

*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**

**19 March 2018**

**Monday**

*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 19, 2018 - MONDAY**

**EASTERLIES AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY**  
as of 5:00 am - March 18, 2018

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
6:01 AM	6:07 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
7:13 AM	7:42 PM
<b>NEW MOON</b>	<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>
MAR 17 9:12 PM	MAR 25 11:35 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
5:55 AM	11:56 PM
0.07 Meter	0.74 Meter

Partly cloudy skies  
Partly cloudy to all times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thundershowers

<b>METRO MANILA</b> 23-33°C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b> 21-31°C	<b>TACLOBAN</b> 24-32°C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b> 23-34°C	<b>LEGAZPI</b> 25-33°C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b> 24-32°C
<b>LAOAG</b> 22-31°C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b> 25-31°C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b> 25-32°C
<b>BAGUIO</b> 13-26°C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b> 26-32°C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b> 24-34°C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b> 24-33°C	<b>METRO CEBU</b> 24-32°C	

**DZRH NEWS TELEVISION**

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11AM & 5PM

**PILIPINAS HD**

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

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# DUTERTE TO NATIONS: PULL OUT FROM ICC

STORY BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

The President calls on 120 countries to also withdraw from the International Criminal Court, saying the Rome Statute that established the tribunal is 'bullshit' and the investigation of charges against him is 'rude.'

A12

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—President Duterte on Sunday urged governments to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC), saying the tribunal—which is examining charges of crimes against humanity filed against him over the thousands of killings in his war on drugs—is “rude.”

Speaking at the graduation rites at the Philippine Military Academy, Mr. Duterte called the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the ICC, “bullshit.”

“The treaty, if you read it, it’s all bullshit,” he said.

Although the Senate ratified the Rome Statute, Mr. Duterte said the treaty was never enforced in the Philippines because it was not published in the government’s Official Gazette, as required by law.

“You know, if it’s not published, there is no law,” he said.

Due to that flaw, he said the ICC could never have jurisdiction over him, “not in a million years.”

## Criminal law

Legal experts have argued that the treaty does not need publication to take effect in the Philippines, but Mr. Duterte maintained on Sunday that it should be published because it is “clearly a criminal law.”

Last month, ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda announced that she had begun a preliminary examination of a complaint for crimes against humanity filed against him over the thousands of killings in his brutal war on drugs.

The move angered Mr. Duterte, who last week an-

nounced that he was withdrawing the Philippines' ratification of the Rome Statute "effective immediately," citing "a concerted effort" by Bensouda and UN human rights officials "to paint me as a ruthless and heartless violator of human rights."

On Sunday, Mr. Duterte said he announced the withdrawal from the Rome Statute to draw the world's attention to the issue he had with the ICC.

"I will convince everybody now who are under the treaty get out, get out. It is rude," he said.

#### **EU's 'past sins'**

Mr. Duterte also blamed the Rome Statute on the European Union, which was leading international calls for an independent investigation into the drug killings in the Philippines.

"It is not a document that was prepared by anybody. It's an EU-sponsored [treaty]," he added, as he criticized the European Union for its "past sins" in its involvement in the Middle East and Africa.

"In the Middle East, they took so much of the oil, leaving the poor Arabs to fight each other. You go to Iraq on the pretext of [looking for] weapons of mass destruction, so they destroyed the country," he said.

"And then the ICC prosecutes either black leaders or they have so many problems but they find time to meddle with other countries," he said.

Last week, the European Union told the UN Human Rights Council that it had included the Philippines on its list of countries with problematic human rights situation that re-

quired the council's attention.

The other countries on the EU list are North Korea, Iran, Myanmar, Eritrea, Syria, Burundi, South Sudan, Cambodia, China, Venezuela, Egypt, Bahrain, Russia, Turkey, Pakistan and the occupied Palestinian territory.

"The [European Union] remains deeply concerned about the high number of killings associated with the campaign against illegal drugs in the Philippines," the bloc said in a statement.

"It is imperative to conduct prompt, effective, impartial and transparent investigations of all cases of death leading to prosecution in all cases of unlawful killing," it said.

#### **Evading accountability**

Human rights groups have criticized Mr. Duterte for his de-

### WHAT WENT BEFORE

In October 2016, President Duterte, in a speech before the Filipino community in Brunei, said he found it absurd that his critics continued to threaten him with prosecution in the International Criminal Court (ICC) over alleged extrajudicial killings in his brutal war on drugs.

"How can you send to prison a President declaring war on the drug? I already said I am willing to rot in jail for the Filipino. Don't you understand that? So why keep on threatening or intimidating me and calling my attention? You're too corny," Mr. Duterte said, after ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda warned that she was closely following developments in drug war.

In November 2016, Mr. Duterte said he might follow Russia's move to withdraw from the ICC, describing it as "useless."

Russian President Vladimir Putin that month signed a decree to withdraw Russia from the ICC. It was largely symbolic, however, because like the United States, Russia had not ratified the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the ICC.

Amid threats to hale him to the ICC for the killings, President Duterte said he would face the consequences.

Decision to withdraw the Philippines from the ICC treaty, saying the President is trying to evade accountability for his brutal war on drugs.

Critics say Mr. Duterte can't withdraw the Philippines from the ICC by himself and may need the approval of the Senate, which ratified the Rome Statute in 2011.

Commission on Human Rights Chair Luis Gascon said that the Philippines had histori-

"I will do what I say in public and I am ready to face the consequences," Mr. Duterte told a press conference on March 13 last year.

Days later, before flying for a three-day visit to Myanmar and Thailand, Mr. Duterte told reporters, "I will not be intimidated by the ICC [and] impeachment."

Last July, he dared his detractors to file more cases against him in the ICC, saying, "You file cases against me. Just give me the right to be heard."

On Feb. 9, a day after Bensouda said she was opening a preliminary examination into the alleged crimes in the war on drugs in the Philippines, Mr. Duterte said the ICC prosecutor should explain why she decided to investigate him when there were other countries in Asia where "massacres" were happening.

"There are many massacres there now in all parts of Asia and yet you people want to go after me. You better clear that up because I will withdraw from the ICC," the President said in a speech in Davao City.

On March 14, Mr. Duterte announced that he was pulling the Philippines out of the ICC. —IN-

QUIRER RESEARCH INQ

Sources: Inquirer Archives

cally been at the forefront of the fight for international justice, but that Mr. Duterte's decision "constitutes a reversal that will be viewed as encouraging impunity to continue."

More than 120 countries have ratified the Rome Statute, which established the ICC in 2002 in The Hague.

More than 4,000 drug users and pushers in poor communities have been killed by police since Mr.

**A13**

## **FROM A12**

Duterte launched his war on drugs in June 2016.

Thousands of others have been killed in vigilante-style attacks that rights groups blame on guns for hire working for the police or are police officers themselves.

