

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



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NEWS CLIPPINGS

28 March 2018

Wednesday

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

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

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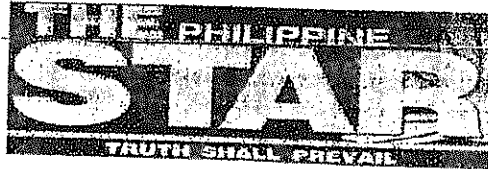
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Soldier slain in Albay clash with Reds

By CELSO AMO

LEGAZPI CITY – A soldier was killed in an encounter with New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Camalig, Albay on Monday.

Capt. Jons Pramis, 9th Infantry Division (ID) public affairs officer, identified the fatality as Cpl. Felipe Delfino Jr., 32, of Task Group Albay.

Pramis said the encounter occurred while members of the task group were conducting a peace and development program in Barangay Magogon.

Delfino was hit in the stomach and died while being treated at the UST Hospital in this city.

In Camarines Sur, NPA rebels belonging to the Bicol Regional Party Committee and soldiers of the 9th and 22nd Infantry Battalions as well as 93rd Division Reconnaissance Company clashed in Barangay Aao-

no, Ragay town also on Monday.

Three improvised explosive devices, blasting caps, a laptop, a cell phone, five backpacks and subversive documents were recovered from the rebels.

Several NPA guerrillas were believed wounded in the gunfight. There was no reported casualty on the government side.

Maj. Gen. Jesus Manangquil Jr., 9th ID commander, alerted his men to remain vigilant against possible attacks by communist guerrillas in view of the anniversary of the NPA tomorrow.

"With these continuing attacks and atrocities... against our troops who are protecting the people in far-flung areas against extortion and intimidation... it is an accurate tag by President Duterte that the NPA is as a terrorist organization," Manangquil said.

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Pahina. 7

113 armas isinuko sa Maguindanao

Umaabot na sa 113 loose firearms ang isinuko ng mga lokal na opisyal sa tropa ng militar sa magkakahiwalay na turnover ceremony sa lalawigan ng Maguindanao kamakalawa at nitong Martes Santo, ayon sa opisyal kahapon.

Sinabi ni Captain Arvin Encinas, Spokesman ng Army's 6th Infantry Division (ID), ang pagsusurender ng mga loose firearms ng mga lokal na opisyal ay bahagi ng pakikiisa ng mga ito sa pinaigting na kampanya ng pamahalaan laban sa mga baril na walang lisensya.

Kabilang sa mga itinurnover na mga armas ay mula sa mga munisipalidad ng Mamasapano, Pagalungan, Datu Montawal at Shariff Aguak, pawang sa lalawigan ng Maguindanao.

Ayon kay Encinas, 45 nasabing mga armas ay itinurnover ni Pagalungan

Mayor Salik Mamasabulod at 30 naman mula kay Datu Montawal Mayor Vicman Montawal. Ang nasabing mga armas ay pormal namang tinanggap ni 602nd Brigade Commander Col. Alfredo Rosario Jr sa hiwalay na seremonya.

Nasa 25 namang mga armas ang isinuko ni Mamasapano Mayor Tahirodin Bizar Ampatuan kay 40th Infantry Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Edgar Catu mula sa 13 barangay sa kanilang munisipalidad.

Aabot rin sa 13 mga armas ang isinuko naman ni Shariff Aguak Mayor Marop Ampatuan kay Army's 601st Infantry Brigade Commander for Operations Col. Ralph Raul Sespene nitong Marso 27 sa municipal hall ng Municipal Peace and Order Council meeting.

Kaugnay nito, pinasalaman naman ni Major Gen. Arnel dela Vega, Commander ng

Army's 6th Infantry Division ang mga lokal na opisyal sa pakikiisa sa pinaigting na kampanya

ng pamahalaan laban sa loose firearms upang mapairal ang peace and order. (Joy Cantos)

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MANILA BULLETIN THE NATIONAL LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Covering President Digong

By YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY — By now, report-

ers covering the presidential beat or what we call the "Duterte Beat" are beginning to understand the speech

pattern of its most colorful subject since the elections of May 2016. The President Rodrigo Duterte



(Malacanang Photo)

that the press pool now knows has always been that way: unpredictable, crass, often abrasive of protocol, and always trying (at times unsuccessfully) to inject his own brand of humor. With a variety of dialects, languages, and sensibilities to speak of in different parts of the country, this is by default a recipe for disaster.

But the Duterte I know remains a Mayor, and he still responds to that moniker, even during Presidential cover-

ages. My foray into the Duterte coverage was as a graduating student around a decade ago,

when he was still accessible to his immediate public, and I was still a scrawny kid trying to make a living out of journalism.

There he was, disembarking from a Huey that had landed in an Army base in Panacan.

Did you know...

2. HE OWES HIS POLITICAL CAREER TO CORY

Duterte, son of a former governor of Davao Province, was content working as a state prosecutor until fate had other plans for him. His political career started when then President Corason Aquino appointed him as officer-in-charge vice mayor of Davao City in 1998. "I owe it to Cory Aquino (who) appointed me as OIC. I got out from the prosecution, then started my career as an OIC. Then ran after the OIC Mayor," said Duterte whose father (ironically) was a close ally of then President Marcos. After getting a taste of politics, Duterte pursued a mayoralty bid and never looked back. He also served congressman and vice mayor of Davao City until he ran for the presidency in 2016. "Far and in between, I had about six many elections. I never lost an election and the last one was the presidency. Kaya hindi ko naman mangleman kung bakit ako dumating dito, na mismo ako hindi ko hamañ naniniwala na manalo ako," he said.

You see, before his on-again-off-again name-calling and eventual war on terror against the communists, Duterte once had direct access to the rebel camps of the New People's Army (NPA).

I had no idea I would be meeting the Mayor for the first time as a reporter, as we were ► 10

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(Malacañang Photo)

Covering President... ◀8



(Photo by Jansen Romero)

just told to go to the site.

Suddenly, the Mayor was walking towards us, behind him a prisoner of war who had been kept at an NPA camp.

For several instances, it was the Mayor himself who picked up various military POWs to the safety of their camps and families.

In one instance, the Mayor berated a POW for being caught with drugs, even as the soldier had been released from captivity.

I would also not forget the first time the President declared his inter-

est in the national post. After months of denial, he announced to a group of senior citizens and relocated informal settlers at the Los Amigos relocation site that he might as well run for the presidency if there was a chance that Senator Grace Poe, whose citizenship he questioned, would make it as the head of the country.

It was unforgettable, and I would personally not forget the moment as I was nursing a fever while on the field that day. People followed him even as he was getting into his small chopper.

Another unforgettable coverage was of Duterte making an unannounced visit to the tomb of his mother Soledad at the Wireless Cemetery. The visit was not in the schedule, and I had been the only one nearby, so I took a cab to the site hoping to catch him before he left.

His convoy was getting ready to leave, when I caught a glimpse of the open window to his pickup truck, and yelled out "Mayor!"

The pickup idled, Mr. Duterte replied: "O, media! Unsa man (roughly translated 'what?')". I got the answer to my

question as I clung to the side of his truck, my foot pressed on the stepper as if afraid it would leave.

But that was years ago. The Duterte coverage now is muddled and tended to be formulaic like in 1521. We wonder all the time whether the President's speech will be read or not, and most of the time, when he did, it would be



(Malacañang Photo)

peppered with curses and anger at imperialism.

The waiting is still hours-long, but the rules are so strict that President Duterte himself is uncomfortable with them. But this is understandable, but don't get us started on how protocols can be improved.

And so, I hold on to the memory that once in his political career, the man who would be President answered one question from a young reporter clinging to the side of his vehicle. It was something I had to do because people wanted to know what he thought about an issue.

And look at us now. Our people still want to know. And I will continue to write.

(Malacañang Photo)



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negotiations with the communist rebel group to resolve the decades-old conflict. They also called for the completion of the agreements on social, economic and political reforms to lay the groundwork for a just and lasting peace.

Roque said they recognize the independence of House of Representatives in filing the resolution to continue with the peace negotiations and complete the related agreements. "We thank those who signed the resolution for their support to the peace agenda of the administration," he added.

He assured that the government would sustain efforts to attain peace despite the suspension of the talks.

"Even without the peace talks, the government's efforts at forging peace with communist rebels have been gaining ground, as evidenced by the surrender of NPA fighters," he said.

"Rest assured that the government will exhaust any and all means to achieve lasting peace toward unity and progress," he added.

AFP ready to follow

With Malacañang setting conditions for the revival of the peace negotiations, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said it will always follow the

policy direction of the political leadership.

"We leave it to our political leaders to decide on political questions and we will always follow legally mandated decisions.

"We take cognizance of the need to have a just and lasting peace in our country and the AFP supports every effort to forge peace in our country," the AFP said in a statement.

The AFP, however, reiterated, that the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) must show sincerity in dealing with the peace process by stopping all atrocities including attacks, ambush of troops, coercion and killing of civilians, recruitment, use of IEDs, extortion, arson, and all anti-peace activities that undermine communities.

"Whatever the outcome, we will always abide by our constitutional mandate to protect the people and the state," the AFP said.

The AFP also said that the declaration of the Suspension of Military Operations (SOMO) is also a political decision vested upon the political leadership. It said it has yet to receive orders to suspend offensive military operations against the NPA who will mark its 49th founding anniversary March 29, 2018.

It added that it's quite odd for them to declare a suspension of attacks during the Holy Week.

There were earlier news report that quoted "Ka Otto," who identified himself as the spokesperson of the NPA's Guerilla Front 16, declaring that the rebel group will temporarily stop offensive operations in observance of the Holy Week, from March 28 (Holy Tuesday) to April 1, 2018 (Easter Sunday).

The order was contained in a letter purportedly signed by one "Ka Ariel Montero" of the Regional Operational Command of the BagongHukbong Bayan-Northeastern Mindanao Region. They said that they issued the order in order for Roman Catholics to have a peaceful and successful observance of Lent.

"We believe that such unusual declaration by the NPA is another ploy to deceive the security forces, the government and especially the people so that the government will be forced to declare SOMO in order for them to reconstitute forces, recruit new members, extort money, and rest from the unceasing focused military operation of the AFP," the AFP said.

"This is a desperate attempt of the NPA to gain the moral highground by seizing the opportunity to paint religiosity in their organization while the basic principle of Communism by which

their fake revolution is anchored, does not believe in God and reject religion," it added.

The NPA anniversary, usually marked by violent attacks against government forces and atrocities against the people, incidentally falls within the Holy Week this year.

Bracing for attacks

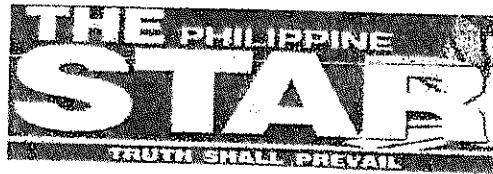
Despite the rebels' ceasefire declaration, the AFP is intensifying efforts to thwart possible attacks and atrocities as the occasion is usually marked by attacks against our people and vulnerable communities.

