

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

16 March 2018

Friday

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

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PANAHON TV
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MARCH 16, 2018 | FRIDAY

EASTER HOLIDAY AFFECTING THE COUNTRY as of 5:00 pm - March 15, 2018

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

LADAG CITY 22-32 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY 20-32 °C
BAGUIO CITY 15-25 °C
SBMA/CLARK 22-33 °C
METRO-MANILA 22-32 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 19-29 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 25-32 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25-32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 26-32 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 24-32 °C
METRO CEBU 24-32 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 23-32 °C
METRO DAVAO 25-32 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24-35 °C

SUNRISE 6:03 AM	SUNSET 6:06 PM
MOONRISE 5:07 AM	MOONSET 5:07 PM
LAST QUARTER MAR 9 7:20 PM	NEW MOON MAR 17 12:12 PM
LOW TIDE 4:22 AM 0.07 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 10:05 PM 0.59 Meter

Partly sticky to all times. Cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

	MAR 17	MAR 18	MAR 17	MAR 18	MAR 17	MAR 18		
METRO MANILA	24-33 °C	24-33 °C	TAGAYTAY	19-29 °C	19-30 °C	TACLOBAN	24-34 °C	25-31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	22-32 °C	22-32 °C	LEGAZPI	25-32 °C	25-32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23-32 °C	23-32 °C
LADAG	22-32 °C	22-32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25-33 °C	25-33 °C	METRO DAVAO	25-34 °C	25-33 °C
BAGUIO	15-25 °C	15-25 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25-32 °C	26-32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24-35 °C	24-34 °C
SBMA/CLARK	23-33 °C	23-33 °C	METRO CEBU	25-33 °C	25-32 °C	<p>AIR 21 BAGOT KO, PROBLEH MO!</p>		

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

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

16 March 2018



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Poe, Roque clash over fake news bill

By **Christine O. Avendaño**
@ioavendanoINQ

The Senate hearings on fake news ended with a bang on Thursday, with Sen. Grace Poe clashing with presidential spokesperson Harry Roque over her bill that would penalize state employees and officials who share false information.

Roque doubled down on his criticism of Poe's Senate Bill No. 1680, which would amend the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, or Republic Act, No. 6713, by penalizing government officials and employees, especially those tasked to disseminate information, who share false news or information.

The Palace official said last month that the bill was unconstitutional for violating the

equal protection clause in the 1987 Constitution.

Roque said the measure "enjoys a presumption of unconstitutionality" and is vague because "we don't know what's true and what's false."

Judging the truth

"Who will sit in judgment of what truth is?" he asked.

"Because the current framework now is that it is the public that should decide what is true or what is false," he said, answering his own question.

He said any measure that would criminalize fake news would violate the Constitution, which bars any law that would abridge freedom of expression.

"I've been a victim of fake news. It comes with the territory. And we can only hope that because people were given by God the ability to discern what is true and what is false, it's ultimately the public and the free marketplace of

ideas that should judge what the truth is, and that should put ultimately the penalty on purveyors of fake news," Roque said.

"What is the importance of regulating fake news? It's because we want to uphold the truth. If the objective is to uphold the truth, it does not matter if it's a legitimate journalist

or a blogger that spreads false news," he said.

Higher standards

Roque said Poe's bill "singles out" government employees for spreading fake news, which, for him, infringed upon the equal protection of the laws.

Penalizing fake news should be applied to all, he said.

Poe explained that her committee was not creating a new law. The Revised Penal Code applies to all and already criminalizes misinformation or fake news, she said.

"But government employees such as us are held to higher standards," she said.

Poe said government officials and employees were liable for not performing and fulfilling specific duties and responsibilities, including submitting statements on assets, liabilities and net worth.

Putting safeguards

"So there are certain things expected of us because we have waived that certain right because we are serving the people and we want to be transparent," she added.

Poe assured Roque that she did not want to "overregulate."

The senator underscored the need for responsibility in exercising freedom of expression, which should not violate

the rights of others.

"We're just trying to put safeguards, sir, we're not trying to take away any rights," Poe said.

She said Roque should attend the hearings of the civil service committee, which has been tasked to tackle her bill.

Reporters later asked Poe whether she agreed with Roque that it should be the public that should determine what was fake news.

She said a government official who knew that the information being spread was not true should not share it.

"Why should we have to allow our people to make this determination if we know that the information to be disseminated is not true?" she said.

Poe said elected or appointed government officials who did not want the responsibility of giving real information to the public should not be in government service. —WITH A REPORT

FROM MAILA AGER INQ

16 March 2018

The Manila Times

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Philippine Army earns international recognition

THE Philippine Army is among the "best organizations" that has been inducted into the Palladium Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame for executing its transformation roadmap.

Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva, Army spokesman, said Army chief Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista received the award during Palladium's impact summit held in London recently.

It was conferred by Robert Kaplan, eminent professor at the Harvard Business School and co-creator of the balanced scorecard.

"The recognition was given after the Army successfully passed the on-site evaluation process," Villanueva added.

The Philippine Army, according to Villanueva, has been implementing its transformation roadmap as its strategy since 2010 using Kaplan and Norton's strategy management system and its local adaptation called "Performance Government System."

The roadmap is an 18-year transformation and governance program, which aims to transform the Army into a "credible, reliable, responsive, more capable and more professional" force.

The Palladium Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame for executing strategy is a body that recognizes organizations that have "successfully" executed their strategies and achieved "breakthrough" results using a strategy management system.

"More than the award is the proof that we have a functioning and world-class strategy," Bautista said in his acceptance speech, which was provided by Villanueva to reporters in Manila.