The ICC can intervene only

when a state is unable or unwilling to carry out an investigation and prosecute perpetrators of heinous crimes like crimes against humanity, genocide, aggression and war atrocities.

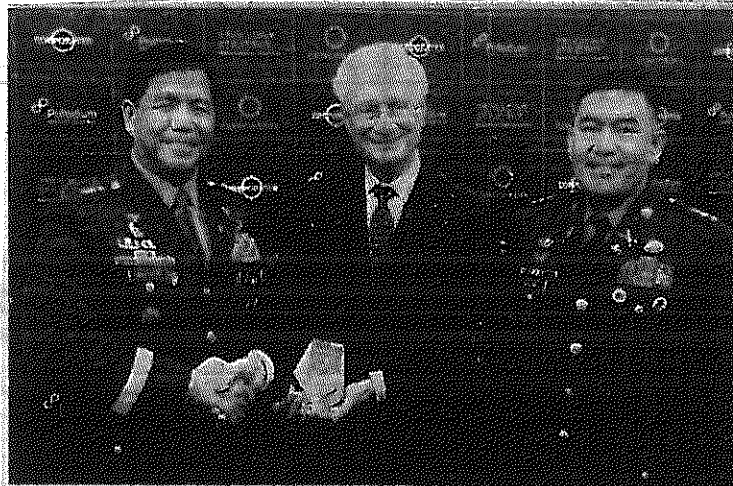
A Filipino, former University of the Philippines law dean Raul Pangalangan, sits as a judge on the ICC. —WITH REPORTS FROM DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN, KIMBERLIE QUITASOL, KARLSTON LAPNITEN AND AP INQ



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## Phi Army receives Palladium Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame Award

The Philippine Army received the Palladium Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame Award for executing strategy in London, United Kingdom on March 14, 2018.

Philippine Army Commanding General Rolando Joselito Bautista in his acceptance speech said, "we strived hard to qualify for the attainment of the Palladium Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame Award, the gold standard of strategic performance management in keeping with our vision of becoming a world class army by 2028 that will be a source of pride not only for our soldiers but for the entire country."

Bautista was accompanied by the Chief of the Army governance and strategy management office, Col. Joel Paloma, as the Philippine Army was awarded at the Reimagine Strategy Palladium Positive Impact Summit 2018 in London. The coveted award was bestowed by the co-creator of the Balanced Scorecard, and Harvard Business School professor emeritus, Dr Robert Kaplan (in photo) last Wednesday at Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

The Philippine Army's Transformation Roadmap strategy was implemented in 2010. This was anchored on Dr. Kaplan and Norton's strategy management system, known locally as the Performance Governance System (PGS).

This genuine transformation strategy has enabled the army to gain numerous awards of recognition such as: the PGS Institutionalized Status in 2014, and the Islands of Good Governance in 2015. The Philippine Army recently passed the on site evaluation process, conducted on Jan. 22-24, 2018, by David McMillan, director of the office of strategy management of the Palladium Group.

The Palladium Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame Award for executing strategy is regarded as the gold standard for strategic performance management, and recognizes organizations that have successfully executed their strategies and achieved breakthrough results through the use of the Kaplan and Norton strategy management system. Over 200 organizations have been inducted world-wide since its establishment in 2000.

– Rudy Santos

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# Army search in mosque stirs protest

ILIGAN CITY—An Army operation to secure a mosque in a Lanao del Sur town was being deplored by several Maranaos, mainly in social media, as a form of disrespect of Friday prayers because the operation was conducted in the mosque at the height of the prayers.

A video of the search for guns by soldiers inside and around the mosque in the town of Bacolod-Kalawi was posted on Facebook and quickly drew sharp reactions from Maranao netizens.

The netizen who posted the video, Faisal Pacalma Cali, of Lanao del Sur, said while Mindanao was under martial law, the search inside the mosque and around it was a sign of disrespect and was deplorable.

"This is too much," he wrote on Facebook.

## Interruption

Aina Bulat, a resident of Bacolod-Kalawi, said soldiers were in full battle gear and interrupted the prayers.

She said the imam (Islamic priest) was about to start his sermon when the soldiers came.

"They milled outside the mosque and we thought they left," Bulat said.

"Then they started entering the mosque again. I told them they were not allowed to enter the mosque because they were Chris-



The Army campaign to bring in unlicensed guns has been successful in the town of Piagapo, Lanao del Sur province, where these assault and sniper rifles had been turned over to the military. –RICHEL V. UMEL

tians," Bulat told the Inquirer.

"They made the Tausug soldiers come in," she said.

The military, however, disputed versions of the operation that spread in social media, known for being a hub of fake news.

#### Legit operation

Turning to social media, too, the Army's 55th Infantry Battalion (IB) released a statement through its Facebook account, saying the operation was just to "ensure the security and safety of all civilians of Bacolod-Kalawi."

Soldiers, the statement said, were responding to reports that unidentified gunmen were headed for the mosque.

The search for guns was also in connection with the "prevalence of firearms in the area" and a clan war in the town, which led to a gunfight on Jan. 5.

The Army unit that conducted the search, led by Lt. Col. Emmanuel Valdez IV, said it was necessary to rid the area of illegal firearms as remnants of the Maute group were aggressively recruiting and training new members.

In its Facebook statement, the 55th IB also said soldiers entered the mosque "with permission."

The imam accompanied three Muslim soldiers who removed their boots before entering the mosque and searching for bombs, the statement said.

"The AFP meant no disrespect," it said.

No frisking was done, said the Army battalion, as men coming out of the mosque were "humbly" requested to just lift their shirts for soldiers to see whether they were carrying weapons.

"No touching was done," said Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of the anti-terror Joint Task Force Lanao.

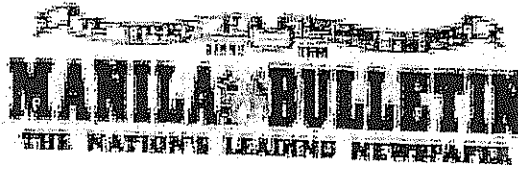
#### 'Prudent'

The operation, Brawner said, was "prudent given the fact that the security and safety of Bacolod-Kalawi" was a concern.

Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesperson for the Lanao del Sur crisis management committee, said he agreed that places of worship "must be respected at all times."

—REPORTS FROM DIVINA SUSON AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ

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## Army denies Samar schools' militarization

CATARMAN, Northern Samar - The Philippine Army refuted claims of left-leaning organizations that schools in Northern Samar are being militarized.

Col. Ramil Bitong, Army 803rd Infantry Brigade commander, said the groups were trying to create issues against the government and the Army

Bitong said that instead of bringing out the issues in Manila, they should have discussed them with him, Governor Jose L. Ong and their municipal mayor.

"Actually, it is not exactly true that they are militarized and they used the school, they were allowed as it was still vacation and they could not refuse the

Army as they are the only ones helping the school," he told the Manila Bulletin.

