

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



**TEAM ARMY**

**Serving the people. Securing the land.**

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**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**11 March 2018**

**Sunday**

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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MARCH 11, 2018 | SUNDAY**

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON at 5:00 am - March 10, 2018

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
6:07 AM	6:06 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
1:24 AM	12:59 PM
<b>LAST QUARTER</b> MAR 9 7:20 PM	<b>NEW MOON</b> MAR 17 8:12 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 1:09 AM 0.03 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> 4:58 PM 0.78 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Light rains

	MAR 10	MAR 11	MAR 12	MAR 13	MAR 14
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	24-31°C	24-32°C	22-29°C	22-29°C	24-30°C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	21-30°C	22-31°C	24-30°C	25-31°C	23-31°C
<b>LAOAG</b>	23-31°C	23-32°C	24-33°C	25-33°C	24-33°C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	14-25°C	14-25°C	26-31°C	25-32°C	24-33°C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	24-33°C	25-33°C	24-31°C	25-31°C	24-33°C
<b>TAGAYTAY</b>					
<b>LEGAZPI</b>					
<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>					
<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>					
<b>METRO CEBU</b>					
<b>TACLOBAN</b>					
<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>					
<b>METRO DAVAO</b>					
<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>					

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11 AM & 5 PM

SARGT. NO. PADALA MOT

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

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# DFA hits UN officials: No need for insults

By JANVIC MATEO  
and CHRISTINA MENDEZ

It was “irresponsible and disrespectful” of the United Nations human rights chief to say that President Duterte needs a psychiatric evaluation, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said on Friday.

In a statement, Cayetano also defended Duterte, saying the world needs more leaders like him who has empathy for the people and is ready to sacrifice his life to protect them.

“The Philippines takes grave exception to the irresponsible and disrespectful comments of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights that cast untoward aspersions regarding the President of the Republic of the Philippines,” Cayetano said.

“This action of High Commissioner Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussein is completely uncalled for and demeans not only the head of state of a member-state, but tarnishes the reputation of the Office of the High Commissioner,” he added.

Cayetano made the statement even as Duterte himself kept hurling insults at his critics, including UN special rapporteur for extrajudicial killings Agnes Callamard and International Criminal Court prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, whom he called “the undernourished one” and “that black woman,” respectively.

Turn to Page 2

## DFA From Page 1

The DFA did not respond when asked if Cayetano communicated with UN officials regarding the recent insults made by Duterte.

In his statement, the DFA chief said the comments of Zeid have brought great dishonor to the Human Rights Council, as there is supposedly no reason for such "unmeasured outburst" directed at Duterte.

Zeid on Friday said Duterte may need "to submit himself to some sort of psychiatric evaluation" after his government included UN special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz - a Filipino national - in the list of alleged communists that it wants declared as terrorists.

He also criticized Duterte over his use of profanity

against Callamard, a critic of his administration's war against illegal drugs.

"This is absolutely disgraceful that the president of a country could speak in this way, using the foulest of language against a rapporteur that is highly respected," Zeid was quoted as saying. Cayetano accused Zeid of overstepping his mandate when he made the comments.

"The Philippines is perturbed over the manner in which a ranking UN human rights official can overstep his mandate and insult leaders of member-states without first giving them due process," he said.

"This could set a dangerous precedent that the council would have to immediately address as otherwise member-

states could also fall victim to those who seek to politicize and weaponize human rights to undermine legitimate governments," the DFA chief added.

### Destabilization

Cayetano also warned Zeid against letting groups use him for their efforts to destabilize the Duterte administration.

"The High Commissioner may not be aware of it, but he is being used in a well-orchestrated effort to destabilize a legitimate government that is being undertaken by parties with self-serving agendas and who stand to benefit the most by unseating President Duterte," he said.

Cayetano did not provide details regarding the supposed destabilization, a claim often used by Duterte's allies to counter criticisms against some of the policies of the administration.

The secretary earlier called

on the UN Human Rights Council not to allow the issue of human rights to be politicized or weaponized.

He maintained that the view of the international community would change if they witness firsthand the situation in the Philippines rather than listening to the reports of critics of Duterte.

His administration has been claiming it's open to an investigation - but not by one led by Callamard.

Moreover, he had directed security forces not to answer questions from any rapporteur investigating his administration's human rights record.

In Iloilo, presidential spokesman Harry Roque also lambasted Zeid, saying the latter's remarks about Duterte was uncalled for and an affront to Philippine sovereignty.

He even called Zeid's attention to the fact that unlike the Philippines where leaders are elected, Jordan's leaders

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are determined by succession: Zeid is a Jordanian prince.

"I will reiterate, however, that such language directed against a democratically-elected head of a UN member-country is uncalled for and is, of course, an affront on the sovereignty of the Republic of the Philippines," he said.

"Your language is not just an insult to the Philippines and the Filipino people. It is an insult to all countries who have democratically elected their heads of states," Roque said, addressing Zeid.

"Now, this classification of rapporteur Corpuz has also resorted into very harsh language coming from the Prince of Jordan, who is also the high commissioner on human rights," Roque said in a briefing in Iloilo.

"I reiterate that the language used by the high commissioner is uncalled for. I am very tempted to respond in similar language but I have

opted to restrain myself, opting not to respond in the same admonishment used by the UN High Commissioner," the presidential spokesman added.

Roque said he wanted to believe that Zeid may have misread President Duterte's actuations.

"I will, however, state that perhaps the UN High Commissioner's language is because of the fact that they do not have democracy in the state of Jordan. Jordan's leader is not elected unlike our President and so my message to the High Commissioner is: We respect our President in this country because we gave him a democratic mandate to lead," Roque maintained.

"And I would hope that although you do not have the same democratic system in your home country of Jordan, you will respect the kind of democracy that we have in the Philippines," he added.

