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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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21 June 2118

Thursday



*Honor. Patriotism. Duty*

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# AQUINO FACES TRIAL OVER DAP FUNDS

BY DENISE M. MONTE

Reversing an earlier decision, the Ombudsman ordered the indictment of the former President for usurpation of Congress' power over the purse when he appropriated budgetary savings for the controversial Disbursement Acceleration Program.

## FROM AT

By Vince F. Montano  
@VinceMontanoPH

In an eleven-page, here-reversed, ombudsman Francisco Galang III's order, he ordered the indictment of former President Benigno Aquino III for usurping Congress' budgetary power when he appropriated the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP).

According to a June 12 resolution, made public on Wednesday, Galang partially granted the appeal of Aquino III by lifting the administrative liability which he questioned in his March 2013 decision that charged Aquino III of usurping liability in connection with the economic stimulus program that had been struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional.

The ombudsman said it found Aquino III liable for usurpation of congressional power under Article VII of the Revised Constitution of the Philippines.

Galang said Aquino III had diverted a fund's purpose and disbursement to other purposes, and he ordered the government to return the savings to the program. A DAP-related program is the DAP.

Galang's previous decision required the audit authority to determine whether the DAP was an appropriation.

Galang's decision, which Aquino III's lawyer had not yet received a copy of, is a reversal of the ombudsman's resolution.

Galang's decision is a reversal of the previous decision finding no liability on the part of former President Aquino III.

Galang's decision said Aquino III's appeal was granted.

The DAP is a fund for infrastructure projects.

The people are entitled to the use of funds for the DAP. Galang said the DAP is a fund for infrastructure projects.

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## Abad's appeal denied

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had to be separated on a strict basis," the resolution said.

The process that Zardari had in mind was the delivery of the case to the Attorney General for prosecution, according to

the argument prompted the passage of the law, which did not allow the withdrawal of technical allegations and unrelaxed appointments and then decriminalize, saying, "strictly a criminal case," it said.

The criminal complaint was filed by lawyers including Zardari, having, according to Makhlouf, been partly prepared to be a civil suit against Zardari and a conviction that Zardari involved in the account of the case. The case was filed in the court of the Attorney General and the court of the Attorney General.

The Attorney General, according to the law, the Commission on the Integrity of the State, now

will be able to deal with the case. The Commission will be able to deal with the case.

The Commission will be able to deal with the case. The Commission will be able to deal with the case.

#### THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL

According to the constitution, the Attorney General is the chief legal officer of the state and is responsible for the prosecution of crimes.

The Attorney General is also responsible for the representation of the state in court and for the supervision of the public prosecutor.

The Attorney General is also responsible for the supervision of the public prosecutor.

had a fair trial. The Attorney General is also responsible for the supervision of the public prosecutor.

sought for comment. Zardari and Leve expressed mixed feelings, because their appeal—filed through the National Union of People's Lawyers—was not fully granted by the commission.

Zardari said he welcomed the commission's resolution, but insisted, "They should be charged as well for technical malfeasance and grant charge a both authors and architect of the authoritarian presidentialism that we have today."

Leve said, "We would have preferred that our motion for reconsideration be granted in full with malfeasance included in the charges."

"We welcome the law finding our trial fair. We hope that there will truly be accountability for this issue," he added. "We intend to see it through to its logical conclusion, so that justice may be served."

#### Attorney can still appeal

Attorney can still appeal against order. If his appeal fails, the DAP lawyer would be in serious criminal case.

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Attorney can still appeal against order. If his appeal fails, the DAP lawyer would be in serious criminal case.

The Attorney General is also responsible for the supervision of the public prosecutor.

—WITH REPORTS FROM  
LEILA E. SALAYERIA AND CHRISTINE  
GAYENDANG JR.

# 200 priests, pastors apply for gun permits

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

Over 200 priests and preachers from other religious denominations want to carry firearms, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Oscar Albayalde revealed yesterday.

According to Albayalde, the PNP received requests for permit to carry firearms outside residence (PTCFOR) from 188 Catholic priests and 58 ministers, preachers and pastors from June 2017 to June 2018.

"As a policy and by the power vested in me as the approving authority for PTCFOR, we may accommodate requests for PTCFOR by duly qualified gun holders among members of the clergy and leaders of religious congregations, subject to their compliance with the minimum requirements," Albayalde said.

The PNP chief did not say if any of the applications has been approved. Albayalde, however,

added there were some requests following the barangay elections last month.

He made the announcement a week after Fr. Richmond Nilo was shot dead while about to hold mass in Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija.

Nilo's murder raised concerns among the clergy as he was the third priest to be gunned down in six months.

Last May, Fr. Mark Anthony Ventura was shot dead by an unidentified gunman after celebrating mass in Gattaran, Cagayan.

In December last year, Fr. Marcelino Paez was also shot dead after assisting in the release of a

Turn to Page 4

# 200 priests

From Page 1

prisoner in Jaen, also in Nueva Ecija.

Albayaalde clarified that the PNP is not aware if the religious leaders seeking gun permits have received death threats.

Just like other applicants, Albayaalde said leaders of religious groups must undergo the process of obtaining firearms.

"We are also amenable to taking the extra step of providing firearms proficiency and marksmanship to religious leaders who wish to own and possess firearms," he said.

Under the new gun owner-

ship law, priests are among the professionals who are allowed to carry firearms.

Aside from priests, other professions listed under the law signed by former president Benigno Aquino III in 2014 include journalists, certified public accountants, prosecutors and medical practitioners.

The law requires the professionals to prove they were "under actual threat" before being issued special permit to carry firearms.

Despite the privileges given to priests, Church leaders said men of the cloth do not need to

carry firearms for protection. Malolos, Bulacan Bishop Jose Oliveros said priests are "supposed to be men of peace, not war."

Lipa, Batangas Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said priests are not supposed to be afraid to face danger.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president and Davao Archbishop Romulo Arguelles said priests always face the danger of death in the exercise of their profession.

## For whom the bell tolls

President Duterte has been critical of clergymen, claiming they have had illicit affairs

and that some priests even baptized their own children.

Duterte, whose brutal war on illegal drugs has been criticized by Catholic bishops, talked about a priest who was killed because of his affairs with married women.

The President did not name the priest but he was apparently referring to Ventura, who was killed in Cagayan last month.

Duterte previously claimed that Ventura had romantic affairs with eight women.

While he was criticizing the priests in Iloilo yesterday, his speech was interrupted when church bells tolled during the Angelus hour at 6 p.m.

"Is that the Angelus? Do

you pray it here? We Catholics should pray here. The priest might get angry," the President told the crowd.

Duterte was talking about the hit squad of communists during the distribution of land ownership award certificates when he suddenly asked his audience whether they were praying the Angelus.

Duterte, who is known for his tough talk and rambling, paused and fell silent for nearly a minute.

Duterte then joked that the tolling of bells too loud and long and asked the "bell toll" to be quiet.

"I am a Christian. I believe in God. I respect the tolling of the bells," he said.

Duterte went on to criticize Catholic priests, apparently focusing on Ventura.

"I do not want to talk about it because I have to work with the papers," Duterte said.

"The priest that baptized the child was also the one who threw a party to the baptism," he added.

Duterte then claimed that the bells are tolling for illegal drugs and corruption, social ills that he vowed to end during his term.

"For whom does the bell toll? It tolls for thee," the President said, referring to an expression that means to death.

"For whom does the bell toll? It tolls for you. Drugs, Corruption." - Alexis Romero

INQUIRER

# Maritime expert: PH must stop China fishers from wrecking Panatag reefs

By Gabriel Cardinoza  
@gabrielcardinozaINQ

DAGUPAN CITY—If the Philippine government does not stop Chinese clam harvesters from destroying the reefs at Panatag Shoal, China would reclaim land on what is left of the shoal and transform it into another artificial island, a maritime law expert said on Tuesday.

Jay Batongbacal, director of University of the Philippines Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea, said Chinese fishermen had been using propellers mounted on small boats to break coral and dig into the shoal's lagoon to gather giant clams since 2012.

A damaged reef would render the shoal useless, "and then China will just say, 'Oh, the reef is dead. Let's just convert it into an island,'" Batongbacal said.

### Witness to digging

Joww Legaspi, a boat owner in Barangay Gato in Infanta town, Pangasinan, said he had seen Chinese fishermen digging into the lagoon on one of his trips to Panatag Shoal—internationally known as Scarborough Shoal—before the standoff between Philippine Navy and Chinese vessels in 2012.

China seized the shoal and ignored the 2016 ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague that the shoal is a

common fishing ground for Filipinos, Chinese and Vietnamese.

The ruling declared that China had violated the Philippines' sovereign right to fish and explore for resources in the West Philippine Sea.

"I thought they were digging then to look for natural gas. But I realized they were after the giant clams, which abounded at the shoal," Legaspi said.

### Breaking coral <sup>KS</sup>

He said one of his cousins brought home a propeller used for breaking coral that the Chinese had left at the shoal.

"It's a possibility that when the reefs die, they (Chinese) will reclaim these. That's why it is

very important that the government...take action on the issue of Scarborough Shoal and make it an urgent item," Batongbacal told the Inquirer by phone.

He said the Chinese did the same at disputed reefs in the Spratlys before turning them into artificial islands.

Magdao Rep. Gary Alejano on Wednesday called on the government to provide additional support for Filipino fishermen by establishing guidelines on how to deal with tensions in contested areas.

Alejano also proposed a system for fishing missions which would be accompanied by the Philippine Coast Guard. —WITH A REPORT FROM JEROME ANING/INQ

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# Success for China - Enrile

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By Maria Makari  
and Angie M. Kosarec

Enrile said the 1986-88 Trillanes administration was the most significant achievement of his presidency, he said.

Trillanes had been called his 'Bak' (father) during his term as such.

China as a defining moment of his life.  
"Looking back, I see today's the most significant achievement of my presidency," he said.

"The trouble with people is that they forget themselves what the value is." Enrile said.

Up to now, Enrile said, witnesses committed by Trillanes to the "Garcia" case, including the late Rep. Lejano, and many to forget the good he did for them.

Enrile called Trillanes a bit of a villain in a way during a heated argument over his sense of fear over his mission in China, which Trillanes had made for the "Saka" program.

In an interview by Leahy Tribuna, Enrile maintained Trillanes' "secret mission" to China, approved by former President Aquino, proved to be contrary to his country's interests.

"There is no question about that. He (Trillanes) was successful in the sense that he got down to China," Enrile told Leahy Tribuna.

Enrile said Trillanes made 10 trips to Beijing at the height of the tension in January 1986, Sept. 1986, and off Zambales in 2012.

Trillanes

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# Success for China—Enrile

From page 1

As advised by Trillanes, Aquino ordered the pullout of two Philippine ships, a Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) vessels, from Panatag Shoal.

The agreement was for both the Philippines and Chinese ships to pull out from the area to deescalate the tension.

"There is no question about that, he (Trillanes) was successful in the sense that he gave favor to China."

Aquino explained then that the government was ordering the withdrawal of its vessels due to a storm then at the WPS.

The Chinese ships, however, never pulled out and remain there up to now.

