

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

06 March 2018

Tuesday

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

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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST MARCH 6, 2018 TUESDAY

EASTERLIES AFFECTING THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY as of 5:00 pm - March 5, 2018

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:10 AM	6:05 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
10:01 PM	9:15 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
MAR 2 5:51 AM	MAR 9 7:20 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
7:24 PM 0.10 Meter	12:47 AM 0.68 Meter

☁ Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
 ☁☁ Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
 ☁☁☁ Cloudy,ales with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
 ☔ Light rains

METRO MANILA	24 - 32°C	24 - 32°C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 29°C	21 - 30°C	TACLOBAN	23 - 31°C	23 - 31°C
TUGUEGARAO	21 - 34°C	20 - 32°C	LEGAZPI	25 - 32°C	25 - 32°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	22 - 30°C	22 - 30°C
LAOAG	25 - 31°C	24 - 30°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 31°C	25 - 32°C	METRO DAVAO	24 - 33°C	24 - 33°C
BAGUIO	14 - 26°C	14 - 25°C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 - 32°C	26 - 33°C	ZAMBOANGA	26 - 34°C	26 - 34°C
SBMA/CLARK	23 - 33°C	22 - 31°C	METRO CEBU	24 - 32°C	24 - 32°C			

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

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

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Manila
Standard

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SolGen presses for Sereno ouster

Files quo warranto bid to nullify her appointment

By Rey E. Requejo and Maricel V. Cruz

THE Office of the Solicitor General on Monday asked the Supreme Court to void the appointment of Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno in 2012 for failing to comply with the eligibility requirements for the position.

In a quo warranto petition, Solicitor General Jose Calida urged the Court not only to nullify her appointment but to also order Sereno's removal from office for being a de facto official whose authority was hinged on an appointment that was void from the start.

Calida said the chief justice, who is also facing an impeachment complaint in Congress, did not meet the specific qualification of proven integrity for her post due to her failure to comply with the required submission of statements of assets, liabilities and net worth for 10 years.

Her ineligibility, Calida added, meant she is unlawfully holding the position of chief justice of the Supreme Court, despite her being recommended by the Judicial and Bar Council.

A quo warranto petition challenges the legal basis of a person's appointment and seeks the removal of the respondent from office because of a lack of qualification or legal basis to continue holding that office.

Calida argued that Sereno's inclusion by the JBC in its shortlist and her eventual appointment in August 2012 by then President Benigno Aquino III "does not extinguish the fact that she failed to comply with the SALN requirement under the Constitution and relevant laws."

"As the filing of the SALNs is a constitutional and statutory requirement, the existence of her previous SALNs for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 precisely would have furnished the evidence to prove, among

others, that she is meticulous in complying with the law... The legal implication of respondent's failure to file her SALNs to prove her integrity cannot be downplayed. As the SALN filing is a constitutional and statutory requirement for public officers and employees, she was bound to submit her SALNs," the solicitor general argued.

"The submission of SALNs is not an empty requirement. It is a mechanism devised by law to test the integrity of a person already in the government service," Calida added.

In an interview, Calida said Sereno failed the "integrity test" of the JBC when she did not file SALNs.

"You know there's a law and you violate it. That's a sign that you are flaunting the law," the chief state lawyer said.

Calida also disputed Sereno camp's claim that she cannot be subject of quo warranto proceedings since she can only be removed from office through impeachment as an impeachable official.

"A lawyer who has a basic grasp of our Constitution and jurisprudence ought to know that impeachment and quo warranto

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SolGen...

From A1

are two entirely different proceedings with entirely different grounds for filing. These two proceedings run on different tracks-- the impeachment proceeding being under Section 2, Article XI of the Constitution with unwritten assumption here is that the officer was eligible and that the assumption of office was valid," he said.

Besides, Calida said he is actually doing Sereno a favor by filing the case before the Supreme Court.

"The OSG will not allow you to undergo the indignity that the late Chief Justice Renato Corona suffered at the hands of politicians who unjustly convicted him. You do not deserve that. I don't expect you to appreciate this but believe me, this is an act of kindness to a fellow lawyer," he said.

A supporter of Sereno, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, however, said seven justices who have shown hostility toward Sereno should recuse themselves from the quo warranto case.

He did not name the justices, however.

In the House, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said an 11-man prosecution panel for Sereno's impeachment trial was almost complete.

Alvarez, who is expected to manage the prosecution for the impeachment

trial at the Senate, said members of the team would be formally elected by the chamber before Congress adjourns.

"From forty names, it [the list] is now significantly reduced to less than 15," Alvarez said.

