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NEWS CLIPPINGS

23 March 2018

Friday

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR
 TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

PAVILION

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 WEEKENDS
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AIR 21
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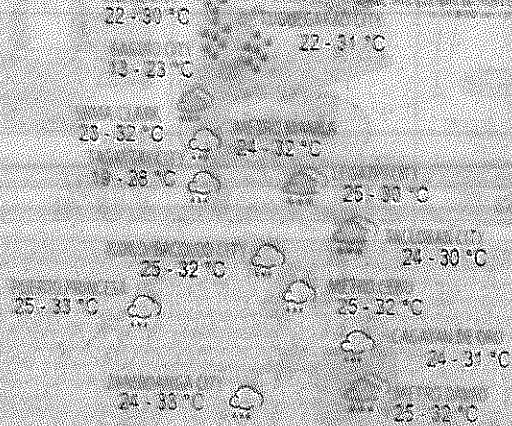
ETIMUNO **WALAY** **KAGAWAN** **LAGUNA**

10:00 AM 6:07 PM 10:20 AM 11:25 PM

10:00 PM **11:00 PM** **11:55 PM** **12:00 AM**

10:00 PM **11:00 PM** **11:55 PM** **12:00 AM**

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST, MARCH 23, 2018, FRIDAY



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	MAR 24 SAT	MAR 25 SUN	MAR 26 MON	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	MAR 24 SAT	MAR 25 SUN	MAR 26 MON
METRO MANILA	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 33 °C	23 °C 33 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	23 °C 32 °C	23 °C 33 °C	23 °C 33 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 31 °C	28 °C 30 °C
LAOAG	22 °C 31 °C	23 °C 32 °C	23 °C 32 °C	METRO CEBU	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C
BAGUIO	14 °C 24 °C	15 °C 25 °C	15 °C 25 °C	TACLOBAN	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 29 °C	24 °C 29 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 °C 31 °C	23 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C
TAGAYTAY	19 °C 28 °C	19 °C 28 °C	20 °C 29 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C
LEGAZPI	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C

Partly cloudy to all times with light showers

Partly cloudy to all times with light showers and/or thunderstorm

Cloudy with light showers and/or thunderstorm

Light rain

23 March 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

House recognizes

foreign divorce

PH Family Code shall be observed in any of divorced spouse's agreement

By BEN ROSARIO

The House of Representatives approved on third and final reading a bill that will recognize a divorce decree obtained

in a foreign country.

With 202 affirmative votes and 3 negative, the chamber passed last Wednesday House Bill (HB) 7185 that will allow the registration in the Philippine Civil Registry of a **▶6**

House recognizes foreign... ◀1

foreign decree of termination of marriage and allow the Filipino spouse to remarry without the need to undergo judicial proceeding.

Authored by Deputy Speaker and Taguig-Pateros Rep. Pia Cayetano, HB 7185 was endorsed for approval by the House Committee on Population and Family Relations.

The acknowledge opposition bloc headed by Minority Leader and Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez gave the bill solid support although its members thumbed down HB 7304 or the Absolute Divorce Bill.

Suarez, together with Assistant Minority Leaders Anthony Bravo (Coop-Natco) and Alfredo Garbin (Ako Bicol Partylist), said HB 7185 will put an end to the marriage anomaly that has been grossly unfair to the Filipino spouse of a foreigner who obtained divorce in his or her country.

"While the foreigner is allowed to

remarry again after divorce, the Filipino spouse's cannot because Philippine laws do not acknowledge divorce or termination of marriage granted by other countries," said Bravo.

Under HB 7185, the Philippines will recognize a divorce obtained by either a Filipino spouse or his/her foreign partner.

The bill grants the Filipino spouse to contract another marriage under Filipino laws as soon as the divorce decree granted by another country has been duly authenticated.

A Filipino married to a foreigner and whose marriage has been subsequently terminated abroad before the measure is enacted into law will also benefit from its provisions.