Worse, China went on a massive development of man-made islands in its occupied areas in the disputed WPS, even installing missile systems.

## Noy, Trillanes liable

Labor undersecretary Jacinto "Jing" Paras said Trillanes and Aquino should be held criminally liable for "ceding control" to China of oil-rich Panatag Shoal on West Philippine Sea in 2012.

A former congressman, Paras issued the statement as Enrile, in an exclusive interview by Daily Tribune, lambasted Trillanes for bragging and admitting the "backchanneling efforts" he did for then President Aquino.

"The actions of Trillanes and Aquino bordered on treasonous as they, in effect, relinquished de facto presence of our military in the disputed area during a standoff with Chinese armed forces," said Paras.

"If the Chinese have imposed a clampdown on Panatag Shoal,

including stopping any joint economic exploration by claimant countries in the area, Aquino and Trillanes are hugely to blame," stressed Paras.

Told that Trillanes considered his "backchanneling" efforts to be his greatest achievement and that Enrile reeked with sarcasm in saying Trillanes did it "for China" and not to push Philippine interests, Paras erupted into laughter.

## A sell out

"Finally, the failed putschist has succeeded in something - selling us our Filipinos to the Chinese. He should receive a medal from China if he hasn't gotten one yet," said Paras.

"But seriously, Trillanes and Aquino should fry for their actions which, it may be surmised, may have been motivated by hundreds of millions of reasons," he added.

## China turned aggressive

The Chinese, since then, has aggressively pushed its claim, particularly after the filing by the Aquino administration of a formal complaint against Beijing before the United Nations-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in 2013, which resulted in a decision favoring the Philippines in 2016.

Enrile said an ongoing exploration of a Filipino consortium at the Reed Bank was stopped due to the filing of the arbitration complaint.

Enrile said Trillanes' trip to China only created an impression to the Chinese that the Philippines is weak.

"He (Trillanes) created the impression that the Philippines is weak, and that gave China the opportunity to press its interest in the West Philippine Sea," Enrile said.

Enrile added Trillanes was ap-

parently "misled" by his Chinese contacts, saying "the Chinese are more intelligent than him (Trillanes)."

In an earlier interview by Daily Tribune, Enrile said he had warned Mr. Aquino that sending Trillanes to Beijing for backdoor talks on the issue in Panatag Shoal was "dangerous and very unwise."

Enrile warned what Trillanes had committed to China could be contrary to Philippine interest.

## Fishing grounds lost

Enrile recently claimed Trillanes' efforts only contributed to the country losing control of the fishing ground in the Panatag or Scarborough Shoal.

Trillanes' secret mission happened at the height of a tense standoff with China at the disputed Scarborough shoal.

"The backchannel effort was solely focused on deescalating the standoff in Panatag (shoal). This was successfully done without compromising even an inch of our territorial integrity, hence, our victory at the arbitration court," Trillanes said.

"That conspiracy theory was already debunked by the Ombudsman. It simply doesn't make sense that a senator would have the power to lose a piece of Philippine territory," he added.

Paras dared Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales to prove she is not beholden to the past administration and that she has not been engaged in "the selective dispensation of justice."

"Before retiring, Ombudsman Morales should make it up with the Filipino by filing charges against Trillanes and Aquino. She should start the ball rolling insofar as holding them accountable," said Paras.

QUINCE

# DND PUSHES FORWARD ACQUISITION OF SUBMARINES

The Department of National Defense (DND) has decided to prioritize the acquisition of submarines, pushing forward plans to equip the Philippine Navy with the vessels before the year 2022 at the earliest.

Arsenio Andolong, spokesperson for the DND, said initial plans had called for the acquisition of at least four submarines.

But getting the vessels depends on the Department of Budget and Management and the DND, which will discuss how to apportion the P288.8 billion earmarked for the second horizon of the Armed Forces of the Philippines modernization program, he said.

"The acquisition of submarines was pushed forward now, this will come to be that's what we are looking into," said Andolong, who spoke on the sidelines of the launch of the implementing rules and regulations of the Red Cross and Other Emblems Act in Quezon City on Wednesday.

Submarines were previously included in the third horizon of the modernization program from 2023 to 2027.

Other priority acquisitions are multirole jet fighters for the Air Force and frigates or corvettes for the Navy.

—JEANNETTE LANDRADE INQ

## Submarines eyed to boost PH defense

THE military will acquire a diesel-electric submarine as part of the Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program that President Duterte has approved, an official said Wednesday.

Defense Department spokesman Arsenar Andolong said the government will acquire the submarine to boost the country's naval security, and that it will be a great equalizer in the Philippines' naval arsenal. *Next page*

### Submarines...

From A1

"The Department of National Defense and the Budget department will talk on how to fund [the modernization program]," Andolong said.

The military's capability upgrading program, which was crafted and first implemented during the Aquino administration, is divided into three phases—Horizon 1, 2 and 3—with the second phase covering 2018 up to 2022.

Andolong said the submarine procurement program had become a priority, especially for the Navy, as it had moved from Horizon 3 to Horizon 2, whose implementation had been delayed, owing to the completion of other projects under Horizon 1.

Horizon 1, programmed from 2013 to 2017, resulted in the acquisition of three Del Pilar-class frigates, 12 FA-50PH light-lift interim fighters, two strategic sealift vessels, to name a few, while Horizon 2 is expected to run from 2018 to 2022.

The Horizon 2 project is supposed to be the transition period of the military from internal security operations to territorial, which carries a budget of P300 billion including procurements from the Philippine Air Force and the Army. **Francisco Tuvay**

## AFP bibili ng submarines

Bibili na ng mga submarine ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ito'y matapos sprabahan ni Pangulong Duterte ang ikalawang yugto ng AFP Modernization Program. Gayundam, tumanggi muna si Defense spokesman Arsenio Andolong na tukuyin kung ilang submarine ang kanilang bibilihin pero sinabing hindi ito sa isa dahil ipinilit ng mga opisyal ng Philippine Navy ang kahalagahan ng pagkakaroon ng mga submarine.

Sa kasalukuyan ay bumubuo na ang Philippine Navy ng submarine group at inihahanda na rin ang kanilang mga sailors kung paano gumamit ng under-water warship sa pamamagitan ng pagpapadala at mga ito sa kanilang mga counterpart sa ibavong dagat.

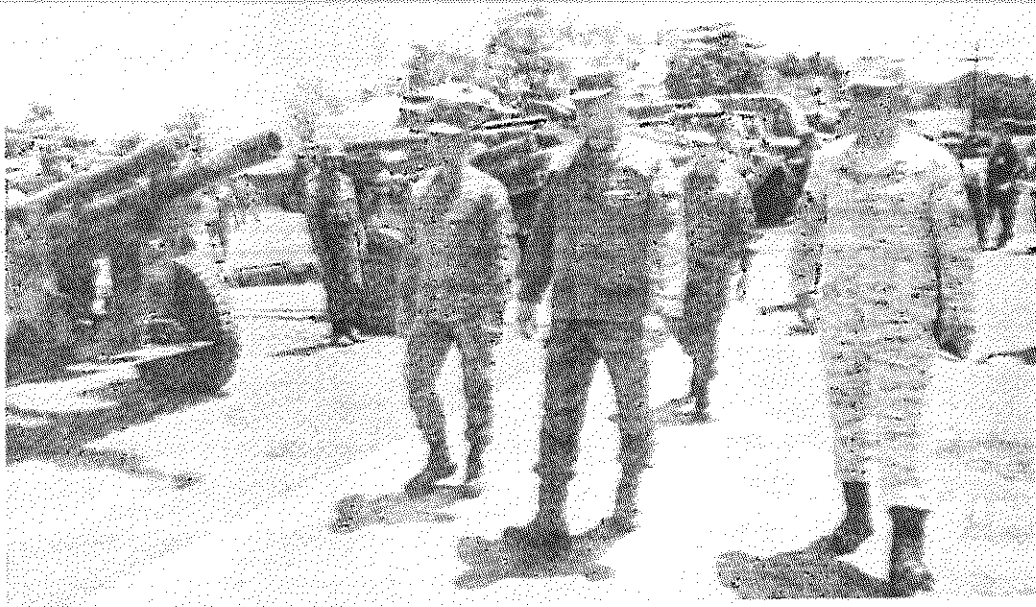
Ang capability upgrade program ng AFP na nilikha at unang ipinatupad sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni dating Pangulong Aquino ay nahahati sa tatlong bangag - Horizon 1, 2 at 3 kung saan ang ikalawang yugto ay mula 2016 hanggang 2022.

Inaamihan naman ito Andolong na ang pagbili ng mga submarine ay isa sa mga prayoridad ng Philippine Navy kawa mula sa Horizon 3 ay inilipat ito sa Horizon 2 upang mapabilis ang procurement. Pinagpapalitan nito ang South Korea, Russia at iba pang mga bansa.

Sa kasalukuyan ay wala pa rin isang submarine ang Pilipinas.

Sa mga bansa sa Southeast Asia tulad ng Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam at maging ang Singapore na siyang pinakamataas ay mayroong mga submarine.

Ugong Gamay



NEWLY installed commander of Western Mindanao Command Lt. Gen. Arnel de la Vega arrives at the headquarters of Naval Forces Western Mindanao in Calatagan, Zamboanga City. He was received by the Naval Forces Western Mindanao Rear Adm. Rene Medina.

WESTMINCOM PHOTO

## Go, other gov't execs recognized for contributions to PAF

By Marie J. Mallari

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) on Tuesday night cited several civilians and government officials led by Special Assistant to the President Secretary Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, as part of its pre-anniversary activities.

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Galileo Rianza awarded Go with a plaque of recognition for his all-out support to the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing.

"For his valuable contributions to the mission accomplishment of the Philippine Air Force through

his continuous collaboration with the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing in the enhancement of presidential flight operations," the citation stated.

The 250th Presidential Airlift Wing is the primary unit of the PAF that caters to the air transportation of the Commander in Chief, his family and visiting heads of states.

As SAP Go has exerted efforts to uplift the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing.

Maj. Aristides Galang, Air Force spokesman, said the Awards Night is part of the activities lined up for the upcoming anniversary of

the PAF.

Also cited were Transportation Secretary Arturo Tugade, Palawan Gov. Jose Alvarez, Reps. Vinte Santos, Celso Lobregat and Imelda Calixto-Rubiano.

The PAF also recognized several partner-government agencies such as the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the provincial government of La Union.

Among the corporate awardees were Smart Communications, Cebu Pacific, An Asia, Gardenia Bakeries and PTT Philippine Foundation, Inc.



### Reds face raps over Cagayan councilor's slay

TUGUEGARAO, Cagayan - Police filed criminal charges before the Department of Justice on Tuesday against 14 New People's Army (NPA) rebels in connection with the killing of a councilor in Allacapan, Cagayan on May 24.

Chief Superintendent Mario Espino, Cagayan Valley police director, said the communist guerrillas, who are members of the Danilo Ben Command, admitted killing Zaldy Mallari in Barangay Lobber.

