

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

05 October 2018

Friday



Honor. Patriotism. Duty

TABLE OF CONTENTS

05 OCTOBER 2018

Weather Forecast- http://pagasa.dost.gov.ph/weather/daily-weather-forecast		
Page Nr.	Title	Source
NATIONAL NEWS		
1-2	Duterte orders probe of missing seized rice	PDI-A1
3-4	Universities blast AFP over Red list: Prove	P Star-1
AFP/ SECURITY RELATED NEWS		
5	Phi Navy tours Russian sub	P Star-1
6	Rody wants missing Zambo rice probed	P Star-9
7	Rody not sick, just took day off – Palace	P Star-1
8-9	Decorated soldier now Bilibid inmate	PDI-A1
10	Galvez statement on Trillanes amnesty hearsay-Panelo	PDI-A6
11	Trillanes coup hearing starts	M Times-A3
12	Mother sees 'partial justice'	PDI-A6
13	Palparan leaves Army custody, transferred to Bilibid	M Bulletin-2
14-15	Maximum security prison awaits Palparan	M Times-A1
16	Palparan moved to NBP	Tempo-3
17	No VIP treatment kay Palparan-'Bato'	Ngayon-6
18-19	PNP warns 'anti-gov't' professors of charges	P Star-1
20-21	Military soft-pedals on school 'infiltration'	PDI-A1
22	School officials deny reports of rebel recruitment in campuses	M Bulletin-6
23-24	117 CPP-NPA members supporters yield in Bukidnon	M Bulletin-1
25	Air, ground forces pursue rebels in Agusan	M Bulletin-15
26-27	Military sets talks with universities, colleges	M Times-A1
28-29	Euro funds flow to Reds	D tribune-1
30-31	PNP targets teachers	M Standard-A1
32-33	Military backtracking?	Malaya-B1
34	Metro schools deny recruitment by Reds	Tempo-3
35	Malapitan asks UCC execs: 'Explain rebel recruitment	P Journal-12
36	18 unibersidad sa MM, nabulabog ng AFP report	PM-3
37	18 paaralan minomonitor na –NCRPO	Ngayon-2
38	3 BIFF men slain in Maguindanao	P Star-16
39	Arms bombs seized from BIFF lair	Malaya-B2
40	AFP uncovers war arsenal in Maguindanao	D Tribune-7
41	Maute nemesis is new DSWD secretary	Malaya-B1
42	P4.55-B for ARMM 'parked pork' found in neighboring regions	M Bulletin-7
EDITORIAL/OPINION/COMMENTARY		
43	Unwholesome atmosphere	P Star-13
44-45	Avoid Marcos' military solutions to everything	P Star-13
46	From Russia, with love	PDI-A15
47	Teachers aren't heroes	PDI-A15
48	The paradox of autocracy	M Bulletin-12

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

49	New People's Academy	D Tribune-5
50-51	Sign of a split	M Standard-A4
52	Rice, poverty, insurgency	M Standard-A5
53-54	Calida tries to bury his can of worms	Malaya-B4
55-56	Weaponized fake news	D tribune-4
ONLINE NEWS		
57-58	AFP doesn't tag schools involved in CPP recruitment	www.pna.gov.ph

DUTERTE ORDERS PROBE OF MISSING SEIZED RICE

Malacañang has relieved the Zamboanga customs collector and customs police commander for the loss of 23,000 sacks of rice smuggled from Malaysia that the Coast Guard seized in August and September.

By Christine O. Avendaño and Julie Allpala
@Team Inquirer

"Visibly upset" over the missing 23,015 sacks of rice smuggled from Malaysia that the government had earlier seized, Presi-

dent Duterte ordered "an immediate and thorough" investigation of the incident in Zamboanga City.

"The President was really angry because how do you lose 23,000 sacks?" presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said

on Thursday at a news briefing.

He said it was Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea who told him about the President's instructions after Mr. Duterte learned about the missing rice.

Roque said Mr. Duterte instructed the National Food Au-

thority (NFA) officer in charge and Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña to "immediately place on preventive suspension individuals who may be part of the scheme."

He said Lapeña told him his office had administratively re-

lieved Zamboanga district collector Lyceo Martinez and Customs police district commander Filomeno Salazar.

The Customs chief also said he had sent a team of investigators to Zamboanga to look into the incident, according to Roque.

It was the crackdown on smuggling of rice from Malaysia, coupled with a depleted rice reserve of the NFA that precipitated the severe rice shortage in Zamboanga City and Tawi-Tawi.

The severe shortage **A2**

FROM A1

sent prices of commercial rice soaring to P70 a kilogram in Zamboanga City and to P60 a kilo in Tawi-Tawi, prompting their respective local governments to declare a state of calamity.

Prices of commercial rice in other parts of the country also surged, which led to calls for the sacking of NFA Administrator Jason Aquino, who later asked to be relieved of his post.

Malacañang has acknowledged that the high rice prices pulled down the approval and trust ratings of President Duterte last month.

Roque said the rebel of Martinez and Salazar was "for the purpose of ensuring they cannot tamper with evidence

and they cannot influence the investigation."

But he said authorities had started on Oct. 1 to recover 16,000 sacks of rice.

The rice was found over the weekend in the Basulta Traders Corp. warehouse and two other warehouses.

The missing rice was said to be valued at more than P20 million.

Intercepted

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in Zamboanga intercepted 23,000 bags (50 kg per bag) from three wooden-hulled boats—ML Aizalyn 3, ML Jasmin Michelle and ML Habiba—in August and on Sept. 1.

Customs Commissioner Lapena witnessed the official turnover of the rice seized by the PCG to the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

On Sept. 22, the rice was supposed to be given to typhoon

victims.

On Sept. 28, the PCG and the BOC received reports that the rice was missing.

In Zamboanga City, Martinez said he was not suspended.

"I am just relieved of my duties and obligations as district collector of Zamboanga City so I cannot influence or affect the ongoing investigation regarding the missing 23,000 bags of rice," he told the Inquirer.

Martinez said suspension would spell criminal liability. "I am optimistic that my name will be cleared."

PCG commander implicated

LE Commander Noriel Ramos, district commander of the PCG in Zamboanga City, was also implicated in the missing rice by Salazar, the customs' police commander.

"My name was dragged into

this controversy because this Salazar claimed that I was the one who reportedly ordered the unloading," Ramos said in an interview.

"That's not true. We officially turned over the rice to the Customs and it was properly documented and I don't follow any orders from Customs police," he added.

Martinez said it was Salazar who ordered the release of rice but the latter claimed that the order was issued by Ramos of the PCG.

"I don't follow orders or issue orders to other agencies. My jurisdiction is only the Philippine Coast Guard," Ramos said.

"Besides, we only turn over the smuggled goods to Customs and the Customs is the one mandated how to dispose this. We don't have resources like warehouses and trucks to load those rice."

Martinez said they raided several known warehouses in Zamboanga City starting Oct. 1 and recovered around 11,000 sacks from three warehouses in Barangays Tetuan, Kasanyangan and Suterville. **INQ**

SMUGGLED RICE Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapena inspects two boats loaded with smuggled rice from Basilan, which were apprehended by the Philippine Coast Guard in Basilan province in late August. —JULIE AURALA

Universities blast AFP over Red list: Prove it

By JANVIC MATEO

After being tagged as breeding grounds for communists and recruits for a destabilization plot against President Duterte, several universities yesterday dared the military to prove its accusation lest it endanger the security of students and undermine the integrity of educational institutions.

Lawyer Joseph Noel Estrada, who specializes in education-related issues, said the release of the list without any solid proof or evidence is irresponsible and reckless.

One of the schools on the list – Caloocan City College – does not even exist.

"It should be rectified immediately. It puts all students in these colleges and universities at risk because they are now

perceived as possible communists or rebels," Estrada told *The STAR*. "This also unduly affects the integrity of these schools named."

Estrada is the legal counsel of the Philippine Association of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities and the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines.

He also serves as counsel for Emilio

Aginaldo College (EAC), one of the 18 higher education institutions (HEIs) in the military's list.

In a statement issued for EAC, Estrada said the college vehemently denies the allegation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that it is being used by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) for recruitment of students.

Turn to Page 8

"EAC and its students have no record of participation in any partisan political activity and, in fact, are known to be more involved in outreach and community programs because of its medical and allied health courses," read the statement.

"Absent any proof or factual basis, the statement made by the AFP should be rectified immediately. Such statement undermines the safety and security of the students of EAC as they are now looked upon as possible communists or rebels," it added.

The AFP claimed that the CPP is trying to incite students to rebel against the government through film showing activities that depict the dark years of martial law during the Marcos dictatorship.

But according to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), showing of films about martial law should not be deemed subversive. It stressed that martial law is an established fact and part of the country's history.

"The commission is alarmed by the release of the AFP of the list of universities allegedly involved in CPP recruitment," CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia said.

"This blanket act of red-tagging endangers students and the youth and it may give the AFP a license to arbitrarily infringe on the freedom of expression, the right to petition government, as well as to assembly," she added.

De La Salle president Armin Luistro said it was obvious that the universities are showing films about martial law in time with the commemoration of its declaration last Sept. 21.

"There is nothing wrong in a university setting where many ideologies are discussed. Connecting that with an actual plot to overthrow government is an entirely different matter," he said in an interview with ABS-CBN News Channel yesterday.

"It's a created fear. They're creating a scenario that's not even there by talking about the supposed 'Red October' plot. And to me, that's the scary part. If your official intelligence group talks about that scenario, I think they have a modus that's out of the usual," he added.

Luistro earlier said that the AFP should have discussed the matter with school officials and not release it to the media if there is

substantial information to support their claims.

Outrage

In a statement, the Far Eastern University (FEU) said it is fully committed to nation building and does not support efforts to destabilize the government.

"FEU is not promoting or condoning any on-campus movement to destabilize the government," it said.

University of Santo Tomas secretary general Jesus Miranda, in a report by student publication The Varsitarian, said the AFP should first provide proof before dragging the university into its claims.

"Maybe they are just stereotyping or because we are a Catholic university and there is a perception that we are against the present government. Is that why we are being tagged?" he was quoted as saying.

Rey Jetajobe, University of Caloocan City (UCC) EDSA campus administrator, also denounced the military's allegation.

The UCC - formerly Caloocan City Community College and Caloocan City Polytechnic College - was erroneously listed by the AFP as "Caloocan City College."

Caloocan City Mayor Oscar Malapitan said he met with UCC officials who denied the allegation but vowed to look into the matter

anyway.

UP vice president for public affairs Jose Dalisay Jr. earlier declined to comment on the matter, saying university officials have yet to see the report of the military on which the allegations were based.

Student regent Ivy Taroma warned that the list could endanger students in the universities.

University of Makati president Tomas Lopez said their management has no knowledge of any student activity linked to the AFP claims.

"While we protect the rights of our students to free speech and assembly, we also strongly adhere to the principles of democracy as enshrined in our Constitution," he said.

"Our student development efforts are centered on providing them programs that will strengthen their employability and readiness for work after graduation. As a local academic institution, we do not participate in any partisan political initiatives, but rather, we focus on efforts to strengthen the value of citizenship in young Filipinos so they can become productive members of our society," he added.

Michael Arthur Camifia, legal officer and spokesman of the Makati City government, said they might file charges against the AFP.

Black Friday

Amid the AFP's allegations, militant student groups said they would organize activities to protest the red tagging of students.

Students from some of the schools tagged by the military yesterday announced plans to hold a Black Friday protest today and a nationwide walkout on Oct. 12.

Student councils at UP also issued a unity statement on the allegations.

"Instead of addressing the lack of free education for the youth, the skyrocketing prices of basic goods and services and the rampant extra-judicial killings in the country, the Duterte administration chose to turn its back on us," it read.

"The implications of this barbaric accusation can lead to attacks against our right to organize and to express our aversion to the true state of our nation," it added.

Other universities in the list include Adamson, Polytechnic University of the

Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and the University of the East campuses in Manila and Caloocan.

Also included are San Beda University, Lyceum of the Philippines University, University of Manila, Philippine Normal University and the Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology.

The National Union of the People's Lawyer of the Philippines slammed the AFP for using "red scare" tactics to create a climate of fear and insecurity and portray itself as a victim of destabilization.

"The state cannot stand the fact that Duterte is unpopular among the youth for his deadly wars against the people. The malicious tagging of schools is hence part of the fabricated plot used by the state to vilify students who fight against Duterte's tyrannical rule," said the organization.

"Why are AFP and Duterte allergic to fora and films that tackle Marcos' martial law and its similarities with the dictatorship that Duterte is imposing? They hate the truth because lies are the foundation of their rule," it added.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said the AFP's red-tagging universities was irresponsible and dangerous.

"It is an attack on academic freedom, free speech and the right to organize," said Bayan secretary-general Renato Reyes.

"The AFP desperately tries to link protests on various issues to an imagined destabilization plot," he said.

Reyes also decried linking the film screenings on martial law and protests against extrajudicial killings to the alleged destabilization plot by the CPP.

"Not only is this paranoia, clearly this is an attack on the rights of students and faculty to take up social issues. This is intended to stifle all forms of dissent," he said.

"This is meant to scare school administrators and student groups and dissuade them from joining any action critical of the regime. It is a good thing that administrators and student groups are speaking out to rebuke the AFP," the Bayan official said.

Reyes said the attacks on academic institutions would only open the eyes of the youth to the anti-democratic character of the regime. - With Marc Jayson Cayabyab, Rhodina Villanueva, Robertzon Ramirez

Phl Navy tours Russian sub

By JAIME LAUDE

VLADIVOSTOK – The visiting Philippine Navy contingent got to see the inside of the vaunted Russian Kilo Class submarine yesterday.

Naval Task Force (NTF-87) commander Capt. Florante

Gagua and BRP *Tarlac* skipper Capt. Estelito Lagadia led the group of Filipino sailors on a tour of the submarine guided by their Russian counterparts.

The government has been scouting for big-ticket defense items in line with the

Turn to Page 3

Phl Navy From Page 1

modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Russia is among the countries that have expressed readiness to supply the Philippines with needed military equipment and has offered the Philippine government a soft loan for its planned submarine procurement.

"We're hoping that in coming years, the Philippine Navy will have its own submarine," Gagua said.

On the lighter side, the PN treated their hosts to a dinner reception. The Russian guests particularly enjoyed biko (rice cake) and local spirits.

They also joined in the Tinikling, gamely trying the dance without getting their feet caught between the bamboo poles. The Navy cultural dancers also performed the Carenyosa and Subli

folk dances, as the Marine Band played non-stop music that had everyone on the dance floor.

