said.

Palace condoles with Halili family

Meanwhile, Malacañang extended its condolences to the bereaved family of Tanauan City, Batangas Mayor Antonio Halili who was shot dead by an unidentified gunman during a flag-raising ceremony on Monday, July 2.

Secretary Roque said the Palace condemns any form of extrajudicial killing in the country and gave the assurance that justice would be served to the family of the slain official.

"Tama po ay nakikiramay sa pamilya ni Tanauan Mayor Antonio Halili... Kinukundena po natin ang ganitong karahasan," he stressed.

"Nangangako po ang Palasyo na bibigyan ng larangan ang kanyang pagkamatay at magkakaroon po ng maayos na imbestigasyon at paglilitis doon sa mga tao na responsable sa pagpatay na ito," Roque added.

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Why talks with Reds should be terminated

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Monday released a paper detailing the reasons they will recommend the termination of the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Demo-

cratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

The paper, "The Public Should Know," cited many reasons the peace talks should be stopped, citing findings that show "it is obvious that they are not sincere to talk peace and end the armed conflict."

He said that during the last ▶4

Why talks with.

unilateral ceasefire from 2016 to January 2017, the CPP/NPA/NDF held the second People's Congress in October to November, 2016, and the Central Committee Plenum in December, 2016.

It was during those two meetings when the CPP/NPA/NDF crafted a three-year plan to advance the revolutionary movement. The document included the plan for the "Oust Duterte Movement" if the President will not agree to a coalition government, Lorenzana said.

He said by January 2017, the National Military Commission of the CPP/NPA reinforced the earlier plenum agenda.

"Using the lull in the fighting because of the ceasefire they were able to consolidate, recover their lost ground and mass base and expand their influence," Lorenzana said.

In May 2017, the CPP/NPA/NDF formally launched the "Oust Duterte" operation which, according to Lorenzana, will culminate in October this year.

Revolutionary tactics

"Based on the foregoing deliberate actions of the CPP/NPA/NDF, it is obvious that they are not sincere to talk peace and end the armed conflict. They are employing the revolutionary dual tactics to show a semblance of peace but continually conducts violence and terror acts on the ground," Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana, at the same time, said the ongoing review of all peace documents and agreements revealed that it lays down the foundation of power sharing towards coalition government.

In fact, the GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) panel during the Aquino administration recommended the abrogation of the talks because the panel has come to the conclusion that "we were just being taken for a ride." The GRP panel then made serious studies and they believed the NDF panel is not truthful, sincere and honest except to get concessions such as the release of high-ranking party members and giving their armed components time to recover lost ground and mass base, Lorenzana said.

Also, according to Lorenzana, majority of the Indigenous Cultural Communities-Indigenous People (ICCP) in Mindanao do not want a ceasefire primarily because it means the NPAs will come back to their communities.

"The IPs also want the CPP/NPA/NDF to publicly apologize for their acts of crime and terrorism against the ICCs/IPs for almost 50 years, where almost a thousand IPs were murdered by the NPA," the defense chief said.

Lorenzana also said the CPP/NPA/NDF can't comply with the four conditions of the Chief Executive to go back to the negotiating table. The conditions are - no coalition government; no arson or attacks; no revolutionary tax or extortion; for the NPA to stay in safe areas of their choice; and no recruitment or mass mobilization.

"They (CPP/NPA) have been tagged as a terrorist organization locally and internationally. They had their chance to work for peace when President Duterte appointed four of their members to the Cabinet. But they betrayed the government when they used their positions to advance CPP's revolutionary movement," Lorenzana said.

CPP reacts

In response, the CPP Information Bureau called Lorenzana's statement

a definition of the Duterte administration's anti-peace policy.

The CPP said to Lorenzana, "The only solution to the civil war in the country is the military solution."

"He wants a non-military end to the civil war in the Philippines. He fears losing significance if the present civil war in the country is settled politically through peace negotiations," the CPP said.

Joma: Stop dreaming

Meanwhile, Maracanan said CPP founder Jose Maria Sison will never see his dream of overthrowing the government turn into reality.

Pressidential Spokesman Harry Roque made the statement after Sison said that the CPP/NPA/NDF will stop holding peace talks with the Philippine government under the leadership of President Duterte, and instead oust him.

Roque, in a press briefing in Southern Leyte, blamed Sison for the failed peace talks between the government and the communist rebels, saying that Duterte already assured his safety.

"Hindi po kasamaan ng gobyerno na hindi namay-ayag ang peace talks. Si Joma Sison po ang umayag. Tayo poy nage Pilipino, ang sinasabid po ng Presidente, dito tayo mag-use ng kapayapaan. It is not the government's fault that the peace talks did not push through. Sison was the one who backed out. We are Filipinos, the President said we should talk peace here," he said.

The Palace official also called the CPP founder 'arrogant' for wanting to overthrow the Philippine government for over 50 years.

"Marabang po talaga si Joma Sison. Akala niya siya ang savior ng bansa. Eh mantalan niyo, eh patatalsikun daw nila si Presidente, hindi raw matatapos ang termino (Joma Sison is really arrogant. He thinks he is the country's savior. Imagine, they said they would oust the President, they said he will not finish his term)," Roque said.

'Come home'

The former lawmaker also said Sison will never see his dream of overthrowing the Philippine government turn into a reality.

"Joma Sison, gumising ka na, manginip ka na. Hindi ka pupwedeng maglalsik ng gobyerno habang ikaw ay nasa Europa. Napakatagal mo na diyan umawit ka dito at ikaw ay mamuhay dito sa Pilipinas nang maskita mo iba na ang kondisyon (Joma Sison, wake up, dream on. You cannot overthrow a government while you're in Europe. You've been there for a long time. Come home so you'll see that the situation is now different)," he said.

"Your dreams will never be a reality. The country's economy is now good. Even if there is still poverty, a lot already overcome it. You've been in another country for so long that you don't know the country's condition," he said in Pilipino.

Roque also said he has no idea why Sison is afraid of holding peace talks with the government in the country when the latter himself kept on going through the forests just to talk about peace.

"When the President was still mayor, he kept going through the forests in Mindanao to talk. I don't understand why are they afraid to talk now when the President has been supportive of it since before," Roque said. (With a report from Argyle Gedacos)

Lorenzana wants peace talks terminated

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana is poised to recommend the termination of peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

The rebels were bent on ousting President Rodrigo Duterte, he said, noting that the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NDFP held their "largest People's Congress"

► TerminatedA8

■ TERMINATED FROM A1

Lorenzana

in October to November 2016 and Central Committee Plenum in December 2016.

"There was a unilateral ceasefire during these meetings," the Cabinet official noted.

"During these two occasions, [the communists] crafted a three-year plan to advance the revolutionary movement that included the planning for the Oust Duterte Movement if PRRD will not agree to a coalition government," the Defense chief said, using the initials of the President.

In January 2017, the communists' national military commission used the lull in fighting to consolidate forces and recover their lost mass base.

Lorenzana also accused four leftist appointees of the President of betrayal, for using "their positions to advance the CPP's revolutionary movement." He did not name the Cabinet members.

Upon Duterte's assumption to office in 2016, he named Judy Taguwal to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Rafael Mariano to the Department of Agrarian Reform, James Mark Terry Ridon to the Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor, Liza Mazza to the National Anti-Poverty Commission and Joel Maglensed as undersecretary of the Department of Labor and Employment.

Taguwal and Mariano were rejected by the Commission on Appointments last year while Ridon was sacked by the President due to excessive foreign trips.

'Taken for a ride'

Lorenzana recalled the Aquino administration's recommendation to end peace talks in 2013 wherein the government panel concluded that they were "taken for a ride" by the NDFP.

"The CNR [Government of the Republic of the Philippines] panel then made serious studies and they believed the [NDFP] panel is not truthful, sincere and honest except to get concessions such as the release of high-ranking party members and giving their armed components [opportunity] to recover lost grounds and mass base," he stressed.

Based on "foregoing deliberate actions," he added, the communists were "not sincere" in talking peace, he said.

"They are employing the revolutionary dialectic to show semblance of peace but continually conducting violence and terror acts on the ground," Lorenzana said.

No compliance

Another reason why Lorenzana wants the peace talks cancelled is that the CPP-NPA-NDFP "can't comply" with the preconditions of Duterte.

The conditions set by the President were no coalition government, no arson attacks and collection of "revolutionary taxes" and a stop to recruitment and mass mobilization, among others.

Lorenzana also claimed that majority of the indigenous cultural communities (ICCs) are indigenous

peoples (IPs) were opposed to a ceasefire, fearing that armed rebels would go back to their areas.

"The IPs also wanted the CPP-NPA-NDFP to publicly apologize for their act of crimes and terrorism against the ICCs/IPs for almost 50 years where almost a thousand IPs were murdered by the NPA," he said.