Police said Crisma Garcia, alias Kr Semang, and Lolito Rasa, who were among those charged, led the attack on a police station in Allacapan in 2011, which left eight police officers dead, and the killing of a soldier in an ambush in Real, Cagayan last year. - Raymund Catindig

NDFF AS HOSTAGE

## JOMA: DU30 KILLS PEACE TALKS BY INSISTING ON PH VENUE

LUCENA CITY—Exiled Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Jose Maria "Joma" Sison said there was no more room left for compromise to revive peace negotiations with President Duterte's insistence to hold the talks in the country.

Sison also said that if the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) accepted Manila as venue, the government might hold him and other NDFP negotiators hostage and force them to capitulate.

"Duterte is extremely eager to have me back in Manila as his hostage," Sison said in an online interview from

Utrecht, the Netherlands.

### 'Intimidate negotiators'

"The site for the peace talks should be in a foreign neutral venue and not in the Philippines," he added, referring to both panels' Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees that was signed in 1995.

"Duterte kills the peace negotiations with NDFP if he insists on the Philippines as venue so that he and the military can surveil, control, manipulate and intimidate NDFP negotiators, consultants and related personnel." —DELFIN T. MALLARI JR. INC.



## Let's get peace talks going

Communist leader Jose Ma. Sison wants peace negotiations to resume and is prepared to return to the Philippines for formal talks if the comprehensive agreement on social and economic reforms are completed and mutually ap-

proved.

Sison said backchannel talks are ongoing with the government's peace negotiators led by Hernan Braganza in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The government panel explained to the self-exiled rebel

leaders why President Duterte scrapped the resumption of formal talks, scheduled on June 25.

"Let's get on with the peace negotiations," Sison said, addressing President Duterte.

Turn to Page 2

## Let's get From Page 1

"After we make substantial progress – even only with the completion of the negotiations on social and economic reforms, I think the opposite parties can talk in the Philippines."

Sison, founding chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), and National Democratic Front chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili talked to The Chiefs on Signal TV's One News channel yesterday from Sison's home in Utrecht. Also at the show aired last night was NDF consultant Rey Casambre, director of the Philippine Peace Center.

Sison and Agcaoili, however, insisted that the next round of talks should be in a "foreign neutral venue," with a third-party facilitator.

"If the two panels finish fast enough I can go home, but if not then so let it be," Sison told The Chiefs. "The NDF would like to make sure that there is no premature shifting of the venue of peace negotiations. We must comply first with the joint agreement provision for neutral venue. We're glad that (the Philippine government) has clarified

that the Royal Norwegian government remain as third party facilitator – meaning we will conduct rounds until the two parties decide."

He said if the peace talks collapse, the communist movement would work for the ouster of Duterte.

In a statement earlier yesterday, the CPP said President Duterte's demand to hold the peace talks between the government and communist rebels in the Philippines is "totally unacceptable."

The CPP also accused Duterte of scheming to hold hostage the consultants of the NDF once they agree to the Philippines as venue for the talks.

Sison earlier said he is opposed to holding the talks in the Philippines and that Duterte is killing the peace negotiations by insisting to have the Philippines as venue.

The CPP also warned the Duterte administration that it will continue to wage an "extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare" to frustrate its aims.

"Duterte is putting forward a demand it knows is totally unacceptable to the revolutionary forces. It is like the NDF insisting that peace talks be held in the

territories under the political authority of the revolutionary forces, something that Duterte will definitely not accept," the CPP said.

Earlier reports said Sison has agreed to come home for the peace talks in August.

But Sison warned of the possibility that he and the NDF negotiators will be held hostage by the government if he comes home.

"By dictating the venue of the peace negotiations, in violation of the standing agreement on a neutral foreign venue, Duterte is killing the peace negotiations," Sison said.

By demanding to hold the talks in the Philippines, Duterte is practically scrapping The Hague Declaration of 1992 and, by consequence, the entire peace negotiations itself.

The CPP said Duterte also wants to trash all the past efforts of the Norwegian government as third-party facilitator.

"Duterte is showing complete antipathy towards holding serious peace negotiations with the NDF, and merely wants to hold hostage and completely paralyze the talks," the CPP said.

The CPP said Duterte wants to use the cancellation of the

agreements to resume talks with the NDF to justify his total war and advance his scheme to establish "a fascist dictatorship and impose nationwide martial law."

On the other hand, Malacañang has not confirmed reports that Sison would return home in August.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the information about Sison's alleged plan to come home remains unverified.

"We have not confirmed that. But President Duterte has repeatedly said the talks should be held here in the Philippines and he has invited Joma Sison to come here. He will provide Joma Sison security and he will shoulder the logistics and other needs of those who will join the talks," Roque told *dzMM*.

"If nothing happens in the talks, he will bring Joma Sison to the airport so he can leave the country," he added.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Oscar Albayalde added they are ready to provide security to Sison should he come home.

"If he needs protective security then we will give him," Albayalde

said.

While Sison is facing various charges, Albayalde assured him he will not be arrested because of the peace talks.

"He will be given a safe conduct pass to give way for the peace negotiations," he said.

The reports that Sison is coming home were based on the interview with Casambre.

Along with NDF legal consultant Rachel Pastores, they said at a press briefing that until there is a final peace agreement, the armed conflict will continue.

Unless the matter is specifically agreed upon or stipulated in a bilateral ceasefire, recruitment of new NPA cadres will not stop, they said.

Defense spokesman Arsenio Andolong said their statements confirmed suspicions that the NPA is taking advantage of the peace process to recruit new members.

This only justified the government's decision to temporarily withhold the resumption of peace negotiations with the rebels, Andolong said. — With Alexis Romero, Emmanuel Tupas, Jaime Laude

## Joma refuses to come home

EXILED Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison on Wednesday said he would not return to the Philippines anymore, citing President Rodrigo Duterte's decision to delay peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

The NDFP is an umbrella group that counts the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), as members.

► **Refuses A8**

## ■ REFUSES FROM A1

# Joma

In his Facebook post, Sison belied a news report that said he will come home in August.

"That cannot be in August anymore because Duterte has upset the work schedule of the panels by canceling the resumption of formal talks in Oslo, [Norway] from June 28 to 30," he said, referring to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines or GRP and the NDFP panels.

"If Duterte continues to prevent the peace negotiations, I can also postpone my return until the Filipino people succeed in ousting the tyrant Duterte from power," Sison said.

He clarified that he will no longer return to the Philippines earlier than the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (Caser) by the peace panels.

"Uwi ako kapag tapos na ng negotiating panels ang Caser. Baka September o October kung walang panibagong gulo na gagawin ni Duterte (I will go home after the negotiating panels are done with Caser. Maybe in September or October, if Duterte does not create another chaos)," Sison said.

## No arrest

Also on Wednesday, the Philippine National Police gave assurances that Sison will not be arrested if he decides to come home.

PNP chief Oscar Albayalde said the exiled communist leader could be given safe conduct pass during the peace negotiations.

He added that the PNP can also

grant Sison protective security if he asks for it.

This does not mean, though, that charges against Sison will be dropped, Albayalde clarified.

"He still has cases as of this time but there is usually a safe conduct pass for people like him," he said.

Sison is facing multiple murder charges filed against him from 1984 to 1986.

Last month, Sison declared that he is open to coming home if the formal peace talks between the two parties will come up with substantial results such as approval of all Caser provisions and if his lawyers are 'satisfied' with his legal and security guarantees.

Rachel Pastores, NDFP legal consultant, had told *The Manila Times* that Sison's return was discussed during backchannel talks in The Netherlands held earlier this month.

Pastores said the two panels formed a preparatory committee for Sison's planned return to the Philippines but it will no longer prosper because of the postponement of the peace negotiations as announced by Peace Process Adviser Jesus Dureza.

Malacañang had said Duterte wants the peace talks to be held in the Philippines, a move opposed by the communist side.

The Department of National Defense confirmed that the military had recommended to the President to delay the talks because of the NPA's extortion and recruitment activities in the countryside, according to DND spokesman Arsenio Andolong.

During past ceasefires, Andolong said, military officers and soldiers stay inside their respective outposts and camps while NPA

fighters 'are roaming.'

"They are all over the countryside so when you say 'as is, where is,' they have to comply and that is something that we have to work out and that concept is also part [of] previous peace talks that [they] should let us know where you really are, and once you declare you are in that spot, you have to stay there," he pointed out in a chance interview.

Andolong said the DND welcomed the proposed stand-down agreement between the peace panels during informal talks in The Netherlands.

He hit back at Pastores and NDFP consultant Rey Casambre for demanding that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) also halt its recruitment of troops while the peace talks are ongoing.

On Tuesday, Casambre, also the executive director of the Philippine Peace Center, admitted that the NPA rebels were recruiting during past ceasefires declared unilaterally by one side.

"The military is continuing its recruitment since it is intrinsic on the part of the AFP because we are building our forces, which is part of our modernization program, and with that, of course we have to conduct recruitment, it is for the defense of the country," Andolong said.

He added, "For the AFP, if a stand-down has been agreed on, they will adhere to it and we cease pursuing military operations [against the NPA] while our humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations and intelligence gathering are being continued."

**DEMPSEY REYES  
AND ROY NARRA**

9

June 2019

# Peace talks must be held in Philippines – Duterte

By GENALYN D. KABILING

Peace negotiations between the government and the Communist rebel group must be held in the country since the issue involves the nation, President Duterte insisted on Tuesday.

The President assured anew that Communist leader Jose Maria Sison

would be given safe passage while holding the peace talks in the country.

"Why should I talk outside? We're talking about our country, my country, their country and they want to take over, overthrow the government," Duterte said during the 81st anniversary celebration of the Government Service Insurance System ▶ 10

## Peace talks must...

◀ 1

(GSIS) in Pasay City.

"And why do we have to talk the f---king thing outside? Bakit ako pupunta sa ibang lugar?" Duterte mag-usap (Why would I go to another place? Let's talk here!) he added.

The President had earlier offered a 60-day window for the two sides to hammer out a peace agreement in the country. Duterte, however, recently decided to defer the resumption of the peace talks with the Communist rebel group until public consultations are conducted.

Sison, founding chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), reportedly wanted to resume the talks this month. He also opposed Duterte's attempt to transfer the venue of the peace talks from Norway to the Philippines, warning that it might lead to the collapse of the negotiations.

Peace talks between the Philippine government and the communist rebels had been previously held in Norway, the third-party facilitator of the negotiations.

The President, in his remarks Tuesday, said he intends to keep his promise "to talk to the enemies of the state so maybe we can arrive at a certain level of peace."

He also expressed hope that Sison would come home and join the talks in the country, promising to pay for his expenses.

"I guarantee him safety and security for the duration of the talks. I gave him a small window, kasi kapahakan palagi, so let's talk for 60 days," he said.

Director General Oscar Albayalde, chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), said yesterday they are ready to provide security to Joma Sison if he intends to come back to the Philippines for the resumption of peace talks.

"If he needs protective security then we will give him protective security," said Albayalde.

Albayalde said that Sison would be safe in his return to the Philippines because no less than President Duterte has assured his safety.

"He will be given a safe conduct pass to give way for the peace negotiations," said Albayalde.

**Duterte to pay for expenses**

President Duterte said that "in that period, you come home, I will pay for your expenses."

