

*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](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)**  
**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**10 October 2018**

**Wednesday**



***Honor. Patriotism. Duty***

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

10 OCTOBER 2018

Weather Forecast- <a href="http://pagasa.dost.gov.ph/weather/daily-weather-forecast">http://pagasa.dost.gov.ph/weather/daily-weather-forecast</a>		
Page Nr.	Title	Source
<b>NATIONAL NEWS</b>		
1-2	Go, Roque, Cayetano running	P Star-1
3	Duterte declares: I have no cancer	PDI-A1
<b>AFP/ SECURITY RELATED NEWS</b>		
4	Duterte to China: Phl won't join US exercises	P Star-10
5	Carpio: Out of ICC, PH helpless vs China	PDI-A7
6-7	No desire for armed faceoff in South China Sea-China	M Bulletin-1
8	'PH-China ties to improve with Xi's visit'	M Times-A1
9	PH will not join WPS war games	D tribune-3
10-11	P50M allotted for choppers repair	Malaya-B1
12	Andanar to accept new appointment	D tribune-1
13	Calida mulls forgiving Trillanes	D tribune-3
14	Malolos City high school receives bomb threat	M Times-A7
<b>EDITORIAL/OPINION/COMMENTARY</b>		
15	The AFP's broad, red brush	M Bulletin-A4
16	Red October? People just want gov't action on prices	M Bulletin-8
17-18	Communists are the No. 1 enemy of the republic	M Bulletin-9
19-20	High-ranking Aquino anti-drug police officials themselves involved in illegal drug trade	M Times-A1
21	From dreams to reality	M Times-A5
22	Left's recruitment depends on 'objective conditions'	M Times-A4
23	Duterte is not a Marcos	M Times-A6
24-26	Will Du30 bail out or dig in?	M Times-A1
27-28	What was the alternative to martial law?	D Tribune-5
29	Red October? People just want gov't action on prices	Tempo-6
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>		
30	PH Army dragon boat team wins 3 golds in SoKor	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
31	PH will not join US military drills in WPS, Duterte tells China	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>

# Go, Roque, Cayetano running

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte yesterday identified six of his officials who are expected to run in next year's midterm elections.

Duterte said among the officials resigning to seek electoral posts are his special assistant Christopher Go, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr., political affairs adviser Francis Tolentino, Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castriciones and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority director Guiling Mamondiong.

"I'm sure there will be guys running," Duterte told members of the Malacañang Press Corps when asked whether he was expecting a Cabinet revamp because of the 2019 polls.

Duterte said Cayetano is running for congressman in his district in Taguig, adding he had already picked Cayetano's possible successor.

"I have a name. He agreed but he did not authorize me to name him," the President said.

Duterte also expressed belief that Roque would run for senator. Roque has said he has

Turn to Page 6

## Go, Roque From Page 1

not yet decided whether or not to seek an electoral post.

The President said Roque has been flip-flopping with regard to his political plans. He said he is considering Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo to become press secretary, a post that would be revived once

he issues an executive order reorganizing the Presidential Communications Operations Office. PCOO Secretary Martin Andanan previously said Roque was being eyed to become press secretary.

"It's not my fault. (Roque) said he is not running. Then he is running. I said I would

choose someone else so there would be no paralysis in the functions," Duterte said.

"I do not know where to place him. I did not wait a minute longer," Duterte added.

Duterte said Panelo would become press secretary once he revives the office and he finds a new chief legal counsel. He said Andanan would remain as

consultant after the PCOO is replaced by the Office of the Press Secretary.

"(Andanan) will remain a consultant. They have to reconfigure PTV 4. They need to change a lot there, perhaps to make it more responsive as sounding board of the Republic of the Philippines," the President said.

Duterte heaped praises on Tolentino, saying he has been

efficient as a point person during disasters.

"(Tolentino) is a very good administrator. He was always my point man. He was always my contact (to the outside world)," the President said.

Duterte said Go has been a "faithful assistant" who can be a "friend" of the public in the Senate.

Sources said Castricones

is planning to run for senator while Mamondiong is considering running for a local post.

Duterte also revealed that he wants a Filipino-Chinese businessman to lead the National Food Authority. Retiring Army chief Lt. Gen. Roland Bautista was initially eyed to become NFA administrator but Duterte later decided to name him social welfare secretary.



# DUTERTE DECLARES: I HAVE NO CANCER

STORY BY CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO AND JAYMEE T. GAMIL

Trying to douse speculation about his health, the President announces on Tuesday that his tests for cancer have come back negative. He says he went to Hong Kong not to undergo a medical checkup but to shop for clothes. **A4**

## FROM A1

By Christine O. Avendaño  
and Jaymee T. Gamil  
@Team\_Inquirer

President Duterte said on Tuesday night that recent cancer tests came back negative, just days after sparking speculation when he disclosed that doctors were checking him for the disease.

Talking to reporters after the oath-taking of the new officers of the Malacañang Press Corps, Mr. Duterte also said he was tested not for cancer of the colon but of the esophagus at Cardinal Santos Medical Center in San Juan City last week.

Mr. Duterte suffers from Barrett's esophagus, a serious complication of gastroesophageal reflux disease, or GERD, where the normal tissue lining the esophagus changes to tissue that resembles the lining of the intestine.

The condition could lead to cancer of the esophagus.

Mr. Duterte said his esophagus was "badly eroded" because he had started to drink again, having three shots of brandy before going to bed.

But his tests came back negative, he said.

"They (doctors) had a suspicion so they had this specimen taken out from both the esophageal tube and here," he said, pointing to his butt.

"They just wanted a retake.

Nothing serious actually," he said.

### No checkup in Hong Kong

Mr. Duterte also denied he traveled to Hong Kong during the weekend for medical check-up.

He said he went to Hong Kong to shop for clothes to replace old ones that he could not wear anymore because he had put on weight.

Earlier on Tuesday, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año told reporters that Mr. Duterte had informed his Cabinet officials that his tests came back negative.

The public has been clamoring for information about Mr. Duterte's health after he missed two official events last week.

"He disclosed to us that the result of the tests was negative," Año told reporters on the sidelines of the Anti-Red Tape and Ease of Doing Business forum in Quezon City on Tuesday.

### Disclosure

He said Mr. Duterte disclosed the result of the tests during a Cabinet meeting on Monday night.

"In the middle of the Cabinet meeting, the President said: 'By the way, I have [the results of] my tests.' And he said the test was negative. We all clapped, [told him], 'Congratulations, Mr. President,'" Año said.

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo also told reporters that Mr. Duterte informed his officials during the meeting that his tests

showed he was negative for cancer.

The 73-year-old President disclosed on Thursday that he went to a hospital the day before and underwent endoscopy and colonoscopy for the second time in three weeks for an investigation of a growth in his digestive tract.

"If it's cancer, it's cancer. If it's third stage, no more treatment. I will not prolong the agony in this office or anywhere," Mr. Duterte said in a speech to members of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc. in Malacañang.

Año said the official confirmation of the state of Mr. Duterte's health should be done by the President's physician, the President himself, or at least his spokesperson, Harry Roque.

### Confidential matter

Año, however, said he took Mr. Duterte's word for it.

"I believe him. I know him officially and personally," Año said.

"I'm not a doctor. It's not really my authority and competency, but I'm with the President almost twice or thrice a week. He's OK. From what I've seen of him from even before he was President [up to] now, he's still the same. I've seen his condition is OK," he said.

Roque, who returned to his job on Tuesday after going on leave for a day, refused to confirm or deny the statements of Año and Panelo, saying he was

"not privy" to the information.

"What the President, I think, said yesterday was he wants his medical information to remain confidential," Roque said.

"The decision was the President will comply with the constitutional provision, that unless he has a serious illness he wants to treat his medical condition as being private and covered by confidentiality," he said.

Under the Constitution, the public should be made aware of the state of a sitting President.

### Succession

If the leader dies in office, is permanently disabled or removed through impeachment, the Vice President succeeds to serve the remaining years in a six-year, single term.

Vice President Leni Robredo, a leader of the political opposition, was elected separately in 2016 and could fuel uncertainty in the succession process given the highly polarized political climate.

Mr. Duterte's health was a constant source of speculation after he disappeared from public view for a week last year but his aides dismissed rumors that he was ill.

Over the weekend, Mr. Duterte was in Hong Kong with his partner and young daughter on an unannounced trip, with his special assistant, Christopher "Bong" Go, posting pictures of the family on social media. —WITH REPORTS FROM REUTERS, AP AND AFP INQ

# Duterte to China: Phl won't join US exercises

By ALEXIS ROMERO

The Philippines has assured China it will not join the military exercises the United States is planning to conduct in the South China Sea.

