



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

18 March 2018

Sunday

TABLE OF CONTENTS

18 MARCH 2018

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p. A2
NATIONAL NEWS			
2	10 dead as light plane crashes in Bulacan	Cecille Felipe	Phil Star p. 1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
3-4	Epitome of bravery, gallantry	Nonoy Lacson	Mla Bulletin p. 16
5	43 guns recovered from Lanao town execs	John Unson	Phil Star p. 17
6	Lanao officials surrender high-powered weapons	Nonoy Lacson	Mla Bulletin p. 16
7	Civilians surrender firearms in Lanao Sur	Al Lacinto	Mla Times p. A7
8	Sulu town village chiefs yield firearms	PNA	Tribune p. 3
9	43 loose firearms isinurender	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p. 1
10	Militar vs NPA: 12 armas nabawi	Jorge Hallare	Ngayon p. 2
11	Troops foil NPA bombing	Mike Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p. 16
12	NPA with IED captured	Mike Crismundo	Tempo p. 1
13	Councilor, cops, soldier run 'fowl' of cybercrime busters	Jeanette Andrade	PDI p. A3
14	4 cops, soldier arrested for online cockfighting	Cecille Felipe	Phil Star p. 17
15	Gov't men, cops, soldier caught gambling online	Francisco Tuyay	Mla Standard p. A6
16	Konsehal, 4 pulis, 1 sundalo arestado sa online sabungan sa Bulacan	Mark Obleada	Police Files p. 1
AFP RELATED NEWS			
17	PMA class of 2018 sets record for female grads	Thom Picaña	Mla Times p. A2
18	Rody, Leni sharing stage at PMA rites	Helen Flores	Phil Star p. 1
19	Pagtatapos ng mga bagong opisyal ng PMA, pangungunahan ni Duterte	Aileen Taliping	Abante p. 1
20	Marines chief backs move to form new military branch	PNA	Tribune p. 3
21	Marines welcome separation from Navy	Dempsey Reyes	Mla Times p. A3
22	U.S. military turns over new Scan Eagle UAS to PH	-	People's Tonight p. 1
23	UN legal office to look into Phl terror list	Janvic Mateo	Phil Star p. 7
24	DND tells 'limad': No need to worry about terror tag	Jeanette Andrade	PDI p. A4

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

25	Lorenzana order probe into alleged military abuses on IPs	Joseph Jubelag	Mla Bulletin p. 16
26	DND targets Lumad with CPP-NPA ties	-	Mla Standard p. A1
27	Sparing 'lumad' from terrorist tag not absolute – DND chief	Roy Narra	Mla Times p. A3

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

18 March 2018



Page: A2

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BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MARCH 18, 2018 | SUNDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON
EASTERLIES AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY
 as of 5:00 am - March 17, 2018

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE 6:02 AM	SUNSET 6:07 PM
MOONRISE 5:49 AM	MOONSET 5:58 PM
LAST QUARTER MAR 8 7:20 PM	NEW MOON MAR 17 9:12 PM
LOW TIDE 4:23 PM 0.15 Meter	HIGH TIDE 11:12 PM 0.82 Meter

	MAR 18	MAR 20	MAR 18	MAR 20	MAR 18	MAR 20		
METRO MANILA	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	22 - 29 °C	21 - 28 °C	TACLOBAN	24 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	22 - 34 °C	22 - 34 °C	LEGAZPI	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C
LAOAG	24 - 33 °C	23 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 34 °C	25 - 35 °C
BAGUIO	16 - 26 °C	15 - 25 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	24 - 34 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 34 °C	24 - 33 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	 		

DZRHNEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

PILIPINAS HD

WEEKDAYS
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM

WEEKENDS
6AM

18 March 2018



Page: 1

10 dead as light plane crashes in Bulacan

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

A small plane carrying five persons crashed into a house shortly after takeoff in Plaridel, Bulacan yesterday, killing everyone onboard and five others on the ground.

The six-seater Piper PA-23 Apache plane was reportedly carrying three passengers aside from the pilot and a mechanic when it crashed in Barangay Lumang Bayan shortly before noon.

Plaridel police chief Supt. Julio Lizardo said all five persons on board died in the crash as the well as the five members of a family occupying the house.

The fatalities were identified as Capt. Ruel Meloria, pilot; mechanic Romeo Huenda and passengers Alicia Necesario, Maria Vera Pagaduan and Nelson Melgar.

Those who died on the ground were Risa dela Rosa; her mother Louisa, 80, and her children John John, 17; Timothy, 11 and Trisa, 7.

The victims' remains were recovered from the crash site at around 4:30 p.m., according to Bulacan police director Senior

Turn to Page 2

Supt. Romeo Caramat.

The incident sparked a fire that also caused injuries to other residents, identified as Verginia Marquez, 60, and Santino Salinas, 11.

Police and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) have yet


to determine the reason for the crash, according to CAAP spokesman Eric Apolonio.

The plane, which was bound for Laoag in Ilocos Norte, was reportedly operated by Lite Air Express.

CAAP's accident investigators and a team from the Flight Safety & Inspectorate Service went to the crash site.

The agency said all aircraft operated by Lite Air Express were grounded pending results of an investigation into the incident. – With Rudy Santos Ramon Efren Lazaro, AP

18 March 2018

**MANILA BULLETIN**
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16

Epitome of bravery, gallantry

By **NONOY E LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY - There is perhaps no better epitome for gallantry and bravery than Staff Sergeant Antonino Basa.

For five times, he has been wounded in battle. And in the two times that he was hurt in Marawi last year, he demanded to only be injected with anti-tetanus drugs before promptly returning to action.