"In the past, they have staged hostilities such as raids, ambushes, and sabotage against government troops, on public establishments and vital installations that severely affected innocent civilians. These attacks against our people are terroristic in nature and clear reflection of their true color as a criminal and terrorist organization," the AFP said.

"In the NCR (National Capital Region), they have staged rallies and protest actions that caused massive traffic that affected motorists and commuters. They have repeatedly done such actions that disturbed the peace of the place and pestered law abiding citizens," it added. (With a report from Francis T. Wakefield)

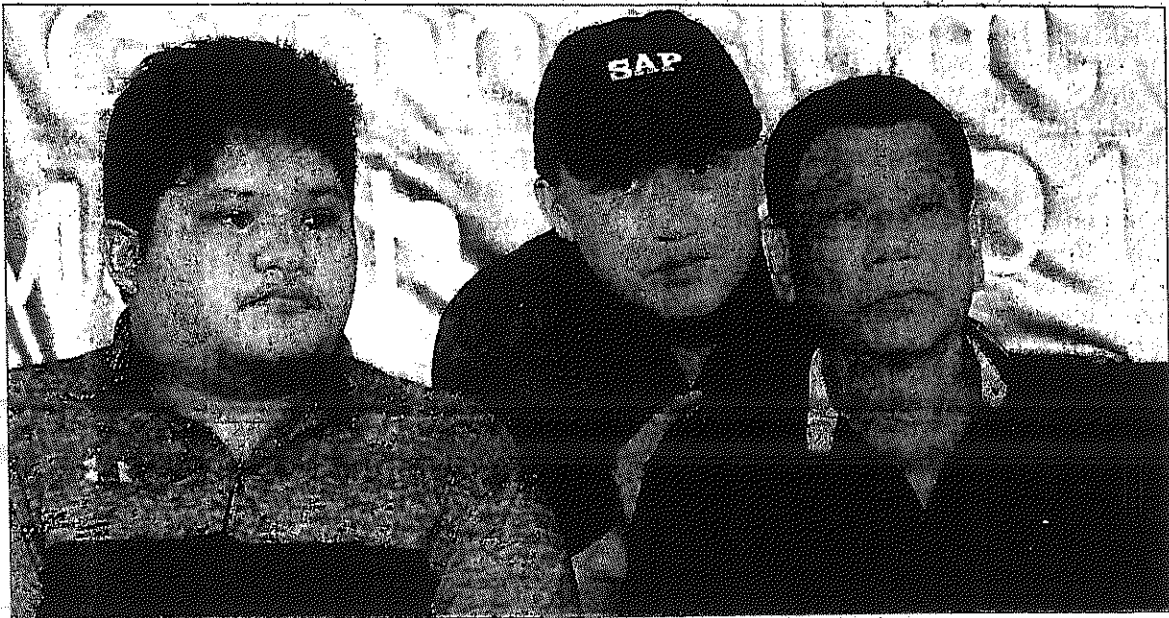
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No Lenten truce with Reds



President Duterte and his special assistant Bong Go witness the presentation of firearms surrendered by Abu Sayyaf members in Patikul, Sulu the other day. Joining the President is his grandson Omar Duterte.

By ALEXIS ROMERO

There will be no ceasefire with communist rebels this Holy Week, the defense department said, as security forces are on alert to prevent untoward incidents during the holidays.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said security officials have not discussed a Holy Week truce with the rebels.

"I don't think there will be (a ceasefire). We have not discussed this at Cabinet level nor between the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and PNP (Philippine National Police)," Lorenzana said in a text message

to The STAR yesterday.

He is also not in favor of suspending offensive military operations against the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the communists.

"I have not gotten any guidance from the President. I am not also recommending a ceasefire," Lorenzana added.

Earlier media reports

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said communist rebels have declared a unilateral ceasefire from March 28 to April 1 to allow Filipinos to observe the Holy Week peacefully.

The peace talks between the government and communist groups collapsed last year after the NPA staged a series of attacks against soldiers and policemen.

President Duterte heaped the blame on the rebels, who he said are pushing for a coalition government under a power-sharing

arrangement that would violate the Constitution.

Duterte also raised doubts on the rebels' sincerity, citing their attacks that harmed civilians, aside from their alleged extortion schemes against businesses.

However, he raised the possibility of resuming the peace talks earlier this month if the two sides come up with a ceasefire deal.

Sixty-one members of the House of Representatives have filed a resolution calling for the

revival of the talks but presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza said a resumption would only happen if there is an "enabling environment."

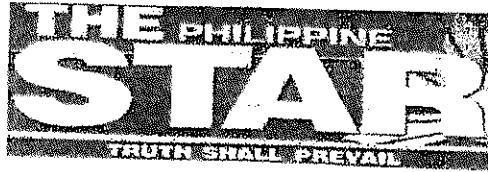
Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the government would continue to "exhaust any and all means to achieve lasting peace" despite the cancellation of the peace talks with the rebels.

"Even without the peace talks, the government's efforts at forging peace with communist rebels have been gaining ground, as evidenced by the surrender of NPA fighters," he added.

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Joma: Reds willing to resume talks with gov't

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

The communist rebels are willing to resume peace talks with the government, Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison said yesterday.

Sison said the reason why the communists are still fighting the government is because President Duterte and some of his subordinates, like Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, remain "unwilling" to talk peace.

Sison said the CPP and the New People's Army (NPA), under the National Democratic Front (NDF), will remain open to several possibilities of talking peace until Duterte and his subordinates change their minds and agree to negotiate or when a new administration is in place.

Lorenzana had questioned the communist's motive to reopen the peace talks, saying the rebels have been using the negotiations to recruit, reorganize and rearm their guerrilla force.

He added the call of the 61 lawmakers urging the resumption of peace talks is unnecessary in the absence of an enabling environment.

"We will resume the peace process once the enabling environment is present. I believe that the enabling environment is nonexistent at the moment," Lorenzana said.

Sison also lauded Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III for supporting the resumption of peace negotiations.

"I appreciate and welcome Senate President Aquilino Pimentel's statement that he favors the resumption of

the peace negotiations and that the petition to declare the CPP and NPA terrorist organizations can be withdrawn to clear the way for the resumption of negotiations," Sison said.

Sison described Pimentel's statement as "encouraging."

"Pimentel's statement is definitely encouraging to the NDF and to all those interested in striving for just peace. It rides well on the earlier resolution of the House (of Representatives), signed by 61 lawmakers, urging President Duterte to listen to the clamor of the people for a resumption of peace talks between the (government) and the NDF," Sison said.

Sison said the cooperation of Congress is needed for the peace negotiations to resume and advance to a successful conclusion.

"The concurrence of Congress is needed for a presidential amnesty proclamation to release all political prisoners in compliance with the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) in exchange for a mutually effective ceasefire as the first step towards the end of hostilities," he said.

Sison also said Congress is needed to pass the laws for enabling the realization and implementation of policy agreements.

"Duterte and his subordinates ought not to delay the resumption of peace negotiations by believing their own propaganda that they can destroy the revolutionary movement with sheer violence and deception or by harping on the line that the NDF is insincere," Sison said. – With Jaime Laude, Artemio Dumlao, Roel Pareño

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B1

Joma: Without peace talks, we'll have to go on fighting

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Communist Party of the Philippines yesterday said it will be forced to fight government if President Duterte and Defense Secretary Lorenzana would remain opposed to a resumption of peace negotiations.

The communists have been waging an armed struggle for almost five decades now, and have been holding preliminary and/or formal peace negotiations with past administrations since 1986.

CPP founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison, who has been on self-exile in the Netherlands since the late 80s, said the National Democratic Front of the Philippines is "definitely willing" to return to the negotiating table.

"But if President Duterte and his subordinates Lorenzana and (PNP chief Director General Ronald) dela Rosa are unwilling to negotiate peace, the revolutionary forces and people represented by the NDFP have no choice but to concentrate single-mindedly on fighting those who lust for their blood, death and humiliation," he said.

Duterte, during a visit to Sulu on Monday, said his administration is determined to finish the 49-year-old insurgency problem. Earlier on Monday, Lorenzana said the communists have not shown sincerity in talking peace and asked what they really want "because we have been talking to them for the past several decades and

nothing is happening."

A call for the resumption of talks was made by at least 60 members of the House of Representatives over the weekend through a resolution, one of whose authors belongs to the Bayan Muna party-list group which is identified with the Left.

Duterte cancelled the negotiations in November last year, after four rounds of formal talks, because of continued attacks by the New People's Army, the CPP's armed wing, on government forces even while the talks were ongoing.

Sison said the Duterte administration should not delay the resumption of the peace talks and should stop believing in the government propaganda that they can destroy the communist movement by "sheer violence" and harping that the communists are insincere in the peace process.

Lorenzana yesterday reiterated his opposition to the revival of the peace talks and noted an increase in the number of NPA rebels and supporters who are surrendering to the military.

The military has said at least 4,000 NPA members and supporters have surrendered this year.

Lorenzana also said he shares the pronouncement of presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza that an "enabling environment" is not present to resume the talks,

referring to a bilateral ceasefire agreement.

Told he may be accused by the Left of being anti-peace for opposing the resumption of talks, Lorenzana said, "That would be their most probable argument, but we have bent backwards again and again but the result is the same."

"We cannot repeat what we have been doing and expect a better result this time because, believe me, it will result in the same -- failure. Past experiences are our best guide," he also said.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said even without the peace negotiations, government efforts to bring peace have been gaining ground, "as evidenced by the surrender of NPA fighters." He did not say what those efforts are.

He thanked the signatories of the House resolution and also talked about an "enabling environment."

"Right from the very beginning of his term, the President's position has always been clear and consistent: He remains committed to peace. However, we find it unfortunate that the communists have become spoilers of peace because of their penchant for double talk and treachery. Their motives are not for attaining sustainable peace but rather to push for their greater control and influence. As before, we reiterate that there must be an enabling environment that must be present for the desired resumption of peace talks," he said. — *With Jocelyn Montemayor*

See JOMA > Page B3

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Page: A3

AFP: No order for truce yet

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

The military on Tuesday said it had yet to receive orders to suspend operations against communist rebels as it expressed skepticism over reported declaration by guerrillas of a halt on offensives against government forces during the Holy Week.

Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines public affairs division, said suspending military operations against the rebels was a "political decision vested upon the political leadership."

Holy Week is the high point of the Lenten season marked by prayers and quiet meditation on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

'Unusual'

Garcia said he found as "unusual" an announcement purportedly made by rebels for a halt to offensives against government targets from March 29 to April 1.

It came from a certain "Ka Oto," spokesperson of Guerrilla Front 16 of New People's Army (NPA).

"We believe that such un-

usual declaration by the NPA is another ploy to deceive the security forces," Garcia said.

He said the military was wary about the halt in offensives by NPA as it could be meant to just force the government into suspending military operations against rebels that could give NPA the break it needed "to reconstitute forces, recruit new members, extort money and rest from the unceasing focused military operation of the AFP."