Last week, organizations claiming to be from Northern Samar held a lightning rally at the central office of the Department of Education (DepEd) in Pasig City to denounce what they said was the militarization of Northern Samar schools. (Nestor L. Abrematea)

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

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• **Army scores**

The Philippine Army is now globally recognized as one of the best organizations in terms of strategy execution after being recently inducted in the Palladium Balanced Scorecard Hall of Fame for Executing Strategy. Army Sportsman Lt Col Louie D. Villanueva said that Philippine Army chief Lt Gen Rolando Joseño D. Bautista received the award during the Reimagine Strategy: Palladium Positive Impact Summit 2018 in London last March 14. The recognition was given after the Army successfully passed the on-site evaluation process headed by Mr. David McMillan, Director of the Office of Strategy Management of the Palladium Group last 22-24 January 2018. 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. (Francis J. Wakefield)

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### Army detachment binomba, 2 sugatan

**GOTABATO CITY** – Pinasabagang mga hindi nangababang isang detachment ng Philippine Army sa Shari Aguak. Maaaring dahil sa mga sugatan ng abala, na kinasugatan ng isang sundalong at ng isang bystander.

Pinilalan si Senior Supt. Agustin T. Pao, Maginoo, na Police Provincial Office director, ang mga sugatan na sina Karmadhi Marangal Corp. sa abala ng 57th Infantry Battalion, na kaagad na kinugod sa ospital.

Bataysa ng pangunahing imbestigasyon, tinukoy ng mga lokal na opisyal na suspetsa responsable sa pag-atake ang Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BFFF).

Nabatid na isa sa dalawang hindi nalang mayembro ng BFFF na magkaangkas sa motors ko ang pag-aas ng granada sa detachment ng 57th BSA Shari Aguak at kaagad na tumakas matapos ang pagsabog.

Napinsala ang detachment sa kaagad ng kuro ang insidente sa mga residente na malapit sa lugar.

**Ali G. Macabalang**

19 March 2018



Pahina. 3

### **3 NPA SUMUKO SA MILITAR**

**AGUSAN DELSUR**— Tatlong miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang sumuko sa military, kamakalawa sa bayan ng Trento sa lalawigan ito.

Para sa kanilang seguridad ay hindi na pinangalanan ang mga rebelheng sumuko sa 25th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army (PA) sa nasabing lugar.

Ayon sa mga sumukong NPA, nagpasya silang magbalik leod sa pamahalaan dahil nais na umano nilang magbagong-buhay.

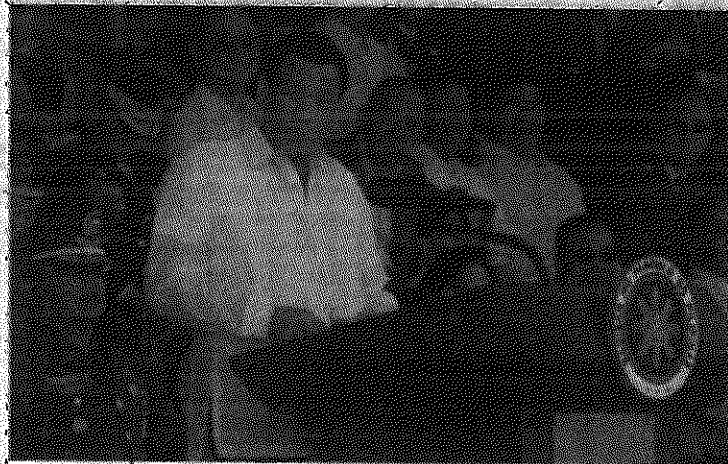
Isinasailalim na sa taktikal na interogasyon ang mga sumukong NPA.

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## Rody vows stronger Armed Forces



President Duterte delivers his message to the 282 members of the Philippine Military Academy graduating class as he encouraged them to obey and honor the Constitution and follow the chain of command

PNA

### By Ted Tuvera

A stronger military force.

This is what President Duterte promised as his would-be legacy when his term ends before members of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Alab-tala class of 2018 yesterday.

The Commander in Chief was at the PMA in Baguio City for the annual commencement exercises.

As if breaking tradition, Duterte gave individual chats to the 282 PMA graduates contrary to predecessors who merely shook hands and gave passing through congratulatory remarks.

Duterte said the military will never be demoralized under his watch, promising them all the support they'd be needing ahead of national security challenges.

"At no other time except maybe one president that we have addressed the problem of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) profoundly," the President said.

"I would want that before I get out of the presidency, I would have left behind a strong Armed Forces and (Philippine National Police) simply because these troubles now that we are facing will not disappear within the next four to seven to 10 years," Duterte added.

Under the Duterte administration, state security forces faced challenges such as the proliferation of illegal drugs, the emergence of Islamic State (IS)-inspired bandits in Muslim Mindanao and the continuous armed insurgency of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

The President also outlined his key promises for men and women in uniform: hikes for their pays and the AFP's modernization program.

"With the approval of Joint Resolution No. 1, the increase in base pay of military and uniformed personnel has been authorized



which will also result to an increase in bonuses and allowances," Mr. Duterte said.

"The administration is also working to implement the Second Horizon of the Revised AFP Modernization Program wherein priority projects are currently in several stages of completion to ensure that our men and women in uniform are provided the benefits and armed with the equipment to perform their duties effectively," he added.

Meanwhile, the commander in chief encouraged new officials of the AFP to retain the idealism that cradled them in the academy now that they are ought to be deployed in various fronts.

"You have been equipped with the knowledge and skills to excel but how far can you go will depend greatly on your discipline, determination and faith," Duterte said.

"Remember always the three words that have been ingrained deeply in your hearts—courage, integrity and loyalty. Embody these words and use them to guide your actions throughout your careers," he added.

Duterte reminded the new PMA graduates that life in the field, outside the academy is no "bed of roses."

"Your courage and bravery have been tested numerous times but despite all of these trials, you have emerged victorious and ready to take on bigger challenges ahead," he said.

"As you leave the halls of PMA and enter your chosen branches of service, you will be faced with realities that are far more complex than what you have been prepared for.

"Mistakes will always be inevitable but have confidence in knowing that the rules of the academy have honed you for the responsibilities that await you as you assume leadership roles in the Armed Forces," the President emphasized.

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# AFP organizes former NPAs into people's orgs

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

**C**AMP BANCASI, Butuan City — With the objective of making livelihood and employment and infrastructure development in the communities, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has organized former members of the Communist New People's Army (NPA) into People's Organization (POs).

The former NPA rebels, who recently yielded to field units of the Army's 71st Infantry (Kaibigan) Battalion (71st IB), have formed associations that are now officially registered as POs with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

These newly organized associations are Barangay Gubatan Livelihood for Peace Association (BGLPA), Calabcab Motor Drivers Association (CAMODA) and Sangab Energetic Farmers Association (SEFA).

