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## NEWS CLIPPINGS

11 October 2018

Thursday



*Honor. Patriotism. Duty*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

11 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	Majority of Pinoys say they are poor	PDI-A1
2-4	Comelec tells bets: COC filing not a circus	P Star-1
<b>AFP/ SECURITY RELATED NEWS</b>		
5	Huge Marlin sinks Filipino fishing boat	PDI-A6
6	US-PH war exercise worries China	PDI-A3
7	FOD: Chinese loans not tied to joint oil exploration in disputed waters	PDI-B4
8-9	Sea deals not on table-DoF	D Tribune-1
10	Comelec prohibits candidates from engaging in theatrics	PDI-A6
11	PNP pins deadly PDEA ambush on slain drug suspects 10 relatives	PDI-A5
12	Lorenzana denies handing over Trillanes amnesty form to Calida	PDI-A4
13	PH sends aid team to tsunami-hit Indonesia	M Times-A7
14	Magdalos' applications for amnesty 'all missing'	M Standard-6
15	Lorenzana lashes out anew at Taguiwalo	Malaya-B6
16	US renews offer to sell fighter planes to PH	Malaya-B6
17	Sacked cop behind shabu smuggling: Customs officer	Malaya-B1
18	House misses budget OK goal	D tribune-1
19-20	NPA owns up attack on ex-mayor accused of using private Army vs Rebels	PDI-A10
21	Rody: Rogue cops linking Chinese trader to drugs	P Star-4
22	Troops capture NPA recruitment literature	M Bulletin-7
23	NPA owns up ambush of ex-Samar town mayor	M Standard-6
24-25	Duterte identifies 7 cops in illegal drugs	Malaya-B1
26	Trainer ng hit squad ng NPA, timbog	Balita-5
27	7 Maute men surrender in Lanao Sur	P Star-11
28	7 Maute members surrender in Lanao del Sur	M Bulletin-7
29	7 Maute, sumuko sa Lanao	Balita-5
30-31	No circus please, Comelec asks filers	Malaya-B1
32-34	Indon jail claims another Filipina	D tribune-1
35	Misuari sasabak sa Sulu	Ngayon-2
<b>EDITORIAL/OPINION/COMMENTARY</b>		
36	Explosives	M Bulletin-7
37	Hasn't reality bitten Carpio yet?	M Times-A6
38-39	How President Duterte has changed Asia	M Times-A1
40	Naval exercise in the South China Sea	Malaya-B4
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>		
41	Guevarra: It was AFP that linked Rizal farm raid to 'Red October'	www.inquirer.net

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

42-43	<b>NPA owns up to slay try on former Samar town mayor</b>	<a href="http://www.inquirer.net">www.inquirer.net</a>
44-45	<b>2 IEDs defused in Maguindanao ahead of Duterte's visit</b>	<a href="http://www.inquirer.net">www.inquirer.net</a>
46-49	<b>CA confirms ad interim appointments, nominations of 74 senior AFP officers</b>	<a href="http://www.inquirer.net">www.inquirer.net</a>
50-51	<b>NPA leader nabbed, 3 others surrender</b>	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
52	<b>7 Maute members, supporters yield to military</b>	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
53-54	<b>PH deploys C-130 loaded with aid supplies to Indonesia</b>	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>

# MAJORITY OF PINOYS SAY THEY ARE POOR

STORY BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

High prices have prompted 52 percent of Filipino families, or 12.2 million households, to consider themselves living in poverty, according to the latest nationwide survey by Social Weather Stations.

## FROM A1

By the Inquirer Staff  
@Team\_Inquirer

The number of poor Filipino families increased as prices of basic commodities, particularly food, surged, according to the latest survey by Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The pollster found that Filipino families rating themselves poor increased by 1.1 million between June and September, the highest level of self-rated poverty incidence in four years.

An average Filipino family has five members.

The nationwide survey conducted from Sept. 15 to 23 found that self-rated poverty jumped to 52 percent, equivalent to some 12.2 million families, from 48 percent, or 11.1 million families in June.

It was the second straight quarter this year that the figure had risen, increasing 10 points between March and September.

Cid Terosa, dean of the School of Economics at University of Asia and the Pacific, said inflation and the rising cost of food propelled the rise in self-rated poverty nationwide.