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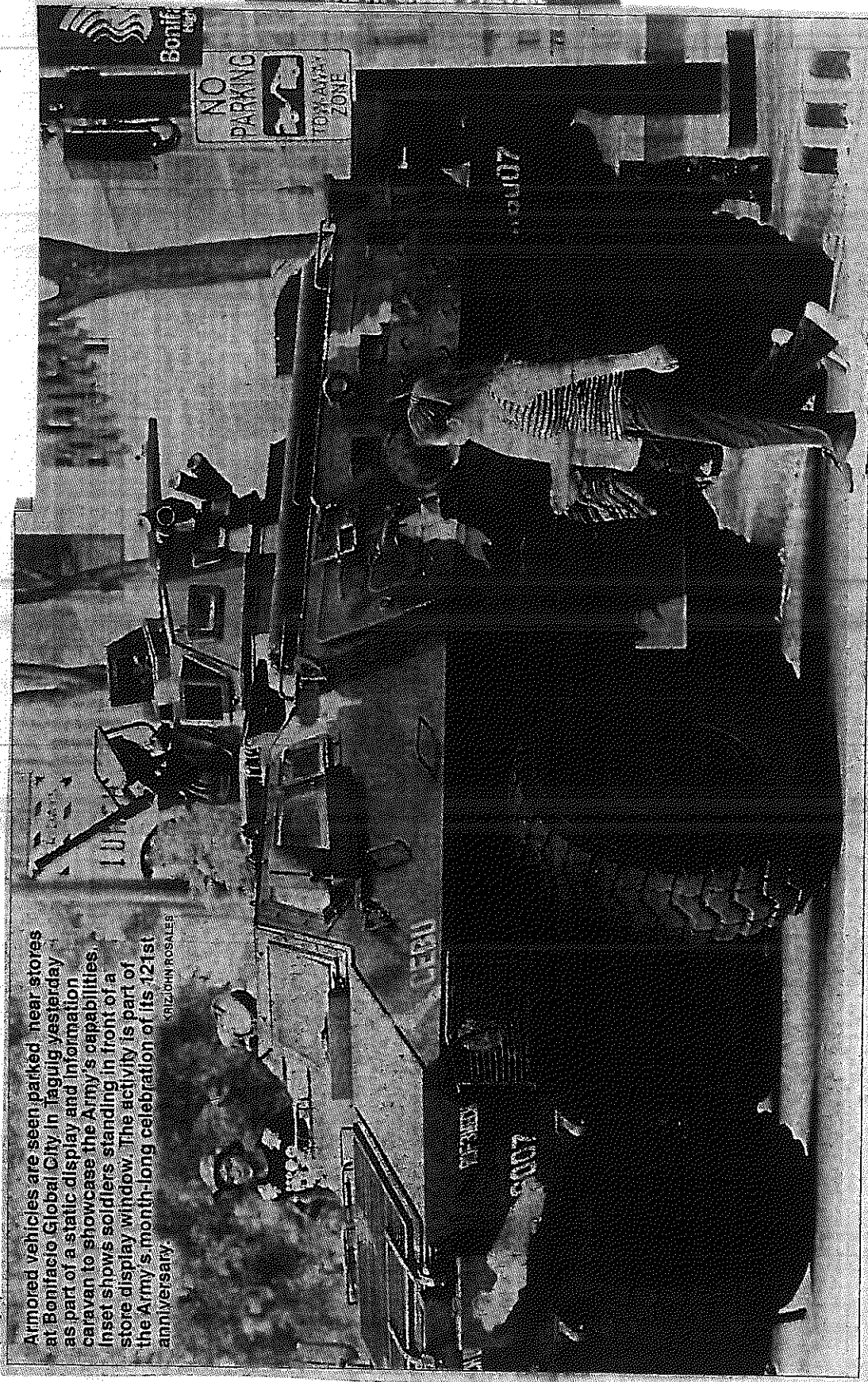
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# THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL



Armored vehicles are seen parked near stores at Bonifacio Global City in Taguig yesterday as part of a static display and information caravan to showcase the Army's capabilities meet shows soldiers standing in front of a store display window. The activity is part of the Army's month-long celebration of its 121st anniversary.

CRIZLON ROSALES

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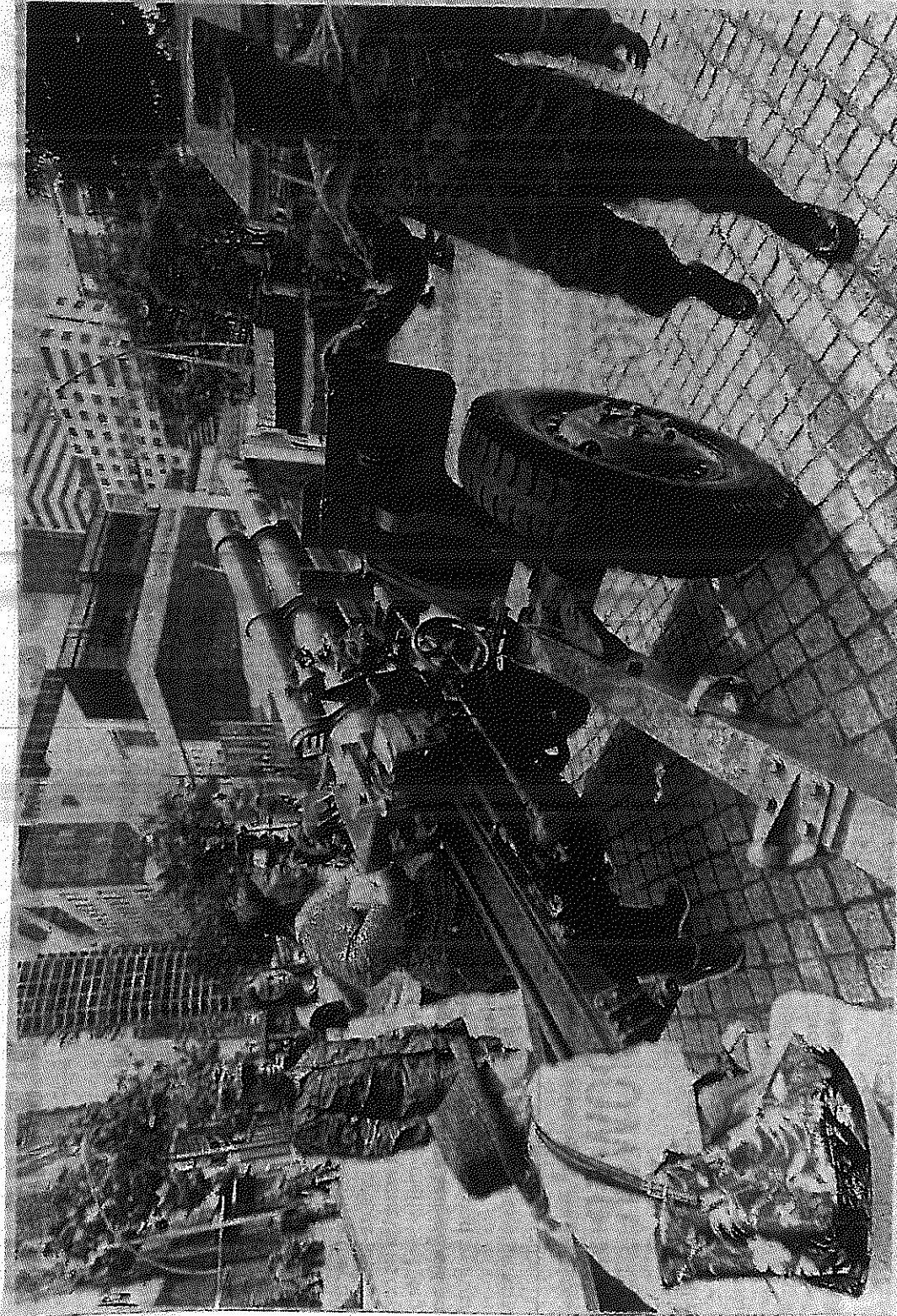
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Manila  
**Standard**

