

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

02 October 2018

Tuesday



Honor. Patriotism. Duty

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02 OCTOBER 2018

Weather Forecast- http://pagasa.dost.gov.ph/weather/daily-weather-forecast		
Page Nr.	Title	Source
NATIONAL NEWS		
1-2	World crude prices graze \$83 per barrel	P Star-1
4-6	Higher fuel prices add to burden of consumers	PDI-A2
AFP/ SECURITY RELATED NEWS		
7-8	US warship sails near disputed isle	PDI-A12
9	US warship sails near South China Sea area	P Star-13
10	US warship sails near Spratlys	M Times-A3
11	US warship sails through waters off disputed islets	M Standard-A1
12-13	Security officials seek 30-day detention of terror suspects	PDI-A9
14	1,350 PH, Marines begin 'Kamandag' exercises	PDI-A5
15	Phi Navy ship arrives in Russia	P Star-4
16	Lawyers' group hits 'staycation' for Palparan	PDI-A4
17	AFP, US Marines start military drills in Subic	P Star-12
18	Army troopers, bandit slain in Lanao clash	P Star-12
19-20	Military bares details on 'Red October' attacks	P Star-1
21	Soldiers warned vs partisanship	M Bulletin-2
22	'BRP Tarlac' arrives in Russia	M Bulletin-2
23	Senators move to pass stricter anti-terror law	M Bulletin-2
24	Army intercept on tip 'tsismosa'	M Times-A7
25	Soldier, pro-IS bandit killed in clash	M Times-A7
26-27	Military denies coddling Palparan	M Times-A2
28-29	'Keep terror suspects in detention for 30 days'	M Standard-A1
30	AFP denies coddling detained retired general Palparan	M Standard-A3
31	AFP denies coddling Palparan	D Tribune-8
32	AFP chief to soldiers: Ignore 'political noise'	Malaya-B1
33	Bulacan courts asked: Where should Palparan be detained?	Malaya-B1
34	U.S. Marines, AFP launch Kamandag 2	P Tonight-14
35	US Marines, AFP launch in Subic	P Journal-13
36	Palparan must be detained at Bilibid-Palace official	P Journal-2
37	Resulta sa 'Red October' probe isusumite na ng NBI	Ngayon-2
38-40	Aglipayan bishops assail Red tagging	PDI-A6
41	'Red October' not a serious threat for now, says PNP Chief Albayaalde	M Bulletin-2
42-43	Reds on attack mode, military warns	M Standard-A1
44-45	Red plot eyes arms buildup	D tribune-1
46-47	IS fighters return to Mindanao	PDI-A1
48	ARMM to leave 'good legacy' to BARMM	M Bulletin-11
49	Maute remnant of Marawi siege slain	M Bulletin-11
50-52	Security forces want more teeth vs terrorism	Malaya-B2
53	Soldier, Maute terror killed in Lanao clash	P Tonight-8

54	Maute-ISIS, sundalo utas sa encounter!	Ngayon-9
55	Maute remnant, soldier killed in Lanao clash	P Journal-13
56	ISIS trainer barred entry	P Tonight-1
57	ISIS supporters nabbed in General Santos City	P Journal-13
58	Terrorist-dealer killed in GenSan clash	P Tonight-7
EDITORIAL/OPINION/COMMENTARY		
59	What the youth should know about martial law	PDI-A11
60-61	Ratings see-saw	M Standard-A5
62	The historical Red October	D tribune-A4
ONLINE NEWS		
63	Palparan to be transferred to New Bilibid Prison on Oct. 3 – AFP chief	www.inquirer.net
64	Soldiers, civilian personnel, receive awards for aiding Marawi ops	www.inquirer.net
65	Soldiers should not take sides, says Galvez	www.inquirer.net
66-67	Security officials want 'more teeth' for military, police to combat terrorism	www.inquirer.net

World crude prices graze \$83 per barrel

DOF: Still no fuel tax suspension

By MARY GRACE PADIN and PAOLO ROMERO

As the price of Brent crude touched its highest level since November 2014, sending jitters across the globe, Philippine officials made it clear there would be no automatic suspension of the fuel excise tax imposed under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law.

Benchmark Brent was up 16 cents at \$82.89 a barrel early yesterday, after touching \$83.32, the highest level in almost four years. US light crude was up four cents at \$73.29.

The increase came amid supply concerns before US sanctions against Iran come into force next month.

In a text message, Finance Assistant Secretary Antonio Lambino said the suspension mechanism under TRAIN is governed by certain conditions.

A suspension would only be carried out if Dubai oil prices, based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), average \$80 per barrel for three consecutive

Turn to Page 2

World

From Page 1

months before the next increase.

"The oil excise suspension mechanism in the TRAIN law was designed to come into effect for the subsequent increase if the price per barrel hits a three-month average of \$80 (specifically, MOPS) before the next scheduled increase," Lambino said.

"The law passed by Congress provides specific conditions for the suspension mechanism. The suspension mechanism is automatic based on these conditions," he added.

The next increase in the excise tax on fuel is scheduled on Jan. 1, 2019. By then, the excise tax on diesel fuel will be P2 per liter more - or a total of P4.50.

This means the next increase would only be suspended if Dubai crude prices average at least \$80 per barrel from October to December.

Lambino assured the public that measures are in place to mitigate the impact of rising oil prices on the poor.

"Government is already implementing measures to help those who need it most via discounts for public utility vehicles that the DOE (Department of Energy) negotiated with oil companies early this year and LTRFB (Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory

Board)'s Pantawid Pasada Program," he said.

Under the Pantawid Pasada, the government will distribute fuel vouchers this year amounting to P853 every month among 179,852 public utility jeepneys with franchises.

The government has allocated P977 million for the first tranche of the program this year.

The fuel subsidy would be distributed by the Land Bank of the Philippines via debit cards.

Lambino made the clarification yesterday, as senators reminded the administration of the automatic excise tax suspension provided for in the TRAIN Law.

Tripwire, ripple effect

Senate President Ralph Recto said the movements of Brent crude prices would likely have a ripple effect on other price boards, including the MOP.

He said the "tax freeze" is explicitly provided for in the law and is reiterated in Bureau of Internal Revenue Regulations No. 2-2018, containing the law's Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

"The tripwire is \$80 per barrel, based on Dubai crude as reflected in MOPS," Recto said.

"The language of the law is clear. So it (suspension) must be

self-executory and automatically implemented," he said.

"The brakes on excise taxes on petroleum products must be as fast as how the government collects from TRAIN," he added.

Section 5 of RR 2-2018 states that "for the period covering 2018 to 2020, the scheduled increase in the excise tax on fuel as imposed in this section shall be suspended when the average Dubai crude oil based on Mean of Platts Singapore for three months prior to the scheduled increase of the month reaches or exceeds eight dollars per barrel."

He warned that rising crude prices and a weak peso are a bad combination for transportation and cooking fuel prices.

Recto cited predictions that oil prices will hit \$100 per barrel by the end of the year as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) "seems not interested in increasing output."

Sen. Sonny Angara, chairman of the ways and means committee, said he would have to check with DOF on its basis for considering that oil price has hit \$80 per barrel. Angara said the DOF was not transparent in its formula.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, chairman of the economic affairs committee, said he has been closely following movements of Brent crude and has come to the conclusion that oil cost "is really volatile globally."

2

Lack of spare reserves

In London, analysts said major oil producers are hinting at lack of spare reserves or the initiative to raise production.

"Saudi Arabia is signaling that they do not have a lot of prompt spare capacity available, or that they don't have the will to really use it on a proactive basis," Petromatrix strategist Olivier Jakob said.

"There's nothing right now that gives a strong incentive to be a strong seller of the market," he said.

Investors have indicated they see prices rising, loading up on options that give the holder the right to buy Brent crude at \$90 a barrel by the end of October. Open interest in call options at \$90 a barrel has risen by nearly 12,000 lots in the last week to 38,000 lots, or 38 million barrels.

Higher oil prices and dollar strength, which has battered the currencies of several big crude importers, could hit demand growth next year, analysts said.

But for now, the focus is on US sanctions on Iran's energy industry that will apply from Nov. 4 and are designed to cut crude exports from the third biggest producer in the OPEC.

Several major buyers in India and China have signaled they will cut pur-

chases of Iranian oil. China's Sinopec said it had halved loadings of Iranian oil in September.

"If Chinese refiners do comply with US sanctions more fully than expected, then the market balance is likely to tighten even more aggressively," Edward Bell, commodity analyst at Emirates NBD bank, wrote in a note.

Hedge funds have increased bets of a further price rise. Exchange data show the combined net long position in Brent and US light crude futures and options at its largest since late July, equivalent to about 850 million barrels of oil.

US President Donald Trump spoke to Saudi King Salman on Saturday on ways to maintain sufficient supply.

"Even if they (Saudi Arabia) wanted to bend to President Trump's wishes, how much spare capacity does the kingdom have?" said Stephen Innes, head of trading for Asia-Pacific at futures brokerage Oanda in Singapore.

With about 1.5 million barrels per day of Iranian oil expected to go offline on Nov. 4, prices could "rocket higher with the flashy \$100 per barrel price tag indeed a reasonable sounding target" if investors doubted the Saudi ability to respond with enough extra output, he said.

- Reuters

52

October 2018

INQUIRER

Page: A2

Higher fuel prices add to burden of consumers

STORY BY RON W. DOMINGO

Fuel prices rose to their highest levels in a decade, a development that could further fan the flames of inflation, which rose to 6.4 percent in August.

A2

4

FROM A1

By Ronnel W. Domingo
@RonWDomingoINQ

Pump prices of oil products went up for the eighth time in as many weeks, increasing by up to P1.35 a liter on Tuesday, the biggest jump over the past two months that pushed fuel prices to their highest levels in a decade.

The latest round of fuel price increases could further fan the fires of inflation, which rose to 6.4 percent in August, a nine-year high that helped pull down the ratings of President Duterte.

Eleazar Medevilla, who has been a taxi driver for 16 years, could only shake his head when asked about fuel prices. "Well, it's really high," he said.

As a result, Medevilla said, his income had significantly decreased.

"For example, an out-of-town trip used to cost me about P1,000. Now, it's P1,500," the driver of Denmark taxi said.

Eroded take-home pay

Told about the hefty increase in the retail price of diesel, Edward Gallardo of Marilao town, Bulacan province, said the increase would further erode his net daily take from ferrying in his van employees of a company in Makati City after office hours.

He said his net pay had gone down to about P400 because of rising fuel prices.

Starting at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, oil companies raised prices of diesel by P1.35 a liter and gasoline by P1 a liter.

As of press time, those that had announced price increases included Shell, PTT, Total, Flying V, Seaoil, Unioil, Eastern, Caltex and Phoenix.

Shell, Seaoil, Flying V and Caltex also raised prices of kerosene by P1.10 per liter.

Diesel prices

Based on monitoring by the Department of Energy (DOE), the price of diesel in Metro Manila now ranges from P45.65 to P50.39 a liter.

A liter of gasoline with an octane rating of 95 is now retailed at P53.05 to P63.27 a liter. Kerosene now sells for P49.82 to P59.95 a liter.

So far this year, prices of diesel have gone up 28 times but have gone down 11 times, resulting in a net increase of P13.50 a liter.

Prices of gasoline have risen 29 times but have gone down only 10 times for a net increase of P13.37 a liter.

Kerosene prices have jumped 26 times but have decreased 11 times for a net increase of P12.71 per liter.

LPG prices up

Petron announced that it

raised prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), which is used for cooking, by P2.35 a kilogram.

Since Monday morning, consumers had to pay an additional P25.85 for an 11-kilo cylinder.

Eastern raised its LPG price by P2.30 a kilo, or an additional P25.30 for an 11-kilo cylinder.

Petron upped the price of its AutoLPG, widely used by taxi operators, by P1.30 a liter.

DOE data show that the price of 11 kilos of cooking gas is now between P705 and P866.

Adverse impact on poor

A P3-a-liter excise on diesel—used for the transportation of people and goods—causes inflation for the poor to increase by about 0.9 percentage point, said Dennis Mapa, dean of the School of Statistics at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Mapa said in a presentation that the effect on poor households was 10 times worse than the additional 0.09-percentage-point increase in inflation that "nonpoor" households feel.

Under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act, the first year of its implementation in 2018 would see an excise of P2.50 a liter slapped on diesel.

Taking into account the 12-percent value-added tax (VAT), the levy on diesel totals P2.80 a liter.

By the third year of the TRAIN law in 2020, the excise would have risen to P6 a liter or P6.72 a liter, including VAT.

Poor households

Mapa said that at P6 a liter, the tax on diesel added 1.8 percentage points to inflation felt by the poor.

This is 10 times worse than the 0.18 percentage point added to the burden on non-poor households.

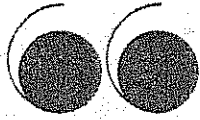
The TRAIN law, which took effect on Jan. 1, raised or slapped excise on such goods as fuel, motor vehicles and sweetened beverages to compensate for an increase in the cap on tax-free income tax.

The Department of Finance earlier expected inflation in September to be 6.4 percent year on year.

But the consensus forecast for inflation in September is higher at 6.9 percent, according to Bloomberg.

The rising inflation was

5



**An out-of-town trip used to cost me
about P1,000. Now, it's P1,500**

Eleazar Medevilla
Taxi driver

partly due to soaring food prices, especially rice, largely as a result of the depleted rice buffer of the National Food Authority.

Rising interest rates

The unabated price increases come as interest rates are rising.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has so far raised its key interest rate by a total of 150 basis points, or 1.5 percentage points this year, in hopes of reining in inflation.

The higher interest rates make borrowing money costly, thereby reducing the volume of money in circulation.

Fewer pesos chasing goods has the effect of easing the pressure on inflation.

Depreciating peso

A weakening peso against the US dollar does not help temper increases in the price of crude oil, which the country imports from the Middle East.

The decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) not to increase production has sent crude oil prices further upward.

With Saudi Arabia—the largest oil producer among Opec members—not spelling out a clear plan about an increase in output amid dwindling exports from Iran, some analysts said crude prices returning to at least \$100 was possible.

Iran faces sanctions from the United States come November.

The benchmark Brent (European market) hit \$82.83 per barrel on Monday while West Texas Intermediate (North America) reached \$73.29 per barrel.