Inflation rose to 6.7 percent in September, a fresh nine-year high.

### Newly poor

Of the 52 percent who considered themselves poor in September, 8 percent were "newly poor," or those who rated themselves not poor one to four years ago, SWS said.

The pollster also found that 36 percent, or 8.5 million families, considered themselves food-poor, up by 700,000 fami-

lies from 34 percent in June.

The survey used face-to-face interviews with 1,500 respondents and had a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3 percentage points.

Labor groups said the increase in the number of Filipinos who rated themselves poor showed that the Duterte administration had been "ineffective" in providing families a comfortable life, a campaign promise of President Duterte.

Nagkaisa labor coalition spokesperson Rene Magtubo said the administration's senatorial candidates could end up losing in the elections in May 2019 because of the government's failure to ease poverty.

Vice president Julius Cain-glet of the Federation of Free Workers said the survey results should prompt the administration to provide better wages to workers who could "no longer cope with the abnormal rise of the inflation rate."

Malacañang expressed concern over the SWS findings.

In a statement, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the Palace "understood the

gayan regions contributed to higher inflation," he said.

"This would explain why self-rated poverty in Balance Luzon [outside Metro Manila] rose to 47 percent in September," he added.

Roque reiterated that measures had been implemented "to cushion the impact of inflation and bring food on the table of poor families."

On Monday, President Duterte ordered unimpeded importation of rice to rein in inflation. "No Filipino family should be hungry. That is the order and desire of the President," Roque said.

### Outside Metro

Between June and September, self-rated poverty climbed from 35 percent to 47 percent in Luzon outside Metro Manila and from 60 percent to 65 percent in Mindanao.

It declined from 43 percent to 26 percent in Metro Manila, however. It was unchanged at 67 percent in the Visayas.

"Those in Metro Manila have the means to weather adverse economic swings. Also, many of those in Metro Manila may have benefited from income tax reductions and exemptions," Terosa said in a text message.

SWS said the median self-rated poverty threshold was P10,000, the monthly budget that a household would need for home expenses so it won't consider itself poor.

The median gap, or the amount families lack monthly so they would not be considered poor, was placed at P5,000.

Self-rated food poverty also fell in Metro Manila from 23 percent to 21 percent. —REPORTS FROM INQUIRER RESEARCH, CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO AND JOVIC YEE INQ



For one,  
the destruction  
to agriculture  
and infrastructure  
caused by  
Typhoon 'Ompong'  
in the Cordillera,  
Ilocos and  
Cagayan regions  
contributed to  
higher inflation

### Harry Roque

Presidential spokesperson

people's sentiment," noting that the survey was done last month when the inflation rate rose to 6.7 percent.

"For one, the destruction to agriculture and infrastructure caused by Typhoon 'Ompong' in the Cordillera, Ilocos and Ca-

# Comelec tells bets: COC filing not a circus

## *Poll body limits bets' entourage*

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

While the Commission on Elections (Comelec) is ready to accept, starting today, the certificates of candidacy (COCs) that will be filed by those who will run in next year's midterm elections, an official of the poll body warned that the filing should not be turned into a "circus of the supporters."

"We don't want this event to be disorderly and chaotic. However, we cannot control what the aspirants and supporters will do outside our office," Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said yesterday.

He was referring to the Comelec main office at Palacio del Gobernador in Intramuros, Manila where senatorial bets will file their COCs.

Party-list groups are also expected to submit their Certificates of Nomination and Certifications of Acceptance of Nomination at the Comelec main office.

To minimize the crowd in the building, Jimenez said senatorial aspirants have been told to bring only four companions each while the five nominees of party-list groups may each be accompanied by five individuals.

Jimenez has appealed to the candidates "to take the initiative" to tell their supporters to exercise restraint while they are outside the Palacio.

"There are last-minute preparations

Turn to Page 6

# Comelec

From Page 1

currently being done but we are ready. We've been looking forward to the (filing set for Oct. 11, 12, 15, 16 and 17)," Jimenez said.

## Major names

According to Jimenez, Comelec expects "major names" to file COCs during the five-day filing period, unlike in the past when candidates waited for the last day.