He said the following are likely to be elected as members of the prosecution panel: Deputy Speaker and South Cotabato Rep. Ferdinand Hernandez, Ako Bicol Party-list Rep. Alfredo Garbin, Compostella Valley Rep. Ruwel Peter Gonzaga, ABS party-list Rep. Eugene de Vera, I-Ang Edukasyon party-list Rep. Salvador Belaro, SAGIP party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta, Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Rodel Batocabe, Citizens Battle Against Corruption (CIBAC) party-list Rep. Sherwin Tugna, Pangasinan Rep. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas, Misamis Occidental Rep. Henry Oaminal, Oriental Mindoro Rep. Doy Leachon and Leyte Rep. Vicente Veloso.

Oriental Mindoro Rep. Reynaldo Umali, chairman of the House justice committee earlier said House majority leader and Ilocos Norte Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas will also be elected to the prosecution panel.

Umali said he will be the lead prosecutor.

Oaminal, Leachon and Veloso, a former associate justice of the Court of Appeals, are all vice-chairmen of the House Committee on Justice and are assured of slots in the prosecution panel.

Tugna and Agabas were being considered for being part of the 11-man House prosecution panel during the impeachment trial of then Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Deputy speaker and Cebu Rep. Gwendolyn Garcia is reportedly being groomed to be the spokesperson of the House prosecution panel.

Similarly, House senior deputy majority Leader and Pampanga Rep. Rimpay Bondoc, who is reportedly eyeing Fariñas's post in the next Congress, is also being tapped to serve as the prosecution's spokesman.

This developed as Umali said the House will approve the committee report on the Sereno impeachment trial with the Articles of Impeachment before Congress goes on break.

"I will comply by next next week. I will submit this to plenary," Umali said as his committee is expected to decide Thursday on the probable cause of the complaint filed by lawyer Larry Gadon.

He said Sereno will be given the due process as she will be required to comment on the complaint.

At the flag ceremony at the Supreme Court Monday, dozens of court employees wore red to show their support for 13 associate justices who urged Sereno to go on leave. Nearby, Sereno supporters outside the gates of the Supreme Court jeered and waved placards in support of the chief justice. **With Vito Barcelo**

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Army opens 6,100 slots for new soldiers

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Want to join the Army? Read this. The Philippine Army (PA) has opened 6,100 slots for men, women,

and indigenous peoples this year to strengthen its forces against insurgency and terrorism.

Philippine Army Spokesperson Lt. Col. Louie D. Villanueva said of this

number, five percent will be allocated for female recruits while another five percent will be for indigenous peoples.

Villanueva said the recruits will fill up the troop require- ▶4

ments for the activation of 10 new Infantry Battalions and one Scout Ranger Battalion (SRB).

Currently, seven out of the 10 battalions and the SRB have already been activated.

“These additional Army units aim to further strengthen the Army’s capability in addressing the various threats, particularly terrorism besetting the country,” Villanueva said.

Villanueva said recruitment is now going on and training will start in June.

The Philippine Army will prioritize its recruitment in the following order: Graduates of Military Science 43 and Advance ROTC, college graduates, those with 72 units and above in college, high school graduates but possess technical and vocational skills needed by the Philippine Army.

The applicant must be a natural born Filipino citizen, at least 18 to 25 years old on the date of appointment as candidate soldier, at least five feet or 60 inches in height, single and without child, of good moral character, should have passed the Philippine Army Aptitude Test Battery/ Armed Forces of the Philippines Service

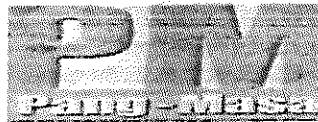
Aptitude Test, should have passed the pre-qualifying physical fitness test and physical medical exam, and must be physically and mentally fit for military training.

Interested applicants may visit the Army recruitment centers located in three major areas – Cagayan De Oro City, Cebu City, and Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City. They may also visit the Philippine Army website or visit the nearest Army base in their respective localities for inquiries.

“With the current efforts of the Army to further build up its force, there is a good opportunity that has been opened for our youth and everyone who would like to serve the country. Soldiering is a noble profession that is not only different and worthwhile, but also offers continuous growth and career development,” Villanueva noted.

The Philippine Army under the stewardship of Lieutenant General Rolando Joselito D. Bautista aims continue its mission of developing a modern Army that is responsive and capable in addressing threats against its people and defend the sovereignty of the country.

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Pahina. 2

6,100 bagong sundalo kailangan ng PA

Karagdagang 6,100 sundalo ang kailangan ng Philippine Army para mapalakas pa ang kapabilidad ng mga field units nito sa bansa.

Ayon kay Philippine Army Spokesman Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva alinsunod sa direktiba ng hukbong katihan sa nasabing bilang ng mga ire-recruit,

5% ay inilaan para sa mga babaeng recruits at 5% naman sa mga indigenous people's o mga katutubo.