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**MILITARY HARDWARE.** Promenaders take a close look at the static display of military hardware during the Philippine Army information caravan that showcases the Army's capabilities at the posh Bonifacio Global City in Metro Manila on Saturday. The activity is part of the Army's month-long celebration of its 121st anniversary. **Norman Cruz**

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The Manila Times

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### ARMY CARAVAN

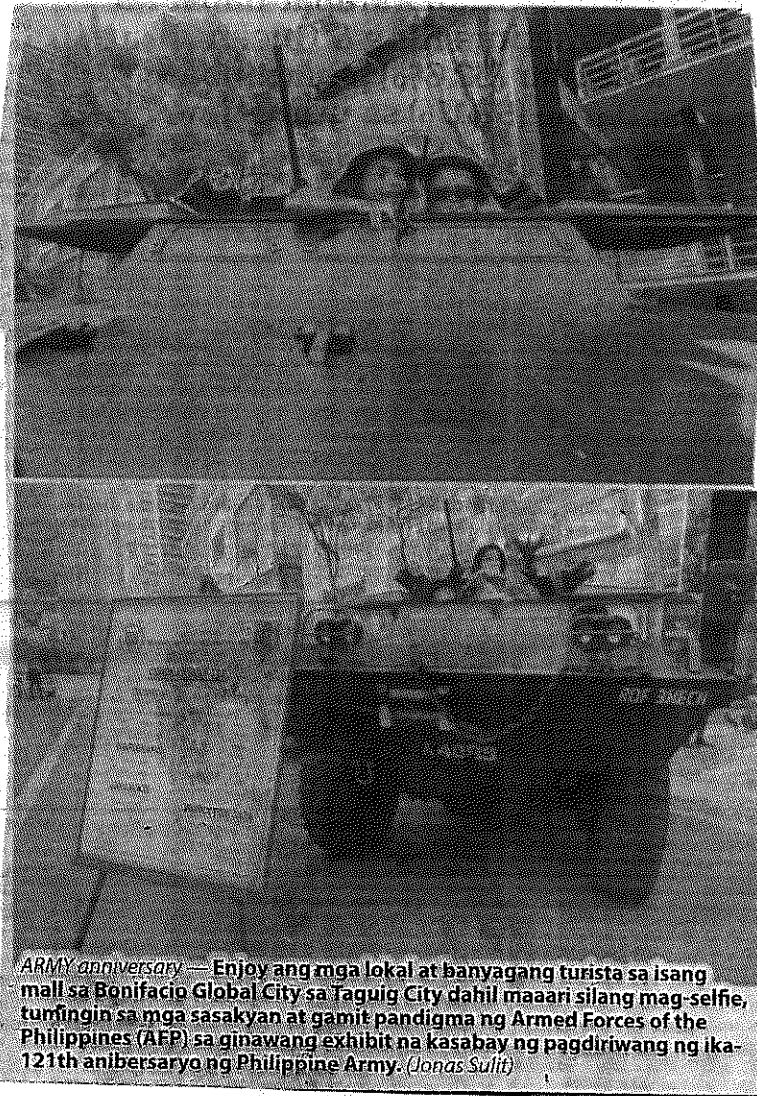
A woman poses for a selfie on an armored personnel carrier during the information caravan mounted by the Philippine Army. The event held at the Bonifacio Global City is part of the month-long celebration of the Army's 121st anniversary. PHOTO BY RUSSELL PALMA



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Pahina. 5



**ARMY anniversary** — Enjoy ang mga lokal at banyagang turista sa isang mall sa Bonifacio Global City sa Taguig City dahil maaari silang mag-selfie, tumingin sa mga sasakyan at gamit pandigma ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa ginawang exhibit na kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng ika-121th anibersaryo ng Philippine Army. (Jonas Sulit)

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## Terror groups incapable of attacks right now – AFP

Local terrorist groups do not have the capability to launch any hostile activity as of this time, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has said.

“Their strength has been reduced significantly and recruitment efforts have not been gaining ground as local populace, through the efforts of the local government units and AFP, has been made aware on preventing and countering violent extremism,” Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Datuin said in a message to the *Philippine News Agency* late Friday.

Datuin was asked to comment on reports that a terror group calling itself the Abdullah Al Islamiah is recruiting and planning to conduct Marawi-like attacks on several key cities in Mindanao.

The AFP and other security forces, he said, are monitoring and securing all urban centers and possible venues of attack.

Datuin earlier said they are not dismissing the possibility of an increase in terrorist activities in Mindanao following reports that Maute Group sub-leader Abu Dar has taken over the leadership of the Islamic State in Southeast Asia.

“It may be possible, but we are, as I said, we are closely guarding, monitoring all the metropolis, the urban areas to make sure that they could not make any attempt in so far as terrorist activities (and) plans are concerned,” he stressed.

Dar is said to have assumed command of the IS in Southeast Asia

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### IS fanatics regrouping

Soldiers stand next to their armored personnel carriers as they man a checkpoint along a highway near the clash site between government troops and Islamic militants in Datu Saudi Ampatuan town, Maguindanao province. The Armed Forces said at least eight Islamic militants were killed in an operation to stop jihadist efforts to set up base in the country's south following the deadly five-month siege of Marawi City last year.