The naval drills, to coin-

cide with Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Manila next month, were discussed at a meeting between President Duterte and Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua at Malacañang last Monday, presidential spokesman

Harry Roque said.

"China, of course, expressed concern over a naval military exercise that the US will be conducting in the area at about the same time that the Chinese president will be in the Philippines," Roque said at a press

briefing.

"The President said that we will not take part in that military exercise," he added.

Earlier, CNN reported that the US Navy Pacific Fleet is proposing to conduct exercises

in the South China Sea to warn China and to demonstrate its capability to respond to adversaries.

Under the plan, the US Navy would sail ships and fly aircraft near China's territorial waters and Taiwan Strait to

highlight the right of free passage in international waters, the report said.

The Pentagon and the US Pacific Fleet have declined to comment on the plan, according to CNN.

- With Pia Lee-Brago

# Carpio: Out of ICC, PH helpless vs China

By **Dona Z. Pazzibugan**  
@dpazzibuganINQ

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio warned that the Philippines would be giving up a "very strong" legal deterrent against a possible China invasion of the West Philippine Sea if it withdrew from the International Criminal Court (ICC).

At the last round of oral arguments on Tuesday, Carpio listed the implications of President Duterte's order in March to pull out from the international

treaty creating the ICC on the maritime dispute with China.

Carpio told Solicitor General Jose Calida in open court that the Philippines could sue China's leaders, led by President Xi Jinping, at the ICC for alleged crimes against humanity should China invade Philippine-occupied Pag-asa Island or Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

### Keep hands off

He said such an action was tantamount to the crime of aggression, which, under the Rome Statute, fell under crimes

against humanity.

"In withdrawing from the Rome Statute, we will be giving up this very strong legal deterrent," Carpio told Calida.

"We cannot sue Xi Jinping [before the ICC] if he invades Pag-asa or if he builds a military base on Scarborough Shoal" if the Philippines withdrew from the ICC, he added.

Calida replied he was not ready to cite other international tribunals where the Philippines could take legal action under Carpio's scenario.

In his opening statement,

Calida told the justices to keep their hands off the President's decision to pull out from the ICC claiming the issue "involved a political question and thus not subject to judicial review."

He added that the Constitution did not explicitly state that the Senate had to concur with the President's withdrawal from an international treaty.

### No violation

"The President did not violate the Constitution," Calida said.

"What he did was to exercise his constitutional prerogative as

the chief architect of the country's foreign policy," Calida insisted.

Opposition senators and human rights advocates had questioned the constitutionality of the President's order to withdraw from the Rome Statute since he did not get the Senate's approval.

Mr. Duterte gave the order in March after the ICC prosecutor began a preliminary probe into a complaint accusing him and 11 of his officials of committing crimes against humanity for the thousands of deaths in the President's war on drugs. INQ 17

# No desire for armed faceoff in South China Sea - China

By GENALYN D. KABILING

China has no desire to engage any claimant state in a military confrontation in the South China Sea but ex-

pressed concern over the United States' reported plan to hold naval exercises in the area next month.

The assurance was relayed by Chinese Ambassador to the

▶5



## No desire for armed...

◀1

Philippines Zhao Jianhua during a meeting with President Duterte in Malacañang Monday in relation to the impending visit of China's President Xi Jinping to the country.

"China, of course, expressed concern over a naval military exercise that the United States will be conducting in the area at about the same time that the Chinese President will be in the Philippines," Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said during a Palace news conference.

Roque said President Duterte assured China that "we will not take part in that military exercise."

Asked if the President will ask the US to defer the naval exercises in the region, Roque declined to give details. But the Palace official said they hope Xi's visit to Manila in November would be "seamless" and "fruitful."

"The general consensus was we don't want anything to mar the visit of President Xi so I think the DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs) will do all it can to make sure President Xi's visit will be fruitful and as productive as we want it to be," he said.

China also agrees that President Xi's visit to the Philippines would "further cement the already strong relations" between the two countries.

"We want a seamless visit of President Xi," he added.

The United States Pacific Fleet reportedly proposed to send planes and ships in

the South China Sea in a major show of force to counter China's increased military activity in the disputed area. Reports said the US ships and aircraft could be deployed this November to send a strong message to Beijing.

### Biggest user

The Philippines, however, obtained an assurance from China that it has no plan to use military force against any nation in the South China Sea, according to Roque.

"China reiterated that they do not desire any military confrontation as a result of the West Philippine Sea either with any of the claimant states or with any other powers because China is the biggest user of the West Philippine Sea," he said.

"Any military confrontation in the West Philippine Sea will have dire consequences as far as Chinese commerce is concerned," he added.

Roque said Zhao also affirmed Chinese financial assistance in connection with "page-long list of projects" in the country.

The government earlier said it was hoping to forge a joint oil exploration agreement with China in the West Philippine Sea when Xi visits Manila next month.

Roque said the government must set aside the territorial conflict with China and pursue the oil exploration deal to lessen the country's dependence on imported oil.

## 'PH-China ties to improve with Xi's visit'

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's visit to the Philippines in November will further strengthen China-Philippine ties, Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua said on Tuesday.

► TiesA8

### ■ TIES FROM A1

## PH-China

This statement came a day after President Rodrigo Duterte met with Zhao in Malacañang on Monday.

Xi will visit the Philippines after the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Papua New Guinea.

The statement said Duterte promised to work with the China to ensure that Xi's first visit to Manila will be smooth.

"[This] would surely be remembered as another milestone in Philippine-China relations," it added.

According to the statement, both

Zhao and Duterte "had an in-depth exchange of views on China-Philippines relations" as they discussed the latest developments and future plans of China-Philippine relations and practical cooperation.

The progress of bilateral practical cooperation was also discussed.

Duterte has kept ties with China cordial since taking his oath as President in 2016.

Also on Tuesday, he promised China that the Philippines will not be participating in a "show of force" reportedly being planned by the United States Pacific Fleet in the South China Sea.

According to a report from news outlet CNN on Thursday, several US defense officials bared that

the US Navy is proposing a major "show of force" in disputed waters to "warn China" during a single week in November.

Roque, in a news briefing, said the Philippines' skipping the activity was discussed during Zhao's meeting with Duterte on Monday.

He added that Zhao voiced apprehensions on the military drills.

"China, of course, expressed concern over a naval military exercise that the United States will be conducting in the area at about the same time that the Chinese President will be in the Philippines," Roque said.

"The President said we would not take part in that military exercise," he added.

Roque said the Philippines

would not want anything to mar the visit of Xi.

"I think that the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] will do all it can to make sure that President Xi's visit will be fruitful and as productive as we would want it to be," he added.

The spokesman said both parties agreed that a joint exploration in the South China Sea would greatly benefit the two countries.

"China reiterated that they do not desire any military confrontation as a result of the West Philippine Sea [dispute], either with any of the claimant states or with any other powers because China is the biggest user of the West Philippine Sea," he added.

**RALPH U. VILLANUEVA**

# PH will not join WPS war games

**Xi is set to visit the Philippines after attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Papua New Guinea next month**

President Rodrigo Duterte assured the Chinese government the Philippines will not take part in a naval military exercise to be conducted in the disputed West Philippine Sea which will coincide with the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to the country.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque issued the clarification at a Palace press briefing on Tuesday over China's concern over the United States' plan to hold the exercises in November, coinciding with Xi's historic visit to the Philippines.

"China expressed concern over a naval military exercise that the US will be

conducting in the area at about the same time the Chinese president will be in the Philippines," Roque said, adding that Duterte assured Zhao that "we will not take part in that military exercise."

Roque said the President made the assurance to Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua who paid a courtesy call at the Palace on Monday afternoon.

Although the spokesman did not specify which "area" the US will supposedly hold the naval exercise, a CNN report said the US Navy's Pacific Fleet has drawn up a proposal to conduct a series of operations in the disputed sea as well as the Taiwan Strait for one week in November.

Xi is set to visit the Philippines after attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Papua New Guinea next month.

Roque said the Philippine government would ensure that Xi's visit would be "fruitful

and "seamless."

The US is not a claimant state to the South China Sea, but it regards the vital sea lane as international waters where freedom of navigation and overflight must be recognized and respected, thus it regularly conducts freedom of navigation and overflight operations in the disputed waters.

The action was not amiss to the Chinese government which expressed its ire with the US.

Since assuming the presidency, Duterte has sought to forge friendlier ties with China following years of animosity between Beijing and Manila at the time of his predecessor Benigno Aquino III.

The President has also sought to downplay Manila's maritime dispute with Beijing in exchange for better economic ties.