Filipinos who have been divorced from a spouse who had subsequently acquired foreign citizenship is also covered by the provisions of the measure.

The bill also covers a Filipino who has subsequently acquired foreign citizenship and who has divorced from the Filipino spouse abroad.

The provisions of the Family Code shall be observed in any agreement of the divorced spouse relating to liquidation, partition, and distribution of properties, the custody and support of common children, and the delivery of their presumptive legitimes.

In filing the bill, Cayetano noted that under the Family Code, a Filipino citizen who is divorced by the foreign spouse may only remarry if the foreign spouse is allowed to remarry.

"The bill seeks to eliminate this undue prejudice against our own citizens by eliminating the need for judicial recognition and enforcement and capacitating them to remarry upon acquisition of a foreign judicial decree of foreign divorce," said Cayetano.

But the Philippine consul in the country where the decree was obtained must first authenticate the divorce document.

23 March 2018



Pahina. 1

14 NPA terrorists yield

BUTUAN CITY – Fourteen alleged New People's Army (NPA) guerillas voluntarily surrendered to the 71st Infantry Battalion 71st IB) late Tuesday afternoon, along with two Milisya ng Bayan (MB) members. 1st Lt. Jhocell D. Asis, the 71st IB's Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer said the unarmed surrenderees were all members of Section Committee 27 (SECOM 27), Sub-Regional Committee 1 (SRC 2), of the CPP-NPA Southern Mindanao Regional Command (SMRC) based in Brgy. New Barili, Maco, Compostela Valley. "They surrendered through the intervention of their barangay chairman and with the help of the local government unit of Maco," Asis added. **(Mike U. Crismundo)**

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POLICE FILES

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Principal dinukot ng Abu Sayyaf sa Sulu

DINUKOT ng himhinalang mga miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf ang isang principal ng pampublikong paaralan sa Patikul, Sulu kahapon ng umaga.

Nakilala ang biktima na si Marjorie Abdul, 58-anyos, principal ng Liang Elementary School sa Brgy. Liang, Patikul.

Ayon kay Capt Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesperson ng Western Mindanao Command, 9:30 ng umaga nang maganap ang insidente sa Brgy Liang.

Sapilitan umanong tinangay ng 5 armadong kalalakihan ang biktima saka mabilis na tumakas.

Sinabi ni Petinglay na nakipag-ugnayan na ang militar sa pulisya at Local Government Unit upang mapaigting ang pagtugis sa mga kidnaper na hindi pa tukoy ang pagkakakilanlan.

(Mark Obleada)

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Sayyaf men kidnap public school teacher

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits kidnapped a public school teacher in Patikul, Sulu yesterday, an official said.

Five men reportedly took Marjorie Abdul, head teacher of Liang Elementary School, from the school at around 9:30 a.m.

“The suspects...seized the victim at gunpoint. They escaped toward a forested area,” Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesperson, said.

Petinglay said Joint Task Force Sulu’s intelligence

personnel are helping locate the suspects and their victim.

Task force commander Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said search and rescue operations are underway.

Westmincom chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said they are coordinating with local police and provincial government officials to rescue the victim.

“Rest assured, we will sustain our operations in coordination with law enforcement agencies,” Galvez said.

A Dutch man, a Vietnamese, three Indonesians and six Filipinos remain in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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AFP beefs up defense, security measures vs Reds

By MIKE U. CRISUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – Combat maneuvering troops of the

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Thursday intensified their defense and security measures in an objective to thwart any possible

attacks and other harassments by the New People's Army (NPA) in line with the latter's 49th anniversary next week.

The occasion is usually marked by NPA attacks against government soldiers and vulnerable communities, especially those in far-flung and remote government police and Army installations.

"Our field unit commanders in northeastern Mindanao (Caraga) and northern Mindanao (Region 10) are intensifying efforts to thwart possible attacks and atrocities by the NPA in line with their upcoming anniversary on March 29, 2018," said regional Army spokesman Lt. Tere Ignete.