The bellwether for Asia, Dubai crude, reached \$77.22 per barrel after dipping to \$45.89 in July 2017.

People's disapproval

Malacañang has acknowledged that rising inflation caused the double-digit plunge in Mr. Duterte's approval and trust ratings early last month.

People's disapproval of how the administration is handling the soaring prices of basic goods and services has jumped 22 points to 51 percent, according to results of a survey conducted in early September.

—WITH A REPORT FROM AIE BALAGTASSEE INQ

US warship sails near disputed isle

Beijing cancels security talks with Washington amid rising tension in the South China Sea

WASHINGTON—A US Navy destroyer sailed near islands claimed by China in the South China Sea on Sunday, a US official told Reuters, potentially angering Beijing at a time of tense relations between the two countries.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the destroyer Decatur traveled within 22 kilometers of Gaven and Johnson reefs in the Spratly Islands.

The operation was the latest attempt to counter what Washington sees as Beijing's efforts to limit freedom of navigation in the strategic waters, where Chinese, Japanese and some Southeast Asian navies operate.

China's claims in the South China Sea, through which about \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade

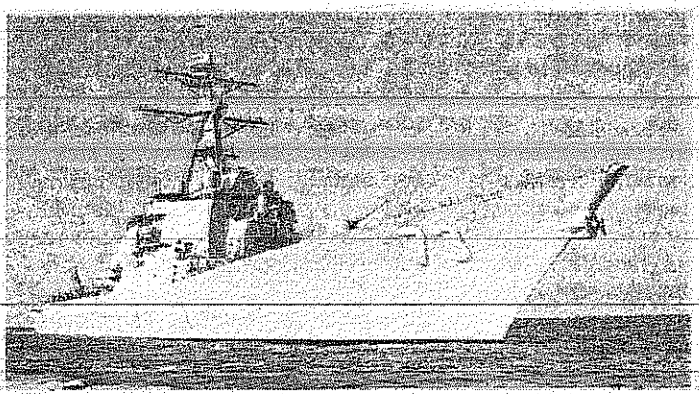
passes each year, are contested by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Routine operation

"We conduct routine and regular freedom of navigation operations, as we have done in the past and will continue to do in the future," the US official added.

The United States has criticized China's construction of islands and military facilities in the area and is concerned they could be used to restrict free nautical movement.

The US military has a long-standing position that its operations are carried out throughout the world, including in areas claimed by allies, and are separate from political considerations.



FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION OPERATION The US Navy sends the USS Decatur to conduct a freedom of navigation operation in the South China Sea.

The latest move comes at a particularly tense time in relations between the United States and China.

Friction between the world's

two biggest economies is now moving beyond trade, with US President Donald Trump accusing Beijing this week of seeking to interfere in congressional

elections, marking a new phase in an escalating campaign by Washington to put pressure on China.

Meeting canceled

Amid rising tension in the South China Sea, Beijing has canceled a security meeting with US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis that had been planned for October.

A senior US official involved in China policy, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was not clear if or when the meeting would be rescheduled.

The official said it was not clear whether the cancellation was because of the broad range of disputes between Beijing and Washington on issues such as arms sales and military activity in the South China Sea and oth-

er waters around China.

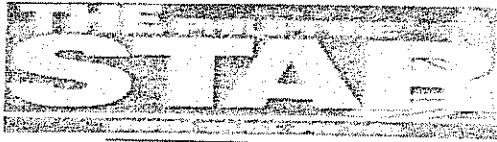
China and the United States are also locked in a spiraling trade war that has seen them level increasingly severe rounds of tariffs on each other's imports.

"The tension is escalating, and that could prove to be dangerous to both sides," the official said.

Sources in Beijing said last week the security meeting may not take place because of the tensions in relations between the two countries.

The Chinese government's top diplomat, Wang Yi, said on Friday there was "no cause for panic" over friction between Beijing and Washington, but he warned that China would not be blackmailed or yield to pressure over trade. —REUTERS

7/12



'US warship sails near South China Sea area'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An American warship has sailed through waters off the contested Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, in the latest implicit challenge to Beijing's sweeping territorial claims in the region, the Pentagon said on Sunday.

"Guided-missile destroyer *USS Decatur* conducted a freedom of navigation operation," an official told AFP.

"*Decatur* sailed within 12 nautical miles of Gaven and Johnson reefs in the Spratly Islands."

The official said all US military operations in the area "are designed in accordance with international law and demonstrate that the United States will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows."

The 12-mile distance is commonly accepted as constituting the territorial waters of a land mass. Beijing claims all of the Spratly chain.

There was no immediate reaction from China, but a similar US operation in July, involving the disputed Paracel Islands, prompted a furious Beijing to deploy military vessels and fighter jets.

The Paracels, north of the Spratly Islands, are claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam.

On May 25, the guided-missile destroyer *USS Dewey* sailed less than 12 nautical miles from a reef in the Spratly archipelago.

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it.

02

October 2018

A3

US warship sails near Spratlys

WASHINGTON, D.C.: An American warship has sailed through waters off the contested Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, in the latest implicit challenge to Beijing's sweeping territorial claims in the region, the Pentagon said Sunday.

"Guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur conducted a freedom of navigation operation," an official told Agence France-Presse.

"Decatur sailed within 12 nautical miles of Gaven and Johnson reefs in the Spratly Islands."

The official said all US military operations in the area "are designed in accordance with international law and demonstrate that the United States will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows."

The 12-mile distance is commonly accepted as constituting the territorial waters of a landmass. Beijing claims all of the Spratly chain.

There was no immediate reaction from China, but a similar US operation in July, involving the disputed Paracel islands, prompted a furious Beijing to deploy military vessels and fighter jets.

The Paracels, north of the Spratly islands, are claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam.

On May 25, the guided-missile destroyer USS Dewey sailed less than 12 nautical miles from a reef in the Spratly archipelago.

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it.

Further angering those countries, and the US, Beijing has moved aggressively to build reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes.

US-Chinese relations have been strained on multiple levels since Donald Trump became president in 2017.

A trade war launched by Trump has infuriated Beijing, as did his authorization of a \$1.3 billion arms sale to Taiwan, which China considers a rebel province. **RAP**

10

US warship sails through waters off disputed islets

WASHINGTON—An American warship has sailed through waters off the contested Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, in the latest implicit challenge to Beijing's sweeping territorial claims in the region, the Pentagon said Sunday.

"Guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur conducted a freedom-of-navigation operation," an official told AFP.

"Decatur sailed within 12 nautical miles of Gaven and Johnson reefs in the Spratly Islands."

The official said all US military operations in the area "are designed in accordance with international law and demonstrate that the United States will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows."

The 12-mile distance is commonly accepted as constituting the territorial waters of a landmass. Beijing claims all of the Spratly chain.

There was no immediate reaction from China, but a similar US operation in July, involving the disputed Parcel islands, prompted a furious Beijing to deploy military vessels and fighter jets. *Next page*

US warship...

From A1

The Paracels, north of the Spratly Islands, are claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam.

On May 25, the guided-missile destroyer USS Dewey sailed less than 12

nautical miles from a reef in the Spratly archipelago.

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it.

Further angering those countries, and the US, Beijing has moved aggressively to build reefs into artificial islands ca-

pable of hosting military planes.

US-Chinese relations have been strained on multiple levels since Donald Trump became president in 2017. A trade war launched by Trump has infuriated Beijing, as did his authorization of a \$1.3-billion arms sale to Taiwan, which China considers a rebel province. **AFP**

Security officials seek 30-day detention of terror suspects

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

Top security officials are seeking amendments to the 11-year-old antiterrorism law, which they consider the "weakest" in Southeast Asia, to allow for longer detention of suspects without charges and technical surveillance period.

The officials want law enforcers to have the power to detain terrorism suspects for 30 days, instead of just three days, and to conduct wiretapping and monitoring of online activity for 90 days or even longer with court permission.

Speaking at a Senate hearing, they said the current Human Security Act was too stringent and restricted law enforcers from going after terrorists.

Laws in other countries, they pointed out, allow terror suspects to be held anywhere from a week to indefinitely, depending on need.

Director General Alex Montegudo of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency said the Philippines had the "weakest" antiterrorism law in Southeast Asia despite being the most affected by the problem.

"It is now one of the reasons we are attracting foreign terrorist fighters from other countries from as far as Syria, Iraq, Morocco and all others because we have a very weak Human Security Act," Montegudo said.

ML on back burner
Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said a stronger law

would put the need for a martial law declaration on the back burner.

Recalling his exchange with a lawmaker who asked if extending martial law in Mindanao was necessary, Lorenzana said this should be the government's last option because what was needed was a better law to fight terrorism.

"We will not use martial law if we have something that could give teeth to the security agencies," he said.

Other security officials pre-

sent at the hearing were Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; Director General Oscar Albayalde, chief of the Philippine National Police; Interior Secretary Eduardo Año and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

Dead letter

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who cochaired the hearing as head of the public order and dangerous drugs panel, said the Human Security Act was a dead

12

letter—a law that had become ineffectual.

Lacson said no person or organization had been prosecuted under the law. Its first and only implementation, he noted, was the proscription of the Abu Sayyaf group as a terrorist organization by a Basilan court.

"As lawmakers, we cannot in good conscience remain silent and do nothing about our primary law against terrorism, becoming nothing more than a useless piece of legislation," he said.

Bombing suspects freed

"We cannot have it buried in our archives instead of being a source of strength of our law enforcers to prevent, respond to and address the growing threat of terrorism."

Galvez said the "very, very permissive" antiterror law led authorities to set free the suspects in bombings in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat province. Authorities could not detain them based on mere suspicion, he said.

"The law does not really help the security forces to really do their job," Galvez said.

Penalty for law enforcers

Authorities needed a longer time to interrogate suspects, he said, adding an ideologue bomber would take two or three weeks to break for him to provide substantial information to his captors.

Albayalde said the country should not wait for a repeat of the five-month siege of Marawi City by Islamic State-allied forces before strengthening the

Human Security Act.

Esperon lamented that the provision in the antiterror law that would make law enforcers pay P500,000 a day for any mistake they would commit in arresting and detaining a suspect was also hampering their efforts.

Lacson said this was among the provisions to be amended, pointing out that it was leading law enforcers to file charges other than violation of the antiterror law to avoid being prosecuted or made to pay for damages should the suspect be acquitted.

The committee is considering letting the court decide whether to award damages for wrongful arrest or prosecution under the law, he said.

The senator also sought to ease fears about an extended detention period without charges.

He said this did not mean that anybody could just be picked up. The rules for warrantless arrest would still apply, meaning the person to be detained must be about to commit, was actually committing, or had just committed a terrorism-related act.

The Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC) would serve as a safeguard from possible abuse of the extended wiretapping period because its authorization is needed before law enforcers could conduct technical surveillance, Lacson said.

"If there is no sufficient ground or no prior intelligence information pointing to that individual as a suspected terrorist, the ATC would not approve it," he added. INQ *AG*

1,350 PH, US Marines begin 'Kamandag' exercises

Filipino and American Marines kicked off on Monday the "Kaagapay ng Mandirigma ng Dagat" (Cooperation of Warriors of the Sea) exercises at Subic International Airport. The joint military drills, dubbed "kamandag," will be held at different locations in Luzon until Oct. 10. According to Capt. Terber Anthony Belonio, spokesperson for the Philippine Marines, some 1,000 members of the US Marine Corps and 350 Filipino Marines will participate in counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises, with Japanese Marines serving as observers. Venues for the second iteration of the exercises, which is aimed at enhancing cooperation and interoperability between Philippine and US Marines, include Ternate, Cavite; the Naval Education and Training Center in San Antonio, Zambales, and Crow's Valley in Tarlac. —JEANNETTE LANDRADE A 15

Phl Navy ship arrives in Russia

By JAIME LAUDE

VLADIVOSTOK – A Philippine Navy (PN) contingent on a historic five-day goodwill visit finally set foot on this port city yesterday morning.

Filipino sailors and Marines were welcomed by Russian political and military leaders, all looking forward to deepen relations between the two countries.

Philippine Ambassador to Russia Carlos Sorreta and his five-member dip-

lomatic staff, including defense attaché Col. Dennis Pastor, were also around to welcome the Navy's Task Force 87 (NTF 87) headed by Capt. Florante Gagua and Capt. Estelito Lagadia, in command

Turn to Page 4

Phl Navy From Page 1

of BRP *Tarlac*.

Stepping out from LD601, the PN contingent was offered bread with salt, a local tradition accorded to all visitors from other states.

The PN is on a five-day goodwill visit here after two port calls made by the Russian Navy to Manila last year.

During an official call, the commander of the Russian Pacific Fleet, Vice Admiral Sergie Avaleyants, praised the visiting PN delegation.

"This (goodwill visit) is crucial to our friendly relations. (I am) glad that you are all here in our land and we are looking forward (to) future military exchanges and other activities," Avaleyants said.

For his part, Gagua thanked the Russian officials for the welcome and pointed out Russia's support for the Armed Forces of the Philippines at the height of the Marawi siege

last year.

At the city hall here, the PN delegation was welcomed by Mayor Vitaly Verkeyenko and his staff.

"You are most welcome. Go and visit our museum to know the richness of our culture – how this city was built," Verkeyenko said, adding that had the contingent arrived a day earlier, they would have joined the city in celebrating "Tiger Day," a regional holiday.

Meanwhile, Sorreta hosted a dinner for the PN contingent at the Lotte Hotel.

Early Christmas

Earlier, it really felt like Christmas, with the cold Siberian winds sweeping across the seas.

At the conclusion of the mass held in one of BRP *Tarlac*'s mess halls, the Marine Band of NTF 87 sang Christmas carols.

"It's as if it's already Christ-

mas here in Russia. It's very cold, just like the month of December back home," an NTF 87 member quipped.

Marking seafarers' month, yesterday's mass officiated by Commander Leo Balanlay, chaplain of the 10-day voyage, was offered for seafarers and their families as well as for their safety and wellbeing.

Following a 10-day voyage through the South China Sea, East China Sea and Sea of Japan, the ship entered Russia's territorial waters early yesterday morning.

'Meeting engagement'

Following naval tradition, a Russian warship with bow number 350 welcomed the BRP *Tarlac* at around 2 p.m. (noon, Philippine time).