If the peace talks fail, the President said he would make sure Sison could go out of the country safely but he would tell him never to return.

"Sabihin ko sa iyo (But I will tell you) do not ever, ever come back to this country over again," he said.

**More legitimacy, transparency**

Two senators expressed support for

the President's position on the venue of the peace talks.

"I support the position of the President that the venue of the peace talks between government and the CPP should be in the Philippines," Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito said.

"One of the goals of the peace talks is to attain unity and reconciliation, what better way to demonstrate this than having the negotiations here in our own country," Ejercito stressed. "I also believe that having the negotiations here will give the talks more legitimacy, transparency, and urgency in resolving the decades-long conflict."

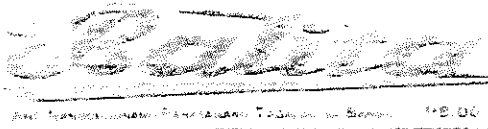
Ejercito agreed with Duterte saying that if the government has already given assurance it will make sure Sison and his party will be able to arrive safely in the country, he sees no reason for the peace talks not to take place in Manila.

Senate minority leader Franklin Drilon, likewise, reiterated his support to the President's position that the talks be held in the Philippines.

"We are all Filipinos anyway, and this problem is our own problem, so it makes sense that the venue of the peace talks is here in the country," Drilon said in a recent interview.

**Signing of CASER**

CPP chairman Jose Maria Sison maintained he will not return to the Philippines unless a Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER)



## 'Di ako uuwi sa Agosto – Joma

Pinanindigan ni Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) chairman Jose Maria "Joma" Sison na hindi siya uuwi ng Pilipinas hangga't hindi nalalagdaan ang Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER) sa pagitan ng gobyerno (GRP) at ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

Iganit ni Sison na ang pagpirma sa CASER tinatawag na "heart and soul" ng GRP-NDFP peace negotiations para tugunan ang ugat ng communist insurgencies, ay dapat na gawin sa diyutanan at pabalana ng lugar.

Sinabi niya na hindi mangyayari ang pagbabalik niya sa Agosto 2018 matapos

kanselahin ni Pangulong Rodrigo R. Duterte ang sana'y pagpapatuloy ng peace talks na nakaakda sa Hulyo 29 nangangailangan ng 30 sa Oslo, Norway.

"If Duterte continues to prevent the peace negotiations, I can also promise not to return until the Filipino people succeed in ousting the tyrant Duterte from power," dinn ni Sison.

Inaralan ng Malacanang na wala pa silang natatanggap na kumpirmasyon kaugnay sa ulat na uuwi si Sison sa Agosto.

Avon kay Presidential Spokesman Secretary Harry Roque, ang malinaw ang natatanggap ng Pangulo na sa Pilipinas, hindi sa Norway mao nais na gaganapan

ang peace talks.

Supportado ni Senador Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito ang posisyon ng Pangulo na dito na sa bensa gawin ang peace talks.

"I also believe that having the negotiations here will give the talks more legitimacy, transparency, and urgency in resolving the decades-long conflict," saad sa pahayag ni Ejercito.

Sang-ayon din sa Pangulo sa senate minority leader Franklin Drilon, "We are all Filipinos anyway, and this problem is our own problem, so it makes sense that the venue of the peace talks is here in the country," aniya.

**Antonio L. Colina IV, Beth Camia at Hannah L. Torregozo**

1/1

# Rody insists on holding talks with Reds in PH

By Vito Barcelo

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday stood firm in his decision to hold the peace talks with the communist rebels in Philippine soil and expressed his desire to end Asia's longest-running insurgency.

He made the statement during the 81st anniversary of the Government Service Insurance System in Pasay City, where he gave Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison a 60-day window to finally end the communist rebellion.

The peace talks with Sison, which was scheduled on June 28 but then

moved to July, was again marred by a war of words between him and Duterte.

Duterte promised to talk to the communists so the government and the rebels could forge a peace covenant.

"I'm talking to Sison, but he's being rude," Duterte said.

The government peace panel and the rebels began holding back-channel discussions about going back to the negotiating table after Duterte terminated the peace talks in November last year.

Duterte wants to hold the peace negotiations in the Philippines and not elsewhere.

"Why should I talk outside? We are talking about our country, my country, their country," he said.

Duterte, who tried to win the rebels' trust through a series of confidence-building measures and the promise of giving them land and jobs, assured Sison's safety should he come home.

"Why would I go to another place? Let's talk here. I guaranteed him safety and security for the duration of the talks. I gave him a small window," Duterte said.

"Let's talk for 60 days. In that period you come home, I will pay for your expenses and if after the two months period nothing, then I will see to it that you go out of the Philippines safely," Duterte said.

"But I will assure you, do not ever, ever come back to this country ever again."

# Joma says he's not returning in August

BY VICTOR REYES

COMMUNIST leader Jose Maria "Joma" Sison yesterday said he is returning back to the Philippines because of President Duterte's decision to cancel the resumption of formal talks that he said was scheduled next week in Oslo, Norway.

"That return to Philippines cannot be in August again because Duterte has upset the work schedule of the peace panels by canceling the resumption of formal talks in Oslo from June 28 to 30," said Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines and chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, which is negotiating peace with government together with the New People's Army, the CPP's armed wing.

The resumption was announced by Sison last week. There was no announcement from government. Duterte later said the talks may resume next month.

Sison, who has been on a self-exile in Netherlands since the 1980s, has said in the past he would return to the Philippines once there is substantial progress in the peace negotiations.

On Tuesday, NDFF consultant Rey Casambra said Sison was planning to return to the Philippines this August, the peace talks would proceed as scheduled on June 28.

"If Duterte continues to prevent the peace

See JOMA ► Page B2

## JOMA

negotiations. I can also postpone my return until the Filipino people succeed in ousting the tyrant Duterte from power," Sison said.

Sison said he would return when the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms, one of the substantive agendas in the talks, is forged by the two peace panels.

Sison last week said the peace panels initially reached an agreement to resume the talks on June 28 during back-channeling talks held in

Netherlands from June 6 to 9. The two sides, he said, also agreed to implement a stand-down agreement, supposedly starting today.

During a command conference on Wednesday last week, President Duterte said he still needs more time and was not ready to sit down with the communist leader this month.

Sison, in a statement yesterday, also stressed the NDFF will not agree to hold the peace talks in the Philippines, as Duterte wants.

Sison said Duterte "knows very well" the NDFF will not negotiate

in a venue under the President's "control and manipulation."

"If the NDFF refuses, the CPP and NPA become targets of anti-terrorism campaign and proclamation of martial law or state of emergency nationwide," he said.

"If NDFF accepts Manila as venue, the NDFF negotiators and related persons, including myself, become hostages for compelling NDFF capitulation as a result of the campaign plan to destroy the NPA before end of 2018. Thus, Duterte is extremely eager to have me back in Manila as his hostage,"

added Sison.

Sison said it is clear the Duterte administration is "determined to destroy the NPA, even if impossible, and to use and fill the peace negotiations one way or the other."

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque reiterated Duterte will ensure Sison's safety when he comes back, during, and even after the talks.

He said peace adviser Jesus Dureza is now in Norway to inform the third-country facilitator of Duterte's decision to hold the talks here in the country - *With Raymond Africa*



21 June 2013

## NPA amazon, comrade slain in skirmish with soldiers

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City — A suspected New People's Army (NPA) amazon and a comrade were reportedly killed while an undetermined number of other Communist terrorists were believed critically wounded in an encounter with the military in the mountains of north-eastern Mindanao, a sketchy report reaching the command and tactical operation and action center of the Army headquarters here on Wednesday said.

A platoon sized troop of the 23rd Infantry (Masigasig) Battalion (23rd IB) also overran the NPA's camp that could accommodate some 60 combatants, the report said.

Government forces reported seeing the bodies of the slain amazon and another NPA being dragged by their comrades from the combat site.

Brig. Gen. Franco Nemesio M. Gacal, commanding general of the Army's 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade based here said that, based on reports from villagers, the terrorists were conducting extortion activities in their town, prompting the local Army commander to respond and launch security operations.

Initial report received by the

402nd Brigade based here also said troops of the Scout Platoon of the 23rd IB under the command of Lt. Col. Francisco Molina, Jr. seized an AK 47 automatic rifle and 12 backpacks containing personal belongings, assorted medicines and anti-government documents.

In a separate interview with the Manila Bulletin, Capt. Al Anthony Pucblan, Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer of the 402nd Brigade said Gacal already ordered the deployment of more troops to beef up forces of the 23rd IB.

"The scout platoon of the 23rd IB was responding the information of the villagers on the alleged extortion activities of the CNTs in the village when initially engaged some 30 heavily armed CNTs at 7:20 a.m. on Tuesday," the 402nd CMO officer said.

He said the initial salvo lasted for more than 30 minutes in Parok 6 Mingragang area, Barangay Abunda, Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental.

He said the terrorists were members of Guerilla Front Committee 4-A (GFC 4-A) under certain "Commander Bravan" of the CPP-NPA North Central Mindanao Regional Committee (NCMRC). (Mike U. Crismundo)

## NPA leader na kumidnap sa dalawang sundalo timbog

Naaresto ng mga awtoridad ang isang Commander ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army na responsable sa pagbihag sa dalawang sundalo sa Sultan Kudarat sa isang-gawang follow-up operation sa Bigy Spring, Alabell, Sarangani, ayon sa opisyal kanapori.

Kinipala ni Police Regional Office (PRO) 12 spokesperson P/Supt. Alonzo Gonzalez ang napantatag na lider ng NPA na si Commander Gideon Jock Colano alyas Commander Revoy.

Si Commander Revoy ay isa sa mga namumuno

sa Guerilla Front (GF) 72 ng Far Southern Mindanao Regional (FSMR) Committee.

Bendang ala-1:25 ng madaling araw nang masakota ang suspek sa tahanan ng kaniyang pamilya sa Bigy Spring, Alabell.

Ayon kay Gonzalez, si Colano ay inaresto sa pisang wahan ng arrest sa kasong kidnaping at serious illegal detention at walong piransang inilaan para sa karatig pangamantulang kalayaan.

Sinasal ng opisyal na base sa imbestigasyon, si Colano at ang grupo nito sa GF 72 ang responsable

sa pagbihag kina Sgt. Soliman Calucop at Private First Class Samuel Garay noong Pebrero 2, 2017 o isang araw metapos na matuldukan ang unilateral ceasefire ng pamahalaan sa NPA rebels.

Sa lais sina Calucop at Garay ay dinurok ng sampung mga armadong taonang si Colano sa Purok 7 Bigy, Telefas, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat.

Ang nasakotang lider ng mga rebeldeng komuniste ay dinurok sa Alabell Municipal Police Station (MPS) para sa dokumentasyon bago ito turnover sa Columbio MPS. (Joy

Cantos)

## *NPA officer tiklo sa Bohol*

Bumagsak sa pinagsanib na elemento ng militar at pulisya ang isang mataas na opisyal ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army sa isinagawang operasyon sa Tagbilaran City, Bohol, ayon sa opisyal kanapon.