They were organized by the 71st IB Community Support Program (CSP) as Community Development Volunteers (CDVs) in Barangays Gubatan, Calabcab and Sangab, all in Maco Compostela Valley (ComVal) province, said First Lt. Jhocell D. Asis, chief of Civil Military Operation (CMO) of the 71st IB, in a statement sent to The Manila Bulletin on Sunday.

CSP is part of the AFP's Development Support and Security Plan (DSSP) "Kapayapaan" which aims to attain a just and lasting peace with the active support of the community and partner stakeholders in bringing the government closer to the people and to eliminate the communist NPA terrorist influence that will give way to the entry of investors and infrastructures development projects in the Area of Operations, the Army official said.

Asis said a majority of the 200 mem-

bers of these new associations were members and supporters of NPA's Underground Movement (UGMO).

On Thursday March 15 and Friday March 16, programs were conducted to recognize the newly organized associations wherein local officials and field units of the 71st IB, led by its commander Lt. Col. Esteveyn E. Ducusan, attended the oath taking ceremony of the officers and members of BGLPA, CAMODA and SEFA in the barangay gymnasiums of Gubatan, Calabcab and Sangab, all in Maco town of that same province, the 71st IB CMO officer said.

The highlight of the oath-taking program was a livelihood consultation conducted by the Medium Scale Industries Coordinated Action Program Foundation Incorporated (MASICAP), a non-government organization tapped by the DOLE to assist the 71st IB and CDVs in preparing the project proposal, Asis said.

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## 6 NPA rebels surrender in Maguindanao

MAGUINDANAO – Six New People's Army (NPA) rebels surrendered in Ampatuan town yesterday

Artem Turunan, Leo Bakat, Biboy Indofa, Rolando Kanakan and his siblings Lonking and Gilbert of the NPA's Guerrilla Front 73 surrendered to the

Army's First Mechanized Battalion, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr. of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) said.

The surrenderees reportedly harassed villagers who refused to pay protection money on a regular basis.

"The Westmincom is grate-

ful to municipal and provincial officials who helped convince the rebels to surrender and avail themselves of the reconciliation program of President Duterte," Galvez said.

More than a hundred NPA guerrillas have surrendered to the the First Mechanized

Battalion and the 33rd Infantry Battalion since last year.

Galvez said the 6th Infantry Division would help the surrenderees avail themselves of livelihood assistance from the provincial government of Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat

– John Unson

19 March 2018



Pahina. 3

## Senado buo ang suporta sa military reserve forces

Nakakuha ng buong suporta ang Senado ang panukalang magbibigay ng seguridad sa trabaho at iba pang benepisyo para sa military reservists, ayon sa principal sponsor at co-author nito na si Sen. Bam Aquino.

Sa botong 16-0 vote, inaprubahan ng Senado sa ikatlo at huling pagbasa ang Senate Bill No. 1698 o ang Reservist Employment Rights Act, na nagtataguyod ng kapakanan ng military reservists bilang pagkilala sa kanilang serbisyo

sa bansa.

"Ito'y pagkilala natin sa malaking tulong ng ating reservist sa militar lalo na kapag may kalamidad at sa paglaban sa terorismo," wika ni Sen. Bam.

Ayon kay Bam, malaking papel ang ginampanan ng reservist para mapalaya ang Marawi City sa Maute Group at pagdating sa rescue at rehabilitasyon tuwing may kalamidad.

Isinulong ni Bam ang pagpasa ng panukala matapos maipaabot sa kanya ng mga miyembro

at opisyal ng Army Reserve Command na ilang reservists ang nanganganib mawalan ng trabaho habang tinutupad ang tungkulin sa bansa.

"While they risk their lives for the country they are at risk of losing their livelihood, which should not be the case," wika ni Sen. Bam, na tinutukoy ang ilang reservist na entrepreneurs, IT professionals, guro, doctors, abogado, nurses, sales agents, security guards at mga tauhan ng iba't ibang ahensiya ng pamahalaan.

Sa pamamagitan ng Reservist Employment Rights Act, mabibigyan sila ng tamang training at kompensasyon, bukod pa sa proteksiyon laban sa anumang diskriminasyon sa trabaho, promosyon at iba pang benepisyo.

May nakalaan ding proteksiyon ang panukala para sa reservists na magtatamo ng anumang pinsala at mababalda habang nagsisilbi sa bansa, kung saan bibigyan sila ng trabaho na kaya nilang gampanan. (Rudy Andal)

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# AFP planning to build fishermen's shelter off Batanes

By JAIME LAUDE

The military leadership is building a fisherman's shelter at an uninhabited islet fronting Bashi Channel in the island province of Batanes to further strengthen its maritime domain awareness and disaster response capabilities.

There are also plans to deploy a military contingent at Mavulis Island, where only last year, government troops landed on the unoccupied islet and hoisted the Philippine flag.

Mavulis Island, also known as Y'mi Island, is closer to Taiwan than it is to the northern tip of Northern Luzon. It is under the municipal jurisdiction of Itbayat, an island town of Batanes.

Earlier plans to deploy soldiers in the islet did not push through because of the absence of potable water.

The islet is often visited by foreign fishermen to catch and slaughter wild goats that according to the locals in Itbayat town, used to exist in large numbers in the area before.

"If there are troops stationed there, our fishermen will no longer fear for their

safety when they fish out there," a military official said.

Local fishermen using small fishing boats also avoid fishing around the waters of Mavulis to stay away from foreign fishing vessels frequenting the area.

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# NSA cites terrorism, insurgency as 'barriers' to economic growth

By Mario J. Mallari

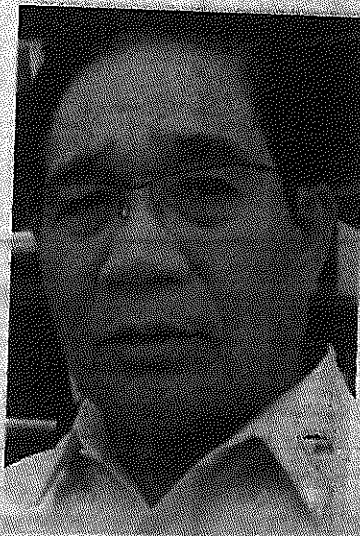
Security problems, such as terrorism and insurgency, remain as major "roadblock" to the economic development being pursued by the Duterte administration.

Thus, said National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr who stressed that while President Duterte's administration is exerting so much effort for inclusive economic growth in the country, the armed insurgency and terrorism remained as serious concern to achieve the goal.

"The interconnected problem of insurgency and terrorism prove to be a difficult roadblock in this endeavor," Esperon said.

According to Esperon, the administration's "National Security Policy 2017-2022" follows the dynamic security-development nexus, which reinforces the idea that economic development and security are linked together.