After the meeting engagement of the visiting and welcoming warships, both vessels headed at low speed toward the designated anchorage area at the port of Vladivostok. – With Michael Punongbayan

02

INQUIRER

AFP CUSTODIAL CENTER

LAWYERS' GROUP HITS 'STAYCATION' FOR PALPARAN

By Jhesset O. Enano and Jeannette I. Andrade @Team_Inquirer

While lesser mortals are whisked away to the national penitentiary after conviction, Jovito Palparan Jr. appears to be taking his own sweet time in a military camp.

Palparan, dubbed "The Butcher" by human rights groups, is enjoying an extended "staycation" at the Philippine Army Custodial Center in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, despite an earlier court order committing him to the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City, a lawyers' group rued on Monday.

That's far from the truth, the Armed Forces of the Philippines said, arguing that it was awaiting clarification from the courts on where he should be committed.

But Malacañang agreed that the retired Army major general should have been moved to the NBP after conviction.

The Bulacan Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 15 in Malolos City sentenced Palparan, former Army Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado Jr. and former Army Staff Sgt. Edgardo Osorio to 40 years behind bars on Sept. 17 for the 2006 kidnapping and illegal detention of University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan.

The court also ordered their transfer to the NBP.

The National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL), which acted as private prosecutors in the Empeño-Cadapan case, said Palparan's "continued staycation" bordered on contempt of court.

Military coddlers?

"Palparan and his military coddlers and lawyers are running circles around the judicial system and taunting civilian supremacy over the military by stalling his transfer on flimsy and nonsensical grounds," said NUPL national president Edre Olalia.

The military denied coddling the retired major general and giving him special treatment.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP spokesperson, said the military was awaiting the court's resolution of a pending motion seeking a reconsideration of the conviction, as well as a clarification on where he should be committed.

Palparan is also being tried for the 2006 kidnapping and torture of brothers Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo at the Bulacan RTC Branch 19, Arevalo said.

During the trial, both Bulacan RTC branches ordered Palparan's commitment to the Army Custodial Center, the officer said.

Commitment order

After Branch 15 convicted Palparan and ordered his commitment to the NBP, the custodial center filed a manifestation on Sept. 24 with a motion for a court determination on which commitment order should be followed, Arevalo said.

At this point, the military was uncertain which commitment order to follow.

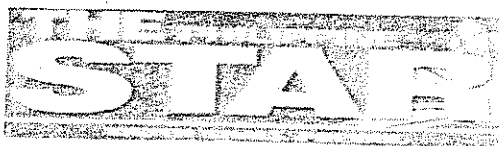
Olalia scoffed at the military's argument, saying the conviction and commitment order handed down by Branch 15 should have superseded the earlier commitment order issued by Branch 19.

A 2013 Supreme Court circular, signed by Court Administrator Jose Midas Marquez, directed all trial court judges to issue commitment orders of national prisoners immediately following their conviction, whether or not a motion for reconsideration or appeal has been filed, in order to decongest jails, he said.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque agreed that Palparan should have been committed to the NBP after his conviction. —WITH A REPORT FROM JULIE M. AURELIO INQ

16

02



AFP, US Marines start military drills in Subic

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (3d MEB) of the United States Marine Corps opened yesterday the Kamandag 2 Exercises at the Subic Bay International Airport.

The event marked the start of a series of activities to be held in separate areas in Luzon from Oct. 1 to 10.

Aside from the US and the Philippines, the Kamandag 2, or the *Kaagapay ng mga Mandirigma ng Dagat 2*, will also be joined by a team from Japan.

The Philippine-led exercises will include military-to-military exchanges between the AFP and the 3d MEB, and will focus on counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities.

The drills are expected

to enhance cooperation and interoperability between the US and Philippine forces, as both countries continue their commitment to support each other as friends, partners and allies.

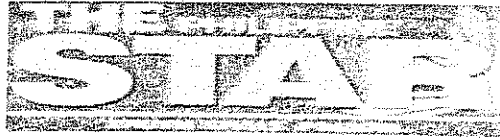
The AFP said the servicemen would practice humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as well as engage in amphibious landing and trainings on live fire, close air support, jungle survival, urban operations and combat lifesaving.

"In its first iteration last year, Kamandag gave rise to many inaugural advancements between our militaries. I'm looking forward to all that we're going to achieve together this year," Brig. Gen. Chris McPhillips, 3d MEB commanding general, said during the opening ceremony.

- Michael Punongbayan, Pia Lee-Brago

17

02



12

Army trooper, bandit slain in Lanao clash

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN and ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – An Army trooper and an alleged Maute leader were killed in an encounter between government security forces and remnants of the terrorist group in Tagoloan town, Lanao del Norte on Sunday.

Authorities identified the alleged terrorist as Hadji Rasul Mambuay, alias Mercury, while the trooper's identity is withheld until after his family is notified.

The government security forces reportedly recovered from Mambuay's group an

M16 rifle, a hand grenade, ammunition, two handheld radios and bomb-making materials, according to Capt. Clint Antipala, acting public affairs officer of the Army's 1st Infantry Division.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said a team com-

posed of the 4th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, the local police force and the National Bureau of Investigation clashed with the remnants of the Daulah Islamiyah at the boundary of Barangays Malimbato and Upper Dimayon.

The firefight, which lasted 10 minutes, followed an operation aimed at arresting Mambuay and Dianalan Dimanatang Imam, alias Papayungan, and their men who were tagged in the 2017 Marawi siege.

Antipala said Dimanatang and Mambuay's group were members of the Daulah Islamiyah and Maute group that swore allegiance to the Islamic State.

The suspects managed to escape at the height of the military operation in Marawi and hid in the nearby province of Lanao del Norte.

Antipala said security forces were on their way to arrest the terrorists when the group opened fire at them, triggering a firefight. ✓

18

Military bares details on 'Red October' attacks

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) revealed yesterday what it described as a more detailed picture of how the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), planned for

increased and coordinated attacks under its Red October plot to oust President Duterte.

These plans, according to Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, AFP assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, include five sub-operation plans that target the military, police and civilians suspected to have

acted as Oplan Tokhang agents or are believed to be behind the so-called extrajudicial killings.

Parlade said the documents decoded by the military showed that the CPP-NPA's original intention was to launch or execute coordinated tactical offensives from Oct. 11 to 17. He said this

might be calibrated again by the rebels after the military exposed the plot and after the Sept. 21 effort to start destabilization moves with the help of opposition groups fizzled out.

He said the recovered and decoded documents showed the

Turn to Page 4

Military

From Page 1

operation codes Supermarket, Casino, Bulldozer, Tabasco and Hades.

Supermarket reportedly refers to the attacks against AFP detachments and Philippine National Police (PNP) stations that would allow communist rebels to amass firearms.

Casino refers to the Special Partisan Unit (SPARU) operations that target military assets and intelligence operatives, while

Tabasco seeks to target suspected Oplan Tokhang agents.

Operation Bulldozer, Parlade said, involves attacks against mining companies and the destruction of high-impact government projects, while Hades refers to the attacks against government personalities "*na may utang na dugo sa kilusan*" (with blood debts) from the time of former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo onwards.

"And this is not even their calibrated plan. This is just their original plan which they wanted to pursue because it involves the NPA. (We) will know about their other plans in due time, but critical mass? I doubt," Parlade said partly in Filipino.

He noted that Supermarket, Casino, Bulldozer, Tabasco and Hades all form part of the Red October ouster or destabilization plot contained in the "memo" of the CPP-NPA's National Operations Command (NOC), which the AFP was able

to decode and which government forces and the public should be made aware of.

The military officer added that the plan has been set for a long time but has failed due to the aggressive operations of the military and the PNP against communist rebels.

Parlade said the new details disprove accusations that the AFP has sloppy intelligence work and is concocting fiction stories.

"We hope these attacks don't happen, just to prove that indeed these CPP plots ex-

ist. The best way is to preempt them with the help of the communities helping to watch the NPAs every move," he said.

Asked about the gravity of Red October, PNP chief Director General Oscar Albayalde dismissed this as "not that serious," although he admitted that he does not have access to all the intelligence information that are available to the President.

Duterte earlier claimed that opposition groups are plotting to oust him.

"I think there is a basis for

the statement of the President (about the ouster plot). Remember the President has unlimited access to information, not just the PNP. There is a reason for this and he has basis for saying it," he said.

He also said there is no recruitment for Red October as far as the PNP ranks are concerned and that the protest rallies could not be attributed to the plot, explaining that these activities have become a way of life for some sectors.

- With Cecille Suerte Felipe

2

Soldiers warned vs partisanship

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Carlito Galvez Jr. reminded soldiers yesterday not to take sides in partisan politics during the flag ceremony held at the General Headquarters (GHQ) Canopy Area, in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Monday.

"Let us not be disturbed by the Political noise and to take sides. We need to uphold our oath and obey the Chain of Command from the President, SND (Secretary of National Defense), down to

our office chiefs and Section/Squad Leaders. Let us remain solid and true to our oath, mandate and always undivided," said General Galvez.

He also took the time to award 14 soldiers and four civilian personnel of the AFP in recognition of their selfless service and commitment to the country.

"These public servants are stewards of our institution -- a crucial aspect that keeps us on our steadfast pursuit of becoming a world-class AFP," he said. (Francis T. Wakefield)

2

'BRP Tarlac' arrives in Russia

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Philippine Navy (PN) said yesterday that its landing dock ship, "BRP Tarlac (LD601)" with helicopter detachment afloat, has arrived in Vladivostok, Russia, for its historic visit there.

Commander Jonathan V. Zata, director of the Naval Public Affairs Office (PAO), said the 400-strong PN contingent arrived at the Russian Pacific Fleet Base in Vladivostok, at 11 a.m. Monday, Manila time.

"We are very much excited in this historic event since this is the first time that a Philippine Navy commissioned vessel is able to visit Vladivostok," Zata said.

"This is made possible through the Commander-in-Chief's (President Duterte's) efforts to modernizing our navy as well as the support from all stakeholders in seeing a stronger and more credible

maritime organization," he added.

Zata said BRP Tarlac's port visit is from October 1 to October 6. The PN contingent led by Captain Florante Gagua will conduct a series of confidence-building activities with the Russian Navy in order to further enhance relationship and cooperation.

Zata said these include the visit to Russian Navy facilities and sports and cultural interaction. Sea exercises will likewise be undertaken after conclusion of the port visit.

"The activity conveys the Command's commitment in promoting multilateral cooperation. It is an affirmation of its commitment in collaborating with other navies to promote peace and stability in the maritime region," Zata said.

02

2

Senators move to pass stricter anti-terror law

By MARIO B. CASAYURAN

The Senate is inclined to pass a bill seeking to extend the period of detaining suspected local and foreign terrorists from the current 36 hours to as long as 30 days.

"We don't want these terrorists, especially foreign-inspired, to attack Metro Manila where there will be chaos. This is the primary consideration that we are willing to give much leeway (to security officials' requests for a longer detention period)," said Senator Panfilo M. Lacson, chairman of the Senate Public Order and Dangerous Drugs Committee.

Security officials who appeared before the Lacson committee to give their positions on three separate bills seeking to increase the penalty and detention period for suspected terrorists complained that the Philippines has the weakest anti-terrorism laws not only in Southeast Asia, but the world.

France, according to Lacson, has the strictest with an indefinite detention period because of several high-profile terrorist attacks.

Lacson said he was surprised by the position of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) favoring the extension of the period for detention.

These anti-terrorism bills were authored by Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III and Senators Lacson and

Gregorio B. Honasan II.

The fourth bill, filed by Sen. Richard J. Gordon, sought a declaration of "a national emergency against drugs and terrorism, establishing a national policy to authorize the President, in accordance with the Constitution, to exercise necessary and proper powers to address such emergency."

Honasan said drugs and terrorism "is a potent combination."

The top security and intelligence officials who attended the Lacson committee included General Hermogenes Esperon Jr., National Security Adviser; Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo M. Ano; Director General Alex Paul I. Monteagudo of the National Intelligence and Coordinating Agency (NICA); National Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana; and General Carlito G. Galvez Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff.

Monteagudo said that Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia have strict anti-terrorism laws although they are less affected by terrorism.

The Philippines, on the other hand, is more affected by terrorism but has the weakest plate of anti-terrorism laws, he said.

"That is why we are attracting foreign fighters from Syria, Iraq, Morocco and others," Monteagudo pointed out.

23

Army intercept IED on tip of 'tsismosa'

CAMP SIONGCO, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao: Soldiers of the 90th Infantry Battalion manning a checkpoint here intercepted on Monday morning an improvised explosive device (IED) from a passenger jeepney.

Maj. John Arvin Encinas, 6th Infantry Division (6ID) spokesman, said the powerful bomb, intended to be exploded in Cotabato City was fashioned from 81mm mortar with mobile phone as trigger mechanism. It was found at the rear of an old Lawin passenger jeep at about 7 a.m.

He said the 6ID acted on the tip from a rumormonger who alerted the Army checkpoint about a passenger jeep that was transporting the deadly baggage.

The "Tsismosa" brigade, as the rumormongers are called, had been tapped by 6ID in their fight against terrorism and illegal drugs.

"The effort of our 6ID commander Maj. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana to tap the rumormongers has

borne fruit that it is now labeled by many as the Tsismosa brigade," Encinas said.

He said soldiers in Barangay Capiton, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, were carefully inspecting all vehicles coming into the city from Maguindanao as part of security measures following the series of bombings in Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat province and General Santos City in the past month.

Amidin Tato, the driver of the red Lawin jeep (MWA-955), said a person from Kabuntalan, Maguindanao loaded the bag into the jeep telling him someone would claim the bag at the jeepney terminal in the city's supermarket area in Barangay Poblacion 1, Cotabato City.

Citing an intelligence report, Encinas said the IED was manufactured in the marshy villages of Midsayap in North Cotabato, loaded into a motorized boat and transported to Kabuntalan town before it was loaded on

the passenger jeep.

Encinas confirmed that the recovered IED has the "signature" of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), an armed group in Maguindanao that pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

The discovery of the IED created monstrous traffic along the Maguindanao highway, about a kilometer from the 6ID headquarters in Barangay Awang. It was safely defused by the explosive ordnance disposal team and now in the custody of the 6ID bomb disposal unit.