Guerrilla Front 16 is an NPA unit based in the Caraga region in Northeastern Mindanao.

Online announcement

On March 18, the Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) website, philippinerevolution.info, posted a statement from Ka Ariel Montero, NPA Northern Mindanao spokesperson, declaring a temporary suspension of NPA offensives during the Holy Week.

The CPP is marking its 49th founding anniversary on March 29, Maundy Thursday.

Garcia said the CPP anniversary was usually marked by NPA attacks against government forces and the people. INQ

28 March 2018

The Manila Times

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AFP DOUBTS REDS' CEASEFIRE DECLARATION

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Tuesday cast doubts on the New People's Army (NPA) declaration of a Holy Week ceasefire, calling it "unusual" and "another ploy" to catch government forces off-guard.

Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia, AFP public affairs chief, said there was

no order yet from President Rodrigo Duterte for the military to also suspend its operations following the NPA's declaration.

"We believe that such unusual declaration by the NPA is another ploy to deceive security forces, the government and especially the people

so that the government will be forced to declare SOMO (suspension of military operations) in order for them (NPA) to reconstitute forces, recruit new members, extort money and rest from the unceasing focused military operation of the AFP," Garcia said in a statement.

He also branded the communist rebels' declaration as a "desperate attempt" at painting "religiosity" within their organization, noting that communism "does not believe in God and reject religion."

Garcia was responding to the declaration made by a "Ka Oto," spokesman of the NPA's Guerilla Front 16 based in the North Eastern Mindanao Region, of a ceasefire starting today until Easter Sunday, April 1.

The AFP official, however, questioned the credibility of Ka Oto.

"The declaration is suspicious as it was only announced by an alleged spokesman of a guerilla front, [the coverage of which] is less than a province, and was merely signed by someone from one of their regional organs," Garcia said.

"The CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines), NPA, NDF (Na-

tional Democratic Front) can show their sincerity by doing the right thing by stopping all forms of violent activities and atrocities against the people year round," he added.

Despite this, Garcia said government troops would follow should the AFP declare a SOMO for the Holy Week.

"We call on our people to be wary of the pattern of deception of the communist NPA terrorists, to be proactive and to be part of the conscious effort to deny them of the chance to regain strength," Garcia said.

Reds willing to fight – Joma Sison

Exiled Communist Party of the

Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Maria "Joma" Sison said on Tuesday the communist rebels would have no choice but to concentrate in fighting government security forces if President Duterte and security officials opposed the resumption of the peace negotiations.

"The [National Democratic Front] is definitely willing to resume peace negotiations as soon as the GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) agrees and the Filipino people are certainly clamoring for this," Sison said.

"But if President Duterte and his subordinates [Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana] and [PPP Chief Ronald] de la Rosa are unwilling to negotiate peace, the

revolutionary forces and people represented by the NDF have no choice but to concentrate single-mindedly on fighting those who lust for their blood, death and humiliation," he added.

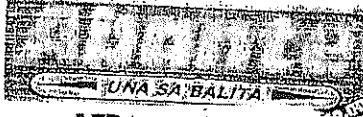
Sison welcomed the support given by Senate President Aquilino Pimentel 3rd and 61 congressmen from different parties in resuming the peace talks with the communists.

Lorenzana reiterated that the rebels could not be trusted to honor any agreement.

"We cannot repeat what we have been doing and expect a better result this time because, believe me, it will result in the same failure. Past experiences are our best guide," he told reporters.

DEMPSEY REYES

28 March 2018



Pahina. 5

AFP tamang duda sa CPP-NPA-NDF

KAILANGAN munang maging sinsero ang mga rebeldeng grupong New People's Army (NPA) sa usapang pangkapyapaan kung gusto nilang ituloy ang peace process sa gobyerno.

Ito ang sinabi kahapon ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garci bilang reaksiyon sa usaping posibleng ipagpatuloy ang peace talks ng gobyerno sa Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

"The AFP will always follow the policy direction of the political leadership. We leave it to our political leaders to decide on political questions and we will always follow legally mandated decisions," pahayag ni Garcia.

Subalit kinakailangan umano ng CPP-NPA-NDF na magpakita muna ng sinseridad sa usaping pangkapyapaan at tigilan muna nila ang ginagawa nilang karahasang katulad ng pag-atake, ambush sa tropa ng gobyerno, pananakot at pamamaslang sa mga sibilyan, pagre-recruit nila, paggamit ng mga improvised explosive device (IED), panggingkil, panununog at lahat ng karahasang kanilang ginagawa.

Dagdag pa ng opisyal na anuman ang kalalabasan ng muling pagbukas ng usaping pangkapyapaan patuloy pa rin ang AFP na susunod sa mga constitutional mandate ng tao at estado.

Matatandaang nitong Nobyembre 23, 2017 ay pinirmahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Proclamation 360, na naguutos na i-terminate ang lahat ng peace negotiation at mga pagpupulog sa mga rebelde. (Edwin Balasa)

28 March 2018



Pahina. 2

AFP DUDA SA TIGIL

PUTUKAN NG CPP-NPA

Pinagdududahan ng Iderato ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang pansamantalang pag-deklara ng tigil putukan ng grupong Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) terrorist upang bigyan daan umano ang pagninilay ng mga deboto ng Simbahang Katoliko ngayong panahon

ng Semana Santa.

Ito ang naging pahayag ni Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia, Chief ng AFP Public Affairs Office, bilang reaksiyon sa ipinalabas na pahayag ni Ka Ariel Montero, spokesperson ng NPA Northeastern Mindanao na nag-aatas sa kanilang mga kasamahan sa rebolusyong komunista na

pansamantalang ipatigil ang paglulunsad ng mga pag-atake laban sa tropang gobyerno at mga instalasyon habang ginugunita ang Semana Santa.

Nakaposte ang pahayag na "Ang Bagong Hukbong Bayan (BHB) kasama ang rebolusyonaryong puwersa sa North Eastern Mindanao ay mula

sa puso na sumusuporta sa sambayanang Katoliko sa paggunita sa Semana Santa. Dahil dito, ang Regional Office Command ng BHB-North Eastern Mindanao Region ay nag-uutos sa pansamantalang pagpapahinto sa mga paglulunsad ng mga taktikal na operasyon laban sa puwersa ng AFP at PNP mula ngay-

ong Marso 28 (Miyerkules Santos) hanggang Abril 1 (Linggo ng Pagkabuhay).

Ayon kay Garcia na nag-deklarang pansamantalang tigil putukan ang NPA sa North Eastern Mindanao upang makapagpalakas ng puwersa, makapag-recruit ng mga bagong miyembro, makapangotong at isahan ang puwersa ng pamaha-

laan.

Iginiit pa na ang nasabing panahon ay ipinagdiriwang rin ng NPA ang kanilang ika-49 taong anibersaryo sa darating na Marso 29.

Iginiit nito na ang SOMO ay isang "political decision" ng nakaupong Pangulo ng bansa at hindi nila ito ipatutupad kung

wala naman silang natatanggap na kautusan mula sa punong ehekutibo.

Hinamon rin ni Garcia ang CPP-NPA-NDF na magpakita ng sinseridad sa pamamagitan ng pagpapahinto ng mga bayolenteng aktibidades ng grupo kung saan maging ang mga inosenteng sibilyan ay nabibiktima. - *Joy Cantos*

28 March 2018

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Caraga NPA declares Lenten ceasefire

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

BUTUAN CITY - The New People's Army (NPA) will temporarily halt all tactical offensives against the government in observance of the Holy Week, starting today, Holy Wednesday.

The truce order was issued "in deference to peaceful observance of the Filipino people's Holy week tradition."

In a statement released to various news agencies in Northeastern Mindanao, a certain Ka Ariel Montero, spokesperson of the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines)-NPA Regional Operation Command (ROC) of Northeastern Mindanao said the ROC of Bagong Hukbo ng Bayan (BHB)-Northeastern

Mindanao Region (NEMR) ordered all field units of BHB and Milisyang Bayan (MB) in Caraga region to temporarily halt their tactical offensive against the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) to join the whole Christendom in the observance of the Lenten Week.

"The temporary stoppage of tactical offensive will start on Wednesday, March 28, and will end on Monday, April 1," said the CPP-NPA ROC spokesperson.

The ceasefire was also announced to coincide with the 49th founding anniversary of the NPA on Thursday in an undisclosed place in Mindanao, the statement also said.

"The temporary stop of tactical

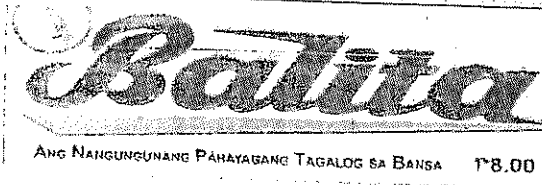
offensive applies to all commands and units of the NPA and the people's militia in the region," said Montero in the statement.

All NPA units were nevertheless ordered to strengthen defensive posture to protect themselves of any hostile action from the AFP and PNP, the spokesperson said.

All communist guerrillas and their allies shall remain on active defensive mode in order to defend the people and revolutionary forces, he added.

Meanwhile, all military and police units in Northeastern Mindanao or Caraga region were ordered to remain "vigilant" during the Lenten Week and summer break, regional Army spokesman Lt. Tere Ingente said.

28 March 2018



Page. 5

NPA-Caraga nagdeklara ng ceasefire

BUTUAN CITY – Pansamantalang ihihinto ng New People's Army (NPA) ang mga opensiba nito laban sa puwersa ng pamahalaan kaugnay ng paggunita sa Semana Santa.

Ipinalabas ang nasabing utos "in deference to peaceful observance of the Filipino people's Holy week tradition."

Sa pahayag na inilabas sa media sa Northeastern Mindanao, sinabi ni Ka Ariel Montero, tagapagsalita ng Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-NPA Regional Operation Command (ROC) ng Northeastern Mindanao na inatasan ng Bagong Hukbo ng Bayan (BHB)-Northeastern Mindanao Region (NEMR) ang lahat ng field unit nito ng BHB at Milisyang Bayan (MB) sa Caraga Region na pansamantalang itigil ang lahat ng

operasyon laban sa pulisya at militar kaugnay ng Mahal na Araw.

"The temporary stoppage of tactical offensive will start on Wednesday (March 28) and will end on Monday (April 1)," saad sa pahayag ni Montero.

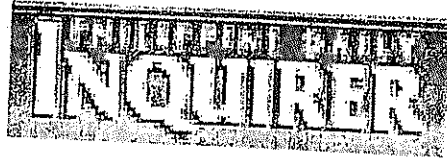
Ang tigil-putukan ay iniuugnay din sa selebrasyon ng ika-49 na anibersaryo ng NPA sa Huwebes, Marso 29, ayon sa kilusan.

Gayunman, nananatiling alerto sa depensa ang CPP-NPA laban sa anumang pag-atake.

Kasabay nito, inatasan namang maging alerto ang lahat ng unit ng militar at pulisya sa buong Caraga region, ayon kay Lt. Tere Ingente, tagapagsalita ng Philippine Army sa rehiyon.