'War promoter'

The CPP on Monday responded to the statement of Lorenzana, calling him a "war promoter" and a "consummate militarist."

"To Lorenzana and his ilk of fascists, including Duterte himself, the only solution to the civil war in the country is the military solution. This is the old 1930s dogma promoted by the US military, who sees profit in every war it instigates and foments," the CPP said in a statement.

It also noted that the defense chief, a former Philippine military attaché in Washington, was a "big US military sales agent" in the Philippine government.

To him, the only solution is to recruit more and more soldiers to the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) in order to lay siege on thousands of *barangays* nationwide and sow terror among people," the CPP said.

"He is the zealous US agent that ensures that the AFP will always remain as the key pillar of US [hegemony] in the Philippines," it added.

Palace to Sison: Stop dreaming

Malacañang on Monday brushed aside a threat by CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison to oust Duterte, calling the exiled leader "arrogant."

In a news briefing in Maasik, Southern Leyte, Palace spokesman Harry Roque Jr. expressed doubt on whether Sison could muster support for his latest threat, saying the CPP leader would never see his dream of ousting the government turn into reality.

"Jose Sison is really arrogant. He thinks he is the country's savior. Imagine they said they would oust the President, they said he would not finish his term. Jose Sison wake up, dream on," Roque said.

"You cannot oust a government while you're in Europe. You've been there for a long time. Come home so you'll see that the situation is now different," he added.

Sison's threat came immediately after Duterte postponed the resumption of formal peace negotiations between the government and the NDFP scheduled for June 26.

The CPP leader has accused Duterte of sabotaging the peace talks to lay the ground for the imposition of martial law nationwide by postponing the peace talks.

"It's relatively easier and more productive for the NDFP to participate in the Oust Duterte movement," Sison said last week.

DEMPSEY REYES AND
CATHERINE S. VALENTE WITH A REPORT
FROM JULIUS VILLAVIEJA (TMTC INTERN)

Lorenzana: End peace talks with Reds

BY VICTOR REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Danilo Lorenzana yesterday said he will recommend to President Duterte the termination of the peace talks with the communists due to several reasons, including their insincerity in achieving peace and their plan to unseat the President.

"There are eight reasons we will recommend the termination of the peace talks with the CPP/NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines National Democratic Front)," Lorenzana said in a statement.

Lorenzana said he will make his recommendation "what we later hear (Duterte) about the state that he told us to do." Lorenzana said there was still no date on the briefing.

On the likelihood that the President will approve his recommendation, Lorenzana said: "I don't know what decision he will make."

Duterte ordered the postponement of the resumption of formal peace talks, scheduled on June 26, during a command conference last June 14, pending a review of the stand-down agreement and past agreements signed by the two sides.

One of the reasons cited by Lorenzana for recommending

the termination of the talks was the CPP/NPA's holding of the 10th and 2nd People's Congress in October-November 2016 and the Central Committee Plenum in December 2016.

The meetings were held while the communist movement and the government were observing separate unilateral ceasefires, which began shortly after Duterte's assumption of the presidency until January 2017.

"During these two occasions they crafted a 'Three-year Plan to Advance the Revolutionary Movement' that included the planning for the Oust Duterte Movement if PRRD (President Rodrigo Roa Duterte) will not agree to a coalition government," he said.

Another reason, Lorenzana said, was the CPP/NPA's National Military Commission reinforcing their plenum agenda in January 2017. "Using the lull in the fighting because of the ceasefire, they were able to consolidate, regroup their lost ground, mass base and expand their influence," he said.

Lorenzana said the third reason was the CPP/NPA/NDF's launching of the Oust Duterte operation.

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LORENZANA

in May 2017. He said the Oust Duterte campaign was supposed to culminate in October this year.

"Based on the foregoing deliberate actions of the CPP/NDF/NPA, it is obvious that they are not sincere to talk peace and end the armed conflict. They are employing the revolutionary dual tactic to show semblance of peace but continually conduct violence and terror acts on the ground," said Lorenzana, citing his fourth reason.

On the fifth reason, Lorenzana said: "The ongoing review of all

peace documents and agreements revealed that it lay down the foundation of power sharing towards coalition government."

He noted that the government panel during the previous administration recommended the abrogation of the peace talks "because the parties has come to the conclusion that we were just being taken for a ride."

"The GRP panel then made serious studies and they believe the NDF Panel is not trustworthy, sincere and honest except to get concessions such as release of high ranking party members and giving their armed components

time to recover lost grounds and mass base," said Lorenzana.

Lorenzana's sixth reason was the opposition of Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples to a ceasefire with the communists "because it means the NEAs will come back to their communities."

"The IPs also wanted the CPP-NDF-NPA to publicly apologize for their act of crime and terrorism against the ICCs/IPs for almost 50 years where almost a thousand IPs were murdered by the NPA," Lorenzana said.

The defense chief said his sev-

enth reason was the failure of the communists to comply with the President's preconditions prior to the return to the negotiating table. "These are considered by the President as a sign of sincerity," he said.

The four preconditions, Lorenzana said, were: No coalition government, no arson attacks, no revolutionary tax-exemption, NPA to stay in a safe area of their choice and no recruitment/mobilization.

On the eighth reason, Lorenzana said: "They (CPP-NPA) have been tagged as a terrorist organization locally and internationally" — *With Jojo Montemayor and Ashzel Hachero*

Pagpapatigil sa peace talks inindorse ng DND at AFP

Dahil sa kawalan ng sinseridad sa walang tigil na paghahasir ng terorismo, inirekomenda ni Department of National Defense Secretary Delm Lorenzana at ng liderato ng Armed Forces of the Philippines kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagpapatigil muli ng usapang pakikipagkapatayapaan ng pamahalaan sa Communist Party of the Philippines - National Democratic Front - New People's Army.

Ang peace talks sa pagitan ng pamahalaan at ng CPP-NDF-NPA ay dapat muling nagpatuloy noong Hunyo 28 pero nagdesisyon ang Commander in Chief na ipag-

paliban niya ito ng tatlong buwan.

Samantalang nagpautsada namag. ni Jose Maria Sison, NDF Chief Political Consultant, na dahilan siya ng gobyerno na magpatuloy muli ang peace talks ay isagawa na lamang ito sa kanivang successor.

Binanggit ni Lorenzana na habang sumunod ng pamanahang ang unahang ceasefire noong 2016 nangpang Enero 2017, isagawa ng CPP-NDF ang isang malaking kongreso nitong Nobyembre 2016 at Central Plenum noong

Disyembre 2016 na rito ay pinansal ng mga ito na patatalsin si Duterte sa puwesto.

Suwod dito, patuloy ang CPP-NPA sa pagpapalakas ng puwersa sa pamamagitan ng pangangailap ng mga bagong kasapi.

Ayon naman kay Presidential Spokesman Hilaro Roque, nahinibang si Sison sa panayag nitong pagbabagadon ni Duterte.

Siya ni Roque hindi magagawa ni Sison ang wala ito dahil wala ito sa bansa at nagtatago sa The Netherlands, *voor* *Centraal Plenum* noong



DND at AFP: CPP-NPA walang sinseridad...

TIGIL PEACE TALKS INIREKOMENDA KAY DUTERTE

Inirekomenda ni Defense Secretary Delin Lorenzana at liderato ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na tigil na ang balaking muling ituloy ang peace talks ng pamahalaan sa Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front-New People's

Army (CPP-NDF-NPA) na walang tigil na paghahasik ng terorismo. Ipinunto ni Lorenzana ang walong kadahilanan kung bakit hiniling nilakay Pangulong Duterte para tapusin ang negosasyong pakikipagkapayapaan sa CPP-NDF-NPA na dapat muling nagpatulay noong Hunyo 28 pero nagocasi-

syon ang Commander in Chief na ipagpaliban muna ito ng tatlong buwan. Dito ay nagpatutsada si Jose Maria Sison, NDF Chief Political Consultant na sinira ng gobyerno na magpatuloy muli ang peace talks kaya't isasagawa na lamang ito sa kaariyang successor. "They (CPP-NPA) have been tagged as a terrorist organization locally and internationally. They had their chance to work for peace when Pres. Duterte appointed

4 of their members to the Cabinet. But they betrayed the Government when they used their positions to advance the CPP's revolutionary movement," ani Lorenzana. Inihayag ni Lorenzana na nanagsagawa ang CPP-NDF ng pinakamalaki at ikalawang People's Congress mula Oktubre hanggang Nobyembre 2016 at CPP's Central Committee Plenum noong Disyembre 2016 na ang plano ay patalakin si Duterte. Ang masabing pagpupa-

long ay isinagawa habang inoosertahan ng gobyerno ang NDF ang unilaterally cease-fire mula 2016 hanggang Enero 2017 na kung saan ay patuloy rin ang pagpapatakar ng puwersa ng komunistang kilusan sa pamamagitan ng malawakang recruitment. Magugunita na nagbigay si Pangulong Duterte ng apat na kondisyong tulad ng walang coalition government, walang pagatake sa security forces, walang koleksyon ng revolutionary tax, at wala ring dapat na recruitment sa mga bansa ng NPA re-ops. - *Joy Cantos*

Duterte prioritizing dialogue with bishop

By **GENALYN D. KABILING** and **ARGYLL CYRUS E. GEDUCOS**

President Duterte is looking forward to his dialogue with the head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), Davao Archbishop Romulo Valles, on how to enhance cooperation on rendering public service.

Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said the President has always been open to dialogue with concerned groups, adding that his meeting with the CBCP president would be a "priority."

"Very high ang ating expectations because there's (a) very good relation between the President of the CBCP and the President of the Republic. Both of whom are natives of Davao," Roque said during a press conference in Leyte.

Church-Reds

However, Roque also said in the same press conference that Malacañang would not be surprised if some members of the Catholic Church work with the communist rebels to oust President Duterte.

"Alam niyo naman talaga 'yung patutsada ng Simbahan, eh nag-simula naman 'yon nung natalo 'yung kandidato nila noong eleksyon. Tapatan na, Kristiyano naman tayo, bakit pa tayo magpapaligoy-ligoy. Marami po talaga sa Simbahan hindi matanggap na 'yung kandidato nila talunan (You know, the Church's criticism is rooted from the defeat of their bet last Presidential elections. Let's stop beating around the bush, we're Christians. There really are a lot of people in the Church who cannot accept their bet is a loser)," he said.

"Tayo nga hindi malayo na magkaisa 'yung ilan sa kanila diyan sa CPP-NPA na patalsilan sa Presidente Duterte. Pero 'yan po ay panaginip (It is not far-fetched if some of them will work with the CPP-NPA to oust the President. But that is a dream)," he added.

Human rights

Meanwhile, Roque dismissed as "simply ridiculous" the Human Rights Watch's (HRW's) description of Duterte's second year in office as a human rights calamity.

He asserted that the government actually continues to uphold and protect civil liberties, from keeping the people safe from crimes and drugs to providing better social services.

"Kalokohan po iyan. (That's ridiculous)," Roque said in a radio interview, when asked to comment to the HRW's dismal assessment of Duterte's two-year presidency.

Palace eyes future Church, CPP-NPA collusion

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENTIAL spokesman Harry Roque, Jr. yesterday said some members of the Catholic Church may join the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) in ousting President Duterte in the future. "I am not discounting the possibility that in the near future some

religious leaders might run the chance for the President's ouster," Roque said.

Roque said the Catholic Church members may not yet accept that Duterte won the 2016 elections.

"To them, whatever happens, there might even be many of them, they would not accept the President, which is why it is not far-fetched that some of them

would join the CPP-NPA to oust the President Duterte. But that's just a dream because the President, more or less, won without cheating. There are many who even said that he might have even gotten more votes," he said.

He said he was not talking about the Catholic Church in general but

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only referring to members of the Church who remain unhappy with the election of Duterte.

Roque last week said he does not believe the Church would be involved in an ouster or destabilization plot against the President.

Pastor "Ben" Sarcon, a member

of presidential committee that Duterte formed to hold a dialogue with the members of the Catholic Church and other religious groups, said some foreigners might try to use the Church against the President.

Despite the possibility, Roque said a meeting between the President and Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP)

president Archbishop Romulo Velazco is being finalized.

He said the time and venue would depend on the availability of the President.

Special Assistant to the President, Christopher Lawrence "Fong" Go, said the meeting is tentatively set for Monday but details are still being finalized. In-

cluding where to hold the meeting.

Roque said the government has a very high expectation about the forthcoming meeting and its results.

"Very high, no outstanding expectations, because there is a very good relation between the president of the CBCP and the President of the Republic, both of whom are natives of Davao," he said.

Roque announced on Friday that a one-on-one meeting between the President and Velazco would be held after his meeting with Papal Nuncio Gabriel Caccia at the sidelines of the Pope Day celebration.

He stressed the importance of the meeting, citing that the Catholic Church has always been crucial of the President, especially after he as-

sumed the presidency two years ago.

Duterte in the past weeks had been vocal about his criticisms against some members and some teachings of the Church.

He also questioned, among others, the story of the Creation and the Last Supper, and in a few occasions called the god of some religious people "stupid."

ROQUE NOW SMELLS REDS-CHURCH LINK

By Efren Montano

PRESIDENTIAL Spokesman Harry Roque is now not ruling out the possibility that Catholic Church leaders are conniving with communists to oust President Rodrigo Duterte.

"Baka marami nga sa kanila (Catholic Church leaders) ay hindi nila tatanggapin si Presidente kaya nga hindi malayo na magkaisa 'yung ilan sa kanila ng CPP-NPA na patalilain si Presidente

Duterte," Roque said yesterday in a briefing in Maaasin, Southern Leyte.

The CPP is the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA its armed wing, the New People's Army.

Roque also claimed that prominent members of the Catholic Church only became outspoken in their criticism of Duterte when "their candidate" in the 2016 presidential elections was beaten by the longtime Davao City mayor.

"Alam mo naman na 'yung patutsada ng simbahang eh negsimula naman 'yun nung natalo 'yung kandidatura nang election," said Roque.

Malacañang is making this claim about the Church at a time when it is trying to dialogue with religious groups and setting up a meeting between the CBCF and Duterte.

Special Assistant to the President Bong Co said on Monday that the meeting between CBCF president Davao Archbishop Ronu-

lo Valles and Duterte is set to take place on July 9.

Roque's latest remark contradicts his statement the previous week that the Palace does not think the Church is involved in any destabilization plot.

The talks with the religious groups are supposed to be the Palace's response to the outrage of several Catholic Church leaders, Christian churches, and religious groups over Duterte's "God is stupid" remark on June 22.

'Clergymen conniving with rebels'

MALACAÑANG said Monday it was not discounting the possibility that some members of the Catholic Church may be conniving with the Communist Party of the Philippines to oust President Rodrigo Duterte, although that was something that would never happen.

Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said while the Catholic Church is not part of any destabilization plot, some of the Church's leaders might be conspiring with the leftist group to remove the President.

"We are fully aware of the Church's language," Roque told reporters.

"It all started after their favored candidates lost in the elections. They could not accept that their candidates did not make it."

Roque said the Church should stop dreaming about ousting Duterte.

He also urged CPP founder Jose Maria Sison to wake up and stop dreaming about his plan to oust Duterte, adding Sison had been missing in the peace talks.

He said the government should not be faulted for the delay in the resumption of the peace talks with the rebels, since it was Sison who had refused to come home and talk despite an assurance from the President of his safety.

Next page

'Clergymen...

From AJ

He said Sison was the one who backed out and called him arrogant.

"Sison should stop dreaming about the possible ouster of President Duterte," Roque said.

The resumption of the peace talks between the government and the communist rebels was put on hold after Sison said the NDF, the political arm of the CPP, could "no longer negotiate with a government headed by Duterte."

Sison said it was "relatively easier and more productive" for the communists to join the ouster moves against Duterte.

But Roque told Sison to stop dreaming because he could not overthrow a government while he was in Europe.

"You've been there for a long time. Come home so you'll see that the situation is now different," Roque said.

Mas malakas at malinaw na koordinasyon ng AFP at PNP

SANDIGAN, SANDALAN



Ni Cong. RICKY SANDOVAL NAKAKABIGLA ang nag-ing engkwentro ng ating mga sundalo at pulis sa Sta. Rita, Samar. Sa mga naunang ulat, sixteen na sundalo mula sa 87th Infantry Battalion (IB) habang 33 na pulis mula sa 805th Company ng

PNP Regional Mobile Force ang nagkasagupaan sa Sitio Lonot, Barangay San Roque, Sta. Rita sa Samar.

Matapos ang halobente minutos na palitan ng putok, anim na pulis ang namatay habang walong sundalo ang nasawi.

Mabilis namang bumuo ng Board of Inquiry ang magkabilang panig para imbestigahan ang madugong engkwentro. Marami ang nagsasabi na maging "misencounter" at mahinang koordinasyon sa magkabi-

lang panig ang naging sanhi ng bahakar ng mga magkakakampi.

Kung maaalala, napatay din sa Leyte ang barkang biologist na si Dr. Leonard Co sa Ormoc, Leyte. Kahit na umugong ang bahia na naipit lang umano siya sa gitna ng crossfire, lumabas sa imbestigasyon na nagtog biktima siya ng mistaken identity.