"This means that economic



ESPERON

development is a precondition for national, internal and external security and vice versa," he said.

"Economic development and security are inextricably linked and are mutually reinforcing concept. Therefore, armed conflict is undoubtedly a development issue,"

Esperon added.

Currently, Esperon admitted that armed-conflict continued to be a serious problem in the Philippines and has direct affect to the ordinary Filipino.

"Armed conflict remains a deep-seated problem in the country and poses a detrimental effect on the socio-economic realities confronting the Filipino people," Esperon said.

Esperon said that the problems of terrorism and insurgency posed by lawless Moro groups in Mindanao and the New People's Army (NPA) were undermining the efforts of the Duterte administration to build a strong economy that is capable of sustaining national endeavors.

He said that business in Mindanao is affected by the NPA's forced collection of so-called revolutionary taxes.

"Our intelligence sources show that the NPA is earning up to P1 billion from money extorted through revolutionary taxes from

agricultural and mining companies in Eastern Mindanao alone," Esperon said.

On the other hand, extremist groups such as the Abu Sayyaf Group, the Ansar-Khilafah Philippines, Maute Group and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters remain as potent threats to launch terrorism.

It will be recalled that last year, Islamic State-inspired groups of ASG leader Isnilon Hapilon and Maute Group launched the five-month Marawi City siege in an attempt to establish an IS caliphate in Mindanao.

"As a result, social, political and economic institutions can be destabilized," Esperon said.

Esperon said that as shown by the Marawi City siege, the threat of violent extremism and radicalization affects political and economic stability, as such the government must work to ensure that jihadism will not establish a foothold in the country.

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# Rody to PMA grads: Brace for sacrifices

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte yesterday advised new graduates of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) to brace for "complex" realities and be ready to sacrifice for the country when they combat threats like illegal drugs and terrorism. Speaking during the graduation

of the PMA "Alab Tala" class of 2018, Duterte said the incoming military officers should be worried because of the daunting tasks ahead.

"In war, we are facing ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). It will never end in about five years. Then, there's the drug menace. You have to worry. You know you have plenty of work to do. I

do not pity you but I can see the sacrifice in the coming days that you have to bear for the country. That's why I talk to each one of you," the President said.

He assured the new graduates of protection should they face legal problems relating to the performance of their duties.

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## Rody From Page 1

"I said do not be afraid. Just do your duty in accordance with law. I got your back. As you leave the halls of PMA and enter your chosen branches of service, you will be faced with realities that are far more complex than what you have been prepared for. Mistakes will always be inevitable but have confidence in knowing that the rules of the academy have honed you for the responsibilities that await you as you assume leadership roles in the armed forces," Duterte said.

The 288 members of the Alab Tala class, he pointed out, have been equipped with the knowledge and skills to excel, but as to how far can they go would depend greatly on their discipline, determination and faith.

He also urged the incoming military officers to "become a source of strength and inspiration" to their fellow soldiers and become "instruments of meaningful change in society."

"Your courage and bravery have been tested numerous times but despite all of these trials, you have emerged victorious and ready to take on bigger challenges ahead. Remember always the three words that have been ingrained deeply in your hearts—courage, integrity

and loyalty. Embody these words and use them to guide your actions throughout your careers," Duterte said, referring to the motto of the PMA.

The President said his military has the full support of the government, citing the increase in base pay of soldiers and policemen and the implementation of the second tranche of the Armed Forces modernization program. Despite the support given by his administration to the armed forces, Duterte reminded the PMA graduates to be loyal to the Constitution and not to him.

"Stay with the Constitution, stay in the chain of command, love the Filipino people that you serve. I never mentioned my name. I do not want to nurture loyalty. I find it corny. After my time, I will go. If there is a perfected constitution by 2020, then I'm announcing it to you now, I will step down. I will not wait for 2022. I will step down once a federal government is established," he said.

### 'Leni and I are friends'

Duterte and Vice

President Leni Robredo, the highest elected member of the opposition, shared the stage in yesterday's graduation rites, the first time they were seen together this year. The event was held three days after Robredo criticized Duterte's decision to withdraw the Philippines' ratification of the Rome Statute, the treaty that created the International Criminal Court.

Duterte shook hands with Robredo when he saw her on the stage of Borromeo Field, venue of the graduation ceremony.

After acknowledging Robredo in his speech, Duterte looked at the Vice President, drawing cheers from the audience. Duterte then claimed that all is well between him and Robredo.

"Magkaibigan man kami ni ma'am (We are friends)," he said.

Robredo resigned as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council in December 2016 after Duterte barred her from attending Cabinet meetings. Duterte said he banned Robredo from official meetings because she attended rallies calling for his ouster, a claim that she denied.

While the PMA graduation was a formal event, Duterte could not

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## Rody From Page 4

help but curse at the European Union, which he accused of interfering with his war on illegal drugs. He also described as fools the critics of his decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute.

Duterte also cracked jokes to entertain the families and visitors of the PMA graduates who witnessed the three-hour ceremony.

"Next time I think that if the program would exceed two hours, after one hour there should be an intermission number. I will bring the singer," the President said.

The President delivered a speech that lasted for almost 30 minutes before the graduation ceremony ended.

### Valedictory

Jaywardene Galilea Hontoria, the class valedictorian and now a Philippine Navy

Ensign, began his valedictory address by reminiscing on the realities of his childhood as a farm boy.

He said his father was right in telling him that "it is much lighter to carry a pen than to hold a plow" when the latter urged him to study hard.

His family, he added, detested the idea of him joining the armed forces through the PMA when he had already graduated as a nurse through the help of his aunt.

"I felt something was lacking," Hontoria recalled.

He added that "life in the academy was never easy" and the plebeians also felt fear whenever they heard news of soldiers getting killed in battle.

In acknowledging the hardships that his parents went through, he said "*tama na po, kami naman po*" (that's enough, let us take over) as he vowed to repay them for the sacrifices they made just so he could achieve his dream.

– With Artemio Dumlao



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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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**DUTERTE AT PMA GRADUATION RITES**

**'Embody courage, integrity, and loyalty'**

By GENALYN D. KASILING

President Duterte has urged the new Philippine Military Academy (PMA) graduates to be the "protectors

of our nation" and "instruments of meaningful change" in the country.

Addressing the PMA Alab-Tala Class of 2018 during the commencement rites in Baguio ▶ 16

City, the President said the new military officers should embody the values of courage, integrity and loyalty as they dedicate their lives in the service of God, country and people.

Duterte also advised them to "stay with the Constitution, stay in the chain of command, love the Filipino people that you serve."

"To the 'Alab Tala' Class of 2018, this achievement is only the beginning of the many future successes. May you continue to become a source of strength and inspiration to your fellow soldiers and instruments of meaningful change in our society," Duterte said.