It was also in Marawi that he threw himself on to an improvised explosive device (IED) just to protect his fellow soldiers. Mercifully, the bomb did not explode.

These were just a few of the heroic tales that were shared when Western Mindanao Command (WesMinCom) Commander Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez Jr. visited Basa at a hospital here Thursday.

Basa is recuperating from a head wound he sustained when he and members of the Fifth Scout Rangers Battalion (SRB) encountered fighters from the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Barangay Panglahayan in Patikul, Sulu.

The government forces were attempting to rescue kidnap victims who were still in the hands of the ASG under Radulan Sahiron and sub-leaders Julie Ekit, Amlon Abtahi, and a certain Amah Asam.

According to 5th SRB commander

Lt. Col. Jomalesa, Basa was part of the lead company, which had to crawl inch-by-inch just to get close to their objective.

"Nakita na namin ang kalaban nung tanghali subalit maingat na maingat kami sapagkat iniisip namin ang kalagayan ng mga hostages," said Capt. Jay Maravillo, company commander of the 14th Scout Ranger Company.

And when Basa and his men saw that the hostages were no longer in the vicinity, they engaged their foes in a fierce firefight.

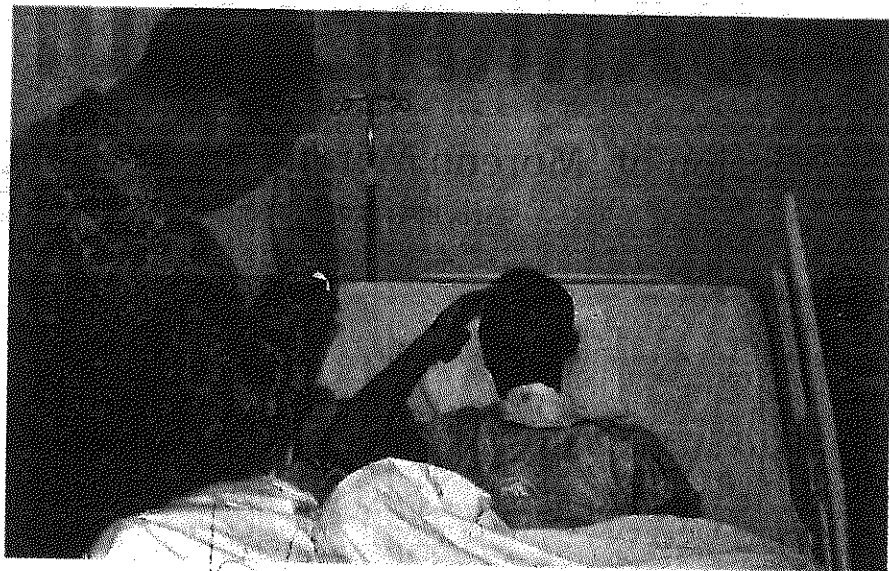
Basa and five other government troops were wounded in the encounter, while five ASG fighters were killed.

It was also Maravillo who recalled how Basa once threw his body on to an IED which lay in ambush in one of their patrols in Marawi.

"Bilib kaming lahat kay S/Sgt Basa, napakatapang at napakagaling nya. Diko makalimutan yung isang nangyari sa Marawi na may nagsabi sa kanya na merong explosive sa kanilang dadaanan, at dinapaan nya ito para isalba ang buhay ng mga kasamahan, pero swerte lang na hindi pumutok," said Maravilla.

One of the companions of Basa also said that in two instances in Marawi, Basa was hit by shrapnel from IED attacks.

According to him, Basa only asked to be injected with the anti-tetanus vaccine, and after a rest of just a few days,



A HERO'S SALUTE – Staff Sergeant Antonino Basa can barely lift his arm to salute Western Mindanao Command (WesMinCom) head Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez Jr. who visited the battle-scarred Scout Ranger in a Zamboanga City hospital last Thursday. (Nonoy E. Lacson)

he asked to be returned to the front lines with his men.

“Madaming sumusunod sa kanya kapag sya na ang nag le-lead ng tropa. Talagang nangunguna, at walang takot. Lagi nya sinasabi na kailangan ako ng tropa ko,” Basa’s comrade said.

Even Galvez could not help but be emotional when he visited Basa.

“I am emotional and so touched by his gesture to salute me even if he is

still incapable of moving his hand and body,” said Galvez.

“It only shows that even in his subconscious mind he still practiced the highest sense of honor, obedience and respect to his superiors and to the flag. I have given orders for my staff to work for the revival of his Medal for Valor award recommendation and for the other awards that are due to this battle tested brave soldier,” he said.

18 March 2018



Page: 17

43 guns recovered from Lanao town execs

LANAO DEL SUR – At least 43 unlicensed guns were surrendered by local officials of Piagapo town in this province.

The arms cache, which consists of assault rifles, machine guns and rocket launchers, were turned over by Mayor Ali Sumandar to the 103rd Brigade and provincial police during ceremonies held in Marawi on Friday.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. of the Western Mindanao Command said personnel of the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion and provincial peace and order council, including Lanao del Sur Vice Gov.

Mamintal Adiong Jr., interceded for the surrender of the firearms.

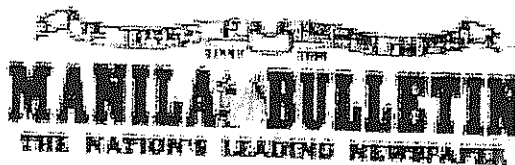
Piagapo is among the five towns in this province where Maute militants organized and recruited their members.

Galvez said local government officials in the other towns have sent feelers on the turnover of their unlicensed guns.