Sa parehong insidente, mahinang koordinasyon ang isa sa naging sanhi ng pagkakamali. Sa kaso ni Dr. Co, sinasabing hindi

umano nakopag-usap ang kanyang grupo sa mga sundalo sa lugar bago paman siya magtungo sa kagubatan na pinamumugaran din pala ng mga rebelde.

Kung ilalagay natin ang sarili natin sa lugar ng mga sundalo at pulis natin, mahirap talagang malaman kung sino ang kaaway o kakampi kung nakasuot na rin ang mga kalaban ng kaparehong kulay at disenyo ng mga uniforma sa isang lugar na masukal at mabagal o

mahina ang signal para sa komunikasyon.

Ika nga, kung nagkagulat: na, may oras pa ba para makapag-isip kung buhay mo na o ka-tropa mo ang nakataya?

Habang ongoing pa ang imbestigasyon ng BCI, nararapat na higpitan na ng AFP at PNP ang paglalako kung saan-saan ng mga damit na halos kaparehas ng kanilang mga uniforma. Hindi malikala na kahit sa mga tiangge ay meron na ito. Nagagamit kasi ito ng mga masa-

mang element para makapagpanggap na parte ng ating kapulisan o kasundaluhan

Dapat ay may mga otorisado na lang na mananatili na mangaring gumawa nito at yaong mga otorisado lang ang pwedeng pagbentahan.

Sa usapin naman ng koordinasyon, wake-up call ito sa magkabilang panig para palakas in ang kanilang pagpapans sa mga operasyon nila. Iisa lang ang misyon nito at ito ay ang panatilihin ang ka-

ayusan sa bansa kaya nararapat na pulido ang kanilang galaw sa lahat ng sitwasyon.

Kayang tumulong ng Kongreso sa pamamagitan ng paglaan ng prado para masigurong mabigyan sila ng mga kagamitan na kanyang palasasin ang komunikasyon nito sa kahit na anong lugar o panahon. Sa pamamagitan ng AFP Modernization Act at PNP Transformation Roadmap, kaya nating ibigay sa kanila ang mga kagamitang lutuiong sa bawat operasyon nila.

Follow sa Twitter si Cong. Ricky Sandoval @RickySandoval o i-liko sa Facebook: @RickySandoval-Matibay



PNP on tight watch vs NPA rebels posing as 'cops', 'soldiers'

PHILIPPINE National Police chief Director General Oscar D. Albayalde has ordered all 17 police regional units nationwide to be on alert for the New People's Army guerrillas posing as law enforcement agents and attacking lightly-guarded or isolated police stations and other facilities.

In the past NPA rebels wearing police, Army and even Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency uniforms have managed to gain entry on police stations where they disarmed policemen on duty before ransacking the area and fleeing with a variety of firearms, ammunition, police radios and other equipment and even personal belongings of duty policemen to the embarrassment of the PNP leadership.

As a counter measure against possible NPA activity in the wake of the suspension of peace talks between the Duterte government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front, PNP Units have been instructed to adopt the policy of "no surprise" or unannounced inspection or visit to PNP posts and patrol bases, said PNP spokesman Senior Superintendent Benigno B. Durana Jr.

Durana said unexpected visitors of police stations will be treated with extreme caution and suspicion by PNP units as the NPA has gained notoriety for disguising as either soldiers or policemen when attacking their targets.

Last week Gen. Albayalde ordered all his troops across the country to be ready for renewed NPA offensive and abduction of government troops with the decision of Netherlands-based CPP founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison to stop talking peace with the Duterte administration.

"In view of the postponement of the resumption of the peace talks with the CPP-NPA, all units were advised to intensify security measures in all PNP facilities and installations. Security procedures and SOPs are being strictly observed in all administrative and operational movement of troops and personnel," he said.

The PNP high command also reminded all personnel to observe extra precautionary measures in their movements from their residences to their places of work.

Gen. Albayalde also ordered PNP Director for Operations Director Ma-o R. Apasca to issue security reminders to all 17 PNP Regional Directors in anticipation of possible increased armed activity, violent action, and show of force by the NPA.

PNP watching for NPA rebels posing as 'cops, soldiers'

MAMANG PULIS

By ALFRED P. DALIZON

PHILIPPINE National Police chief, Director General Oscar D. Albayalde, has ordered all 17 police regional units nationwide to be on guard against the presence of New People's Army guerrillas posing as law enforcement agents in order to attack lightly-guarded or isolated police stations and other facilities, the *Journal Group* learned yesterday.

In the past, NPA rebels wearing police, Army and even Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency uniforms have managed to gain entry on police stations where they disarmed policemen on duty before

ransacking the area and fleeing with a variety of firearms, ammunition, police radios and other equipment and even personal belongings of duty policemen to the embarrassment of the PNP leadership.

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Last week, Gen. Albayalde ordered all his troops across the country to be ready for renewed NPA offensive and abduction of government troops with the decision of Netherlands-based CPP founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison to stop talking peace with the Duterte administration.

"The Philippine National Police is saddened by the latest pronouncement of Utrecht-based Communist Party of the Philippines Chair Jose Ma. Sison that in effect scuttled the resumption of peace negotiations with the government," said Durana.

"We regret that lead-

ers of the National Democratic Front, for reasons of their own, have closed the door on the prospects of ending the five decades of conflict with the Philippine government.

As officers of the law, we are most interested in seeing the peace process come to its logical conclusion. We have seen the ugly face of war, and we hate to see the future generations go through it all over again. It is unfortunate that Sison's personal reasons of comfort along with the NDF's own strategic agenda are getting in the way of the success of the peace process," Durana said.

The PNP spokesperson said that following Sison's pronouncement, Gen. Albayalde ordered all police forces across the country

to initiate preventive security measures to preclude possible hostile actions by the local communist movement in the aftermath of the suspended resumption of peace negotiations between the government and the NDF.

"In view of the postponement of the resumption of the peace talks with the CPP-NPA, all units were advised to intensify security measures in all PNP facilities and installations. Security procedures and SOPs are being strictly observed in all administrative and operational movement of troops and personnel," he said.

The PNP high command also reminded all personnel to observe extra precautionary measures in their movements from their residences to their places

of work. "This alert notice is treated with most preferential attention to prevent any attack or abduction of our personnel," Durana said.

Gen. Albayalde also ordered PNP Director for Operations, Director Ma-o R. Aplasca to issue a series of security reminders to all 17 PNP Regional Directors in anticipation of possible increased armed activity, violent action, and show of force by the NPA.

Police Regional Offices were directed to implement Enhanced Managing Police Operations (EMPO) in their respective areas of responsibility thru regular law enforcement activities, security measures, information operations, Red Teaming, Contingency Planning, Sanitation Ex-

ercises, Feedback and offensive stance.

Based on historical data, the local communist movement is known to launch high-profile raids, ambushes, and attacks on isolated government posts and soft targets to project an image of strength and influence to prop up its bargaining stand in negotiations.

"Regular law enforcement activities include the service of warrants of arrest on persons wanted by the law for criminal offenses. Our mandate to enforce judicial orders and court processes against CPP/NPA/NDF respondents will continue without let-up with the same fervor as we do with other law offenders regardless of ideology or political affiliation," said Durana.



4 BIFF men killed, 2 soldiers hurt in Maguindanao

MAGUINDANA0 - Four members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were killed while two soldiers were wounded in clashes in this province on Sunday.

The fatalities were identified as Muktar Undi and Orai Sangkay, who were

killed in a gunfight with personnel of the 21st Mechanized Company in Barangay Pamalian in Saidona town, and Aliman Bontah and Idris Udar who were slain in the clash in Barangay Elian, Datu Saudi.

S/Sgt. Alfredo Tambo and Pfc. Ian Cajeta were taken to

a hospital for treatment.

The military said the BIFF men retreated when personnel of the 57th Infantry Battalion and 6th Infantry Division were deployed to reinforce the troops.

The hostilities reportedly erupted when BIFF men attacked soldiers who were

checking the reported presence of militants extorting money from villagers.

Another clash occurred at the border of Saidona and Datu Saudi yesterday as soldiers responded to reports that BIFF gunmen raided a farming village.

John Unson

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

2 Abu bandits surrender

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Two Abu Sayyaf bandits surrendered in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan on Sunday, police said yesterday.

Jamad Habil Habing, 22, and his brother Jern, 20, who are followers of Furuq Indama, also turned over an M16 rifle, an M203 grenade launcher, ammunition and a bandolier, according to Superintendent Rufino Inot, Basilan police director.

Authorities said fewer than 40 Abu Sayyaf members are hiding with Indama in Sampinit, a mountain complex in Basilan.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Mujiv Hataman said livelihood assistance and skills training provided to surrenderees are enticing more bandits to return to the fold of the law.