In July 20 this year, a powerful IED was also found inside a passenger van from Datu Saudi Ampatuan town. Its driver claimed someone loaded the bag in the van and paid P100, equivalent to the fare of one passenger. Police and Army personnel intercepted the IED at a police checkpoint in Barangay Broce, Datu Odin Sinsuat.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

Soldier, pro-IS bandit killed in clash

BY AL JACINTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Government forces pursuing members of the pro-Islamic State (IS) bandits who took part in the Marawi City siege last year clashed with the group in Lanao del Norte on Monday, killing two, including an Army soldier.

Captain Clint Antipala, spokesman for the Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the operation targeted members of the Dawlah Islamiya in the villages of Malimbato and Upper Dimayon in Tagoloan town of Lanao del Norte.

Rasol Mambuay was killed in the

weekend operation and Army troops recovered an M16 automatic rifle, grenade, communication radios and materials used in the manufacturing of improvised explosives.

Antipala did not identify the slain soldier.

Antipala said soldiers of the 4th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, municipal policemen and members of the National Bureau of Investigation were involved in the operation aimed at capturing Dianalan Dimanatang Imam and Mambuay and their followers.

He did not say how many bandits were able to elude the operation or if they were plotting to sow terror in the region where security forces are battling various pro-IS groups and the communist insurgency.

The whole of Mindanao is under an extended period of martial rule following the Marawi siege that lasted five months, but many militants involved in the attack have managed to escape and are said to be recruiting members in the region. **KX**

62

October 2018

The Manila Times

Page: 2

Military denies coddling Palparan

BY DEMPSEY REYES

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has denied it was protecting retired major general Jovito Palparan Jr. by not transferring him to the custody of the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) from the Philippine Army headquarters.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP spokesman, said on Monday the military was supportive of the aggrieved parties' call for justice following Palparan's conviction to life in prison.

But he defended the deferment of the transfer, saying the military

was only submitting to judicial process. He cited the supposed "conflicting orders" by the courts in Bulacan on where Palparan would be detained.

"In deferring the transfer, the AFP is not protecting Maj. Gen. Palparan et al. It merely submits

to the judicial processes already in place and running," Arevalo said in a statement.

Last month, the Bulacan Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 15 convicted Palparan and two others over the kidnapping and disappearances of University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan in 2006.

Part of the decision was Palparan's transfer to the NBP, which is manned by the Bureau of Corrections.

"Specifically, the AFP desires to know which commitment order takes precedence and how the court will resolve the pending motion for continuous detention

26

this time to Camp Aguinaldo Detention Facility in the case of [Palparan]," Arevalo said.

Palparan, Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado and Staff Sgt. Edgardo Osorio, have filed a motion for reconsideration, disputing the court's decision to have them detained for life.

The AFP also cited Palparan's case before the Bulacan RTC Branch 19, which handles the case for the disappearances of brothers Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo.

Arevalo explained that the courts last ordered Palparan to be committed to the Philippine Army Custodial Center. Following the guilty conviction, the Bulacan RTC Branch 15 ordered the transfer of

the ex-general to the NBP.

To resolve the "conflicting" commitment orders by the courts, the Philippine Army's custodial center has filed a manifestation with motion on September 24 for the courts' determination of which the commitment order would prevail.

"The AFP respects the law and pertinent judicial processes. It does not and will not frustrate any pursuit for justice," he said.

'Hiding in AFP's skirt'

Edre Olalia, counsel for Empeño and Cadapan and president of the National Union of Peoples' Law-

yers, claimed that Palparan's "military coddlers" and lawyers have been "running circles" around the judicial system and the constitutional principle of civilian supremacy over the military.

"It undermines and mocks law and justice by hiding and tagging behind the military skirt. Who is his protector and handler for him to deserve such extraordinary privilege and accorded special treatment?" Olalia asked.

"They are using as excuse a standing commitment order from another [RTC] branch on another case and their pending motion for reconsideration in the branch that convicted him," he added.

01

October 2018

Standard
TODAY

Page:

A1

'Keep terror suspects in detention for 30 days'

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

MILITARY officials want Congress to amend the Human Security Act to allow them to detain suspected terrorists for 30 days even without a warrant.

At a hearing of the Senate public order committee chaired by Senator Panfilo Lacson, Armed Forces chief General Carlito Galvez Jr. cited the need to extend the three days detention allowed under the current law to 30 days.

"We see that if we will be able to capture the bomber, in a week, we won't get anything. Normally, based on our experience, the suspect [will] break...in two to three weeks," Galvez said.

"In the case of the Isulan [bombings over the last two months], we already captured the supposed bomber but because of very permissive law, the bomber [was] released from detention."

An extension of the detention period to 30 days would be a preemptive measure, Galvez said, because terrorists make subsequent attacks.

"The 30 days can also serve as a disruptive period for the terrorists, give us time

to gather counter intelligence, [and] determine if the terrorist is a lone wolf or [part of] a pack of wolves," he said.

Department of the Interior and Local Government OIC Eduardo Año, a former military chief, said 30 days will be enough for the security forces to conduct a follow-up investigation and operations.

"We do not need to maximize the 30 days. A terror attack can be neutralized within 30 days. Thirty days would just give the security forces a guarantee to be able to do their jobs properly," Año said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana cited the need for stringent measures such as those adopted by Australia, and said this was an alternative to using martial law to address terrorism.

"Let us not use martial law but give more teeth to our security agencies," he said.

Next page

28

'Keep terror...

From A1

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon also noted that by "mere suspicion" in Australia, suspects could be detained for as long as seven days or more.

"In our country... [we can] only detain suspects [for] three days," he said.

"And I don't know why instead of giving law enforcers more leeway or capabilities... The Security Act could penalize us for mistakes," he said, referring to a provision in the law that penalizes law enforcement agencies P500,000 a day in damages for the false prosecution of individuals for terrorism.

Senate President Vicente Sotto said

there was no need for such a provision, saying that those who are falsely prosecuted and wrongfully detained can sue the government under existing laws.

"Why do we need this provision? They can go after the government. Why are we scaring our enforcers?" he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Lacson, meanwhile, proposed that the definition of a terrorist be modified because a terrorist does not necessarily coerce the government to give in to his or her demands as provided for under the Human Security Act.

"We need to simply define it as someone who commits the act of terrorism and who has the intent to commit an act of terrorism. That is practical and logical," Lacson said, noting that the existing definition is too limiting.

In South Cotabato, police and military agents arrested three suspected members of the Islamic State-inspired Ansar Kalifa Philippines Monday morning.

Authorities are also tracking down two other members of the terrorists AKP group facing murder charges.

The suspects were identified as Akmad Bulacon, his sons Muktar Bulacon and Zandro Bulacon.

Recovered from them was a backpack containing two emblems with ISIS markings, two blasting caps, ammonium nitrate, a bandolier with several M16 bullets, a fragmentation grenade, three rifle grenades, and two motorcycles.

The seized motorcycles were believed used in the killing of P01 Achilles Tablazon on Sept. 15, 2015. **With Francisco Tuyay**

02

AFP denies coddling detained retired general Palparan

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines on Monday vehemently denied that it was coddling retired Major Gen. Jovito Palparan.

"The AFP shares the aggrieved parties' call for justice. In deferring the transfer, the AFP is not protecting Major Gen. Palparan et al. It merely submits to the judicial processes already in place and running," AFP spokesperson Col. Edgard Arevalo said in statement to the PNA Monday.

Arevalo said the AFP wanted to ascertain which commitment order takes precedence in Palparan's case and how the court will resolve the pending motion for continued detention at Camp Aguinaldo Detention Facility in Quezon City.

Once this is resolved, Arevalo said, the AFP will comply with the order of the relevant court.

Note that Major Gen. Palparan et

al. are facing two cases: one before Regional Trial Court Branch 15 of Judge Alexander Tamayo for Cadapan and Empeño case.

"The other case is with Regional Trial Court Branch 19 presided by Judge Francisco Felizmenio for Manalo Brothers case," he added.

In both cases, the courts ordered that the accused be committed to the Philippine Army Custodial Center for custody.

Major Gen. Palparan et al. were convicted for the Cadapan and Empeño case where the court ordered that the former be confined at the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa.

Meanwhile, the Manalo case is pending and the accused's continues commitment at the PACC stays by virtue of said Commitment Order," the AFP spokesperson said.

Following his conviction, Arevalo

said the lawyers of Palparan and his fellow convicts have filed for motion for reconsideration last Sept. 18.

"Counsels also filed on Sept. 24 an urgent motion to defer the implementation of the order to transfer Major Gen. Palparan—the resolution of which they are awaiting hence the continued detention at the PACC," he added.

He added that the military respects the law and pertinent judicial process and will not frustrate any pursuit for justice.

"The conviction and the new commitment order to NBP in the Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño case now confuses with the hitherto existing commitment order to the PACC in the Manalo Brothers case," Arevalo said.

To resolve the conflicting issue on commitment orders, the PACC filed a manifestation with motion praying for court determination which commitment order prevails on Sept. 24. PNA

127

02



AFP denies coddling Palparan

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday denied the allegation it is protecting dismissed Army officer Jovito Palparan who is currently detained in the Philippine Army Custodial Center in Taguig City.

"The AFP is not protecting Maj. Gen. Palparan *et al.* It merely submits to the judicial processes already in place and running," AFP Spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo told reporters.

"Specifically, the AFP

desires to know which commitment order takes precedence and how the court will resolve the pending motion for continued detention this time to Camp Aguinaldo Detention Facility in the case of Maj. Gen. Palparan," he added.

Roque presses NBP transfer of convict in kidnapping of 2 UP students.

Palparan and two fellow convicts were accused of kidnapping University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan in 2006.

The two were never seen again.

"The AFP respects the law and pertinent judicial processes. It does not and will not frustrate any pursuit for justice," Arevalo said in the statement.

But on the same day the AFP declared it will keep Palparan under its custody, Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said the ex-Army official must be transferred to the New Bilibid Prison (NBP).

Roque said Palparan can still attend the hearings regarding the kidnapping of Manalo brothers Raymond and Reynaldo while in detention at NBP.

8

KMB

31

AFP chief to soldiers: Ignore 'political noise'

BY VICTOR REYES AND RAYMOND AFRICA

AMID talks about a plot to oust President Duterte, Armed Forces chief Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. yesterday told soldiers to ignore "political noise" and to "obey" the President, their commander-in-chief.

The Duterte government is being criticized by some quarters for a number of issues, including the rising cost of basic goods, high inflation rate, rice shortage, extra-judicial killings, and alleged persecution of opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

"Let us not be disturbed by the political noise... We need to uphold our oath and obey the chain of command, from the President, SND (Secretary of National Defense), down to our office chiefs and section, squad leaders. Let us remain solid and true to our oath, mandate and always undivided," Galvez said at the flag-raising ceremony at the AFP general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

He did not elaborate on the "political noise" but

Duterte has been saying the communist group and the political opposition have been plotting to oust him and will carry out the plan this month.

PNP chief Oscar Albayalde said the "Red October" ouster plot is "not that serious" and no policeman is being recruited for the plan.

"We do not see it as a threat as of this time, but it can be a concern. But we do not treat it as a threat as far as the PNP is concerned. I don't know with the other agencies," he said.

But Albayalde also said there is "basis" for Duterte's statement.

"Remember, the President has unlimited access to information, and not only from the PNP. There is a reason for this, there is basis," he said.

Assistant AFP deputy chief of staff for operations Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr. has said the Red October plot is led by communist leader Jose

See AFP Page B6

AFP

Maria Sison, who has been on a self-exile in Netherlands since the late 80s.

Parlade has said the ouster plot calls for social unrest, leading to protests similar to the "people power" uprising in 1986, which led to the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos, and launching of nationwide offensives on military and police targets by the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Yesterday, Parlade said the NPA's planned tactical offensives include raids of military and police installations to amass firearms. He said the tactical offensives are codenamed "Supermarket."

He said the NPA rebels are planning to liquidate intelligence personnel and assets (codename

"Casino"); policemen who have killed drug pushers and users, and those involved in alleged extra-judicial killings (codename "Tabasco"); and government officials who have sins against the communist party (codename "Hades"). The NPA is also planning burn mining heaving equipment (codename "Bulldozer").

"That's in the memo (memorandum) of the National Operations Command (of the communist movement), all part of the Red October," said Parlade while lashing at critics who are saying Red October was concocted by the military.

"We hope these attacks don't happen, just to prove that indeed these CPP plots exist. The best way is to preempt them with the help of the communities helping to watch the NPAs every move," he added.

32

Bulacan courts asked: Where should Palparan be detained?

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Philippine Army has asked the court to clarify where Maj. Gen. (ret.) Jovito Palparan, who has been convicted by a Bulacan court for the kidnapping of two UP students in 2006, should be detained.

The Bulacan regional trial court Branch 15 sentenced Palparan, Lt.

Col. Felipe Anotado and S/Sgt. Edgardo Osorio to life imprisonment last September 17 for the June 2006 kidnapping of UP students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño.

The court ordered that Palparan and his co-accused be transferred to the National Bilibid Prisons in

See BULACAN > Page B6

BULACAN

Muntinlupa from the Philippine Army Custodial Center in Taguig City, where they were held during the pendency of the case.

Armed Forces spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said Palparan has a pending kidnapping case before the Bulacan RTC Branch 19 in connection with the kidnapping of brothers Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo in San Ildefonso town in Bulacan in February 2006.

He said the Bulacan RTC Branch 19 has designated the PACC as the place of confinement for Palparan while the Manalo brothers kidnapping case is being heard.

"The conviction and the new commitment order to NBP in the Cadapan and Empeño case now confuses with the hitherto existing commitment order to the PACC in the Manalo brothers case," said Arevalo.

"To resolve the conflicting commit-

ment orders, the PACC on 24 September filed a manifestation with motion praying for the court determination which commitment order prevails," said Arevalo.

Arevalo said lawyers of Palparan and his co-accused asked the court last September 24 to reconsider its earlier ruling. He said the lawyers also asked the court to defer the transfer of the three to the NBP, pending the resolution of their motion for reconsideration.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva said the Army filed the motion before the Bulacan RTC Branch 15. "It's actually up to the two courts to discuss (the custody issue)," Villanueva said.

"There is a separate commitment order (issued by Branch 19), that is what we are communicating with them (Branch 15). With that, maybe Branch 15 can make a communication with Branch 19 as to the detention of the

accused," he added.