The military said more than 600 loose firearms have been recovered in Mindanao since January in line with the implementation of martial law and the campaign against loose firearms.

– John Unson

18 March 2018



Page: 10

Lanao officials surrender high-powered weapons

By **NONOY E. LACSON AND BONITA L. ERMAC**

ZAMBOANGA CITY - About 50 high powered firearms were surrendered to Joint Task Force Zampelan (JTF-Zampelan), Wednesday by some local officials and residents of Piagapo town in Lanao del Sur province.

JTF-Zampelan Commander Maj. Gen. Roseller G Murillo received the armaments from Piagapo Mayor Ali Sumandar in a simple hand-over ceremony held at 2:30 pm Wednesday.

Murillo, commander of the First Infantry (Tabak) Division, said: "Our soldiers under the 51st Infantry Battalion, headed by Lt Col. Gremel B Brual, in partnership with the local officials of Piagapo, have been campaigning and convincing those who are keeping loose firearms to turn-over the armaments to the military."

Piagapo is known to be the area where the Maute brothers trained their followers since 2016. It is also the subject of series of military operations targeting the terrorists group who have managed to establish an encampment in the area.

"We believe that if we are not able to get hold of these guns, these might be used to sow fear, terror and devastation to the innocent people," Murillo added.

Among the firearms that were surrendered were a Minimi 5.56 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW); an Ultimax 5.56mm (SAW); a Rocket Propelled Grenade 7 with 1 ammo; a Barret Cal .50, seven M16 5.56 rifles (two with attached M203 grenade launchers); six M14 7.62 mm rifles, 12 M16A1 5.56mm rifle; five M653 5.56 mm rifles; one BAR; one M79; one M2 Carbine; one Tompson 9mm; one Uzi 9mm; one cal .45 Pistol; and three KG 9mm.

18 March 2018

The Manila Times

Page: A7



'SEARCH' Facebook photos posted by Wo Phyt Hab Yb show Philippine Army soldiers at the Bacacolod Grande Mosque where they searched civilians for weapons.

Civilians surrender firearms in Lanao Sur

ABOUT 43 high- and low-powered unlicensed firearms were surrendered by residents of Piagpao, Lanao del Sur, to the military on Friday afternoon.

Mayor Ali Sumandar of Piagpao said he wants his town to be a "role model" by supporting the security sector in achieving peace.

His town is notoriously known for the presence of rebel members and syndicates.

This was the second time that the residents of Piagpao surrendered loose firearms, with the first on October 17, 2017.

The Islamic State-inspired Maute Group occupied the town before the

Marawi siege in May 2017.

Meanwhile, Muslim villagers have accused Philippine Army soldiers of disrupting their prayers after they surrounded a mosque in Lanao del Sur also on Friday and ordered all the men to step out and searched them for weapons.

The incident, which happened during the congregation prayer in the town of Bacolod Kalawi, was recorded on mobile phone and posted by Wo Phyt Hab Yb on Facebook that went viral.

In his social media post, he said Bacolod Grande is known as the little Makkah

because majority of the residents there are "religious" and kind.

Civilians were wondering why the people who just came out from the mosque would be subjected to a search.

The post called on President Rodrigo Duterte to check if the military operation was legitimate.

"It appears that freedom of religion is no longer safe [or upheld] by the Army. Please Duterte administration, check if the Army search in Masjid Bacolod Grande is legitimate," it said.

AL JACINTO AND ROY NARRA

1/8

March 2018



Page: 3

Sulu town village chiefs yield firearms

ZAMBOANGA CITY — The heads of six villages in Siasi, Sulu surrendered assorted high powered firearms to troops of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 (MBLT-1), the military reported yesterday. Rear Adm. Rene Medina, Naval Forces Western Mindanao (Navforwem) command chief, said the firearms were surrendered to the 1st Matine Company on Wednesday in Barangay Poblacion, Siasi, Sulu. Medina said the firearms that were surrendered included the following: four caliber .30 M1 Garand rifle; one M-14 rifle; and, one US-made M1 Carbin rifle with ammunition. Medina did not identify who were the village heads who surrendered the unlicensed guns. He said the other barangay chairs in the town of Siasi have also signified intention to turnover their unlicensed firearms. Siasi, which is a second class town in Sulu, comprises of 50 barangays. The town has a population of 67,705 based on the 2015 census. Medina said the continuous surrender of firearms is the outcome of the series of community dialogues by the Philippine Marine Ready Force-Sulu. He said they are confident that more firearms would be laid down by barangay leaders and their constituents in Sulu. He added the continued cooperation of the military and local government units is beneficial in attaining a peaceful and developed Western Mindanao.

PNA

18 March 2018



Pahina. 1

43 loose firearms isinurender

Isinurender ang nasa apatnapu't tatlong mga loose firearms ng mga residente ng Piagapo, Lanao del Sur sa tropa ng pamahalaan bilang suporta sa pinaigting na kampanya ng pamahalaan laban sa mga baril na walang lisensya, ayon sa opisyal kahapon.

Sinabi ni Major Ronald Suscano, Spokesman ng Army's 1st Infantry Division, bandang alas-2:30 ng hapon nang isuko ng mga residente ang sari-saring mga armas na walang lisensya sa turnover ceremony sa Piagapo Towh Hall ang nasabing lalawigan.

Ayon kay Suscano

sa 43 isinukong mga armas, 41 dito ay matataas na kalibre at dalawa naman ang low powered firearms.