"The Filipino people look up to you as the protectors of our nation and the next leaders of tomorrow," he said in congratulating the 282-strong PMA graduating class that included 75 female cadets.

The President advised the PMA class to brace for "complex" and "bigger challenges" ahead as they start to serve in the chosen military branch of service. Among the threats mentioned by the President were terrorism and illegal drug trade.

He said mistakes would always be "inevitable" but the PMA graduates should have confidence in knowing they were honed by the academy for responsibilities in the military.

"You have been equipped with the knowledge and skills to excel but how far can you go will depend greatly on your discipline, determination and faith," he said.

"Remember always the three words that have been ingrained deeply in your hearts—courage, integrity and loyalty. Embody these words and use them to guide your actions throughout your careers," he added.

Duterte acknowledged that the PMA graduates' courage and bravery were tested many times while studying at the academy. "Despite all of these trials, you have emerged victorious and ready to take on bigger challenges ahead," he said.

**Bigger pay, better equipment**

*Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class*

Meantime, the President has assured the government's support for the military, from increasing salary and allowance to upgrading their equipment and improving their benefits.

"As you dedicate your life in the service of God, country and people, know that the Armed Forces of the Philippines has the government's full support," he said.

With the approval of Joint Resolution (JR) No. 1, Duterte said the increase in base pay of military and uniformed personnel has been authorized which will also result to an increase in bonuses and allowances.

He said the administration was also implementing "Second Horizon of the Revised AFP Modernization Program" wherein priority projects are currently in several stages of completion.

The modernization program aims "to ensure that our men and women in uniform are provided the benefits and armed with the equipment to perform their duties effectively," according to Duterte.

"At no other time except maybe one president that we have addressed the problem of the Armed Forces of the Philippines profoundly," he said.

"I would want that before I get out of the presidency, I would have left behind a strong Armed Forces and PNP simply because these troubles now that we are facing will not disappear within the next four to seven to 10 years," he added.

**Digong and Leni**

Unlike last year, President Duterte made sure this time that he greeted Vice President Ma. Leonor "Leni" Robredo in his address at the PMA graduation rites.

Robredo, who came in a maroon-colored dress, was first in the list of top officials greeted by Duterte at the start of his speech.

With all eyes on their chance meeting for the first time this year, the President even turned around upon his greeting to Robredo on stage.

"Vice President Ma. Leonor Robredo, ma'am," said Duterte. "Magkai-

bigan kami ni ma'am (We are friends)," he said.

His remark drew laughter and applause from the audience.

The country's two highest leaders, who had a falling out over political differences, appeared together in public as they both attended the PMA graduation ceremony.

Before the start of the two-hour graduation rites, Duterte was seen greeting and shaking hands with Robredo. This was the first time that the two top government officials in the country met this year.

During the ceremony, Duterte was the one who handed the certificates to the graduates. He also awarded the Presidential Saber to 25-year-old Cadet First Class Jaywardene Hontoria who topped batch 2018.

Robredo, on the other hand, awarded the Vice Presidential Saber to Cadet First Class Ricardo Liwaden.

**'A different breed'**

In his Valedictory Address, Cadet First Class Jaywardene Gafilea Hontoria, said he was a skillful farm boy and would have stuck with it had it not been for the prodding of his father for him to dream his way into the PMA.

Paying tribute to his father, Hontoria shared what words had encouraged him towards the path he took. "Son, it is much easier and lighter to carry a pen than to hold a plow. You should study hard instead," his father Oscar had told him.

And so Hontoria said he learned that life in the academy was never easy as they were pushed beyond their physical, mental and psychological limits. "It is a life of orders and followership, a life of endless limitations, restrictions, a life of discipline, a life that has broken us down into pieces and then slowly brings the broken pieces together for us to be whole again," Hontoria said.

While admitting that reports of soldiers dying in the battlefield stoked fear in them, he and his fellow graduates remain steadfast because they did not join the institution just for its pay and perks.

"But we are a different breed, of a different purpose with a different story

We have given up our own mission and goals in life, for something bigger than our own."

Hontoria graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at West Visayas

State University before joining the PMA. He will join the Philippine Marines. (With reports from Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos, Raymund L. Antonio, and Francis T. Wakefield)

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**POLICE FILES**

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## Duterte sa PMA graduates: 'Just do you job, ako ang bahala'

**HINAMON** ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte bilang commander-in-chief ng bansa ang mga bagong sundalo mula sa Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Alab Tala Class of 2018 na gawin lamang ang tama sa kaniyang panatubihan sa bansa.

Sa naging talumpati ng pangulo sa PMA graduation rites sa Baguio City, muli nitong igituri na nakahanda niyang ipaglaban ang mga uniformed personnel basta walang nilalabag na batas at Konstitusyon.

Ayon pa sa pangulo,

nakahanda ang kanyang administrasyon sa pagbibigay ng kaukulang suporta at benepisyo tulad ng bonus at allowances.

Umaasa rin si Pangulong Duterte na magsisilbing inspirasyon ang PMA 2018 graduates sa kapwa sundalo at laging isapuso ang katapatan, integridad at katapatan sa panatungkulan sa bansa.

Hinihingi pa ng pangulo ang pagpapakita ng mga ito na sila ang pag-asa ng bayan para sa inaasam na pagbabago sa buong Pilipinas.

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Pahina. 2

## Female grads sa PMA mas marami

Mas mataas na bilang ng mga babaeng kadete ng Philippine Military Academy (PMA) ang mag-sipagtapos ngayong taon.

Sinabi ni Lt Col Rey Balido, tagapagsalita ng PMA na ang bilang ng mga babaeng nag-graduate ngayon sa PMA Alab Tala Class ng 2018 ay naging espesyal sa kanilang graduation ceremonies.

Ito ay dahil sa 282 graduates ngayong taon, 2007 ay lalaki at 75 ang mga babae kumpara noong nakaraang taon na 63 lamang ang female cadets na nag-graduate.

Sa kasaysayan ay ito na umano ang naitala ng PMA na pinakamaraming bilang ng mga graduate na babae.

Kinumpirma naman

ni Balido na ang mga bagong PMA graduates ay sakop na ng increase ng base pay para sa military and uniformed personnel.

Niimaw naman ng opisyal na hindi awtomatikong ipapadala sa Mindanao ang mga bagong graduates dahil depende pa rin ito sa branch of service nila at mayroon pa rin silang isang buwang bakasyon.

Pinangutuhan naman ni Cadet 1st Class Jay-

wardene Galilea Hontora na isang 25 year-old registered nurse, kasunod si Cadet 1st class Ricardo Watawit-Liwaden at Cadet 1st class Jun-jay Malazzab Castro ang mga bagong batch ng 2018.