Kinilala ni Brig. Gen. Dinol Dolina, Commander ng 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division ng Philippine Army, ang nasakoteng lider ng NPA na si Pedro Lumentas, gumagamit ng raga-ayal na Dadoy, Andoy, at Dicoy, Deputy Secretary ng NPA Bohol Party Committee, Southern Bohol Regional

Committee.

Ayon sa opisyal si Lumentas ay nasakot sa follow-up operations ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng Bohol Provincial Police Office at 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion ng PA, habang nagpapagana sa tinamo nitong sugat sa Ramiro Hospital sa Tagbilaran City na tinamo nitong may limang crew na ang nakakalipas.

Nabero na may nakapag-ito sa trono ng militar at pulisya na nang-confront sa Ramiro Hospital sa Tagbilaran City kay agad silang nagpapawit ng

operasyon na nagresulta sa pagkakabitag dito kamaailan.

Nabatid naman kay Lt. Ems Grace Remonde, Civil Affairs Operations Officer ng 47<sup>th</sup> IE na si Lumentas ay sangkot sa serye ng paghahasik ng terorismo sa Cebu at Bohol kasalungat na ang ambush-play sa pagawang CAPGU noong Abril at Mayo ng taong ito.

Kapagalamon pa na si Lumentas ay may warrant of arrest na inisyu ng Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 47 sa Tagbilaran City (Joy Santos) 2.

## 2 rebelde patay sa engkuwentro

Dalawang pinaghininalaang miyembro ng rebelde ng New People's Army (NPA) ang napasalang nabang nakubkob din ang kuta ng mga kalaban matapos na makasagupa ng tropa ng pamahalaan sa isang liblib na lugar sa Brgy. Abunda, Magsaysay Misamis Oriental nitong Martes

Ayon kay Brig. Gen. Franco Nemesio Gaca, Commander ng 403<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade ng Philippine Army, dakong alas-7:20 ng umaga nang makasagupa ng tropa ng 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion ng PA ang isang grupo ng mga rebelde sa nabanggit na lugar.

Sinabi ni Gaca na nasa

50 rebelde ang nakaengkuwentro ng kanilang tropa sa milunsad na security operations.

Nabato sa opisyal na ang naturang grupo ng mga rebelde ay sangkot sa talamak na pangongotong sa mga residente sa barangay kaya nagsagawa ng security operations ang mga sundalo hanggang masabat ang mga rebelde na nauwi sa bakbakan ng magitabilang panig.

Sa kasagsagan ng

bakbakan ay napasalang ang dalawang rebelde na inabandona ng mga nagsitakas nilang mga kasamahan.

Narekober naman sa lugar ang isang AK 47 assault rifle, 12 backpacks at mga subersibong dokumento na pag-aari ng komunistang kilusan.

Sa nasabing bakbakan ay nakubkob din ng tropa ng militar ang kampo ng mga rebelde. (Joy Cantos)

# Abus kidnap former Sulu mayor's ex-wife, daughter

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits kidnapped yesterday the daughter and ex-wife of a former town mayor in Sulu.

A daughter of former Talipao mayor Tambrin Tulawic, Edelyn, 27, and her mother Addang, 67, were sleeping at their house at the boundary of Barangays Kanda and Luhaw when they were taken at gunpoint at around 2.20 a.m. LT.

Col. Gerry Besana, Western Mindanao Command spokesman, said citing reports from the Joint Task Force Sulu.

The kidnapers escaped with their captives toward Barangay Kamuntayan. Besana said members of

the Talipao Barangay Peace Action Teams and personnel of the 501st Army Brigade are conducting search and rescue operations.

He said a military intelligence unit was mobilized to locate the victims and identify the perpetrators of the kidnapping.

The Tulawic family has yet to issue a statement on the incident.

Tulawic's son, Nebukadnc-

zzar is the incumbent mayor of Talipao.

Talipao is known to have a strong presence of Abu Sayyaf bandits, who are still holding three Indonesians, a Vietnamese, a Dutch man and four Filipinos.

Government forces in Sulu were ordered to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf by the end of the year.

At least 11 battalions were deployed in Sulu to run after Abu Sayyaf bandits.

# Abus seize former Sulu mayor's daughter, ex-wife

BY AL JACINTO

**Z**AMBOANGA CITY: ABU SAYYAF rebels seized early Wednesday the daughter of a former Sulu mayor and his ex-wife in a daring operation right in their own turf in Talipao town, officials said.

The rebels barged into the house of Eddilyn Tulawie, 27, and seized her 57-year-old mother, Addang,

Eddilyn's father Tambrin Tulawie was the town's former mayor, whose son Nezar is the incumbent mayor.

Tulawie's family did not release any statement.

The abductions happened around 3 a.m. in Kuhaw Village.

The victims were asleep when the gunmen broke into their house and took them.

The motive for the abductions was still unknown, but the Abu Sayyaf is notoriously known for kidnapping for ransom not only in Sulu but also in Basilan and Tawi-Tawi provinces, which belong to the Muslim autonomous region as well as in the Zam-

boanga Peninsula, and cross-border raids in Sabah, Malaysia.

It was unclear why the police and military failed to detect the Abu Sayyaf raid despite an intensive campaign against the terror group whose leaders have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

The abductions took place while the whole southern region has been under an extended martial rule since last year.

President Rodrigo Duterte cited terrorism, rebellion and criminality.

# Bandits kidnap mayor's ma, sis

By NONOY LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Armed men believed to be members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) barged into the residence of Talipao's town mayor and took hostage his half-sister and her mother.

A military report reaching this city reveal that about 2:20 a.m. yesterday, armed men barged into the house of mayor Izzar Tulawie located at the boundary of barangay Kandaga and Kuhaw in Talipao, Sulu and took Edelyn Tulawie (half-sister of mayor Tulawie) and Edelyn's mother, Addang Tulawie.

The armed men immediately escaped towards the village of Kamuntayan, Talipao, Sulu, according to some members of the household who witnessed the incident.

Police and military authorities immediately launched hot pursuit operations against the suspects and were also joined by members of the Talipao Barangay Police Action Team in coordination with the 501st Brigade in the area particularly in the village of Sinuman.

JTF-Sulu also said all military intelligence units in the area were alerted and ordered them to monitor the areas where the victims were brought for possible rescue operations.

Meantime, – two out of five Maute-ISIS members which were reported killed in an encounter with the government forces Sunday in the boundary of Tubaran and Pagayawan towns in Lanao del Sur were already

known.

They are identified as Ailar, Aiamid and Amin Macarimbang which names were not cleared whether its genuine or an alias.

However, Joint Task Force Ranac Deputy Commander Colonel Romeo Brawner, Jr., clarified that these names are based on the report by the civilians in the area. As of this time, the troops have not seen nor recovered any human remains of the five that were killed, he said.

The military operation has started last Friday against the remnants of Maute-ISIS led by Owayda Benic Marohombsa alias Abu Da' which was appointed emir or leader of ISIS following the death of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilor Hapion at the height of the Marawi siege that happen last year.

That even the war has already ended, they continually recruit new members especially the young individuals whose parents have died in the Marawi crisis.

Meanwhile, some men were in the military custody after they were invited for questioning during the encounter of the military troops and Maute-ISIS in Tubaran, Lanao del Sur.

According to Brawner, they are still in the process of clarifying their identities of whether or not they are internally displaced persons or an evacuee.

They have also checked if these people have standing arrest warrants or pending cases, he said. (With a report from Bonita Ermac)

## Kapatid, ina ng Sulu mayor, dinukot

**ZAMBOANGA CITY -** Pinaniniwalaang mga miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang dumukol kahapon sa kapatid na babae at ina ni Talipao, Sulu Mayor Nczar Tulawie.

Sa report ng militar, sumugod sa bahay ng mga Tulawie sa hangganan ng Barangays Kandaga at Kuhaw sa Talipao,

ang mga armadong lalaki, na pinaniniwalaang kasapi ng Abu Sayyaf, dakong 2:20 ng umaga.

Dinukot ng grupo si Edelyn Tulawie, at inang si Addang Tulawie. Matapos tangayin ang mag-ina, tumakas ang mga susppek patango sa Bgy. Kamuntayan sa Talipao, base sa pahayag ng mga

testigo.

Nang malaman ang insidente, nagsagawa kaagad ng hot pursuit operations ang militar at pulisya laban sa mga susppek upang madaligtas ang mag-ina, ayon sa Joint Task Force-Sulu (JTF-Sulu).

**Nonoy E. Lacson**



# BBL could be template for future federal states

By **ELISSA A. QUISMORIO**

Two Mindanao solons have pointed out that the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) could serve as a template for future federal states in the country.

This was disclosed by Anak Mindanao Party-List Rep. Amhilda Sangcopan and Igarat City Rep. Frederick Siac as they expressed high hopes for the BBL in the changing the status quo in southern Philippines.

"Haka nga po kung ano yung BBL, pwede siyang maging template for federalism. (The BBL as it is could be a template for federalism)," Sangcopan, a vice chairman of the House Peace, Reconciliation and Unity Committee, said.

The lady lawmaker was reacting to claims that the BBL, which the House of Representatives has passed on third and final reading, could put efforts toward the shift

to a federal type of government on the back seat.

"Hindi po natin siva tinitignan na gaman (We don't look at it that way)," Sangcopan said.

"Hindi naman natin sinasabi na yung kabuuan ng BBL ay yun ang magiging template. What I'm saying is, posible siya na masundat sa pagbubuo ng federalism. (We're not saying that the entire BBL would be the template. What I'm saying is, it's possible that it could serve as a reference in forming federalism)," she explained.

Once passed, the BBL will be the enabling law of the 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) between the Philippine government and secessionist group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). It bats for the creation of the Bangsamoro juridical entity, which is designed to supersede the existing Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

## POSTSCRIPT

FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

## No arbitral court to hear Phi plea?

The Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague that handed down the 2016 ruling generally favorable to the Philippines in its maritime dispute with China is not really that "permanent." It's no longer there, says an arbitration expert.

Having done its one-time job, the tribunal no longer exists to hear another round of arbitration session as acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio, a prominent member of the Philippine team that presented Manila's case before the PCA had suggested.

In a TV interview this week, Carpio no longer mentioned his suggestion that a new arbitration be initiated against China in view of its Coast Guard's boarding Filipino fishing boats at the Panatag (Scarborough) shoal and seizing the fishermen's catch.

Instead, Carpio proposed that a request be made for the arbitral tribunal to order China, the Philippines and Vietnam to meet and craft a code of conduct regarding fishing in Panatag ((Huángyán Dao to the Chinese).

Asked by *Postscript* to react, lawyer Mario E. Valderrama, founder and first president (now president emeritus) of the Philippine Institute of Arbitrators (PIArb), said: "I do not think that that is possible."

He explained: "The arbitral tribunal has no *imperium*, that is, it cannot enforce its own orders.

"Vietnam is not a party to the arbitration. It is not bound by the award because arbitration is both parties and case specific, that is, binding only on the parties and only with respect to the particular dispute involved."