AFP

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# Terror groups incapable of attacks right now – AFP

From page 1

following the death of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon on Oct. 16 last year during military efforts to retake Marawi City from the hands of the Maute Group terrorists.

Militants from the Maute group were routed from Marawi last October after a five-month battle sparked by its bid to establish an IS caliphate in the largely Catholic country's southern Mindanao region.

The military, however, warned last week that remaining members of the group have recruited about 200 gunmen to mount another attempt.

The Dawlatul Islamiyah, or Dawlah-Islamiya as designated by the Department of Defense, is a smaller faction also based in Mindanao.

"We are profoundly committed to preventing ISIS from gaining (a) foothold in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia, and we should continue working together on this objective," Foreign Undersecretary Ernesto Abella has earlier said, using an acronym for IS.

The AFP has been making efforts

to prevent and counter violent extremism (PCVE) in Mindanao is making headway as 575 assorted firearms were seized this year.

"Notable of these is the gains from seven municipalities in Sulu that surrendered 187 loose firearms on 6 March 2018, and other places in ZamBaSulta (Zamboanga, Basilan, Sultan Kudarat) area which is a manifestation of local government units' cooperation in PCVE efforts of the national government," AFP public affairs office chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia said in a statement.

Also, the Western Mindanao Command (WMC) reported that the municipal and barangay officials from Talipao, Parang, Omar, Indanan, Maimbung, Jolo, and Patikul, Sulu turned over nine M-14 rifles, three .30 caliber Browning Automatic Rifles (BAR), nine M-79 grenade launchers, 64 M-16 rifles, three AR-15 rifles, 93 M-1 Garand rifles, four M-203 grenade launchers, and two .45 cal. pistols.

Talipao Mayor Nebukadnezar said the group surrendered the most

firearms, with 60 high and low-powered firearms, consisting of 41 M-16 rifles, three AR-15 rifles, 12 M-1 Garand rifles, two M-79 grenade launchers, one BAR and one M-14 rifle.

From January 1 to March 3 this year, 192 assorted firearms were surrendered in Zamboanga City, 52 in Sulu, 30 in Zamboanga Peninsula and Lanao Provinces, and 114 in Central Mindanao.

The AFP's ongoing campaign to recover loose firearms aims to prevent clan wars, disarm private armed groups, and deny local terror groups access to weapons.

The AFP also concluded on March 3 the cascading of PCVE programs to the Unified Commands in Mindanao.

"The PCVE program gives emphasis on stakeholder engagements and interagency coordination to deny violent extremists of the opportunity to recruit new members. This program is in collaboration with local government units, religious scholars and prominent clans to appropriately address issues being used by violent extremists for recruitment," Garcia said.

recruitment," Garcia said.

Through this program, Garcia said the AFP is also enhancing the Joint AFP-PNP Civil Relations Committee. Projects such as the National Youth Leadership Summit and National Indigenous Peoples' Leaders' Summit have also been conducted early this year to make the youth and the indigenous peoples (IP) resilient from violent extremism.

Meanwhile, the military has neutralized 51 Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorists in Western Mindanao in the first 65 days of 2018.

Reports from the WMC showed that seven terrorists were killed, eight were apprehended, and 36 have surrendered from January 1 to March 6 this year.

The AFP also recovered 49 firearms from ASG members, 15 of which were recovered in combat operations.

"The AFP through WMC will continue the pressure and sustain the strategic alliance with stakeholders in eradicating the ASG menace and terror threats in Western Mindanao and nationwide," Garcia said.

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Pahina. 5

## AFP minaliit ang kakayahang umatake ng mga terorista

MALABO nang makapaglunsad ng anumang mga teroristic activity ang mga local terrorist group sa bansa.

Ito ang reaksyon ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Spokesperson Brigadier General Bienvenido Datun dahil sa kagustuhan ng gobyerno na ikonsiderang terorista si Communist Party

of the Philippines (CPP) founding Chairman Jose Maria Sison at 648 pang indibidwal.

Iginiit ni Datun na nabawasan na ang puwersa ng mga kalabang terorista at hindi na rin aktibo ang kanilang recruitment dahil maging ang lokal na pamahalaan ay nakikipagtulungan upang

mapigilan ang kanilang pag-recruit.

"The local terrorist groups have no capacity to launch any hostile activities at this point in time. Their strength have been reduced significantly and recruitment efforts have not been gaining ground as local populace through the efforts of the LGUs

and AFP have been made aware on preventing and countering violent extremism," pahayag ni Datun.

Timyak din ng opisyal na mas mahigpit ang pagbabantay ng militar sa mga urban center na batay sa kanilang monitoring ay target na atakihin ng mga terorista **(Red Fortaleza)**

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## WESCOM ACTIVATES JOINT TASK GROUP

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Palawan—The Army's Western Command on Saturday activated a joint task group on urban security operations, scaling up Puerto Princesa's security and safety against any threat of lawless elements.

Capt. Cherry Tindog, Wescom spokesperson, said the Joint Task Group Puerto Princesa will be under the operational control of Joint Task Force Peacock, the ground component in the military command's Joint Area of Operations.

"Under the leadership of its newly appointed commander, Lt. Col. Dante Robert Graspari, the JTGGP is in charge of the conduct of Internal Peace and Security Operations in Puerto Princesa City, complementing the security efforts of Joint Task Groups North and South, thereby covering the entire province of Palawan," she said.

The task group shall also conduct mobile and foot patrols in commercial centers, points of convergence, and other vital installations and facilities.

"It shall also provide security coverage at the airport, seaport, wharves and other points of entry through waterways. It shall also conduct random riverine checkpoints and security patrols to deny entry to lawless elements," Tindog said.

The activation occurred at the headquarters of the 3rd Marine Brigade in Barangay Tiniguiban. It was done in the presence of Lt. Gen. Rozzano Briguez, commander of Wescom as presiding officer, and Puerto Princesa Mayor Lucilo Bayron as guest of honor.