China has ignored the Philippines' landmark July 2016 victory before an international tribunal which invalidated Beijing's excessive claims in the South China

Sea. It has instead ramped up militarization and island-building activities in the waters.

**Roque said the Philippine government would ensure that Xi's visit would be fruitful and seamless.**

During the meeting with Zhao, the President has spoken highly of the favorable growth momentum enjoyed by Philippines-China relations, and the continued progress made in bilateral practical cooperation in various fields while the Ambassador briefed the President on the latest developments and future plans of China-Philippines relations and practical cooperation.

Duterte also said the country is looking forward to the first-ever state visit to the Philippines by Xi which would be a historic and another milestone in Philippines-China relations.

Elmer N. Manuel

## P50M allotted for chopper repair

**BY VICTOR REYES**

THE Philippine Air Force has allotted P50 million for the procurement of spare parts, including an engine, needed to repair one UH-1H "Huey" helicopter which figured in an accident last year. The amount is nearly the cost

of an almost similar refurbished helicopter, a UH-1D.

The Air Force announced in its website a public bidding for the spares. The deadline for the submission of bids, at the Air Force headquarters in Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, is today.

Air Force spokesman Maj. Aris-

tides Galang justified the cost for the repair for the UH-1H helicopter, saying spare parts are costly at the current market price.

"An engine already costs P16 million. That's only for engine. How about the other components

See P50M > Page B2

## P50M

of (UH-1H No.) 516 that were damaged, that are in the recovery stage? It's really costly to recover (an aircraft)," he said.

The spare parts are for the old UH-1H helicopter with body number 516. The chopper figured in a mishap in Negros Occidental in December last year, which the Air Force said was caused by "complete electrical/power failure."

UH-1H choppers were mass produced in the 60s and saw action in the Vietnam war. The Air Force acquired its UH-1H helicopters second hand from various sources, including the US.

The P50 million for spare parts is nearly the cost of an almost identical UH-1D helicopter bought from Rice

Aircraft Service Inc. a few years ago.

In 2013, the Department of National Defense signed a P1.2-billion deal with Rice for the delivery of 21 units of refurbished UH-1Ds, or equivalent to P57 million each. Rice was not able to deliver the aircraft within the agreed period, prompting the DND to terminate the contract. Rice managed to deliver only seven units which are now being used by the PAF.

Galang said the UH-1H choppers have no lifespan and are good as long as parts are repaired "as scheduled."

Galang said the helicopter's engine needs to be replaced. "That's already P16 million less of the P50 million. How about the components that are going to be linked with the engine, with the transmis-

sion? The recovery of a helicopter is really costly," he said.

Told that a refurbished UH-1D helicopter costs only P57 million based on the contract signed with Rice, Galang said: "We got them in bulk, through bidding, that's why we acquired them at a cheaper price."

Galang said UH-1H and UH-1D helicopters are identical in terms of capability. "They are almost similar but it's really costly to recover (an aircraft)," said Galang.

The Air Force has dozens of UH-1H and UH-1D helicopters in its inventory. These aircraft are used mainly for personnel and supply transport and for disaster response.

An Air Force official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the foreign exchange rate should also be considered if the repair

cost for the UH-1D helicopter will be compared to the procurement of the 21 UH-1Ds.

"Take it in the context of the current FX (foreign exchange) rates. We must remember the peso depreciation so much. One more thing, you need to look into the scope of work which will indicate the kind of work to be done and spares needed," the source said.

"The P50M is less than a million dollars," the source also said, adding that the repair is not actually a big amount. "Not much really. It may just be worth an engine."

"It (repair cost) depends on the scope of work. It may need engine requirements, thus the amount (of P50 million). Brand new utility helicopters will fetch eight times that price," he added.



## Andanar to accept new appointment

By Elmer N. Manuel  
and Kristina Maralit

Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar revealed he is "most-likely" to accept

a possible appointment from President Rodrigo Duterte as Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs.

In a radio interview on Tuesday, Andanar claimed he was informed by top

**Turn to page 2**

### From page 1

presidential aides that he is likely to succeed incumbent Political Adviser Secretary Francis Tolentino.

Tolentino is likely to resign his post once he files his certificate of candidacy for the 2019 Senate race next week.

"We have just talked about that possibility in the future," Andanar said. "Myself, Secretary Bong Go and Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and Cabinet Secretary Jun Evasco have discussed about this before the Cabinet meeting."

The PCOO chief earlier had said presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. should accept the Press Secretary's post since the PCOO - which Andanar currently heads - is likely to be reattached to the Office of the Press Secretary.

The supposed offer to Roque surfaced last week as the administration was consolidating its senatorial ticket for next year's mid-term polls.

Andanar, however, clarified that Duterte has yet to officially inform him of his possible new appointment.

"It will be hard to assume or preempt what post the President will give me," Andanar said.

With the PCOO likely to be brought back under the Office of the Press Secretary, Andanar's Undersecretary Mocha Uson also resigned last week. Uson announced her intention to run for an elective post. She did not clarify, however, if she will seek a senatorial berth.

As movements continue amid preparations for the May 2019 elections, presidential

legal counsel Salvador Panelo defended the possible appointment of soon-to- retire Philippine Army chief Lt. Gen. Rolando Bautista as the next Social Welfare Secretary.

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) staff, however, are reportedly protesting Bautista's possible delegation.

"What's wrong with the President's choice? Soldiers have vast experience in dealing with different kinds of people. What's important is the President trusts who he appoints," Panelo said.

He added Bautista enjoys the trust and confidence of Duterte because he is "incorruptible."

**Myself, Secretary Bong Go and Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and Cabinet Secretary Jun Evasco have discussed about this before the Cabinet meeting.**

"That's what matters most to the President, that one has no trace of corruption, with integrity, trustworthy and with brains. He (Bautista) is a general, do you think he would have reached that rank if he's not smart or good at what he does?" Panelo said.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon is among those opposing Bautista's appointment to the DSWD. He previously called on the President to reconsider his choice for the next social welfare secretary and cautioned against the militarization of the bureaucracy.

Social welfare concerns are better left in the hands of civilian authority, Drilon said.

Bautista was first considered by Duterte to replace Jason Aquino as National Food Authority administrator. He is likely to become the Duterte administration's 60th appointee from the military.

Bautista is set to retire from service on 15 October.

# Calida mulls forgiving Trillanes

By Alvin Murcia

After threatening to slap Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV with libel for calling him a thief, Solicitor General Jose Calida said he is ready to forgive the senator. This after the lawmaker refused to apologize to Calida for accusing him of stealing his missing amnesty documents.

The Solgen said Trillanes does not want to apologize even if he demanded it from him but added he is still willing to forgive the senator even if there was no apology from him.

"We'll, we should forgive those who have sinned against us," Calida told reporters, hinting he might still file a libel case against the senator.

Trillanes has rejected Calida's demand for an apology saying the Solgen was in no position to demand anything.

The Solgen is believed to be instrumental in the revocation of the senator's amnesty after President Rodrigo Duterte himself admitted Calida had initiated the research on the circumstances of the amnesty granted to the former Navy officer.

Even Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana revealed Calida called him about the amnesty papers of Trillanes. However, Calida denied receiving any documents from Lorenzana with regards to the amnesty of Trillanes.

"He did not provide me something. I just asked permission to be given a copy of the alleged application. I did not receive anything from him," Calida said.

Apparently, the Solgen also inquired about the amnesty papers of other Magdalo soldiers who were also granted amnesty in connection with the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, the 2006 Marines stand-off and the 2007 Manila Peninsula siege.

**We'll, we should forgive those who have sinned against us.**

Asked what the feedback was for the "others soldiers," Calida replied, "As testified by the witness of the DoJ (Department of Justice) prosecution, there was none."

During the hearing at the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC), the records chief for administrative services and the legal affairs chief of the Department of National Defense said there were no records of amnesty application forms and of official proceedings on the applications.

The urgent motion for the issuance of an alias warrant of arrest and hold departure order is now pending before the Makati RTC 148.

## Malolos City high school receives bomb threat

**CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan:** A bomb threat disrupted school classes at the Marcelo H. del Pilar National High School in this city on Tuesday morning.

Senior Supt. Chito Bersaluna, Bulacan police director, said Reynaldo Magalong Diaz, school principal, said the bomb threat was received by Napoleon Perez, one of the public high school teachers, around 7:59 am through a text message that says "WE HAD SENT A BOMB IS SET TO EXPLODE TODAY OCT 9 OR OCT 10."

Bersaluna added that the bomb squad disposal unit from the First Provincial Mobile Force Company conducted paneling operations in the school premises that ended around 12:40 pm with no explosive devices found.