Kabilang sa isinukong mga armas ay Barrett Cal .50, BAR, RPG 7, M79, Minimi 5.56 (SAW), Ultimax 5.56mm SAW, M-16 rifles, M-14 rifles, M653 rifles, M4 rifle, Magpul rifle, M2 Carbine, Thompson 9mm, Uzi 9mm, cal .45 pistol at KJ 9mm.

Inihayag ng opisyal na ito ang ikalawang batch ng isinukong mga armas ng mga sibilyang residente matapos na mauna nang isuko ang maliikling uri ng mga armas noong Oktubre

17, 2017.

Ipinaabot naman ni Piagapo Mayor Ali Sumandar ang kaniyang pakikilisa sa security sector upang makamitan ang pangmatagalang kapayapaan sa kanilang lalawigan at mga karatig lugar.

Magugunita na ang bayan ng Piagapo ay inokupa ng Daesh inspired Maute –Islamic

State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) bago ang Marawi City rebelyon na nagumpisa noong Mayo 23, 2017 at tumagal ng limang buwan. (Joy Santos at Rhoderick Benez)

18 March 2018



Pahina. 2

Militar vs NPA: 12 armas nabawi

Matagumpay na nabawi ng mga militar sa mga rebeldeng New Peoples Army ang labin-dalawang baril, mga bala at pampasabog matapos magkasagupaan ang dalawang panig sa bulubunduking lugar ng Brgy. Talisay sa bayan ng San Fernando, Masbate kamakalawa ng umaga.

Siyam na pirasong M-16 Armalite Rifle, isang M653 Carbine, isang Sniper Rifle type 97-A,

isang improvised shotgun, limang rifle grenade, apat na bala ng M203 Grenade launcher, mga bala at iba pa ang nabawi ng mga militar matapos tumakas ang mga rebelde.

Sa ulat na natanggap ng Camp Gen. Simeon Ola, dakong alas-6:00 ng umaga, nagsasagawa ng combat patrol operation ang Scout Platoon ng 9th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army sa pangunguna ni 1st Lt. April Johan Del

Rosario nang masalubong nila ang may 15-rebelde at agad nagkaputukan.

Gayunman, makaraan ang 20-minutong palitan ng putok ay tumakas ang mga rebelde at naiwan ang kanilang mga baril at mga gamit. Wala namang naiulat na nasugatan o namatay sa panig ng mga sundalo habang pinaniniwalaang marami ang sugatan sa mga rebelde. (*Jorge Halare*)

18 March 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16

Troops foil NPA bombing

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - An alleged collector and courier of the Communist New People's Army-Milisyang ng Bayan (NPA-MB) was arrested by troops of the Army's 25th Infantry (Fireball) Battalion on Wednesday near the border of Agusan del Sur and Compostela Valley (ComVal) provinces, reported Capt. Jerry S. Lamosao, chief of the Public Affairs Office (PAO) of the Army's 10th Infantry (Agila) Division (10th ID), on Saturday.

In a statement sent to The Manila Bulletin, the 10th ID PAO chief said an improvised explosive device (IED) was also

seized from the suspect. It supposedly intended for patrolling 25th IB troops.

The identity of the arrested NPA was temporarily withheld as he is still under tactical interrogation.

"The 1st Platoon of Alpha Company, 25th IB was conducting focus military operations (FMOs) and while traversing the road approaching Liwanag area (Monkayo, ComVal province) the team noticed the suspect acting suspiciously while hiding beneath the trees. Upon sensing the approaching troops, the suspect immediately ran away and left a backpack with IED and its components, but troops subsequently chased down and captured the suspect," Lamosao said.

18 March 2018



Page. 1

NPA with IED captured

CAMP BANCASTI, Butuan City – An alleged collector for the New People's Army (NPA) was nabbed by the 25th Infantry Battalion on Wednesday near the border of Agusan del Sur and Compostela Valley (ComVal). Capt. Jerry S. Lamosao, chief of the Public Affairs Office (PAO) of the Army's 10th Infantry Division (10th ID), on Saturday, said the suspect yielded components of an improvised explosive device (IED). The suspect has since been charged in violation of RA 9516 of the Revised Penal Code. **(Mike U. Crismundo)**

18 March 2018



Page: A3

ONLINE 'SABONG'
COUNCILOR, COPS,
SOLDIER RUN 'FOWL'
OF CYBERCRIME
BUSTERS

By Jeannette I. Andrade
@jiandradeINQ

A town councilor, two policemen and a soldier had no chance to fly the coop.

Birds of a feather, the four men were among 149 people rounded up in a restaurant by police operatives last Friday night while allegedly betting in livestream cockfights in Baliwag, Bulacan.

Policemen from the Counter-Intelligence Task Force (CITF) and the Anti-Cybercrime Group identified their arrested colleagues as PO3 Nolasco Bernardo Juan and PO1 Jestoni Fuentabella, and the soldier as Pfc. Enrique Quinaquin Jr.

Police withheld the identity of the councilor from Baliwag, who claimed to be a bettor and was said to be mad as a wet hen when the raid was announced.

Bernardo is assigned with the Central Luzon police headquarters in Camp Olivas, Pampanga, while Fuentabella reports to the Bulacan provincial Mobile Force Company.

Chief Insp. Jewel Nicanor, CITF spokesperson, said the raiders also nabbed a former policeman, Emmanuel Leonardo, who was dismissed from the service in 2011, and Enecito Dahan Payapa, the alleged owner of Globaliwag Restaurant, in the operation that started at 10 p.m.

Nicanor said they were checking whether the councilor was also the operator of the illegal cockfight operation, in which bettors wager on a cockfight streamed live from a cockpit and collectors gather bets from people in the restaurant.