16 March 2018

BusinessMirror

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A broad view on today's business

PA reaps global citation for strategy execution

By RENE ACOSTA

@reneacostaBM

THE Philippine Army (PA) is now globally recognized as one of the best organizations in terms of strategy execution after it was inducted into the Palladium Balanced Scorecard's Hall of Fame for Executing Strategy.

No less than Army chief Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista received the award during the Reimagine Strategy Palladium Positive Impact Summit 2018 in London, United Kingdom, on Wednesday.

The award was conferred by Professor Robert S. Kaplan, professor emeritus at the Harvard Business School and cocreator of the Balanced Scorecard.

"I would want everyone here to remember the main reason we bade for the Palladium Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame. More than the award is the proof that we have a functioning and world-class strategy. And we promise to continue the journey so that we will be better of service to the Filipino people as a transformed Army they can truly be proud of," Bautista said in accepting the award.

Bautista was accompanied on his London trip by Col. Joel M. Paloma, chief of the Philippine Army's Governance and Strategy

Management Office.

Army Spokesman Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva said the recognition was given after the Army successfully passed the on-site evaluation process by experts headed by David McMillan, director of the Office of Strategy Management of the Palladium Group in January this year.

The Army has been implementing the Army Transformation Roadmap as its strategy since 2010.

Villanueva said that, through the execution of the strategy, anchored on Kaplan and Norton's strategy management system and its local adaptation called the Performance Governance System (PGS), the Army has achieved milestones and recognitions.

In 2014 the Army achieved its PGS institutionalized status, which was followed by the award of "Islands of Good Governance" in 2015.

The Palladium Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame for Executing Strategy publicly recognizes organizations that have successfully executed their strategies and achieved breakthrough results through the use of Kaplan and Norton's strategy management system.

Having inducted more than 200 organizations worldwide since its establishment in 2000, the recognizing body is regarded as the gold standard for strategic performance management.

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BusinessMirror

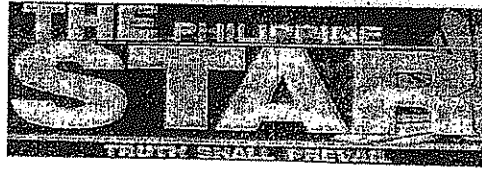
A bridge to modern business

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ARMY chief Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista (left) receives the Palladium Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame for Executing Strategy award from Prof. Robert S. Kaplan, professor emeritus at the Harvard Business School and co-creator of the Balanced Scorecard. PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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NPA arms cache recovered in Masbate

LEGAZPI CITY - Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Battalion recovered various firearms and explosives from New People's Army (NPA) rebels following an encounter on Ticao island in Masbate yesterday.

Six M16 rifles, an M658 and M11 carbines, five rifle and

four M203 grenades, three cell phones, nine backpacks, two improvised explosive devices, a laptop, a solar panel and subversive documents as well as the motorized boat used by the rebels were seized, Capt. Joash Pramis, 9th Infantry Division public information officer, said.

Pramis said several com-

munist rebels were wounded in the encounter in Barangay San Fernando. There was no reported casualty among government troopers.

Meanwhile, Greg Esmenia, 35, an NPA rebel operating in Sorsogon, was arrested in Barangay San Onstobal in Catamba, Laguna on Mon-

day. The arrest was based on a warrant for attempted murder issued by a local court.

In Agusan del Sur, the military said an NPA guerrilla who has yet to be identified was killed in a clash in Barangay Mahagsay, San Luis town in the past two days.

- Celso Amo, Ben Serrano

16 March 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Troops uncover NPA food, medicines caches

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP RANCASI, Butuan City - Combat maneuvering troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have uncovered stock piles of food, medicines and medical supplies of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) in Mindanao.

Capt. Norman M. Tagros, Civil Military Operations (CMO) officer of the Army's 403rd Infantry (Peace-

maker) Brigade said the caches were found in two separate locations in Sitio Pantaron, Barangay Banlag, and Sitio Bulacao, Barangay Concepcion, both in Valencia City, Bukidnon province on March 9 and 11.

"Unearthed by the combat maneuvering troops of the Army's 88th Infantry Battalion (88th IB) last Friday (March 9) were 26 plastic containers filled with rice. Villagers in Barangay Banlag who were fed up of intimidation

and extortion reported the said food cache and medicines to the authorities," disclosed Tagros.

On Wednesday, troops of the 88th IB discovered again another CPP-NPA terrorists' food cache that includes 67 plastic containers filled with rice and two plastic drums filled with assorted food, medicines and medical supplies.

Each container reportedly contained 16 kilos of rice. The supplies were buried three feet deep.

"The help of our concerned villagers made the series of discoveries of these big NPAs' food caches and medicines and other medical supplies in the area possible," Tagros said.

Meanwhile, 88th IB commander Lt. Col. Randy O. Remonte assured the people within their area of operations in Bukidnon that they will continue to work closely with the local government units, the PNP, and the local residents in the conduct of Community Support Program (CSP) while continuing to secure the communities from CPP-NPA threats.

"We assure the people in Bukidnon that the 88th IB will continue to collaborate with you together with local

government units and PNP in ensuring peace and order in your communities. In our three months of existence as a newly activated Battalion of the Philippine Army, we are glad to have shared with you our humble accomplishments in our bid to maintain peace and order in the communities," he said.

On the other hand, Brig. Gen. Eric C. Vinoya, commanding general of the 403rd "Peacemaker" Brigade, also assured that the 403rd Infantry Brigade will have no let up in its Focused Military Operations (FMO) while continuing its efforts on CSP. He also warned all those who would provide aid to the CPP-NPA terrorists that the long arms of the law will catch up with them in due time.

"We will have no let up on our Focused Military Operations until such time that our communities will be free from the CPP-NPA terrorists' coercion and intimidation, while working closely with our LGUs for the resolution of issues and the empowerment of the local residents within the conflict-affected areas through our Community Support Program," the 403rd Brigade commander said.