*(Although not a party, Vietnam was among the countries mentioned in the PCA's award as entitled to fish at the traditional Panatag waters together with its neighbors, China and the Philippines. Vietnam, however, has not shown interest. - fdp)*

More important, according to Valderrama: "The arbitral tribunal does not exist anymore. The arbitrators are akin to temporary employees. Job description: to resolve the dispute between the parties.

"The arbitrators already did their job when they issued their award on the merits. Their reason for being does not exist anymore."

As already pointed out, the PCA has no force or power to see to the execution of its ruling. So the parties (the Philippines and China) are left to their own devices in following, ignoring or rejecting the award.

At the onset, China questioned the jurisdiction of the tribunal created under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (to which both states are signatories). When Beijing failed to stop the process, it served notice that it would neither participate nor recognize whatever be the outcome of the proceedings.



but by that time, the tribunal had gathered sufficient official statements made by China and public and scientific records to constitute what it thought could define China's official position on the issues, although the Chinese did not formally participate in the arbitration.

Another point made by Carpio on TV is that waters beyond the Philippine territorial sea are part of the high seas and belong to all mankind.

On that basis, Valderrama said: "Now, maybe, discussions premised on the proposition that the waters in the Philippine EEZ are Philippine waters would stop.

"Along that line, 'reefs' are part of the sea and therefore cannot be owned by anybody. Still, UNCLOS gave special rights to the coastal state over 'reefs' within the state's EEZ. Those special rights should be taken in relation to the grant of exclusive economic rights over the resources in the state's EEZ."

#### • Sandy Cay lost to China – Alejano

Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano, meanwhile, claimed that the Philippines has lost Sandy Cay to China – and challenged Foreign Secretary Alan Cayetano to make good his promise to resign if the Duterte administration loses even just a single island to China.

Alejano said China is in effective control of Sandy Cay, which is within the 12-nautical-mile territorial waters of Pagasa, the main island in the fifth class municipality of Kalayaan in the Spratly group.

Pagasa island is a thriving barangay of around 200. Part of Palawan, it holds regular elections, has a clinic, and runs an elementary school where children sing the national anthem as the Philippine flag is hoisted.

It has a rundown airstrip – a modest one compared to the military-grade landing fields built by China on its artificial islands in disputed waters. A small military detachment keeps watch.

As Sandy Cay is within Pagasa's territorial waters, it is part of Philippine territory. But the Manila government appears hesitant to take full possession over Beijing's objection.

China's reclamation work in nearby reefs had reportedly contributed to Sandy Cay's natural buildup with materials stirred and carried by the current. It now always appears above water even at high tide. Having become a "rock," Sandy Cay is now entitled to its own 12-nm territorial sea.

Valderrama said that while Sandy Cay's development into a "rock" is interesting, it could raise a problem: "Unfortunately, China and the Philippines have agreed on several 'red lines' that none of them is supposed to cross.

"One of the Philippine 'red lines,' to which China agreed, is that there would no longer be any taking over or any uninhabited feature in the Philippine EEZ. And, as far as I know, China is complying with its agreement.

"So, while it may be that the Philippines should take control of Sandy Cay regardless of whether it is a 'reef' or a 'rock,' the problem is that the Philippines would be violating its own 'red line' if it were to do so."

3) ADVISORY: All *Postscripts* can be accessed at [manilamail.com](http://manilamail.com). Follow author on Twitter as @FD Pascual. Email feedback to [fdp333@yahoo.com](mailto:fdp333@yahoo.com)

## From dragon poker to whisperer

First of 2 parts

A NEW leaf has been turned in our relationship with China. From a dragon poker, our country has now become a dragon whisperer. Thanks to the visionary leadership of the current chief architect of our foreign policy, President Rodrigo Duterte, we're now veering away from the dangerous path the Aquino administration took us - to a better, saner, and more peaceful geopolitical path.

Duterte's foreign policy shift is grounded on reframing China from an enemy we must destroy into an adversary we must win over.

Former President Benigno Aquino 3rd compared China's stance in the South China Sea to Nazi Germany's annexation of Sudetenland. He didn't do it just once, but twice: first in 2014, during an interview with *The New York Times*; and second in 2015, while delivering a speech before businessmen in Nazi Germany's former ally in Asia - Japan.

This framing of China invites a very belligerent policy. How else should the world respond to another Nazi Germany other than the use of force?

For Aquino, our conflict with China is a battle between good and evil. In *Living on Borrowed Times: Conversations with Ciriaco De Vito*, sociologist Zygmunt Bauman called this framing the "religionization of politics."

Religionization of politics, Bauman explained, turns "conflict of



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interests calling for negotiation and compromise...into an ultimate showdown between good and evil that renders any negotiated agreement inconceivable and from which only one of the antagonists can emerge alive."

Mention "negotiated agreement" with China to anyone supporting Aquino's foreign policy line and you'll be accused of being anti-Philippines.

Duterte framed China differently. He didn't see China as an evil we must destroy but a neighbor we must co-exist peacefully with, a market we must tap, and a possible partner in the further development of our country.

For Aquino, our conflict in the South China Sea seems to define the entirety of our bilateral relationship with China. For Duterte, that conflict is just a tiny aspect of it. The joint statement of the Philippines and China after Duterte's *detente* (relaxation of strained relations) mission to Beijing in October 2016 emphasized it: "Both sides affirm that contentious issues are not the sum total of the Philippines-China bilateral relationship."

Vice President Leni Robredo is singing the same belligerent tune of her partymate.

In a speech she delivered on June 12, 2018, during a forum on the South China Sea disputes at the University of the Philippines, Robredo stated that China is the most serious external threat to the Philippines since World War 2: "If China successfully solidifies its presence within its nine-dash line, the Philippines will lose effective control over its exclusive economic zone, which is larger than the land area of our country. This is why China's encroachment on Philippine territories is the most serious external threat to our country since the Second World War." It's both an ignorant and dangerous statement.

In my column of June 14, 2018 ("Ignorance, confusion, deception"), I already clarified that there's no such thing in international law as "effective control" of the exclusive economic zone as this area of the sea cannot be appropriated as territory. That's what makes Robredo ignorant.

What makes her dangerous is her identification of China as an enemy, not just a rival, but an enemy equivalent to what Japan was to us during World War 2.

With that identification, one can easily infer that the framework of Robredo's foreign policy strategy is not so different from Aquino's, which is not just the containment but the rollback of China from the South China Sea.

This is way different from the foreign policy strategy of rapprochement and engagement with China that the Duterte administra-

tion has been pursuing.

Duterte's track is one of conciliation built on identifying China as a friend with whom we have a disagreement. With this framing issues that arise along the way are considered as wrinkles that could be ironed out with persistent pursuit of diplomacy. Compromise is the eventual goal.

Meanwhile, Robredo's track is one of confrontation with China seen as a threat. As such, issues that arise along the way aren't wrinkles that could be ironed out but further evidence that China is an ever-growing threat. Hence we must act to stop that threat. No compromise.

Her historical invocation of World War 2 is quite telling. Despite her invocation of "peaceful protest," we all knew what policy was used to defeat the most serious threat our country had during WW 2: war. That was what the United States did to Japan in the 1940s in order to roll back its presence from the South China Sea region.

Fortunately Duterte is our president and not Robredo's running mate, Mar Roxas, who vowed to continue Aquino's foreign policy line. Instead of poking the dragon, Duterte coaxes it. And in a span of just two years, he seems to be successfully finding the proverbial one soft spot of every dragon. The improvement in the situation in the Scarborough Shoal is the evidence

ALC

E-mail: [sass@forthemotherland.net](mailto:sass@forthemotherland.net)  
Website: [www.forthemotherland.net](http://www.forthemotherland.net)

## Sin tax on corruption

**I**BELIEVE that sin taxes should also be applied on sinful acts like plunder, graft and corruption. Taxpayers are eager to see THE DOF and BIR mount an offensive against the "Raiders of the Lost Tax."

\*\*\*

On Norwegia: One PCOC Asec dismissed the lapse as a mere typo error. Four letters as typo error? They should junk the faulty



MIRRORLESS

**ROLLY G.  
REYES**

keyboards or provide a footnote that says, "All words misspelled are typo errors." Chopping off their fingers would be too harsh.

In communication, a mistake is forgivable. But when mistakes keep on coming, it can definitely be labeled as incompetence.

\*\*\*

News: Fire extinguisher factory on fire. I assume that fireworks and LPG suppliers rushed to the scene to help douse the fire.

News: Cops caught sleeping on duty in Quezon City, Malabon and

Caloocan. They should pose for a photo opportunity holding placards saying, "To Sleep and Protect."

\*\*\*

It's not really true that KAD-AMAY wants to change their name to GRAB as they think that LTFRB will not agree to a similar branding of a ride-hailing service.

\*\*\*

►ReyesA6

# Sin tax on corruption

It appears that the P3.5-billion Dengvaxia procurement was just the tip of the iceberg. Health Secretary Francisco Duque 3rd was shocked to uncover another P8.1-billion corruption scandal involving the Barangay Health Station project under former Health Secretary Janette Garin.

Quoting Duque: "I have initiated an investigation on alleged irregularities in the procurement and implementation of the School-based Barangay Health Station Project. I tried to give the persons involved the benefit of the doubt. I am beyond frustrated. I am saddened and disgusted that the Filipino people are being shortchanged by the very people who are supposed to serve them.

"Heads will roll. Big names, small names, past and present. There will be no sacred cows."

Good job, Secretary Duque. Tax these plunderers to court. It's very unhealthy to see them as 'taibay' still roaming the streets and polluting the air we breathe.

The Supreme Court declared with finality its May 11 decision that unseated Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P. A. Sereno. Under the rule, a second motion for reconsideration is a prohibited pleading. If tried twice there is no chance for her to be fired thrice.

Now that Sereno is out, House Justice Committee Chairman Reynaldo Umali said he would make sure that the JBC would not repeat the lapses made in the appointment of Sereno. I agree. The short-listing of the candidates should have been done thoroughly and without intercession from the appointing power. The JBC is accountable for its policy of "account now and submit later." In my personal view, they were co-conspirators of a sleazy motive.

Sereno held a press conference after the Supreme Court's announcement of its decision. She is a far cry from the late Chief Justice Rene Corona who remained quiet and dignified after the controversial verdict of the Senate jury. Noisy, with self-pity and self-gratification, she only confirmed that she was not really qualified for the job.

I want long-lasting peace to happen in my lifetime. As I have said before, a final pact should be signed by the CPP/NDP/NPA and the government. The mayor from Davao is right. Why should the talks be held outside the country and brokered or mediated by another country? Do we lack the proper language to understand each other and solve our problems alone?

We always encounter these acronyms whenever we talk about

photos, music and video but we are not aware of what they really mean. Here they are:

- IPEG - Joint Photographic Experts Group
- PNG - portable network graphics
- TIFF - tag image file format
- PDF - portable document format
- AVI - audio video interleave
- MPEG - Moving Picture Experts Group
- MP3 - MPEG-1 audio layer-3
- AAC - advanced audio coding
- DSLR - digital single lens reflex
- CMOS - complementary metal-oxide semiconductor

Speaking of JPEG, which will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, JPEG started working on a new version called JPEG XL that can cut an image file size to 60 percent. Cutting photos more than half will mean twice the number of photo files in one's smartphone. It can also lower data usage when downloading or sharing files with friends.