The raid was conducted after a concerned resident complained that the restaurant had been transformed into a nest for illegal gambling.

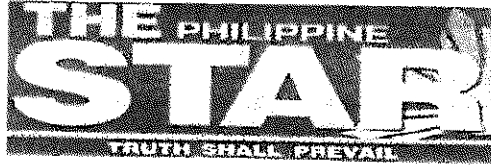
Payapa admitted to investigators that he was livestreaming cockfights but denied collecting bets. He showed investigators a business permit for a "UFCC Meridien Vista Pay Per View" and an expired certification issued by North Cagayan Gaming and Amusement Corp.

He also claimed that while he charged entrance fees, he had nothing to do with betting activities in his establishment.

Nicanor said that the arrested policemen and the soldier were liable for allowing the illegal activity inside the restaurant.

The CITF has arrested 60 policemen for involvement in illegal activities since the unit was created in February last year. Chief Insp. Romeo Bulanadi, former police chief of Sasmuan, Pampanga, was the highest ranking officer among them. INQ

18 March 2018



Page: 17

4 cops, soldier arrested for online cockfighting

At least 149 persons, including four police officers, a soldier and five local government employees, were arrested for online cockfighting in Bulacan on Friday.

Police Officer 3 Nolasco Juan, who is assigned at Camp Olivas, PO1 Jestoni

Fuentebella of the Police Mobile Force Company in Bulacan, PO1 Jeffrey Mateo of the Angat police, PO1 Emmanuel Leonardo and Pfc. Enrique Quinaquin Jr. of the Army were collared during a raid on a restaurant in Baliwag.

The government employ-

ees were not identified in the report of the Counter Intelligence Task Force (CITF) headed by Senior Superintendent Jose Chiquito Malayo.

CITF spokesman Chief Inspector Jewel Nicanor said operatives of the CITF

and Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG) conducted the raid based on a warrant issued by a local court.

Nicanor said the owner of the restaurant identified as Enechito Payapaya is under the custody of ACG personnel. - **Cecille Suerte Felipe**

18 March 2018



Page: 10

GOVT MEN, COPS, SOLDIER CAUGHT GAMBLING ONLINE

By Francisco Tuyay

FIVE government officials, four policemen and a soldier were collared by police intelligence operatives while betting in an illegal online cockfighting game at a restaurant in Bulacan Friday afternoon.

Initial reports from the office of CITF chief Sr. Supt Jose Chiquito Malayo said they caught the government officials and lawmen inside the Globaliwag Restaurant in Baliwag operating an illegal online cockfighting at about 9:45 p.m.

The CITF identified the four policemen as PO3 Nolasco Bernardo

Juan, assigned in Camp Olivas; PO1 Jestoni Gonzales Fuentebella of the Bulacan Police Mobile Force Company; PO1 Jeffrey Mateo from Angat Municipal Police Station; and PO1 Emmanuel Leonardo and Army soldier Private First Class Enrique Quinaquin.

The arrested policemen and the soldier were brought to Camp Crame for investigation.

The CITF, however, did not identify the five government officials and their respective positions and areas of assignment.

Reports said the government officials were brought to an undisclosed police facility to undergo investigation.

The CITF operations also led to the arrest of 139 civilians betting inside the illegal online cockfighting.

The owner of the Globaliwag

Restaurant identified as Enecito Dahan Payapaya was taken by CITF operatives and is presently under the custody of the Anti-Crime Group.

PNP Chief Ronald dela Rosa has issued a stern warning to policemen from entering gambling places and casinos and similar establishments, and from engaging in criminal activities particularly in illegal drugs.

Last year, the CITF has arrested dozens of policemen engaged in illegal activities such as gambling and illegal drugs.

Over a hundred policemen found guilty of administrative offenses were dismissed from the police service while thousand other policemen are being investigated for numerous offenses.

The CITF was created to go after erring policemen and police officers involved in various illegal acts.

18 March 2018

POLICE FILES

Page. 1

Konsehal, 4 pulis, 1 sundalo arestado sa online sabungan sa Bulacan

ARESTADO ang nasa 149 katao kabilang ang isang konsehal, apat na local gov't employees, apat na pulis at isang sundalo nang salakayin ng mga elemento ng Philippine National Police-Counter Intelligence Task Force (PNP-CITF) at PNP Anti Cyber Crime Group (PNP-ACG) ang isang restaurant na nag-operate ng illegal online gaming sa Baliwag, Bulacan.

Nakilala ang inarestong pulis na sina PO3 Nolasco Bernardo Juan, nakatalaga sa Camp Olivares, PO1 Jestoni Gonzales Fuentebella, nakatalaga sa Police Mobile Force Company sa Bulacan, PO1 Jeffrey Mateo, nakatalaga sa Angat MPS, PO1 Emmanuel Leonardo, AWOL mula pa noong 2011, at PFC Enrique D Quinaquin Jr., ng Philippine Army.

Ayon kay Sr. Supt. Jose Chiquito Malayo Chief ng PNP-CITF, dakong 9:45 ng gabi nang salakayin ng mga operatiba ang Globaliwag Restaurant na matatagpuan sa Baliwag Bulacan.

Sinabi ni Malayo na nakatanggap sila ng reklamo mula sa ilang mga residente sa nasabing lugar dahil sa maingay

kaugnay sa umano'y operasyon ng "illegal online cockfighting" sa nasabing restaurant na pag-aari ng isang Enecito Dahan Payapaya.