"We foresee the filing to be spread out. We expect that there will be major names on every day of the filing because they don't want to steal the spotlight from each other," Jimenez claimed.

Jimenez added that the Comelec expects more COCs for senators to be filed, based on the interest manifested by many individuals for the position. The filing of COCs is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## 61-M voters

Around 61 million are expected to vote in the elections next year, Jimenez said yesterday.

He added the figure does

not include 1.9 million overseas Filipino voters.

"We expect to see more voters in next year's elections, which to us is a good sign because more people are very much engaged and willing to participate in this exercise," Jimenez said.

In the 2016 polls, there were around 58 million voters, including 1.3 million overseas.

Records showed the Comelec had received some 2.3 million applications for voter registration and reactivation. The other applications were for correction of entries on the voters' records and transfer of registration.

Jimenez noted that the biggest segment of voters belongs to the youth sector aged 18 to 35 years old. They account for more than one-third of the votes.

"This is because of the inclusion of the alumni of the Sangguniang Kabataan. They no longer need to register as they are automatically included in the list of voters," Jimenez added.

The elderly, or those above 55 years old, also comprise a

"large segment" of voters, accounting for "a little less than one-third" of the total number.

The "smallest demographics" of voters are those of middle age.

Meanwhile, the provincial election supervisor of Pangasinan advised prospective candidates to avoid the *mañana* (procrastination) habit in filing their COCs.

Marino Salas, provincial election supervisor, urged candidates to submit their COCs together with their certificates of nomination and acceptance from their political party.

Salas met with the 48 election officers in the 44 towns and four cities of Pangasinan yesterday.

"Right now, I can confidently say that it's all systems go for the filing of COCs," Salas said.

## 'No-el' possible?

A no-elections ("no-el") scenario is still possible with the Charter change (Cha-cha) push in the House of Representatives, lawmakers belonging to the minority bloc said yesterday.

"It's possible but difficult due to time constraints," Minority Leader Danilo Suarez

told a news conference.

Instead of the elections, a plebiscite could be held for the ratification of a new constitution, Suarez said.

National Network of Cooperatives party-list Rep. Anthony Bravo said administration allies in the House want to work on Cha-cha "because it is the President's priority."

Rep. Arnulfo Teves of Negros Oriental said the polls "could be postponed but not scrapped."

### **Spare churches**

Meanwhile, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) urged candidates to spare churches from political campaign.

Fr. Jerome Secillano, CBCP public affairs committee executive secretary, reminded politicians to keep the solemnity of churches where they plan to make a stop and hear mass.

"Just don't make it similar to attending a political rally, because the church is really a place for praying," he said in an interview.

"You shouldn't go there and make public speeches because that would be inappropriate.

Maintain the solemnity of the place," the CBCP spokesman appealed.

Secillano also reminded candidates not to put up posters and tarpaulins and distrib-

ute flyers within the church's vicinity.

"Those are prohibited acts. Don't do that," Secillano stressed. — With Eva Visperas, Jess Diaz, Edu Punay

FIVE MEN AND THE SEA

HUGE MARLIN SINKS FILIPINO FISHING BOAT

It reads like a modern-day take on Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea": Five Filipino fishermen are cast adrift for days on a makeshift raft after a huge marlin sinks their boat.

The men were fishing in the South China Sea last week when a 1.8-meter-long marlin punctured their boat's wooden hull with its giant bill, vessel master Jimmy Batiller told Agence France-Presse (AFP) on Wednesday.

Their 12-meter boat quickly dipped beneath the waves in the early evening of Oct. 3, leaving the crew with little drinking water or food until

their eventual rescue by the US Navy on Monday.

2 big holes

"It (the fish) hit the bottom of our boat, leaving two big holes. We suspect it was chasing a smaller fish. It swam around the sinking boat for a while, apparently disorientated," Batiller said.

The fishermen salvaged what they could, removing the outriggers, planks and barrels to build a makeshift raft.

"Our water ran out after two days. We waved at passing commercial vessels, but no one came to rescue us. But we did not lose hope," the 42-year-old

father of one said, adding the crew also ate raw rice and drank some seawater.

"When we were rescued, that was when our tears fell," added Batiller, who has since been reunited with his family in Subic, a port about 86 kilometers northwest of Manila.