Mike U. Crismundo

28 March 2018



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DU30 OFFERS FREE HOUSING, AID TO ABUS

By Julie Alipala @inquirermindanao

PATIKUL, SULU—While taking a hard line on communist rebels, whom he wants legally declared terrorists and wiped out, President Duterte is welcoming with a soft heart internationally recognized and condemned terrorists who have surrendered to the authorities.

During a visit here on Monday, Mr. Duterte received 76 Abu Sayyaf bandits who surrendered separately to the military last year.

Mr. Duterte offered them housing and other



assistance to smoothen their reintegration into society.

"I came here because I am reading, hearing it, seeing it on TV, of the number that some of our brothers who have surrendered. This time en masse," the President said.

The Abu Sayyaf started out as a jihadi group in the 1990s, but turned to banditry after its leaders were killed in clashes with the police and the military.

The terrorist group has become notorious for kidnappings for ransom, mostly of Westerners whom the bandits decapitate after they fail to receive money from the captives' governments or relatives.

Same as help to NPA

The United States and the European Union have declared the Abu Sayyaf terrorists.

Mr. Duterte, however, said he wanted to take care of Abu Sayyaf bandits who had surren-

dered, just like he was taking care of New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas who had given up to return to normal life.

He said he did not exactly know what the Sulu surrenderers wanted to do with their lives but in the meantime, he was offering them houses and livelihood, similar to the assistance that communist rebels in Mindanao who had surrendered were getting.

"For those interested, [the] government is ready. Houses. Sulu is big. I can build small houses here. I can accommodate you," Mr. Duterte said.

Mr. Duterte said he wanted a peaceful resolution of the Abu Sayyaf problem in particular and the Moro problem in general because seeing young people die pained him.

"I said in a conference that the life span of Joloanos, not here but those [fighting in the] hinterlands, averages about 40," he said.

Not about religion

"It's pitiful. I am also a Mindanaoan. I am also hurt. The guy

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MALACANANG PHOTO

SURRENDERED GUNS President Duterte inspects the firearms handed over by Abu Sayyaf bandits who have turned themselves in during Monday's program at the Capitol in Patikul, Sulu.

had suffered long enough.
"The people had no respite from violence. There are a lot of opportunities. This is such a beautiful [place]," Mr. Duterte said.

'Stop the killings'
"So if somebody [in the Abu Sayyaf] is listening, stop it. Do not kill [people] because [they have] no money. Stop it. I am not angry [with] you," he added.
Mr. Duterte also said he wanted to consult the Tausug about the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) pending in Congress.

The proposed BBL would establish a new, larger autonomous region for Muslims in Mindanao, conceived as part of a peace agreement signed by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front—the biggest Muslim insurgent group in Mindanao—in 2014.

In an apparent response to an earlier Abu Sayyaf threat to kill him, Mr. Duterte said: "I've been telling the communists, you want me killed? What can you do if I am killed? I'm more useful to you... alive." INQ

doesn't know [what he is fighting for]. He was not even schooled. Call him ignorant if you will, and they only know how to fish with limited resources and everything, and they are swayed by fervor, I

don't know," Mr. Duterte said.
He said that contrary to what jihadis had been claiming, the government's campaign against lawlessness in Sulu was not about religion.

"There is no war of religion in this country. It is not an issue and has never been," the President said.

He said he wanted peace in Sulu, as the people of the province

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PRRD appeals for Muslim unity, support for BBL

PATIKUL, Sulu - President Duterte on Monday appealed for unity as Congress deliberates on the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) aimed at ending the decades-long Mindanao separatism.

Addressing troops and supporters during the handover ceremony of loose firearms and the presentation of Abu Sayyaf surrenderers, Duterte said the people of Sulu have been left behind,

ravaged by poverty and illiteracy.

"Sulu since time immemorial, it has suffered violence every now and then. Walang katahimikan ang tao sa Sulu," he said noting the province's violent past.

While acknowledging that Sulu is a beautiful place with plenty of opportunities for its people, it suffers from a security issue.

The President said he understands the situation and does not harbor animosity against people fighting the government.

"So if there is a way that I can help you, help me make it through the night sa presidency ko. Magpasalamat talaga ako kasi wala akong ibang hangarin kung hindi bigyan ng kapayapaan ang Moro sa Mindanao (during my presidency and I will really be thankful because I have no other wish than to give peace to the Moros in Mindanao)," Duterte said.

He asked the people of Sulu to scrutinize the BBL, which is still pending in Congress.

He also expressed doubts if the BBL would be widely accepted considering the differences of many Muslim groups in Mindanao.

Mindanao has many tribes and this must be considered in crafting the BBL, he added.

Unequal distribution

He noted that money was not distributed equally in the current Autonomous

Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) setup, which has become a source of misunderstanding.

"I have to fathom it. That's why I need to talk to you and I want to finish it this year. I want to have a result of this by the end of the year," he said.

Duterte said he went to Sulu to see if Abu Sayyaf members turning themselves in were given the same treatment as the members of the New People's Army (NPA).

In Davao, NPA surrenderees are given houses, jobs and training from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

"For those interested, government is ready. Kaya nga, bahay-malaki man itong Sulu. Hindi ako mag-condo-condo. Gawa na ako konting mga bahay bahay. And I can accommodate you. Just give me about two years," he said of Abu Sayyaf members wanting to surrender.

The highlight of the President's visit was the handover of 652 loose firearms and presentation of 76 Abu Sayyaf surrenderers.

The Western Mindanao Command

(Wesmincom) reported that to date, a total of 1,157 loose firearms were recovered by the Joint Task Force Sulu.

The event is part of the President's campaign to recover loose firearms to make the country safe from gun violence. He believes easy access to guns fuels rebellion and insurgency.

The extended martial-law in Mindanao made it easier for the military to recover undocumented weapons, the army command said.

The 76 Abu Sayyaf members also surrendered 205 assorted firearms.

From January 1, 2017 to March 26, 2018, a total of 202 Abu Sayyaf members have surrendered to the Joint Task Force Sulu, 85 came from Basilan, 79 from Sulu, 36 from Tawi-Tawi. Two are from Zamboanga City.

Joining the Duterte during the handover rites were Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., AFP Chief of Staff Leonardo Guerrero, Naval Forces Western Mindanao Command chief, Rear Admiral Rene Medina, Jolo Mayor Kerkar Tan and Sulu Governor Abdusakur Tan II. (Presidential News Desk)

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Duterte, Moro leaders to talk BBL

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte has said that he expects to sit down next week with Moro leaders to finally "find solutions" to the long-standing armed conflict in Mindanao.

"We have to talk and talk until we find a solution. I cannot give you a timeline now, simply because I am busy. But next week, I will expect you to be here to talk. It will really have to be one whole day," Duterte said in his speech during the handover ceremony of loose firearms and presentation of Abu Sayyaf surrenderees in Patikul, Sulu.

"By the end of the day, we should come up with something that's very solid. And that's the time that I would talk to Nur (Misuari) and Murad (Ebrahim)," the President added. Ebrahim is the chairman of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front

(MILF) while Misuari is the founder of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

One of the issues that Duterte intends to discuss with the Moro leaders is whether it is possible for the Muslims of Sulu to be lumped with their brothers and sisters from mainland Mindanao.

"I am worried. Would it do well to mix you all into one? Maybe to say you people of Sulu are not ready to be led by a Mainanao?" the President said.

"That is the problem now while the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) is being processed in Congress. Who heads what? Should the [Bangsamoro State be] divided [into two regions] or should they be put together under one governing authority? Who would it be? That's why I need to talk to you, and I want to finish it this year."

Duterte stressed that his government wants the issue "solved in the best way that is acceptable" to all parties concerned.

The President also reiterated his wish for Filipino rebels to stop their illegal activities, especially hijacking cargo vessels from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

He said leaders of those countries, like Indonesia's Joko Widodo, "may lose confidence" in him.

"It will create uncertainty. I'd like to tell you now, if somebody is listening, stop it. Stop it!"

House priority

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez remains committed to passing the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

Alvarez said the BBL will be the priority of the House of Representatives when it resumes session in May.

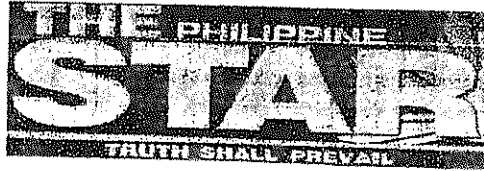
Alvarez particularly assured people of Mindanao, particularly the Muslim Filipinos of the protection of their rights as well as to lift of their lives with the BBL.

"Let me assure you that when we return for our sessions, after the break, we will give it priority and we will pass it in the House of Representatives," Alvarez said.

Representatives from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) welcomed the Speaker's words.

These two rival secessionist groups have entered into a peace pact with the government. President Rodrigo Duterte earlier urged the leaders of both the House and the Senate to pass BBL to address the root causes of the Moro rebellion in Mindanao. ~~Ebrahim Montano, Nur Misuari~~

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Stop killing hostages, Duterte asks Abu bandits

By ROEL PAREÑO

PATIKUL, Sulu – President Duterte appealed to Abu Sayyaf bandits not to harm or kill their hostages even as he gave assurance that he would welcome those who want to surrender.

“I would like to tell you now if somebody is listening, stop it. Stop it... If (the hostages) have no money, why kill them?... I am not angry at you. Stop it because it does not look good,” the President said during his visit to the Western Mindanao Command on Monday for the presentation of 76 Abu Sayyaf

surrenderees.

“I’m pleading... All I’m asking you with all my heart is peace for all,” Duterte said.

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding three Indonesians, a Vietnamese, a Dutch man and five Filipinos.

“We cannot do anything for those who choose to fight, but

for those who are interested, the government is ready,” the President said.

The Chief Executive said he could easily neutralize the Abu Sayyaf with daily bombings, but noted that killing everyone “would not prove anything.”

Like former communist rebels, Duterte said Abu Sayyaf surrenderees would be provided housing and livelihood assistance.

“I just want to treat everybody equally and give opportunity to everybody,” Duterte said.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said the presence of the hostages is the only thing keeping the military from wiping out the Abu Sayyaf.

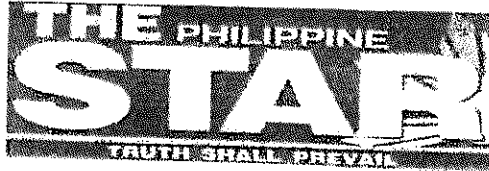
Sobejana said military offensives are calculated to ensure the safety of the kidnap victims.

“Our priority now is to recover the kidnap victims so that our operations will not be restricted,” Sobejana said.

He said 10 battalions are pursuing around 300 Abu Sayyaf bandits operating in Sulu. **With Edith Regalado, Jaime Laude**

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Rody: No Bangsamoro police, military

PATIKUL, Sulu – The Bangsamoro entity under the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) will not have its own police and military units, according to President Duterte.

“I do not mean to say I do not trust you, but whether you like it or not there’s one thing I cannot give – the regional armed forces and police. It stays with the commander-in-chief,” Duterte said during a meeting with various sectors at the provincial capitol in this town on Monday.