The competition will try to upstage this new format. One format, called AVIF (AV1 Image Format), is now being developed by Mozilla, Netflix and Google. Another is MIAF (Multi-Image Application Format), which is a modified version of HEIF (Multi-Image Application Format) that Apple and Microsoft are already adopting.

Trump is pushing for a 6th defense service that will be named Space Force to defend the US from space intruders. I recommend George Lucas to head the service with Luke Skywalker as deputy. Pentagon is accepting Jedi applicants this early. I predict that a space wall will need a "sky high" budget (pardon the pun) to build. Of course, immigration offices and homeland security will be present at the space stations. Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith will initially head these agencies to monitor illegal aliens. Dressed in black suits of course. Live images of activities will be beamed to earth exclusively by Fox News and not CNN.

White House senior policy adviser Stephen Miller defended Trump's zero tolerance policy on immigration, arguing that it shows that no one is above the law.

-Sorry Mr. Miller, five- to seven-year-old kids are too short to be above the law.

I am just wondering what will happen to the brewing trade war between the US and China. After the niceties with Kim Jong-Un, Trump sounds like he's more than willing to open good relations with North Korea while displeasing Kim's super buddy Xi Jinping.

Good work, good deeds and good faith to all.



PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte recently cancelled the resumption of peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front, which was supposed to take place on June 28 in Oslo, Norway. This was to give way to thorough public consultations.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, which are under the NDF, have been waging their "people's war" since 1969. CPP Founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison now lives at a political refugee in The Netherlands since 1987.

The peace process with the left-wing groups has been a seemingly unending challenge for the government. Norway has served as the third-party facilitator of negotiations for almost two decades. The peace talks were deferred until July.

Following the deferment of the peace

## The path to peace

negotiations is Sison's expression of disappointment and frustration with the Duterte administration. He is against holding the formal talks in the Philippines. However, the Palace reiterated that the negotiations should be done in Philippine soil, most especially because

*“ Let us not prolong the process.”*

it is more cost-effective to hold the negotiations here. The President assured Sison's safety in the Philippines during the 60-day negotiation period, and that he can leave the country freely in case the negotiations fall through.

The United States and the European Union have already classified the CPP-NPA as a foreign terrorist organization. In December 2017, by virtue of Procla-

mation No. 374, President Duterte declared the CPP-NPA as a designated/identified terrorist organization under RA 10168, otherwise known as "The Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act of 2012." In February 2018, the Department of Justice filed a petition before the Manila Regional Trial Court to legally declare the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization, in accordance to Section 17 of the Human Security Act of 2007. The government may opt to withdraw the petition with the resumption of the peace talks.

The President, as the Chief Executive of our country, must prioritize the welfare and protection of the majority. While I agree to where the government stands in the peace process, I would encourage the President to fast-track the negotiations and be firm with his decisions. Let us not prolong the peace process. This July is an opportunity to break what seems like an impasse. Let us take advantage of this chance to put an end to the 50-year communist insurgency.

# An elusive peace



JUDGING from the way both sides are behaving, getting into the same table and signing a peace deal is proving to be extremely difficult. Both sides have been hurling accusations against each other, making people wonder whether peace is a real possibility or just an elusive dream, as the song goes.

This was triggered by the recent announcement of Joma Sison, the top honcho of the National Democratic Front, about the resumption of talks toward the end of June which was contradicted by the government saying that the scheduled resumption had been postponed to a later date. From the way this was done, it was obvious that there was no coordination at all between the two groups.

Feeling insulted, Sison went into overdrive, accusing the Armed Forces as the one responsible for torpedoing the talks because as Sison said, the military wants an all-out war. Predictably, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana denied this saying that if it is war that the AFP wants, it should have recommended the termination, not postponement, of the talks.

The reason given by the government was that the President needed time to study what has been accomplished so far. Whether this is true or not, the scheduled resumption of talks has been derailed.

There is also now a new stumbling block—the venue for the talks. President Duterte is insisting that the talks be held in the Philippines while the NDF views this as a trap and wants it in Norway, the old venue. Whether this new problem can be resolved for the talks to proceed, we will have to wait and see.

After 50 years of fighting, one would think that there is now war fatigue and everyone is now looking for ways to end the fighting. Alas, this does not seem to be the case. Sison,

spouting his cold-war rhetoric, is as warlike as ever calling his cohorts, to resume their revolutionary struggle proving once and for all that he is not merely a consultant but the boss.

On the government side, there must be that segment in the Armed Forces also itching for combat to resume.

If both sides really want the talks to continue, both should start chilling and allow responsible officials from both sides to talk to each other to solve the confusing situation and not engage in a war of words in the media because this is only exacerbating the situation. A short cooling-off period is in order. It is quite important that both sides go to the negotiating table wanting genuine peace and not looking for an opportunity to regroup in order to be in a better position when

*“ You'd think they would have war fatigue after 50 years. ”*

fighting resumes. Both sides must realize that it is time for Filipinos to stop fighting each other and concentrate on strengthening the country's capability to defend our sovereignty from external aggression.

There is a lot of incentives for both sides to forge a genuine and lasting peace. For the government led by President Duterte, if successful, he would have accomplished what no other president before him in giving the country the peace that have eluded all presidents before him. For Joma Sison, he can also claim that his lifelong struggles have not all been in vain. But for the peace negotiations to succeed, there must be trust, sincerity and the genuine desire to achieve peace which seems to be lacking from both sides at the moment.

Our peace negotiations are very different from the way others do it

like the Colombia-FARC deal which seems to be now in jeopardy due to the election of a new Colombian president and the so called Good Friday peace accord between the Irish Republican Army and the British government.

A lot of preliminary actions were put into place before both sides met at the bargaining table. There was a complete cessation of hostilities followed by a complete decommissioning of weapon by the IRA supervised by an independent body approved by both sides. In our case, there is no such thing. There was fighting, even when both were already negotiating.

The NDF is not giving up anything. Their combat capability remains intact ready to resume operation if the negotiations fail. Their leaders who are directing the movement have been given safe conduct passes and can actually travel to Norway if that is where the negotiation will take place and one other issue which seems to have not been noticed by people is that the government is apparently negotiating with a Dutch citizen in the person of Joma Sison and the former priest Luis Jalandoni.

Sure, the chief negotiator of the NDF is Fidel Agcaoili but it is Sison actually calling the shots. Is this not ironic? Instead of protesting this to the Dutch government, our side seems to be willing to accept this. Will Joma Sison affix his signature to any agreement reached? If not, can he perhaps disavow the agreement if something goes wrong? On the side of President Duterte, part of the reason why he wants Congress to sign on in any agreement is perhaps to make it harder for any succeeding government to renege on any signed agreement with the NDF which makes good political sense.

Prudence after all is the better part of valor and Secretary Lorenzana for his part also realizes that the Armed Forces is facing many challenges and sees the need to terminate this festering insurgency for the AFP to focus its major attention to external defense which has long been neglected by the government in the past.

## Editorial

# Malabong matuloy ang peace talks

**M**AAARING hindi matuloy ang peace talks sa pagitan ng gobyerno ng Pilipinas at Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA). Sa umpisa pa lamang ay nagkakagulo na kung saan gagawin ang usapang pangkapayapaan. Ang ganitong senaryo ay nagpapahiwatig na hindi magkatesundo ang dalawang panig. At nakikilang hindi na naman matutuloy ang usapang pangkapayapaan.

Ipinagpipilitan ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte na rito gawin sa bansa ang peace talks at hindi sa ibang bansa. "Bakit sa ibang bansa mag-ussap? Ang pag-ussapan dito ay tungkol sa ating bansa kaya bakit sa ibang bansa mag-ussap? Dito dapat gawin ang pag-ussap," mariling sabi ni Duterte.

Sinabi ito ng Presidente isang araw makaraang magbanta si CPP chairman Jose Maria Sison na hindi matutuloy ang peace talks kapag dito sa bansa ginawa.

Pero sinabi naman ng isang National Democratic Front (NDF) consultant, uwi raw sa Agosto rito sa bansa si Sison para sa pagkaroon ng peace talks. Darating daw ito sa itatayang linggo ng Agosto. Genumer., nagpahayag ng paglabanan ang consultant na maaaring arastuhin ang mga negotiators kapag dito idinagdag ang peace talks.

Sinabi naman ng Malacañang na masari rin namang sa Norway ideya ang peace talks. Puwede namang maging third party facilitator ang Norway sa pagkatatapos ng mga maraming pag-ussap ay sa bansang ito ginagawa. Ayon sa Malacañang ang mahalaga raw ay malak ang pagnanatip ni President Duterte na matuloy ang pag-ussap.

Sino ba ang ayaw magkaroon ng kapayapaan? Lata sa naghaharap ng ito. Dapat matapos na ang paglalaran ng pamamahalaan sa CPP-NDF-NPA. Pero sa takbo ng pag-ussap ng magkabilang panig, ita may patigasan kung saan gagawin ang peace talks. Nanyroong ipinipili ang dalawang pinuno.

Hangga't may nappapatigasan, walang maraming ang pag-ussap. Hangga't may nagmamalasakit, malabong matuloy ang usapang pangkapayapaan.



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## Online News

21 June 2018

www.dwdd.com.ph

### WANTING A NEW LIFE | 4 NPA terrorist surrender to 73IB in Sarangani Province

Written by Alvin Santiago on June 20, 2018 at 11:41 AM

**CAMP BGEN AGAAB, Malungon, Sarangani (DWDD)** – Four (4) NPA terrorists who operates in Sarangani Province, surrendered along with their firearms to the troops of 73rd Infantry Battalion in Barangay, Kinam, Malapatan Sarangani Province on June 18, 2018.



Dante Lumayas alias Pantat 24 years old married, Dang Lumayas 45 years old married, Degoh Lumayas alias Bayabas 30 years old, married and Malkuni Lumayas alias Lawin 30 years old married and they are all residence of Sitio Akfutun, Barangay Kinam, Malapatan Sarangani Province, surrender along with their two M16 rifle, one Garand Rifle, one IED (Improvised Explosive Device) and two Handheld Versa Radio to the troops of 73IB.

*"Kapoy na mi ug tinago sa bukid ug nahadlok pod mi mapatay sa engkwentro mao ni hawa na mi sa hublag".* We left the armed group because of fear of being caught in the firefight during encounter, and we are tired of hiding from the government troops, alias Pantat said.

It can be recalled last June 8, 2018, the 73IB troopers encountered their group in Barangay Culaman, Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental where in one NPA terrorist was killed and the troops were able to recover his M653 rifle.

Last Sunday June 17, 2018 after acting from the information from the populace of Sitio Kalgang, Barangay Kinam that there are presence of armed NPA terrorist in the area, the troops of 73IB were able to recover two M16 rifles from the fleeing NPA terrorist.

*"With our intensive security operations and continuous collaborations to our Local Government Units and other stakeholders, we can align our efforts in attaining a peaceful and conflict-resilient communities with in our area of operation."* Lt-Col Angcao 73IB commander said.