"The City of Puerto Princesa is grateful for the activation of the Joint Task Group Puerto Princesa because of the security it will provide to our constituents. It gives us the assurance that the City is safe for all local residents and tourists," Bayron said. **PNA**

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## Abu Sayyaf linked to mass kidnap arrested in Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Joint police and military operatives arrested an alleged Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) member believed to be involved in the kidnapping of 53 people in Basilan province 18 years ago, a top police official announced yesterday.

Chief Supt. Billy Beltran, Police Regional Office 9 (Zamboanga) director, identified the suspect as Masser Lim Omar, 57, resident of Barangay Pangayan, Malamawi Island, Isabela City, Basilan.

Beltran said Omar, who was arrested in his residence in Malamawi Island at about 2:30 a.m. Saturday, has a standing warrant of arrest for kidnapping and serious illegal detention with ransom, with no recommended bail.

He said the suspect was involved in the March 21, 2000 kidnapping of 53 people, including slain Claretian priest, Fr. Roel Gallardo, from a school in Barangay Tumahunong, Sumisip, Basilan.

The other victims included teachers and students, who were herded to an ASG camp in Mount Punch Mohaji, Sumisip. The Abu Sayyaf bandits executed Gallardo and some of the hostages, including two teachers.

The other hostages were later released in batches in exchange for food supply and "tokens" while the rest were rescued by the military in an assault that saw the fall of the ASG camp.

**PNA**



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# ABAT: FORGED BY MINDANAO, FROM WARRIOR TO PEACEMAKER

By Nikko Dizon  
@NikkoDizonINQ

**F**ormer Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat, known in the military as a warrior who tried to quell the rebellion in Central Mindanao when it was just starting in the 1970s, passed away on Wednesday night. He was 92.

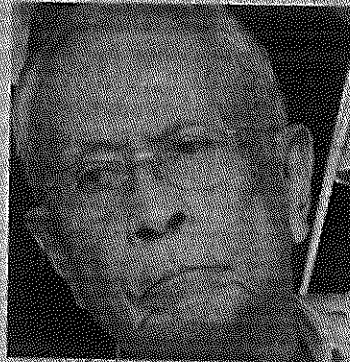
His eldest son, Victor, said that Abat had been confined at Veterans Memorial Medical Center since Jan. 25. "His heart was giving up," he added. Old age finally caught up with the man who, in many respects, was part of the country's history.

In a statement, Department of National Defense (DND) spokesperson Arsemio Andolong said the DND "mourns the loss of (the) former Defense Secretary and commanding general of the Philippine Army... We thank him for his service to the nation."

Abat, a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1951, was married to the former Corazon Bulatao, a teacher from San Carlos, Pangasinan. They had six children.

Musing on his father's long life, Victor described it as "already a bonus."

Former President Fidel Ramos, who fought in the Kore-



Fortunato Abat – RAFFY LERMA

an War with Abat, managed to visit his longtime friend and key ally in the hospital. Abat later became Ramos' defense secretary for nine months, until Ramos' term ended on June 30, 1998.

### Peace negotiator

Before taking on the defense portfolio, Abat served as chief peace negotiator for the Ramos administration's talks with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which led to a peace agreement. (The Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF]—the breakaway secessionist group formed in the aftermath of the government and MNLF's peace pact—also forged peace with the government in 2012.)

The chief peace negotiator's role brought Abat back to the



Former defense chief Fortunato Abat, shown here talking with members of an armed rebel group, is hailed by retired generals both as a great warrior and a peace negotiator. Abat passed away on March 7 at age 92. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

early days of the MNLF separatist war when he led the pacification campaign to quell the brewing rebellion.

For this, Abat gained the respect of the military, many of whom, like retired Lt. Gen. Alan Luga, fought in the conflict years later. Hours after Abat died, Luga paid tribute to the man by posting several pictures of him as a young military commander rallying his troops in the field and exchanging salutes with fellow officials like Luga's own father, retired

Gen. Emilio Luga Jr.

Other soldiers gave their final salute to Abat in heartfelt social media posts.

"One of the few great warriors who answered the call when the going was at its roughest in Mindanao. Rest in peace, Sir!" wrote former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, retired Gen. Alexander Yano, on Luga's post.

Abat was in charge "the day we almost lost Mindanao," Yano said, quoting the title of Abat's book.

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At the start of the MNLF rebellion in many parts of Mindanao, several rebel groups had taken control of many areas. The AFP troops were few and ill-prepared to meet a full-blown rebellion in the early '70s," recalled Yano, who graduated from the PMA in 1976.

As one of the senior military officials during martial law, Abat was directed by then President Ferdinand Marcos to organize the Central Command (Centcom) from Cebu to respond to the rebellion.

#### **Turned the tide**

"Centcom commander, General Abat commanded the troops and turned the tide thus saving Mindanao from being severed from the Republic," Yano said.

Luga, of PMA '81, said the Centcom became "the forerunner of Southern Command, from where the concept of the present unified commands was based. Abat's leadership pacified Central Mindanao in the 1970s."

Abat went on to become the Army commanding general. It was during his term that his sons Victor, of PMA '77, and Tito, of PMA '78, began their early years as soldiers.

Tito was a second lieutenant when he was killed in action in

Samar in 1979. Said Victor, "Daddy, as the Army chief at that time, could have assigned Tito somewhere where it was safer but he allowed his sons to go where the conflict was. He never gave us any special treatment."

Even after his retirement from the military in 1981, and from government civilian service years later, Abat remained involved in several veterans, civic and business organizations.

#### **Idealistic**

He was also active in the country's political affairs, and called for the resignation of then Presidents Joseph Ejercito Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative, when both became embroiled in corruption allegations.

Abat was arrested in 2005 for declaring a revolutionary government and installing himself as its President.

"Daddy was very idealistic," Victor said, recalling with a chuckle how "vocal" his father was during the Arroyo presidency.

Abat lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. Interment will be on Tuesday, March 13, at Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig, INQ.

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# PAF revives air defense exercise

By JAIME LAUDE

Shelved 23 years ago after losing its supersonic capabilities, the Philippine Air Force (PAF) has revived its air defense training exercises in highlighting the capabilities of its newly-acquired FA50PH fighter jets from South Korea.

The PAF also deployed its S211 trainer jets in the three-day air defense training dubbed as "Sanay Sibat" held over Central Luzon from Feb. 26 to 28 with Clark Air Base in Pampanga as the staging area of the air exercise aimed at gauging fighter pilots' air combat readiness.