Motives for the bomb threats are still being determined by police investigators with the help of some instructors, who do not want to be identified.

The teachers said the incident may be related to the recent tagging by the military of 18 universities and colleges as recruiting grounds for anti-government activists.

They suggested that the investigators check on the cellphone numbers used in the threatening messages and on the backgrounds of those who received the bomb threats. **AT**

On Monday and Friday last week, bombs threats also disrupted classes at the campuses of the Bulacan State University in Malolos City and Bustos, Bulacan.

The threats turned out to be hoaxes. **FREDERICK SILVERIO**

A4

## EDITORIAL

# The AFP's broad, red brush

**I**N A democracy, there is nothing wrong about being anti-government.

This may come as a shock to Armed Forces chief Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., but the act of opposing the government in power is essential to a democratic system in which the best ideas emerge from untrammled debate about crucial national issues, among parties that often disagree. Dissent is no more subversive than a vote cast during an election for the political opposition, as long as those who campaign for change do so peacefully.

But eager to sell the idea of a communist plot against the Duterte administration, General Galvez and his subordinates have been using a broad brush to paint institutions and individuals a bright, communist red.

Galvez said during a Senate budget hearing that the Communist Party of the Philippines has reportedly organized students in 10 universities in Manila for the

"Red October" plot to oust President Rodrigo Duterte.

Later on, Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr. named 18 universities and claimed that recruitment was being done through screenings of martial law and other "nationalistic" films.

When—outside of the martial law years themselves—has it been subversive to screen movies about freedom and democracy? When has it been wrong to espouse nationalistic ideals?

The military has presented no proof to support its allegations against the 18 universities and colleges that were named.

Instead, it released some names and photos and school affiliations of four coeds who had allegedly joined the communist movement and who were killed "in different places and time." But what proof do we have that these four youths had indeed joined the armed struggle against the government? How can we be sure that they, too, were not simply caught up in the military's broad, red strokes, and paid with their lives for mere

political dissent? Does the release of their photographs constitute proof? Or is it just more red tagging at the expense of these young people's families?

Sadly, the military's red fever seems to be catching.

Commission on Higher Education chief Prospero de Vera III spoke out against college and university professors over their biases against the government.

"I frown at professors who, under the guise of academic freedom, present only one side. There are too many professors who are like that," De Vera said in an interview on radio dzBB.

"For them, the government has done nothing good [for the people]. All they want is to topple the government. They are not doing the students a favor."

Mr. De Vera is not doing us any favors, either, by failing to do what a person in his position should be doing—standing up for academic freedom and speaking out against guilt by innuendo and association that was the hallmark of McCarthyism.

# 'Red October'? People just want gov't action on prices

**"RED October"** was a hot topic for a while after some officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said it was a move to oust President Duterte sometime between October 11 and October 17. It was claimed to be a plot of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) working with leftist groups, one high AFP official said, and some political groups apparently took advantage of the story to link some opposition leaders to the alleged plot.

Every year at about this time, as the founding anniversary of the CPP and its military arm, the New People's Army (NPA) in December approaches, the AFP goes on alert against raids carried out in various remote regions of the country. Last year, there was an alert for September. This year, it seems to have been moved to October, probably because of the growing economic difficulties in the country caused by fast-rising prices.

Thus was born "Red October," named after a popular novel "Hunt for Red October," about a Soviet submarine and its crew which succeeded in escaping to the United States, despite all efforts to stop it. Some of our politicians thought of linking some opposition senators to it. Others sought to discourage protest demonstrations against rising prices by linking them to "Red October."

Last week, during the Senate hearing on Tuesday on the Department of National Defense's budget for 2019, the AFP's chief of staff, Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said "Red October" was a destabilization plot of the CPP-NPA with efforts to recruit supporters on several university campuses and with NPA attacks in the countryside. But, he told Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and the other senators, that there was no CPP-NPA coalition with the political opposition, as earlier claimed by some AFP officials.

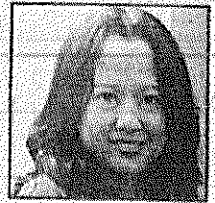
It is indeed a fact that the CPP-NPA is out to oust President Duterte; it is out to oust the entire Philippine system of government and install its own. This has been its goal for several decades now. Other Communist movements in other parts of the world, notably in Russia and Eastern Europe, have given up their efforts to take over through military means. For a while the Duterte administration thought it could convince the CPP-NPA to give up its hard-line goal and work out its desired reforms within the government, but the talks have bogged down.

There is indeed mounting dissatisfaction among the people, because of the high prices of consumer goods at a time of great unemployment, but it is not directed at ousting President Duterte. It only wants some effective government action to stop the rising prices and bring them back down, so they can go on with their lives.



UNRAVELING

# Communists are the No. 1 enemy of the republic



By GETSY TIGLAO

**W**ITH the Muslim insurgency under control and the Islamic State having failed to establish a foothold in the Philippines, the government is left with no other enemy than the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The CPP, together with its armed wing, the New People's Army, are continuing with their criminal activities, especially in rural areas where the military has limited presence.

They kill soldiers and policemen, barangay and other local officials, and just about anybody they deem as going against their cause, which is to overthrow the duly elected government so they can grab power for themselves.

They extort money from businessmen, farmers, and traders, and if you don't pay up, they burn and destroy your properties. (Is this why telcos allegedly continue to pay the CPP-NPA "revolutionary taxes" so they won't touch their expensive cell phone towers? They can't hire security teams to shoot the NPAs?)

Communists, despite what their allies in media and the academe say, are plain criminals and terrorists.

For the past 50 years, the CPP has waged war against the Philippine Republic. For decades, too, every administration has tried to negotiate a peace deal with them, to no avail. The communists just love going through motions of "negotiating" with government panels - especially if it is held in lovely Europe - but they have no real desire for peace.

When the government declares a ceasefire, the communists always use this as an opportunity to strengthen their ranks, move their cadres around, and ambush military personnel. The government has always been too good to the communists, gullible even, that the encumbered and much-maligned Philippine military lost its edge through the years.

Armed Forces of the Philippines

Chief of Staff Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said it best when asked to describe the difference between the CPP and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace process:

"The CPP is deceptive, manipulative, and insincere. They burned road project equipment, they executed thousands, even their own comrades. They extort and always wanted to take advantage. They do not have the sense of honor or 'maratabat' of the MILF"

There hasn't been an all-out campaign against the communist insurgents since the 1970s during the Marcos administration. In 1986 when the Cory Aquino government came into power, the incarcerated communists were pardoned and released, even if many of them were facing murder charges.

If Aquino thought the communists would help in nation-building, she was dead wrong. They just returned to their war against government, and even managed to rebuild their ranks that had been decimated by Marcos' military campaign.

One of those who fled the country and never came back is Jose Maria Sison, the founder and leader of the CPP. He has since been living a luxurious lifestyle in the Netherlands. He is the one fooling the Filipino youth here to abandon their futures to fight the military on behalf of a "revolution" for a failed ideology.

Can you imagine Jose Maria Sison sitting in Malacañang and declaring himself President for Life? But then again, do you think Sison would leave his posh lifestyle abroad in order to govern the Philippines? No chance, he just loves it there too much. He's content to being the puppet master of the communists here.

Besides, if he comes back, he knows he will lose all the mystique he's built up, portraying himself as the ultimate revolutionary leader who will one day come back and lead the Philippines to a Marxist-socialist dreamworld.

The communists lost their big

chance for a peace settlement with President Duterte at the helm of government. As a former socialist who had known Sison, Duterte had a soft spot for these rebels. He even put communists in his Cabinet, but then these people failed to deliver.

Duterte acceded to the CPP's desire to hold the recent peace talks in Norway (my, these communists just love Europe). Unfortunately, Duterte appointed head of the government panel the credulous Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza.

The communists are just too smart and manipulative that they ran circles around Dureza and the rest of the government panel. For instance, they were duped into nearly agreeing with the CPP-drafted Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (Caser), where the communists demanded power-sharing with the government.

The CPP also asked that all the country's economic laws they deemed inimical to their "interests" to be revoked. These included banning the importation of agriculture and fishery imports, repealing all excise taxes and value-added taxes, voiding international trade agreements and other laws, recognition of the armed NPA, capital controls, and other stupid demands that would have wrecked havoc on the economy.

Duterte must have had the shock of his life when he finally read the papers outlining the CPP's demands. Most outrageous of all was their demand for a coalition government. What? A murderous terrorist group, with 3,000 or so rag-tag fighters, wanting to be on equal footing with the Philippine Republic?

Duterte told the communists as he ordered the termination of the peace talks November last year: "I cannot give you what I do not own and certainly a coalition with the Republic of the Philippines is pure nonsense." He added: "Let it not be said that I did not try to reach out to them."