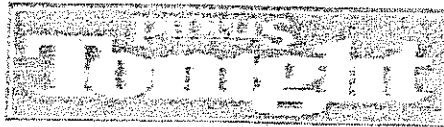
Villanueva added that Anotado and Osorio, who are not accused in the Manalo brothers kidnapping, have not been transferred to the NBP.

"Not yet. We are waiting for the final commitment order," Villanueva said.

Arevalo belied insinuations the military is coddling Palparan for not transferring him to the NBP.

"The AFP shares the aggrieved parties' call for justice. In deferring the transfer, the AFP is not protecting MGen Palparan et al. It merely submits to the judicial processes already in place and running," said Arevalo.

"Specifically, the AFP desires to know which commitment order takes precedence and how the court will resolve the pending motion. The AFP respects the law and pertinent judicial processes. It does not and will not frustrate any pursuit for justice," he added.



U.S. Marines, AFP launch KAMANDAG 2

SUBIC BAY -- The 3D Marine Expeditionary Brigade (3D MEB) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday opened exercise KAMANDAG 2 with a ceremony at the Subic Bay International Airport.

KAMANDAG 2 will take place until October 10, 2018, in several areas in Luzon.

KAMANDAG 2 is an exercise between the Philippines and the United States which also features participation from Japan. The Philippines-led exercise will include military-to-military exchanges between the AFP and U.S. forces with focus on counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities.

KAMANDAG 2 will enhance cooperation and interoperability between

Philippine and U.S. forces as both countries commit to support each other as friends, partners, and allies. Service members will practice humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, amphibious landing, live fire training, close air support, jungle survival training, urban operations training, and combat lifesaving during KAMANDAG 2.

"In its first iteration last year, KAMANDAG gave rise to many inaugural advancements between our militaries," said Brig. Gen. Chris A. McPhillips, 3D MEB commanding general. "I'm looking forward to all that we're going to achieve together this year."

The U.S. and Philippines will partner for a variety of community relations events during

KAMANDAG 2. Engineering and construction projects are ongoing at a school and two day care centers in Ternate, Cavite. While in Ternate, U.S. and Philippine military medical teams will teach hundreds of Ternate residents about lifesaving skills, disease prevention, and dental hygiene. Participants in exercises like KAMANDAG 2 develop lifelong friendships and connections that bring the U.S. and Philippines closer together as friends, partners and allies.

KAMANDAG is an acronym for the Filipino phrase "Kaagapay Ng Mga Mandirigma Ng Dagat," which translates to "Cooperation of Warriors of the Sea," highlighting the partnership between the Philippine and United States militaries. KAMANDAG 2 will in-



Brigadier General Chris McPhillips, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Major General Nathaniel Casem, Inspector General of the Philippine Navy, and Brigadier General Melquiades Ordiales, Deputy Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps, open exercise KAMANDAG 2 during a ceremony at Subic Bay International Airport.

crease overall U.S. and Philippine readiness, improve combined responsiveness to crises in the Indo-Pacific region, and strengthen both countries' decades-long partnership.



US Marines, AFP launch Kamandag 2 exercise in Subic

THE United States 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade (3d MEB) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday launched exercise KAMANDAG 2 with a ceremony at the Subic Bay International Airport to further improve their counter terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities.

Exercise KAMANDAG 2 will take place from October 1 to 10 at multiple locations in Luzon.

KAMANDAG 2 is an exercise between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States, which also features participation from Japan.

The Philippine-led exercise will include military-to-military exchanges between the AFP and U.S. forces, with a focus

on counterterrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

KAMANDAG 2 will enhance cooperation and interoperability between Philippines and U.S. forces as we continue both countries commitments to support each other as friends, partners and allies.

Service members will practice humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, amphibious landing, live fire training, close air support, jungle survival training, urban operations training and combat lifesaving during KAMANDAG 2.

"In its first iteration last year, KAMANDAG gave rise to many inaugural advancements between our militaries. I'm looking forward to all that we're going to achieve together this year," said Brig. Gen. Chris McPhil-

lips, 3d MEB commanding general.

The U.S. and Philippines will partner for a variety of community relations events during KAMANDAG 2.

Engineering and construction projects are ongoing at a school and two daycare centers in Ternate, Cavite. While in Ternate, U.S. and Philippine military medical teams will teach hundreds of Ternate residents about lifesaving skills, disease prevention and dental hygiene.

KAMANDAG is an acronym for the Filipino phrase "Kaagapay Ng Mga Mandirigma Ng Dagat," which translates to "Cooperation of Warriors of the Sea," highlighting the partnership between the Philippine and United States militaries. **Cristina Lee-Pisco**



Palparan must be detained at Bilibid — Palace official

RETIRE Army Major Gen. Jovito Palparan must be transferred to the New Bilibid Prisons following his conviction for the kidnapping and illegal detention of University of the Philippines (UP) students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said that Palparan must be transferred to Bilibid but can still attend hearings for a separate kidnapping case from there.

"Dapat malipat. Dadalhin na lang siya kung may hearing," Roque said. Roque said he will call Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Carlito Galvez Jr. and Bureau of Corrections chief Ronald Dela Rosa to discuss the possible transfer of Palparan to the national penitentiary.

Palparan was ordered transferred by the Malolos Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 15 to the national penitentiary after he was found guilty in the Cadapan and Empeño case.

The military, however, has chosen to keep him detained inside the military's general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City while waiting for clarification from the courts.

Philippine Army Spokesman Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva noted that Malolos RTC Branch 19 ruled that the former commander of the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division should be in the safekeeping of the military as he is still facing a separate illegal detention case, involving the kidnapping of Manalo brothers Raymond and Reynaldo.

EMontano

Resulta sa 'Red October' probe isusumite na ng NBI

Nakatakdang isumite ngayon ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang kanilang initial findings sa imbestigasyon nito sa "Red October" plot laban kay President Rodrigo Duterte.

Ayon kay Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra, inimbestigahan na ng NBI ang report matapos na makatanggap ng impormasyon ang Malacañang tungkol dito.

Matatandaang sinabi ng ilang military officials na nagsanib-puwersa umano ang mga grupo ng communist rebels at kritiko ni Duterte upang mapataksik siya sa puwesto sa susunod na buwan.

Samantala, pinaalalahanan kahapon ni Armed

Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Carlito Galvez Jr., sa 195,000 malakas na puwersa ng mga sundalo na dumistan-sya sa pulitika kaugnay ng umano'y recruitment sa Red October.

Ginawa ni Galvez

ang pahayag sa flag raising ceremony sa Camp Aguinaldo matapos na maalarma ang AFP sa pagkakabulgar sa Red October o ang umano'y matinding sabwatan ng Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's

Army, Magdalo Group, Movement Against Tyranny at ang Tindig Pilipinas ni dating Pangulong Benigno Simeon Aquino upang patalsikin sa puwesto ang administrasyon. (Doris Franche at Joy Cantos)

02

October 2018

INQUIRER

Page:

AG

Aglipayan bishops assail Red tagging

Aglipayan church leaders are not strangers to intimidation and harassment as they band with "lunard" communities caught in the communist insurgency crossfire. But when slogans branding the sect as communist were spray-painted on one of its churches' walls and along the highway, Aglipayan bishops fear that a new wave of violence was taking place. It could be a prelude to a

kill — STORY BY MART SAMBALUD

'This is frightening'

Aglipayan church says it's being branded

communist to justify surveillance, killing of its leaders

By Mart Sambalud
@inmindanao

DAVAO CITY—Leaders of a homegrown Christian sect expressed alarm over what they said was an apparent campaign to justify attacks against them after words accusing the sect of being communist were painted on the fence of one of its churches and on walls along a highway leading to the church.

On Sept. 28, the fence of an Aglipayan church in Tigbao town, Zamboanga del Sur province, was painted with the words "IFI=NPA," according to Rev. Felix Espra Jr., head of the Aglipayan parish in the town.

On the same day, similar words were painted on walls along the highway also in Tigbao and in Kumalarang, a town next to Tigbao.



BRANDING The wall of an Aglipayan church in Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur was painted with words linking the church to the New People's Army. —MART SAMBALUD

Alarm

Rhee M. Timbang, also a ranking Aglipayan leader, denounced the harassment.

Branding church leaders as communist "serves as license

for their liquidation or neutralization, to borrow military terms," Timbang said.

"This is frightening," Timbang said.

Aglipayan leaders expressed alarm over the words "Bishop Ablon=NPA" and "IFI=NPA BAYAN" that appeared along the highway in the boundary of

Tigbao and Kumalarang.

Ablon referred to Antonio Ablon, a bishop of the church.

IFI is acronym for Iglesia Filipina Independiente, the formal name of Aglipayan church.

NPA is New People's Army and BAYAN referred to Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Ablon said attacks on his church had become brazen after the military claimed to have uncovered "Red October," an alleged plot led by the Left to remove President Duterte from power.

Vandalism at the IFI church in Tigbao, according to Rev. Felix Espra Jr., another church leader, was a sign of escalating attacks on the sect by the government.

Other slogans

Ablon said IFI investigated and found these other painted words: "BAYAN MUNA=NPA," "NPA SALOT-IFI=NPA" and "UCCP=NPA."

UCCP referred to United Church of Christ in the Philippines, an umbrella group of

Christian sects.

Rural Missionaries of the Philippines was also branded as a communist front.

Ablon said the appearance of anticommunist slogans on the church fence and on walls along the highway was highly suspicious as the area was in plain sight of soldiers manning a checkpoint and near a bunker occupied by soldiers and militiamen guarding a bridge project.

Ablon quoted a certain Sergeant Carpio as telling church investigators that soldiers saw the vandals early on Sept. 27 along with a village councilor who lived nearby.

Fear

The sergeant denied involvement, according to Ablon, but said soldiers could not do anything "and will not dare to erase" the slogans "as it might be the doing of their higher ups and he might end up suspected of sympathizing with the Left."

Ablon said the anticommunist slogans appeared following a series of missions by IFI from

June 19 to 21 in "lumad" communities in Zamboanga del Sur.

IFI investigated reports of alleged indiscriminate bombings by the military from May 29 to 30 that forced Subanen to flee the village of Saad in Dumingag town, Zamboanga del Sur.

Residents of the village have been accused of membership in the NPA.

After the missions, Ablon said, soldiers came to visit IFI bishops and clergy.

License to kill

IFI has consistently called for a stop to abuses allegedly committed by the military in lumad communities.

It was not the first time IFI was branded as communist, according to Timbang.

Under then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the military and police classified the church as an "enemy of the state," he said.

The practice "has been intensified in President Duterte's regime," he added.

02

'Red October' not a serious threat for now, says PNP Chief Albayalde

By MARTIN A. SADONGDONG

The country's top cop said yesterday that the Philippine National Police (PNP) is not considering the ouster plot against President Duterte, dubbed as "Red October" by the military, as a serious threat for now.

Nevertheless, Director General Oscar Albayalde said that the claims made by critics of the Duterte administration that the ouster plot was concocted by the government in order to divert the attention of the public from pressing concerns like rising inflation and prices in commodities were untrue.

"Hindi natin siya nakikidta (We cannot consider the Red October plot) as a threat as of this time but it can be a [cause for] concern. That is as far as the PNP is concerned. We don't know with other agencies," Albayalde said.

However, the PNP chief clarified that this is no indication that critics are correct in their claim that the ouster plot was made up by the government.

"Hindi siguro (It's probably not [a made-up threat]). I think there's a basis for the statement of the President. Remember the President has unlimited access to information, hindi lang sa PNP (not only from the PNP)," he said.

Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) deputy

chief of staff, made the claim last week that a big protest to be organized by leftist groups will be held between October 11 and October 17 in connection with the 50th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) in December.

It was Parlade who revealed the Red October plot allegedly cooked up by the communists with opposition leaders and rightist elements. This claim has been rejected by all the parties tagged by the general.

Albayalde assured that the PNP continues to monitor the situation, citing a massive protest allegedly set by critics of the administration for next week. He said police have yet to verify if there is an imminent threat on the activity.

"With regards to that, kung ito ay connected sa Red October, wala pa tayong makuhang ano dyan (if this [rally] is connected to Red October, we have yet to get [information])," Albayalde said.

41

02

October 2018

Page: 41

Reds on attack mode, military warns

By Joyce Pangco Pañares

COMMUNIST rebels will escalate their attacks across the country from Oct. 11 to 17, a high-ranking military official said, citing recovered documents on the so-called Red October plot to oust President Rodrigo Duterte.

"The plan fizzled out a bit when we exposed the Red October plot. But based on our indicators now, the trend is that they will still continue with the attacks and these will be nationwide," Armed Forces deputy chief-of staff for operations Brig.

Gen. Antonio Parlade said in a phone interview.

"We have yet to determine the significance of those dates, and if they have recalibrated after the plot was exposed," he added.

The attack teams were coded based on the recovered documents, Parlade said.

There is the code 'supermarket' to refer to attacks against police stations and army detachments where they aim to seize arms and ammunition. 'bulldozer' to refer to mining firms and government

Next page

Reds...

From A1

infrastructure projects, 'tabasco' to refer to suspected Oplan Tokhang agents, 'casino' to refer to military intelligence assets, and 'Hades' to refer to government personalities with a blood debt to the New People's Army," Parlade said.

"This is the last hurrah of Joma," he added, referring to self-exiled Communist Party of the Philippines founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison.

He said the attacks are expected to continue until December.

The CPP Central Committee last year released its plans for its 50th anniversary on Dec. 26.

"The Filipino people are suffering gravely under the Duterte regime. The entire Party and all revolutionary forces must exert vigorous efforts to unite the Filipino people in a broad united front to resist and overthrow the fascist Duterte regime," the CPP said in a statement last year.

A leftist student group dismissed talk of "Red October."

"There is no ouster plot against the President. He is the one digging his own grave because of his anti-poor policies, extrajudicial killings, Oplan Tokhang and other [oppressive] economic policies, such as the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion law," said Kara Taggaoa, national spokesperson of the League of Filipino Students.

"This widespread disinformation is a conscious move by the government forces to discredit the people's growing dissent, lay down the conditions for establishing their 'revolutionary government' and railroad Charter-change. This is a nationwide conditioning for martial law," she said.