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5 ASG killed, 6 Scout Rangers wounded in Sulu clash

NONOY E. LACSON and FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Five members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) were killed while several others were believed wounded including six soldiers during an encounter Tuesday with the military in the forested areas of Patikul town in Sulu.

Joint Task Force Sulu (JTF Sulu) Commander Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said troops evacuated four wounded soldiers to Kufa Teodulfo Bautista Station Hospital in Jolo, Sulu, while two more were airlifted to Zamboanga City for further medical attention.

"Our soldiers are being taken care of by the best medical hospitals in Zamboanga. We have already informed their families so that they can see their loved ones," Sobejana said.

"Operating unit said that they are estimating at least five killed Abus based on the bloodstains and the report of sources," Sobejana said.

Adding, "We believe that a number of the bandits were also wounded and might have died due to loss of blood after Tuesday's encounter. Our rangers are still pursuing them as of this report."

Sobejana also reported that the military recovered an Elisco M16A1 rifle and a Colt M16A1 rifle of the bandits in Tuesday's clash that ensued in Barangay Panglahayan, Patikul, Sulu at 2:31 p.m.

In a focused military operation, troops of the 6th Scout Ranger Battalion led by Lt. Col. Marlon S. Jomalesa encountered 30 ASG members led by ASG leader Radulan Sahiron and sub-leaders Julie Eldi, Amion Abtahi, and a certain Amah Asam.

Sobejana said the military were able to creep in as close as 20 meters allowing them to fire at the ASG at close range. They were just very careful due to the possible presence of kidnap victims with the ASG.

"Artillery and mortar fires from the rangers and reinforcing units were further delivered on the withdrawal routes of the retreating bandits," Sobejana said.

Elements of the 32nd Infantry Battalion augmented and provided necessary support to the engaged troops.

"The Joint Task Force Sulu continues to employ more pressure on the remaining Abu Sayyaf bandits to rescue captives and gain more enemy strongholds and armaments," said Sobejana.

"Artillery and mortar fires from the rangers and reinforcing units were further delivered on the withdrawal routes of the retreating bandits," he added.

"The Joint Task Force Sulu continues to employ more pressure on the remaining Abu Sayyaf bandits to rescue captives and gain more enemy strongholds and armaments," said Brigadier General Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu.

From January to March 14, 2018, military troops gained 54 firearms of the Abu Sayyaf (14 in Basilan, 38 in Sulu, and two in Tawi-Tawi).

Twenty-four firearms were surrendered by the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu while 14 were recovered by the Joint Task Force Sulu in their combat operations.

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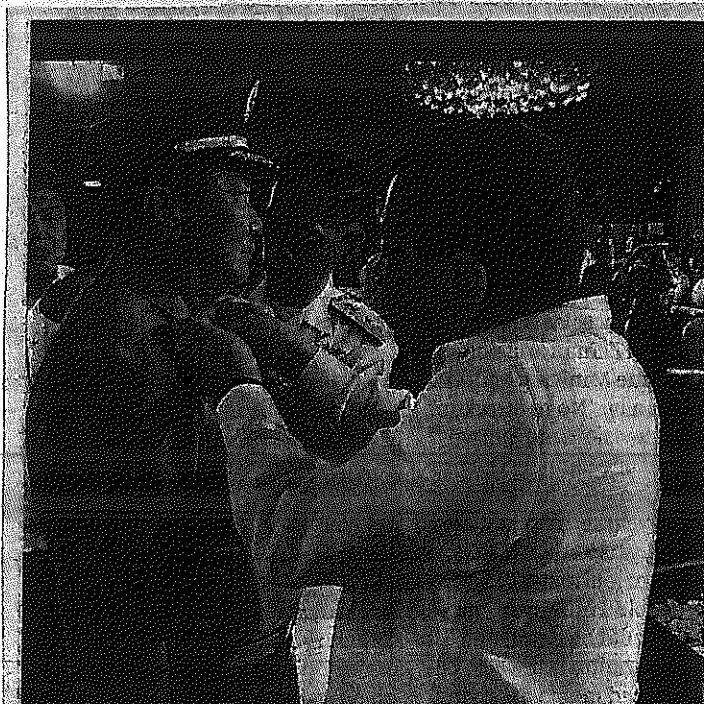


Wescom turns 42 Western Command or Wescom celebrates its 42 years of service in a simple ceremony with the Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero as the guest of honor and speaker and with the theme: "Pagapay sa Kalahatnihan at Kaularaning Palawan at ng buong Sambayanan," held at the Camp General Artemio G. Ricarte in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan yesterday.

16 March 2018

INQUIRER

Page: AME



SPEAKER IS A COLONEL President Duterte pins the military insignia officially designating Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez as a colonel in the Philippine Marines Corps Reserve Force during Tuesday's ceremonies at Malacañang. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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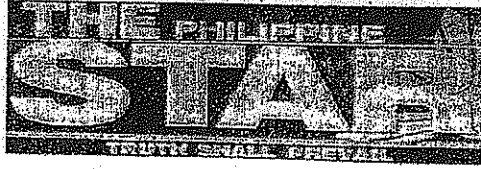


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Japan aid to Marawi rehab Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, Department of Public Works and Highway Secretary Mark Villar, Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Koji Haneda and other Philippine government officials spearhead the turnover of the 27 new heavy equipment donated by the Japanese government for the rehabilitation of Marawi City yesterday.

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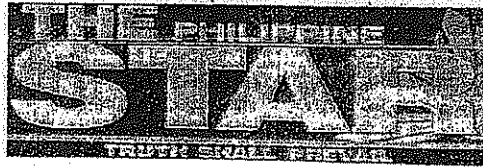
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Abu Sayyaf surrenderees are among those who received relief goods from ARMM officials in Basilan this week.