17

If ever peace talks are held again it should be in the Philippines without those pesky Europeans interfering. Also, the head of the Philippine panel and majority of its members should be high-ranking military official who will have no qualms in opposing the outrageous demands of the communists.

But I think this ship has sailed. President Duterte recently ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines to neutralize the communists. He stressed that the NPA, with

their dreaded "sparrow" assassins, are committing rebellion "24 hours a day" and need to be countered with better intelligence gathering and military operations. 9

Duterte should go a step further by forming a task force composed of young military officials (rank of majors, not generals, many of whom are preparing for their retirement at 56) who will be given this specific task - end this communist insurgency once and for all.

# High-ranking Aquino anti-drug police officials themselves involved in illegal drug trade

TO P  
ranked  
officials of  
the Philip-  
pine Nation-  
al Police (PNP) in the Noynoy Aquino



**RIGOBERTO  
D. TIGLAO**

➤ TiglaoA6

administration, who were the commanders of the PNP's campaign against illegal drugs, were themselves involved in that heinous crime. They were getting hundreds of millions of pesos in protection money from big-time drug dealers and recycling confiscated illegal drugs to sell to the market.

What is astonishing is that these officials had built a reputation, with the help of a gullible — or paid — media, of being bold crusaders who had succeeded in apprehending "level-one" drug distributors and seizing huge amounts of their illegal drugs.

The PNP officials, together with high-ranking Bureau of Customs officials, managed to hold on to their positions during the successor Duterte administration. President Duterte, however, had earlier ordered a top-secret intelligence operation to investigate the officials, not just because of information that he had been given, but also because of reports that despite his intense war on drugs, there were significant amounts of drugs still available in the market. The axe will soon be falling on these officials.

The output of that top-secret intelligence operation was a joint report marked "secret" of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the PNP dated September 12, 2018. The report named these PNP officials, one of whom became a high official of the PDEA, and narrated in detail their criminal *modus operandi*.

The report's writers couldn't help but express their shock over its findings: "The narcotics industry has reached an unimaginable sphere of influence all over the country. Enormous networks of powerful people and sophisticated *modus operandi* are utilized to protect and continuously carry out unscrupulous activities under the guise of legitimate law enforcement operations."

According to the report, involved in the illegal-drug trade

were four police colonels and two majors who held commanding positions in the various anti-drug units set up by the PNP since 2003, namely the Anti-illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force set up in 2003, the PNP Anti-illegal Drugs Group in 2015, and the PNP Drug Enforcement Group in 2017.

### Same personalities

The reality is that these units merely involved "changing names and mandates," the report noted.

"Officials appointed to these units were the same personalities, creating a pool of agents and personnel who are mostly corrupt and had already created networks with different drug lords across the country and abroad," the report claimed.

They had managed to continue their heinous activities in the past two years, succeeding in portraying to media and to their superiors that they were raiding the drug lords' safehouses and seizing millions of illegal drugs.

The reality, however, is that they kept a big part of the confiscated illegal drugs and sold them back to the drug lords or to other syndicates. The report detailed specific instances of such "recycling" in many cases citing the evidence that the courts found. In one raid of an illegal drug safehouse in January 2016, PDEA and PNP operatives claimed that they seized 26 kilograms of shabu, but actually kept for themselves 19 kgs which they sold to their own drug dealers.

What partly raised Duterte and his close advisers' suspicion over the commanders of the PNP anti-drug units was the much-publicized arrest in January 2016 of Marine Col. Ferdinand Marcelino at an illegal-drug safehouse in Manila. It was a joint operation of the PDEA-Special Enforcement Service (SES) headed by Col. Ismael Fajardo together with the PNP's Anti-illegal Drugs Group. Fajardo claimed that Mar-

celino, who was with a Chinese interpreter, was a protector of a Chinese-named drug lord, Atong Lee, who owned the safehouse.

Marcelino, however, was able to prove in court that he was on an intelligence operation against illegal drugs code-named "Oplan Moses" for the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

He claimed he was being framed by the SES, with the knowledge of PDEA Chief Arturo Caccac because "Oplan Moses" had succeeded in raiding drug warehouses and laboratories, without informing the PDEA. Caccac was appointed by Aquino in October 2012 and replaced by Duterte a few days after he assumed office.

### Marine colonel framed

The Justice department under Aquino charged Marcelino with involvement in the illegal-drug trade, for which he was imprisoned for a year and a half. It was only in May 2017, after court hearings, that he was released from prison, after the Justice department withdrew its cases, cleared him of all charges, and even pointed to evidence that Marcelino was deliberately framed by the PDEA-SES.

For instance, the PDEA-SES even released to media a photo which it claimed showed Marcelino lounging in a sofa in Lee's place. Marcelino proved it was a photo of him at the lobby of PNP headquarters in Camp Crame. The marine colonel also proved that it was operatives of the PDEA-SES that had brought illegal drugs to the safehouse.

Why would the PDEA go to such lengths to frame a Marine colonel in the thick of an illegal drug operation if they were not protecting the drug lords they served? Duterte's officials concluded.

The September intelligence report was also partly the offshoot of the hearings of Senate blue ribbon committee headed by Sen. Richard Gordon which investigated reports of a P6.8 billion shipment of sha-

bu that managed to pass through the Bureau of Customs.

In that hearing, Gordon alleged that it was Customs Intelligence Officer Jimmy Guban who facilitated the release of the two magnetic lifters that contained the P6.8 billion shabu from Malaysia. Guban was cited for contempt and detained for a few days at the Senate when he refused to name who the consignee of the shipment was.

The September 2018 report alleged that Guban, a longtime Customs intelligence officer, had been "close to Taiwan and China's notorious (drug) syndicate members."

Other than narrating in detail the alleged operations of the PNP and PDEA officials, the report provided evidence of huge unexplained wealth of the four police officials. One of the colonels reported in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) that his net worth was P8 million. The report's investigation showed that he and his wife owned properties — including a resort — worth well over P100 million.

Do you think that no top official in the previous Yellow Regime — especially Aquino's buddy from way back, PNP head Alan Turisima — knew about the involvement in the illegal drug syndicates of these high-ranking officials in the PNP and in the PDEA? Was Aquino's secretary of justice, Leila de Lima, accused of coddling the drug lords and now incarcerated at the Bilibid National Penitentiary, merely following the ethos of the Yellow Regime?

No wonder that after more than two years since Duterte launched his war against illegal drugs, he has yet to vanquish it. How could he if in the six years of the Aquino administration, the very units tasked to go after drug syndicates were in reality members of them?

Email: [tiglaomanilatimes@gmail.com](mailto:tiglaomanilatimes@gmail.com)

Facebook: [Rigoberto Tiglaio](https://www.facebook.com/RigobertoTiglaio)

Twitter: [@bobitiglaio](https://twitter.com/bobitiglaio)

Archives at: [www.rigobertotiglaio.com](http://www.rigobertotiglaio.com)



# LETTERS

Send comments to [opinion@manilatimes.net](mailto:opinion@manilatimes.net) or write to the Opinion Editor, The Manila Times, 2/F Sitio Grande, 409 A. Soriano Avenue, Intramuros, Manila 1002

## FROM DREAMS TO REALITY

ALL praises to both AFP and MILF leaderships for choosing peace to rule on land.

In a statement during his visit to MILF Camp Darapanan in Maguindanao, AFP chief Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said: "Today I can now declare that the war between the Armed Forces and the MILF is finally over. To my commanders, let us embrace our brothers and sisters and give them respect and lasting peace that the Moro people deserve."

It is indeed a relief in my heart to know that the MILF now seems to be open, working hand in hand with the government to provide holistic peace and harmony for the entire Filipino nation. Yes, it was just a dream — everyone's dream, I suppose — to have a nation bound by peace and love amid its multicultural setting. But through the efforts of

both parties, it is now slowly coming to a reality.

MILF Chairman Hadji Murad Ebrahim, along with 6,000 uniformed members of the group, warmly welcomed chief Galvez to their camp during their visit. In fact, the MILF even gave Galvez a "soldier of peace award." Murad also said, "General Galvez is well known among our commanders, the friendship between the MILF and him is already strongly established due to the numerous incidents and challenges in the past that we have jointly faced and solved."

For me, this is one of the clearest manifestations that both parties are now nearing towards a goal that would benefit the Filipino citizenry by sustaining peace and order, most especially for our Muslim brothers and sisters.

This good news is for every Filipino. But more importantly, this good news serves as a transparent proof there is always hope. It teaches us to believe in possibilities and, dramatically speaking, even to miracles.