Hostilities include raids, ambushes, and sabotage against government troops on public establishments and vital installations where innocent civilians are severely affected, she said.

"These attacks against our government soldiers and innocent civilians are terroristic in nature and reflect their true color as a criminal and terrorist organization," Ignete said.

Military units will continue to be on a proactive stance against all threats of violence and would exert every effort to preserve the peace in every locality, she said.

Lt. Ignete said all combat maneuvering battalions of the 401st Infantry Brigade in Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur provinces, the 402nd Infantry Brigade in Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Norte and 403rd Infantry Brigade in Bukidnon and Misamis provinces and other operational control (Opcon) units under the administrative and operational control of the 4th ID, are directed to implement offensive, defense, and security measures in their respective areas of responsibility (AORs).

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23 March 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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PH to get 3 more aircraft from Japan

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Philippine Navy (PN) said yesterday that it will formally receive three more units of the Beechcraft TC90 aircraft from the Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD), through the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF), in a transfer ceremony at the headquarters of the Naval Air Group (NAG), Naval Base Haracleo Alano, Sangley Point, Cavite City, on Monday.

Naval
Public Af-
fairs Office

Director Captain Lue L. Lincuna, said no less than Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana will witness the event as guest of honor and speaker.

Lincuna said Lorenzana will be joined by Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines, Mr. Koji Haneda, along with delegates from JMOD and JMSDF.

The transfer ceremony will start at 7 a.m.

Next AFP Chief

Meanwhile, Lorenzana said that the commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom)

and Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom) are the strongest candidates to replace incumbent AFP Chief of Staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero.

He said AFP WestMinCom chief Carlito Galvez Jr. or EastMinCom chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal could be chosen as the next top man of the AFP once Guerrero retires from the military service on Apr. 24, 2018 or six months since assuming the post.

However, Lorenzana said at the end of the day, all they can do is to recommend five names and then President Duterte chooses from the list.

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Join PMA, PNPA, Rody urges Moros

By Vito Barcelo

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte says he wants more Moros and other Filipinos to join the Philippine Military Academy and the Philippine National Police Academy.

Speaking during the graduation rites of the PNPA in Silang, Cavite, on Wednesday, Duterte said the country needed more men who would serve and protect the country and called on the Moros, Ilocanos, Visayans and others to join the PMA or PNPA.

"Not all the Moros of Mindanao are our enemies. Maybe next time there should be a percentage of the Moro people joining the PMA or the PNPA. We need them," Duterte said.

"Many of the Moro people who were soldiers were there and many died for our country," he said, citing the battles during the five-month siege of Marawi by terrorists.

"We cannot govern this country by just selecting from the other provinces without looking towards Mindanao. And we need officers trained and we need to work with them in Mindanao," Duterte said.

"But as a matter of fact, it should be divided among the tribes, the Ilocano, the Bisaya. That ought to be the Philippine National Police."

Duterte said he would also be looking forward to more police officers coming from the different parts of the country and vowed to try to have the money to enlist them.

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Military sees more rebels to return to fold of the law

By Mario J. Mallari

The military continued to gain grounds against the New People's Army (NPA) with the surrender of more than 4,300 communist fighters and supporters during the first three months of the year – and more are expected to return to the fold of the law.

Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia, public affairs office chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), yesterday said that the military has recorded 4,356 regular members and supporters of the NPA who surrendered nationwide from January 1 to March 15, 2018.

Garcia said that the communist surrenderees were composed of 626 NPA regulars and Sangay sa Partido Lokal (SPL) or local party members and 3,730 Militia ng Bayan (MB), Underground Mass Organization (UGMO) members and mass supporters.

Majority of surrenders happened in eastern Mindanao particularly in the regions of Davao and CARAGA totaling 96 percent or 4,194.