JOHN UNPON

15 March 2018



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658 loose guns seized in Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY - The military has recovered 658 loose firearms in Mindanao since January.

As of March 12, a total of 248 guns had been seized in Sulu, 159 in Central Mindanao, 221 in Zamboanga City and 30 in other parts of Zamboanga peninsula, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, said yesterday.

"In line with the implementation of martial law and in preparation for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, we have intensified security operations against all threat groups and terrorists while supporting law enforcement operations against lawlessness, illegal drugs and proliferation of illegally possessed firearms,"

Galvez said.

He said among those recently recovered were 25 guns turned over by Mayor Zam Ampatuan of Radjah Buayan town in Maguindanao.

The surrendered guns were under the Joint Task Force Central's "balik-baril" program.

Mayor Ramdatu Angas of Sultan sa Barongis led the ceremonial turnover of 20 guns to the First Mechanized Infantry Brigade on Wednesday.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said they are waiting for the turnover of 60 other guns from residents of Parang, Sulu this week.

Last week, 137 loose guns were recovered from seven towns in Sulu.

- Roel Pareño, Jaime Laude

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POLICE UNDER THE GUN

LANAO SOLONS SEEK PROBE ON 'LACK OF INTELLIGENCE' IN MARAWI SIEGE

Three Lanao lawmakers have filed a House resolution seeking to investigate the "lack of intelligence" by the Philippine National Police that led to the siege of Marawi City.

House Resolution No. 1760 was filed by Lanao del Norte Representatives Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo and Abdullah Dimaporo, and Lanao del Sur Rep. Maanyag Papandayan Jr.

The resolution noted that, though the clash started with "what ought to be just an operation to capture" Isnilon Hapilon, the leader of Islamic State-inspired terrorists, the conflict lasted five months.

Escalation of clash

"The escalation of the clash to a siege could have been prevented if the PNP conducted intelligence and counterintelligence activities properly," the resolution read.

It deplored the PNP's failure

to plan for the outcome of operations to stop the flow of illegal firearms, explosives and ammunition to Marawi.

Japanese donation

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) received on Thursday 27 sets of heavy equipment from the Japanese government.

The equipment—seven hydraulic excavators, three bulldozers, three wheel loaders, two motor graders and 12 dump trucks—would be used by Task Force Bangon Marawi as part of the Philippine-Japan Economic and Social Development Program, the DPWH said.

Public Works Secretary Mark Villar and Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea represented the Philippine government, while Japan was represented by Japanese Ambassador Kōji Haneda. —VINCE F. NONATO AND JULIEM. AURELIO -INQ

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Most females in PMA Class of 2018

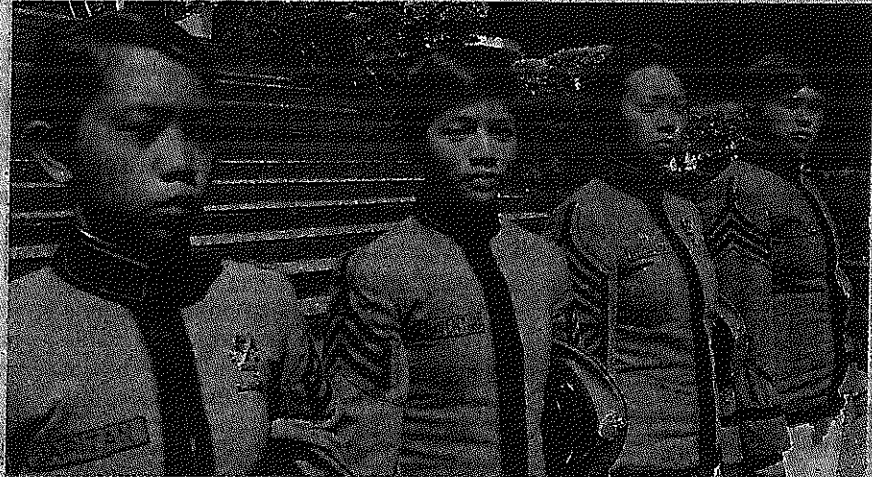
By ZALDY C. COMANDA

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City — Female cadets of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) have made their mark this year by turning PMA "Alab-Tala" Class of 2018 into the batch with the most number of female graduates.

It was learned that 75 out of the 282 graduates of this year's PMA Class, known as Alab-Tala or "Alagad ng Lahing Binigkis ng Tapang at Lakas," are females.

This feat happens 21 years after the first females graduated from the PMA in 1997, and 19 years after then Ensign Arlene dela Cruz topped PMA "Masikha" Class of 1999.

Three of those graduating on Sunday have landed in the Top Ten. They are No. 4 Cadet 1CL Leonore Japitan of Butuan City, No. 6 1CL Jezaira Buenaventura of Bais City, Negros Oriental, and No. 10 1CL Micah Reynaldo, of Bamban, Tarlac.



PROUD 'MARIAS' — Proudly topping PMA 'Alab-Tala' Class of 2018 are (from left) Cadet 1CL Leonore Japitan, 1CL Jezaira Buenaventura, and 1CL Micah Reynaldo. They are joined by 1CL Jasm Marie Alcoriza of Bacolod City who will receive the 'Athletic Saber' special award. (Zaldy C. Comanda)

Both Japitan and Buenaventura are joining in Philippine Army (PA), while Reynaldo is joining the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

"Gender is not an issue in training

cadets at the Philippine Military Academy including becoming a soldier and we have had many women cadets since 1997 and they have proven themselves in the frontline service as soldiers," said Lt. Gen. Donato San Juan, PMA superintendent.

He said that out of the 75 female cadets graduating on Sunday, 38 are joining the Army, 19 are going to the PAF, and 18 will be joining the Philippine Navy (PN).