"Sanay Sibat is a simulated air defense exercise aimed primarily at honing the flying skills and air tactics of the PAF fighter pilots using supersonic fighter aircraft equipped with modern radar, avionics and weapon systems," Maj. Aristides Galang Jr. said.

With the PAF now regaining its supersonic capabilities, this type of training exercises has been programmed to be held semi annually, Galang said.

During the three-day exercise, PAF fighter pilots honed their skills in dealing with five air combat scenarios to include suppression of enemy air defense, tactical air intercept and combat air patrol.

This year's training was organized into two opposing forces with 580th Aircraft Control and Warning Wing and the Philippine Air Defense Control Center as controlling agencies.

Playing the blue force or the defenders are the FA50PHs fighting eagles from the 7th Tactical Fighter Squadron Bulldogs, while S211s from the 105th Fighter Training Squadron acted as the red force, or the aggressors.

Culminating the three-day event was a tactical demonstration flight

over Clark Field, with Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar flying at 40,000 feet aboard one of the FA50PH exercise fighter aircraft.

Prior to the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and the subsequent closure of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City, America's biggest military facilities outside of the US mainland in the early 90s, both Filipino and US fighter pilots regularly trained together with now Chinese-occupied Panatag Shoal off the coast of Zambales as one of their bombing targets.

Meanwhile, Sen. Sonny Angara is pushing to transform the Philippine Marines from the Navy into an independent service branch of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

In filing Senate Bill 1731, Angara said the Marines could play a crucial role in protecting the country's territorial waters amid the West Philippine Sea and Philippine Rise disputes.

"The country's archipelagic makeup necessitates the need for a comprehensive yet rapidly deployable amphibious force primarily mandated to conduct seaborne and on-shore tactical operations to protect the country's territories, communities and inhabitants," Angara said.

Under Angara's bill, the Marines would become the fourth service branch of the AFP that is equal and mutually independent of the Army, Navy and PAF.

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"Despite the lack of charter, the Marine Corps has provided seamless transition of military power between sea and land domains. After their heroism in Marawi and past battles, it's high time that we reward and recognize their achievements through its institutionalization," Angara said.

The Marines would include ground combat, combat support, combat service support, aviation component and such other units as may be necessary for the pursuit of its mandate.

"Just like the United States

Marine Corps and the British Royal Marines, the Philippine Marine Corps is considered the shock force of the armed forces and is the first unit to be involved in any amphibious or seaborne clashes," said Angara, who is a member of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) Board of Advisers.

The bill also calls for the establishment of PMC headquarters in all three major regions of the country with the command center in Mindanao serving as its national headquarters. - With Marvin Sy

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# Concom to tackle Phl territory

By **ROBERTZON RAMIREZ**

The Consultative Committee (Concom) tasked by President Duterte to review the 1987 Constitution is set to deliberate on national territory next week.

Retired Supreme Court associate justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura, chair of the Concom subcommittee on a federal structure, said the members have to discuss the national territory to determine the extent of the country's jurisdiction as stated under Article I of the Constitution.

Nachura also said national territory is one of the items that the Concom will

deliberate on in a closed-door meeting as it has national security implications.

"I am sure that all that is happening now will be taken into consideration when we discuss the matter of territory dispute," he said, referring to the South China Sea dispute.

The Philippines, China and other countries in Southeast Asia have overlapping claims in the South China Sea.

A few months after Duterte was elected, the Arbitral Tribunal based in The Hague, Netherlands ruled in favor of the Philippines' claim. But China still continued its construction activities in the disputed islands.

Asked to comment on Duterte's apparent inclination to China, Nachura said the Concom will defend whatever it recommends as far as the territorial dispute with China is concerned.

Nachura also expressed optimism that Duterte will not try to influence the committee.

Concom members met on Thursday at the Philippine International Convention Center. They deliberated on national and international security situation.

Nachura refused to discuss details of the deliberation as it requires utmost confidentiality.

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## 'Terror tag vs UN expert has basis'

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano insisted there is basis for the inclusion of UN special rapporteur on indigenous people Victoria Tauli-Corpuz in the list of alleged communists whom the Philippine government wants to be declared as terrorists.

Defending the move,

Cayetano said Tauli-Corpuz - a Filipino - was included in the list not because of her position as special rapporteur but due to her alleged links with the Ilocos-Cordillera Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army.

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## Terror From Page 1

(CPP-NPA)

“Ms Tauli-Corpuz and the other individuals mentioned in the petition are there because of their membership in or association with the CPP-NPA as reported over the years by the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines,” Cayetano said on Friday.

“If indeed Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and the others named in the petition are innocent as they claim they are, they should see this as an opportunity to clear their names and prove in court that they have never been members of or associated with the group,” he added.

Cayetano said the decision of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to file a petition before a Manila court is in accordance with the Human Security Act of 2007.

He noted the CPP-NPA is among the list of terrorist organizations of the United States and the European Union.

Cayetano made the statement in response to critics who called out the Philippine government over the inclusion of Tauli-Corpuz in the list of some 600 individuals, including exiled CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison and chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni.

Also named were Sison's wife Juliet del Lima, Jalandoni's wife Connie Ledesma, former Bayan Muna representative Satur Ocampo and alleged CPP leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, Rafael Baylisis, Randal Echaris, Vicente Ladlad and Adelberto Silva.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Sison should just answer the petition in-

stead of muddling the issue.

Roque said Sison should avail of legal remedies and if he claims President Duterte is the number one terrorist, then he should file a similar petition with the court.

Roque also assured the international community that the Philippine government has enough evidence to pin down Tauli-Corpuz.

He also appealed to the United Nations Council to conduct an intensified background check on the personalities they appoint as special rapporteurs.

“I assure everyone including the international community that this is not a witch hunt on UN special rapporteurs,” Roque said.

“Instead, perhaps, the UN rapporteur system should fine tune its selection process to ensure that individuals identified with terrorist groups are not given any mandate by the UN Human Rights Council,” he added.

### Retaliation

Among those who criticized the Philippines were Tauli-Corpuz's fellow rapporteurs, who said her inclusion is a retaliation for her statements condemning violations against indigenous peoples in Mindanao.

“We are shocked that the special rapporteur is being targeted because of her work defending the rights of indigenous peoples,” read the statement signed by UN special rapporteur for situation of human rights defenders Michel Forst and Coordination Committee of the UN Special Procedures chair Catalina Devandas Aguilar.