This includes the 1,265 NPA supporters and residents of nine barangays of Monkayo town in Compostela Valley on 07 March 2018 and the recent defection of 115 supporters in Trento, Agusan del Sur.

Garcia cited the whole-of-government-approach in the successful enticing of communist fighters and supporters to rejoin mainstream society.

"The massive surrenders of NPAs and their supporters were

attributed to the combined focused military operations, intelligence efforts, civil-military operations, re-integration efforts, peace and development programs of the AFP and PNP; and the intense campaign of local government units in convincing their constituents who are members and supporters of the NPA to go back to mainstream society," said Garcia.

"The AFP expects more surrenders as former rebels and supporters divulge corruption and deception inside the CPP-NPA. Revelations from former rebels disclosed that most of them were deceived into believing the propaganda and false promises of their leaders," he added.

At the same time, Garcia said that former rebels warn would be recruits not to fall on the pattern of deception being done by the NPA terrorists and call on their former comrades to take the peaceful path to change.

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

The AFP leadership vowed to cut by half the strength of the NPA before the year ends.

Latest military data estimated the NPA to have about 3,700 fighters spread throughout the country.

Since last year, the AFP noted the increasing number of NPA surrenderees following President Duterte's tagging them as terrorists.

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Phl eyeing marine base on island near Taiwan

The Philippines will start building a marine base next month on its northernmost uninhabited island, near Taiwan, to boost defense arrangements and discourage poachers from its fishing grounds, a military spokesman said yesterday.

The two nations' coast guard ships have confronted each other in the rich fishing waters where their exclusive economic zones overlap, and the neighbors nearly cut ties in 2013, after a Philippine vessel fired on a Taiwanese fishing boat, killing a fisherman.

"We need to have a presence there," said Lt. Col. Isagani Nato, spokesman for the Northern Luzon Command of the Philippines, adding that building work on Mavulis island would start next month.

"It's still uninhabited, that is why we are going to put up a facility to guard our maritime domain, and against poaching during the fishing period."

Nato said a small marine unit would be stationed on the island, also known as Y'Ami, about 80 kilometers from Taiwan, to increase the military presence and improve

information gathering.

He did not give details of the size of the unit, but added that the structures on the island would also afford shelter to fishermen.

The base will help monitor ships passing through the Balintang Channel, an international trade route in the northern Philippines used by vessels crossing from the busy waterway of the South China Sea to the Pacific Ocean.

Taiwan and the Philippines also have overlapping claims in the South China Sea, along with Brunei, China, Malaysia and Vietnam.

More than 20 years ago, Philippine defense officials said Taiwan had proposed to lease the uninhabited island as a gunnery range for its military, promising to donate a secondhand fighter as part of the deal.

Nothing came of the agreement as Manila recognizes Beijing's one-China policy, although it has a de facto embassy in Taipei, where thousands of Filipinos work in homes and factories.

– Reuters, Jaime Laude

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Satur: I'm a journalist, not a terrorist

By MARC JAYSON CAYABYAB

Journalist-turned-activist Satur Ocampo has asked the Manila regional trial court (RTC) to dismiss a petition seeking to declare him as a terrorist, saying there was no evidence that would prove he was a high-ranking officer of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA).

"I am Saturnino Ocampo. Journalist. I am not a terrorist," Ocampo said in his motion to dismiss the Department of Justice (DOJ)'s petition dated March 20 before the Manila RTC Branch 19. A copy of the motion was made available to the media by Ocampo's lawyer on Wednesday night.

Aside from Ocampo, among the nearly 600 persons in the DOJ's list of alleged terrorists are CPP founder Jose Maria Sison, at least 46 human rights defenders, and even United Nations special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, and four former priests.

In his motion, Ocampo denied being an officer of the communist group and stressed the terrorist tag against him was used "to stigmatize and vilify" him, a "journalist of long standing and a former popularly elected member of the House of Representatives."