US Navy to the rescue

The US Navy said the fishermen were lucky to survive, especially because they had drunk seawater.

"On average, death results two to three days after a diet of drinking undiluted seawater or urine in survival-at-sea events as it takes more water than is

consumed for the body to process the waste and salt out of the kidneys," said Leon Hadley, the civilian chief mate from the ship which conducted the rescue, the USNS Wally Schirra.

"Luckily, we were going at a slow enough speed to have spotted the fishermen," added the Wally Schirra's master Keith Sauls.

"The individuals were waving their arms and a flag in the air. They were also flashing a white light that was previously thought to be fishing buoy," Sauls said in an account carried by the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service.

Fastest, strongest predators

The blue marlin is one of the open ocean's fastest, strongest predators and is also one of the largest species of bony fishes.

The blue marlin can grow up to 5 meters in length and weigh as much as 820 kilograms.

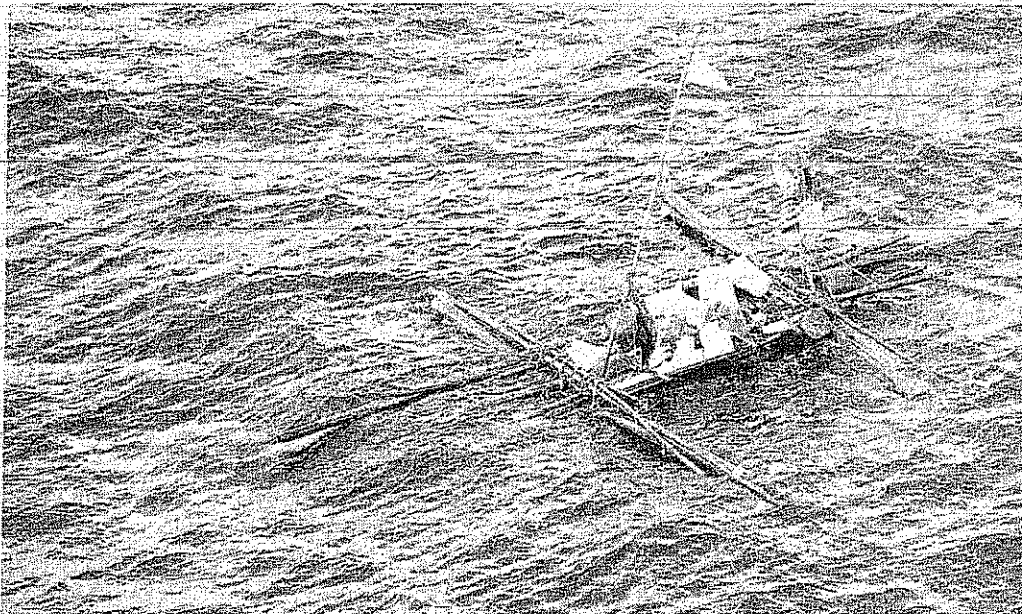
It is known for its long bill that grows from the front of its head which it uses to stun prey.

"This is the first such incident we have encountered here. Most of the time it's bad weather sinking fishermen's boats in the open seas," Subic coast guard operations officer Erman Besana told AFP.

Despite the near-death experience, Batiller said he and his crew planned to go back to sea after a few days' rest, provided they find a new boat.

"This is our job," he added.

-AFP



LUCKY TO SURVIVE - Five Filipino fishermen are rescued by the USNS Wally Schirra as their makeshift raft drifts in the South China Sea for more than a week in this photo taken on Wednesday. - AFP

5



# US-PH war exercise worries China

By Julie M. Aurelio  
@JMAurelioINQ

China has raised concerns about a joint US-Philippine military exercise that coincides with the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to the country in November, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said on Tuesday.

Roque said Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua raised the concern in a meeting with President Duterte in Malacañang on Monday.

Zhao called on Mr. Duterte to discuss Xi's visit.

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

He did not elaborate on what particular drill China was concerned about.

## No scheduled exercise

Military officials said they were unaware of any US military exercise with Filipino forces next month.

Zhao may have been referring to the US Pacific Fleet's reported plans to deploy planes and ships to the South China Sea to show American disapproval

of China's militarization of artificial islands it has built in the heavily disputed waterway.