With this, as a Filipino, I am not giving up. I hope other anti-government entities such as the NPA and other militant groups would see the MILF as an example. One day. One day.

AS  
 Chissan Rae Balderas  
[chengbalderas@gmail.com](mailto:chengbalderas@gmail.com)



## Left's recruitment depends on 'objective conditions'

THERE is no movement in the world more pragmatic than the Left. The only breach in this sustained and unshakeable adherence to hard realities is the Left's optimism on the direction, arc and trajectory of history. The Left nurtures this certain belief that the Revolution will eventually triumph and from there, society would evolve into the ideal state, the classless society.

The overly optimistic view of history, of course, has yet to be translated into reality. The October 1917 Bolshevik revolution in Russia marked its 100th year in 2017 with the dream of a withered state in tatters. The USSR is gone and what is now Russia is governed by Vladimir Putin, who would rather nurture computer hackers, biker groups cum thugs, corporate cronies, oil cartels and anti-Semitic wingnuts than spread the ideals of Marxism-Leninism. In fact, political conservatives in the US are now so in love with Russia under Putin that they publicly wear t-shirts emblazoned with these words: Better Russian than Democrat.

Putin's Russia is more identified with white supremacy and sowing mayhem than living up to the grand ideals of Karl Marx.

The Chinese experiment has also foundered and classic Maoists are now declared to be enemies of the Chinese state. Fidelity of the official state to Marxism, Leninism, Maoism is nominal and perfunctory, not the deep and serious



### MIDWEEK COMMENTS

MARLEN V. RONQUILLO

kind. The third-generation leader of Stalinist North Korea, a more robust Kim Jong-un with a haircut as bad as his late dictator-father's, is now chummy with Mr. Trump. And Dennis Rodman.

Except for its adherence to the optimistic note of historical determinism, the Left always acts, always decides, after a careful analysis and dissection of hard realities. There is a Marxist term for that, the analysis of the "objective conditions" or the "conditions obtaining."

On the Left's recruitment activities, from the drafting of fighters, leaders for the above-ground organizations or simply nurturing the mass base, one and only one thing influences the pace and the intensity of the Left's organizational expansion — the concrete conditions in society. If the conditions for intense recruitment and expansion are not favorable, the Left bides its time. If the conditions are indeed favorable, the recruitment work will soar to a higher level.

Based on history, under what conditions would the Left grow and thrive. To thrive and to flourish, the Left needs a leader like Ferdinand Marcos and the conditions that were present during the

two decades of Marcos rule.

Let us look at the figures.

Right before the fall of Mr. Marcos, the NPA had a force of about 20,000 well-armed fighters. The national population then was about 54 million and the mass support was estimated at 10 million. The NDI, the broad alliance of all left-wing groups, had an estimated membership of one million. On its founding day in 1969, it had a few malfunctioning guns and about 72 active fighters.

The Left, during the dying days of the Marcos regime, held sway over roughly 20 percent of Philippine rural areas.

Before the fall of Marcos, majority of Filipinos never cared whether the Left won or not. There was the general sense that Marcos had to go, regardless of who takes over state power. There was a general sense of desperation that made the majority of Filipinos simply cynical about the possibility of a Left-led government or a Left-led ruling coalition. Some even wanted to give the Left a chance to govern and prove the mettle of its leaders.

The Marcos regime had all the conditions that made the Left attractive: one-man rule in partnership with the military, absence of checks and balance on the abuse of power, a muffled press, crony capitalism, feudal overlords and the number one recruiter — massive poverty.

Daily, independent journalism validated the tsunami of

anti-Marcos sentiment. *Malaya*, the alternative paper edited and published by the late Joe Burgos, had daily street sales of 400,000, with requests for reprints of some of the issues. Those who missed an issue of *Malaya* on a sold-out day would often ask friends and neighbors for Xeroxes of the articles they missed. That was phenomenal; a small publication edited at a modest two-story house on West Avenue thriving on the formula of anti-Marcos stories. I was a political writer at *Malaya* then and every night Joe Burgos would warn me to sit close to the jeepney driver on the jeepney ride home.

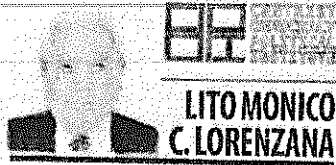
The military's warning that the Left has been actively recruiting at 18 universities is only partially accurate. The Left recruits 24/7 and there is no pause. It recruits across all tertiary schools, in the whole archipelago.

But the pace and intensity of the recruitment work depends on the "concrete conditions" and the "conditions obtaining."

The recruitment will only thrive if the leader is a despot, if the economy is bad, if poverty is massive, if desperation is widespread, if free expression is muffled and authoritarianism reigns. Absent these favorable conditions, the recruitment hits the "slow down" button. **A4**

But if the Marcos regime conditions become reality again, expect the Left to thrive and flourish at the universities and beyond.

## Duterte is not a Marcos



LITO MONICO C. LORENZANA

My readers at the *Manila Times*, especially those from the provinces, particularly Davao, have been egging me to write in support of a revolutionary government (RevGov). I did write a couple of items over several months, out of frustration at the snail's pace of change which we expected DU30 to put on stream. But my position against RevGov is unequivocal. It is a more lethal medicine than the disease it seeks to cure.

These snake-oil salesmen have been hawking the concept of "RevGov the Democratic way," citing the 1986 post-Edsa People Power Revolution as the main example. Aside from these two not being analogous, the contradictions comparing President Cory's and the current DU30 regime are glaring. For one, President Cory's was born out of people's disgust with the Marcos dictatorship generating a revolutionary climate that drove Marcos out. This undercurrent volatility triggered seven coup d'état attempts on Cory's government in four years.

There is nothing "democratic" about a declaration and execution of RevGov. If perchance DU30 changes his mind and declares one, then he is simply declaring a coup d'état against his own duly constituted government and an acceptance that he couldn't hack it through the democratic processes under which he was elected a minority president. I doubt he will succeed. But let us examine the circumstances and their implications.

A most powerful segment of the state, the oligarchy, will not countenance RevGov as this is an encroachment into their business and political prerogatives. They want their own "level playing field," one they had painstakingly structured for generations, safe for them. And DU30 is a gadfly disrupting the cozy relationship between the political movers and

shakers, the captured bureaucracy and the old-time oligarchy. The president has been relentless in gnawing at the edges of the oligarchy and their minions as demonstrated by his confrontations with the Prieto and Rufino families and Marcos' old cohort, Ongpin.

The officials elected in the 2016 election, many of whom owe their positions to their financial clout, may not look kindly at a RevGov unless DU30 declares a "no election" for the 2019 midterm. This declaration goes beyond the pale of the law, but it may get the support of the LGUs and those whose terms have been extended, but the repercussions are deadly.

On whose side will the military and the police support go? It is doubtful that the armed forces will want to reprise their role as stooges of Marcos. They may have learned their lesson well during the dark years of Martial Law and the post-Marcos military institution may really support the people, the Constitution and not the person of the presidency.

More importantly, DU30 will lose the support of the majority of Filipinos, especially those whose memories go back to the days of the dictator Marcos. And the Marcoses today are so obviously appended to the Deegong brand, that they may prove to be a heavy drag on his persona.

The Deegong may well be advised to look up to his idol Ferdinand Marcos who took decades to plan and execute yet failed in the end as a dictator that set the Filipinos back decades in economic and political advancement.

How did Marcos do it? How did he prepare for capture of absolute power which RevGov is

a small version of?

Marcos took years and had the sophistication to lay the groundwork for his regime. Since Marcos became president in 1965, he may have already planned out his term going beyond eight years, either through the surrogacy of wife Imelda or through constitutional fiat. He chose the latter, with his 1973 constitutional revisions of the 1935 Constitution as his gambit.

It took years also to build up a primary pillar of his regime, the men in uniform. It is a well-known fact that the Marcos couple began to develop military personnel as young fresh PMA graduates, nurturing their careers in the AFP, Constabulary and police forces to ranks of colonels, captains, admirals and generals. Those known as the "Rolex 12" whom he entrusted the powers to execute martial law were such men. The pillars of the martial law regime also included two loyalist civilians, Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and oligarch Danding Cojuangco, Jr., chairman of the San Miguel Corp.

Marcos built up a select technocratic class to run his bureaucracy, putting in place structures that allowed him to extract the nation's wealth through rent-seeking activities. These technocrats eventually headed industries the Marcoses controlled, replacing the old oligarchy with his newly minted ones, some of whom have expanded their wealth, influence and political clout up to this day.