She also slammed the Duterte administration for its second tax reform package known as the Tax Reform for Attracting Better and High-Quality Opportunities (TRABAHO). With

Ric N. Araja

43



Red plot eyes arms buildup

Longer terrorists detention sought

CPP's armed wing New People's Army had started mounting a string of attacks in police and army detachments in Sorsogon

By Elmer N. Manuel and Mario J. Mallari

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) had decoded

messages showing that police stations and military camps are main targets of the Red October plot to be led by the Communist Party of the

Philippines (CPP) to collect arms for an uprising that will seek the removal of President Rodrigo Duterte.

The revelations of threats to the government also prompted the Senate to seek a longer period to hold terrorist agents under the Human Security Act (HSA). *Turn to page 2*

From page 1

Describing the country's anti-terror act as the "weakest in the world," senators yesterday supported proposed amendments to strengthen the law — including the extension to 30 days of the current 72-hour reglementary period of detention for suspected terrorists.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, were one in saying that Republic Act 9572 or the Human Security Act of 2007 is the weakest in the world and should be amended now.

The plot targets 11 October for its launch through mass actions that will escalate into armed attacks on the 17th of this month, AFP assistant deputy chief for operations Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade said.

Communist assaults on state troops will peak on 17 October to go in tandem with the alleged escalation of plans to boot out Mr. Duterte.

Parlade said the CPP's armed wing, New People's Army (NPA) had started mounting a string of attacks in police and army detachments in Sorsogon and other southern regions in preparation for the major operation.

The plot involves a nationwide coordinated tactical offensive as part of Red October based on documents seized by the military from the CPP-NPA.

"Their decoded messages show a nationwide coordinated tactical offensive from 11 to 17 October," Parlade said.

"They have planned this for so long but aggressive operations of the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) have preempted the plot," he added.

Documents obtained from the CPP-NPA showed the code "Supermarket" means PNP stations and AFP detachments which are targets for the gathering of firearms.

"Tabasco" will be the operations against extra-judicial killings (EJK) operators and vigilantes.

Taking down Hades

"Hades" means personalities in government who has blood debts with the communist movement.

Parlade said the codes are contained in a memorandum of the CPP-NPA's National Operations Command (NOC) to its regional units.

"The attacks will last until November, but majority will occur in October. Their target is 17 October; this will mark the peak of the attacks," Parlade said.

Military officials earlier accused communist rebels of heading a "broad coalition" of Duterte's critics who are plotting for his ouster and urging labor unions to mount simultaneous strikes although the CPP had already denied the information.

Parlade urged Duterte's critics to refrain from supporting the

troops are already hunting down those behind the plot."

The military is ready to bare its intelligence reports on the issue in an executive session with lawmakers when its officials attend a budget hearing today, Parlade added.

The attacks will last until November, but majority will occur in October.

The Liberal Party (LP) and Magdalo Group, both fierce critics of the President, have denied any hand in the alleged ouster plan.

A "broad" coalition of communist rebels and Duterte's critics are conspiring to remove him from office with communist leaders Rey Casambre and Satur Ocampo allegedly leading the coalition.

The coalition also includes supporters of ousted Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and the group Tindig Pilipinas, whose members incidentally include LP leaders. **With Raymart T. Lolo and Kathleen Mae Bulquerin**

IS FIGHTERS RETURN TO MINDANAO

Battle-hardened Islamic State (IS) fighters fleeing lost territory in Syria and Iraq have returned to Mindanao to try to establish a province for the jihadi group in Southeast Asia, the Washington Times reported on Sunday.

Quoting figures from the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the Times said there were more IS-affiliated fighters in Southeast Asia, especially from armed groups based in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Min- **AD**

46

ISLAMIC STATE FIGHTERS RETURN TO MINDANAO

FROM A1

danao (ARMM), than there ever were battling US forces in Afghanistan and Iraq during the height of the US-led wars there.

The Times said a US Department of State assessment had put the Philippines for the first time among the five countries with the most terrorist attacks.

The Philippines, along with Afghanistan, India, Iraq and Pakistan, were the sites of nearly 60 percent of terrorist attacks last year, the Times quoted state department officials as saying in their latest assessment of terrorist activity around the globe.

'Resilient, determined'

"[IS], al-Qaida and their affiliates have proven to be resilient, determined and adaptable," the paper quoted Ambassador Nathan Sales, the state department's top counterterrorism coordinator, as saying.

"They have adjusted to heightened counterterrorism pressure in Iraq, Syria, Somalia and elsewhere," Sales said in the Times report.

"Foreign terrorist fighters are heading home from the war zone in Iraq and Syria or traveling to third countries to join [Islamic State] branches there," he said.

As the IS plan for a homeland in the Middle East collapses, foreign fighters have found other places to wage war against the West, including in their own backyards, Greg Poling, an Asia analyst with CSIS, said in the Times report.

"As we execute victories on the ground in Iraq and Syria, [IS] is going to disperse" to other areas around the globe, including Southeast Asia, Poling said.

Ungoverned region

"The southern Philippines is still an ungoverned region," he said.

The threat, the Times said, exploded into view in May last year when members of the Maute gang of extortionists and a faction of the Abu Sayyaf bandit



IS FORMATION Islamic State (IS) fighters march in the streets of Raqqa, Syria, in this 2014 photo posted on the group's website. Flushed out of Syria and Iraq, the jihadi group is trying to establish a caliphate in Southeast Asia, according to the Washington Times. —AP

group that had pledged allegiance to IS overran the city of Marawi in Lanao del Sur province and held it for five months.

Black IS banners flew over Marawi—the first city in Southeast Asia to be seized by an IS affiliate—until October, when the Philippine military, backed by US intelligence and air power, took back control.

Although the leaders of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups were killed in the aftermath of the siege of Marawi, the Times quoted Poling as saying, the goal of establishing an IS caliphate or province in Southeast Asia, with the southern Philippines as the de facto capital, will remain a key goal of the jihadi group's affiliates in the region.

"Affiliates will try to hold territory, they will try to establish a new caliphate," Poling said in the report.

"That is a requirement if you want to be an [IS] affiliate, and they did it [in Marawi]. They held a major Philippine city for [five] months—they were not supposed to be able to do that," he said.

Terror suspects arrested

The Times report came as government forces arrested three suspected members of an IS-linked terrorist group in Tupi, South Cotabato province.

Chief Supt. Eliseo Tam Rasco, police director for the Soccsksargen region, said Akmad Bulacon

and his sons Muktar and Zandro were arrested during a joint police-military raid on their house at Barangay Palian in Tupi.

Two IS flags, M-16 rifles, ammunition, explosives and materials for making bombs were seized from the house during the raid early on Monday.

Rasco said the black IS flags indicated that the Bulacons were members of the IS-linked terror group Ansar al-Khilafa Philippines.

Two other sons of Bulacon—Mohammad and Arafat—who are wanted for murder escaped during the raid, Rasco said.

President Duterte placed the entire island of Mindanao under martial law at the height of the Marawi siege to quell the terrorist uprising.

Congress extended martial law to the end of this year and may extend it through next year, the Times said.

Mixed signals

Military officials have sent mixed signals about the dangers of IS, according to the Times report.

"The greatest threat that we have now is really [IS]," Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told a congressional hearing in late August.

Galvez, the Times said, cited in particular the IS influence on local movements such as the

Maute gang, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in central Mindanao and the Abu Sayyaf in western Mindanao.

But Galvez, the paper said, also warned about the IS penchant for claiming responsibility for every act of violence, even if it had no hand in the attack.

"They are claiming everything," the Times quoted Galvez as telling reporters last month. "They are doing it to heighten the support and to show that they are still there."

New mission

The Pentagon funneled \$16 million in fiscal 2017 into a new counterterrorism mission in the southern Philippines, the Times said.

Roughly 200 to 300 US troops are serving in advisory roles in the Philippines, the Times said, citing figures from the Pentagon.

The Times quoted Poling as saying the small military footprint was focused on preventing rather than responding to terrorist attacks.

"We are more committed to preventing, and not just rolling back, the threat," Poling said.

In addition, Poling said in the report, the Philippine military is "far more capable, far better equipped" than any of the armed groups in the southern Philippines. —REPORTS FROM

THE WASHINGTON TIMES AND EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ INQ

02

ARMM to leave 'good legacy' to BARMM

By ALI G. MACABALANG

COTABATO CITY - The incoming Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) will inherit a "good legacy" from its predecessor, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

In separate statements issued by Regional Governor Mujiv Hataman and his cabinet members, the ARMM officials noted that BARMM will be in a better position to fix the "historical injustices" that the Bangsamoro people have endured.

They also maintained that ARMM will leave "zero liability" to the BARMM bureaucracy

BARMM will commence transitional operations in 2019 as replacement to the 28-year-old ARMM under Republic Act 11054, which the Duterte administration enacted last July pursuant to two major peace accords forged in 2013 and 2014 by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The new law provides for BARMM's absorption of ARMM component areas, namely Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu

and Tawi-Tawi provinces and the cities of Marawi and Lamitan, as well as the neighboring Isabela and Cotabato cities, six towns in Lanao del Norte and 39 villages in six North Cotabato towns.

A plebiscite will be conducted on January 21, 2019 for voters in all proposed BARMM component areas to decide whether they want to be included in the new region or not.

418

02

Maute remnant of Marawi siege slain

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

A Maute Group remnant, who took part in the Marawi siege last year, and a soldier were killed in an encounter between government troops and Daulah Islamiyah/Maute fighters in Lanao del Norte on Sunday.

A military report disclosed that a composite team of the Fourth Mechanized Infantry Battalion, the local police and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) clashed against the local terrorists in Barangay Malimbato and Upper Dimayon, Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte on Sunday.

The firefight lasted for about 10 minutes and resulted in the killing of Hadji Rasol Mambuay alias Mercury, and the recovery of an Ellisco M16 A1 rifle, a hand grenade, and other explosive materials.

The operation against the local terrorists was aimed at apprehending Dianalan Dimanatang Imam, alias Papayungan and Mambuay, and their men identified to be remnants of DI/Maute terrorists, who were involved in the Marawi Siege but were able to escape. ||

49

Security forces want more teeth vs terrorism

BY ASHZEL HACHERO.

DEFENSE and security officials yesterday asked lawmakers to give security forces more teeth to fight terrorism, saying this would also ensure that government would use martial law only as a last resort.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency head Alex Paul Monteagudo said the Philippines has the weakest anti-terrorism legislation in the region.

Esperon, Monteagudo and other security officials appeared before the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs, which is

hearing bills seeking to amend the 11-year-old Human Security Act.

"The Philippines has the weakest law and it's one of the reasons why we are attracting terrorist fighters from other countries," Monteagudo said.

The Armed Forces, in January this year, said there were 48 foreign terrorists operating in Mindanao.

Among amendments being pushed by Esperon is the removal of the provision penalizing law enforcement agencies P500,000 a day for the false prosecution of individuals for terrorism.

"I don't know why instead of

See SECURITY ► Page B2

SECURITY

giving the enforcers or the law enforces some more leeway or capabilities, I don't know why the Human Security Act could penalize us for mistakes that we could probably commit at the high rate of P500,000 a day," he said.

"And considering that my base-pay then as an officer was something like P60,000, who would give me P440,000 so that I could commit a mistake for one day?" he said.

Esperon also said the Philippines could detain terror suspects for only three days, under the Revised Penal Code, but the detention in Australia is for as long as seven days.

Committee chairman Sen. Panfilo Lacson asked Interior officer in charge Eduardo Año how long should a suspected terrorist be detained.

Año said 30 days would give security forces enough time to conduct intensive investigations, follow-up operations, and counteractions.

Monteagudo said Australia and ASEAN countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia have crafted laws to boost their anti-terror drives.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana echoed the points raised by Esperon and Monteagudo, saying other countries have crafted laws to enhance efforts against terrorism.

Speaking in Filipino, Lorenzana said, "As I said, we would not use martial law if we only have other tools that we can use. Let us give some teeth to our security agencies."

Lorenzana is administrator of martial law which President Duterte declared in Mindanao in May last year after the Maure terror group attacked Marawi City. The five-month conflict in Marawi killed at least 700 Maure men, over 100 soldiers and policemen, and 47 civilians. The martial law declaration has been extended to the end of this year.

BIFF BOMB

Government forces in Maguindanao yesterday seized an improvised explosive device (IED) that will supposedly be detonated by members of the terrorist Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in Cotabato City.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the bomb was found in a red passenger jeep at a checkpoint at around 7 a.m. in Barangay Capiton in Daru Odin Sinsuat town.

Encinas said the military earlier received information that the BIFF was about to transport an IED to be used in a bombing in Cotabato City, prompting soldiers and policemen to put up the checkpoint.

"Based on intelligence reports, they're going to detonate it in the area of Cotabato City... They're planning series of attack in Cotabato City... if we did not seize the bomb, they could have detonated it today," he said.

The bomb is made from an 81mm mortar, a 60 mm mortar, two dry cell batteries, a roll of electrical tape and wires, said Encinas.

The BIFF is blamed for a number of bombings in Central Mindanao, including the August 28 and September 3 bombings in Isulan town, Sultan Kudarat, which left several people dead and scores injured.

SUSPECTED TERRORIST

Pakistani Naeem Hussain, 36, a suspected Islamic State trainer, was barred from entering the country upon arrival at the Clark International Airport in Pampanga on September 22 from Dubai, the Bureau of Immigration said.

The BI said Hussain has been on the watchlist of the military intelligence community which earlier sought the BI's help in monitoring the Pakistani's possible entry to the country.

Hussain told BI personnel he has been working as a digital designer for the last 16 years and he came to the Philippines to visit his Filipina girlfriend who lives in Olongapo City.

The BI also said records showed Hussain tried to enter the country also last May but was also barred by BI personnel at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

KHILAFI MEMBERS

Policemen yesterday arrested three alleged members of the local terrorist group Ansar Khilafat Philippines (AKP) in an operation against two others reportedly responsible for killing of a policeman in Tupi, South Cotabato on September 15.

The AKP has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

Arrested were Akmad Bulacon and his sons Muktar Bulacon and Zandro Bulacon, all residents of Purok 1, Barangay Palian in Tupi.

Chief Supt. Eliseo Rasco, Central Mindanao police chief, said his men and soldiers were to serve arrest warrants to Arafat Bulacon and Mohammad Bulacon at the same address but the two escaped.

The Bulacons were allegedly responsible for the fatal shooting of PO1 Achilles Tabazon, a former intelligence operative of the South Cotabato Police Provincial Office, in front of his house in Barangay Palian.

Akmad and his sons also tried to escape but were cornered.