“The accusation against her comes after the public comments made, jointly with other special rapporteurs, in relation to the militarization, attacks and killings of indigenous lumad peoples by members of the armed forces in Mindanao; this accusation is considered as an act of retaliation for such comments,” they added.

Commission on Human Rights (CHR) chairman Chito Gascon also criticized the inclusion of Tauli-Corpuz, saying she is entitled to immunities and protection accorded to experts of the UN system.

“The Philippines has a particular duty to ensure her safety and security,” Gascon said.

“I join the call for these charges against her to be dropped in order that she may remain unhindered in performing her mandate here and elsewhere she may be called upon to undertake her investigations,” he added.

In their joint statement, the UN experts noted the Philippine government's obligation under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations that provide experts from immunity from legal proceedings of every kind.

They added that as a human rights defender, the Philippines also has the duty to guarantee her right to promote and to strive for the realization of human rights.

“We call on the Philippine authorities to immediately drop these unfounded accusations against Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and to ensure her physical safety and that of others listed,” the UN experts said.

“The attack against the special rapporteur is taking place

in the context of widespread extrajudicial executions and ongoing attacks against voices who are critical of the current government, including human rights defenders. The President has himself publicly intimidated special rapporteurs,” they added.

Human rights group Karapatan also slammed the DOJ petition, likening it to the military's order of battle list of personalities that must be neutralized.

Karapatan added the Philippine government has just purchased \$200,000 worth of surveillance equipment from a British security firm.

“There is significant possibility that the said British spyware sold by the UK to the Duterte government will be used, if not being already used illegally, against activists and human rights defenders, whether or not their names are in the said proscription list,” said Karapatan secretary-general Cristina Palabay.

Karapatan said the DOJ list of suspected communist rebels is “severely defective” as it contains only aliases.

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) secretary general Antonio Flores also described the DOJ petition as a “poison list.”

“This poison list disguising as petition filed by the DOJ is actually a kill list and an arrest list. Anyone can be a target of extrajudicial killing or illegal arrest using this DOJ petition as a pretext,” Flores said.

“There are hundreds of names in the petition, many are aliases that were obviously invented by the DOJ and its sources,” he added.

### Not true

Tauli-Corpuz denied being a member of the CPP-NPA.

"I denounce this act by the Department of Justice of including me in the list," she said. "I am not connected at all in anyway to those organizations nor do I have any knowledge, much less participation, with the alleged incidents cited in the petition."

Tauli-Corpuz said she is currently consulting with lawyers to address the "baseless, malicious and irresponsible" inclusion of her name in the list.

She vowed to make accountable those people who put her life and security at risk with her inclusion in the list.

Malacañang had accused Tauli-Corpuz and Filipina special rapporteur for internally displaced people Cecilia Jimenez-Damary of embarrassing the country in the international stage for their statements criticizing the status of indigenous peoples in Mindanao.

The two rapporteurs warned that the ongoing militarization of Mindanao is having a massive and potentially irreversible impact on the human rights of some of the island's indigenous lumad

communities.

"We urge the Philippines to observe its obligations under international law to protect the human rights of indigenous peoples, including in the context of armed conflict. The authorities must ensure that all human rights abuses are halted and that there is justice and accountability for past attacks," they said in a statement.

"This includes killings and attacks allegedly carried out by members of the armed forces against the indigenous communities," added the rapporteurs.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the two Filipino rapporteurs are embarrassing the Duterte administration when they publicly expressed concern on the possible escalation of militarization in Mindanao.

He said the two special rapporteurs should have documented the cases of alleged rights abuses and brought these cases to proper authorities instead of making a public statement. – Janvic Mateo, Christina Mendez, Rhodina Villanueva, Artemio Dumfao, Marc Jayson Cayabyab



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### **Abu bandit arrested in Basilan**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – An Abu Sayyaf bandit tagged in the kidnapping of teachers and their students 18 years ago was arrested in Basilan yesterday.

Masser Lim Omar, 57, was collared by personnel of the Isabela City police, 15th Special Forces Company, Maritime Police and 304th Philippine Air Force intelligence unit at his residence on Malawali island at about 2:30 a.m.

Chief Superintendent Billy Beltran, Zamboanga peninsula police director, said the arrest was based on a warrant issued by a court in Pasig City.

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### **Marines, ika-4 na sangay ng AFP?**

Isinulong na sa Senado ang panukalang batas na naglalayong gawing ika-apat na sangay ng Sandatahang Lakas ang Philippine Marine Corps (PMC). Ayon kay Sen. Sonny Angara, ang PMC ay dapat bigyan ng patas na lakas at kapangyarihan, tulad ng taglay na pwera ng tatlong umiiral na sangay ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na kinabibilangan ng Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force at Philippine Navy. Layunin ng Senate Bill 1731 ni Angara na palakasin ang hanay ng PMC na sa kasalukuyan ay isang naval infantry force ng Philippine Navy. (Malou Escudera)

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POLICE FILES

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# Duterte numero unong terorista sa bansa - Sison

**BUMUWELTA** kaha-pen si Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Maria Sison sa pagkakabilang niya sa listahan ng mga tumuring na terorista ng pamahalaan.

Sa imalat as na pahayag iginuit ni Sison na si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte umano ang totoong numero unong terorista sa Pilipinas kasabay ng pag-alma na wala tamang day basehan ang deklarasyon sa kanya at ilang matataas na opisyal ng CPP-NPA (New People's Army) bilang terorista sa bansa.

"Duterte is the worst character to try discrediting the NPA for supposedly violating its own rule of discipline. Do not take liberties with women. He is well exposed by himself that he is a misogynist."

Ipinunto rin ng CPP founder ang pagturing umano ng Estados Unidos sa pangulo na banta sa demokrasya at karapatang pantao.

"He is notorious in the entire world for disrespecting women, for wishing to be first among rapists and encouraging his troops to rape women and to shoot in the vagina of suspected women fighters of the NPA."

Kung maaalala, kabilang si Sison sa 600-angidbiwal na inirekomenda ng Department of Justice na ideklara bilang-teronista, ka-



sabay din ng petsyong nagdedeklara sa CPP at NPA bilang terrorist group.