“The police and military should belong to only one government,” Duterte stressed.

The President also expressed concern on the leadership structure under the new Bangsamoro entity, citing various Muslim and

lumad tribes in Mindanao.

“I am anxious. Would it do well to mix it all in one pot? Meaning to say, are you Joloanos ready to be governed by a Maranao?” he asked.

Duterte said he would conduct more dialogues with various stakeholders to address the issue.

The President said he wants the BBL signed into law this year even as he stressed the need to make it acceptable to all.

The BBL aims to create a Bangsamoro political entity with enhanced autonomy.

The President had earlier warned that failure to pass the BBL would bring more conflict in Mindanao and provide terrorists the opportunity to recruit new members. – **Ruel Pareño, Alexis Romero**

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AFP expects to wipe out ASG by year's end

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Joint Task Force (AFP-JTF) Sulu Tuesday said that they will do their best to finish off the Abu Sayyaf problem in Sulu before the end of the year.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana made the pronouncement in a phone interview, a day after President Rodrigo Duterte visited Sulu for the surrender of several ASG members and hand-over of loose firearms.

"Kakayanin natin... magiging optimistic tayo (We will try our best... we will be optimistic)," Sobejana said.

Sobejana said, at present, the strength of the terrorist group in Sulu was estimated to be between 300 to 400. He added that the group was still holding 10 hostages - a Dutch

national three Indonesians and six Filipinos.

The JTF Sulu commander also revealed that President Duterte expressed satisfaction with the ongoing military operations against the Abu Sayyaf, especially since that there was a huge improvement in the over-all security situation in Sulu.

"Okay naman... Oo, masaya siya na may significant improvement sa security situation sa Sulu (It's okay... Yes, he's happy that there is significant improvement in the security situation in Sulu)," Sobejana said.

"But of course challenge niya iyung local government to also do their part (But of course, he also challenged the local government to also do their part)," he added.

Sobejana said militarily, they have an edge over the Abu Sayyaf but

admitted that with the terrorist still holding hostages, the military needs to be cautious in order not to endanger their lives.

"Kaya naman, actually patapos na eh. Ano na lang iyan eh makuha natin iyung... ang priority kasi natin iyung kidnap victims para hindi na restricted iyung ating operation. Sa ngayon kasi with the kidnap victims syempre medyo calculated. Kapag nawala iyan, priority iyan, the freedom of the kidnap victims (We can, actually it's almost over. Once we get them... Our priority are the kidnap victims so that our operations will no longer be restricted. Of course with the kidnap victims we need to be calculated)," Sobejana said.

Sobejana said troops just need to sustain their ongoing operations against the enemy.

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28 March 2018

The Manila Times

Page: A7

AFP: We'll end Abu Sayyaf menace in Sulu

BY DEMPSEY REYES

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Tuesday expressed confidence that it can end the problem of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu after it presented surrendering bandits to President Rodrigo Duterte.

"The President is satisfied with the significant improvement of the security situation in Sulu. But of course, he challenged the local government units to also do their part," Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of Joint Task Force Sulu, said.

Sobejana added that his unit is

confident of ending the ASG's terrorism in Sulu but noted that they will make a priority the rescue of the group's remaining 10 kidnap victims.

Of the 10 abducted, one is Dutch, three are Indonesian and six are Filipino.

"Our top priority here is the kidnap victims so that our opera-

tions won't be restricted. For now, they are calculated and our priority is their freedom," Sobejana said.

"For now, our operational tempo is just fine, we just have to sustain it," he added.

On Monday, Duterte, accompanied by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., AFP chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero and other high-ranking security officials, went to Sulu to meet the former Abu Sayyaf members who surrendered to the military over the past months.

The officials held an executive session but according to Sobejana, only political and economic issues were discussed with Sulu Gov. Sakur Tan

2nd being the only one to speak.

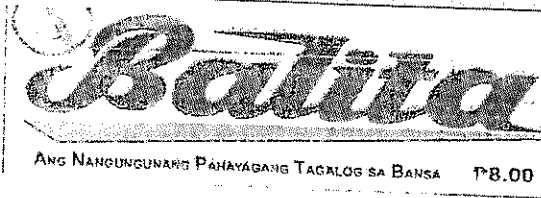
After the surrender, Sobejana estimated that there are around 300 to 400 Abu Sayyaf members remaining in Sulu.

"We can do this [ending the Abu Sayyaf menace], we are optimistic. Actually, we are about to end them," he said.

The military has presented at least 76 surrendering terrorists to Duterte and more than 600 loose firearms turned in by different local chief executives from Sulu.

Sobejana said the President advised him to continue their efforts in capturing remaining Abu Sayyaf terrorists in his area, describing the turnover of loose firearms as a "welcome development."

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Abu Sayyaf dudurugin ngayong 2018

NI FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Inihayag kahapon ng pinuno ng Armed Forces of the Philippines-Joint Task Force (AFP-JTF) Sulu na gagawin nila ang lahat ng makakaya upang matuldukan na arig ilang taon nang problema ng bansa sa Abu Sayyaf bago matapos ang 2018.

Ito ang inihayag ni Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana nang kapanayamin sa telepono isang araw makaraang bumisita si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Sulu para sa pagsuko ng ilang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf, bitbit ang kani-kanilang armas. "Kakayanin natin... magiging optimistic tayo," sabi ni Sobejana.

Ayon kay Sobejana, sa kasalukuyan ay nasa pagitan ng 300 at 400 ang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf, idinagdag na hawak pa rin ng grupo ang 10 bihag— isang Dutch, tatlong Indonesian, at anim

na Pinoy.

Sinabi rin ng JTF Sulu commander na kuntento ang Pangulo sa mga ikinakasang operasyon ng militar laban sa Abu Sayyaf, lalo na at malaki ang nabago sa pangkalahatang seguridad sa Sulu.

"Okay naman... Oo, masaya siya (Duterte) na may significant improvement sa security situation sa Sulu," sabi ni Sobejana. "But of course chinallenge niya 'yung local government to also do their part."

Inamin ni Sobejana na bagamat malaki ang bentahe ng militar kumpara sa grupo ng mga bandido sa usapin ng puwersa, mahalaga pa ring maging maingat sila dahil hawak pa ng Abu Sayyaf ang mga bihag nito.

"Kaya naman, actually patapos na,

eh. Ano na lang 'yan, eh, makuha natin 'yung... ang priority kasi natin 'yung kidnap victims, para hindi na restricted 'yung ating operation. Sa ngayon kasi with the kidnap victims siyempre medyo calculated (ang kilos ng militar). Kapag nawala 'yan, priority 'yan, the freedom of the kidnap victims," ani Sobejana.

Sa pagbisita ng Pangulo sa Sulu nitong Lunes, umapela siya na matapos na ang karahasan sa Mindanao.

"I'd like to tell you now, if somebody is listening, stop it, stop it," sinabi ni Duterte sa harap ng mga lokal na opisyal at mga residente sa capitol gym sa Patikul. "Kung walang pera ang tao (bihag), bakit mo patayin? Stop it. It does not look good. I'm not angry at you but stop it kasi hindi maganda."

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28 March 2018

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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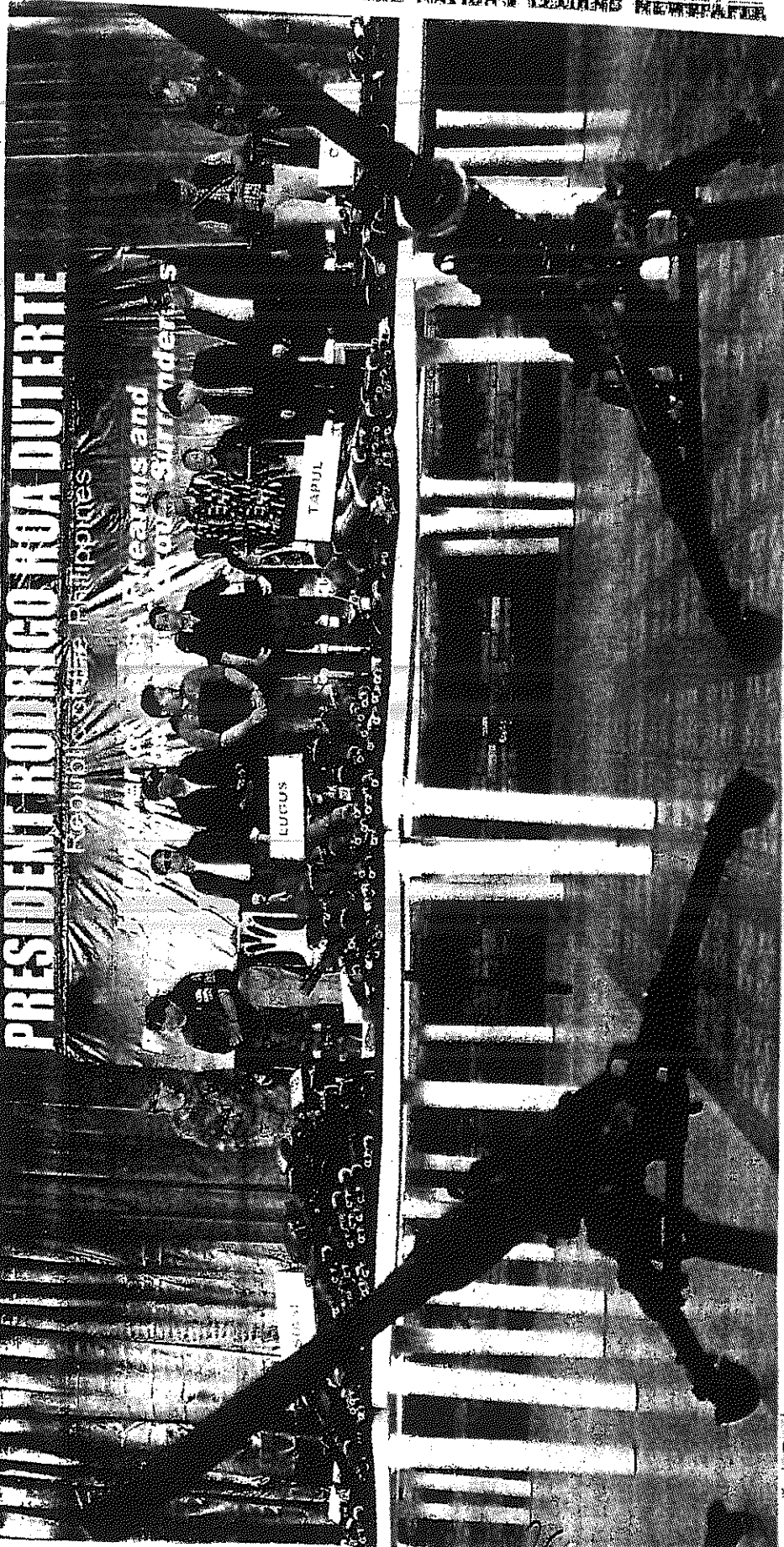
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Accepts Surrender of
Firearms and
Surrender

LUCAS

TAPUL



SILENCED GUNS - President Rodrigo Roa Duterte
surrendered by former Abu Sayyaf Group fighters
takes center stage during the presentation of firearm
at the Capitol Site in Patikul, Sulu, Monday.