Recovered in their house were a backpack containing two black cloths with ISIS marks, two blasting caps, ammonium nitrate, a bandolier with several 5.56 caliber bullets, a fragmentation-type grenade, three rifle grenades, and 10 motorcycles believed used in killing Tabazon.

SOLDIER, MAUTE MAN KILLED

A soldier and a member of the Maute Group were killed as troops raided a safehouse of the terrorist group in Tagoloan town in Lanao del Norte on Sunday night.

Capt. Clint Antipala, spokesman of the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion, said the slain Maute member, Hadji Mambuay alias Mercury, was among those who attacked Marawi City last year.

Antipala said forces from the Army's 4th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, PNP Tagoloan and the NBI swooped down at the Maute Group safehouse in Barangay Malimbo around 8:30 p.m.

The arresting team was armed with a warrant for the arrest of Mambuay and Dianalan-Dimanatang Imam, alias Papayungan, who was able to escape with several other Maute members.

The Maute men traded fire with the team for about 10 minutes, leading to the death of Mambuay and recovery of an M16 rifle, a hand grenade, a magazine, two handheld radios and several bomb components. — *With Victor Reyes and Raymond Africa*

52



Soldier, Maute terror killed in Lanao clash

**By ZAIDA DELOS
REYES**

A SOLDIER and a remnant of ISIS-inspired Maute Terror Group were killed in an encounter on Sunday in Lanao del Norte.

Capt. Clint Antipala, spokesperson of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, identified the slain remnant of Maute Terror Group as Hadji Rasol Mambuay, alias Mercury. The slain soldier has yet to be identified.

Reports said the encounter occurred on Sunday in Bgy. Matimbato and Upper Dimauon, Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte.

Elements of 4th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, PNP Tagoloan and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) went to the area to arrest Dianalan Dimantang Imam, alias Papayungan, and Hadji Rasol Mambuay, alias Mercury, and their men identified to be remnants of DI/Maute terrorists who were involved in the Marawi Siege.

However, when the team arrived in the area, they were immediately fired upon by the enemy that triggered a 10-minute encounter and the killing of Mercury and the recovery of an Elisco M-16 A1 rifle, a hand grenade, a short magazine, two hand-held radios and several IED materials. One Army soldier was also killed.

Maj. Gen. Roseller Murillo, commander of Joint Task Force Zampelan, extended his condolences to the families of the fatalities.

53

02

Maute-ISIS, sundalo utas sa encounter!

Patay ang isang umang'y miyembro ng kilabot na Maute-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) inspired terrorist group habang isa sa hanay ng mga sundalo ang nalagas makaraan ang umaatkapong angkuwentro sa pagitan ng mga terorista at tropa ng pamahalaan sa liblib

na lugar sa Tagalaan Lanao del Norte kamakalawa. Ayon kay Capt. Clint Antipala, acting deputy chief ng public affairs office ng 1st Infantry Division (ID) ng Phi Army, nakasagupa ng 4th Mechanized Infantry Battalion (IB) at ng National Bureau of

NI JOY CANTOS

Investigation (NBI) agents ang natalabi pang miyembro ng Daulah Islamiyah Maute dakong alas-8:30 ng umaga sa Brgy. Malimbato at Upper Dimayon ng bayang iio.

Ang palitan ng putok ay tumagal ng may 10 minuto na nagresulta sa pagkakapatay

sa Maute-ISIS member na kinilalang si Hadji Rasol Mambuay aliyas 'Mercury'. Narekober mula rito ang isang Eliseco M16 A1 rifle, isang hand grenade, isang magazine, dalawang handheld radio at sari-saring mga materyales para sa Improvised Explosives Device (IED).

Minalas namang mapatay sa bakbakan ang isang sundalo na hindi muna tinukoy ang pangalan habang inilipormahan pa ang pamilya nito.

Sinabi ni Antipala, ang mga nakasagupa ng mga awtoridad na Maute-ISIS ay ang mga nakatakas sa kasagsagan ng bakbakan sa Marawi City siege na nagumpisa noong Mayo 23, 2017 na umabot ng pitong buwan.

54



Maute remnant, soldier killed in Lanao clash

A TROOPER and a remnant of ISIS-inspired Maute Terror Group on Sunday were killed in an encounter in Lanao del Norte.

Captain Clint Antipala, spokesperson of the 1st Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, identified the slain Maute remnant as Hadji Rasol Mambuay alias "Mercury."

Antipala would not identify the slain soldier until the family was notified of the trooper's death.

Members of the 4th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, Philippine National Police Tagoloan and the National Bureau of Investigation went to Bgy. Malimbato Upper Dimauon, Tagoloan to arrest Dimanalan Dimanatang Iman

alias "Papavungan" and Hadji Rasol Mambuay alias "Mercury" and their supporters identified to be remnants of the terror group involved in the Marawi siege.

The authorities were approaching the area when they were met with

gunfire triggering an encounter.

The firefight lasted for about 10 minutes and resulted in the death of alias "Mercury" and the recovery of one Elisco M16 A1 rifle, one hand grenade, one short magazine, two handheld radios and sev-

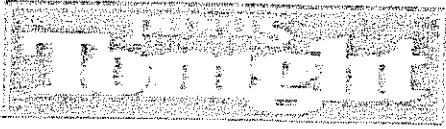
eral IED materials.

A soldier was also killed in the clash.

Maj. General Roseller Murillo, commander of the Joint Task Force ZAM-PELAN extended his condolences to the bereaved family of the fatalities.

Zaida delos Reyes

02



'ISIS trainer' barred entry

By ITCHIE G. CABAYAN

A PAKISTANI suspected of being a trainer for a terrorist group was barred entry into the country. /Page 6

ISIS...

From Page 1

This was learned from a report forwarded by Bureau of Immigration (BI) Deputy Commissioner and ports operation division chief Marc Red Mariñas to Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente, where he said that the Pakistani, identified as Naeem Hussain, 36, was intercepted last September 22 at the Clark International Airport (CIA) in Pampanga when he arrived aboard an Emirates Airlines flight from Dubai.

It was learned that

Hussain is in the BI's list of suspected international terrorists for being an alleged trainer of a terrorist group called 'Daesh,' which is also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Reportedly, its members have been waging a fanatical and brutal war against the US and its coalition partners in Iraq and Syria, where it wants to establish an Islamic caliphate.

Information with the BI said Hussain had been on the watchlist of the military intelligence community which sought the BI's help

in monitoring the Pakistani's possible entry or departure from the country.

During an interview, the passenger claimed that he had been working as a digital designer for the last 16 years and that he traveled to the Philippines to visit his Filipina girlfriend who lives in Olongapo City.

Meantime, records show that Hussain was already denied entry last May when he attempted to enter the country, also from Dubai, via the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NATA).

Mariñas said Hussain was immediately excluded and booked on the first available flight to his origin.

56



ISIS supporters nabbed in General Santos City

THREE suspected supporters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) yesterday were arrested in a police operation in General Santos City.

Arrested were Akmad Bulacon and his grandsons Muktar Bulacon and Zandro Bulacon.

Recovered from the three were a backpack containing two black emblems with ISIS printing, two blasting caps, ammonium nitrate, bandolier with several ammunition for 5.56 M16 rifle, one fragmentation grenade,

three rifle grenades and two motorcycles.

The suspects were arrested at Purok 1, Bgy. Palian, Tupi, South Cotabato at 2 a.m. yesterday.

Members of the PNP-Special Action Force, the South Cotabato Provincial Police Office and the Tupi and Polomoloc Municipal Police Stations went to Bgy. Palian to serve a warrant of arrest against Arafat Bulacon and Mohammad Bulacon who were suspects in the fatal shooting of PO1

Achilles Tablason last September 15.

However, when Arafat and Mohammad saw the approaching policemen, they ran away.

The father of Arafat and his two sons also tried to escape but were cornered by the officers.

The arrested suspects and the seized evidence were brought to the Tupi Municipal Police Station for proper disposition.

Police are hunting down Arafat and Mohammad.

Zaida delos Reyes



Terrorist-dealer killed in GenSan clash

A SUSPECTED terror group member and drug trafficker said to be involved in a bomb attack in General Santos City which injured eight persons last September 16 was killed in a gunbattle with anti-narcotics officers in Polomolok, South Cotabato on Sunday afternoon, Police Regional Office 12 director, Chief Superintendent Eliseo T. Rasco said yesterday.

Samrud Embang, a suspected member of the Ansar al Khilafa Philippines, an ISIS-inspired terror gang which has been blamed for a number of bombings in Mindanao resisted arrest by officers in Barangay Glamang in Polomolok town at 4:15 p.m. Sunday and engaged the lawmen in a shootout, the official said.

Officers returned fire, killing the suspect on the spot, said Rasco. The official said the suspect yielded a loaded caliber .38 revolver, a huge plastic packet containing a still undetermined amount of shabu and the marked

money handed to him by an undercover officer.

Rasco said members of the local Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency joined the police in conducting the anti-narcotics operation which targeted the suspect who is said to be included on President Duterte's drug watch list.

"He was one of the suspects in the September 16 bombing in General Santos City that injured eight persons," the official said.

An improvised explosive device went off in a highway in General Santos City around 11:40 a.m. last September 16 injuring eight innocent people, the youngest of them a 6-year old girl, police said.

The IED was detonated beside the TGP Generic Pharmacy near the Hadano Park in Crossing Makar along the national highway in General Santos City injuring the victims who were taken to the St. Elizabeth Hospital for treatments. **Alfred Dalizon**

What the youth should know about martial law

COMMENTARY

HELEN N. MENDOZA



ONCE UPON A TIME IN
THE NOT-SO-DISTANT PAST,
THE YOUNG WERE WILLING
TO SUFFER AND DIE
FOR THEIR COUNTRY

In the face of what Imee Marcos says about moving on and forgetting the past when the country was placed under martial law by her father, and considering how Bongbong talks as if his father, Ferdinand Marcos, was a benevolent dictator, I want to have my day in court and speak out.

I was a professor in UP when martial law was declared. I was there during the Diliman Commune when the brave students defied Marcos. I was there when the police/military broke into the campus and picked up many students, like the son of Flora Lansang. Many of those picked up were imprisoned and tortured, and some were never seen again.

Ateneo activists were not spared. Even women were not spared, like Liliba Hilao who was tortured and raped and was killed via muriatic acid poisoning. Jessica Sales, another activist, just disappeared—one of the multitudes of desaparecidos whose bodies were buried in some unknown grave.

Let us not forget Lean Alejandro, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan. Likewise, who killed Ka Lando Olalia, labor leader, who was abducted and killed and his mouth stuffed with newspapers? Who killed Dr. Juan Escandor in Bicol? He must have suffered so much. They broke his skull, scooped out his brains and stuffed his skull with his jockey shorts. What kind of people would be so brutal as to deny their prisoners a dignified death? Then there was Dr. Bobby dela Paz, shot in his clinic in Samar, just because he was serving the poor.

silenced by military rule. Soon, many organizations were born to resist the dictatorship. There was the Free-Legal Assistance Group, to represent those arrested and harassed, and the radical Bagong Alyansang Makabayan. Students of St. Theresa organized Teresang Makabayan. St. Scholastica had Kulasa. There was SAMAKANA, ABAKADA, JAJA (Justice for Aquino, Justice for All). Nelia Sancho formed her own organization.

Middle-class women formed the Concerned Women of the Philippines. The militant organization WOMB (Women for the ouster of Marcos and Boycott) was headed by the beautiful Maita Gomez, a former beauty queen. WOMB participated in many rallies; Odette Alcantara was our chief negotiator during those rallies. She was in charge of propaganda, and wrote a popular satirical column called "Los Enemigos."

Much has yet to be written about this era, so that the youth of today may draw inspiration from their predecessors who resisted the Marcos dictatorship. Yet, Imee Marcos says we should move on, meaning we should forget the past. Never! Who was it who said that one who forgets the past is condemned to repeat it?

Those who were killed and disappeared are legion. Our young people today should revisit history and learn that, once upon a time in the not-so-distant past, the young were willing to suffer and die for their country. As our anthem says, "Ang matatay nang dahil sa iyo."

Visit Bantayog ng mga Bayani and see the names and stories of those who died or disappeared during the dark days of the Marcos dictatorship, which was by no means a "benevolent dictatorship" as Bongbong Marcos seems to suggest.

But the Filipino people were not

Helen N. Mendoza, a retired professor of English and Comparative Literature in UP Diliman with an MA in English Literature from Stanford University and PhD in American Literature from the University of Minnesota, is the author of two books.

59

Ratings see-saw

SPEAKING at the Palace recently before the oath-taking for new career executive service officers—our equivalent of a civil service mandarin—President Duterte couldn't help indulging in another one of his flights of rhetoric, when he asked the audience:

"Ano ang kasalanan ko? Nagnakaw ba ako diyan ni piso? Did I prosecute somebody na pinakulong ko? Ang kasalanan ko lang yung extrajudicial killings."

Unfortunately, that last statement was like scraps of red meat thrown to the wolves. Immediately the usual critics—from UN rapporteur Agnes Callamard to Caloocan Archbishop Virgilio David to the hapless Senator Antonio Trillanes—were jumping all over Duterte's supposed admission of guilt to EJKs.

We don't suppose these folks will even listen to any other plausible explanation for this gaffe: that Duterte's native language is neither English nor Tagalog; that he was just being "playful" (to hear Harry Roque tell it); or—if you want to construct a whole semantical tree—that all three statements are formally equivalent descriptions of various crimes being alleged or imputed, which was why Duterte didn't see the need to qualify the EJK statement with "alleged."

The critics and the snobs often forget that the President—behind his accent and his profanity—is a trained lawyer and a former fiscal/prosecutor. When his mouth seems to be running off, it's likely that it's because he has a good reason for doing so.

What's making the wolves take their red meat against Duterte wherever they can find it, is his continuing ability to confound.

When Pulse Asia conducted its third quarter survey from September 1-7, Duterte's gross approval rating dropped by a full 13 points to 75 percent from 88 percent in June, while his gross trust rating dropped by an even higher 15 points to 72 percent from 87 percent in June. The declines were noted "across all geographic areas and socioeconomic groupings," according to Pulse, with the biggest drops recorded in "Balance of Luzon" and socioeconomic Class D.