"Literally, we have won their friendship. The number one reason why we are here is to establish friendly partnership," a naval officer said.

Earlier, Philippine Ambassador to Moscow Carlos Sorreta said he felt so proud and happy seeing a Philippine Navy boat approach the berthing area at this city's naval facility last Monday.

"During Cold War, out there in the open sea, we both considered each other as foes. But it's entirely different now," Sorreta said.

He cited the Navy for helping the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in performing its mandated task by establishing friendly and diplomatic relations aligned with the country's independent foreign policy.

Rody wants missing Zambo rice probed

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte has ordered an investigation on the missing sacks of rice in Zamboanga City, Malacañang said yesterday as it expressed belief that the anomaly was the result of collusion among some officials.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Duterte became upset upon learning about the missing sacks of rice.

"At 6:45 this morning, I got a text from the executive secretary asking me to inform the nation that the President was visibly upset with the missing 23,015 sacks of apprehended smuggled rice in Zamboanga City," Roque said at a press briefing yesterday.

"The President has ordered an immediate and thorough investigation of this incident and that instructions were given for both the NFA OIC (National Food Authority officer-in-charge) and customs commissioner to immediately place on preventive suspension individuals who may be part of the scheme," he added.

Roque said Zamboanga customs district collector Lyceo Martinez and customs police district commander Filomeno Salazar were relieved from their posts pending the investigation of the incident.

"The purpose (of the administrative relief is to ensure that) they cannot tamper with evidence and they cannot influence the investigation," Roque said.

Martinez estimated that the over 23,000 bags of smuggled rice is worth more than P40 million.

Efforts are underway to

recover the missing rice. Authorities have so far recovered 16,000 sacks of rice from various warehouses.

Last Monday, they recovered around 5,000 sacks of rice from the warehouse of Basulta Traders Corp. The next day, they found 3,000 sacks of rice at the Suterville warehouse on Manga Drive and an estimate of 8,000 sacks of rice at the Kasanyangan Compound in Sta. Catalina.

Bureau of Customs (BOC) spokesman Erastus Sandino Austria said that Commissioner Isidro Lapeña has relieved Martinez and Salazar for losing 23,000 sacks of seized smuggled rice.

The BOC said last Sept. 22, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) intercepted three vessels that reportedly contained 23,015 sacks of smuggled rice at the Ben Go Wharf in Baliwasan, Zamboanga City.

The seized rice were then turned over to the BOC for inventory and to issue a warrant seizure and detention (WSD). However, last Sunday, it was reported that the said rice were missing.

Lapeña sent a team from the bureau's Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) to Zamboanga to investigate the case.

The investigation would cover not only Martinez and Salazar, but it would also check if there were other Customs officials or personnel involved the missing rice shipment.

- With Evelyn Macairan, Ruel Pareño

Rody not sick, just took day off - Palace

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

As rumors swirled that President Duterte was rushed to a hospital the other day, presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. yesterday assured the public that the Chief Executive is not ill.

"Absolutely, no truth to it. He just took his day-off," Roque said, adding that the President always has a full schedule even during week-ends when he visits military and police camps.

Turn to Page 10

Rody From Page 1

He said there is no reason the President would not disclose if he is suffering from an illness.

"His health is fine. The President is a lawyer. He will inform and conform with the Constitution if there is a serious health ailment, but there is none," Roque said.

Under Section 12, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution, "in case of serious illness of the President, the public shall have the right to be informed about his state of health."

Roque parried questions on why the President did not proceed with his schedule on Wednesday, which included the monthly Cabinet meeting.

"I don't think he really cares about the rumors. We are about to see him again this afternoon - there is a command conference and there's a dinner with the PMA association," he added.

At press time, Roque posted a video showing the President shaking hands with acting Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, Philippine National Police chief Director General Oscar Albayalde, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and top police and military officials.

"He is not sick. Sorry to his detractors," he said in his Facebook post.

At a press briefing, Roque maintained the President is doing well.

"I assure you that I have no information that he went to a hospital," he said when asked if Duterte went for a routine check up and was hospitalized.

"I have my sources and he was just in his residence," he said.

In a recent speech, Duterte said he had undergone laparoscopy and endoscopy to check on his stomach problems.

The President on Wednesday postponed a monthly Cabinet meeting at Malacañang and the turnover of P 5-billion check from the Philippine Gaming Corp. for the President's social fund.

"(President Duterte) decided he wanted to take a day-off but I would like to assure you that the P5-billion check was not absconded by Executive Secretary (Salvador) Medialdea. It was turned over to the President and the President was very happy with it," Roque said.

"I was looking at his schedule. He had schedules almost every day. He did not actually have a day-off, so the President decided to just have a private time," Roque said.

Apart from a command conference with the police and the military, Duterte also met with former president Fidel Ramos, who invited Duterte to the launch of his new book.

The President also met with Metrobank awardees, said Special Assistant to the President Bong Go.

7

Decorated soldier now Bilibid inmate

The once feared Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. arrived at New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City on Wednesday night an angry man with nothing but a cigarette. In happier days, Palparan was a decorated soldier, party-list lawmaker and ally of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison for the kidnapping of two University of the Philippines students in 2006. —STORY BY MATTHEW REYSIO-CRUZ



By Matthew Reysio-Cruz
@MatthewINQ

In happier days, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. was a decorated soldier, party-list representative, and powerful ally of his then commander in chief, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

On Wednesday night, Palparan arrived at New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City an angry man with nothing but a cigarette.

But the guards seized even that.

Ronald dela Rosa, chief of the Bureau of Corrections (Bucor), told reporters on Thursday that Palparan would have 40 years to cool off in Bilibid.

Judge Alexander Tamayo of Branch 15 of the Bulacan Regional Trial Court sentenced Palparan on Sept. 17 to life imprisonment for the kidnapping of University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan in 2006.

The two women were never seen again.

Motion thrown out

Palparan had asked the court to allow him to stay in military custody while he was appealing his conviction.

Bulacan RTC Branch 19 had ordered the military to keep Palparan in its custody while he was being tried for illegal detention, also in Empeño-Cadapan case.

But Judge Tamayo, invoking

a Supreme Court directive for the immediate transfer to Bilibid of convicted felons, threw out his motion on Tuesday and ordered him transferred to the national penitentiary.

Palparan arrived in Bilibid at 7:45 p.m. on Wednesday, ending a controversial stay in a military jail at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

His convicted coaccused, former Army Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado and former Army

S/Sgt. Edgardo Osorio, were transferred to the national penitentiary on Tuesday.

All prisoners equal

The man called "The Butcher" by human rights defenders because of the killing of activists anywhere he was assigned as military commander was clapped in a cell with 37 other inmates at Bilibid's Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC), where he would spend

60 days undergoing medical checkup, counseling and briefing on prison rules.

"No VIP treatment," Dela Rosa promised.

"If he must sleep on carton, he will sleep on carton," the former chief of the Philippine National Police added.

In a brief interview with reporters inside his cell, Palparan said he would go through the normal processes.

"I'm as normal as anybody,"

he said.

Asked if he expected special treatment, Palparan said he didn't.

He and his cellmates were "equal," he said.

Dela Rosa said he believed Palparan feared encountering convicted communist rebels in prison.

"That's the one thing we will watch," Dela Rosa said. "If they hurt General Palparan, we will hurt them also."

Quarantine

Dela Rosa said it was normal for new prisoners to be quarantined at the RDC.

At the center, prisoners are assessed to determine what reformational program they should be put through.

After assessment, Palparan will be moved to the maximum security block.

Dela Rosa said he expected Palparan to adjust quickly to life in congested Bilibid.

Like other prisoners there, he will try to survive on P20 a day.

Palparan told reporters he felt good after his first night in Bilibid.

His cell was larger than a typical Bureau of Jail Management and Penology cell, which had a national congestion rate of 620 percent.

The diagnostic center had a long dining table.

On Thursday, there were plates of rice and bowls of *tinola* soup for the prisoners. INQ

Galvez statement on Trillanes amnesty hearsay—Panelo

By Julie M. Aurelio
@JMAurelioINQ

President Duterte's chief legal counsel has rejected the statement of the country's military chief that Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV indeed applied for amnesty in 2011, saying it was mere hearsay.

Salvador Panelo challenged the soldier-turned-senator to stop making excuses and just face the music.

The President and the state, he said, "will not be held hostage to an alleged amnesty grantee who continues to commit atrocities against the duly constituted bodies of our government."

"Trillanes should face the music and start to dance his way either to freedom or to jail," Panelo added.

Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, admitted in a Senate budget hearing on Tuesday that Trillanes, the fiercest critic of Mr. Duterte in Congress, applied for amnesty.

Colonel's affidavit

Galvez based his remarks on the affidavit of Col. Josefa Berbital that she administered Trillanes' oath when the senator applied for amnesty under the Aquino administration.



Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr.



Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV

Last month, the President issued Proclamation No. 572, which voided Trillanes' amnesty and ordered his arrest.

The proclamation's grounds were his supposed failure to apply for amnesty and admit his guilt in attempts to overthrow the government during the 2003 Oakwood mutiny and the 2007 Manila Peninsula siege.

However, video footage and coverages by news outfits showed that the senator applied for amnesty and that his application was found to be in order by the Department of National Defense.

Panelo said Galvez's statement based on Berbital's admission was not a direct proof that the senator indeed filed an application for amnesty.

Galvez, he noted, only read from Berbital's affidavit and explained that he had no personal knowledge if Trillanes applied for amnesty.

'Not an admission'

"Clearly, such attribution by General Galvez to Colonel Berbital is not an admission that Senator Trillanes indeed filed an application. As to General Galvez, the alleged admission, which is not, but assuming that it is, is not admissible in evidence the same being hearsay," Panelo said.

He added: "Trillanes should exemplify his bona fide intention to uphold the rule of law and give respect to the authority of the duly constituted bodies of government, which he has not." INQ

Trillanes coup hearing starts

THE Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 148 will hear on Friday, October 5, the coup d'etat case filed against Sen. Antonio Trillanes 4th.

During the legal proceedings, evidence to prove that the senator did apply for amnesty will be presented.

The senator underwent similar procedures during the first and last hearing of his rebellion case at the Makati RTC Branch 150 on September 14. The court issued a warrant for his arrest.

Branch 150 Judge Elmo Alameda said arrest warrant was issued because of Trillanes' failure to present his amnesty application form.

Trillanes will not be attending the court proceedings but he expressed confidence that his legal team can handle it.

Asked if he was worried that he would again be ordered arrested, Trillanes said he would point to the Department of National Defense since it is the department that has custody of such documents.

"I implore the court to turn its attention to DND for the application form. All application forms are submitted to the office where we applied for it. It's a massive stupidity if you'll look for it from the person who applied," he said

**NEIL JAYSON N.
SERVALLOS**

JAIL SENTENCE

MOTHER SEES 'PARTIAL JUSTICE'

By Carmela Reyes-Estrope @careyestropelNQ

CITY OF MALOLOS—The mother of missing University of the Philippines student Sherlyn Cadapan on Wednesday said she wanted to see former Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. at New Bilibid Prison to question him about her daughter.

Palparan was transferred to the national penitentiary on Wednesday night after he was convicted on Sept. 17 of kidnaping in the disappearance of Sherlyn Cadapan and another UP student, Karen Empeño, in 2006.

Erlinda Cadapan was in court with Karen's mother, Concepcion Empeño, when Palparan was sentenced to life imprisonment.

"We want to be the first visitors he sees on his first day of the rest of his life languishing in jail," said Erlinda Cadapan, mother of Sherlyn. "If he wants his sentence to be shortened, he should disclose where they have been keeping our daughters."

She described Palparan's prison sentence as "partial justice" because the families of the missing UP students still didn't know what happened to the two women.

"We are still searching for our daughters. We will continue and will never tire of searching for them. The military should look for those responsible for their abduction," Cadapan said. INQ

Palparan leaves Army custody, transferred to Bilibid

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Retired Army Major General Jovito Palparan Jr. was transferred Wednesday night from the Philippine Army Custodial Center (PACC) in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, to the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City.

Army Spokesman Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva confirmed Thursday that Palparan, retired Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado Jr. and retired S/Sgt. Edgardo Osorio were formally turned over to the National Bilibid Prison, Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC).

Major Amer Minanga, custodial center jail warden, turned over the three to RDC officials led by Superintendents Ma. Elena Chua and Gerry Salamat.

The transfer came 16 days after Judge Alexander Tamayo of the Malolos City Regional Trial Court Branch 15 found the three guilty of kidnapping and serious illegal detention in the case that stemmed from the 2006 disappearance of University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan.

The court sentenced the three men to life imprisonment and ordered each of them to pay ₱100,000 as civil indemnity and ₱200,000 to the families of Empeño and Cadapan.

A co-accused, M/Sgt. Rizal Hilar-

io, remains at large.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) had insisted it is not protecting Palparan by deferring his transfer to the New Bilibid Prison.

AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, said the AFP was merely submitting to the judicial processes already in place and running.

Arevalo said Palparan and his co-accused are facing two cases: One before Malolos court for the Cadapan and Empeño case and the other with the Regional Trial Court Branch 19 presided by Judge Francisco Felizmenio for Manalo brothers case.

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

Arevalo said that in the Cadapan and Empeño case, Palparan's lawyers had appealed that implementation of the transfer order be deferred until the case is resolved.

"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," Arevalo said.

"To resolve the conflicting commitment orders, the PACC on September 24, 2018 filed a Manifestation with Motion praying for the court determination which commitment order prevails. The hearing was held on Friday (September 28, 2018)," Arevalo said. 2

Maximum security prison awaits Palparan

RETIRED Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, now among convicts at the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa City, would soon be transferred to the maximum security compound.

Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Ronald de la Rosa on Thursday said Palparan would undergo five days of physical and psychological examinations after which he would be subjected to 55 days of assessment

► PalparanA2

■ PALPARAN FROM A1

Maximum security prison awaits

"to distinguish which kind of rehabilitation he would be subjected to."

The BuCor chief said the retired Army official would not receive any special treatment from officers, citing that a pack of cigarettes was confiscated from Palparan upon his admission to the national penitentiary on Wednesday night.

Palparan was convicted by the Malolos Regional Trial Court Branch 15 of serious illegal detention and kidnapping of two students of the University of the Philippines.

NEIL JAYSON N. SERVALLOS

Palparan moved to NBP - 3

Retired Army Major General Jovito Palparan Jr. was transferred to New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City Wednesday night following his conviction over the disappearance of two University of the Philippines (UP) students.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said Palparan was moved to the NBP at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday from his detention cell at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

The secretary said the transfer finally took place after the Malolos City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 15 turned down Palparan's appeal to hold his turnover to NBP.