Ang 282 bagong graduates ay itatalaga sa kanilang mga assignments kabilang dito ang 143 sa Philippine Army, 71 sa Philippine Air Force at 68 sa Philippine Navy. (Gemma Garcia)

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## New PMA grads exhorted to be agents of positive change

By Ryan Ponce Pacpaco

PHILIPPINE Constitution Association (Philconsa) President Martin Romualdez congratulated yesterday the graduates of this year's Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class 2018, calling on the new soldiers to become society's agents of positive change as they protect the country's democracy and sovereignty from internal and external threats.

Following the PMA's commencement exercises in Baguio City yesterday attended by President Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte, Romualdez, a lawyer and a three-term Leyte congressman, expressed hope that the graduates will keep the values and character they have developed



**ROMUALDEZ**

during the four-year training in the PMA while serving the country.

"I congratulate these young idealistic and brave graduates of the PMA. I hope they will always become the agents of positive change in our country and would use all the discipline and knowledge

earned in the military school while performing their duties and responsibilities for the country," said Romualdez, a former chairman of the House committee on ethics and privileges, to the 282-member PMA Alab Tala Class of 2018.

Romualdez also challenged this year's graduates to shun politics by adhering to the chain of command and discipline.

"I wish them well. The important thing is for them to always follow discipline and the chain of command," Romualdez, a former head of the House Independent Bloc

Romualdez is the husband of Leyte Rep. Yedda Marie Kittilstvedt-Romualdez, a registered nurse and vice chairperson of the House committee on government enterprises and privatization.

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GRADUATION GIFTS

## House for top PMA grad, gun for 'goat'

By **Karlston Lapniten and Kimberlie Quitasol**  
@InqNational

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—A gun for the class "goat," and a bigger gift—house and lot—for the valedictorian. **A13**

### FROM A1

President Duterte gave these presents on Sunday at the graduation of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Alab Tala" Class of 2018.

Newly commissioned Ensign Jaywardene Hontoria, 27, was scheduled to marry his fiancée, Laura Fe Delleria, at 4 p.m., hours after 282 members of Alab Tala (Alagad ng Lahing Binigkis ng Tapang at Lakas) paraded on Borromeo Field here.

Hontoria was handed a certificate for his new house at Camella Homes in Pavia, his hometown, in Iloilo province. It was signed by former Senate President Manuel Villar, chair of Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.

### A first

This was the first time a top PMA graduate was given a house and the class goat, the one who graduated at the bottom rank, a new pistol.

Newly commissioned Army 2nd Lt. Haezzer Keith Atiwag drew the biggest applause for finishing last, a position usually revered here for beating the odds.

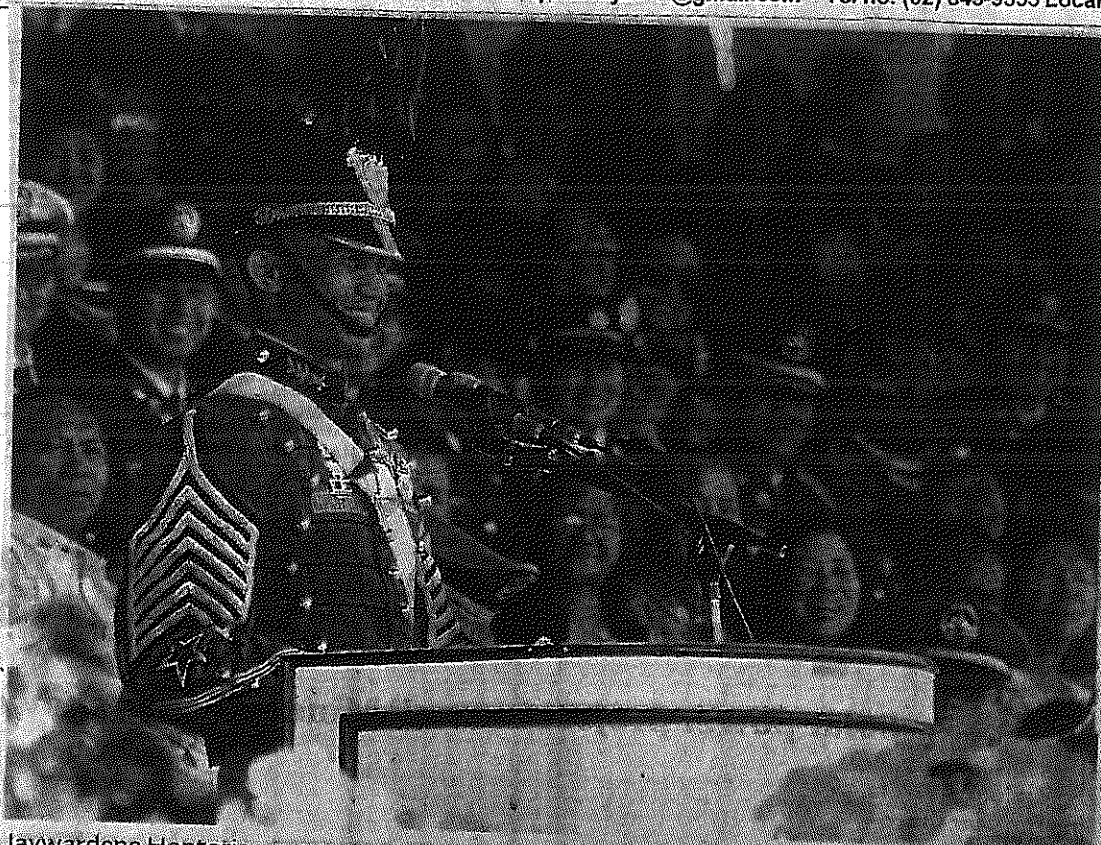
A resident of Barlig town in Mt. Province, Atiwag broke protocol and bowed to his classmates and then to Mr. Duterte and Vice President Leni Robredo.

Also applauded was Pongpeera Disaprom of Bangkok, the only foreigner in the class, who is joining the Thai Army.

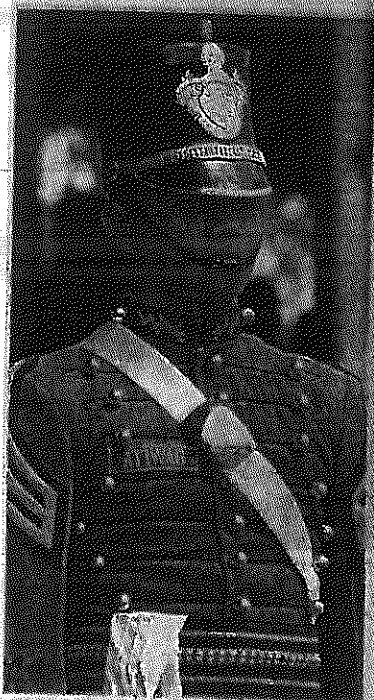
### Valedictory address

In his valedictory address, Hontoria, a registered nurse, said the PMA molded them to become a different breed of soldiers who were reshaped to face all forms of problems.