He engineered an elaborate labyrinth of relationships based on loyalty paid for by greed; elevated kleptocracy into an art form; divided the industry headed by cronies protecting their prerogatives by executive orders (EO) and presidential decrees (PD). And this perversion to perpetuate the dictatorship was successful for decades, until the ordinary Filipino emboldened by a small band of soldiers said,

"enough is enough." Thus, the EDSA People Power Revolution.

Today, the Deegong, who is being prodded by his inane and unthinking supporters to declare RevGov, must heed the lessons of history — of Ferdinand and Cory. DU30 did not have the precedents that the once-successful Marcoses did — years of preparations and the willingness to apply his political and iron will. But more importantly, Marcos possessed an evil genius that permeated his band of select technocrats, the best and brightest painstakingly culling out the disloyal from among the business, academe, civic leaders and the men in uniform. These were the Marcos acolytes forming the backbone of his revolutionary government, his dictatorship.

True, people are frustrated at the slow pace of *pagbabago* and desperate over the continued dominance of the oligarchy, the thieves in Congress and the bureaucracy condemning more than half of Filipinos to stark poverty.

True, some of his loyal former military generals are in place in cabinet and government sinecures. I doubt however that their capability and his relationship with them can equal or parallel that of the Marcos-military cabal.

The Deegong is indeed not a Marcos. And thank God for this! He simply doesn't have what it takes to mount a successful RevGov. But he is a leader we never had. *M.*

He is advancing in age and frail, and he knows his years are numbered. He has his legacy clear before him. He carries the hopes of the despairing multitudes who are convinced this is the last chance at real change. He may not be loved by many people, like those of us in the middle upper middle and even higher classes. But we are patriots. And so is he. We are compelled to support the Deegong on faith — to do the right thing "the democratic way."

### Will DU30 bail out or dig in?

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte's admitted health problems and the alleged CPP/NPA/NDF plot



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**  
**FRANCISCO S. TATAD**

► TatadA5

to oust him compel him to either bail out or dig in. The health issue is far more serious than the ouster threat, and DU30 has said if he is diagnosed with cancer he would humbly step down. I very much doubt that. Once he's out of office, he would be easy prey to the International Criminal Court at the Hague and other human rights organizations that are after him. They would find it easier to try him for crimes against humanity where before they could not. He will certainly not risk it.

For this reason, many of his supporters strongly believe DU30 would dig in, even if — or especially if — the doctors' findings turn out to be far more worrisome than earlier feared. They believe DU30 may now have the actual results of his recent endoscopy and colonoscopy procedures, but has decided not to share them with the public. Although the Constitution says "in case of serious illness of the President, the public shall be informed of the state of his health," there is no concrete way of compelling the President to divulge the details of his state of health.

### Looking for 'Dr. Poon'

Sources close to the President believe his current "holiday" with his partner and daughter in Hong Kong is part of his search for the cure to his yet undisclosed illness. Hong Kong is but a short train ride from Guangzhou where he had visited the famous Fuda Cancer Hospital a year ago; according to these sources, a trip to Fuda is a distinct possibility, although some of DU30's Chinese friends have allegedly promised to put him in

touch with a famous Chinese healer known only as "Dr. Poon."

Meanwhile, some DU30 watchers see the rising level of violence and repression in various parts of the country as a clear sign that he has decided to dig in. While DU30 is trying to get out of the mess created by his recent statement that "my only sin is EJK (extrajudicial killing)," the current surge of killings in Cebu, for one, (16 dead in one day), seems to indicate the increasing use of violence for political control. The wave of violence in the "Queen City of the South" is particularly significant because every day the Archdiocese of Cebu, under the leadership of Archbishop Jose Palma, is known to pray an "*oratio imperata*" (obligatory prayer) against extrajudicial killings.

One other sign that DU30 has decided to dig in is his latest attempt to consolidate his political forces in Mindanao. For months on end, the media have carried almost-daily reports about the president's daughter, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, leading a senatorial slate in the May 2019 elections. Her regional party, *Hugpong ng Pagbabago*, would provide the umbrella under which the ubiquitous special presidential assistant Christopher "Bong" Go and several other non-performing Cabinet members would run. This would also prepare Inday Sara for the presidency at the end of her father's term.

### Downsizing, but digging in

Yet in the blink of an eye, the original plan was downsized without any

explanation. Sara will now just run for mayor of Davao again, while her brother Paulo, whose name was once dragged into the P6.4 billion "shabu" scandal, will run for congressman. Another person of interest, who is reportedly intimately close to the President, is also allegedly running for the mayorship of Cagayan de Oro.

Analysts read all this as a sign that DU30 may have developed doubts about his ability to control the outcome of the senatorial elections while he confronts his health problems. He has therefore decided to scale down the area of his political engagement by bringing together his family in one bunker. Whether his final fight will be against "cancer" or against his former communist friends, this is where he will make his last stand.

This is how his closest supporters see him.

But there are those who seem to believe that DU30 does not have to be sick and threatened with an extra-constitutional plot in order to be confronted with the problem of political survival. In their view, all one has to do is to point out that DU30's presidency — more than former Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno's 2012 appointment to her position, or Sen. Antonio Trillanes 4th's 2011 amnesty from then President B.S. Aquino 3rd — is null and void *ab initio*.

This is how they see it:

### An invalid candidacy

Former Davao city mayor Duterte filed his certificate of candidacy for president after the deadline for the filing of Certificate of Candidacy



(CoCs). He did so as a substitute candidate for candidate Martin Diño who had withdrawn his candidacy. But Diño, as his signed electoral forms would attest, had filed his CoC not as a candidate for president but as a candidate for mayor of Pasay City. He could be validly replaced by a candidate for mayor of Pasay city, not by a candidate for the presidency. That's the long and short of it.

Broadcaster Ruben Castor, University of the Philippines Student Council president John Paulo de las Nievas, and disqualified presidential candidates Elly Pamatong and Rizalito David sought to disqualify DU30 because of the invalid substitution. Their petitions were consolidated into one and dismissed by the First Division of the Commission on Elections, which ruled that Diño's alleged intention to run for president prevailed over the fact that his CoC was meant for the mayorship of Pasay City.

As all lawyers will argue, and all judges and courts will declare, "the document speaks for itself." And Diño's document said he was running for mayor of Pasay City. At best, it contained a basic contradiction — the form was meant for a mayoralty candidate, but the applicant said he was running for president. This made the CoC defective on its face. If Diño did not drop out, he might have been dismissed as a crank and disqualified from running anyway. But because he did, the defective form became valid as soon as DU30 took his place.

### Three years too late?

I found the argument compelling, but

I wondered if they were not fighting their war three years too late? Not at all, one of them said. He pointed out that DU30 set the precedent, an abominable one, when eight of the 15 justices of the Supreme Court, upon his behest, declared Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno's 2012 appointment to the top judicial post *null and void ab initio*, and when DU30 himself declared a 2010 proclamation by then President B.S. Aquino 3rd, granting amnesty to former Navy lieutenant and now Sen. Antonio Trillanes 4th for his participation in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny and the 2007 Manila Peninsula siege, *null and void ab initio*.

These "precedents" wreaked havoc on the Constitution and the rule of law, said one of them, who teaches law. Under the Rules of Evidence, he said, a court shall take judicial notice, without introduction of evidence, of the existence and territorial extent of states, their political history, forms of government and symbols of nationality, the law of nations, the admiralty and maritime courts of the world and their seals, the political constitution and the history of the Philippines, the official acts of the legislative, executive and judicial departments of the Philippines, the law of nature, the measure of time and the geographical divisions.

How then can the President, by mere proclamation, declare *null and void ab initio*—i.e. having no legal force and effect from the beginning—a previous President's amnesty proclamation, which has been concurred in by Congress, and taken cognizance of by the judiciary when the Regional Trial Courts dis-

missed the cases filed against those who had been granted amnesty?

This abomination must be revisited when constitutional normalcy returns to the country. Meanwhile, given these abominable precedents, the court should have no problem declaring an invalid candidacy *null and void ab initio*. It should be able to do this even if it was the Comelec *en banc*, not just its first division, that dismissed the pre-election petitions to disqualify DU30, my interlocutor said.

If the majority of the Supreme Court could declare, without a word from the Constitution, the six-year-old appointment of their Chief Justice *null and void ab initio*, and if DU30 himself could declare, also without a word from the Constitution, the eight-year-old proclamation of a former president *null and void ab initio*, how much more can the same court not declare DU30's candidacy, based on the clearly erroneous decision of three Comelec commissioners, *null and void ab initio*?