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Malaya

The National Newspaper

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5 Abu Sayyaf men killed in Sulu

FIVE members of the Abu Sayyaf group were reported killed Tuesday while six soldiers were wounded in a firefight in Patikul town in Sulu, the military said yesterday.

Troops from the Army's 5th Scout Ranger Battalion were on combat operation when they clashed with about 30 Abu Sayyaf men in Barangay Panglayahan at around 2:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The Abu Sayyaf men are under the group of senior leader Radullan Sahiron and sub-leaders Julie Ekit, Armlong Abtami and Amah Asam, who are believed holding some kidnap victims.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the military's Joint Task Force Sulu, said many Abu Sayyaf men were killed and wounded during the firefight based on military assessment.

Troops recovered two M16 rifles during clearing operations.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding about 10 Filipino and foreign kidnap victims in Sulu, including Dutch wildlife photographer Elwood Hotn who was abducted in Tawi-Tawi in February 2012. – *Victor Reyes*

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CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

CAYETANO SAYS ICG WITHDRAWAL MEANT FOR SOLDIERS, POLICEMEN

By **Dona Z. Pazzibugan**
and **Lella B. Salaverria**
@Team Inquirer

Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said President Duterte decided to withdraw the country's ratification of the Rome Statute, the treaty that put up the International Criminal Court (ICC), not for himself but for the soldiers and policemen.

"To those who say that the President just does not want to be held liable, I say, 'He's not doing it for himself because we still have obligations during the time the Philippines was a member of the ICC,'" Cayetano said on Wednesday night.

He said it was really for the soldiers and police who had been opposed to ratifying the Rome Statute in the first place since it could be used to charge them with crimes against humanity in the ongoing conflict with communist and Moro rebels.

Cayetano said Mr. Duterte must have also considered the country's internal conflict "like what happened in Marawi" when he ordered the Philippines' withdrawal from the ICC.

Still under probe

The foreign secretary acknowledged that the President could still be investigated by ICC prosecutors for crimes against humanity he allegedly committed while the Philippines was

under the tribunal's jurisdiction.

"Even if we withdraw [from the ICC], our actions when we were a member are still covered," Cayetano said.

On Wednesday, Mr. Duterte announced that the Philippines would withdraw the country's ratification of the Rome Statute due to "outrageous" attacks on him by UN officials and violations of due process by the ICC.

The decision marks a stunning about-face by the President, who had repeatedly dared the ICC to indict him and said he was willing to "rot in jail" or go on trial to defend a war on drugs that has killed thousands.

The President had initially welcomed last month's announcement by the ICC of its preliminary examination of a complaint filed by a Filipino lawyer accusing him and other officials of crimes against humanity.

System failure

Cayetano said the ICC could investigate only if the Philippine judicial system had been shown to fail to investigate and prosecute those behind the thousands of extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations committed under the administration's war on drugs.

He disclosed that the Philippines' withdrawal from the statute had been discussed

"informally" since Mr. Duterte assumed office.

The Rome Statute was adopted in Italy on July 17, 1998. It was only in 2011 that President Aquino submitted the treaty to the Senate, which ratified it on Aug. 23, 2011.

Right thing to do

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said on Thursday he was saddened by Mr. Duterte's decision because he had lobbied for the ratification of the statute, but he believed the President did the right thing.

Roque accused ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda of politicizing the case against the President, saying she should have junked the complaint outright, especially since she was aware that Philippine courts were still functioning.

In a television interview, Roque, whose specialty is international law, said the country's withdrawal from the statute was the "beginning of the end of the court (ICC)."

Roque said other states could opt out of the ICC or decide not to join it because of the decision of the Philippines, which he said was viewed as a human rights champion.

Only Cambodia and Timor Leste would be left in the ICC from Southeast Asia after the Philippines leaves, he said. INQ

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The Manila Times

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Indonesian 'terrorist' now under BI custody

AN alleged Indonesian terrorist was arrested by police at Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, in southern Mindanao and has been taken into custody by the Bureau of Immigration (BI).

Supt. Aldrin Gonzales, spokesman for the Soccsksargen police, identified the suspect as Mushalah Somina Rasim, alias Abu Omar, 32, who was first sighted at Colube village in the same town before he was nabbed.

Soccsksargen refers to South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City.

Gonzales said Rasim was arrested on March 10.

He added that police authorities have been receiving information on "recruits" and supporters of Ansar Khilafah Philippines allegedly led by Abu Maher and engaging Rasim in activities of the terrorist group.

Police also accused Rasim's group of "recruiting" individuals in the villages of Akol and Datu Maguiles in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, and in Kiyap village in Maitum, Sarangani, despite an extended martial law in Mindanao.

Seized from Rasim were an ATM card and thousands of rupiah bills.

DEMPSEY REYES

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5 Abus, 6 soldiers killed in Sulu clash

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Five members of the notorious Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) were killed while six soldiers were wounded following a gun battle Tuesday in a forested area in Patikul, Sulu.

Brig. Gen. Chilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu (JTF-Sulu) Commander, said the encounter happened around 2 p.m. near Bigy, Panghayan with the 9th Scout Ranger Battalion led by Lt. Col. Marlon S. Jomalesa, stumbling into 30 heavily armed

ASG men led by Radulan Sahiron and sub-leaders Julie Ekit, Amion Abtahi, and a certain Amah Asam.

Sobejana said the Scout Rangers were able to creep in as close as 20 meters to where the terrorists were encamped allowing them to fire at them at close range.

Elements of the 32nd Infantry Battalion also provided necessary support to the Scout Rangers.

Artillery and mortar fire from the Rangers and the reinforcing units were further delivered on the withdrawal routes of the retreating

bandits," Sobejana said.