Ocampo said those who tagged him as alleged communist leader did not have personal knowledge of the matter and that there had been no cause of action against him as a supposed member of the CPP central committee.

He said he was also not mentioned as one of the plotters of the alleged 12 terrorist attacks by the NPA against the government and businesses when the peace talks between the government and the communists were ongoing.

While the peace talks have been stalled, it resulted in "significant advances" for social and economic reforms, Ocampo said, adding that despite President Duterte's cancellation of negotiations, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza expressed optimism they would resume. "It is therefore highly ridiculous for petitioner to claim 'deception' on the part of the CPP-NPA, through the National

Democratic Front, in having engaged the Philippine government in the long, off-and-on peace talks," Ocampo said.

As to the allegation of the terrorist nature of rebels, Ocampo said the congressional deliberations on the Human Security Act, or the law passed to secure the state and protect the people from terrorism, would prove that legislators did not see rebellion – or the act of overthrowing a government – as a terrorist act.

Ocampo also faces multiple murder charges before the Manila RTC with Sison and other supposed communist officers in connection with the alleged 1980s purge of military spies following the discovery of a mass grave in Inopacan, Leyte.

The DOJ sought the declaration of alleged communists as terrorists following the failed peace talks between the Philippine government and the NDF.

"It is clear that the CPP-NPA continue to commit acts of terror, by committing the predicate offenses of murder, kidnapping and arson, to sow and create a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace in order to coerce the Philippine government to give in to its unlawful demand – for the CPP-NPA to overthrow the duly constituted authorities and seize control of the Philippine government," the petition read.

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Navy to receive 3 surveillance planes from Japan

By JAIME LAUDE

The Japanese government will be giving three TC90 patrol and surveillance planes to the Philippine Navy (PN) on Monday.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana will join Japanese Ambassador Koji Haneeda to officially receive the three planes from officials of the Japanese Ministry of Defense and the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF).

The turnover ceremonies will be held at the Naval Air Group headquarters at Heracleo Alano Naval Base, Sangley Point in Cavite City.

"These TC90 aircraft are in addition to the two units previously transferred to the PN last year and will complete the whole project involving five units of TC90 aircraft pursuant to the agreement between the Philippines and Japan," Navy spokesman Capt. Lued Lincuna said.

Upon delivery and transfer, the TC90 aircraft are expected to boost the Navy's

maritime and territorial monitoring as it intends to convert them into patrol and surveillance aircraft.

One of the two TC90s delivered last year is now performing maritime and domain awareness operations for the Navy following its conversion into a patrol and surveillance aircraft.

In one of its recent air patrols, the TC90 plane flew over the Chinese-controlled Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal where it monitored the presence of Chinese vessels in the area.

The patrol plane is also being used to monitor maritime activities in the Philippine Rise.

The TC90 planes are being used by the JMSDF to train its maritime pilots.

Tokyo decided to offer the planes on lease to the Philippine government in the wake of the mounting territorial row in the West Philippine Sea.

The lease agreement was later rescinded, with Japan simply handing over the planes to the Philippine Navy for free.

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23 March 2018



Pahina. 1

NPA Sparu unit binuhay

Ni JOY CANTOS

Umaabot sa 65 katao na karamihan ay pulis at militar ang pinaslang ng SPARU unit, ang hit squad ng New People's Army na namamayagpag muli sa paghahasik ng karahasan sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng bansa mula Enero 2017 hanggang Marso 22, 2018.

Dahil dito, ayon kay Philippine National Police Chief Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa na nagsimula na silang magsagawa ng re-orientation sa kanilang mga tauhan upang supilin at ipulih ang "sparu" operations ng NPA na kanilang tatapatan ng puwersa partikular na sa rehiyon ng Mindanao.

Una rito ay mismong si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang nagbabala sa tropa ng pamahalaan laban sa pagkaalarma nito sa muling pagiging aktibo ng NPA SPARU units na ang target ay mga security forces ng Armed Forces of the Philippines at PNP.