— Roel Pareño

2 ASG siblings surrender to Basilan police

BY JINKY LOU A TABOR

TIPO-TIPO, BASILAN - Two brothers, who are fighters of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), surrendered to the Basilan police Saturday.

Acting Provincial Police Director Sr. Supt. Rufino Finot identified the surrenderers as Jamad Habil Habing, and his younger brother Jem Habil Habing.

The Habings likewise gave up an AK-47 and M-16 rifles, and M203 grenade launcher, and dozens of rounds of ammunition.

They surrendered to Inot's men in Barangay Lagayas here.

Both are residents of Sittio Bohe Pansul, Brgy Baguindan, Tipo-tipo, Basilan and are the seventh and eighth sibling, respectively, in a brood of 11.

But what caught Finot's interest was the request made by Jamad that authorities held he and his brother to go back to school. Jamad said he finished the first semester of his second year as a criminology student.

The Habing brothers said their uncle was beheaded and killed by ASG

members.

Out of fear that they might suffer the same fate as their relative, they befriended some terrorists who used to road their barangay before they were recruited into the group in 2015 by men under the late ASG Sub-Leader Parrung Tede.

They also revealed they were present in the bloody encounter in Baguindan in 2016 where 18 soldiers were killed.

According to them, some ASG members were already surrendering after Tede's death in an airstrike in Pololomot, Upper Mahataling, Sumisip town last May.

The Habings said they wanted to go back to complete their criminology degrees because they wanted to become policemen.

They are now under the custody of that Basilan Police Provincial Office for debriefing and proper disposition.

BRAWLERS AND HOOLIGANISM

Skirmish ends PH defeat

Fed shift before BBL

By Elmer Navarro Manuel

A Federal government should be in place before the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) is enacted, not the other way around, an expert on Mindanao affairs said.

The view contradicts current moves of the Duterte administration to have the BBL in place ahead of the approval of the Federal Constitution that experts say may expose the autonomy law to several challenges with the Supreme Court on its Constitutionality.

Mindanao-based scholar and consultant of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance Fr. Eliseo Mercado in a televised interview said some BBL provisions can only be executed under federalism, thus the need for a new form of government before the law granting autonomy to Muslim provinces can be implemented.

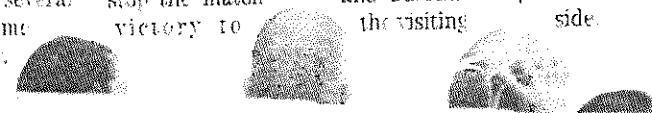
Turn to page 2

By John Bryan Ulanday

BOCAUE, Bulacan - The battle for the top spot turned into a battle for survival as loads of punches and kicks were thrown before Australia escaped with a 58-99 victory over Gilas Pilipinas in the third window of the FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifier late Monday at the Philippine Arena here.

Chris Goulding sparked an early onslaught as the Australians erected their biggest lead at 31-79-46, before an ugly brawl halted the match after all but three players of Gilas Pilipinas were ejected with only 4:01 left in the third period.

Prime movers of the brawl in Terrence Romeo, Carl Bryan Cruz, Jayson Castro, Japeth Aguilar, Calvin Abueva, Andray Blatche, ER Pogoy, Troy Rosario and Matthew Wright were all thrown out while Gabe Norwood and Junemar Fajardo opted to pick up their fifth fouls to stop the match and automatically award the victory to the visiting side.



Daniel Kickert, Thon Maker, Nathan Sobey and Goulding were ejected on the Australian squad.

But it appears that the brawl was inevitable.

Prior to tip-off, bad blood was already simmering between these two countries.

In fact, in a closed-door training Sunday afternoon, the Australians ripped off the stickers of sponsors placed on the hardwood without asking permission from FIBA or the local organizer - the Samahang Basketbol sa Pilipinas (SBP).

This development sparked controversy as the federation, led by chairman emeritus Manny Pangilinan and president Al Panlilio, blasted the Aussies, saying that what they did was an utter disrespect to the home team.

Although the Australians, through Boomers team manager Mark Bradtke, issued an apology, the incident still left a bitter taste in the mouth of Filipinos, who are looking for an important win to grab the top spot in Group B entering the next round against heavyweights like Iran, Qatar and Kazakhstan.

The simmering tension completely exploded when a driving Pogoy threw a

couple of shoves that knocked down Goulding, sparking an all-out melee under Gilas Pilipinas basket with Australia ahead by 31, 79-48, only 4:01 left in the third period.

At one point, Jason Castro was seen jumping to plant a punch on the kisser of 7-foot-1 Thon Maker while a Filipino fan was seen hurling a metal chair on Nathan Sobey, an episode that reminds sideliners of the nasty brawl in the NBA involving players of the Detroit Pistons and Indiana Pacers in 2014.

After the skirmish was broken and the penalties were being assessed, Filipino eagers led by injured Marc Pingris were seen taking a "selfie" at centercourt, an embarrassing image that didn't sit well with Australian Andrew Bogut, the NBA stalwart who serves as the face of the Boomers in international play.

Fed shift before BBL

From page 1

Mercado's view may be ominous since the Constitutional Commission (ConCom) tasked to propose the provisions of the Federal Constitution said it has completed the provision outlining the distribution of powers between the federal and regional governments and the structure of the federated regions.

Concom senior technical assistant and spokesperson Ding Generoso said the ConCom is set to vote on the whole draft today.

"We will have the en banc voting, nominal voting on the whole draft of the Constitution. Every member will rise and explain their vote on the entire draft," Generoso said.

After voting, Generoso said several copies of the 105-page draft will be submitted to the office of President Rodrigo Duterte on or before July 9.

"The full implementation of the peace pact will happen only when the amendment to the Constitution comes. That draft of BBL, especially the structures of powers, can only be possible in a federal form of government," Mercado said.

The Senate and the House of Representatives are set to reconcile the differences of their respective versions of the BBL.

He said passing the BBL will only be the "Phase 1" of the peace process.

"A formal peace agreement can only be implemented when we have shifted to federalism," Mercado said.

Mercado added the Bangsamoro people is now veering away from a destructive confrontation after the Marawi siege, saying he believes in the resiliency of the Maranagos to get back on track.

"The Maranagos are entrepreneurs," said Mercado. "They can build according to their own designs. They don't need foreigners to help them."

Gov't only needs to help.

"The government only needs to help them, perhaps by giving credit without interest," he added.

"There are a thousand and one ways of rebuilding Marawi without relying on foreign design," Mercado noted. "Maranagos can rebuild their homes while the government can take care of public spaces like schools, roads, hospitals," he added.

"The people can build to their own liking and design," Mercado said.

The ConCom is set to present a draft of the new charter before the Chief Executive's third state of the Nation Address (SONA).

The Concom will also proceed with regional presentations and consultations until August 15. Feedback gathered from consultations will be part of the committee's final report, Generoso said.

Under the draft federal Constitution, the Concom has divided the powers of government into exclusive powers and shared powers.

Both the federal government and the federated regions will have exclusive powers. But there are powers that they will jointly exercise.

"There are powers that are exclusive to the federal government and there are powers that are exclusive to the regional government within their jurisdiction. The regional governments can only exercise their exclusive power within their jurisdiction, they cannot go beyond their jurisdiction," Generoso said.

Powers exclusive to the federal government include defense, security of land, sea, and air territory; foreign affairs; international trade; customs and tariffs; citizenship, immigration and naturalization; national socio-economic planning; monetary policy and federal fiscal policy; banking, currency competition and competition regulation bodies; social security benefits; federal crimes and justice system; law and order; civil, family, property, and commercial laws, except as may be otherwise provided for in the Constitution; prosecution of graft and corruption cases; intellectual property; and elections.

Powers exclusive to the regional government within their

jurisdiction include socio-economic development planning; creation of sources of revenue; financial administration and management; tourism, investment, and trade development; infrastructure, public utilities and public works; economic zones; land use and housing; justice system; local government units; business permits and licenses; municipal waters; indigenous peoples' rights and welfare; culture and language development; sports development; and parks and recreation.

16 region states eyed

Under the draft Constitution, 18 federated regions are created, composed of 16 symmetrical regions — existing regions plus Negrosanon Federated Region, which will include the province of Siquijor and two asymmetrical regions, namely, Bangsamoro and Cordillera.

Generoso said that Bangsamoro and Cordillera have different designs from other regions because of their "identity-based demands."

He said the Concom decided to stick to the 18 regions noting that it was the "least disruptive" for transition since these regions are already established.

"The easiest way to do it now is to go with the existing number of regions so that we will not encounter greater difficulties. Because the government already has an existing administrative structure within these regions," Generoso said.