Ang karagdagang mga recruits ay ipampupuno sa pagbuhay sa konsepto ng 10 mga bagong Infantry Battalions (IB) at isang Scout Ranger Battalion (SRB).

Sa mga interesadong

aplikante ay maaring magtungo sa Army Recruitment Centers na matatagpuan sa Cagayan del Oro City, Cebu City at Fort Bonifacio sa Taguig City at maari rin ng mga itong tingnan ang Philippine Army website o bumisita sa mga himpilan ng Philippine Army sa kanilang mga lugar. *Joy Cantos*

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Page. 5

5 NPA, sumuko sa Sultan Kudarat

COLUMBIO, Sultan Kudarat—Lima pang kaanib umano ng New People's Army (NPA) ang sumuko sa Clolumbio, Sultan Kudarat kahapon, ayon sa Philippine Army (PA).

Sinabi ni 33rd Infantry Battalion commander Lt. Col. Harold Cabunic ng PA, ang pagsuko ng mga ito ay sa gitna ng pinaigting na opensiba ng militar laban sa mga komunistang grupong nagtatago sa naturang lalawigan.

Ilang araw aniya bago ang pagsuko, nagpadala muna ng surrender feeler ang mga rebelde sa intelligence operatives ng nabanggit na military unit.

Kabilang sa mga sumuko ay sina Michael Aday, 20; Nelboy Kabao, 18; Angelo Kaintuan, 18; Johnny Aduh, 19

at Benong Inggatan, 35, mga dating miyembro NPA Guerilla Front 73 na nag-o-operate Sultan Kudarat at South Cotabato.

Isinuko rin nila ang dalawang M-14 at isang M16 automatics rifles at ilang grenade launcher.

Joseph Jubelag

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Pahina. 6

Mag-asawang NPA lider, sumuko

NORTH COTABATO – Isang mag-asawang miyembro na lider ng New People's Army ang sumuko sa Armed Forces of the Philippines Infantry Battalion sa Barangay Felis, Malita, Davao Occidental, ayon sa ulat kahapon. Ayon kay Lt. Col. Marion Angcao, commander ng 73rd Infantry Battalion, nakilala ang mga sumuko na sina Bonio Dawa alyas "Rick" na team leader ng Unit Militia, at Ligaya Dawa alyas "Aria", mass supporter at team leader ng Underground Mass Organization ng Guerilla Front 71. Ang mag-asawang Dawa ay mga residente ng Sitio Kiopok, Barangay Little Baguio sa Malita. Isinuko rin nila ang isang M16 rifle. Sinabi ni Angcao na ang mga ito ay isinailalim na sa Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program ng pamahalaan kung saan bibigyan ng financial assistance. **Rhoderick Benéz**

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Pahina. 6

4 pang Abu, sumurender

Apat pang mga kasapi ng Abu Sayyaf Group ang sumuko sa mga sundalo ng 2nd Special Forces Battalion ng Joint Task Force Sulu sa Brgy Bus-Bus, Jolo, Sulu, kamakawala ng umaga, ayon sa ulat.

Kiniilala ang mga sumuko na sina Raddoh Jamah at Saddam Hussein, kapwa residente ng Talipao Sulu; Okim Jikiri at Abdulsali Abda Abdulkarim kapwa ng Omar, Sulu.

Sa ulat, dakong alas-8:30 ng umaga nang mag-sisuko ang apat na miyembro na Abu Sayyaf Group sa mga sundalo kasabay din ng pagsurender ng mga ito ng kanilang mga bitbit na armas.

Nabatid na sina Jamah at Hussein ay dating miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Sub leader na pinamumunuan ni Sibih Pisi habang sina Jikiri at Abdulkarim ay mga tinatawag na 'trusted followers' ni Alhabsy Misaya.

Kabilang sa mga isinukong mga armas ay ang M16 rifle, two Garand rifles, at isang (1) Colt cal .45 pistol.

"We greatly attribute the current surrenders to the efforts of the local government of Sulu and the information from those Abus who surrendered earlier," ayon kay Brigadier General Cirilito Sobejana, commander, Joint Task Force Sulu. **Rhoderick Beñez**

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More loose guns seized in ARMM

More than 100 firearms have been recovered in Sulu and Sultan Kudarat over the weekend.

A total of 132 unlicensed firearms surrendered by residents of Parang, Talipao, Pangutaran and Omar towns in Sulu will be turned over to the military today, Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said.

Sobejana said local government officials facilitated the surrender of the guns.

"The recovery of the loose firearms is part of the mandate of the military under martial law. It is also part of our continuing effort to make Sulu a gun-free society to address the problem of law and order and banditry," he said.

Sobejana said 271 firearms were also recovered in areas under the jurisdiction of the Western Mindanao Command last

January.