Sa pulong balitaan sa Camp Crame, kinumpirma ni Dela Rosa ang talamak na operasyon ng SPARU unit ng NPA terrorists. Kaya maging ang mga retiradong pulis ay kanilang pinakilos upang magsagawa ng oryentasyon sa mga batang police officers upang ituro sa mga ito kung paano lalabanan at tutuldukan ang liquidation squad ng NPA.

Inihayag ni Dela Rosa na sampung beteranong opisyal ng PNP ang lilibot sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng bansa upang magsagawa ng re-orientation.

Sa tala, sinabi ni De Rosa na muling naging talamak ang operasyon ng SPARU units matapos na kanselahin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang peace talks sa Communist Party of the Philippines at National Democratic Front na political wing ng NPA noong huling bahagi ng nakalipas na taon.

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POLICE FILES

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Empleyado ng AFP-JAGO na nangongotong sa biyuda ng mga sundalo, arestado

DINAKIP ng militar ang isang empleyado ng Armed Forces of the Philippine-Judge Advocate General Office (AFP-JAGO) na nangongotong sa mga asawa ng nasawing sundalo sa isinagawang entrapment operation sa isang Mall sa Quezon City kahapon.

Nakilala ang inarestong suspek na si Luzviminda Valenzuela y Austria, Sr. Administrative Assistant JAGO-AFP.

Ang entrapment operation ay isinagawa ng mga elemento ng Military Intelligence Group (MIG-15) ng Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the

Philippine (ISAFP) dakong 1:30 ng hapon sa Max Restaurant sa Ali Mall sa Quezon City.

Nabatid na ang entrapment operation ay isinagawa matapos makatanggap ng mga reklamo laban sa suspek hinggil sa pangongotong ng P250,000 sa asawa ng mga nasawing sundalo.

Agad na dinakip ng mga operatiba ang suspek nang tanggapin nito ang marked money mula sa biktima.

Isinailalim naman sa imbestigasyon ang suspek habang inihahanda ang kaukulang kaso laban dito.

(Mark Obleada)

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ONLINE NEWS

23 March 2018

www.pna.gov.ph

Authorities thwart bombing attempt in Basilan

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr March 23, 2018, 12:08 am



Passengers unmindful of the scorching heat of the sun enter the port of Isabela City, Basilan to board a ferry bound for Zamboanga City. (File photo by: Teofilo P. Garcia Jr.)

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Authorities have prevented an attempt to set off anew a bomb at the property of a government engineer in Basilan province, police said Thursday.

This came after a “suspicious object” which turned out to be an improvised explosive device (IED) was found around 6 a.m. Wednesday in front of the warehouse of Soler Undug in Barangay Aguada in Isabela City, Basilan.

Undug is the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao’s (ARMM) district engineer for Basilan province.

Supt. Restituto Pangusban, Isabela City police chief, said responding police and military Explosive Ordnance Demolition (EOD) personnel rendered safety procedure after confirming that the recovered “suspicious object” was an IED.

Pangusban said authorities recovered a cellular phone-triggered ammonium nitrate fuel

oil (ANFO) pipe bomb, rigged with several one-inch concrete and common nails as shrapnel.

The IED was powered by a nine-volt dry cell battery with rocker switch and detonating cord. The cellular phone's subscriber's identity module number is +63938-007-8821, he said.

Pangusban said investigation continues to determine the motive as well as the identity of the suspects behind the bombing attempt.

On February 1, an IED has exploded at the residence of Undug in Purok Yakal in Barangay San Rafael, Isabela City.

No one was killed or injured in the explosion that caused minor damage on the perimeter fence of Undug's residence.

ARMM Gov. Mujiv Hataman earlier blamed the Abu Sayyaf bandits as the ones behind the February incident and disclosed that the motive was extortion.

Undug oversees the ongoing implementation of ARMM's transcentral road project worth millions in Basilan province. **(PNA)**