He added that the RTC cited Supreme Court-Office of the Court Administrator (SC-OCA) Circular No. 163-2013 which "directs all trial

court judges to cause the immediate transfer of convicted persons to the NBP, regardless of the pendency of a motion for reconsideration or an appeal."

"I have personally discussed the matter with AFP chief Galvez (Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr.), who has assured me that the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) custodial center will immediately comply, without prejudice to the resolution of any further judicial review," Guevarra said.

Last Sept. 17, Judge Alexander Tamayo of Malolos City RTC Branch 15 issued a decision finding Palparan guilty of kidnapping and serious illegal detention as penalized under the Revised Penal Code.

The case stemmed from the 2006

disappearance of UP students Karen Empeno and Sherlyn Cadapan.

Also found guilty with Palparan were Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado Jr. and S/Sgt. Edgardo Osorio.

The court sentenced the three men to reclusion perpetua and were each ordered to pay P100,000 as civil indemnity and P200,000 to each of the families of Empeno and Cadapan.

Meanwhile, Bureau of Corrections Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa assured that there will be no special treatment for the Army major general.

"Promise. Walang VIP treatment. Normal lang siya doon. Wala siyang request," said Dela Rosa who visited Palparan Wednesday night. **(Jeffrey Damicog, Jonathan Hicap)**

No VIP treatment kay Palparan – 'Bato'

Tiniyak kahapon ng pamunuan ng New Bilibid Prison (NBP) na itatrato nilang pangkaraniwang bilanggo at hindi bibigyan ng vip treatment si convicted retired Major General Jovito Palparan Jr.

Pahayag ito kahapon ni Bureau of Corrections Chief Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa.

Bilang patunay ay kinumpiska nila ang sigarilyo ni Palparan nang dumating ito sa Bilibid.

Mananatili muna si Palparan ng 60-araw sa Reception and Diagnostic Center ng NBP bago ito ilipat sa Maxi-

mum Security Compound.

"Madali naman kasi sa na'y naman ako sa hirap so hindi naman problema. Secured 'yung lugar. Nandun naman 'yung normal na ammenities," ani Palparan.

Sabi ni Dela Rosa bahagi ito ng standard procedure na pinatutupad sa lahat ng bagong pasok na inmates para ma-orient sila sa tamang protocol.

Nabatid na bago ito inilipat sa NBP, na-detained si Palparan sa Philippine Army Custodial Center sa Taguig City noon pang 2014

habang dinidinig ang kaso nitong pangingidnap sa UP students na sina Sherlyn Cadapan at Keren Empafon na hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa natatagpuan.

Matatandaan na si Palparan ay hinatulan ng Malolos, Bulacan Regional Trial Court Branch 15, ng reclusion perpetua noong Setyembre 17 ng taong kasalukuyan.

Kasama ni Palparan sina Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado Jr. at S/Sgt. Edgardo Osorio, na hinatulan naman ng hanggang 40-taong pagkakulong (*Lordeth B. Bonilla*)

PNP warns 'anti-gov't' professors of charges

By **EMMANUEL TUPAS**
and **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

On the eve of World Teachers' Day, the chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) warned professors and faculty members of possible charges if they are found to be instigating students to rebel against the government.

Director General Oscar Albayalde issued the warning yesterday in response to protests from some universities over their inclusion in the military's list of 18 educational institutions in Metro Manila allegedly serving as recruitment centers for the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA).

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said some students of the schools in the list were being readied for Red October, the supposed plot to oust President Duterte.

In a news briefing at Camp
Turn to Page 8

PNP From Page 1

Crame, Albayalde said professors should be charged for imputing false information on the minds of their students.

"What if we file charges against teachers who are instigating students? They should also be charged for contempt, if there are among faculty members," Albayalde said in English and Filipino.

He also denounced what he claimed was the involvement of some professors in activities critical of the government.

"Who gives them their salaries? Isn't it the government and the Filipino people?" he said.

He also castigated students of state universities who are criticizing the government.

"You are given free education by the government and you haven't graduated yet and you're already going against the government," he said.

"When we were given free education, we were required to serve the country for a minimum of eight years," said Albayalde, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy.

The AFP meanwhile clarified that its release of the list was meant to "create awareness" and not to sow fear.

"We have reports of concerned parents communicating to us their worries about the 'brainwashing' activities that their children were subjected to like film showing, video teleconferencing with a terrorist leader like Jose Ma. Sison and Martial law reenactments during break time of high school students, etc.," AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said.

He said the AFP's decision was intended to "create awareness among our people, especially parents who were complaining and asking for our help."

Being parents themselves, Arevalo said AFP officials and personnel "join the multitude of parents wary of these creeping indoctrination of their children that tend to draw them into activism and radicalism."

"Beware of the wolves in sheep's clothing. Thus we caution school administration and parents about some members of the NPA infiltrating the schools," he added.

Arevalo said the AFP is reaching out to the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education and the administrators of some of the schools to seek their help in stopping the radicalization of students.

- With Alexis Romero

'RED OCTOBER' PLOT

**MILITARY SOFT-PEDALS
ON SCHOOL 'INFILTRATION'**

By Jeannette I. Andrade
@jiandradeINQ

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. on Thursday said the military was open to dialogues with administrators and student councils of 18 Metro Manila schools earlier identified by one of his deputies as recruitment hubs for communist rebels for a plot to oust President Duterte.

In an interview with radio station dzMM, Galvez clarified that the Armed Forces of the Philippines was "still validating" whether the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's

AD

FROM A1

Army (NPA), were indeed recruiting in all the schools that Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, had identified on Wednesday.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) scored the military for the "Red tagging" of the schools based on "unverified" information and warned that this could lead to repression of student activism.

"This blanket act of Red tagging endangers students and the youth and it may give the AFP a license to arbitrarily infringe the freedom of expression, the right to petition government, as well as to assembly," said CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia.

In a press briefing at the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines, one of the schools on the AFP list, student leaders pushed back against the military allegations that they would be used for the communist-led "Red October" plot.

They said the listing—along with the recent bomb scares in several schools in Metro Manila, Bulacan and Iloilo provinces—could be used to

justify the declaration of martial law outside of Mindanao where it has been imposed.

Crackdown fears

Malacañang tried to douse fears of a crackdown on the schools.

"There was no order to curtail academic freedom, there was no order to curtail freedom of expression," said presidential spokesperson Harry Roque.

Galvez said the list of schools was among documents recovered in military counterinsurgency operations and pertains to a part of the commu-

nist party constitution, which stated the rebels' intention to "create a broad coalition consisting of students and youth, labor and indigenous people."

According to Galvez, the broad coalition would be concentrated in Metro Manila "so they could have critical mass in preparation for this October, November, culminating to (the CPP's) 50th anniversary" in December.

He gave assurance that the military would closely coordinate with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education in holding

dialogues with the school authorities.

In a press briefing, Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Albayalde said he has directed the National Capital Region Police Office chief to talk with the concerned school officials "so we can find out how we can help."

School activism

In a separate statement on Thursday, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said students were being drawn toward activism in "arouse-organize-mobilize" schemes and eventually recruited as "regular NPA cadres

and leaders to fill up the dwindling number of political cadres."

He said some parents were concerned about alleged "brainwashing activities" in schools, particularly martial law film showings and reenactments as well as video teleconferences with CPP founding chair Jose Maria Sison.

It is the students that are being targeted by the military, retorted Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) student Jose Torio, who is also a member of the Katipunan chapter of Kabataan Partylist.

"We are being targeted in

our own universities by being given starring roles in the Red October fiction that this administration is touting," Torio said.

Films about atrocities

Michael Jusayan of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) chapter of the League of Filipino Students, said films about the atrocities under dictator Ferdinand Marcos were being shown during commemorations of this dark episode in the country's history.

In a statement, the UST Central Student Council slammed the military allegations as "outrageous, inappropriate and questionable."

De Guia said the martial law film screening should not be labeled subversive, "especially because it is part of our nation's history and an established fact, the teaching of which is required by various laws and therefore, not illegal."

Roque tried to quell apprehensions, saying the President himself "has not only practiced ultimate tolerance on freedom of expression but has also practiced maximum tolerance on peaceful assemblies for redress of grievances." —WITH REPORTS FROM MELVIN GASCON, JULIE M. AURELIO, JHESSET O. ENANO AND CEDRIX PEREZ INQ

School officials deny reports of rebel recruitment in campuses

By EDMA R. EDERA

Officials from various universities and colleges in Metro Manila have denied reports that their students were being recruited to join communist rebels as part of a plot to oust President Duterte.

The reactions came after Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr. on Wednesday tagged at least 18 schools where the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) is recruiting students. The alleged plot also includes showing a film on martial law to incite students to rebel against the current government, Parlade said.

University of Santo Tomas (UST) Secretary General Fr. Jesus Miranda Jr. said the military should back up its claims.

What is their proof? Or maybe they are stereotyping that because we are a Catholic university we are against the present government, Miranda told the *Varsitarian*, the official student publication of UST.

Officials of Emilio Aguinaldo College also denied the allegations and appealed "for circumspection and care in making

public allegations to shield the educational institution and its students from any political publicity."

University of Makati President Tomas Lopez Jr. said in a statement that their school "does not participate in any partisan political initiatives but rather focus on efforts to strengthen the value of citizenship in young Filipinos so they can become productive members of the society."

The University of the East (UE) Student Council also said in a statement that there were no recruitments happening inside their campus.

The *Catalyst*, official student publication of Polytechnic University of the Philippines called the 'Red October' plan to destabilize the government as "a myth."

Nicholo Domingo of the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD) called it "a government tactic to divert the people's attention to anti-people policies such as the TRAIN Law and rice tariffication."

Other schools named by Parlade as "notorious for school activism" were UP Manila, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, Adamson University, Far Eastern University, UE Caloocan, Eulogio

"Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST), San Beda Lyceum, Caloocan City College (University of Caloocan), University of Manila, and Philippine Normal University (PNU).

Also included in the list is the "Caloocan City College" which may be the University of Caloocan City, originally known as Caloocan City Community College when it was established in 1971 and later became Caloocan City Polytechnic College from 1974 to 2011. It became a university in 2004.

In a press statement, Mayor Oscar "Oca" Malapitan instructed the University of Caloocan officials not to tolerate any form of recruitment for the CPP-NPA.

Meanwhile, top police officials are planning to meet with heads and administrators of colleges and universities that were tagged as hotbeds of recruitment of the NPA by the military.

Director General Oscar Albayalde, chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), said he had already instructed the leadership of the Metro Manila police force to initiate the dialogues with heads of the colleges and universities.

"Since all the universities mentioned are here in Metro Manila, we will engage these universities, one way or their other we will talk with the heads of these universities to find out what help we could offer," said Albayalde. (With a report from Aaron Recuenço)

117 CPP-NPA members, supporters yield in Bukidnon

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - At least 117 members and supporters of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) from various parts of Bukidnon voluntarily surrendered to the government on Tuesday and vowed to support the peace and development program of the

Duterte administration.

Capt. Norman M. Tagros, Civil Military Operation Officer (CMO) of the Army's 403rd Infantry (Peacemaker) Brigade, said among those who surrendered were 20 members of the CPP-NPAs Militia ng Bayan (MB) who brought along with them three high-powered automatic rifles and 15 low-powered firearms, and ►11

117 CPP-NPA members...

◀1

97 members of the Sangay ng Partido sa Lokalidad (SPL).

"Some of them (surrenderees) were also members of the Underground Mass Organizations (UMO) of the CPP-NPA-NDF," Capt. Tagros said.

He said all the rebel returnees took their oath of allegiance before the Republic during a mass surrender ceremony in Sitio Mainaga, Barangay Iba, Cabanglasan, Bukidnon, at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The ceremony was attended by Cabanglasan Mayor Renante V. Inocando, Brig. Gen. Eric C. Vinoya, commanding general of the 403rd "Peacemaker" Brigade; Police Senior Supt. Benedicto T. Pintor, provincial director of Bukidnon PPO; and Lt. Col. Ronald M. Illana, commanding officer of the 8th Infantry Battalion (8th IB).

After taking their oath of allegiance to the government, the rebel returnees burned the CPP-NPA-NDF's flag as a testament to their intent to reject and deny violence and terrorism by the said organization.

Mayor Inocando said the event was "very symbolic" in relation to peace and unity and freedom from all threats of violence and terrorism, the 403rd CMO officer added.

Lt. Col. Illana encouraged the surren-

derees and the community to sustain their allegiance to the government and not to be afraid of the CPP-NPA.

"We would like to encourage all of you to always be supportive of the government and its peace and development thrusts. Do not fear of the CPP-NPA because your Philippine Army and your Philippine National Police, in collaboration with the local government unit, are here to assist you," said the 8th IB commander, in his message during the ceremony.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Vinoya, who co-chairs the Bukidnon-Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) Committee, assured the former CPP-NPA members and supporters of the government's assistance through the E-CLIP.

"You have made a good decision by rejecting violence and terrorism posed by the CPP-NPA. Now that you have embraced peace, rest assured that the government will assist you through the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program or E-CLIP. NPA regulars and Militia ng Bayan members will receive cash and livelihood assistance, firearms remuneration, and housing, health, and employment assistance. This is to prove the sincerity of the government through the leadership of

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to end violence, promote peace, and help our former rebel brothers and sisters," said the 403rd "Peacemaker" Brigade commander.

Likewise, during the ceremony, the LGU of Cabanglasan conducted delivery of basic services and consultation dialogues among the affected residents.

In Sarangani, the provincial government has offered additional benefits to NPA rebels who wish to return to the folds of the law and join the mainstream society.

Sarangani Gov. Steve Solon said NPA surrenderees will receive additional benefits under the provincial government's E-CLIP*, including PhilHealth, housing, and scholarship benefits.

Under the new guidelines effective last April, Solon said NPA rebel surrenderees are entitled to receive ₱2,400 yearly PhilHealth premiums, ₱1,400 monthly

modified conditional cash transfer, ₱5,000 monthly conditional transitional cash grant, ₱10,000 college stipend for one dependent studying in state college and university, ₱65,000 immediate cash assistance and a housing package worth ₱450,000.

The NPA surrenderees will also receive livelihood skills training from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and Alternative Learning System from the Department of Education.

The benefit package does not include the cash incentives for the firearms they will surrender.