He added that apart from the five terrorists killed, "We believe that a number of the bandits were wounded (in the firefight). Our Rangers are still pursuing them as of this report."

Four of the wounded soldiers were evacuated to Kuta Teodulfo Bautista Station Hospital in Jolo, Sulu, while two others were airlifted to Zamboanga City.

Sobejana said the military recovered an Elisco M16A1 rifle and a Colt M16A1 rifle belonging to the ASG following the skirmish.

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5 ABU SAYYAF PATAY SA ENKWENTRO SA SULU

PATAY ang limang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) habang 6 na sundalo ang sugatan sa naganap na engkwentro sa Patikul, Sulu. Ayon kay Lt Gen. Carlito G. Galvez, Commander ng Western Mindanao, 2:30 ng hapon nang maka-engkwentro ng mga elemento ng 5th Scout Ranger Battalion sa pamumuno ni Lt Col Marlon S. Tomalesa, ang may 30 Abu Sayyaf sa ilalim ni Radulan Sahiron, sub-leader Julie Ekit, at Amlon Abiani sa Brgy. Panglahayan, Patikul, Sulu.

Nabatid na magpapatikya ang mga sundalo nang masabat ang mga bandido na simula ng amalindang babulkan.

Sinabi ni Galvez na bawat 20 meter lang ang layo ng mga sundalo sa mga bandido nang maganap ang babulkan na tumagal ng ilang oras.

Gumamit ng mga Artillery o canyon at mortar ang mga sundalo sa pagtugis sa mga tumatakas na mga bandido.

Nanukober ng mga sundalo sa pampangihan ng engkwentro ang Blasco M16A1 rifle at Colt M16A1 rifle na naiwan ng mga bandido.

(Mark Obleda)

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ONLINE NEWS

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NPA 'harasses' military base in Batangas ahead of March 29 anniv – police

By: Maricar Cinco - Correspondent / @maricarcincoINQ
Inquirer Southern Luzon / 07:39 PM March 15, 2018

SAN PEDRO CITY- A band of suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels launched an apparent harassment attack by firing at a government paramilitary base in San Juan town in Batangas province, weeks before its anniversary, the police said on Thursday.

Supt. Joemar Labiano, police chief of San Juan, said suspected rebels opened fire on a newly-established base of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit in the remote Sitio (sub-village) Sampaloc in Barangay (village) Balsa around 3 a.m. on Wednesday. The firing lasted for about five minutes without any casualty on either side.

Recovered from the scene were 58 cartridges from a 5.56-caliber rifle.

"According to our counterparts (in the Armed Forces of the Philippines), it was just their (NPA's) way of making their presence felt since they are celebrating their anniversary on March 29," Labiano said in a phone interview. The NPA was founded in 1968 as the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Last week, sporadic encounters between the NPA and members of the Philippine Air Force were reported in the towns of Balayan, Calaca, and Tuy in Batangas. At least two government soldiers were reportedly hurt in the clashes./ac

www.pna.gov.ph

Gender equality exists in PMA cadetship, military career

From the Philippine News Agency (Mar 15): Gender equality exists in PMA cadetship, military career



TOP FEMALE CADETS. The Philippine Military Academy (PMA) this year produced three women soldiers in the top 10 of the graduating class of 282, including a lady cadet awarded with the Athletic Saber. The top graduates were presented to the media in a press conference on Wednesday (March 14, 2018) at the academy. From left are C1CL Leonore Andrea Cariño Japitan who is the class' top 4 graduate; C1CL Jeraiza Laquinon Buenaventura, number 6; C1CL Micah Quiambao Reynaldo, number 10; and C1CL Jasm Marie Alcoriza, who will receive the female athletic saber award during their graduation on Sunday (March 18, 2018). (Photo by Liza T. Agoof)

BAGUIO CITY — Gender is not an issue in training cadets at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) and in becoming a soldier.

PMA Superintendent LTGen. Donato San Juan has assured this, ahead of Sunday's PMA graduation rites, where four women cadets will be on the top 10 of the graduating class of 282 cadets, including 75 women cadets.

"We have had many women cadets since 1997 and they have proven themselves in the frontline service as soldiers," San Juan said, answering queries as to whether women in the military are effective.

"It is no longer a question at this time whether they are capable of performing the duties of male officers in the frontline. They are doing that already," he pointed out, saying women soldiers are given the same functions as their male counterparts.

"Many of the tactical officers, female tactical officers, assigned here can attest to that--that they are assigned the same as their male counterparts," he said.

The PMA opened its doors to women cadets who reported as plebes on April 1, 1993 and graduated with the class of 1997. In 1999, PMA recorded the first female cadet to graduate at the top of her class, Ensign Arlene Dela Cruz, raising women's status in the male-dominated institution.

San Juan said the training for both male and female cadets is equal and both are made to perform academically, and physically, including their co-curricular activities sanctioned by the institution.

The class of 2018 also marked a historical record in the academy with the most number of females graduates -- 75 out of 282.

In 2017, there were 66 female graduates with 34 of them joining the Philippine Army, 16 to the Air Force, and 16 to the Navy.

Of the 75 female cadets graduating on Sunday, March 18, there are 38 joining the Army, 19 with the Philippine Air Force, and 18 with the Philippine Navy.

"We continue to maintain the regulations of having 20 percent of the cadet population to be female. As of today, we have that percentage," the officer cited.

He added females have a high probability of graduating, which could be attributed to their being persevering and studious, aside from wanting to prove that they could survive a career dominated by men.

He assured that the academy is continuously recruiting females to join the academy to maintain the 20-percent rate.

Cadet First Class (C1CL) Micah Quiambao Reynaldo, who is finishing number 10 in the graduating class this year and a native of Bamban Tarlac, entered PMA when she was in second-year college taking up Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

"The academy is never wrong in choosing us and giving us the opportunity," she said, referring to the chance to be a PMA cadet and join the ranks of distinguished men in the military service.