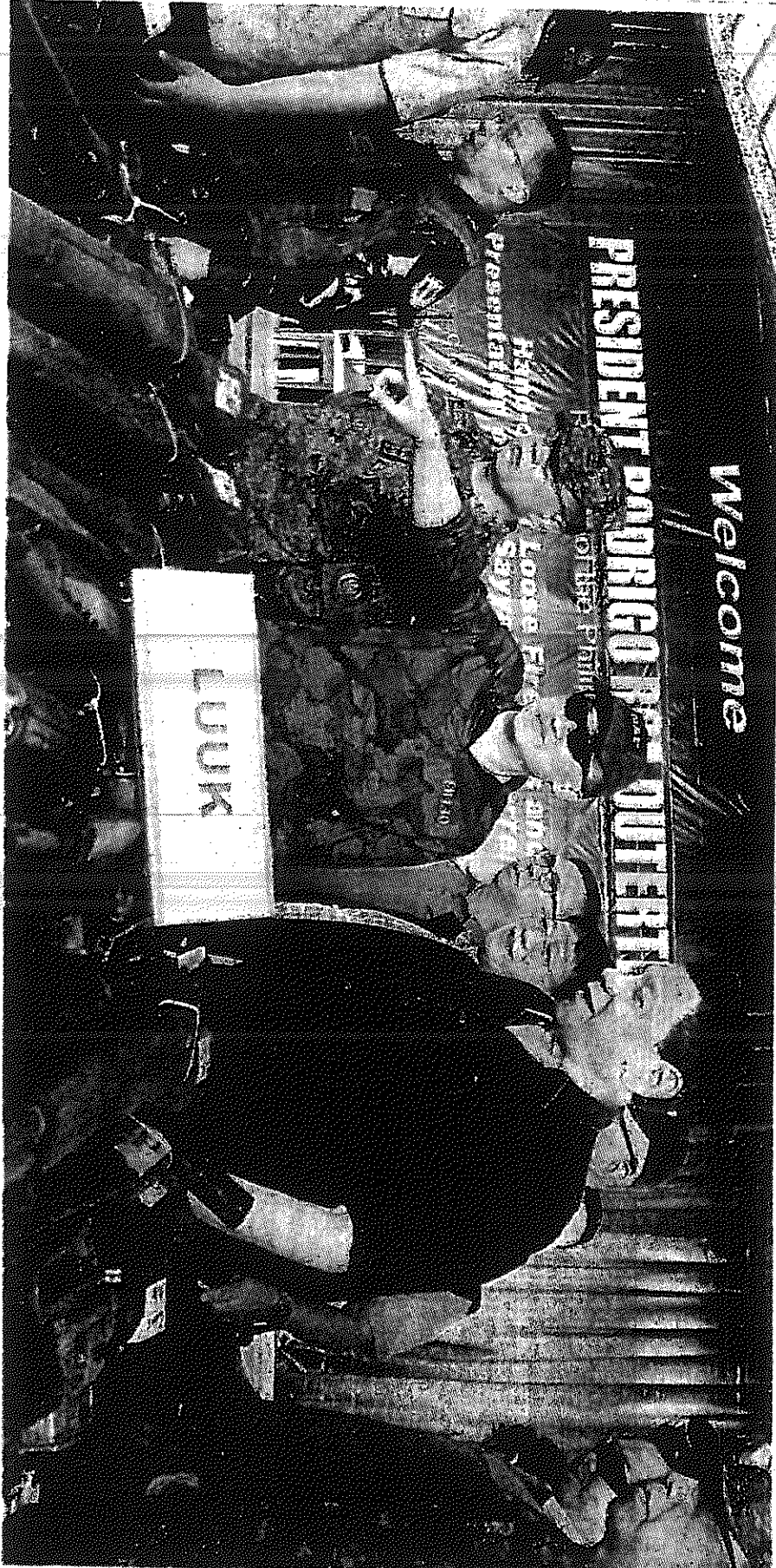
(Malacañang Photo)

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28 March 2018

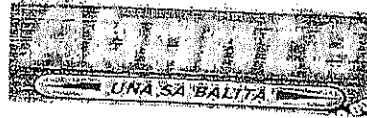
Manila Standard

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SURRENDERED FIREARMS. President Rodrigo Duterte leads the inspection of firearms handed over by surrenderers from the Abu Sayyaf Group at the Capitol in Patikul, Sulu on Monday. Joining the President are AFP Chief of Staff Rey Guerrero, Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence Go and DILG Officer-in-Charge Eduardo Año. Malacañang Photo

28 March 2018



Pahina. 2



PINANGUNAHAN ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pag-inspeksiyon sa mga armas na ibinigay sa gobyerno ng mga sumukong miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf. Ginanap ito sa Capitol Site ng Patikul, Sulu nitong Lunes kung saan kasama ng Pangulo sina Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero at Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Officer-in-Charge Eduardo Año. (Presidential Photo)

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PUNCHLINE

Selflessness, compassion – DU30; Renewal of faith, sharing – Tagle



By FRED M. LOBO

PRESIDENT Duterte has urged Filipinos to reflect on their Christian values and embody "selflessness, compassion, and love."

Time to reflect... and show more compassion and love for others, DU30 says.

"Let us remember to always help and uplift the downtrodden," Duterte added in his Holy Week message. Let's help the needy and disadvantage.

"Only through relationship with God, charitable actions that we can make God's presence visible among "us," Duterte elaborated. Charity reflects God. Let's do it.

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle also urged the faithful to focus on Jesus Christ for a renewal of faith.

"I invite you all to focus on Jesus, look at Jesus, listen to Jesus for us to deeply know Him again," he said.

The Manila archbishop also appealed to Catholics to share their blessings especially with Alay Kapwa and the fund-raising program of the Church.

Time to share and remember thy brothers.

Malacañang has assured that all the necessary security measures are in place to ensure a peaceful and solemn

observance of Holy Week.

Be at peace, be safe, Palace said.

"Appropriate security measures are in place to ensure public safety. These include additional deployments in various areas aimed at safeguarding places of convergence, such as transport terminals, churches, malls, and other public recreation areas," presidential spokesman Harry Roque said.

The government is watching. All areas covered, Roque assured.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said that "no specific threat" has been monitored for this

Holy Week, but security measures will still be implemented.

"There is no specific threat monitored for the Holy Week but the AFP will not put its guard down. We will continue to conduct appropriate security measures where needed to safeguard vulnerable communities," the AFP said in a statement.

Yes to safeguards.

However, the military said the public should also to be on alert during the holidays and help "detect, deter, and frustrate any move by criminals and terrorists."

Yes to vigilance. Yes to public safety.

ONLINE NEWS

28 MARCH 2018

www.inquirer.net

Reds ready to talk peace, but Duterte isn't

By: Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Nikko Dizon

Peace talks can resume as soon as President Rodrigo Duterte agrees, Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison said on Monday. But Mr. Duterte is still unwilling to make peace with the communist rebels.

Speaking in Patikul, Sulu province, Mr. Duterte said on Monday his administration was determined to fight to the end the New People's Army (NPA), the CPP armed wing.

"[We will] deal with this NPA. I'll finish them," Mr. Duterte said.

In an online interview from his base in Utrecht, The Netherlands, Sison said he welcomed the move of 61 members of the House of Representatives to bring government and rebel representatives back to the negotiating table.

But even Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana is unenthusiastic about the resumption of the peace negotiations, although he won't stand in the way if the President wants to reopen the talks.

Insincere

Speaking in a news conference at Naval Base Heracleo Alano in Sangley Point, Cavite province, Lorenzana said on Monday the communist rebels had never been sincere in talks with the government.

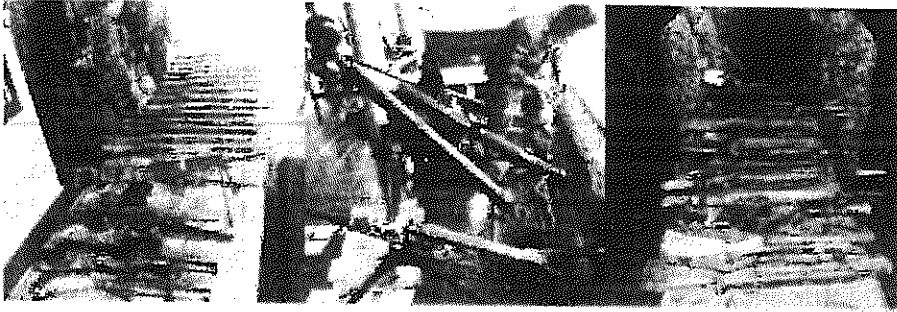
"I have not been seeing their sincerity. We have been watching them and watching them since I was a lieutenant but I have retired and I haven't seen any sincerity in them," he said.

For Lorenzana, sincerity in peace talks means "having a bilateral ceasefire and a mechanism that would ensure both sides are abiding by it."

www.dweld.com.ph

WINNING PEACEFULLY | PMRF-S recovers 308 loose firearms, 23 ASG surrenders

BONIFACIO NAVAL STATION, Taguig City (DWDD) – Due to the untiring effort of the Marine operating units in Sulu, 10 Municipal Local Chief Executives from the 2nd District of Sulu turned over 308 various high powered firearms and a total of 23 members of Abu Sayyaf Group surrendered with their respective firearms to the two (2) Marine Battalions under the Philippine Marine Ready Force-Sulu (PMRF-S) commanded by Colonel Armel S Tolato PN (M) (MNSA).



The following are the municipalities willingly cooperated with the Marines in the implementation of Presidential Proclamation 216 series of 2017 declaring of Martial Law in Mindanao : Banguingui Municipality which surrendered as total of 35 firearms; Kalingalan Caluang with 14 firearms; Lugus Municipality with 23 firearms; Luuk Municipality with 44 firearms; Pandami Municipality with 31 firearms; Panamao Municipality with 35 firearms; Panglima Estino Municipality with 36 firearms; Siasi Municipality with 51 firearms and Tapul Municipality with 16 firearms. The firearms surrendered are owned by the local populace of these municipalities and are not duly registered and voluntarily handed them over to the authorities. Likewise, 23 ASG members and supporters presented themselves to the Marines due to the intensive campaign and series of military operations conducted by PMRF-S against Abu Sayyaf since May 2017.