It's virtually indisputable that the biggest cause for this decline was the crisis experienced with rice prices and shortages. This was also the reason for a similar

sharp drop in former President Ramos' ratings two decades ago.

Two weeks later, during SWS' own third-quarter survey from September 15-23, Duterte's gross satisfaction ratings moved in an entirely opposite direction. His gross score improved by 5 points to 70 percent, moving him up from "good" to "very good." His net rating of +54 was a full 9 points above a personal record low of only +45 just last June.

True, there were likely differences in methodology as well as timing between the two surveys. But it seems reasonable to credit Duterte's improvement in the SWS survey to any concrete measures his men may have taken to bring down inflation, as well as other subsequent developments like the revival of charges against Trillanes. If this was viewed positively by the public, the mutinous senator's supporters may wish to think twice about sticking with him.

“It's virtually indisputable that the biggest cause for this decline was the crisis experienced with rice prices and shortages.”

The relationship between the two largest economies in the world has been souring in recent months, especially after US President Trump went through with his threat to slap huge tariffs on \$200 billion worth of imports from China.

Last week, the US Air Force conducted B-52 bomber flights over the disputed South China Sea region. Japanese fighter jets escorted the bombers on Tuesday as they made their way through the desolate Diaoyu Islands, which are controlled by Japan but claimed by China. A senior US military official proclaimed that “the United States military will continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows at times and places of our choosing.”

The trade war is clearly spilling over into the military arena, with China protesting recent US arms sales to Taiwan, after the US instituted sanctions on Chinese officials over their purchase of Russian military equipment. And now the rest of the region is being pulled into a tug-of-war between both giants.

Last week, after co-chairing a US-ASEAN ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, US

Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan said that the meeting “reaffirmed the US-ASEAN strategic partnership and discussed US commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region with ASEAN at its center.”

Around the same time, speaking in Makati at the 69th anniversary of China's founding, Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jinhua said that “we firmly count on the Philippines to bring China-Asean cooperation and East Asia regional cooperation to a new high,” after the Philippines had earlier agreed to assume the role of China-Asean country coordinator last August.

And over at Camp Aguinaldo, at the annual meeting of the Mutual Defense and Security Engagement Boards of both countries, the Armed Forces announced that Manila and Washington had agreed to a higher number of 281 security cooperation activities next year, including military to military drills, tabletop exercises, visits and exchanges.

The tightrope that Duterte decided to walk between the US and China is now swaying ever more violently. If the US escalates its naval forays ostensibly in support of ASEAN, China may expect us to persuade ASEAN to express concern.

At the same time, China will be watching closely the conduct of those 281 military exercises—20 more than this year—between us and our oldest ally. This may seem risky now, but over the long term may actually be a good thing, since it puts some muscle behind our nominally non-aligned foreign and security policy.

Last week, the famously thin-skinned community of U.P. Diliman was up in arms over the mysterious “intrusion” of three uniformed policemen on campus. University President Danny Conception wrote PNP chief Director General Oscar Albayalde to express the “deep alarm” of his precious constituency.

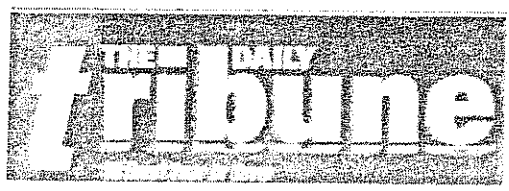
Well, it turns out that the three cops were not there to arrest or intimidate anyone. As a matter of fact, they were simply looking for student-trainees who might be able to help improve a museum inside Camp Crame. In other words, they were offering paid job training for a worthy cause.

To his credit, Albayalde was profusely apologetic. But, really, he shouldn't have been. The last thing the famously inflated egos need at their famously tax-subsidized “Republic of Diliman” is more of the same special treatment that over the decades has convinced them they deserve to be outside the reach even of the long arm of the law.

Readers can write me at gbolivar1952@yahoo.com.

AG

61



The historical Red October

Some assume that the term "Red October" is a casual cinematic allusion to a movie and a book. In literature, Tom Clancy's *The Hunt for Red October* is pure fiction. In reality, maybe it's not.

Clancy's book was about a betrayal and a submarine named after a rebellion. And it was about a vengeful and hate-filled naval officer gone rogue and treasonous. Note the uncanny parallels and the allusions to today.

While the color red implies communism and the date October implies imminence, such forebodings may be far more sinister than mere movie melodrama.

Given the possible conspiratorial authors of the term as applied to a reported destabilization plot against a duly elected and legitimate president and a fully functioning government substantially supported by the people, the labeling reveals a profound threat against our democracy.

Thereupon, the implied destabilization alarm turns scarier as dark trepidations and deep fears of insidious forces, both inside and outside the government, threaten to engulf us, sparking and re-igniting the same violence then threatened in the Oakwood Coup and the Manila Peninsula Rebellion.

While Clancy's fiction was about a single act of treason and betrayal, the Red October alluded to today involved coordinated planning, contrived imagery and far-reaching consequences that would eventually change a whole nation's course and



BYSTANDER
Dean de la Paz

its society according to the designs of an insidious cabal.

Allow us to array various aspects of the real historical Red October with the announcement of a conspiracy to destabilize the Philippine government plotted by conspiratorial critics and oppositionists seizing what they think is a timely opportunity given momentary economic downturns, organized wage demands and food shortages.

The term Red October goes back over half a century. Ominously, then as now, it was remotely connected with Philippine history.

In September 1905 a Russian battle cruiser docked at the US naval base in the Philippines left its safe haven for the Baltic seas. Christened the *Aurora*, the ship had been interred in the Philippines since 6 June 1905 after it had figured at the Battle of Tsushima during the Russo-Japanese War at the start of the last century.

Russia had lost that battle and among the three in the Russian Baltic Squadron that escaped being scuttled, intact and still seaworthy albeit battle-weary and war-damaged, the *Aurora* sailed to the Philippines.

At the end of the war the *Aurora* returned to the Baltic and from there until 1912, it would travel to various ports, including Asia, until eventually berthing at Petrograd (St. Petersburg) for major repairs and a retrofit. The year was 1916. Within a year, the *Aurora* would resurrect itself in history.

In the Winter Palace of Peter the Great, the last remnants of a Russian provisional government were surrounded and laid siege upon by the Bolsheviks. Soviet literature, officially records this time as the Great October Socialist Revolution. It was led by Vladimir Lenin. Outside the palace, but still within Petrograd, the insurrection was armed and would soon ignite violently.

It coincided with food shortages and demands for higher wages and the arrival of five naval destroyers that joined the *Aurora*.

66
Such forebodings may be far more sinister than mere movie melodrama.

At 9:45 p.m. on 25 October 1917, as pre-arranged, the *Aurora* fired a shot signaling the attack at the Winter Palace. This marked the start of the first communist government in Russia.

Within six months, the last of the Russian monarchy would die in a dark cellar, shot, clubbed, beaten and bayoneted -- an innocent family massacred ruthlessly. The remains of Czar Nicholas Romanov II and his family were then quickly buried deep in the Yekaterinburg bush.

Never mind that the Romanovs were, by then, long-before imprisoned and stripped of any power. Never mind that their innocent children were young, unmarried and fallen ill.

October 1917 would later be called "Red October." Far from cinematic allusions, these events turn gravely ominous as we've recklessly erased from legal memory violent crimes inflicted on us.

62

ONLINE NEWS 02 october 2018

www.inquirer.net

Palparan to be transferred to New Bilibid Prison on Oct. 3 – AFP chief

By: Nestor Corrales - Reporter / @NCorralesINQ

INQUIRER.net / 10:28 PM October 01, 2018



As of Monday, Oct. 1, 2018, retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. is still enjoying the relative comfort of the Army's custodial center two weeks after he was sentenced to serve life imprisonment in the national penitentiary for the kidnapping of two missing University of the Philippines students 12 years ago. (Photo by NIÑO JESUS ORBETA / Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. will finally be transferred to the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) on Wednesday, Oct. 3, Malacañang said Monday.

According to presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, confirmed to him that Palparan, who is currently detained at Camp Aguinaldo, would be transferred at the NBP on Oct. 3.

"Sir, accordingly this coming Wednesday," Roque quoted Galvez as saying.

Palparan was found guilty by Judge Alexander Tamayo of the Malolos Regional Trial Court for the kidnapping and serious illegal detention University of the Philippines students Sherilyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño in 2006. /atm

www.inquirer.net

Soldiers, civilian personnel, receive awards for aiding Marawi ops

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lala](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLalalNG](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:33 PM October 01, 2018

Fourteen soldiers and four civilian personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) received awards on Monday for their service to the country during and after the Marawi siege in 2017.

During the flag raising ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo, AFP Chief of Staff General Carlito Galvez Jr. pinned the Gold Cross Medal to 1st Lt. Eddie Badol, 1st Lt. Jed Joseph Dandasan, Sgt. Julius Garsuta, Sgt. Wayne Fillalan, PFC Marcelo Hora Jr., all from the Philippine Army (PA); and A1C James Gayotin from the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

The AFP said the golden cross awards were in recognition of their gallantry in action during the 2017 war against terrorist groups in Marawi City.

"These public servants are stewards of our institution — a crucial aspect that keeps us on our steadfast pursuit of becoming a world-class AFP. For it is through outstanding work that manifests our dedication to better serve our nation," Galvez said in his message.

A Distinguished Aviation Cross award was also given to 1st Lt. Julius Macasiray PAF for conducting aerial operations. The Distinguished Navy Cross, on the other hand, were given to Cdr Gilbert Villareal Jr. and SCPO Mario Vasquez, both from the Philippine Navy (PN) for being part of the Naval Task Unit Marawi.

The Chief of Staff Commendation Medals and Ribbons were given to PA's Maj Jeremy Damonsong, SSg Ariel Gregorio, and Sgt July Lipaopao for their achievements during the Marawi planning operations.

Other PA personnel such as Col. Noel Vestur and LTC Resurrecion Mariano were given the Gawad sa Kaunlaran for their activities in recognizing the soldiers' sacrifices.

The same award was given to Michael Manaois, Susan Bascon, Mark John Ulep, and Myka Loraine Nacionales, civilian employees who helped the beneficiaries of Killed-in-Action (KIA) personnel and the wounded soldiers.

On May 23, 2017, a group of separatists and extremists pledging allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) attacked the city of Marawi, burning several establishments and holding numerous residents captive. The siege ended on October 17, 2017, after military forces killed Maute Group and Abu Sayyaf leaders Omar Maute and Isnilon Hapilon.

Galvez said he hopes this would serve as an inspiration for soldiers and Filipinos to work for the betterment of the country.

"As we start another week, may we continually be motivated to work not for ourselves, but always for the benefit of our nation," he said. /ee

www.inquirer.net

Soldiers should not take sides, says Galvez

By: Gabriel Pabico Lala - Reporter / @GabrielLaluINQ

INQUIRER.net / 03:38 PM October 01, 2018

Soldiers should follow the chain of command and refrain from taking sides in politics, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Carlito Galvez Jr. said on Monday

“Let us not be disturbed by the political noise and to take sides,” Galvez told soldiers present during the flag raising ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

“We need to uphold our oath and obey the Chain of Command from the President, SND, down to our office chiefs and Section/Squad Leaders,” he added.

Galvez' comments came amid talks of some soldiers conniving with groups planning to overthrow the Duterte administration.

According to former AFP chief of staff and current Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, the administration has monitored efforts to recruit soldiers and policemen to join an ouster plot called “Red October.”

Duterte also lamented that despite the increases in soldiers' salaries, some have opted to join destabilization movements, which he attributes to the Liberal Party, the Magdalo group, and Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) rebels.

All three groups have denied involvement in the alleged ouster plot, saying that it is “far-fetched” and “merely a figment of the President's imagination.”

The AFP's top general also asked soldiers to unite amid contentious issues and to carry out their responsibilities.

“Let us remain solid and true to our oath, mandate and always undivided,” Galvez said. /ee

www.inquirer.net

Security officials want 'more teeth' for military, police to combat terrorism

By: Maia Ager - Reporter / @MAgerINQ

INQUIRER.net / 03:26 PM October 01, 2018

Give security forces more teeth to fight terrorism so the government would not have to impose martial law, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana urged lawmakers on Monday.

At a Senate hearing on various bills amending the 11-year-old Human Security Act, Lorenzana reiterated that martial law imposition should be the last option of the government.

The defense chief recalled telling lawmakers at the House of Representatives that there is a need for Congress to craft a law that will address terrorism, citing as example the "very strict" laws being used by other countries like Australia.

"So that sabi ko hindi natin gagamitin ang martial law kung meron tayong magagamit, bigyan natin ng konting teeth 'yung ating security agencies,'" Lorenzana said.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. echoed Lorenzana's sentiments as he stressed the need for more stringent measures to combat terrorism in the country.

Esperon also noted that by "mere suspicion" in Australia, suspects could be detained for as long as seven days or more.

"In our country, I don't know how this came about that if for our own martial law, we could only detain suspects in three days," he said.

"And I don't know why instead of giving the enforcers or the law enforces some more leeway or capabilities; I don't know why the Human Security Act could penalize us for mistakes that we could probably commit at the high rate of P500,000 a day."

"And considering that my base-pay then as an officer was something like P60,000, who would give me P440,000 so that I could commit a mistake for one day?," he added.

General Carlito Galvez, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, also lamented how a suspected bomber would be released because of what he described as "very permissive" anti-terror law in the country.

"The law does not really help the security forces to really do their job," he noted.

In some countries, Galvez said, suspects could be detained for 12 months or more on "mere suspicion."

Asked by Senator Panfilo Lacson, who is presiding over the hearing as chairman of the Senate committee on public order, how much do they need to detain a suspected terrorist, security officials proposed a 30-day detention.

At present, a suspect can only be detained for 36-hours or three days as provided for under the Revised Penal Code.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año explained that a 30-day period is enough time for security forces to conduct all "intensive investigation to follow up operations and do counter actions."

At the start of the hearing, Lacson has already indicated the committee's inclination to accept the proposal of the security officials.

In the same breath, Director General Alex Paul Monteagudo, of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency NICA, also agreed that the Philippines has the weakest anti-terrorism law in the region.

"While in Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia, which are much less affected by terrorism, the Philippines, which is the most affected country in the region, has the weakest law and it's now one of the reasons why we're attracting foreign terrorist fighters from other countries..." the NICA head pointed out. /kga