Lizet Lopez, E-CLIP provincial focal person, said some 200 former NPA rebels had been enlisted into the E-CLIP program of the provincial government since 2013, while 14 of them will receive the new additional benefits under the new guidelines. (With a report from Joseph Jubelag)

Air, ground forces pursue rebels in Agusan

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP DATU LIPUS MAKAPANDONG, Awa, New Leyte, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur – Ground forces of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), supported by attack helicopters, are hot on the heels of fleeing New People's Army (NPA) rebels, Wednesday, Maigang area, Barangay Kauswagan, Loreto, Agusan del Sur province.

Troops of the 26th Infantry Battalion (26th IB), supported by two MH520 attack helicopters of the Tactical Operations Group (TOG) of the Philippine Air Force's (PAF) Strike Wing, were pursuing, as of press time, close to 50 NPA terrorists in the mountainous border between Agusan del Sur and Compostela Valley (ComVal).

The rebels were said to be members of Guerilla Front 3 of the CPP-NPA Southern Mindanao Regional Committee, said Maj. Rodolfo S. Cordero, Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer of the Army's 401st Infantry (Unity) Brigade based here.

"Our pursuing troops are following the blood trail from the

enemy's route of withdrawal," the 401st CMO officer said.

The massive pursuit operation took place after combat maneuvering troops of the 26th IB engaged the NPAs in an almost 30 minute fierce gunfight in Maigang area in Loreto town at 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

The rebels, disengaged from the fire fight after sensing that more reinforcements of combat troops from nearby town were coming, Maj. Cordero said.

"Operating troops of the 26th IB believed that undetermined number of NPAs were either killed or wounded in Maigang gunbattle as several blood stains were seen in the gunbattle area and route of withdrawal," claimed of the 401st CMO officer, quoting the initial report coming from the field.

There was no casualty on the side of the government.

Troops were able to recover in the scene of gunbattle one AK47 rifle, with live ammunitions, 3 complete set of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), bomb materials, assorted medicines, personal belongings and subversive documents, he said.

Military sets talks with universities, colleges

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police on Thursday said they would be seeking dialogues with top of-

ficials of colleges and universities that are alleged to be recruitment ground of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New

People's Army (NPA).

Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said the AFP would hold talks with the Department

► **TalksA8**

Military

of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) regarding the allegation.

He said they were "validating" if the 18 schools named by Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr., AFP assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, are indeed fair game for CPP and NPA recruiters.

PNP Chief Oscar Albayalde said they would help straighten facts.

"We are not going to condemn but we want to help them in teaching what is right and what really is happening. It's all part of the education and to know the whole picture because it is dangerous if they don't get that from their teachers and schools who are considered as second parents," he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Albayalde said the PNP would not deploy police units in these universities.

Galvez said the AFP would open its doors for dialogues with officials and administrators of the schools.

"I will call on our DepEd Secretary [Lionor Briones] and the CHED, we will look into it and we will make some actions on that and we will make sure that we will do what should be done to make things right," Galvez said.

The 18 universities and colleges named by Parlade were the University of the Philippines Diliman, UP-Manila, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of Santo Tomas, Adamson University, Far Eastern University, University of the East-Recto, UE-Calocan, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology, San Beda University, Lyceum of the Philippines University, University of Makati, University of Calocan City, University of Manila and Philippine Normal University.

Galvez said their information on these universities and colleges was based on documents retrieved by troops during their armed clashes with the NPA.

The final activity, Galvez said, would be the CPP's 50th anniversary in December this year.

Galvez mentioned text messages from parents received by the military reporting that their children were being shown films and documentaries in their schools

highlighting the Martial Law abuses under then-strongman President Ferdinand Marcos.

The films and documentaries would later be "dramatized" with brutalities of the military during the Marcos years.

Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, AFP spokesman, said some of the schools named "have been known to have been used... for communist recruitment."

"The students are agitated initially toward activism, mobilize them as militants and finally recruit them as regular NPA cadres and leaders to fill up the dwindling numbers of political cadres," Arevalo noted in a statement.

He said there were parents reporting to the AFP the "brainwashing" of their children, the video teleconferencing with CPP founder Jose Maria "Joma" Sison and the reenacting of Marcos' military rule during breaktime of high school students.

Some schools tagged by Parlade denied their involvement in communist-related activities.

The University of Santo Tomas, through its secretary general Fr. Jesus Miranda Jr., said the accusation is a form of "stereotyping" by the Philippine military.

"Maybe [they are] stereotyping or because we are a Catholic university and there is a perception that we are against the current government, is that it? Is that why we are being tagged?" Miranda said, through the university's official publication *The Varsityian*.

In a statement, the Emilio Aguinaldo College said its students have no record of participation in partisan political activities.

"In fact [the students] are known to be more involved in outreach and community programs because of its [offering of] medical and allied health courses," according to Joseph Noel Estrada, legal counsel.

The Lyceum of the Philippines University also said it has no knowledge of the alleged recruitment of students.

"As a private academic institution, one of LPU's core values is nationalism," it said in a statement.

University of Makati President Tomas Lopez Jr. said they have no knowledge of student recruitment.

"While we protect the rights of our students to free speech and assembly, we also strongly adhere to the principles of democracy as enshrined in our Constitution," he added.

**DEMPSEY REYES
AND ROY NARRA**

Euro funds flow to Reds

'Wittingly or unwittingly'

These funds are being used to establish schools where they teach children about violence

**By Mario J. Mallari
and Kristina Maralit**

Europe-based socialist groups, wittingly or unwittingly, are funneling funds to the Communist

Party of the Philippines (CPP) which, in turn, uses the money to finance the armed revolution waged by the New People's Army (NPA) against the government. Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr.,

assistant deputy chief of staff for operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), said CPP's "international solidarity works" is centered in Europe

Turn to page 2

Malacañang said it is firm on its belief that some members of the Liberal Party have their hands on the so-called "Red October" ouster plot

From page 1

where socialist organizations employ to solicit funding.

Malacañang said it is firm on its belief that some members of the Liberal Party (LP) have their hands on the so-called "Red October" ouster plot led by the CPP.

Reacting to an earlier statement issued by Sen. Francis Pangilinan calling on Duterte to stop linking the opposition party to the CPP-NPA and the Magdalo Partylist over the alleged conspiracy to overthrow President Rodrigo Duterte from power.

Pangilinan said the AFP clearing them of any involvement should put the issue to rest.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the administration's confidence remains high that the plot will not bear fruit.

Financial aid intended for non-government organizations (NGO) ends up with the NPA (the armed group of the CPP), the official said.

Financial aid intended for non-government organizations ends up with the New People's Army.

Parlade said the communist group is taking advantage of the influence of CPP founding chair Jose Maria Sison with various European NGO.

"Let me emphasize that they (CPP) are very influential there because Joma Sison is the head of the International League of People's Struggle in

Europe. This is an organization of socialist organizations in Europe," Parlade said.

"This is one way for them to generate funds," he added.

Schools for communies

Parlade recalled an instance when the CPP got 620,000 Euros equivalent to about P31 million which was originally intended for an NGO based in Bukidnon involved in the "Healing the Hurt" program.

"But the money was diverted to the guerrilla base. These funds are being used to establish schools where they (CPP-NPA) teach children about violence," Parlade said.

Parlade added the military estimates that 40 percent of the funds solicited by the CPP from European donors go to the CPP Central Committee.

The military official added the CPP is using Europe as a stage to attack the government - riding on the issues of alleged human rights violations and extra judicial killings to gain sympathies."

In fact, Parlade said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary general Renato Reyes has visited Europe to hit the Duterte administration for alleged extrajudicial killings (EJK) and human rights violations.

Report credible

Roque said the intelligence report on the "Red October" movement stands.

"I don't think the military cleared them at all. I think the AFP's intelligence report remains. Investigation is still going on and if we obtain additional evidence, then perhaps it could be followed with the filing of cases. Let's allow our law enforcement agencies to do their work," Roque said.

"We have no doubt that 'Red October' exists but we also have no doubt that nothing will come out of it because of the incredible

PNP targets teachers

Those sowing 'Red ideology' face contempt raps

By Nat Mariano, Francisco Tuyay,
Joel Zurbano, Rio Araja
and Maricel Cruz

FILIPPINE National Police chief Dir. Gen. Oscar Albayalde on Thursday warned college professors who teach communist ideologies that they will be charged with contempt as he scolded students of state universities for biting the hand of the government that shoulders their free education.

Albayalde made the statement even as Malacañang downplayed concerns that the hunt for conspirators in the Red October plot to oust President Rodrigo Duterte will lead to a crackdown against student activists.

Armed Forces deputy chief of staff for operations Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr. on Wednesday identified 18 colleges and universities that have allegedly been tapped for communist recruitment.

"What if we charge teachers who instigate their students? They should also be charged for contempt for teaching such things to our students. We in the PNP sacrifice our lives for our country.

We are trying to save generations. Yet we teach these rebellious

Next page

PNP...

From A1

ideas] to our students," Albayalde said. "In state universities, you are given free education by the government. And yet you have not yet graduated and you are already going against the same government that gives you free education. Students in state universities are considered the cream of the crop. They should be the hope of the land," he added.

Video telecon with Joma, films on martial law

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said they have received complaints from parents who were worried that their children were being "brainwashed."

"Their children were subjected to like films showing video teleconferencing with a terrorist leader like Jose Ma. Sison; and Martial law reenactments during break time of high school student, among others," Arevalo said.

"As a good number of us in the AFP are parents ourselves, we join the multitude of parents wary of these creeping indoctrination of their children that tend to draw them into activism and radicalism. Beware of the wolves in sheep's clothing—this we caution schools administration and parents about some members of the NPA infiltrating the schools," he added.

Albayalde said the PNP will "engage" schools to "help" them stop the alleged infiltration.

He, however, clarified that cops will not be deployed to guard the 18 universities tagged by the AFP.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Carlito Galvez, for his part, said he will seek a dialog with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education to address the alleged CPP infiltration of private and state universities and colleges.

"We will take action on that. We will make sure that whatever needs to be done will be done," Galvez said.

Guardians of Constitutional freedoms

Arevalo said it was not the intention of the military to red-tag the 18 schools, namely the University of the Philippines (Diliman and Manila), Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of Santo Tomas, Adamson University, Far Eastern University, University of the East (Recto and Caloocan), Emilio Aguinaldo College, Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology, San Beda, Lyceum, University of Makati, University of Caloocan, University of Manila, and Philippine National University.

"We wish to assuage the fear of our people about this recent development. This was not intended to brand those schools as communist," he said.

"We do not censure, but as a matter of fact guard and support freedom of speech, of assembly, and of redress of grievances. But such should be done in a manner peaceful and orderly, and with due respect to other people's rights. Because the moment they resort to violence, the AFP will be there to prevent lawlessness," Arevalo added.

Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said student activities need not worry that their rights will be repressed.

"The President highly tolerates freedom of expression. That's one thing we have to give credit to the President," he said.

"It [identification of the 18 schools] is not a cause of worry. It is just a statement of fact. We have no doubt that none of the schools are openly supportive of such initiatives [by the CPP]," Roque added.

CHR alarmed, schools deny recruitment

The Commission on Human Rights, however, expressed alarm over the red-tagging or the practice of branding a person or an organization as being supportive of the communist movement.

"This blanket act of red-tagging endangers students and the youth and it may give the AFP a license to arbitrarily infringe the freedom of expression, the right to petition government, as well as to assembly," CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia said.

"The AFP should be more prudent in matters such as this," De Guia added. Galvez himself admitted that the list released by Parlade is still being validated.

Several colleges and universities in the military's list have condemned the military's allegation that communist rebels have been recruiting their students.

"UP as a national university is open to all. We want our students to be exposed to all views and opinions, and all sectors of society. There are so many issues students are concerned about. To call them communist is trying to obscure the issue," said UP Chancellor Michael Tan said.

DLSU president Bro. Armin Luistro described the "Red scare" as a "wild accusation."

"To me, if there's nothing substantial about the report, then that's the only logical explanation why they are even spilling this out in the press. Media release of an intelligence report does not help any," Luistro told ANC's Headstart.

UST Secretary General Fr. Jesus Miranda said the burden of proof lies with the military. "There is a perception that we are against the present government. Is that why we are being tagged?"

"Such statement undermines the safety and security of the students of Emilio Aguinaldo College as they are now looked upon as possible communists or rebels," EAC legal counsel Joseph Noel Estrada said.

Military backtracking?

AFP chief: Info on 18 schools still being validated

BY VICTOR REYES AND EVAN ORIAS

AFTER naming 18 Metro Manila schools where the communist movement is allegedly recruiting students for a supposed plot to oust President Duterte, the military is now saying not all the 18 have been verified to have recruitment activities.

AFP chief Gen. Ricardo Galvez yesterday said the military is "still validating" information about the 18 schools linked Wednesday to the "Red October" ouster plot by Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, assistant AFP deputy chief of staff for operations.

Galvez said the military released the

information just to make the university officials "aware" of recruitment activities which he said was based on documents seized or recovered from communist rebels.

He did not name which schools have been confirmed to have recruitment activities.

Several of the schools and student leaders denied the military's claims on Wednesday.

Yesterday, the lawyer of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Association of Private Schools, Colleges, and Universities said the AFP made an irresponsible and reckless statement.

"It should be rectified immediately.

It puts all students in these colleges and universities at risk because they are now perceived as possible communists or rebels," said Joseph Noel Estrada who represents other educational organizations.

He added the AFP's claims will also adversely affect the integrity of the schools in the list.

The Makati city government, which is managing the state-run University of Makati (UMAK), said it is studying cases that may be filed against the AFP for including the names of the schools in the list.

Aside from UMAK, Parlade named the University of the Philippines-Manila and UP Diliman, Polytechnic University-Sta.

Mesa, Ateneo de Manila, De La Salle University, University of Sto. Tomas, Adamson University, Far Eastern University, University of the East-Recto, UE-Caloocan, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology, San Beda College, Lyceum of the Philippines University, University of Caloocan (identified by Parlade as Caloocan City College), University of Manila, and Philippine Normal University.

Emilio Aguinaldo College said it has not recorded incidents of students participating in political activities. It also said

See AFP > Page B6

AFP

the school is involved in outreach and community programs.

"The college appeals for circumspection and care in making public allegations to shield the educational institution and its students from any political publicity," it said.

Far Eastern University said it is committed to nation-building and does not promote any on-campus movement that will destabilize government.

UP chancellor Michael Tan confirmed UP has been showing anti-Marcos videos to students for decades but said it does not mean they are being recruited to the Communist Party of the Philippines or its armed wing, the New People's Army.

He also said the claim against the schools is a "replay" of events during martial law.