SHOOTING STRAIGHT

BOBIT S. AVILA

Pres. DU30 should use Pres. Magsaysay's 4F

For the nth time, the peace talks between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the New People's Army (NPA) have faltered. CPP Chairman Jose Maria "Joma" Sison stated that only a miracle could save the peace talks from the hardline stand of the government led by Pres. Rodrigo Duterte. C'mon Joma, I will have to agree with you that it would take a miracle to save the peace talks, but it is not due to Pres. Duterte, but rather you and your comrades in the CPP. If peace is really what you want to see happen in this country, then you will fight for peace!



The supposedly "revolutionary" nature of the CPP/NDF/NPA has gone for more than 49 years with no real issues that the revolutionaries ever achieved. They failed miserably in helping the Filipino people rid the country of the Marcos dictatorship... which was why we supported Mrs. Corazon Aquino, the widow of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

Yet Joma Sison was a huge beneficiary of the Aquino emergence into political power because he was released from jail despite the criminal cases filed against him. Yet because the CPP/NDF/NPA never changed their stand or at least gave the Philippine government a chance for peace, nothing has happened except that the communists held on to more power.

Then came Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte. Honestly, it took me some time to shift my political alliances to DU-30 simply because he was too close to the CPP/NDF/NPA and I was afraid that he would use his unholy alliance with them so that Joma and his friends could gain a foothold to political power. When Pres. Duterte won the presidency, he installed many pro-communist friends of Joma in his Cabinet. But I said to myself, if all this leads to a genuine peace with the communists, I was willing to make certain sacrifices. Peace after all was very important to the economic development of this country.

In the first peace talks with the communists and the

government, Pres. Duterte released many communist political prisoners. Even those communist officials recently captured by the police were released so they could participate in the peace talks. Presidential adviser on the peace process Jess Duroza is a Facebook friend of mine and he always gives me reports about the talks with the communists.

But this recent setback to peace has apparently caused those who wish that we should be talking to the communists to lose hope. My take on this latest debacle is for the Duterte administration to work harder to bring the communists to justice that we Filipinos have long deserved. My final say on this came from the late Pres. Ramon Magsaysay who said, "*Find them, Fool them, Fight them, and Finish them, then offer them the hand of peace.*" I dare Pres. Duterte to follow what Pres. Magsaysay taught.

The unexpected killing of SPO1 Adonis Dumpit whom many friends of Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña recognized as his personal bodyguard has caused a puzzlement especially with the Cebu media simply because in all the years that Dumpit was the bodyguard of Mayor Osmeña, he has made several friends even with the media antagonistic to Mayor Osmeña. Most of our media friends apparently do not buy the story of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Tagbilaran City and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). They would rather see a thorough investigation of Dumpit's death.

It was quite surprising to hear in the TV reports that Adonis was killed by police officers together with agents of the NBI at the Cabawan District of Tagbilaran City, allegedly for his illegal drug activities. As what police reports revealed, Dumpit just left his house with some paraphernalia when the police team approached him... and he supposedly fired at the police who fired back and killed him. Sounds unbelievable.

Just for your information, I have come to personally know that Adonis Dumpit was a sharpshooter and this included many of our media friends. During my days as Traffic or CITOM chief in Cebu City, we would go firing our firearms together. This is why I know that Dumpit was a sharpshooter. So in my book it's quite surprising for me that it was Dumpit that got hit and apparently we have not heard of any report that they would come up with a thorough investigation of this incident.

According to reports from the NBI, Dumpit was a high-level drug pusher and protector. We will consider this case vs. Dumpit a mystery until the PNP or NBI comes up with clear evidence that Dumpit was really a new player in the illegal drugs business.

Email: usbobita@gmail.com 9

★

Get real, commies

Communist prisoners who were granted bail by the courts and enjoyed temporary freedom while they took on the supposed role of National Democratic Front (NDF) negotiators - even when they were clearly not needed in the peace talks, having been in prison for some time - will no longer be enjoying that freedom.



FRONTLINE
Ninez Cacho-Olivares

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra has reportedly directed prosecutors handling the criminal cases against NDF and Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) leaders to seek their return to detention following the seeming collapse of the peace talks.

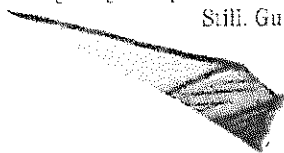
He is moving for the revocation of the provisional freedom of NDF consultants Benito Tiamzon, Adelberto Silva, Rafael Baylosis, Randall Echanis, Vicente Ladlad and Alan Jazmines.

When the courts approve the Department of Justice (DoJ)'s plea, the NDF and CPP leaders, even if bail is cancelled, would not give themselves up to the court and return to their prison cells.

It is expected that if they have not sought asylum abroad like their leaders in exile, these commie prisoners will be returning through the back door and take up arms again as they join their comrades in the hills.

The courts will probably order their arrest, but chances are, they will be caught again by the military.

Stili Guevarra



is playing safe, saying that he will await the developments in the peace talks, including the stoppage of the prosecutors' move to get the bail canceled. Instead, the same prosecutors will seek from the court, the grant of bail for these communist leaders who are on the run.

So why does Guevarra bother to even get his prosecutors to go to court

and ask for the revocation of the bail granted to these earlier jailed leaders, only to watch for developments on how

"Sison's threats are really laughable. He really should start checking on what he believes are the forces that will bring Rody and his government crashing down."

the peace talks will go, then ask the courts to grant these same commies bail again?

In the first place, there is no real need for the DoJ to ask the court to revoke the bail and threaten these so-called "negotiators" who were never needed in The Netherlands for peace talks. The conditions set by the courts to these prisoners clearly mention that they have to return after the peace talks are over and, if memory serves, they were given bail for a set time period.

Truth is, right now, the military and police forces can go after these commies who should be in jail, even without the prosecutors going to court to seek the cancellation of their bail grant from the courts, with or without peace talks, as these prisoners reneged on their word that they will return after the peace talks. They never did.

And they won't present themselves before

the courts either as they will be taking up arms again against the government.

By now, it is clear to one and all that these self-exiled commies, especially the aging Joma Sison, has no intention to forge peace talks with the Duterte government - unless, of course, Rody bows to the conditions that will be set by Sison himself.

Such conditions include, among others, the release of all the prisoners whom he tags as "political prisoners" even when they are confirmed murderers and extortionists, and total amnesty for all of these leaders in exile.

Yet there was Sison, the seeming favorite interviewee of the anti-Duterte media that appear to bank on the leftists to get destabilization and ouster move stories against Rody, more to create the perception of the Duterte administration's collapse. They echo the statements issued by Sison that he and his comrades will be moving to join up with the other movements against Duterte to bring down his government, giving that false scenario that the Catholic bishops, nuns, student activists and above-ground communists are gaining ground, and that soon, Duterte will be eased out of power. They cite his "God is stupid" spiel, Duterte's handing over the Philippines to China, high prices and other issues besides.

The problem is that Sison and his comrades in exile no longer have their ears on the Philippine ground and continue to rely on their illusion that they will one day be the government in control of the Philippines.

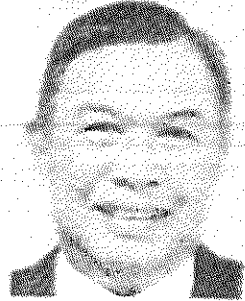
Sison's threats are really laughable. He really should start checking on what he believes are the forces that will bring Rody and his government crashing down.

Sison and his comrades should check on the minuscule numbers these anti-Rody forces can gather in support of their demonstrations.

It's time for Sison and the other leaders in exile, as well as their armed force in the Philippines, to face reality. They are not acceptable to the Filipino people. Duterte is,

Digong, the nationalist

REY O. ARCILA



I believe it is time for Digong to tell his team to start acting and speaking like truly proud and nationalistic Filipinos.

LIKE President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, aka Digong, one of the things that constantly flies me is the cavalier, supercilious, patronizing, condescending, contemptuous, discourteous and insulting manner with which other countries, particularly Western ones, regard and treat us.

This, in my view, may be attributed mainly to the weak and timid reaction by our so-called leaders in the government, the bureaucracy, the private sector, the media and even the academia, to such treatment.

In case no one has noticed, it is only Digong who has the kind of nationalist and patriotic fervor in responding to such affront and disrespect. I believe it is time for him to tell his team to adopt the same attitude and start acting and speaking like truly proud and nationalistic Filipinos.

CANADA'S HAZARDOUS WASTE

Take, for instance, the seemingly indifferent and exasperating manner with which Canada regards the issue of the hazardous waste that she allowed to be dumped in 2017 on our shores in violation of the Basel Convention.

This is the same country that abruptly reneged on her commitment to sell us helicopters, because of alleged human rights violation by the government.

When Canada's Prime Minister Justin "Drahn" Trudeau was here a couple of years ago, he promised to find a solution to the problem. Nothing has been heard from him since.

At least, on our side, the Department of Justice has filed before the proper court a case to force the importer of the hazardous waste to return them to Canada. Question is, will Canada accept them?