The former rebels will be presented to the LGU of Sarangani Province for immediate assistance and enroll them to the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP). They will be provided with livelihood assistance and they will also receive additional cash assistance for their surrendered firearm that will help them to start a new and peaceful life.

*"Once again we are calling the attention of the remaining NPA terrorist who are still hiding, to grab this opportunity to surrender. Dal-a ang inyu nga pusil kag manginabuhi sang matawhay kag masinadyahon upod ang inyu pamilya."* Brigadier General Roberto Ancan 1002nd Brigade Commander said.

Major General Noel S Clement AFP, Commander 10ID, lauded troops' accomplishments and said "Fear no more, NPAs. 10ID is, at all times, ready to accept your surrender. We are glad that the four NPA-terrorists from Malapatan, including the thousand others, have decided to lay down their firearms and are willing to take part in the People's call for Peace by abandoning CPP-NPAs' terroristic ideology. There's no other valuable thing that can be compared to that of having you backed in your families' arms and now potential productive partners in nation-building." 10ID will continue to intensify its security operation and collaboration to stakeholders to protect and secure the people in its area of responsibility. **10DPAO / MCAG**

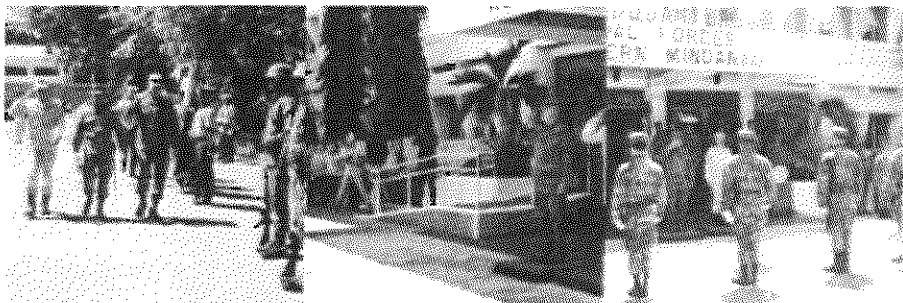
*By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.*

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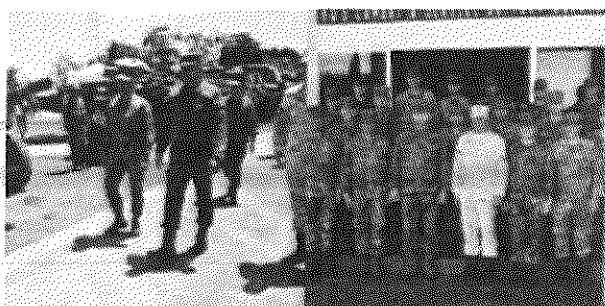
## TALK TO TROOPS | NFWM welcomes new Com, WESMINCOM

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on [June 21, 2018](#) at [10:00 AM](#)

**CALARIAN, Zamboanga City (DWDD)** – Fleet-Marine Troops from Naval Forces Western Mindanao and Combat Service Support Brigade rendered Arrival Honors to the newly installed Commander, Western Mindanao Command, Lieutenant General Arnel B Dela Vega AFP on Monday, June 18, 2018 at Headquarters Naval Forces Western Mindanao, Calarian, Zamboanga City.



He was received by the Commander, Naval Forces Western Mindanao Rear Admiral Rene V Medina AFP.



The arrival honors is followed by Command Briefing, Capability Demonstration by the Combat Service Support Brigade and Talk to Troops. **WESMINCOM / MCAG**

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## INTENSIFIED OPERATION | 23IB overran CNT camp in Misamis Oriental

posted by Alvin Santiago on June 21, 2018 at 12:01 PM

**BANCASI, Butuan City (DWDD)** – Soldiers from the 23rd Infantry “Masigasig” Battalion was able to seize one (1) AK-47 assault rifle and 12 backpacks from members of the terrorist New People’s Army (NPA) when they clashed with the CNTs in the remote village of Barangay Abunda, town of Magsaysay in Misamis Oriental on June 19, 2018.



According to Army Captain Al Anthony B Pueblas, CMO Officer, 402<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade, a platoon of soldiers from the 23rd IB overran the terrorists' camp that could accommodate more or less sixty (60) terrorists.

Brigadier General Franco Nemesio M Gacal AFP, Commander, 402IBde, said based on civilians' reports reaching the AFP, the CNTs were conducting extortion activities in the village which prompted the army commander to launch security operations.

*"There were no casualties on our troops while two NPAs were reportedly killed in the said encounter. We are still verifying the report with some locals", BGen Gacal added*

Lieutenant Colonel Francisco Molina Jr, the 23rd IB Commander, said at least thirty (30) rebels believed to be members of Guerrilla Front 4A, Northern Central Mindanao Regional Committee (NCMRC) were involved in the clash in Sitio Migragang. **AES / MCAG / 23IBMasigasig**

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## TALK WITH AGUILA TROOPERS | CGPA visits Army's 10th Infantry Division

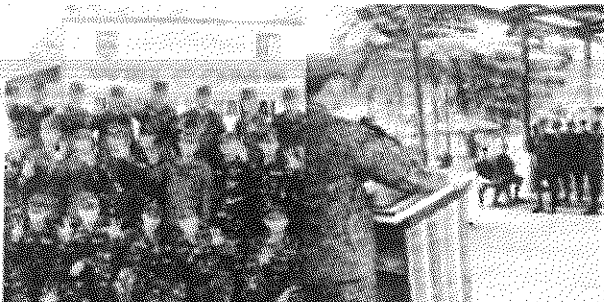
Posted by Alvin Santiago on 17 June 2018 at 12:28 PM



**CAMP GEN MANUEL YAN, Mawab, Compostela Valley (DWDD)** – Army Commanding General, Lieutenant General Rolando Joselito D. Bautista visited the home of "Aguila" troopers at Headquarters, 10th Infantry "Aguila" Division located at Camp General Manuel T. Yan, Barangay Tuboran, Mawab, Compostela Valley on June 16, 2018.



"Aguila" troopers headed by Major General Noel S. Clement, warmly received CGPA and party during their arrival. As part of his visit, CGPA presided the awarding and donning of ranks to deserving personnel of the command. Subsequently, Major General Clement apprised and invited CGPA to witness the Urban Training Operations demonstration in relation to the on-going Philippine-Australia Army to Army Exercise (PAAAE) being conducted at said camp.



In his remarks, CGPA congratulated the officers and men of the "Aguila" Division which once, he's been a part of for its accomplishments and significant success in the implementation of its security and development support operations in its assigned area. The command was noted for having massive number of surrenderees and recorded a good number of armed engagements with the NPA terrorists since President Duterte's cancellation of peace talks in November last year. Moreover, CGPA encouraged the troops to be more resilient and continuously serve with pride and passion so that the ultimate objective of establishing peace and progress could be achieved in the soonest possible time, he added. # CGPA took time to visit personnel of Task Force Davao at its Headquarters located in Sta Ana Wharf, Davao City on June 17, 2018. TFD Commander, Col. Nolasco A. Mempin warmly received CGPA during his arrival and subsequently, rendered a briefing on units' significant accomplishments and activities. Morale of troops is always the centerpiece of CGPA's unit visitation. As shown is CGPA "meeting and interacting" with the troops of 701ST Infantry (Kagitingan) Brigade, 7ID, PA (OPCON to 10ID) at its Headquarters located at Sitio Magay, Brgy Don Martin Marundan, Mati City, Davao Oriental on 07 June 2018. Brigadier General Rueben S. Basiao, provided the CGPA with an information brief followed by the awarding of deserving personnel. CGPA also visited the Former Rebels at the Davao Oriental Happy Home. **OACPA /**

## AFP to acquire diesel-electric subs in Phase 2 of modernization

By Priam Nepomuceno June 20, 2018, 6:30 pm

**MANILA** -- The acquisition of the country's first diesel-electric submarines will be brought forward to Horizon Two of the Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program (RAFPMP), Department of National Defense (DND) spokesperson Arsenio Andolong said Wednesday.

The procurement of the naval craft was earlier scheduled for Horizon Three, which is expected to run from 2023 to 2028, while Horizon Two is scheduled from 2018 to 2022. The budget for the program is roughly placed at PHP300 billion.

Horizon One lasted from 2013 to 2017 and resulted in the acquisition of the three Del Pilar-class frigates, 12 FA-50PH light-lift interim fighters, and two strategic sealift vessels, to name a few.

"*Hindi na* (This is not included in Horizon Three anymore), *pinush na dito sa* (It was pushed to be included in Horizon Two), *ngayon* (now), how will this come to be, *yan ang kailangan pag-aralan* (that is what must be studied)," Andolong said.

He declined to give the exact number of diesel-electric submarines to be acquired but said it will be more than one.

"*Oo, hindi lang isa kasi kung iisa lang balewala lang yun* (Yes, it won't just be one because having only one would be useless)," the DND spokesperson said.

Andolong said the diesel-electric submarines would be a great equalizer in the country's naval arsenal once acquired.

He added that incumbent Navy flag-officer-in-command Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad can be credited for pushing the inclusion of diesel-electric submarines in Horizon Two.

Earlier, the PN chief said he fully supports all proposals that would allow the country to acquire its first diesel-electric submarines at the soonest possible time.

This, he said, is because undersea or submarine warfare is the trend in naval warfare as it is very difficult to fight an opponent that cannot be seen or detected due to its ability to go underwater.

In line with this program, Empedrad said the PN has already created a Submarine Group that is now sending Navy personnel for training on submarine operations in preparation for the country's eventual acquisition of the naval craft.

He added that this is necessary as submarine acquisition, including building the vessel, training, and support facilities, often takes seven to 10 years.

Empedrad added that the decision to acquire submarines for the Philippine military is bolstered by a recent conference he attended in London, where more modern navies are shown building up their submarine fleet and anti-submarine capabilities. (PNA)

## Abu Sayyaf suspected in abduction of former Talipao mayor's kin

Roel Pareño | philstar.com | - June 21, 2015 - 5:26am

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines — Gunmen believed to be members of the Abu Sayyaf abducted before dawn on Wednesday the daughter of a former town mayor and his ex-wife in a village of Patikul town, Sulu.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana, spokesman of the Western Mindanao Command, said reports from the military's Joint Task Force Sulu identified the victims as Edelyn Tulawie, 27, and her mother Addang Tulawie, 67, both of Talipao town.

Edelyn and Addang are the daughter and ex-wife of former Talipao town mayor Tambrin Tulawie. Tulawie's son, Nebukadnezzar, is the current mayor.

Besana said the victims were reportedly asleep when gunmen barged into their house, which is along the boundary of barangays Kandaga and Kuhaw.

The victims were taken away at gunpoint and were last seen going in the direction of Lower Kamuntayan.

Besana said the members of the Barangay Peace Action Teams from Talipao and troops from the 501st Infantry Brigade conducted pursuit operations to recover the hostages.

He said military intelligence is also monitoring the area for leads on where the woman may have been taken. Troops have also been deployed to find out what group is responsible for the abduction.

The Tulawie family has yet to issue a statement on the abduction.

Talipao is known to have a strong Abu Sayyaf presence. The group holds at least nine others captive.