Bimgyang din ni Sison na taktika ni Duterte ang anyay "wild anti-com-

munist witch hunt" at pagpunitrya sa mga kritiko upang matuloy ang pasista't diktaduryang sistema ng pamahalaan sa ilalim ng martial law.

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DEEP PENETRATION AGENTS

## DUTERTE: GOV'T HAS SPIES WITHIN NPA

ZAMBOANGA CITY—President Duterte on Saturday said the government had deep penetration agents (DPAs) within the New People's Army (NPA), that was why he knew the communist rebels were executing members who had surrendered to the military with their firearms.

"We have [many] deep penetration (agents) in your group. You thought we did not know," the President said in a speech to government troops here.

He said DPAs had informed the military of cases of former insurgents who came under threat after they had surrendered. The insurgents were provided security, as well as livelihood and houses in areas where the NPA could not target them, he added.

As to the surrendered rebels who had been killed, Mr. Duterte said the time of reckoning was near for those responsible for the deaths.

"Just beware. You'll reap what you sowed," he said of communist leaders.

Mr. Duterte said the NPA was angry at fighters who sur-

rendered with their firearms because "it's a taboo" in the organization.

He also told soldiers to always be on guard when they go out alone because they were easy targets for the insurgents.

"You have to be careful about assassinations," he said.

"[When you leave the house] you look at the street corner. Take a picture with your cell phone. If you notice cigarette butts are piling up—seven or more—then be wary because it meant that they have been waiting for you for quite some time already," Mr. Duterte said.

Every military camp should have a market so that soldiers could safely buy what they need, he said.

He cited the Tienda rolling store that was put up by the Army's 10th Infantry Division in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture inside its camp in Compostela Valley.

Duterte said such markets would help save soldiers' lives, especially since the NPA had "become active these days."

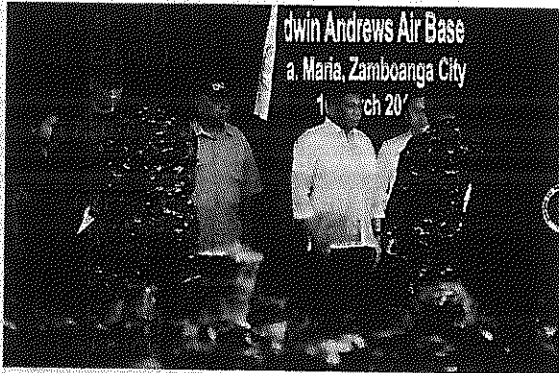
—REPORTS FROM JULIE ALIPALA AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ.

# ONLINE NEWS

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## President Duterte warns troops against resurgence of NPA sparrow unit

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr March 10, 2018, 10:14 pm



President Rodrigo Duterte, during his visit in Zamboanga City on Saturday, March 10, awards medals to soldiers for gallantry in action during the five-month siege in Marawi City last year. *(Photo by: Teofilo P. Garcia Jr.)*

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** -- Soldiers and policemen have been warned against the resurgence of sparrow unit of the New People's Army (NPA) in their locality.

The sparrow units are the hit men of the NPA in urban areas with primary mission to kill lawmen and government officials.

President Rodrigo Duterte issued the warning during his "talk to men" at the Edwin Andrew Air Base (EAAB) saying they should be vigilant of their security and safety.

"Be careful, they (sparrow hit men) are active now," the President told the troops.

The resurgence came after the NPA hierarchy has ordered to intensify its attacks on government forces in the country after the President canceled the peace talks with the NPA.

Duterte told the soldiers and policemen to be watchful of their surroundings, especially at home, citing two to three soldiers die daily from sparrow attacks in the entire country.

The President said some of the troops were killed at home while others while doing marketing chores for the command.

Duterte said there are times different person would conduct the surveillance on probable targets and other individuals would strike.

He also told the troops to avoid loitering in stores and public places as they are vulnerable targets.

"Those are the things you have to be very, very careful, especially if you are carrying firearms," he said citing "they are after the firearms."

He said Agriculture Sec. Emmanuel Piñol has proposed the so-called "TienDa ng Bayan" to protect the troops from attacks by NPA sparrow unit.

The "TienDA ng Bayan" will serve as the market place where troops can purchase food supply and other needs at home or for the office.

The sparrow unit of the NPA has resurfaced which was very active in the 80s killing soldier and policemen in urban centers.

Meanwhile, President Duterte has awarded medals to 33 military officers and personnel in recognition for the service to the country.

The awardees for the Order of Lapu-Lapu (Kampilang Medal) were the Maj. Velmor Manaois; Capt. Dimas Jun Balai; 2Lt. Nathan Rey Eucare; SSgt. Ramonito Diapolet; Sgt. Ramises Relos; Sgt. Joemarie Perez; Cpl. Jovith Clamotcha; PFC Winston Tangilan; PFC Vladimir Ramos, represented by his mother, Susan; PFC Jefry Jacinto; and, PFC Jay Ar Nogodula.

The Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) said they were recognized for sustaining wounds while participating in the campaign against the Daesh-inspired foreign and local terrorists under Isnlon Hapilon and Omar Maute for almost five months from May 23 to October 2017 in Marawi City.

The President also awarded the Order of Lapu-Lapu (Kamagi Award) to the following: Lt Col. Joel Mamon; Lt. Col. Alvin Luzon; Lt. Col. Jonathan Hallara; Maj. Jimmy Brey; Maj. Mark Anthony Salvador; Maj. Virgilio Sagge; Maj. Reese James Obeso; Capt. Jefferson Santos; Capt. Joffrey Tacusalme; Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay; Capt. Michaelangelo Castro; 1st Lieutenant Albert Alvarez; 1st Lieutenant Jefferson Balante; 1st Lieutenant Junrey Sajulga; 2nd Lieutenant Rojean Rodriguez; Ensign Al Khaizer Amil; 2nd Lieutenant Jeff Brandon Cruz; Ensign Leo Adrienne Bello, MSgt. Rolly Principe; Underwater Operator 2nd Class Edgar Enojo; Underwater Operator 2nd Class Glenn Reus; and, Builders Utility 2nd Class Teodorico Decenan.

They were awarded for their exceptional performance and their active participation and contribution to the campaign against local and foreign terrorists during the five-month Marawi siege, according to the Westmincom.

Aside from medals, the President also gave tokens to the awardees. **(with reports from Ely E. Dumaboc/PNA)**