Roque said Mr. Duterte assured Zhao that the Philippines "will not take part in that military exercise."

"We don't want anything to mar the visit of President Xi. I think the Department of Foreign Affairs will do all that it can to make sure that President Xi's visit will be fruitful and as productive as we want it to be. We want a seamless visit of President Xi," he said.

He said China had given assurance that it did not want to use military force on any state over the South China Sea disputes.

A UN-backed arbitration tribunal has invalidated China's claim to almost all of the South China Sea, but Beijing has ignored the international court's ruling.

Besides the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan have competing claims in the South China Sea.

## Repairing ties with China

After taking office in 2016, Mr. Duterte worked to repair relations with China, which had been damaged by the two countries' territorial dispute in the South China Sea.

Mr. Duterte announced early in his presidency that he would end annual combat drills with the US military in an effort not to offend China, but the exercises continued.

China opposes US-led military exercises in the South China Sea, accusing the United States of intervening in a purely Asian dispute.

The United States has pressed on with the exercises and military patrols to promote freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea.

## Joint exploration

Roque said Zhao and Mr. Duterte agreed that a proposed joint oil exploration in the West Philippine Sea would benefit both countries.

West Philippine Sea is the local name of waters within the Philippines' 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea.

Earlier, Malacañang said it hoped a joint exploration deal could be signed with China during Xi's visit.

Roque said Zhao affirmed Chinese financial assistance in connection with a "page-long list of projects" in the Philippines. —WITH A REPORT FROM AP INQ

WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

DOF: CHINESE LOANS NOT TIED TO JOINT OIL EXPLORATION IN DISPUTED WATERS

By Daxim L. Lucas @DaxINQ

Big-ticket infrastructure and development projects will be rolled out by the Philippines in cooperation with China—with three loan accords due for signing before year-end—despite a territorial dispute between the two over sections of the West Philippine Sea.

In a press statement, the Department of Finance (DOF) stressed neither the maritime dispute nor the proposal of exploring the contested waters jointly for oil deposits came up during the regular meetings on the negotiations and processing of new loans with China, and even in the bilateral, high-level meetings between fiscal authorities and their Chinese counterparts.

DOF issued the statement to debunk claims published online about a Chinese embassy official supposedly using China's offers of loans and grants to force the Philippines to agree to a joint exploration deal in the West Philippine Sea.

"This is a grossly malicious claim without any basis," the DOF said. "There is no link whatsoever between the Chinese loans and grants and the proposed joint oil exploration deal between the two countries."

"In fact, the proposed infrastructure projects we are undertaking with the cooperation of China all go through a very stringent process of approvals to ensure that they comply with the Government Procurement Act and other applicable laws," it said.

# Sea deals not on table – DoF

Big-ticket infrastructure and development projects to be rolled out in cooperation with China are proceeding

No string was attached to Chinese lendings for flagship projects of the Duterte administration and the proposed joint oil exploration was never tackled during the negotiations and processing of new loans, the Department of Finance (DoF) said in a statement yesterday.

The DoF said it issued the statement to dispute online reports about a Chinese embassy official supposedly using China's offers of loans and grants to force the government to agree to a joint exploration deal in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

Big-ticket infrastructure and development projects to be rolled out in cooperation with China are proceeding as discussed during the regular high-level meetings between the two countries, with an initial three loan accords due for signing before the year-end, the statement read.

It added not once did the WPS issue crop up during the regular meetings on the negotiations and processing of new loans with China, and even in the bilateral, high-level meetings between DoF officials and their Chinese counterparts.

"The topic of joint (oil) exploration was never raised in our discussions with our counterparts, particularly during loan negotiations and processing of new loans, even during the bilateral and high-level meetings," the statement added.

"(The online report was) a grossly malicious claim without any basis," the DoF said. "There is no link whatsoever between Chinese loans and grants and the proposed joint oil exploration deal between the two countries," it said.



The DoF said technical discussions on the loan agreements to be signed between the two countries

Turn to page 6

8

# Sea deals not on table – DoF

*From page 1*

are ongoing, with delays encountered “mostly due to the government’s internal processes.”