Agad naman nagsagawa ng surveillance ang mga otoridad at matapos na makumpirma ang operasyon sa loob ng nasabing restaurant ay isinagawa ang operasyon at sinalakay ito

Hindi na umano nagawang makatakbo ang mga nabiglang kostumer na inabutan sa loob ng restaurant, isinama na rin sa mga inaresto ng mg operatiba ang ilang pulis na nasa labas o pinto nito.

Aniya, ang nasabing mga pulis ay isinamang inaresto upang alamin kung may partisipasyon, kinalaman o protector ng nasabing illegal na operation sa nasabing restaurant.

Ang mga inaresto ay dinala sa Himpilan ng PNP-CITF sa Camp Crame habang isinasailalim sa imbestigasyon at inihandanda ang kasong illegal gambling at Cybercrime Prevention Act.

Samantala mahaharap din sa kasong administratibo ang naarestong konsehal at apat na kawani ng lokal na gobyerno.

(Mark Obleada/Thony Arcenal/Daisy Medina)

18 March 2018

The Manila Times

Page: A2

PMA Class of 2018 sets record for female grads

BY THOM F. PICAÑA

BAGUIO CITY: President Rodrigo Duterte is set to attend the graduation rites of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), whose “Alagad ng Lahing Pinagbigkis ng Tapang at Lakas” (Alab Tala) Class of 2018 holds the record of having the most female graduates.

This Sunday, March 18, at Fort Del Pilar, 75 graduating female cadets will join their 207 male classmates in receiving their diplomas from President Duterte during the 2018 PMA commencement rites.

This year will see the most number of women graduating from the PMA since it the academy started accepting women cadets in 1993.

Three of the female graduating cadets are in the top 10. Cadet First Class Leonore Andrea Cariño Japitan from Amabago, Butuan City ranks fourth, FAIF

Cadet First Class Jezaira Laquinon Buenaventura of Bais City, Negros Oriental is No. 6 and Cadet First Class Micah Quiambao Reynaldo of Bamban, Tarlac is at No. 10.

Another outstanding graduate is Cadet First Class Jasm Marie Alcoriza of Bacolod City, Negros Occidental who will be awarded the Athletic Saber.

All 16 regions in the country have female graduating cadets this year, with the Cordillera Administrative Region and Central Luzon having the most with 12 and 11, respectively.

Maj. Gen. Donato San Juan, the PMA superintendent, said equal opportunities and training are given to male and female cadets. “It is no longer a question, at this time, that women are capable of performing the duties that the male officers are doing in the frontline,” he said.

Last year, the PMA Salaknib (“Sanggalang ay Lakas at Bukay Para sa Kalayaan ng Inang Bayan”) Class of 2017 also made a record with female cadets occupying eight of the top 10 spots in the graduating class.

“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 were 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 said, pointing out that 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 tasks as their male counterparts,” he said.

The PMA opened its doors to women cadets on April 1, 1993. The first women plebes graduated with the Class of 1997. In 1999, the PMA recorded the first female cadet to graduate at the top of her class, Ensign Arlene de la Cruz.

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

Of the 75 female cadets graduating on Sunday, March 18, 38 will go to the Army, 19 to the Air Force, and 18 to the Navy.

18 March 2018



Page: 1

Rody, Leni sharing stage at PMA rites

By HELEN FLORES

President Duterte and Vice President Leni Robredo will be sharing the same stage today as they attend the graduation ceremony of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in Baguio City.

This will be the first meeting of the country's top two leaders this year.

Robredo and Duterte are rarely seen together in public since the Vice President was booted out of the Cabinet in 2016.

Duterte will award the Presidential Saber to PMA Alab Tala (Alagad ng Lahing Binigkis ng Tangap at Lakas) Class of 2018 valedictorian Cadet First Class Jaywardene Galilea Hontoria.

Robredo, on the other hand, will hand over the Vice Presidential Saber to Class Salutatorian CFC Ricardo Witawit Liwaden.

On Thursday, Robredo expressed alarm over Duterte's decision to withdraw the Philippines from

Turn to Page 2

the Rome Statute, the treaty that created the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has started a probe into the thousands of summary killings under Duterte's war on drugs.

Robredo said the Philippines' withdrawal from the global treaty could have an impact on the international community's perception of the country.

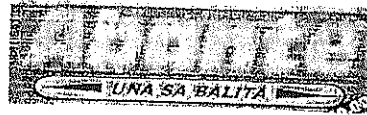
She also said the move has removed the country's "safety net" from abusive leaders.

"This is dangerous for the future generations," she added. "The President's decision to withdraw from the ICC is alarming."

The Philippines yesterday formally informed the United Nations of its decision to withdraw from the ICC.

In a one-page note verbale sent to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres through his Chef de Cabinet Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, the Philippines said its withdrawal from the global treaty "is a principled stand against those who politicize and weaponize human rights."

18 March 2018



Pahina. 1

Pagtatapos ng mga bagong opisyal ng PMA, pangungunahan ni Duterte

BIYAHENG Baguio City si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ngayong araw ng Linggo para pangunahan ang commencement exercises ng Philippine Military Academy (PMA) 'Alab-Tala' class of 2018.

Si Pangulong Duterte ang panauhing pandangal sa pagtatapos ng mga bagong opisyal ng PMA sa Fort del Pilar, Baguio City.

Inaasahang magkikita sa okasyon ang Pangulo at si Vice President Leni Robredo dahil ang pangalawang Pangulo ang mag-aabot ng Vice Presidential Saber kay Cadet ICL Ricardo W. Liwaden.

Matatandaang

noong nakaraang taon ay muntik makalimutan ni Pangulong Duterte na batiin sa kanyang talumpati ang bise presidente.