"Being a cadet in a military institution is never easy," Reynaldo shared. "But here in the academy, we are surrounded by good mentors and good people who keep on motivating and supporting us in whatever activity we have."

She added opportunities are all available for males and females, thus, women like here are included in the top 10.

Aside from Reynaldo, also making it in the top-10 are C1CL Leonor Andrea Cariño, number 4; and C1CL Jezaira Laquinon Buenaventura, number 6.

"The greatest hurdle (to a cadet) is to prove ourselves and that the academy is never wrong in choosing us or giving the opportunity for females to be members of the military," she stressed.

Cadet Buenaventura of Bais City, Negros Oriental added, "I believe that after graduation, we will also have the same opportunity on the field as in the academy."

The selection and admission of female cadets into the academy are similar for both men and women. The only difference is in the height requirement, where women must be at least 5 feet 2 inches tall, while the men have to be at least 2 inches taller than the women.

When applicants pass the written entrance examination, they are selected after thorough physical and neuro-psychiatric examinations and pre-cadet qualification interviews conducted at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center. Female appointees are not given any special treatment during those examinations.

One reason for accepting only a few female cadets is the limited availability of adequate facilities for women. For years, the PMA had been a school for men.

The female cadets said they also underwent basically the same training as their male counterparts. Adjustments were minimal, they said. Trained to become future officers of the armed forces, they undergo the same physical fitness tests, made to walk the same rugged mountain trails and dusty roads during foot marches, and attend the same academic classes as their classmates.

They said there is no distinction made between genders when it comes to punishments and demerits, as well as rewards and merits.

Just like their male counterparts, the female graduates were commissioned as regular officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Together with their male counterparts, they will stand among the revered alumni and be stalwart defenders of the academy's ideals of courage, integrity, and loyalty.

www.inquirer.net

NPA member surrenders in Surigao del Sur

By: **Chris Panganiban- @inquirerdotnet**

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:46 PM March 15, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur-An alleged New People's Army (NPA) bomb-maker yielded to the military, the military said Thursday.

Lt. Col. Xerxes Trinidad, commander of the 36th Infantry Battalion based in Tago town in Surigao del Sur, said Edwin Martinez Coquilla surrendered on March 11.

Trinidad said Coquilla, alias Jemar, 21, and a resident of Cabangahan village in Tago, turned himself in, along with nine anti-personnel landmines he had made.

Trinidad said aside from making bombs for the NPA, Coquilla was also the squad leader of Platoon 1 of the NPA's Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee.

"The use of IEDs once again proves the terrorist tag of the CPP-NPA terrorists as it continuously violates the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect to Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL)," Trinidad said.//b

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Duterte may send Marines to Boracay, 'blow up' illegal structures – Palace

05:43 PM March 15, 2018



FILE – Philippine Marines in action. PHOTO/Associated Press

The government would not hesitate to send the Marines and “blow up” illegal structures in the shores of Boracay if resort owners would continue to defy orders to clean up the famous island, a Palace official said Thursday.

“The last that I heard is that the local government may even ask the President for assistance to call in the Marines if need be,” Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said in a press briefing.

“So when I heard that report, I told them, send the letter because I’m sure the President will not hesitate to send in the Marines and even use dynamites to blow up that illegal structure there,” he added.

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President Rodrigo Duterte said last week that he would declare state of calamity in Boracay because of its sewage and several other environmental problems and warned courts not to interfere by issuing a temporary restraining order (TRO) in the clean-up.

Duterte said that the problem in Boracay is a public health and public safety issue, allowing him to issue such declaration.

He had also asked the Department of Interior and Local Government to file charges against local officials liable for the degradation of the famous beach.

Interior Secretary Sec. Eduardo Año ordered last month an investigation to look into the possible liability of local government officials over the “environmental degradation” of the world-famous beach.

It would probe local executives who issued building permits, occupancy permits and even business permits despite non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Early last month, Duterte ordered Año and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to fix the Boracay problem in six months. /je

www.dwdd.com.ph

TRUTH CONQUERS | CRSAFP celebrating its Founding Anniversary

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on March 15, 2018 at

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO < Quezon City (DWDD) – The Civil Relations Service, Armed Forces of the Philippines (CRSAFP) is celebrating its founding anniversary today



The event will kick-off with a holy mass to be followed by the program proper.

March 1951–The Civil Affairs Office (CAO) was founded by virtue of National Defense Order Number 31 with MAJOR JOSE M CRISOL PA as its head

- 1960-GHQ, AFP deactivated the CAO and activated the Office of the Military Information (OMI) as a Special Staff of CSAFP
- 1969-BGEN GUILLERMO I PECACHE assumed the leadership of OMI until 1972
- May 1972- OMI was renamed Office of the Community Relations (OCR) with COL NOE S ANDAYA as head
- 01 July 1975- OCR was renamed Office of the Civil Relations as an AFPWSSUs
- 31 January 1978-the Office of the Civil Relations was deactivated and finally renamed Civil Relations Service, Armed Forces of the Philippines
- 16 April 1978, BGEN ALEXANDER FELIX AFP took the reign of CRS, AFP from COL NOE S ANDAYA. He then started regionalizing the service by creating the Civil Relations Group (CRGs) in strategic locations nationwide.
- July 1986, the Armed Forces Radio DZAF was established under the Ministry Order Number A-092.
- On August 1987, DZAF ceased its operations due to the exploitation by certain sectors in the military.
- 04 January 1988, the radio station revived its operation under a new name DWDD. The CRS, AFP took over the administration and operational control of the station.
- 26 April 2008, Public Affairs Office (PAO) was activated to perform the task of PA with the objective of promoting the AFP image; and of advancing the national aims, interest and policies. While, the CRS, AFP shall focus in the conduct of Information Support Affairs and Civil Affairs.
- The esteemed organization has been headed by a total of thirty three (33) renowned and highly-professional Commanders.
- of ISA and CA of the Civil-Military Operations.