More recently, the Ombudsman has filed criminal charges against Department of Environment Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cans who, as the former chief of the Environment Management Bureau, cleared and approved the importation of the wastes by the firm called Chronic Plastic.

The Department of Foreign Affairs should keep bugging the Canadian ambassador here and our ambassador in Ottawa, the Foreign Office there, about the matter. We should not waste another five years to resolve the issue.

PUTSCHIST TRILLANES

Twice-failed putschist Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, criticized the refueling stops to and from New Zealand of a Chinese military aircraft in Darwin as a violation of the Constitution.

The refueling stops had been cleared by the authorities concerned.

However, Trillanes, an attorney of the Yellowbills in the Senate, did not call as a violator of the Constitution the four-day visit of the US Navy's largest aircraft carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan, with 7,500 sailors and more than 70 military aircraft.

Section 6, Article II of the Constitution prohibits the entry of

nuclear weapons into the country. As it well known, the US Ronald Reagan and other warships of the US Navy carry nuclear weapons, something that the US will never admit or deny.

PH-RUSSIA RELATIONS

Our relationship with Russia is warming up, firming up with the assignment of that country's first defense attache to the country.

The Russian move followed the assignment of the first Philippine defense attache to Moscow in May 2016.

According to the Russian Embassy in Manila, this development "signals Moscow's determination to strengthen military and technical cooperation with Manila."

In my view, it is also the result of Digong's independent foreign policy stance pursuant to Section 7, Article II of the Constitution, which not one of his predecessors complied with, to wit:

"Section 7. The State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states, its paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination."

And his detractors criticize him for adhering to the above-cited

constitutional provision?

DIGONG NEEDN'T GO TO KUWAIT

Apparently, his Kuwait counterpart is not keen on receiving Digong to thank him for the "mutually beneficial" agreement that now governs the deployment of our nationals to that tiny sheikdom.

Digong doesn't have to go.

To begin with, it is obvious the Kuwaitis want our modern day heroes to stay. That is why I say the agreement is "mutually beneficial." Otherwise, they would not have agreed to the conditions "strongly" demanded by Digong. Instead, they could have recruited household helps from other countries. But they didn't.

I know of a former OFW who worked in Jordan for years. She is now retired. She said those who have Filipino helpers are usually envied by others who don't. She said Filipinos are generally paid more and are regarded more highly by employers for their efficiency, cleanliness and aptitude.

REMINDERS

This segment is intended to remind the Duterte administration of some of its yet-unfulfilled promises and matters that need attention and/or follow-up action. Most importantly, the people are entitled to know what's being done about them.

1. Digong's promise to rid the country of foreign troops. That, of course, necessitates re-visiting the lopsided VFA and the EDCA with the US.

2. Reciprocal visa arrangements with the US and other countries. What is the DFA doing about this? Our embassy in Washington?

3. The retrieval of the Balangiga

DIGONG

bells. (Sources say the return of the bells is now awaiting a certification of some kind from the US Defense Department to be submitted to the US Congress. Is our embassy in Washington on top of this?)

4) The return of the Canadian waste. (Sources say the DOJ has filed a motion before the proper court for the importer to return the waste to Canada. No decision yet. No word about what Canada is doing.)

Today is the 60th day of the twelfth year of the enforced disappearance of Jonas Burgos, son of the late press icon and founder of this newspaper, Joe Burgos.

After the acquittal of Major Harry Baliaga, Jr., the only person formally charged with Jonas' kidnapping, I guess what happens next is now up to Divine Providence.

From an internet friend:

A husband and wife were walking down a high street when the wife spots a beautiful diamond necklace in a jewelry store window.

She urges her husband to go inside so that she can take a look at it. Although she wants it, he simply doesn't have the money to buy it for her, but he promises that it'll be hers one day.

A month passes, and the wife is at home wondering where on earth her husband is. She angrily calls his cell phone.

"Where the hell are you?" she asks.

"Darling, you remember that jewelry store when you saw the diamond necklace and totally fell in love with it, and I didn't have money that time, and I said 'Baby it'll be yours one day?'"

"Yeah, I remember that my love," she replies, smiling and blushing profusely at she does.

"I'm in the bar just next to that shop."

3 July 2018

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/reyvaldo.arcilla.9847>

Not our God

PRESIDENT Duterte has turned his back on making any public apology and, as he says, not even in "a million years."

He has reached the height of his arrogance by calling God stupid and by refusing to apologize for it before the people.

At least he claims his god is not our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, who, according to a former biblical teacher and now presidential spokesman Harry Roque, Jr., does not demand an apology.

The god he knows is always forgiving so that He has allowed him to have two wives and three girlfriends.

Duterte professes "his deep and abiding faith" to his god who, he is sure, continues to take good care of his loved ones. He did not mention if he expects his god to continue to forgive him for his hand in the thousands of extrajudicial mayhem of "the least of his brethren."

Bronie: Eddie Villanueva, of the Jesus is Lord Ministries fears a national calamity will befall our country as a consequence of the President's utter blasphemous remark.

The Bible contains both historical and spiritual truths. God's wrath was not contained against the defiant and rebellious Israelites during their 40-year trek in the desert where God taught them exceedingly hard lessons of obedience and respect. They were waylaid by a series of calamities when their king chose to defy and insult God through abominable acts. We pray that God spare this nation from the scarring lessons that now await Duterte and

his allies.

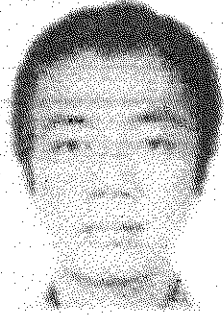
Yet, we are commanded by God - the same God that Duterte has denied - to pray for him and the rest of the nation's top leaders.

The Bible does not seek in Romans 15 the moral and spiritual fitness of our unrighteous leaders to qualify them as objects of our Godly petitions. The more Duterte loses his moral bearings, the more Biblical believers should pray for them. In fact, Christians are bound to show into fasting in the face of a social or political crisis, or an impending natural calamity.

From the time the Philippines started to slide from the its economic surge in the entire Asia with the first national airline and with the first steel industry, along with the most prolonged and uninterrupted peace at the countryside, God knew too well that this nation's leaders needed ample regular prayer when they took office.

Marcoz did not know any better and God was afar off. The Bible meant nothing to him and at

DODY LACUNA



We are commanded by God - the same God that Duterte has denied - to pray for him ...

the height of his vicious regime the Catholic and most Christian denominations joined the voices of the militant left in strongly opposing him. No one took the Bible seriously to pray for the corrupt and brutal dictator and to repay evil with good. For hundreds of priests and pastors, social activism meant challenging the status quo even if it meant joining the NPA rebels. Without God, who should be doing the battle for them, their cause was lost.

This generation and the one about to pass should come to terms with the humility and meekness of Christ no less, to finally figure out if it is now or never that we should be up against.

PNP chief Oscar Albayalde is self-assuredly on top of the war on drugs, and now exhibits the plain truth, through endless seizures of illegal drugs, that the drug problem is worse than President Duterte himself thought.

But, he should suit his open war against police misfits

sleeping on the job or extorting money from foreigners to taking stock of apparently contrived accomplishment reports of suspects commonly ending up dead after an "encounter." It was as if the drug police operatives were acting on orders to kill on sight again and again drug suspects who allegedly "fought back."

Albayalde has been silent on mourning cases of summary killings that the Internal Affairs Service of the PNP has virtually ignored. Or are the rest of our countrymen again ready to concede that the rampant murders in the streets, mostly in Metro Manila, will similarly become a cornerstone of the leadership of Albayalde, as in the case of Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa? Albayalde cannot style himself as an agnostic to the current and relentless homicidal rampage involving military-style, precise and aggressive drug operations, and claiming regularity in the police conduct to take us for fools.

The release of the suspect in the cold-blooded killing of Fr. Richmond Nile due to lack of sufficient evidence should rouse Albayalde from regularly falling for spurious police probes that, in this case, he himself has endorsed as undeniable credible.

If this high-profit case of the murder of a priest has led to the arrest of an innocent suspect, that displays all over again the patent dishonesty and incompetence of investigation units. Nothing much can be expected from the languishing cases of murdered addicts, vendors, jeepney and tricycle drivers, barangay lagawads and others at society's fringes since the drug war started. BT

The promise of change



PRESIDENT Duterte, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, declared that he was assuming responsibility for the alleged misencounter between the police and the military in Samar. He said that if it was found during the investigation that the military was at fault, they would not go scot-free.

Santa Banana, that would be unfair for the six dead and the nine injured cops. From the looks of it, they never stood a chance.

We are now on the third year of the Duterte administration, there are many questions that beg for answers. Foremost, the President promised us change. We thought that change would be a country without illegal drugs.