Matagal nang hindi nakita sa isang okasyon ang Pangulo at Pangalawang Pangulo kaya't isa ito sa mga inaabangan sa PMA graduation rites.

Si Cadet ICL Jaywardene G. Honoria ang valedictorian ng PMA 'Alab-Tala' Class of 2018.

Pagkatapos ng seremonya ay makakasalo ng Pangulo ang mga bagong opisyal ng Armed Forces of the Philippines. **(Aileen Taliping)**

18 March 2018



Page: 3

Marines chief backs move to form new military branch

While it expressed support for the proposed law seeking to institutionalize its branch as an independent armed uniformed service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) will remain a compact and hard-hitting force, its head, Major Gen. Alvin Parreño, has assured.

Parreño made the remark Friday when pressed on whether

they are planning to increase the number of their personnel once the proposal to separate them from the Navy goes into fruition.

This, after House of Representatives Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas filed a bill seeking to institutionalize the PMC as a distinct and autonomous arm of the military.

"We do not intend to be a big

unit like the Army, and we don't intend to compete for resources from any other branch of service," Parreño said.

The PMC is composed of about 8,000 officers and enlisted personnel spread around three maneuver brigades apart from combat support and headquarters units.

While strongly supportive of calls to make the Marines an

independent military arm, Parreño said there will be a transition period.

"There will be transition and we are still preparing for it. The British Royal Marines remains at 8,000, even though they are a separate service," he added.

Instead of expanding their size, the PMC chief said they would rather fill up their battalions, which are not to full strength. **PNA**

18 March 2018

The Manila Times

Page: AB

Marines welcome separation from Navy

THE leadership of the Philippine Marine Corps has welcomed proposed bills in both chambers of Congress to transform the Marines into a separate major service under the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Maj. Gen. Alvin Parreño, Marines commandant, on Friday said they are in favor of the move made by House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez of Davao del Norte and Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara proposing the Marines to be separated from the jurisdiction of the Philippine Navy.

Both Alvarez and Angara are reservists in the Marines.

Parreño pointed out that they are not aiming to be a huge unit like the Navy, the Philippine Army and the Philippine Air Force, despite the bills authored by Alvarez and Angara in the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively.

"We do not intend to be a big unit... and we don't intend to compete for resources from any other branch of service [in the military]," he said in a text message to reporters, when asked if he is eyeing an expansion of the Marines once it becomes a separate branch of the military.

"There will be a transition and we are still preparing for it," Parreño added.

He cited the Corps of Royal Marines in the United Kingdom with only 8,000 men despite being a separate service of the UK military.

The Philippine Marines is a 7,500-strong unit under the Navy and the AFP.

Parreño explained that the Marines is replenishing its battalions with more soldiers deployed across the country.

"We have this table of organization that we have to fill up. We are aiming to add more men to our battalions since it has a small number and my first objective is to fill that up," the Marines chief said.

Alvarez and House Majority Floor Leader Rodolfo Fariñas filed House Bill 7304 or the Philippine Marine Corps Act this week that also seeks the establishment of Marines headquarters in Luzon, Visayas and Mindánáo.

Angara filed Senate Bill 1731 turning the Marines into an independent military branch, saying the Marines could play a crucial role in protecting the country's territorial waters.

The AFP at present has three major services—the Army, the Air Force and the Navy, which are traditionally headed by a three-star general belonging to each command.

DEMPEY REYES

18 March 2018



Page. 1

U.S. military turns over new Scan Eagle UAS to PH

UNITED States Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Y. Kim turned over a Scan Eagle Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) to Secretary of National Defense Delfin N. Lorenzana during a transfer ceremony at Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, on March 13.

Kim and officials from the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group delivered the P687 million (\$13.2 million) system to the Philippine Air Force through the Foreign Military Financing grant program in order to increase the Philippine military's maritime domain awareness, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) and counterterrorism capabilities.

The Scan Eagle UAS will provide unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities to the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) 300 Air Intelligence and Security Wing (AISW), who will operate the aircraft out of Antonio Bautista Air Base, Palawan. 300 AISW is the AFP's leading unit for air ISR operations.

"The transfer of the Scan Eagle to the 'unmanned' ISR group and the transfer of the two Cessna-208Bs in July 2017 to the 'manned' ISR group represent our



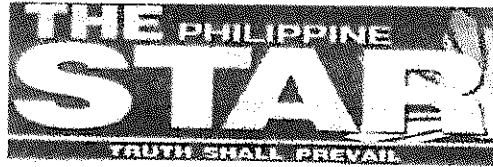
U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Y. Kim pours champagne over a Scan Eagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicle during a traditional turnover and blessing ceremony.

strong commitment to enhance the capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," Kim said during the ceremony.

The United States, as a longstanding ally of the Philippines, continues to

provide support to the AFP through both grant assistance and expedited sales of arms and munitions to assist both long-term AFP modernization goals and urgent counter-terrorism and HADR requirements.

18 March 2018



Page: 7

UN legal office to look into Phl terror list

By JANVIC MATEO

The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs will look into the inclusion of special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz in the list of individuals the Duterte administration wants to be declared as terrorists.

Speaking with Cultural Survival, a United States-based non-profit group protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, Tauli-Corpuz said she is looking at various legal options to counter the petition filed by the Department of Justice before a Manila court.

She categorically denied government allegations that she has ties with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA).

"I have never been involved with the groups mentioned in the petition. I am looking into legal options to counter this clearly false accusation and will continue to do everything I can to advocate for other innocent people included in the government's petition," she said.

"The Office of the Legal Affairs of the United Nations is also expected to look into this," she added.

The nature of the involvement of the UN legal office has yet to be determined.