In Sultan Kudarat, the barangay captains of Namat, Kisek, Kidayan, Maganao, Malatunol, Akol, Lebua and Butril in Palimbang town surrendered 29 guns to the police on Sunday.

Among those recovered from the village chiefs are shotguns and rifles, including M16s, Garand and an M203 with a grenade launcher, Senior Superintendent Raul Supiter of the Sultan Kudarat police said.

Supiter said acting Palimbang vice mayor Amil Pangansayan convinced the owners of the guns to surrender them.

The mayor and vice mayor of Palimbang have remained at large after combined police and military teams found unlicensed firearms during raids on their houses last year. – **Roel Pareño, John Unson**

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Military: 2,263 NPAs, supporters have surrendered since January

BY VICTOR REYES

AT least 2,000 members of the communist New People's Army and supporters have surrendered to the Armed Forces from January 1 to March 4 this year.

AFP public affairs chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia said the 2,263 who surrendered are broken down into 607 regular members and

1,656 are supporters.

Garcia said 90 percent of those who surrendered are from the Davao region, the area of operations of the armed group of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

He attributed the surrenders to "combined focused military operations, intelligence efforts, civil-military operation, re-integration efforts and peace and development

programs of the AFP, PNP, and local government units."

Garcia said the military has received reports about discontent in the communist movement so it is expecting more NPA members and communist supporters to surrender.

The military placed the NPA strength at 3,700 members as of

.....
See **MILITARY** > Page B6

MILITARY

end of 2017. AFP chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero said the military is aiming to reduce the communist strength by half.

Meanwhile, 190 of the 683 NPA members who surrendered to the military in Eastern Mindanao last year are due to dine with President Duterte today in Malacañang, said AFP Eastern Mindanao Command spokesman Maj. Ezra Balagtey.

The 190 were flown in two C-130 planes of the Air Force to Manila from Davao City yesterday.

They are also due to be toured to Luneta Park and Intramuros. The military leadership will host the 190 in Camp Aguinaldo this morning before bringing them to Malacañang.

"The activity is part of the continuing activity of reintegrating the former rebels in the mainstream society and to give them a better perspective on life," said Balagtey of the 190 former rebels.

The other 493 rebels have dined with the President in two batches last month. They were also toured by the military in Luneta Park and Intramuros.

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NPA rebel returnees hit 2,263 in 2 months

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

At least 2,263 New People's Army (NPA) rebels and their supporters have surrendered since January, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) reported yesterday.

Records show that 607 of the surrenderees were regular NPA fighters while the rest were with the Militia ng Bayan, underground mass organizations (UGMOs) and their supporters.

Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia, AFP public affairs office chief, said around 90 percent of those

who surrendered came from the Davao region.

Records show that a total of 371 UGMO members and their supporters surrendered in Compostela Valley last Jan. 20, 193 in Monkayo on Feb. 3 and 166 in Montevista on Feb. 19.

At least 264 NPA rebels were also killed or arrested in

military operations from February to November last year.

Garcia attributed the mass surrender of NPA rebels and their supporters to relentless military operations, intelligence, civil-military and reintegration effort as well as peace and development programs of the AFP, police and local government units.

Citing the dissatisfaction expressed by the rebels against their leaders, the military said more communist guerrillas and their supporters are ex-

pected to return to the fold of the law.

"The AFP assures the public that operations against communist terrorists will continue to protect the people and communities from terrorist atrocities," Garcia said.

President Duterte hosted dinners for more than 600 former rebels at Malacañang last month. He said he is not keen on resuming talks with the communists even as he raised the reward for every NPA rebel killed.

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Pahina. 2

HK TRIP SA MGA *Regalo ni Duterte...* SUMUKONG AMASONA

NI
JOY CANTOS

Nakatakdang bumiyahang Kong ang mga kababaihan na dating mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) terrorists na sumuko sa gobyerno bilang treat sa kanila ni Pangulong

Rodrigo Duterte. Ang mga nasabing amasona ay bahagi ng nagsisukong 683 dating New People's Army (NPA) rebels mula sa iba't ibang lugar sa Eastern Mindanao na ipinisinta kay Pangulong Duterte noong

Disyembre 21, 2017 sa Panacan, Davao City.

Kahapon naman ay dumating sa Maynila ang 190 dating NPA terrorist lulan ng lulan ng C130 plane galing Butuan City at Davao City para makipag-dinner kay Pangulong Ro-

drigo Duterte sa palasyo ng Malacañang ngayong araw.

Ayon kay Major Ezra Balagtey, Spokesman ng AFP Eastern Mindanao Command ang 190 mga dating terorista sy sumakay ng dalawang C130 plane kahapon sa Davao City International Airport at Bancasi Airport.