The surrendered firearms were:

- 136 – M1 Garands
- 36 – M16 5.56mm
- 17 – M14 Rifles
- 14 – US Carbines
- 8 – M79 Grenade Launchers
- 7 – AK-47
- 5 – Cal 50 HMG
- 4 – G-1

- 4 – 81 mm Mortar Tubes.
- 3 – Cal 50 Barrets
- 2 – Cal 50 BAR
- 2- 90RRs
- 1 – M60 LMG
- 1 – Shot Gun
- 1 – M4 Bush Master
- 1 – Ultimax 100 Mark 5.56mm
- 1 – SIG
- 1 – SAIGA Automatic Rifle 7.62mm
- 1 – Browning Sub-Machine Gun
- 1 – M177 Rifle



"The handover of these firearms is the result of the series of All-in-One Mission, Football for Peace Festivals and constant dialogues to local officials and their constituents conducted in the Area of Operation. Moreover, the implementation of Martial Law in the area contributed also to the success of this endeavor". LTC Stephen Cabanlet PN (M) (GSC), the Commanding Officer of Marine Battalion Landing Team 1 said.

"Indeed, the sacrifices of our Marines to make Sulu a place of peace and progress will not be in vain. This hallow ground where our blood flowed since 1970s, is a witness of how the Marines fought, and made ultimate sacrifice for the Filipino people and for the country". said Colonel Tolato. PMRF-S / MCAG

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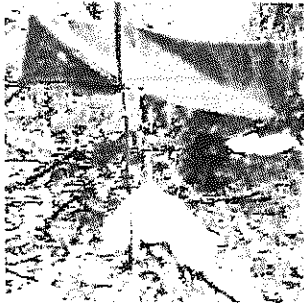
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www.dwdd.com.ph

RELENTLESS OPERATION | 14IB encounters Communist Terrorists in Eastern Samar

Alvin Santiago

CAMP GENERAL VICENTE LUKBAN, Catbalogan City (DWDD) – A five minute firefight ensued between a squad from 14th Infantry “Avenger” Battalion and a group of about five members of the CPP-NPA Terrorists (CNTs) in Sitio Parik, Barangay Cansangaya, Canavid, Eastern Samar on March 24, 2018.



In an interview by DWDD with Capt Francis R Agno, 8ID Public Affairs Officer, said troops acted from information coming from concerned residents on the presence of an armed group conducting extortion activities in the said community. Troops immediately conducted a combat operation that resulted to the recovery of one M1A1 Garand rifle with serial number 2065519 and one bandolier with four clip of magazine with ammo. No reported casualty was reported on both sides.

The 49th Anniversary of the New Peoples Army falls within the holy week period, it is presumed that there is a possibility that they will take violent actions and terroristic acts by launching atrocities against AFP/PNP personnel, camps and detachments in Eastern Visayas.



Meanwhile, Major General Raul M. Farnacio AFP, Commander, 8ID said, “The Army will remain steadfast in its campaign in protecting the populace from CNTs and other threat groups criminal activities, and secure churches/cathedrals, places of religious worship, resorts, economic centers, seat of government instrumentalities, and other vital installations to ensure the peaceful observance of the Lenten Season, in collaboration with the PNP through the Joint Peace Security and Coordinating Center (JPSCC). **8DPAO / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com.ph

LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS | Authorities neutralize 1 drug personality in Zamboanga del Norte

Arif Santiago

KUTA SANG-AN, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur (DWDD) – The Joint Law Enforcement Operations of Army troops with Zamboanga del Norte police resulted to the death of one (1) drug personality in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, 4:30 in the morning March 25.

Elements of 42nd Infantry Battalion, an Army unit under the Joint Task Force ZAMPELAN, supported a Joint Law Enforcement Operations with the Philippine National Police of Zamboanga del Norte in Brgy Dona Cecilia, Sirawai municipality, Zamboanga del Norte Province. The Joint Law Enforcement Operation resulted to the death of drug personality Julhadi A Amil.

A Search Warrant was implemented for violation of RA 10591 (An Act providing for a comprehensive law on firearms and ammunition and providing penalties for violations thereof) and RA 9165 (The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002).

Recovered from the scene of the operation were six (6) small sachet of white crystalline substance believed to be shabu, twenty (20) rolled foils, one (1) KG9 submachine gun, and one (1) Cal.45 pistol (COLT).

Earlier, on March 04, 2018, troops of 42IB encountered some lawless elements at Brgy Panabutan, Sirawai after responding on reports from the concerned civilians which resulted to a short firefight.

"Joint Law Enforcement Operations are manifestations of the government's mandate to protect the people. This operation was successful because of the help of the people and the community" Lieutenant Colonel Danilo G Ambe, Commander, 42nd Infantry Battalion, said.

Major General Roseller G Murillo, Commander of 1st Infantry (TABAK) Division, Philippine Army, congratulated the troops for the successful law enforcement operations conducted jointly with the PNP.

We will continue to assist other government law enforcement agencies in their law enforcement operations in Zamboanga Peninsula as this is vital in our vision to attain peace and development in this country to further advance the welfare and uplift the living condition of the civilian community we are protecting and serving" Major General Murillo added.

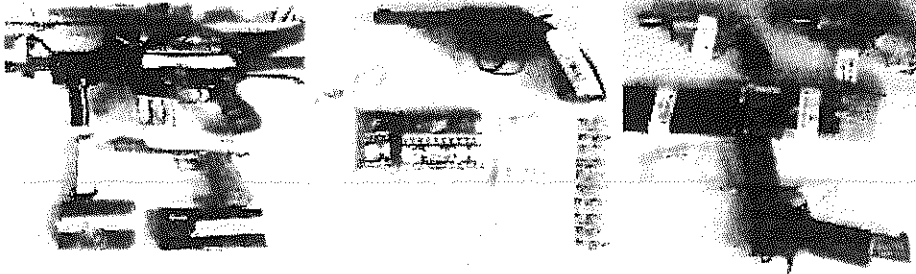
Recovered drug materials and paraphernalias were brought to Sirawai Municipal Police Station for evidence marking and proper disposition. **JTF ZAMPELAN / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com.ph

LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS | Army-Police-PDEA Lanao del Sur neutralize drug dealers

Alvin Santiago

KUTA SANG-AN, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur (DWDD) – Army leads Joint Law Enforcement Operations with police and PDEA resulting to the arrest of four (4) drug dealers and killing of one (1) in Ganassi, Lanao del Sur Province on March 23.



Elements of 55th Infantry "Vigilant" Battalion, an Army unit under the Joint Task Force RANAO, led a Joint Law Enforcement Operations with the Philippine National Police and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Region 10 in Brgy Pindolonan, Ganassi municipality, Lanao del Sur Province today. The Joint Law Enforcement Operation resulted to the arrest of drug dealers Ramon Diangka, Alinair Aminola, Emil Merda, and Jalalodin Diangka.

One suspect, Max Diangka, resisted when arrested and fired at the raiding team, forcing them to return fire which resulted to the death of the suspect.

Recovered from the scene of the operation were 37 pieces of heat sealed transparent sachet containing white crystalline substance believed to be shabu, 3 Cal.45 pistols with live ammo, 1 M16 rifle, 3 Cal.38 pistols, assorted drug paraphernalias, identification cards and cellular phones.

"Joint Law Enforcement Operations are manifestations of the government's mandate to protect the people. This operation was successful because of the help of the people and the community" Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Valdez IV, Commander, 55th Infantry Battalion, said.

Major General Roseller G Murillo, Commander of Joint Task Force RANAO, congratulated the operators of Joint Task Force RANAO for the successful law enforcement operations conducted jointly with the PNP and PDEA.

We will continue to assist other government law enforcement agencies in their law enforcement operations in Lanao as this will hasten the recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of Marawi and Lanao into a peaceful and sustainably developed province of the country" Major General Murillo added. **1DPAO / MCAG**

TEAM AGILA | 10ID Donning of Ranks and Welcome of New Officers

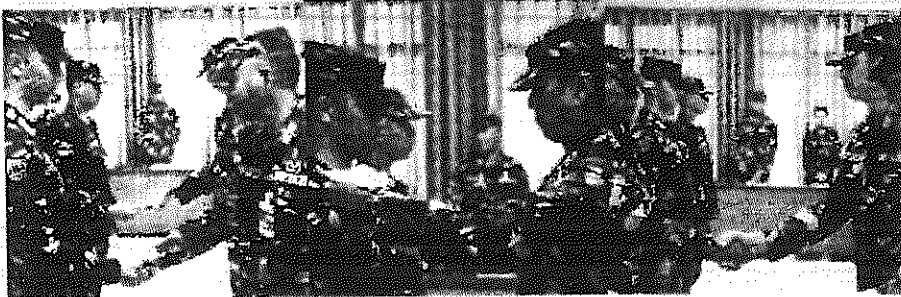
Alvin Santiago



CAMP GEN MANUEL T YAN SR, Barangay Tuboran, Mawab, Compostela Valley Province (DWDD) – Major General Noel S Clement, 10ID Commander donned the ranks of five Officers from line units under 10th Infantry Division who were promoted to the next higher rank and welcomed the six newly assigned Officers at 10th Infantry Division during the Flag raising ceremony held on Monday, 26 March 2018 at Headquarters 10th Infantry (Agila) Division, Philippine Army, Camp General Manuel T Yan Sr. Brgy Tuboran, Mawab, Compostela Valley Province.

MGen Clement, in his message said, "A while ago, we have witnessed the donning of rank to our newly promoted regular and Reserved Officers from 2nd Lieutenant to 1st Lieutenant. Actually there are twenty of them but only five had signified to be donned here as others had been donned by their respective units already. To our newly promoted Lieutenants, the Team Agila is so proud of you and of your achievement. Effective on the date of your promotion, your first three years of hard work and sacrifices in the battle-ground has been paid off. Indeed platoon leader years has been one of the most challenging and worth experiencing chapter of your vowed profession, yet, also the rewarding one. Aside testing your courage, wisdom, initiative and leadership, some of the best lessons in life and in your profession are learned here hence, made you truly deserving for such promotion and all the privileges and incentives that go with it. Be reminded however, that the additional Vicks on your shoulders or on your chest entail corresponding responsibilities, new and greater than those you had previously held. I am certain that you had better prepared yourselves with that achievement. Continue to give your best as you further commit yourselves to serve and work for the realization of peace and for the betterment of our communities and nation as a whole. To everyone, may the achievements of our newly promoted lieutenants inspire you also to always strive for excellence while rendering your best service to our organization and to our country. We are Agilas and we are meant to soar the highest. Also today, the team Agila warmly welcomed the newly assigned officers to this command. We are so grateful of you for choosing 10ID of all the major units. I am very certain that your assignment to this command will give 10ID a higher leap on its mission. With additional officers to look into and cater the spiritual, health and other services for our personnel and communities. I am assured of leading troops who are spiritually enlightened, vigorous, Mission-oriented and highly motivate. To the six of you, rest assured that the command will always be of support to you especially in shaping your career, to your duties and to all your good intents to the organization and to the communities we are serving. You are official members of the team Agila now hence, I encourage you not just to keep in step with us but as well to keep in flight with us. Begin soaring." 10DPAO / MCAG

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



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PANAGHIUSA SA KALINAW | Thousands Join Peace Rally in CDO

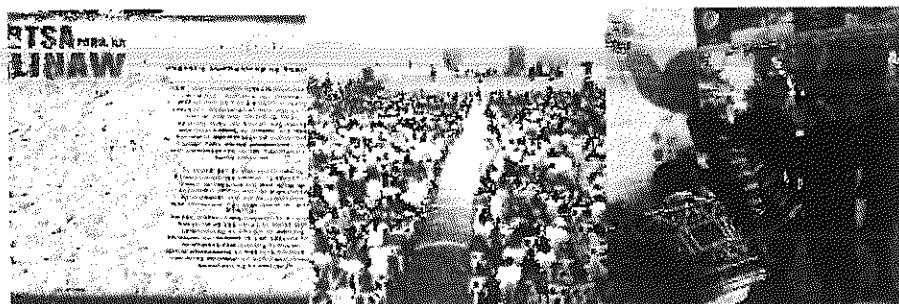
Alvin Sautiso

DIVISORIA PLAZA GRANDSTAND, Cagayan De Oro City (DWDD) – Thousands of people from various communities joined the peace rally dubbed, "Panaghiusa sa Kalinaw" today, March 27, 2018 held at the Divisoria Plaza Grandstand in Cagayan de Oro City.