**P864 million has been allotted for project feasibility studies of the Davao City Expressway and the Panay-Guimaras-Negros Island Bridge projects.**

“In fact, the proposed projects we are undertaking with the cooperation of China all go through a very stringent process of approvals to ensure that they comply with the Government Procurement Act and other applicable laws,” the statement added.

#### **P9.8-B grants signed**

Four grant agreements had thus far been signed totaling RMB 1.25 billion or about P9.8 billion to finance projects and feasibility studies.

A RMB 500 million grant or P3.9 billion signed in April 2018 which has about RMB 110.33 million (P864 million) has been allotted for project feasibility studies of

the Davao City Expressway and the Panay-Guimaras-Negros Island Bridge projects to be implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

During the high-level meetings between the Philippines and China held in Beijing last August, an indicative list of 12 key infrastructure were proposed for feasibility study assistance to the Chinese government.

#### **Chico funding set**

On 10 April 2018, at the sidelines of the four-day Boao Forum in Hainan, China, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua, on behalf of the Export-Import Bank of

China, signed a \$62.09-million or P3.1-billion loan agreement to help fund the construction of the Chico River Pump Irrigation Project in Northern Luzon.

By the end of the year, both countries aim to conclude three more loan agreements which are for the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Project Management Consultant for the PNR (Philippine National Railways) South Long Haul Project of the Department of Transportation and the Safe Philippines Project, Phase 1 of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, along with several bilateral documents, the DoF said.

**Joshua Lao**

## ELECTION SEASON STARTS

## COMELEC PROHIBITS CANDIDATES FROM ENGAGING IN THEATRICALS

By Jovic Yee  
 @jovicyeelNQ

The usual fanfare that goes along with the filing of certificates of candidacy (COCs) may be a thing of the past.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has limited the number of supporters who may accompany national candidates in an attempt to make the process a "dignified" exercise.

If in the past it was a free-for-all, the Comelec now limits to only four the number of people who may accompany senatorial candidates in filing their COCs at the poll body's head office at Palacio del Gobernador in Intramuros, Manila.

### Five-day filing

For party-list applicants, only 10 are allowed, including the group's five nominees.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said on Wednesday that the limit was put in place to help ensure that the five-day COC filing—Oct. 11, 12, 15, 16 and 17—won't be as rambunctious as it was in previous years.

"We want to emphasize that our goal is to make sure that the filing [of COCs] is dignified. We don't want it to turn into a circus of supporters," Jimenez said.

"We also don't want it to be rowdy and disorderly. That is why we are controlling the process."

### Hordes of supporters

Traditionally, politicians often bring hordes of supporters whenever they file COCs. In some cases, they even tag along a marching band to give their filing a fiesta-like atmosphere.

While it respects the practice as an exercise in one's freedom of assembly, the Comelec hopes that candidates will "take the initiative" to do away with theatricals, Jimenez said.

Nonetheless, he added, the poll body has coordinated with authorities to help ensure that the process will go as smoothly as possible.

As for the filing of COCs by local politicians, Jimenez said it would be up to local Comelec offices to put in place rules they deemed appropriate.

Based on Comelec Resolution No. 10420, candidates or their authorized representatives should submit to the poll body in person their COC from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 11, 12, 15, 16 and 17.

The schedule was based on Congress' earlier request to the Comelec to move the period of filing, which was originally scheduled from Oct. 1 to 5, so that lawmakers could supposedly focus on their legislative work.

### Deemed resigned

Once their COCs have been filed, appointed government officials as well as members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are deemed resigned.

As part of its "exercise in truthfulness," the Comelec has included in the COC a question on whether a candidate has been found liable for an offense that carries a penalty of perpetual disqualification from office.

Jimenez said this was one way for candidates to be open about their political history.

Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal said that rather than wait for a petition for disqualification, this item would give the Comelec the power to disqualify a candidate under existing jurisprudence.

As for officials with supposed ties to the illegal narcotics trade, Jimenez said their inclusion on any drug list was "not a ground for disqualification unless convicted by final judgment."