Ang 190 mga dating komunistang NPA terrorists ay dating nago-operate sa Regions XII, XIII partikular na mula sa mga lalawigan ng Davao

del Sur, Davao del Norte habang ang iba pa ay mula sa Davao City.

Ayon sa opisyal ang aktibidad ay bahagi ng patuloy na reintegration program ng mga dating terorista sa lipunan para mabigyan ang mga ito ng pagkakataong magbagumbuhay.

Ang mga dating NPA rebels ay ito-tour o ipapasyal pa sa Luneta Park at Intramuros bilang bahagi ng historical at heritage trip ng mga ito.

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Pahina. 5

Duterte prayoridad ang PMA graduation kaysa ASEAN-Australia Summit

HINDI dadalo si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa ASEAN-Australia summit na itinakda sa March 17-18 sa Australia.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque na maraming mga bagay at trabahong kailangang tugunan ng Presidente at kailangan ang presensiya nito.

Isa na dito ayon kay Roque ay ang pagdalo sa graduation ng mga bagong opisyal sa Philippine Military Academy (PMA) at samantalahin ang pagkakataon para makipagdayalogo sa mga bagong opisyal hinggil sa paglaban sa terorismo.

"The President regrets that he will be unable to attend the ASEAN - Australia summit this month. Developments at home continue to require the President's presence in the Philippines. One occasion that he will be attending will be the graduation of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) since he considers this graduation as an opportunity to dialogue with the

younger military officers, particularly on the manner by which the Philippine government and the military will deal with the problem of modern day terrorism," ani Roque.

Binigyang linaw ng kalihim na hindi binabalewala ng Pangulo ang mahalagang okasyon kaya itinalaga nito si Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano bilang special personal representative.

Sinabi ni Roque na umaasa pa rin ang Pangulo na lalo pang tatatag ang ugnayan ng dalawang bansa maging sa rehiyon ng South East Asian Nations sa pagsusulong ng layunin sa aspeto ng seguridad, katatagan at kaunlaran ng rehiyon.

"The special designation will help ensure that the Philippines continues to be engaged with ASEAN and Australia in advancing shared interest in the region and moving forward the common agenda for greater security, stability and inclusive and sustainable development in the region," dagdag pa ni Roque.

(Aileen Talping)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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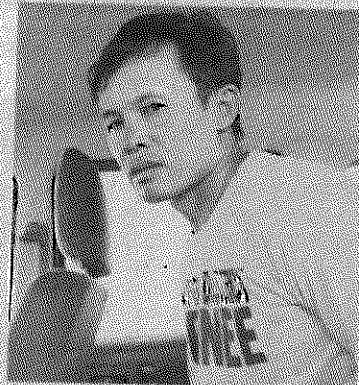
Suspected Maute leader, wife nabbed

**By Nikko Dizon
and Aie Balagtas See**
@Team_Inquirer

Philippine National Police Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa on Monday admitted that a suspected subleader of the Islamic State-inspired Maute group was able to escape at the height of the Marawi siege last year and settle in Manila with his wife despite President Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

The Maute subleader, identified as Nasser Lomondot alias Muhamad Lomondot, and his wife, Raisalam Lomondot, were arrested on Saturday at their clothes stall in Recto, Manila, and presented to the media at a press conference in Camp Crame.

"We don't have any excuses



Abdul Nasser Lomondot – NIÑO
JESUS ORBETA

that they were able to escape. We don't have any alibi to give you. It appears that we really have shortcomings and I accept that they were able to slip out of Mindanao and then enter Manila," Dela Rosa said.

Lomondot's wife was "undergoing medical treatment" on Monday, said Chief Supt. Joel Coronel, head of the Manila Police District.

Key planners

Coronel said Lomondot took part in the fighting in Marawi City and had close ties with one of the slain Maute brothers.

"He was one of the key planners of the attack in Marantao town ... while the firefight was still ongoing," Major Ronald Suscano, regional military spokesperson, told reporters.

Lomondot was able to escape the dragnet set up by security forces in November and hid in Lanao del Sur and then in Cagayan de Oro City before traveling to Manila using public utility transportation in January "to escape and avoid ongoing military opera-

tions in Mindanao,” Coronel said.

Lomondot and his wife sought refuge with their relatives in Manila, but Dela Rosa said civilian informants were also instrumental in their arrest.

Coronel said Lomondot allegedly tried to detonate a grenade while his wife created a scene in an effort to distract the arresting officers.

‘Very uncooperative’

The couple, allegedly armed with a hand grenade and a .45-caliber handgun during the arrest, were “very uncooperative,” according to Chief Insp. Rizalino Ibay of the Manila Police District’s Intelligence and Operation Unit.