The logic seemed inapproachable, but it seemed like wishful thinking, given DU30's virtual control of the whole distillery. But even if no court should ever declare DU30's presidency *null and void ab initio*, my interlocutor said the Filipino people must know what they have a right to know. My only worry is that after they shall have counted out DU30's presidency as *null and void ab initio*, will they be able to stand it when they are told that their "rightful president" could be the fellow who polled 23.4 percent of the votes to DU30's 38.6 percent, Mar Roxas of the Liberal Party?

*fstatad@gmail.com*



# What was the alternative to martial law?

Local communists have misguided sympathizers in Congress, the academe, the local and international media, so-called human rights organizations serving as communist fronts and the left-leaning members of the clergy. They also have strategic allies in the Liberal Party (LP) who are determined to oust President Rodrigo Duterte from office.

“  
Although many abuses were committed by the military during the martial law years, that does not mean that there were no factual and legal bases for the proclamation of martial law.

Last month, on the 46th anniversary of martial law in the Philippines, the local communists, their sympathizers and their strategic allies had a swell time bashing President Ferdinand Marcos and his martial law regime.

There was nothing new in their criticism of martial law. Since time immemorial, they associate martial law with mass arrests and detention, prisoner torture and the overused catch-all phrase “violation of human rights.”

Their common mantra was “never again to martial law,” an indication that they are unaware that the 1987 Constitution acknowledges the power of the President to resort to martial law to protect national security.

The big irony is that these anti-martial law groups are supported by some of the surviving members of the unelected 1986 Constitutional Commission that drafted the present Charter which, as stated above, authorizes presidential resort to martial law.

Those commissioners were appointed by then President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino for their anti-Marcos elements. They include the meddling Hilario Davide Jr., the partisan political ex-chief justice who behaves more like a stooge of the LP than a former magistrate and Jose Luis Gascon, the aging human rights commissioner who is suspiciously oblivious to the human rights violations committed during the term of his lord and master, ex-President Benigno Aquino III.

Criticizing martial law during the Marcos administration is one thing. Portraying it to the current generation of young Filipinos as an absolutely detestable chapter in Philippine history, as the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is currently undertaking through its numerous fronts, is something else.

The red perspective of martial law is obviously biased against Marcos and ignores what good the martial law regime brought to the nation. Although there were mass arrests and tortures committed by the military, it must be stressed that martial law in 1972 was resorted to because the threat of a communist takeover of the country was real and imminent.

Back in 1971, the CPP admitted that it was determined to overthrow the duly-constituted government of the Philippines, by violence and force of arms if necessary. After toppling the government under Marcos, the CPP intended to replace it with a Maoist state, in the model of Communist China.

The violent strategy of the CPP is confirmed by the Plaza Miranda bombing in August 1971 where grenades killed and injured many who attended the proclamation rally of the LP, the opposition party of the period, for the

November 1971 election.

After 1986, ex-communist cadres revealed that CPP chief Jose Ma. Sison was the mastermind of the Plaza Miranda bombing. The bombing was designed to destabilize the government by instigating the public to blame the incident on Marcos.

“  
**Communism does not tolerate free speech and dissent. All media will be under strict state control and censorship will be imposed everywhere.**

Months prior to the proclamation of martial law, CPP cadres tried to smuggle to Cagayan two ship loads of firearms, munitions and explosives from Communist China. The plot failed because they were discovered by the military and one ship sank because of a typhoon off the coast of Luzon.

Even the print and broadcast media, which were openly critical of Marcos in early 1972, revealed the extent of the communist insurgency in the country. Violent demonstrators repeatedly attacked Malacañang amid loud chants praising Mao Tse-Tung, the founder of Communist China.

Similar communist insurgencies were raging in neighboring countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Clearly, martial law was resorted to by President Marcos to fight the communist insurgency. This aspect of martial law, however, is not mentioned in the anti-Marcos, anti-martial law political propaganda currently being disseminated by the CPP and its allies.

Martial law put an end to the narcotics menace plaguing the Philippines when Lim Seng, the biggest drug lord in the country, was convicted by a military tribunal and executed by firing squad. Other drug lords fled abroad after the execution was broadcast on television.

The Lim Seng execution is never mentioned in the anti-martial law propaganda peddled by the CPP and its allies and sympathizers. If they will mention it in future propaganda, chances are they will say that the drug lord was a victim of human rights abuses.

Martial law also saw the arrest of CPP leaders like Jose Ma. Sison and Bernabe Buscayno. Their arrest incapacitated the communist movement.

Although many abuses were committed by the military during the martial law years, that does not mean that there were no factual and legal bases for the proclamation of martial law. Even the Supreme Court sustained the proclamation.

Moreover, martial law in 1972 was an experiment authorized by the 1935 Constitution. It was an experiment because no other peacetime President before Marcos resorted to it. Precisely because martial law was an experiment, many of its consequences were beyond reasonable anticipation.

“  
**There is no solution available in denouncing anything and everything about martial law.**

Legal action should be taken against the soldiers responsible for abuses committed during martial law. There is no solution available in denouncing anything and everything about martial law, as what the communist propagandists want to disseminate.

What was the alternative to martial law in 1972? Communist propagandists conveniently refuse to discuss this matter. As much as possible, they do not want anybody to know that a communist takeover would have meant worse times for the Filipino people.

Communism does not tolerate free speech and dissent. All media will be under strict state control and censorship will be imposed everywhere. Political opposition leaders will be executed as “traitors to the revolution” or thrown in “re-education camps,” a euphemism for military stockades for political prisoners. The tortures attributed to martial law will continue under communist masters.

Under a communist government, education will be controlled by the State and school children will be indoctrinated with constant communist propaganda. Religion will be abolished or strictly restrained. Food and prime commodities will be rationed. Travel abroad will be prohibited. Local travel will be severely restricted. Private property will be abolished and luxuries will be available only to CPP leaders and choice communist party officials.

The local communists hate martial law because it effectively prevented them from seizing power.

So the next time martial law is the topic of discussion and we want an objective discourse on the matter, let us not forget to consider what would have happened to the Philippines if martial law was not resorted to in September 1972.

## ONLINE NEWS 10 OCTOBER 2018

# PH Army dragon boat team wins 3 golds in SoKor

By Priam Nepomuceno October 9, 2018, 3:45 pm



(Photo courtesy: Philippine Army)

**MANILA** – The Philippine Army (PA) team has netted three gold medals in the just-concluded 2018 ARA Waterways International Dragon Boat Festival held in Incheon, South Korea last Oct. 4-8.

In a statement late Monday, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva said the event was organized by the Korean Dragon Boat Association.

Participating teams came from Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Villanueva said the Philippines' Army Dragon Boat Team dominated all three categories – the 200-, 500- and 2,000-meter mixed event, including the tug-of-war, making them overall champion in the sporting meet.

The PA delegation consisted of six male and five female rowers.

It can be recalled that the same team was proclaimed as champion in the International Dragon Boat Federation, World Dragon Boat Championship held in Italy and Australia in 2013 and 2016, respectively.

PA Special Services Unit director and delegation head, Lt. Col. Raymond Dante P. Lachica, was impressed with the magnificent effort of the team. (PNA)

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## PH will not join US military drills in WPS, Duterte tells China

By Jelly Musico October 9, 2018, 4:19 pm

**MANILA** – President Rodrigo Duterte said the Philippines will not participate in the military exercises the United States will be conducting in the disputed West Philippines Sea (WPS).

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Duterte made this remark after Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua informed the Filipino leader about China's concerns over US military movements in the WPS.

He said Zhao paid a courtesy call to Duterte on Monday to discuss the upcoming visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in Manila next month.

"China, of course, expressed concerns over a naval military exercise the US will be conducting in the area at about the same time that President Xi will be in the Philippines," Roque said in a Palace press briefing.

"The President said we'll not take part in the US military exercise," he added.

He said the general consensus is to prepare for the fruitful and productive visit of the Chinese leader in November.

"We do not want to mar the visit of President Xi and we're hoping the DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs) will make sure the visit would be fruitful and productive," Roque said. "We want a seamless visit of President Xi."

Roque said Zhao has also reiterated that China does not desire any military confrontation "as the results of the WPS either with other claimant states or with any other power because China is the biggest user of WPS".

"Any military confrontation in WPS will have dark consequences as far as Chinese commerce is concern," Roque said.

Roque said Duterte and Zhao agreed that Xi's visit in Manila would further cement the already improving Philippines-China relations.

During his courtesy call, Zhao had also discussed with Duterte the joint exploration in the WPS, as both agreed that the proposal would be for the interest of the two countries.

Recently, Roque said the proposal to conduct exploration with China follows the Constitution, which provides that foreigners can participate in a 60-40 deal in favor of the Philippines.

The contested WPS is believed to have large deposits of oil and natural gas. **(PNA)**

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)