De La Salle Philippines president Bro. Armin Luistro, who served as education secretary during the Aquino administration, said, "The University does not allow such groups to recruit members nor to hold activities that incite students to rebellion inside campus premises."

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said schools identified by Parlade "have been possibly used as venues for arousing, organizing and mobilizing students by NPAs."

He stressed, however, that recruitment in some of the schools "are subject of continuing validation."

"Having said that, we (military) are firm in our position that some of the schools in that list have been, and widely known to have been used, as fora for communist

recruitment," he said.

"Some of the other schools in the list are being targeted. The students are agitated initially towards activism, mobilize them as militants, and finally recruit them as regular NPA cadres and leaders to fill up the dwindling number of political cadres," said Arevalo.

DIALOGUE

Galvez said the Armed Forces will hold a dialogue with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and school officials to prevent the recruitment.

He also said CHED has admonished a UP department official "for supporting the ouster of President Duterte, which he said "is not right."

He did not name the official or when this took place.

Galvez said the communists have been associating the martial law declared by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to the current administration of President Duterte.

"They are being brainwashed," he said of the students.

"They (communists) have conducted film showing pertaining to the (Marcos) dictatorship and then later on, they dramatize brutality in the military and (project) a dictatorship is still looming under the administration of President Duterte," he said.

"They will create a broad coalition of students, youth, labor, peasants, and indigenous peoples so that they could attain a critical mass for this October, November and culminating during their 50th anniversary this coming (December)," he said.

Metro schools deny recruitment by Reds ⁻³

Officials of various universities and colleges in Metro Manila have denied reports that their students were being recruited by communist rebels to join their ranks as part of a plot to oust President Duterte.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr. tagged on Wednesday at least 18 schools where the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) has allegedly been recruiting students.

The rebels are allegedly using film showings on martial law to incite students to rebel against the current government.

Emilio Aguinaldo College officials denied the allegations on Thursday and appealed "for circumspection and care in making public allegations to shield the educational institution and its students from any political publicity."

University of Santo Tomas (UST) secretary general Fr. Jesus Miranda Jr. said the military should prove its allegations against the university.

"Siguro i-prove muna nila kung bakit nasama. Ano yung mga proof [at] mga detalye. Or baka naman [they are] stereotyping or because we are a Catholic university and there is a perception that we are against the present government, ganoon ba yon? Is that why we

are being tagged?" Miranda told the *Varsitarian*, the official student publication of UST.

Mark Abenir, director of UST Simbahayan Community Development Office, said that "it is a big allegation in the university."

"I do not understand why they are red-tagging the University for standing up for human rights, standing up against the return of any form of dictatorial rule," Abenir told the *Varsitarian*.

On the other hand, University of Makati president Tomas Lopez Jr. said in a statement that their school "do not participate in any partisan political initiatives but rather focus on efforts to strengthen the value of citizenship in young Filipinos so they can become productive members of the society."

The University of the East (UE) Student Council also said in a statement that there were no recruitments happening inside their campus.

The *Catalyst*, official student publication of Polytechnic University of the Philippines, said that "Red October" is merely a myth.

"It is not surprising that the broad alliance against Duterte's dictatorship and tyranny continues to grow and gain support while his regime continues to plunge the people in extreme poverty exacerbated by rabid anti-people

Malapitan asks UCC execs: 'Explain' rebel recruitment

CALOOCAN City Mayor Oscar "Oca" Malapitan talked with the officials of the University of Caloocan City about reports that the university is a recruitment ground for the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

Prof. Rey Jetajobe, EDSA Campus Administrator, said Mayor Malapitan ordered the university officials not to tolerate any form of recruitment for CPP-NPA.

"Upon hearing the news, Mayor Oca immediately consulted with the school administrators and said that if proven that there's any, he will be the first one to act on the matter," Prof. Jetajobe explained.

The campus administration denied any knowledge on the report.

As an academic institution, Malapitan said the University of Caloocan City strives to edify its students to be active members of the society and contribute to the well-being of the city and country.

Meanwhile, a radio report said that AFP Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr. claimed that he was misquoted by the media with his statements regarding universities allegedly involved in the recruitment.

VR Edd Reyes



GUS ARELLANO

18 unibersidad sa MM, nabulabog ng AFP report

LABING WALONG unibersidad sa Metro Manila ang tinukoy ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na rito sihasabing aktibo ang ginagawang recruitment ng New Peoples Army (NPA) para sa planong "Red October" plot laban kay Pangulong Digong.

Siyempre sa matapos ipalabas ang mga pangalan ng unibersidad, patagan na ang pamumuhan ng mga paaralan kasabay nang pagtatanggap sa natitirang report ng AFP.

May katwiran din naman sihaag, sabina na sana raw bago isapubliko ang mga unibersidad na ito, ay naurin na munaang kinunan nang pahayag ang mga opisyal ng paaralan.

Kung susumahin, matuturing ng militar ang ulat na isang intelligence report, siguradong matinding pagsubaybay o imbestigasyon ang kailangang isagawa bago nita nabiti at bakslap ang ganitong impormasyon, gayundin hindi naman kaya malagay sa alanganin ang mga mag-aaral, lalo na ang wala naman talagang kalamayan.

Sa isang banda, tumikha rin ito kailit papaano ng takot at pangamba lalo na sa pang ng mga magulang na ang kanilang mga anak ay nag-aaral sa mga binanggit na unibersidad.

Pero, pambuwag din naman ng AFP ang kanilang imbestigasyon na kaya nita isapubliko ang mga unibersidad ay para mabigyan na rin ng kalamayan ang mga mag-aaral at mga magulang sa ginagawang paghuhukok ng ilang NPA rebels. Ito ay para sila makapag-ingat at mag-ingat mapagmasid sa mga lalapat sa kanila at mag-aiyak ng kung ano-anoong ideya at kaisipat na pwede hilang ikapahamak.

(Sundan sa page 4)

RESPONDE: Mula page 3

Sa pang naman ng mga paaralan, imbes na mag-angangawa, dapat din silang gumawa ng hakbang o imbestigasyon, tignan baka naman magbibulag-bulagan lang sila kahit bulgar at kitang-kita ang ginagawang recruitment.

Hindi rin naman nila mapipigilao kung ano gusto ng kanilang mag-aaral, pero ang tamang paggabay at paalala ay kailangan.

Sa huli, nasa tao pa rin,

alam niya kung saan siya lulugar, siya ang ang babang-lanse sa tina o mali pero kailangan pa ring may pamuhay ng mga magulang at mga opisyal ng paaralan.

Mas makabubuti marahil kung magkakaroon ng diyalogo sa pagitan ng mga awtoridad, pamumuhan ng mga paaralan, isama ang mga magulang at mag-aaral. Para ito mapag-usapan at makapag-paliwanagan ng sa huli ay wala ang sisihan.

34

18 paaralan minomonitor na - NCRPO - Sa NPA recruitment

Minomonitor na ngayon ng National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) ang mga kolehiyo at unibersidad sa Metro Manila na tinukoy ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na may ginagawang recruitment ang New People's Army (NPA).

Inihayag ito kahapon ni NCRPO Chief, Director Guillermo Eleazar, kasunod nang pagbubunyag ng AFP ng mga pangalan ng 18 colleges at universities

sa Metro Manila kung saan aktibo ang recruitment ng NPA ng mga estudyante para sa "Red October" ouster plot laban sa Pangulo.

Gayunman, nilinaw ni Eleazar na kahit minomonitor ng NCRPO ang mga binanggit na mga eskwelahan ay walang magaganap na pag-aresto at pagpasok sa mga ito.

Inatasan na rin ni PNP chief Dir. Gen. Oscar Albayalde si Eleazar na makipag-usap sa mga pa-

munuan ng mga naturang paaralan upang malaman kung paano makakatulong ang PNP para hindi mabiktima ang mga kabataan ng panlooko ng mga komunistang.

Sa panig naman ni AFP chief of staff Gen. Carlito Galvez, sinabi nito ang paghahangad niya na makausap din ang kalihim ng DepEd at ang CHED.

Aminado ito na kailangan pang i-validate ang mga impormasyon mula sa mga dokumento

na kanilang narekober sa mga komunistang.

Layunin lang nito ay upang itaas ang "awareness" ng mga magulang na nag-aalala para sa kanilang mga anak na maaring mabiktima ng panlilinlang ng NPA.

Nabatid kay Galvez na ang nasabing mga kolehiyo at unibersidad ay nasa mga dokumentong nasamsam sa CPP-NPA.

Inihayag pa ni Galvez na sa mga nakalipas na engkuwentro ay mga es-

tudyanteng mga bagong recruit ang kabilang sa mga napapatay sa hanay ng NPA at maging sa mga naarestong rebelde.

Sabi pa ni Arevalo, mga magulang din ang mga nasa hanay ng AFP na nag-aalala sa "creeping indoctrination" na nagresulta sa pagkahumaling ng mga mag-aaral sa radikalismo.

Para naman kay PNP chief Albayalde, tung mayroon mang maling naitu-

turo sa mga mag-aaral na maaring nakakalason ng kanilang isipan para lumban sa pamahalaan ay kailangang maramedyuhan ito.

Bingyang din nito na ang mga estudyante lalo na sa mga State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) ay binansagang 'cream of the crop', pag-asa ng bayan at hindi dapat kinakalahán ang gobyerno na nagbibigay sa mga ito ng libreng edukasyon.

Ipinaalala ni Albayalde

na ang mga paaralan ang mga pangalawang taanan ng mga estudyante at ang mga guro naman ang kanilang magulang kaya mahalaga aniya na tama ang kanilang itinuluro sa mga mag-aaral.

Hindi naman sinisi ni Albayalde ang mga kabataan at sinabing sadya lang mapusok ang damdamin ng mga nasa murang edad at madaling maimpluwensyahan ng maling impormasyon. (Lordeth Borilla/Joy Santos)

3 BIFF men slain in Maguindanao

MAGUINDANAO - Four members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were killed in a gunfight with soldiers in Shariff Saydona Mustapha town in this province on Tuesday.

The fatalities were identified only as Duma, Yunus, Mobin and Kused.

The military said the BIFF men shot soldiers of the 40th Infantry Battalion who were deployed in Barangay Nabundas to check the presence of BIFF leaders Zainuddin Kiara, Noel Canoy and Muslimin Amilil. The bandits were reportedly extorting money and food from farmers.

Two other bandits, a certain Lucman and Abusama, were

wounded.

Soldiers recovered two rifles, a grenade launcher, anti-tank rockets and improvised bombs at the scene.

- John Unson

Arms, bombs seized from BIFF lair

SOLDIERS recovered high-powered firearms and other war materiel after a firefight with the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in Shariff Sardona Mustapha, Maguindanao Wednesday.

Also seized were two improvised explosive devices, an M16 rifle, an M14 rifle, an M79 grenade launcher, and magazines and ammunitions.

Maj. Gen. Cirinto Sobejana, commander of 6th Infantry Division, said a civilian community reported the BIFF hideout in Barangay Nabundas.

Troops from the 40th Infantry Battalion, who conducting a combat clearing operation in the area, managed to penetrate the hideout without being detected.

The operation resulted in a 20-minute firefight between the Armed Forces and about 15 BIFF members led by Zamuddin Kiara, Noel Ganoy, and Muslimin Amilil.

"This is the result of the sustained, focused military operation against the BIFF and other threat groups... who are responsible for the series bombing in Mindanao," said Sobejana. — *Brian Jules Campued*

W

AFP uncovers war arsenal in Maguindanao

By Elmer N. Manuel

Soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) conducting operations to run after Islamic State-linked armed men in Maguindanao recovered high-powered firearms and explosives on Wednesday.

According to Maj. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the 6th Infantry Division, the recovery of the war materials came after a brief firefight in Barangay Nabundas in Shariff

Saydona Mustapha town in Maguindanao, adding that troops under the 40th Infantry Battalion encountered at least 40 members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) under Zainuddin Kiara, Noel Ganoy and Muslimin Arnilih.

Sobejana noted the troops successfully penetrated the bandits' location at about 4 a.m. but after a 20-minute skirmish, they fled deep into the marshland. He could not say if the BIFF suffered casualties.

The army commander clarified, however, that there was no casualty on the government side. Soldiers found in the terrorists' hideout one M16, one M14, one M79, two improvised bombs and assorted magazines and ammunition.

Sobejana lauded the civilians who tipped the Army on the terrorists' hideout.

A village official, who asked not to be named, said the armed men were demanding "zakat" (religious tax) now that they have started harvesting corn crops.

Maute nemesis is new DSWD secretary

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

RETIRING Army chief Major General Rolando Joselito Bautista, who led the fight against the ISIS-linked Maute Group in Marawi City last year, is the incoming secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

President Duterte made the announcement at the dinner with Philippine Military Academy alumni. He said the appointment takes effect immediately after Bautista retires from military service on Oct. 15.

He reiterated that he appointed a lot of retired military officials because they are disciplined and

follow orders immediately.

Bautista will replace Judy Taguiwalo, whose appointment was rejected by the Commission on Appointments in July 2017. Acting Secretary Virginia Nazarreza Orogo currently heads the DSWD.

See MAUTE > Page B6

MAUTE

Duterte earlier said he will appoint Bautista at the NFA to see to the rice supply.

Executive Secretary Salvador Me-

dialdea said Bautista did not decline the NFA post but the President opted to appoint him to DSWD instead. He said there is no new administrator yet for NFA vice Jason Aquino who asked to be relieved.

Bautista, a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandiwa" Class of 1985, became Army chief shortly after leading the fight against the Maute Group.

He is also the former com-

mander of Duterte's Presidential Security Group.

Prior his designation as PSG chief, Bautista headed the Army's 104th Brigade, which oversees Basilan, stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf Group.

₱4.55-B 'parked pork' found in neighboring regions for ARMM

By BEN R. ROSARIO

Just as the House of Representatives decided to put behind the controversy over "parked pork barrel," a young Muslim lawmaker decried the alleged slashing P4.556 billion meant for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in the budget proposals for Regions IX, X, and XII.

Lanao del Norte Rep. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo, vice chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, questioned the P4.556 billion allocations which is apparently not part of the P51.79 billion in alleged "parked pork barrel" that was discovered and later re-allocated by the House leadership to various departments.

Dimaporo exposed the irregular budgetary allocation when he interpellated Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat in connection with the proposed 2019 budget for the Department of Public Works and Highways last Tuesday.

Dimaporo called for an explanation as to the specifics of the ARMM infrastructure budget that was inserted in its three neighboring regions.

After a short floor deliberation, Lobregat, who sponsored the DPWH budget, admitted that the P4.556 billion in infrastructure budget "lodged" into the DPWH budget for Regions IX, X, and XII is a political accommodation for the ARMM legislators.