Ibay said Lomondot could not speak Tagalog, while his wife could but refused to cooperate.

“They were highly trained and

well indoctrinated,” Ibay said.

Lomondot would not even reveal his age. “He said he’s 28 but also claims he was born in 1968,” Ibay said.

The couple’s presence in Manila was first monitored in December 2017, but it was only in February that authorities were able to verify the information.

On Saturday afternoon, Ibay’s men, assisted by the Army and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, swooped down on Lomondot after they allegedly saw him place a gun inside his bag.

A slight commotion ensued after he resisted arrest.

Coronel said Lomondot initially denied being part of the Maute group.

“But when confronted with hard facts, he started giving infor-

mation,” Coronel said, adding that Lomondot would continue to undergo debriefing by authorities.

Dela Rosa said the recent arrests of suspected terrorists should not alarm the public but instead make them more vigilant, especially since authorities had determined that terrorists were recruiting new members.

“The mere fact that their recruitment is ongoing [means] they have a plan to retaliate [after their loss in Marawi]. But it will take time for them to regroup and restock resources. The desire is on their minds, but it will take time for an attack to happen,” Dela Rosa said.

He said any retaliation by the terrorist groups would unlikely be in the scale of the Marawi siege. —WITH A REPORT FROM AFP INQ

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Alleged Marawi siege killer falls

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

A man accused of helping plan the Maute group's siege of Marawi City was arrested in Tondo, Manila over the weekend.

Nasser Lomondot and his wife Raisalam claimed they were in Metro Manila to seek refuge, not to recruit more members for the pro-Islamic State jihadist group, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said in a press conference yesterday.

Lomondot is also accused of killing civilians in last year's deadly siege of the southern city of Marawi.

Hundreds of gunmen flying black IS flags seized Marawi in May last year, triggering a five-month battle that claimed more than 1,100 lives, in a bid to establish a caliphate in the Philippines.

Lomondot was arrested on Saturday in Manila, months after he fled the fighting in Marawi.

"He participated in the killing of innocent civilians and committed violence against female and child hostages," regional military spokesman Major Ronald Suscano told reporters.

As government forces battled to wrest back control of Marawi, Lomondot directed a diversionary attack by pro-IS gunmen in the neighboring town of Marantao, Suscano added.

"He was one of the key planners of the attack in Marantao town ...while the firefight was still ongoing" in Marawi, Suscano said.

The military warned last month that the remaining militants from Marawi have mustered a force of about 200 gunmen to launch a second attempt to put up a caliphate in the country's south.

A composite team from the Manila Police District (MPD) intelligence and operation unit, led by Chief Inspector Rizalino Ibay Jr.; PNP Intelligence Group; National Intelligence Coordinating Agency and the 103rd Brigade of the Philippine Army raided a house at the corner of C.M. Recto Avenue and Dagupan street at around 4 p.m. Saturday and arrested the Lomondots.

“When accosted by arresting officers, Lomondot attempted to detonate a grenade from his bag but was quickly subdued. His wife Raisalam created a commotion to prevent the arrest. She was found in possession of a handgun in her purse,” Dela Rosa added.

Lomondot was presented at Camp Crame yesterday but his wife was taken to the hospital after complaining of stomach pains.

MPD director Chief Superintendent Joel Napoleon Coronel said Lomondot is personally known to the late Omar Maute, a leader of the IS-affiliated group.

“Lomondot was involved personally and present in the Marawi incident. In fact before the liberation of Marawi City, he was one of those who were fortunate to escape the military in November and transferred to Lanao del Sur going to Cagayan de Oro,” he said.

Coronel added that Lomondot admitted seeking shelter in Metro Manila to escape ongoing military operations.

National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Oscar Albayalde said authorities could not discount the possibility that Lomondot was also recruiting new members in the metropolis after the PNP recently arrested a foreigner “engaged in recruitment.”

He said the Lomondots sought shelter in Metro Manila “because it is easy for them to mingle with their relatives here since there are many Muslim enclaves.”

Dela Rosa said some people from Mindanao are leaving their hometown since the island is still under martial law, where there is a higher possibility of getting arrested.

He reiterated that carrying out a massive attack could be difficult for them since “it will take time for them to regroup, resupply and retrain.”

– With AFP

06 March 2018



Pahina. 2

313 Maute terror group nakatakas sa Marawi City

Umabot sa 313 nalalabing mga miyembro ng Maute-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) ang nakatakas sa kasagsagan ng combat operation kaugnay ng Marawi City siege na inilunsad noong Mayo 23, 2017 na pinamunuan ng mga nasawing sina Commander Isnilon Hapilon, isa sa mga lider ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) at ng Maute brothers na sina Omarkhayam at Abdulrah Maute na tumagal ng limang buwan.