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Jaywardene Hontoria –PHOTOSBY EV ESPIRITU



Haezzer Keith Atiwag

But he admitted that "we can also be afraid," citing instances when his "mistah" (classmates) read news reports about soldiers dying in combat.

"I was a farm boy ... and learned all types of hard work. We spent our nights in a hut overnight ... I would wake up at 3 a.m. to go home and prepare for school," Hontoria said.

"I first learned to tie bundles of leafy vegetables before I could tie my shoelaces. I first learned to shoot cabbages and potatoes in a native basket before I could learn to shoot a basketball," he said.

#### Farmer-father

Hontoria said his father, a farmer, advised him to pursue education because it was "much easier and lighter to carry a pen than to carry a plow."

As his parents teared up behind him at the stage, Hontoria said: "We have learned to face failures and disappointments. We surrendered our freedom, our rights, privileges and comforts of our carefree civilian life, in exchange for serving God, country and people."

"We are still the hope of the country," he said.

Addressing the new graduates, Mr. Duterte said Filipinos "look up to you as the protectors of our nation and the next leaders of tomorrow."

As he pardoned the offenses of cadets, a tradition in PMA graduation, Mr. Duterte said: "What are their offenses? Are their sins like mine? Well, the next time after this, I won't have anymore pardons for you." INQ

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## Top PMayer graduates, gets house, marries – in one day

By ARTEMIO DURLAO

FORI DEL PILAR, Baguio City – Ensign Jaywardene Hontoria, who graduated at the top of his batch at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), was given a house and lot and married his college sweetheart yesterday.

He also brought home the Philippine Navy Saber Award, Chief of Staff Saber Academic Group Award, Australian Defense Best Overall Performance Award, Spanish Armed Forces Award, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Department of Leadership Plaques and the Joint US Military Assistance Group Award.

After all the honors were bestowed on Hontoria, a registered nurse, he was presented a certificate of ownership of a house and lot by President Duterte from Camella Savannah in Ilondo City, where he shall build a home with his wife, registered nurse Loura Fe Dillera.



Hontoria

This was the first time that the PMA class valedictorian was given such a gift.

Vista Land Homes and Lifescapes, which gave Hontoria his graduation and wedding gift, is owned by former senator Manuel Villar's development company.

Hontoria made history as the third "baron" or class brigade commander of the PMA Cadet Corps in the history of the academy to graduate as valedictorian. The last time a class had a batch at the top of the class was 57 years ago.



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**ENDING RITUAL** Graduates of the Philippine Military Academy hurl their dress caps called "shaku" at the end of their commencement exercises on Sunday. They were officially commissioned as junior officers of the military by President Duterte. —EVESPIRITU

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**PRESIDENTIAL SABER.** President Rodrigo Roa Duterte presents the Presidential Saber Award to Philippine Military Academy 'Alab Tala' Class of 2018 Valedictorian and Baron Jaywardene Hontoria during the PMA commencement exercises at Fort General Gregorio H. del Pilar in Baguio City on March 18, 2018. **Presidential Photo**

# ONLINE NEWS

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## PRRD to PMA grads: Follow Constitution, chain of command

By Primo Agatep

**FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City** -- President Rodrigo Duterte has called on the members of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) 'Alab Tala' Class of 2018 to abide by the Constitution and follow the chain of command.

Duterte, also the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief, during Sunday's commencement exercise of the 282 cadets said: "My heartfelt congratulations to the graduates of PMA 'Alab-Tala' Class of 2018. I join your families and your friends in celebrating this important milestone in your young careers."

"Your courage and bravery have been tested numerous times but despite all of these trials, you have emerged victorious and ready to take on bigger challenges ahead," Duterte said as he also noted that life in the academy is not that easy.

The Commander-in-Chief added, "you have been equipped with the knowledge and skills to excel but how far can you go will depend greatly on the discipline and determination and faith."

He said they should remember always the three words that have been ingrained deeply in their hearts -- courage, integrity, and loyalty -- which will serve as their guide throughout their careers.

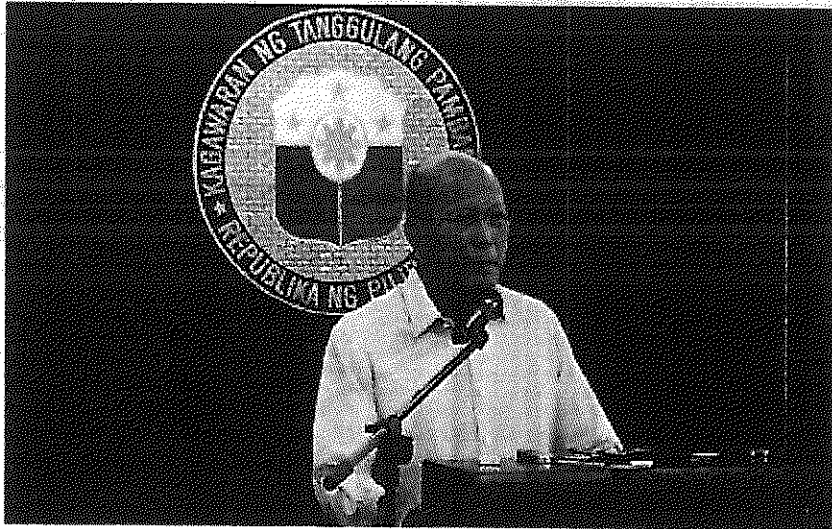
"As you dedicate your life to the service of God, country, and people, know that the Armed Forces of the Philippines has the government's full support," Duterte said.

Duterte said he wanted to leave behind a strong Armed Forces and Philippine National Police simply because the troubles now faced by the country will not disappear within the next four to seven to 10 years.

"As you leave the halls of PMA and enter your chosen branches of service, you will be faced with realities that are far more complex than what you have been prepared for. Mistakes will always be inevitable but have confidence in knowing that the rules of the academy have honed you for the responsibilities that await you as you assume leadership roles in the armed forces," he added. **(PNA)**

# No offensives vs. Lumad groups: Lorenzana

By Priam Nepomuceno



Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. (Photo courtesy: PTV)

**MANILA** -- The terror tag of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) does not automatically mean massive offensives will be conducted against Lumad groups.

This was emphasized by Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in a statement released Saturday.

Lorenzana made the clarification after Lumad groups from unknown places demonstrated in front of Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Friday as they expressed fears that they and their communities will be targeted once the CPP-NPA is officially branded as a terrorist group.

"That is not true at all. If and when the CPP-NPA are tagged as terrorists by the court, it will apply only to their leaders, regular fighters and supporters," Lorenzana said.

He also clarified that only Lumads who joined the NPA ranks and those who actively support the rebel group in whatever form will be included as terrorists and will be the subject of security operations.

"The rest of the peace loving Lumads need not worry. They will be protected by the military and police," the DND chief added. (PNA)