"I think we have to look at the realities on the ground. We have the congressmen and congresswomen in the ARMM here in Congress, and they, too, are proposing certain projects to be implemented in their own districts. If you look at the historical performance of the ARMM, unfortunately, the implementation by the ARMM was really found wanting, and it is because of this situation that the congressmen from the ARMM placed their different appropriations that

they have identified in the three regions," Lobregat said in his response to Dimaporo's interpellation.

Lobregat added that "it is unfair for the congressmen not to have any allocation in their own districts since there are national roads also in the various districts in the ARMM."

In rebuttal, Dimaporo said that there is no inventory of national roads in the ARMM, which means that the allocation of P4.556 billion for national roads in the ARMM is questionable.

Further, the former Lanao del Norte governor said that since the P4.556 billion is merely inserted into the budgets for DPWH Regions IX, X and XII, then the implementation of these projects will mean more work for the employees in Regions IX, X and XII, whereas the infrastructure projects are actually located in ARMM.

According to him, the amount is "in addition to the P10.1 billion in infrastructure budget passed by Congress for the ARMM."

"Thus, there are actually two fund sources for infrastructure projects in the ARMM in the 2019 budget," Dimaporo said.

It was recalled that the current House leadership under former President and now Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo discovered some P51.79 billion in alleged pork barrel funds hidden in the infrastructure budget of several congressional districts.

In an unprecedented move on a national budget issue, the chamber, apparently on orders of Arroyo, constituted itself into a Committee of the Whole to clearly override the committee report of the House Committee on Appropriations on the proposed P3.757 trillion national budget for 2019.

After a swift deliberation, the Committee of the Whole, presided over by Majority Leader and Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, re-aligned P51.792 billion to various programs, including typhoon "Ompong" rehabilitation work.

42

A LAW EACH DAY

[Keeps Trouble Away]

JOSE C. SISON

Unwholesome atmosphere

It is really very unfortunate that our country and our people have been so divided and so belligerent against each other under this administration. Very noticeable nowadays especially in social media are the aggressive and personal attacks of the diehard supporters of Duterte against those who criticize him and disagree with his actions. Instead of rebutting and pointing out what is wrong with the criticisms and comments against Duterte, they personally attack and slander the critics and dissenters, calling them all sorts of names and maligning them. It looks like this current situation in our country will even get worse and deteriorate under this administration unless these diehard supporters stop their aggressive and despicable stance which they have copied from their idol, Duterte himself.



Let me again remind our countrymen especially these diehard supporters of Duterte, to always advance and promote the best interest and welfare of our country and people rather than the interest of any political personality or leader; and if there are citizens who express their dissent or criticize the moves of the present administration, these criticisms and dissents should be considered as expressions of concern for our country and our people rather than attacks against anybody particularly those in the government. In other words, all of us must be Pro-Philippines instead of Pro-Somebody specifically the political leaders we supported and voted for during elections.

In this connection, let me point out once again that even if we do not agree with the opinions and comments of others, we must never suppress their rights to express themselves. The freedom of expression is one of the important rights guaranteed by our Constitution to preserve democracy, hence it should be protected especially by the government itself.

Unfortunately again, this is not what is happening in our country now. This observation is clearly proven by the case of Trillanes, the arch critic of Duterte. It seems that Trillanes' exposes regarding Duterte's unexplained wealth is really true. So Duterte is taking all steps to stifle and silence Trillanes to the extent of putting him in jail based on some legally questionable grounds which have been merely fabricated. This is manifestly shown by the attempts to revoke the grant of amnesty to Trillanes way back in 2011 allegedly because no application for amnesty and admission of guilt was filed by him as required by law for its validity.

Quite worrisome here is that one of the Regional Trial Courts (RTC) in Makati City (Branch 150) has apparently adopted this administration's contention on said revocation by reviving the case of rebellion against Trillanes and ordering his arrest simply because he could not submit a copy of his application for amnesty even if he has played videos precisely showing that he has filed it.

This fact of filing the application at Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has even been confirmed by the AFP Chief of Staff, General Galvez during a hearing in the Senate. With this latest development, people are expecting that the other RTC (Branch 148) handling the coup d'etat case against Trillanes, to adhere to the rule of law and no longer revive said case. Of course, even if said RTC still orders the arrest of Trillanes, the Supreme Court can still reverse said order, as the court of last resort. Thus Filipinos are still hoping and expecting that in the end, the rule of law will still prevail in our country. This is the only way we can preserve democracy.

Meantime, with regards to the recent confirmation by the AFP Chief that Trillanes really filed an application, an investigation must be conducted to find out why the original of the application filed and received by their Office has apparently been lost and could not be located anymore. Somebody must be held responsible for such malfeasance. He can even be held liable for infidelity in the custody of documents which is punishable by the Revised Penal Code (RPC), Article 226 which punishes those who in the performance of public functions, regardless of rank, act faithlessly in the custody of public documents (*Quilaneta vs. Moscoso, C.A. 50 O.G.2100*).

And so as we move forward, let us not stop praying and hoping that this administration, especially the incumbent President, will get rid of irrational hallucinations about the alleged plots to oust him from office. For someone who is firmly and securely holding the most powerful post in the country, he should not give too much importance to the alleged "Red October" destabilization moves to topple him. He should not mind so much those moves of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) to allegedly brainwash and incite students in the leading and well reputed universities and colleges in Metro Manila to rebel against the government. Such kind of mental attitude will even fan the flames of dissent and resentment not only among the students but also within the schools where they are studying. It is really far-fetched to immediately conclude or even assume that conservative, peace loving and God fearing schools like Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of Santo Tomas, San Beda University, Far Eastern University, Adamson University, University of the East, Lyceum of the Philippines University, University of Manila, Philippine Normal University, Emilio Aguinaldo College, University of Makati, and Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology, would allow its students to be exposed and fall prey to such plots that are clearly contrary to their ethical and moral standards. Hence let us remove and get rid of all sorts of hatred, anger and suspicions now prevailing in our society so that we can achieve unity and peace in our land.

GOTCHA

JARIUS BONDOC



Avoid Marcos' military solutions to everything

The Army, Navy, and Air Force commanders dispel any rebellious stirrings in the ranks. The Armed Forces chief clears the Liberals and Senator Trillanes of plotting a government overthrow. Only the Communist Party is into a "Red October" offensive. President Duterte must have misread intelligence briefs. Contrary to his declassification, soldiers and politicians are unlikely to align with insurgents to oust him. They are, in communist parlance, irreconcilable class enemies. At worst, as the generals clarify, the communists will try to get legitimate groups and personalities involved unwittingly through "cutouts and linkages." Duterte's un-battle-tested civilian squawk boxes have the temerity to dispute the generals, wanting the LP and Trillanes jailed. He must beware of them. History is full of accounts of courtiers who blindsided leaders with conspiracy theories, in order to curry political or financial favor. With candidacy filings this week the election season is on.

Duterte must avoid too Marcos' mistake of employing military solutions to non-military problems. That will exacerbate the situation. Imagine the Armed Forces so dull as to believe that the political Opposition is in cahoots with the New People's Army to topple the government. Malacañang might order a military crackdown on dissent. Congress and the Judiciary would be sidelined. Institutions would be coopted. Citizens would be killed or tortured. Investors would flee. Cronies would loot industries. The economy would collapse. That in a nutshell was what happened during 14 years of Marcos martial law. Never should it recur.

"Red October," from intelligence findings, is to be a communist push this month. Why October? Because it fetes communist victories in Russia and China, and Philippine indigenous peoples whose tribes the insurgents are striving to recruit. For communists 2018 also marks Marx's 200th birth year, and the 50th anniversary of Jose Maria Sison's Maoist party.

Through "Red October" the communists supposedly will attempt strategic stalemate against the Armed Forces. Thence it would launch a strategic offensive to "proletarian victory." That sounds more like a propaganda movie in Sison's mind. Strategic stalemate, to communists, means parity in arms and facilities, training and troop numbers with the Armed Forces. Now how can NPA guerrillas acquire camps, cannons, tanks, helicopters, fighters, and warships to match the Armed Forces? To raise the required multibillion pesos, how long will they need to extract a few hundred thousand pesos a month of "revolutionary tax" from mines and plantations? The NPA has been in strategic defensive for the past five decades. It will likely remain there till Sison, as Malacañang wishes, dies soon of serious illness. "Red October"

may be nothing more than a last effort by remnant loyalists to humor him.

The crux of "Red October" purportedly is the recruitment of students from ten campuses in Metro Manila. Having already exposed it, the Armed Forces would do well to avoid a military response. It is up to the political leadership, not men in uniform, to confront that Leninist tactic of united front. If smart, Malacañang would mobilize key Cabinet members, not the proven obnoxious ones, to reach out to the academe, Catholic church, and youths. The administration must show tolerance of alternative views. It is said that "Red October" would include film showings and forums about the horrors of Marcos' martial law. There is nothing wrong with that. Denouncing abuses of power and plunder of the national wealth is in fact patriotic and democratic – anathema to communist dictatorship.

There's a problem though. Not a unifying President, Duterte has managed to antagonize the institutions. One educator of a city college complains that the government should dialogue with them, since they have not monitored any communist activity in campus. An administrator of a Catholic university suspects that Duterte is singling them out for their religion. Duterte not only has been bickering with Catholic hierarchs but also insulting church tenets. That probably makes the administration insecure. Where there is oppression, there is revolution, Duterte must have learned from his Leftist youth.

In the end, there might be nothing to fear about "Red October." The communists have a tendency to isolate themselves. Despite Duterte's open despise for America, their agitation predictably will be against an imagined "US imperialist-Duterte regime." The campus recruitment would be in support of Maoist armed struggle of "encircling the cities from the countryside." Unrecognized, however, is that city and rural folk are becoming increasingly globalized in information. Through the Internet they know that the prime example of communist leader is that one in the north who, wanting fireworks on his grandpa's death anniversary, let loose a hail of missiles to unnerve neighbor states.

"Red October" only distracts Duterte from solving people's complaints against inflation and peso decline. His preoccupation with it severely will affect how his administration will fare in the 2019 mid-term elections.

* * *

Catch *Sapol* radio show, Saturdays, 8-10 a.m., DWIZ (882-AM).

Gotcha archives on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jarius-Bon-doc/1376602159218459>, or The STAR website <https://beta.philstar.com/columns/134276/gotcha> 13

★

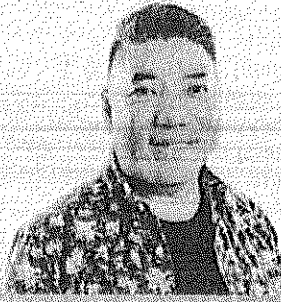
From Russia, with love

After an early morning arrival at Moscow Domodedovo Airport, I had a taste of Russian traffic with the hour-long drive to our embassy. It was quite eerie, coming from Tuesday afternoon Edsa gridlock, to see slow-moving traffic but where motorists patiently stayed on their lane, and no one blew their car horns or swerved to use the shoulder or the part of the road reserved for emergency and police vehicles.

The weather was not good, the skies were gray, but the city was clean, with no dilapidated buildings, no graffiti, no billboards to distract the eye from an old but well-ordered cityscape. Having been raised on too many James Bond movies, I thought Moscow was populated by spies in trench coats, but I saw ordinary people in Uniqlo.

I declined the offer to rest after breakfast, preferring to take a long walk around Red Square with the Philippine ambassador's wife, Consuelo, to force me to stay awake and adjust to Moscow time, which is five hours behind Manila's. We took the famous subway system, carved so deep from street level that it could be used as a shelter during an air raid or nuclear attack. Each station has its own distinct character, each adorned with paintings, mosaics, bronze or plaster sculptures extolling the virtues of Soviet-era life and the utopian ideals of the working class. I could spend days visiting the various stations and emerge to write an essay borrowing the title of Dostoevsky's 1864 novel, "Notes from Underground."

In a station adorned with statues depicting working-class occupations, I was told to find the statue of a soldier and a dog, and to rub the now shiny dog for good luck. It reminded me of Tokyo's Shibuya Station, where tourists visit the statue of Hachiko, the loyal dog that waited for its master by



LOOKING BACK

AMBETH R. OCAMPO

the train station every day and continued to do so long after the master had passed away.

Before I found the Russian dog, I had to weave my way through a horde of noisy mainland Chinese tourists who were gathered by a depiction of a farmer beside a shiny gold rooster, whose original dark patina has been worn away by thousands of Chinese hands rubbing all over it for luck.

Red Square did not disappoint; the red walls of the Kremlin were just as I had imagined them to be, though minus the military parade alongside them. Having viewed the mummified remains of Chairman Mao in Beijing and Ho Chi Minh in Hanoi, I needed to complete the set and see Lenin, but I was discouraged by the long line of tourists, again mostly mainland Chinese.

Lenin's Tomb was the peg for the Ferdinand Marcos Mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte, where the remains of the former president—in a formal *barong* and wearing his state decorations (not his controversial World War II military medals)—were venerated for many years before the body's interment, despite widespread protests,

in the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Passing by the Four Seasons Hotel—where President Duterte stayed for 24 hours before cutting short his state visit to Russia to address the siege of Marawi with a declaration of martial law—I recalled a souvenir of his visit, a Duterte matryoshka doll, a series of nesting dolls of decreasing size placed inside each other. You twisted Duterte open to find P-Noy, then GMA, then Erap, and down to FVR, now too small to be recognizable. It would be historically accurate to have Marcos as the smallest, most insignificant doll; after all, it was he who established diplomatic relations with Russia in 1976.

To prepare for my Moscow trip, I reread the Marcos diary entries that covered his state visit from May 31 to June 7, 1976. They were mostly notes on substantial political and diplomatic concerns, but, on the lighter side, Marcos noted a stain, from a leaking fountain pen, on Leonid Brezhnev's shirt when they met. Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko tried to distract the leaders by advising that the American pen be thrown away.

Then followed an exchange of empty pens that would not write. Brezhnev offered a Russian-made pen, and Marcos reciprocated with a gold pen. Then Mrs. Marcos borrowed a coin from close-in security and handed it quietly to her husband, who offered it to Brezhnev with the explanation that it was a Filipino custom to present a coin together with any pointed or sharp gift to symbolically blunt it. *AB*

More than superstition, Marcos was signaling his hope that Russia would not support the communist insurgency in the Philippines.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Teachers aren't heroes

By virtue of Malacañang's Proclamation No. 242 in 2011, there has been the annual tradition of rehashing the line "My Teacher, My Hero" every Oct. 5. But try as the government might, no message about teachers could be stronger than confining their concerns and wages to mere locker room talk for the President's men, while the salaries of the police and the military double in just a snap of Mr. Duterte's fingers.