Tauli-Corpuz, however, maintained that the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the UN that the Philippines ratified should have protected her from such accusations and cases.

"Unfortunately, being labeled a 'terrorist' or 'criminal' is a common challenge for indigenous leaders around the world. The lands we have long protected and depended on are often targeted for industry, mining, logging or agriculture without our

consent – or designated as protected areas even though it is our sustainable management that has kept the forests standing," she said.

"In my case, I believe the government's attempt to label me a terrorist is in retaliation for speaking out against the treatment of the Mindanao indigenous peoples in the Philippines," she added.

Last week, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano claimed that there is basis for the rapporteur's inclusion in the list due to her alleged links with the Ilocos-Cordillera Regional Committee of the 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," said Cayetano.

"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.

Fearing for safety

Tauli-Corpuz, however, said her mere inclusion in the list has already raised serious concerns on her safety.

"One can never know what the government is capable of doing, especially in a context where extrajudicial killings are

becoming more common," she said.

"But I am more concerned for others in the government's petition – which includes activists who have dedicated their lives to advocating for indigenous rights. Not everyone has the resources to defend themselves legally or the visibility provided by a UN position to argue their case," she added.

Some 600 individuals, including exiled CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison and chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni, were included in the list submitted by the DOJ to a Manila court.

Also named were Sison's wife Juliet de Lima, Jalandoni's wife Connie Ledesma, former Bayan Muna representative Satur Ocampo and alleged CPP leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, Rafael Baylosis, Randall Echanis,

Vicente Ladlad and Adelberto Silva.

Joan Carling, the UN's Focal Person for Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development, was also included in the list.

The UN Environment Program (UNEP) and the UN Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN REDD Program) have also called for the dropping of Tauli-Corpuz and Carling from the list.

– With Rhodina Villanueva, Jaime Laude

3

18
March 2018



Page: 74

DND tells 'lumad': No need to worry about terror tag

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana assured tribal folk, called "lumad," of government protection as long as they do not join the New People's Army (NPA). Lorenzana said lumad should not be concerned if the court declared the Communist Party of the Philippines and NPA, its military arm, as terrorist groups because lumad communities would not be targeted. "That is not true at all," said Lorenzana. "It will only apply to their leaders, regular fighters and supporters." —JEANETTE I. ANDRADE

18 March 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16

Lorenzana orders probe into alleged military abuses on IPs

By **JOSEPH JUBELAG**

T'BOLI, South cotabato - Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has ordered an investigation into the reported human rights violation committed by the military against eight members of a tribal group who were killed during a military operation in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato last December.

Lorenzana, who was guest speaker at the closing ceremonies of the 20th Seslong Festival here on Friday, said he has already ordered an investigation into the incident wherein eight members of Dulangan-Manobo tribal group, led by tribal chieftain Datu Victor Danian, were killed in an encounter between Army troops and New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu on December 3, 2017.

The victims' relatives have filed a

complaint before the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), alleging that the victims were summarily executed by soldiers belonging to 33rd Infantry Battalion and 27th Infantry Battalion.

Named respondents in the complaint are Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander, 27th IB commander and Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, 33rd IB commander, who both claimed that the incident was a legitimate military operation wherein the victims were killed after they figured in a firefight with government troops who were pursuing a band of NPA rebels who had encamped in the area.

Two soldiers were killed during the firefight.

Lorenzana also welcomed the investigation that will be conducted by CHR to determine whether the soldiers had committed lapses which resulted in the killing of the eight tribesmen.

"If they are guilty for committing human rights violation, then they should suffer the consequence," Lorenzana said.

Lake Sebu Mayor Antonio Fungan said the NPA used the tribal group members as their shield against pursuing government troops.

He said the NPA communist rebel group had manipulated members of Indigenous People who are opposed to the encroachment of D.M. Consunji Corp. into their ancestral domain in sitio Bong Langon, Barangay Ned Lake Sebu which was being developed into a coffee plantation.

The mayor said the brewing land dispute between the company and the tribal group members had aggravated after company employed militiamen to harass the tribesmen.

Lorenzana said he will deploy soldiers who are members of IP groups to undertake peace and security tasks in the hinterland villages of T'boli and Lake Sebu towns which are predominantly inhabited by B'laan and T'boli tribesmen.

18 March 2018

The Manila Times

Page: AB

Sparing 'lumad' from terrorist tag not absolute – DND chief

BY ROY NARRA

THE Department of National Defense (DND) over the weekend said *lumad* (indigenous peoples) will not be affected in the government tagging of members of rebel groups as terrorists.

In a statement released on Saturday, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana clarified that the label will only apply to leaders, regular fighters and supporters of rebel groups such as the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army (NPA), the

CPP's armed wing.

The statement came a day after a group of *lumad* rallied in front of Camp Aguinaldo, the national headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in Quezon City.

The group said the tagging

of the members of the CPP and the NPA as terrorists will result in massive operations targeting them.

"Only *lumad* who joined the NPA regular ranks and those who actively support the CPP/NPA in whatever form will be included [in the labeling] as terrorists and will be the object of security operations. The rest of the peace-loving *lumad* need not worry," Lorenzana said.

The Defense secretary vowed that the indigenous peoples will be protected by the military and police as long as they are

not members of the communist rebel groups.

According to non-government organization Save Our Schools Network, 3,000 *lumad* have fled their communities because of armed conflicts between the Philippine Army and the NPA.

President Rodrigo Duterte last year terminated peace talks between the government and the CPP, the NPA and the National Democratic Front (NDF) and tagged them as terror groups.

The NDF is an umbrella group that counts the CPP and the NPA as members.