The President also told us that he would conduct a war against criminality and against corruption in government. Has he succeeded so far in the past two years?

I confess that I was never a fan of the President. But that does not make me a rabid critic. I am on record as a columnist who praises Mr. Duterte when I think he is doing well, and criticizes him when he is not.

This is why I believe that while he has enough political will to deliver the change he promised us, those ill will continue until the end of his term in 2022.

For the campaign against drugs, the President committed the big mistake of framing it just as a peace and order problem. This is why the killings have been prevalent.

In my years of working with a drug rehabilitation center, DARE Foundation, I have known that drug abuse afflicts both the rich and the poor. The rich go into it for the experience and the kicks. The poor are in it because they want to forget their poverty. The need for money also drives the poor to be-

come pushers.

DARE Foundation considered the drug menace as a health problem. A drug user must be rehabilitated—otherwise, demand for drugs will persist.

It is still happening now—the demand is so great and not only from the poor, but rich and poor alike.

Alas, the Duterte administration is focused on the poor, as shown in statistics. I say that the President has made the big mistake in trying to terminate everybody involved in illegal drugs. It's also a poverty issue because we see young boys smelling solvents just to mitigate their hunger.

This is a war that cannot be won because the root cause is poverty.

The President has to realize that drugs are also a problem in other countries, but they do not go about killing everybody involved.

I have covered 10 presidents in almost seven decades. Nobody among them has been able to eradicate drugs or corruption.

For as long as human nature is what it is, greed for money will always be there. I recall that during the Macapagal administration when corruption

as Customs was so bad. Customs officials were replaced by cadets from the Philippine Military Academy who were supposedly picked because of their idealism. Soon enough, they were also corrupted.

Initially, President Duterte was doing well when he fired his classmates and fraternity brothers at San Beda for having a whiff of corruption about them. But then he started recycling these friends, appointing them to other agencies.

To be fair, despite the President's failure to deliver the change we have been hoping for, the economy has been doing well. For this I give him credit for having economic managers like Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon

The promise...

From A4

Lopez, and Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno.

The ambitious Build Build Build program may have initially given problems to the poor because of tax reforms, but in the long run, TRAIN will benefit the country.

As for foreign policy, his policy of accommodation, appeasement and acquiescence to the Chinese must be stopped.

On peace and order, his on-again, off-again peace talks with the Communists is to be expected. As I have been saying, you cannot trust the commu-

nists to talk peace. There cannot be any ceasefire, and moreover an agreement, because what the communists want is for the government to give in to all their demands.

I can only point to one thing where the administration has succeeded—the war on terrorism. He imposed martial law in Mindanao.

I am not even giving him a score. I am disappointed by the latest Social Weather Stations survey showing that people's trust and acceptance of him remain "very good." They are either stupid or they refuse to acknowledge what is going on.

Please visit my web site, www.emiljurado.weebly.com



Sino kaya ang mananagot?

AYON sa isang nakaligtas na pulis sa "misencounter" sa paghiwalay ng AFP at PNP sa Samar, meganda raw ang panahon at suot nila ang kanilang opisyal na uniform nang pagbabarilin sila ng mga sundalo. May mga likhang mababalas mula sa cell phone ng isang pulis na ipinapakita ang mga pulis sa patrol (umangin ng maabot at malinis ang uniform), talipes sa mga pahayag mula sa mga sundalo na kaya nila napapantalan ng mga NPA, dapat mairalan ang uniform at puro pulis. Ayon pa sa nakaligtas, nanunaw na raw ang mga sundalo sa kanya sa kababagay ng nalawat. Pnag-saralan nang notamb-

ngat ang mga pulis, dapat nila hinimlay sila ng mga sundalo na maganda na ang postevon nang nagpantulan. Wala pang reaksiyon mula sa AFP nunggi sa lumabas ng likrato. Hindi pa rin naisaalim sa ballistics testing ang mga bang ng mga sundalo, dahil wala pang utos mula sa mas mataas na opisyal sa AFP. Naamante ang imbestigasyon dahil dito, at hindi rin nakakaulong sa mga usaping lumalabas tungkol sa insidente.

Inako naman ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte ang hindi maasahang insidente. Hindi raw dapat bisihin ang pinumar sa negatibong dehi insidente, yun at hindi sinasadya. Sa pagbisita sa burol ng mga pulis, nanusap si Duterte sa mga kamag-anak na huwag nang magtanim ng gati, at same ng loob, palawarin na lang at pabayaran na lang ang imbestigasyon na makausad. Binigyan ng para sa cell phone ang bawat panikyong newatan ng pinemahar sa buhay. Binanggit mul ang Murphy's Law para ipalawak ang pagangap. Ilang imahinagap ng mga pamaye ng rape, namalay ang mga bayo ni Duterte, malawarhan na lang sa mga dating ng aron, kasabay ng resulta ng imbestigasyon. Tangang pangkaya angat ni Duterte nang (Sundan sa pahina 5).

K KA LANG?... Mula pahina 4

ingeluse" ang situasyon. Ayaw niva ito maging isang Mama- babano(SAF 44 na isyu para sa kanya.

Koordinasyon pa rin ang inulurong pagrakamal ng da-

tawang pang. Pero malam na rin kung saan natip ang konfor nasyon, para hindi na rin mauli. Ayon kay DILG Sec. Anic, mananagot ang dapat managot. Sino kaya ang mga iyan?

5

ONLINE NEWS

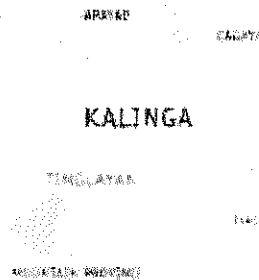
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DRUG OPERATIONS | NOLCOM destroys Marijuana Plantation in Kalinga

AINC Special

CAMP GEN SERVILLANO AQUINO, Tarlac City (DWDD) – Vast plantations of illegal marijuana were seized by the government authorities in the mountains of Kalinga province morning of June 30, 2018 (Saturday).



Said marijuana plantations were raided, uprooted and burned down by the Joint elements of 50th Infantry "Duty and Country" Battalion (50IB) and 503rd Brigade (503Bde) both of the Joint Task Force (JTF) "Tala" under the Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM), the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) from Region 1 (Ilocos Region), Region 2 (Cagayan Region), Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) and the Kalinga Provincial Police Office (KPPO).

This is in line with the conduct of joint operations on Marijuana Eradication in the identified target areas, with the help and cooperation of the locals.

Several sites of marijuana plantations were destroyed having one (1) at Brgy. Loccong, Tinglayan, Kalinga and another seventeen (17) separate sites at Brgy. Buscalan, Tinglayan, Kalinga.

Said plantation sites were estimated to have about seven thousand three hundred (7,300) square meters in land area, resulting to the eradication of thirty-seven thousand six hundred fifty (37,650) fully grown marijuana plants and seizure of ten (10) kilograms of dried marijuana stalks.

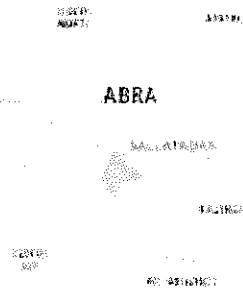
Overall, the joint operation which ended on 10:00 AM of same day, resulted to the destruction of the illegal items estimated to have a total value of eight million seven hundred twenty-two pesos (Php 8,722,000). NOLCOM will continue to provide assistance and support to Law Enforcement Operations being conducted together with other concerned Law Enforcement Agencies.

NOLCOM will remain as an active partner towards nation-building, in collaboration with other stakeholders. **NOLCOM / MCAG**

FOCUSED MILITARY OPERATIONS | NOLCOM discovers another NPA encampment in Abra

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CAMP GEN SERVILLANO AQUINO, Tarlac City (DWDD) – Operating troops of Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) again discovered an encampment used by the Communist NPA Terrorist Group (CNTG) in Sitio Mabungtot, Brgy Ud-udiao, Sallapadan in the province of Abra on July 1, 2018 (Sunday).



The New People's Army (NPA) campsite was found while Army soldiers of the 24th Infantry "On Guard" Battalion (24IB) of the Joint Task Force (JTF) "Kaugnay" were conducting Focused Military Operations (FMO).

Said abandoned encampment is located in a densely vegetated area that can accommodate eighteen (18) NPA terrorists, which area is about a hundred square meters.

Found at the said encampment were personal belongings of female NPA members, medicines and food sachets.

NOLCOM troops will be relentless in keeping the enemies of the state on the run to deprive them the opportunity to recruit new members, extort from the people and further execute its hostile plans that will endanger the lives of the security forces and the civilians.

NOLCOM also recognizes the important role of the community to make the counter-insurgency effort more sustainable and meaningful in attaining lasting peace. **NOLCOM / MCAG**