Ito ang ibinulgar ka-

hapon ni Major Ronald Suscano, Spokesman ng Army's 1st Infantry Division at sampu sa kasamang nakatakas ay mga Subleader ng grupo kabilang si Abdul Nasser Lomondot na nasakote kasama ang misis nito na si Raisalam Lomondot sa kahabaan ng CM Recto sa Divisoria, Manila noong Sabado dakong alas-5:30 ng hapon.

Inihayag ni Suscano na patuloy ang kanilang monitoring sa aktibidad ng mga nalalabi pang Maute-ISIS kung saan ay nakaalerto

ang tropa ng militar upang maaresto ang mga ito sa lahat ng oras.

Nabatid pa sa opisyal na si Malaysian terrorist Abu Dar ang humalili sa puwesto ni Hapilon bilang Emir ng ISIS sa Southeast Asia.

Ayon naman kay PNP Chief P/Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa ay posibleng may mga kasamahan si Lomondot na nagsisipagtago sa Metro Manila bagaman hindi masabi ang eksaktong bilang ng mga ito. *-Joy Cantos-*

04 March 2018

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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New IS emir in Southeast Asia

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The spokesman of the Army's First Infantry Division yesterday confirmed that Maute Group sub-leader Abu Dar has taken the place of slain Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon as emir of the Islamic State (IS) in Southeast Asia.

Maj. Ronald Suscano made the disclosure after the arrest of another Maute Group sub-leader, Abdul Nasser Lomondot, in Sta. Cruz, Manila last Saturday.

"Ang tumatayo ngayon, diba namatay si Isnilon Hapilon, so yung tumatayong emir or lider nila ngayon na pumalit sa kanya si Abu Dar (The one who is acting as, we all know Isnilon Hapilon already died, so the one who is acting as emir or and who replaced him is Abu Dar)," Suscano said.

"Actually, isa syang totoong Maranao talaga. Iyung parents niya is taga Lanao del Sur, iyung both parents nya. Full blooded Maranao sya, tapos I think doon din sya lumaki sa Lanao del Sur, dun sya nag-aral, dun din nag asawa,

isa sa mga talagang kinikilala ng mga.. (Actually, he is a Maranao. His parents are from Lanao del Sur, both of them. He is a full-blooded Maranao and I think he grew up in Lanao del Sur, he studied there, he got married there, and is being looked up to as...)," he added.

Suscano, at the same time, revealed that when the Marawi siege began on May 23, 2017, Dar was present and was holding lots of money when he and other members of the terrorist group managed to escape from the MBA or main battle area.

"Based sa information na nalaman ko, nung paglabas ng Marawi, siya iyung may dala ng pera, siya ang nagdala ng pera palabas. Maraming perang nai-puslit nila palabas ng Marawi. Siya ang nagdala kaya marami silang pondo, sya ang may hawak. (Based on the information, I gathered he was the one holding the money, he was the one who brought the money out. There were lots of money that they managed to sneak out of Marawi City. He was the one who had the money that's why they have lots of funds)," Suscano said.



ABU DAR

ONLINE NEWS

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7,000 illegal guns targeted in Maguindanao

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:15 AM March 05, 2018

MAGUINDANAO — The military continued to avoid the use of force to pry up to 7,000 unlicensed firearms from civilian hands in the province, but was bent on recovering the guns, as part of the stepped up campaign against criminality, an Army spokesperson said.

Capt. Arvin John Encinas, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division, said the number of unlicensed firearms was provided by the provincial police but does not include those in the hands of members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a Moro guerrilla group that struck a peace deal with the government.

“The weapons of the MILF are technically illegal but we have ongoing peace talks,” said Encinas, explaining why rebel firearms were not part of the count.

Encinas said military and police were implementing an amnesty program called “Balik Baril (Surrender Guns),” which officials hoped would entice owners of illegal guns to give up their weapons.

He said the military had asked for the help of village officials in the campaign as “these guns might have been used” to commit crimes.