Brigadier General Bienvenido R Datuin Jr AFP is the current and 37th Commander of Civil Relations Service, Armed Forces of the Philippines (CRSAFP) and AFP Spokesperson, stationed at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

He was born on August 7, 1963 in Quezon City. He spent both his primary and secondary education at the University of the Philippines. He entered the Philippine Military Academy in 1981 and graduated as a proud member of PMA "SINAGTALA" Class of 1986.

BGEN DATUIN JR spent his platoon leader years with 59th Infantry Battalion and his Company Commander, with 42nd Infantry Battalion, both of 2ID, PA. Other significant positions he previously held were as follows: Battalion Commander of 28th Infantry Battalion, 10th Infantry Division; Secretary Army General Staff, Philippine Army; Commanding Officer of Army Personnel Management Center; Chief of Unified Command Staff, SOLCOM, AFP, Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1, Philippine Army, and as Commander of 701st Infantry Brigade, 7ID, PA which was awarded with the Best Brigade Streamer by 7ID and Eastern Mindanao Command for two consecutive years from 2015-2016.

Most of BGEN DATUIN's civilian and military schoolings were spent abroad. He took his Political Warfare Course at FHK College, Taipei, Republic of China; his Australian and Military Familiarization Course, Defense Intel Research and Analysis Course and Intermediate Intel Officers Course at School for Military Intelligence in Australia; Strategic Human Resource Management Course at National University of Singapore; and Senior Defense Management Course at College of Defense Management in India. He is an Honor Graduate of AFPCGSC Class 43 receiving the Best Commandant's Paper Award.

BGEN DATUIN has two (2) Masters Degree: Master of Arts in Psychology at St Louis University in 1992 and; Master in Management Studies in University of South Wales in Australia in 2002 where he graduated with high distinction.

BGEN DATUIN is a multi-decorated General. His awards and decorations include five (5) Distinguished Service Star Medals, Outstanding Achievement Medal, Meritorious Achievement Medal, Silver Cross Medal, Gawad sa Kaunlaran Medals, Bronze Cross Medals, and numerous Military Merit Medals and civilian commendations.

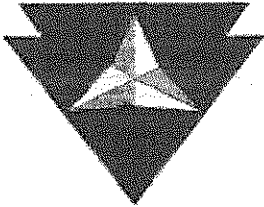
Brigadier General Datuin is married to Marissa Geronimo and is blessed with three (3) children: namely, Michaela Bientriz, a registered Division I Nurse in Australia, Martina Mignon an associate lawyer and Bienvenido Miguel, an aspiring Human Resource Manager. **AES / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com.ph

CRIMINAL AND TERRORIST | 3ID lashes out at CPP-NPA Terrorist

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on March 15, 2018 at 11:10 AM

CAMP PERALTA, Jamindan, Capiz (DWDD) – The Army's 3rd Infantry "Spearhead" Division lashed out the Leonardo Panaligan Command of the CPP-NPA Terrorist for ordering its members to arrest the troops of 62nd Infantry Battalion who were behind the successful apprehension of the six (6) terrorists in Mabinay, Negros Oriental.



"Criminal and terrorist organization like you is unsanctioned to arrest our government troops, the people's legitimate armed forces; instead, your leaders including your members are the ones who should be arrested for recruiting and nurturing children to become criminals which is a gross violation of Republic Act 7610 or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act."

"Our troops are just performing their mandate to protect the people in the area from terror and other criminal activities of these CPA-NPA terrorists. They have just claimed the responsibility for liquidating the Quilanan Brothers in Canlaon City which only prove that they are murderers fit to be arrested and put behind bars."

On Leonardo Panaligan Command's justification of CPP-NPA Terrorist's recruitment activities

"You are too quick to rebuff our statement slamming your organization for recruiting minors to join the bloody and senseless armed struggle citing the arrest of Negros 6 including two (2) minors, but too slow to comprehend that your justification in your previously released statement will only affirm the result of our investigation that the aforementioned nabbed terrorists are indeed members of the CPP-NPA Terrorists."

Earlier, the Leonardo Panaligan Command of the CPP-NPA Terrorist in their previously released statement maintained that they are strictly observing the recruitment of their members, 18 years and above, physically fit, with good records, and with recommendations from their territorial units. Said organization also insisted that there was no encounter prior to the arrest of their six (6) comrades.

"This terrorist organization is also accommodating those who engage in criminal activities such as robbery and murder in contrast to their assertion that they are observing strict recruitment policy specifically those who have 'good records'."

To the Negrenses

“Once again, we are calling the people especially the Negrenses to protect and defend your Army against this anti-people, anti-peace, and anti-development terrorist organization who feeds you with nothing but misery and poverty.”

This Command also reiterated its call to the people to remain vigilant and report any movement and activities of the CPP-NPA terrorists in the area to stop them from propagating more terror. *“Support and help your LGUs, Army, and PNP in spreading the truth in contrast to the fabricated lies of our enemies.”*

Recently, the mayors of Bindoy, Ayungon, Tayasan, Manjuyod, and Mabinay all of Negros Oriental have condemned the presence and atrocities of the CPP-NPA Terrorist in the province through a resolution of a manifesto which was unanimously approved during the joint Municipal Peace and Order Councils Meeting last March 8, 2018.

“Military pressure alone is not enough. Hence, we need to combine our efforts to create social pressure that will induce the CPP-NPAs to lay down their arms, abandon armed struggle, and return to the mainstream society to start a new and productive life.” **3DPAO / MCAG**