Over the past week in martial law Mindanao, Mr. Duterte visited us here in Caraga to handsomely reward soldiers fighting the New People's Army (NPA). One—just one—alleged member of the NPA was caught in Surigao del Sur. And a checkpoint manned by a dozen military men armed with rifles and in bulletproof vests was set up in front of our house, because a government official was attending the beauty pageant right across the street.

Over the same week in Manila, there was talk of a "Red October" plot against the President, while 77-year-old Education Secretary Leonor Briones went on TV to defend the wildly optimistic idea of fresh K-to-12 graduates getting jobs while competing with unemployed college graduates. On the other hand, since clashing with Mr. Duterte's more-favored Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno on the 2019 budget, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) officer in charge Prospero de Vera III has uncharacteristically kept mum and submissive. Some National Teachers' Month.

But what really concerns us teachers?

Without question, Mr. Duterte's passage of Republic Act No. 10931, or the Universal Access to Tertiary Education Act, in

COMMENTARY

DLS PINEDA

August 2017 was a step forward, given its undeniably depressing precedents across too many administrations. However, a little more than six months since CHED's launching of RA 10931's implementing rules and regulations, many of the deliverables from the government's end have yet to happen, and it's systematically crippling almost everyone in the education sector.

Exhibit A: As a measure to keep public schools from overcrowding with students—most state universities and colleges (SUCs) already lack teachers and classrooms—RA 10931 decreed the disbursement of vouchers to private schools for them to be able to accommodate students who wish to avail themselves of private school education at a subsidized price. However, four months since school started for many, most of these vouchers have yet to be given.

Data from various schools also reflect that there has been a spike in the number of entrance exam-takers in SUCs. But along with this, rather curiously, there is a reduction in the percentage of applicants who proceed to enroll after passing the exams. This is bad news, because these reduced enrollment rates are a reflection of the willingness of Filipinos for higher education—even though it is now offered practically for free.

Is this the effect of K-to-12? Or has job mismatch and underemployment finally

affected the premium Filipinos have traditionally placed on getting an education?

All these point to RA 10931 being a misnomer: It does not offer "universal access," but instead places education at the mercy of government's efficiency or inefficiency. It chokes private schools and oversimplifies stark realities in the education sector.

I have been teaching teachers for over four years now, and many of our gripes have remained the same: infrastructure woes, office politics, obscure government guidelines; disproportionate, ill-considered and ineffective policing by the Department of Education and CHED through colossal amounts of paperwork unrelated to teaching; and, ultimately, unfair wages.

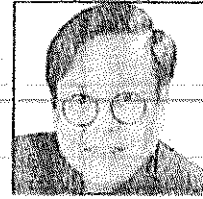
At the same time, I pass by the same checkpoint every day and think about how that element of the Philippine National Police, whose only job is to greet me good morning, is getting paid twice my rate. Taken as a whole, there are grave imbalances here, and government should be held accountable for such a system.

A sober reminder on National Teachers' Day: Teaching is just like any other job. We are not heroes; we just love to teach, and we earn our keep from teaching, just like any other job that pays. The government cannot expect us to excuse its lapses simply by calling us heroes. *MS*

DLS Pineda teaches at Father Saturnino Urios University, Butuan City. After finishing his undergraduate and master's degrees in UP Diliman, he decided to reside in his father's hometown in Agusan del Norte. Tweet the author @sarhentosilly.

PAPER VIEW

The paradox of autocracy



BY ATTY. MEL STA. MARIA

IN their article "How Democracy Dies," Harvard professors Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt observed that, nowadays, democracy is destroyed, not by a military takeover, but by "elected leaders who subvert the very process that brought them to power," maintaining "a veneer of democracy while eviscerating its substance."

They expounded: "Institutions become political weapons, wielded forcefully by those who control them against those who do not. This is how elected autocrats subvert democracy—packing and 'weaponizing' the courts and other neutral agencies, buying off the media and the private sector (or bullying them into silence), and rewriting the rules of politics to permanently disadvantage their rivals. The tragic paradox of the electoral route to authoritarianism is that democracy's enemies use the very institutions of democracy—gradually, subtly, and even legally—to kill it."

The Philippines is not unfamiliar to their observations. In 1972, the dictator Ferdinand Marcos used the 1935 Constitution, the basis of his presidency, to usher in his one-man rule. He replaced the 1935 Constitution with his own, providing the legal infrastructure for autocracy. Among others, amendment Numbers 5 and 6 allowed him to legislate, making the Batasan Pambansa a farce. Marcos' exclusive power to select magistrates made judicial independence illusory.

Conspiracy theories among the left, moderate, and even the right-leaning sectors of society were first bandied about and later irrationally given course. Freedoms of speech and press were curtailed. Critics were considered subversives. Among the first ordered arrested were Senators Jose Diokno, Francisco Rodrigo, Jovito Salonga, and Benigno Aquino Jr., who dared to vocally express their opposition. Critical broadcasters and journalists, such as Jose Mari Velez and Max Soliven, were likewise incarcerated.

The people marveled at the only news spewed by a propagandist-media: a peaceful Philippines. But the reality was that tortures, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, gross violations of human rights, and grand larceny by government officials occurred. The situation was in fact the "peace of the grave" as John F. Kennedy put it and the enrichment of the corrupt.

Under a "veneer of democracy," are administration officials now, in essence, also "eviscerating its substance" willingly or unwittingly? Similarly, there is a move to replace the 1987 Constitution with the "Bayanihan" Constitution providing for a Federal Transition Commission with seemingly vast powers headed by the President. The Supreme Court is packed with President Duterte's appointees (at least majority). Former Chief Justice Sereno was ousted in a controversial Supreme Court decision after President Duterte publicly said she was his enemy. Senator De Lima is now incarcerated on charges which, according to former Solicitor General Floren Hilbay, lacked basis. Senator Trillanes is in danger of being arrested due to President Duterte's revocation of his amnesty -- an unconstitutional act to many legal experts. The Rappler closure, though on appeal, is widely considered as repression of a highly critical press.

The "Red October" plot is bandied about. But the assertion's incredulity is betrayed by the fact that while seasoned politicians have lately been absolved from colluding with the communists, young and most likely immature and naïve high-school and college students are being implicated as connivers.

Unsolved murders are continuing and, as if to affirm them, President Duterte made a public admission of extrajudicial killing as his only sin, though the citizenry was told that it was a matter of Visayan semantics not to be understood as uttered. Institutions are perceived either as subservient to the executive, such as the House of Representatives, or the target of the President's ire, like the Commission on Audit.

Many are wary that democratic institutions are being eroded. But there is hope.

And that hope brings us to the ultimate paradox of an authoritarian regime if indeed it is existing or, at the very least, developing. In such a system, autocratic ways seem to be always "winning" and democratic advocacy ends up on the "losing" side. But throughout history, principled people have persisted in opposing despotism, heeding Nobel Laureate, political scientist, and holocaust survivor Professor Elie Wiesel's advice that "there may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." And in the end, also in the course of history, goodness, decency, and reason will always prevail. 12

Be on the right side of history in its most trying times. Desist from fence-sitting. Take the principled stand, even against insurmountable odds. This may yet be your greatest legacy, one that your children and your children's children can proudly descant to future generations.

New People's Academy

When the military released on Wednesday the names of 17 colleges and universities that were allegedly part of the "Red October" plot to oust President Rodrigo Duterte, Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) and University of the Philippines-Manila (UP-Manila) were on the list.

Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr., deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, alleged that the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) has been recruiting from said schools students to take part in the execution of the plot. Parlade's pronouncement was not shocking as the CPP-NPA has been recruiting students to join the rebel forces that will overthrow the government. How else would former UP-Manila biochemistry student Josephine Lapira, 22 and former PUP student and ex-Gabriela Youth spokesman Kamil Manangan end up among the 15 rebels killed in a clash with troops in Nasugbu, Batangas on 28 November 2017?

Why would 21-year-old Myles Albasin, a fresh Mass Communication graduate of UP Cebu and a native of Cagayan de Oro City, be among six NPA rebels captured after an encounter with soldiers in Mabinay town, Negros Oriental on 2 March 2018?

Clearly, the CPP-NPA is recruiting, clandestinely, college and university students to join the rebels in fighting for their ideology, in ambushing soldiers and in collecting revolutionary tax.

Militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, through its secretary general Renato Reyes, came to the defense of the schools Thursday, saying the military's accusation was an "attack on the rights of students and faculty to take up social issues." Leftist groups also invoked the right to education and freedom of education to shield the communist rebels' campus recruitment program from military crackdown.

Ivy Taroma, UP Student Regent, said the military's red-tagging of some academic institutions endangers the lives of students. But didn't Lapira and

Manangan threaten the lives of soldiers in the firefight in Nasugbu? And what will Albasin do with the M16 assault rifles with grenade launcher and explosives while her cadres were shooting it out with soldiers in Sitio Tumonon, Barangay Luyang in Mabinay in March?

Parlade said officials of the schools may not be aware of the recruitment of their students by the CPP-NPA. But that would be negligence if not ignorance. The fact is militant organizations operate in those schools way back in the 60s and 70s. Its contemporaries usually recruit gullible freshmen during student council elections and brainwash them into joining rallies against tuition increase and other social problems as part of their training in militancy and immersion into communism.

With free college education under the Duterte administration, more children from poor families should be able to fulfill their dreams of earning a degree without paying tuition and other academic fees. Those are supposed to be BA and BS degrees on engineering, law

and medicine, not diploma on rebellion and insurgency. Unfortunately, the communists will try to exploit this free education to beef up the ranks of the rebels by recruiting students.

In March, the Philippine National Police (PNP) already warned parents to monitor their children to prevent them from being lured into joining student organizations infiltrated by the CPP-NPA or join activities of such groups in areas under the influence or control of communist rebels like "indoctrination" and "social immersion" in training camps in the hills.

PNP spokesman Chief Supt. John Bulalacao said there were instances of students joining communist rebels in ambush or attacks on government forces, referring to Lapira and Manangan. That endangers the lives of their children, like what happened to Lapira and Manangan whose parents were apparently not aware and too late to know that they had joined the CPP-NPA.

As for the officials of the schools linked to the "Red October" plot, denying, dismissing and ignoring the military's claim will be a lazy if not dangerous stance. They should do something to prevent wasting taxpayers' money on scholars who will end up turning against the government. Otherwise, they can be complicit in turning schools into a breeding ground for rebels or

into a New People's Academy.

Sign of a split



THE first sign of a split between the Duterte administration and the Armed Forces of the Philippines surfaced in the Senate this week.

Asked by Liberal Party Senators Francis Pangilinan and Antonio Trillanes IV whether the opposition Liberal Party was involved in a coalition with the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing New People's Army, AFP chief Gen. Carlito Galvez categorically said: "No, sir."

This was a direct contradiction what Palace officials who are purveying the "Red October" plot to overthrow President Rodrigo Duterte said.

The general also cleared Senators Trillanes and Pangilinan of any complicity in the alleged Red October plot.

We commend Galvez for telling it like it is. With his statement, he gave relief to the people who have enough problems for them to still deal with destabilization and a volatile political situation.

It is a given that the CPP of exiled communist leader Jose Maria Sison has on many occasions publicly stated it wants Duterte out. Malacañang, however, is the one giving Joma and the CPP credence. Even Sison's host country The Netherlands sees no more relevance in him. It merely exercises tolerance in letting him stay in Utrecht. The liberal Dutch government perceives Sison as a relic of the past even as it continues to mediate the on-and-off peace talks between the CPP and the GRP.

The alleged Red October plot is a yarn being spread by Malacañang itself.

Why? We don't have the answer to this but there are speculations the Palace is spinning the conspiracy web to gain sympathy for the President and to distract the people from the rising prices of fuel, food, crime and unemployment.

So what is the real objective of the Red October ploy? Is there another layer of Machiavellian men behind the President that his own Cabinet does not know about? Or this so-called Red October plot borne out of the deep recesses of Digong's own mind to declare martial law in the entire country?

The difference between Duterte and

Turn to A5

General Galvez contradicted what the Palace had said about the supposed Red October plot.

dw

Sign...

From A4

Marcos is that FM had the best and the brightest people in his Cabinet. They helped him plan and study the consequences of martial law. Foremost of these men was then-Justice and later Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile. Say what you will about the man but Enrile helped Marcos lay the legal basis of a military rule including its consequences and how the populace will react to it.

Enrile could have been the President the country needed but then there is the belief that to be president is a destiny. As they say, if it's not in the stars, then it's not meant to be.

We suggest the government focus on addressing and solving the gut issues of food prices made higher by the uncontrolled cost of imported crude oil paid by the government in dollar terms. This is why the peso has sunk even lower vis-a-vis the US currency. Food prices can be brought down to affordable level if agricultural production is given the utmost attention.

The Philippines is an agricultural country. Vast expanses of land, particularly in Mindanao where President Duterte is from, is not being fully planted

for rice and other crops. Hence, the country imports, rice, onions, garlic and even fruits.

We cannot understand this import mentality. Non-farming areas can also be used for raising cattle and other livestock. Yet, this not being done. We cannot blame the Duterte administration entirely for this. Past administrations have also been remiss in this department.

China, which has taken over our fishing waters in the West Philippine Sea, has offered to lease our agricultural land to help our farmers. We have allowed them to take over our territorial waters—are we now also going to let the Chinese also exploit our farmlands? If we do, we might as well accept the idea that indeed we have become a province of China. This is the real Red China threat not just in October but a subservience that could lead to years of colonization like in the Spanish and American eras.

Good news, bad news

First the good news. Presidential Communications Operations Office Assistant Secretary Margaux Uson has resigned from her post after a series of gaffes. The PCOO said Mocha was not forced to resign but did so as she is eyeing a senatorial seat in next year's midterm elections. That is the bad news.

With her millions of Facebook followers, she could well win a seat in the Senate. She could continue to torment us under the mantle of parliamentary immunity.

Presidential Spokesman Roque meanwhile said six of the President's Cabinet are also running for the Senate. While he did not include himself among the six Cabinet officials, it is no secret that after the House, next on Harry Roque's agenda is a Senate seat. But that might be a tough hurdle. Presidential spokesmen except Marcos's press secretary and information minister Kit Tatad who was elected senator and even went on to become Senate Majority Leader, no presidential spokesman was elected senator. Will Roque break the jinx to win a Senate seat?