Diplomatic

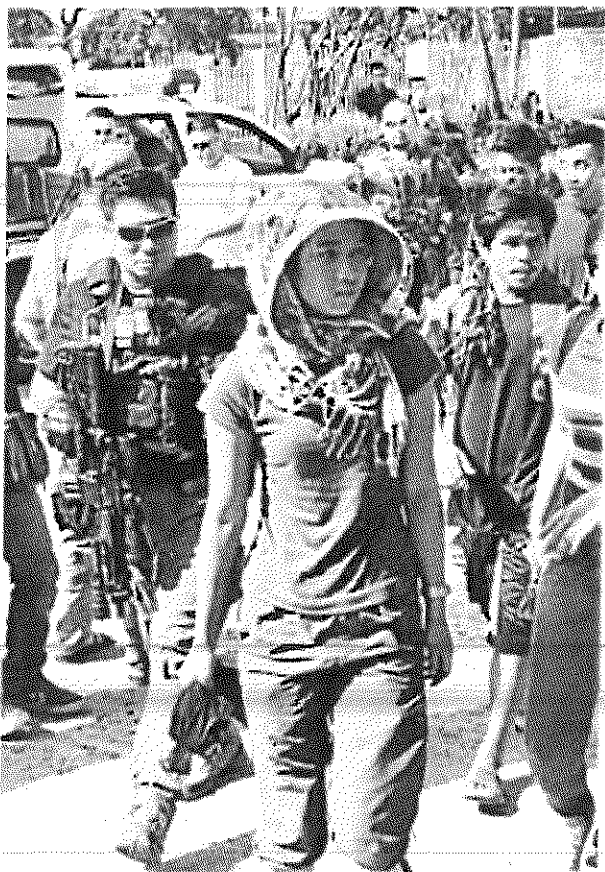
Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., head of the Western Mindanao Command, based in Zamboanga City, said the military “would continue to employ a diplomatic approach” in recovering unlicensed firearms.

Police continued to enforce laws against illegal firearms and arrested a man roaming in the town of Buadipuso-Buntong in Lanao del Sur, with an unlicensed gun. —*Jeffrey Maitem, with a report from Divina Suson*

www.inquirer.net

UP Cebu masscom graduate captured, tagged as red

05:17 AM March 05, 2018



ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS Soldiers escort Myles Albasin, a mass communication graduate of the University of the Philippines-Cebu, and her companions to the prosecutor's office in Dumaguete City to be charged with illegal possession of firearms. —FLORENCE BAESA/CEBU DAILY NEWS

BACOLOD CITY — Charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives were filed against six alleged communist rebels who were captured in Mabinay town, Negros Oriental on Saturday.

The six were brought to the Hall of Justice in the capital city of Dumaguete in Negros Oriental on Sunday to undergo inquest proceedings on the complaint filed against them by the military.

The military claimed that four M-16 assault rifles, with M-203 grenade launcher and two M-4 assault rifles were seized from them when they were captured.

They were later detained at the Negros Oriental Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center after they refused the inquest proceedings and opted to undergo preliminary investigation.

Meeting with farmers

In a radio interview, Myles Albasin, one of the arrested suspects, admitted she and her companions were in a remote community in the village of Luyang, Mabinay town, Negros Oriental to discuss poverty with farmers there.

She denied that the firearms seized by soldiers belonged to them. She said the guns belonged to the "organization." She declined to elaborate.

Albasin, 21, and a native of Cagayan de Oro City, was a graduate of mass communications at the University of the Philippines-Cebu College.

Arrested with her were Carlo Ybañez, 18, Mandaue City, Cebu; Ajomar Indico, 29 and Randel Hermino, 19, of Himamaylan City in Negros Occidental; Joel Bayloysis, 18, of Mabinay and Bernard Guillen, 18, of Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental.

Chance encounter

Lt. Col. Darrel Banes, 62nd Infantry Battalion commanding officer, claimed that soldiers captured the suspects on their way to Mabinay to check on reports of rebel extortion.

The soldiers, said Banes, was met with gunfire which prompted them to fire back.

After a 45-minute clash, soldiers captured the suspects, including Albasin.

While studying in Cebu, Albasin was a member of progressive groups allied with the left.

After graduating last year, she became secretary general of the Cebu provincial chapter of Anakbayan, according to Joisa Cesista, the group's current chair.

But Cesista said the group had not heard from her, following a meeting with lumad and Moro groups in August.

'Publicity stunt'

The Nagkahiusang Kusog sa Estudyante, a leftist student organization in UP Cebu, said it refused to accept the military's "publicity stunt."

In its Facebook page, the group said Albasin was "steadfast in the struggle of the exploited and oppressed masses."

It said the "heightening crisis" was forcing people, especially the youth, into taking up "an advanced form of struggle."

In rejecting peace talks with the rebels, President Duterte earlier vowed to crush the New People's Army (NPA) and run after so-called "legal fronts" of the rebel group.

In Agusan del Norte, the military arrested a couple allegedly behind the recruitment of minors into the NPA.

NPA recruiters

1st Lt. Teresita Ingente, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said Aladin Apolinaria, 49 and his wife, Luzviminda, 45, were arrested in the village of Mahayahay on Saturday.

Ingente tagged the Apolinaria as members of the NPA's Guerrilla Front 16, operating in Northern Mindanao. —*REPORTS FROM FLORENCE BAESA, JOSE SANTINO BUNACHITA, CARLA GOMEZ, ERWIN MASCARINAS AND LEAH AGONoy*