The event was led by Rev. Monsignor Rey S. Monsanto, representing His Eminence Bishop Antonio J. Ledesma SJ, DD, Archbishop of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro City; Col Royland M. Orquia PA, representing the security sector; Nelson Labiano of the fisherfolks sector; Lumad leader Datu Camelo Nanolan; former rebel Yenyen Balanguiao; and youth leader Chester Kyle Javien Cotactec.

The event in Cagayan de Oro City is just part of the many simultaneous peace rallies in key cities and towns across eastern Mindanao that denounced all forms of armed struggle, terrorism and violent extremism and to support the peace and development efforts of the government.

The event concluded with the singing of the "Pilipinas Kong Mahal," signing of the pledge of commitment to support peace by the participants, and the release of white doves and balloons symbolizing peace. **MCAG**



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www.dwdd.com.ph

MASS ACTION | Hundreds of Former Rebels join Peace March-Rally in Tagum City

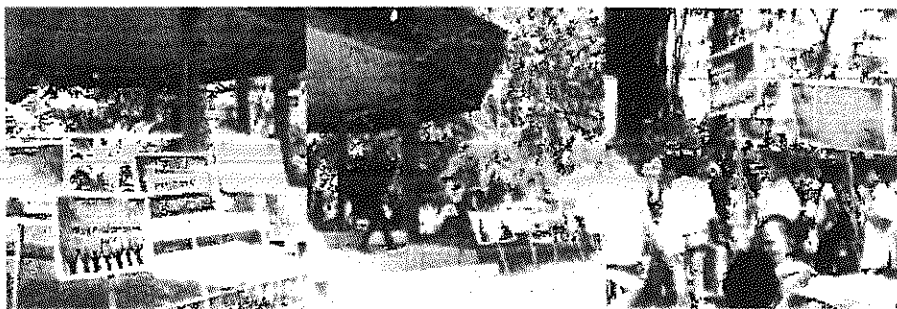
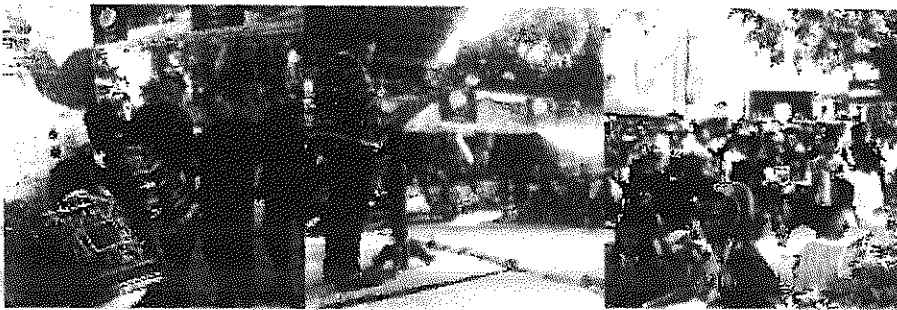
Alvin Santiago

TAGUM City, Davao Del Norte (DWDD) – Hundreds of former members of the Communist Terrorist group New People's Army (NPA) former supporters and sympathizers of the underground mass organizations joined members of various people's organizations in Davao del Norte in staging a peace march-rally dubbed "Martsa Para Sa Kalinaw."

The event was held at the Rotary Plaza in Tagum City with Religious leaders opening the activity with an ecumenical prayer.

Major General Noel S. Clement, Commander, 10th Infantry "Agila" Division, joined the Peace Rally one of the invited speakers.

Former rebel Berlinda Sebugan Ordaneza alias Kalen led the event together with the other NPA regulars who recently returned to the folds of the law and are now reunited with their loved ones. **MCAG**



www.dwdd.com.ph

FRUSTRATED | High-ranking NPA Terrorist yields to 26IB in Agusan del Sur

Alvin Santiago

TALACOGON, Agusan del Sur (DWDD) – Two (2) high ranking members of Communists Party of the Philippines – New Peoples' Army Terrorists (CNTs) and one (1) other surrender with five (5) assorted high powered firearms, magazines and ammunitions to 26th Infantry "Ever Onward" Battalion (26IB) in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur, March 22, 2018.



LTC Rommel Pagayon, Commander of 26IB identified the former rebels as @Bars, Vice Commander of Regional Sentro de Grabidad (RSDG) COMPAQ: @IC, Platoon Medic of Sandatahang Yunit Pampropaganda (SYP) Banglas of Guerilla Front Committee (GFC) 88, North Central Mindanao Regional Committee (NCMRC) and @Tan, Member of SYP2. GFC 34 of Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC). They also surrendered the following firerarms: 1- AK 47, 1 garand, 1 – carbine, 1 – m16 rifle and 1 – .38 revolver.

According to Colonel Andres Centino, Commander of 401st Infantry Brigade, the former rebels surrendered because they can no longer stand the widespread corruption inside the New Peoples' Army (NPA) and the rampant atrocities it inflicts to innocent civilians.

"The recent surrenderees heard a radio announcement on the different programs of the government and was convinced of the sincerity of the Duterte's administration to help the former rebels (FRs). Especially when they found out about their former comrades were invited to Malacañang Palace to dine with our President." Centino said.

Earlier this month, 123 FRs of 4th Infantry division were invited by President Duterte for a 3 day tour in Manila and a dinner at Malacañang Palace.

"There is a life far more progressive and peaceful than the life being experience by the NPA terrorists in the mountains. Our president is extending his hands to help them and to find extraordinary ways to encourage them to lay down their arms and return to the mainstream society " Major General Ronald Villanueva, Commander of 4th Infantry Division said.

Aside from the dinner invitation, female FRs are in process of getting passports for a future trip abroad care of the President of the Philippines. **26IB / MCAG**

www.bomboradyo.com

Palasyo: Gov't efforts nagbubunga kahit walang peace talks sa CPP

Posted By: Bombo Reymund Tinazaon

Binigyang-diin ngayon ng Malacañang na bagama't walang peace talks sa Communist Party of the Philippines – New People's Army (CPP-NPA), patuloy namang nagbubunga ang pagsisikap ng gobyerno na makamit ang kapayapaan sa mga rebeldeng komunista kung saan patunay dito ang pagsuko ng mga NPA fighters.

Ginawa ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque ang pahayag kasunod ng inihaing House Resolution 1803 sa House of Representatives na humihikayat kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ituloy ang negosasyon sa CPP-NPA-NDF at kompletuhin ang Comprehensive Agreements on Social, Economic, and Political Reforms.

Sinabi ni Sec. Roque, kinikilala nila ang kalayaan ng mga kongresistang nagsulong ng resolusyon sa Kamara at pinasasalamatang nila ang mga lumagda bilang suporta sa peace agenda ng administrasyon.

Ayon kay Sec. Roque, malinaw naman ang posisyon ni Pangulong Duterte at pursigido ito sa pagkamit ng kapayapaan pero mismong mga komunista ang nanggulo at sumira sa peace process sa pamamagitan ng kanilang patuloy na pag-atake habang nag-uusap.

Kaya bago daw bumalik sa negotiating table, dapat magkaroon muna ng "enabling environment," patunayan ng mga komunista ang kanilang wagas na sinseridad, itigil nila ang karahasan sa mga inosenteng sibilyan at government forces, tigilan na ang extortion activities, ibaba ang mga armas at magbalik-loob sa gobyerno.

Tiniyak naman ni Roque na lahit hindi pa naibabalik ang peace negotiations sa mga komunista, gagawin ng gobyerno ang lahat para makamit ang pangmatagalang kapayapaan tungo sa pagkakaisa at pag-unlad.

"We recognize the independence of House of Representatives in filing House Resolution 1803 urging the President to continue the negotiations with the CPP-NPA-NDF and complete the Comprehensive Agreements on Social, Economic, and Political Reforms. We thank those who signed the resolution for their support to the peace agenda of the administration. Right from the very beginning of his term, the President's position has always been clear and consistent: He remains committed to peace. However, we find it unfortunate that the communists have become spoilers of peace because of their penchant for double talk and treachery. Their motives are not for attaining sustainable peace but rather to push for their greater control and influence," ani Sec. Roque.

www.pna.gov.ph

DND chief assures support for ARMM Sayyaf reintegration program

By Press Release

ZAMBOANGA CITY— Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has vowed support for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's (ARMM) reintegration program for Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) returnees.

Secretary Lorenzana said the program deserves the national government's support as it has delivered positive results from its initial interventions.

Lorenzana, along with Alexander Macario, assistant secretary for peace and order of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), attended the ARMM's Regional Peace and Order Council meeting on March 21, at the Western Mindanao Command headquarters in this city.

The reintegration program, dubbed Program Against Violence and Extremism (PAVE), is a brainchild of ARMM Gov. Mujiv Hataman's office.

PAVE is designed to provide opportunities to members of the ASG who surrendered and returned to the fold of law for reintegration in society. It seeks to encourage ASG members to return to the fold of the law.

A total of 173 former Abu Sayyaf members from the provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi have recently surrendered to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), or to their local government units (LGUs).

Under the program, surrenderees must give up their firearms before they can be admitted, said John Louie Balagot, cabinet secretary of the ARMM Governor's Office and current PAVE manager.

Balagot added a series of interventions were initiated involving the 89 returnees from Basilan since July 2017.

The interventions include psychosocial sessions, medical check-ups, introduction to farming systems, and expository tours outside the island provinces, which are designed to usher the complete reformation of the former combatants into decent and productive members of society.

The returnees will also be provided with farm implements as livelihood support and housing from the ARMM-Bangsamoro Regional Inclusive Development with Growth and Equity Program.

"After hearing Sec. Lorenzana's support, we will be able to expand and enhance our program to deliver more services to the returnees," Balagot added.

The 84 returnees from Sulu and Tawi-Taw will undergo interventions similar to those in Basilan, he said.

PAVE's partners include the local government units of Basilan, AFP Joint Task Force,

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

Basilan Young Leaders Program, Nagdilaab Foundation, Inc., and Eisenhower Fellows Association of the Philippines. **(ARMM-PR)**