Roque is not even sure he will get President Duterte's approval to leave the Cabinet. Because he is doing such a good job as presidential spokesman, he has become a victim of his own success. As it is, it looks like Roque is going to be with Digong for the long run. Unless the President resigns from the presidency like he has threatened to. Perhaps that is why six of the President Cabinet are quitting to seek a Senate seat.

To abandon ship while the jumping is good must be in the minds of those quitting the Cabinet.

Rice, poverty, insurgency



VIRTUAL
REALITY
TONY
LOPEZ

IT IS now abundantly clear that President Duterte's No. 1 problem is not traffic, not drugs, not terrorists, and, not China, but food—the lack or the shortage of it, along with the current stratospheric prices of the people's main food items—rice, corn, sugar, fish, meat, and vegetables. Plus rapidly rising prices of refined petroleum products, particularly diesel, LPG, and kerosene—the staple fuels of the poor and the middle class.

Decades of neglect by a succession of presidencies account for the current rice shortage and food insecurity.

The present rice crisis began with the Cory Aquino administration with her misplaced agrarian land reform program. Land reform cut up large agricultural lands making them inefficient, less productive, less profitable, and less attractive to investors.

Average farm holdings were reduced to 1.8 hectares per farmer. Banks didn't want to deal with lands covered by land reform. Organized to be a bank for farmers, the state-owned LandBank became a commercial bank instead, charging higher interest rates than peer private commercial banks.

Land reform was supposed to curb communist insurgency which was an agrarian unrest. Instead, the New People's Army reached its peak strength of 35,000 armed regulars during the Aquino presidency, more than double than during the time of Ferdinand Marcos.

Responding to a much stronger enemy, the army reacted violently and with viciousness. So more guns than rice cavans. The result: More human rights violations under Cory Aquino than under Marcos.

Even today, the government spends seven times more money to buy guns and war material than what it spends

for agriculture. It's still more guns than rice cavans.

Agriculture has only a budget of P49.8 billion. The Department of National Defense and the Philippine National Police have a combined budget of P356 billion. Actually, if government spends more money to produce food, it won't need to employ nearly 500,000 soldiers and policemen to contain insurgency and keep the peace.

As former President Estrada said, "a hungry stomach knows no law." Indeed, during Erap's short-lived presidency, agriculture grew by 6.2 percent—a growth record that is still unbeaten. The college dropout president focused on producing rice relentlessly and multiplying the carabao population.

“ It's a vicious cycle. ”

Today, the NPA still has at least 5,000 armed regular fighters and is capable mounting raids on municipalities, including those within a 50-km radius from Manila. And the number of poor Filipinos remains the same—25 million.

The world reduced poverty to 10 percent of the population in 2015.

The Philippines failed to reach that 10 percent, one of the very few countries in Asia to fail to solve its poverty. Poverty stalks the land, bedeviling 21 percent of the Filipino population. What did the Philippines fail to solve its poverty? Lack of food. Poverty in this country is a question of having adequate food at reasonable prices.

In fact, if you believe economist Cielito Habito, a country doesn't even need to produce its own food to have food security. Singapore, he notes, imports 90 percent of its food and yet has food security.

The Philippines used to have record

foreign reserves of more than \$80 billion. The country did not use it to import enough food. Instead, our Bangko Sentral lent \$1 billion of those reserves to the bankrupt countries of Europe.

Land reform made our farmers poorer. It reduced agricultural growth in relation to economic and population growth. With reduced production, rice became very expensive, eating up more than 20 percent of expenses of households. Including other food items like cereals, fish, meat, and vegetables, food is 60 percent of household expenditures.

Less rice and less food on tables of households made Filipinos not only rebellious but malnourished. Filipinos are the most malnourished people in the entire ASEAN region. Because Filipinos were malnourished, they also became stupid, but not stupid enough to make them the most stupid among citizens of ASEAN.

Because they were stupid, Filipinos elected the wrong leaders—who were/are incompetent, corrupt, and vicious and with the wrong priorities.

The result is one of the worst income inequality ratios in the world. Of 25-million Filipino families, only 100 have ruled the Philippines in the last 100 years. In the last 50 years, our seven presidents came from only five families. Now, that's what I call inclusion. However, our tourism officials billed it as "it's more fun in the Philippines!"

Meanwhile, our newly minted billionaires, who became atrociously rich by converting land reform areas into subdivisions and condos, invested more in casinos, than in agriculture.

Up to the 1980s, agriculture accounted for more than 20 percent of economic production, what we call Gross Domestic Product or GDP. Today, agriculture's share, at 2000 constant prices, is a measly 8.5 percent, and going down.

Calida tries to bury his can of worms

SOLICITOR GENERAL Jose Calida had sought the help of a prominent businessman to talk with Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV to go easy on him in the investigation of the multi-million contracts that his family-owned security agency got with the government, a violation of Republic Act 6173, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

This was in July, a few weeks after six opposition senators filed a resolution for the investigation of the government contracts obtained by Vigilant Investigative and Security Agency, Inc., where Calida sits as president.

Calida, a source said, wanted Trillanes "to do a Gordon." Those who have watched Gordon, chair of the Blue Ribbon committee, treat resource persons close to President Duterte during hearings understand Calida's request.

Calida did not get an assurance from Trillanes. So he tried other means to stop Trillanes from pursuing the investigation of the fam-

ily-owned security firm. That's when he started working on Trillanes' amnesty.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana remembers it was on Aug. 16 that Calida called him asking for Trillanes' amnesty records from the Department of National Defense (DND) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Calida's alleged failure to find a copy of Trillanes' application for

amnesty became the basis for the issuance by President Duterte's Aug. 31 Proclamation 572 declaring void ab initio the amnesty granted to Trillanes by then President Benigno Aquino III and ordering his immediate arrest.

So many things have happened — laws have been twisted and violated blatantly — and more information have been revealed by military officers debunking the



But a source said Calida had a more serious fear than the investigation of the suspected irregular contract of his security agency!

HONESTLY SPEAKING

ELLEN TORDESILLAS

basis of Proclamation 572 since Sept. 4, when Proclamation 572 was released publicly.

The country's democratic institutions took a beating just to save Calida from facing a Senate investigation of his family firm's dealing with the government.

But a source said Calida had a more serious fear than the investigation of the suspected irregular contract of his security agency. He said it was more of his concern that his affair with his executive assistant would be scrutinized by the senators.

It will be recalled that in May, a private citizen, Jocelyn Marie Acosta-Nisperos, filed a complaint vs. Calida at the Office of the Ombudsman "of having an affair with his 22-year-old executive assistant, who allegedly received P1.8 million in public funds as compensation."

Nisperos alleged: "When Calida's wife found out about the affair and the corruption, she confronted him in his office last April 23. Calida and his alleged EA

See CALIDA > Page B5

Handwritten mark

CALIDA

have since then taken a leave of absence from the OSG.”

“By divesting P1.8 million from public funds to whom he is having an illicit relationship with, Calida is guilty of malversation that is punishable under the (Revised Penal Code),” Nisperos added.

So afraid was Calida of the Senate investigation that he even asked the Supreme Court to stop it.

But it was not necessary after all, because last week Gordon said investigating Calida is not his committee’s priority.

But the truth will find a way to come out. Last Tuesday, armed with documents, Trillanes, in a privilege speech showed a clear conflict of interest in the contracts obtained by Calida’s VISAI even as he continued to be a majority shareholder even after his appointment as Solicitor General in July 2016.

Trillanes said a check with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed as of March 30, 2018, Calida still holds “equivalent to 80 percent” of a VISAI’s shares.

Trillanes enumerated the P358.3 million government contracts Calida’s firms have “cornered” during the Duterte administration:

“Sa DOJ, P6.5 million at isang kontrata na P5.6 million; sa Pagcor, isang P17.5 million, isang P5.8 million, isang P25.6 million, isang P71.6 million, isang P2.5 million, isang P43.9 million, at isang P15.2 million; sa National Electrification Administration, P17.9 million; sa National Anti-Poverty Commission, P2.8 million; sa NEDA, P6.8 million; sa House of Representatives, P53.7 million at P42.4 million; at sa National Parks Development Committee, P29.2 million at P10.3 million. So, all in all, DOJ, P12 million; Pagcor, P182 million; sa NEA, P17.9 million; NAPC, P2.8 million; NEDA, P6.8 million; House of Representatives, P96 million; National Parks Development Committee, P39.6 million, for a grand total of P358.3 million contracts with different government agencies.”

RA 6173 states that government officials “... shall not, during said tenure, directly or indirectly, practice any other profession, participate in any business, or be financially interested in any contract with, or in any franchise, or special privilege granted by the Government or any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries. They shall strictly avoid conflict of interest in the conduct of their office.”

Blog: www.ellentordesillas.com
Email: ellentordesillas@gmail.com

Weaponized fake news

“Both the BBC slanted broadcast and Robles’ fake news also tried to mislead their audience.”

Proofs of a well-funded black propaganda in motion against President Rody Duterte are the timing of the adverse reports as well as their being synchronized to inflict maximum damage.

While the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC), which used to be looked up to in the journalism field, ran a cheap documentary called “Our World—Philippines: Democracy in Danger?” which was obviously an anti-Duterte propaganda, *South China Morning Post* (SCMP) ran a piece through yellow blogger Raissa Robles called “Philippines plans law to give Duterte Marcos-like powers.”

Both played up allegations of the yellow mob which are devoid of any basis and contrary to reality.

According to Robles’ SCMP propaganda “the death penalty will be restored. Torture, allowed. Filipinos could be jailed for their posts on Facebook, Twitter and other social media.”

The story added that suspected terrorists and even “unwilling witnesses” could be arrested without warrants and detained for 30 days without charge during “an actual or imminent terrorist attack.”

Robles’ piece only sensationalized the Senate proceedings seeking to strengthen the Human Security Act (HSA) or the anti-terrorism law which senators conceded was the weakest of such measures in the region despite the Philippines getting the most serious terror threats.

The Marawi City siege that lasted for five months proves that the Philippines had long been targeted by extremists as a base for their Asian operations.

The HSA is not even close to the exacting provisions of the Homeland Security Act of the United States that was crafted after the 11 September 2001 terror attacks.

W 10/05/18
DAILY TRIBUNE

CR

The spin was that Rody wanted the law for use against his political opponents when the actual concern of the senators during the hearing was the spread of the Islamic State (IS) elements in the country.

The SCMP article went completely overboard since there was also no serious discussion about meting penalties for social media posts.

The piece, however, ties in with a BBC report aired a few days earlier about supposed political persecutions in the country.

The alleged victims of Rody in the report were detained Sen. Leila de Lima, Sen. Antonio Trillanes and former Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno.

Of course, not included in the BBC narrative was that all three have been given their day in court instead of being victims of a crackdown on the political opposition which was strongly indicated in the report.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano added all three remain free to criticize the Duterte administration.

What was apparent in both hack jobs trying to pass off as legitimate journalism were the intent to paint the situation in the Philippines as worsening and approaching the situation that led to the 1972 declaration of martial rule under former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Incidentally, that is the same agenda that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) found in the memory of computers seized from communist lairs.

The main target of the so-called Red October plot was to force Rody's hand into imposing martial law which the communists see as a catalyst in the ouster move.

Both the BBC stanted broadcast and Robles' fake news also tried to mislead their audience to create a misplaced outrage on Rody consistent with the international media's depiction of him as a ruthless leader.

The international wires services are also instrumental in demonizing Rody. In all pieces related to him always affixed by media outfits to their stories are his coarse language and the extrajudicial killings attributed to him.

Similarly, the same news outlets never fail to mention that former President Joseph Estrada was a high school dropout and a womanizer during the period leading to the power grab in 2001.

The opponents of Rody having immense financial resources had been long established since the uncovering of the so-called Columbia connection that Filipino-American billionaire Loida Nicolas Lewis who is a big Liberal Party contributor.

Fake news as a main component of the ouster plot is destined to fail because Filipinos know best the real score under Rody's administration.

“
*Not included
in the BBC
narrative was
that all three
have been
given their
day in court.*

ONLINE NEWS 05 October 2018

AFP doesn't tag schools involved in CPP recruitment

By Priam Nepomuceno October 4, 2018, 8:54 pm

MANILA --- As it released the names of Metro Manila schools where the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is allegedly holding its recruitment activities, the military on Thursday assured the public that its intention is not to brand these educational institutions as "communists".

"We wish to assuage the fear of our people about this recent development. In doing this, the AFP wants to create awareness among our people especially parents who were complaining and asking for our help," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said in a media statement.

He clarified that some of the schools on the list are still subject to validation.

"Having said that, we are firm in our position that some of the schools on that list have been, and widely known to have been used, as fora for communist recruitment. Some of the other schools on the list are being targeted. The students are agitated initially towards activism; mobilize them as militants, and finally recruit them as regular NPA (New People's Army) cadres and leaders to fill up the dwindling number of political cadres," Arevalo said.

As of Oct. 3, the total number of NPA regulars and sympathizers neutralized by the military is 10,049.

This included some 939 NPA regulars who surrendered and 104 who died in armed engagements with the AFP, Arevalo added.

In a text message to the Philippine News Agency (PNA) Wednesday, AFP deputy chief-of-staff for operations, Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr., identified the schools as University of the Philippines (UP)-Diliman, UP-Manila; Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Sta. Mesa; Ateneo De Manila University; De La Salle University; University of Santo Tomas; Adamson University; Far Eastern University; University of the East (UE)-Recto; UE-Calooacan; Emilio Aguinaldo College; Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST); San Beda College; Lyceum of the Philippines; University of Makati; Calooacan City College (now the University of Calooacan City); University of Manila, and the Philippine Normal University.

"We have reports of concerned parents communicating to us their worries about the 'brainwashing' activities that their children were subjected to like films showing; video teleconferencing with a terrorist leader like Jose Ma. Sison; and Martial law reenactments during break time of high school students, etc," Arevalo said.

He said they are joining the multitude of parents wary of these creeping indoctrination of their children that tend to draw them into activism and radicalism.

"Beware of the wolves in sheep's clothing. This we caution schools administration and parents about some members of the NPA infiltrating the schools," he added.

Arevalo said the AFP is reaching out to the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the administrators of some of the schools to prevent the "arouse-organize-mobilize" scheme of the CPP-NPA.

"Lest we forget, the AFP as an institution is the protector of constitutionally guaranteed rights of our people. We do not censure, but as a matter of fact guard and support freedom of speech, of assembly, and of redress of grievances. But such should be done in a manner peaceful and orderly, and with due respect to other people's rights. Because the moment there is resort to violence, the AFP will be there to prevent lawlessness," Arevalo added. *(PNA)*