An estimated 63 million voters are expected to participate in next year's May elections. Of this number, more than a third are youths, or people aged 18 to 35 years old. INQ *ML*

MULTIPLE MURDER, FRUSTRATED MURDER CHARGES FILED

# PNP PINS DEADLY PDEA AMBUSH ON SLAIN DRUG SUSPECT'S TO RELATIVES

By Jaymee T. Gamil  
@JGamilINQ

The Philippine National Police has accused 10 relatives of a slain drug suspect of involvement in the deadly ambush of five Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) agents in Kapai, Lanao del Sur, last week.

On Wednesday, the PNP announced the filing of multiple murder and double frustrated murder charges against the 10, all close relatives of Comayog Macapagal, who was killed in a buy-bust operation by police undercover agents on Aug. 8.

Police said Macapagal was in a drugs watch list in Marawi City.

"His relatives [had] threatened to retaliate against government troops," said PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Benigno Durana Jr., in a statement announcing the filing of charges against the suspects.

### Older brother

Police identified Macapagal's older brother, William Comayog Gandawali, the barangay chair of Inudaran, Tagoloan II, as the mastermind in the Oct. 5 highway ambush that killed five antinarcotics agents and wounded two others, including a police employee.

Chief Insp. Christopher Cabugwang, chief of the provincial drug enforcement unit and

said to be the real target of the ambush, said witnesses had pointed to Gandawali as the mastermind.

Also named suspects in the ambush were Gandawali's son Oscar, who allegedly "organized" his relatives to avenge Macapagal's death; Macapagal's son Arman Gandawali, Macapagal's nephews Lala Lolo Amboloto, Jamal Lolo Amboloto, Palawan Salem Macalabo and Mizangkad Panonde Gandawali and Jamel Borar alias "Memekan," and two other John Does.

Killed in the ambush were PDEA agents Kenneth Tabulo, Kristine Mae Torlao, Lores Joy Amar, Binzo Dipolla and Diobel Pacinio. The group was on its

way to Marawi City after attending a program for drug surrenderers in nearby Tagoloan town when unidentified gunmen opened fire on their vehicle.

### Two others wounded

PDEA agent Rachel Gantapanan and Normina Dikay, an office personnel in the Tagoloan police station, were wounded in the attack. They are recuperating at Brokenshire Medical Hospital in Davao City.

Chief Supt. Graciano Mijares, director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao regional police, said there was evidence to pin down Gandawali and the rest of the suspects.

None of the suspects had

been arrested as of Wednesday but "further investigation and massive intelligence operations are now being conducted by the PNP and [the military]," the regional police said in statement.

Police with a search warrant went to Gandawali's house on Wednesday but failed to find him there. But the search, witnessed by Tagoloan councilors, yielded a loaded pistol and a loaded M16 rifle, ammunition and a handdrawn map.

The PDEA has requested the National Bureau of Investigation to also investigate the four policemen who were supposed to secure and escort the slain PDEA team during their trip to Marawi. The policemen have

been relieved from their posts.

PDEA Director General Aaron Aquino had earlier cast suspicion on the police for overtaking the PDEA team's vehicle and leaving them behind shortly before the ambush.

### Police escorts

On Tuesday, Aquino said the police had insisted on providing escorts despite the PDEA team's initial refusal.

"The PNP said that so far, they [have seen] no lapses in the police [escort security], but we [in the PDEA] see that somehow, they have something to do with the ambush," Aquino said.

— WITH A REPORT FROM DIVINA M. BUISSON INQ

'NO FLAW IN DND RECORD-KEEPING'

## LORENZANA DENIES HANDING OVER TRILLANES AMNESTY FORM TO CALIDA

By Jaymee T. Gamil  
 @JGamillNQ

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Wednesday denied that his department's record-keeping was flawed following the sudden disappearance of the amnesty records of more than 200 mutineers, including Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

Lorenzana explained that the Department of National Defense (DND) kept documents for many years until such time when keeping them was no longer necessary.

"I don't think that [our records-keeping is] flawed, because we do not [even] throw away our records immediately," he told reporters at Villam-



Delfin Lorenzana

or Air Base in Pasay City.

"These days, we do not throw away records anymore. We scan them into digital form and then throw away the hard copy," he added.

### Calida request

Lorenzana also strongly denied accusations that he handed the amnesty application forms

to Solicitor General Jose Calida, who had earlier requested them.

"We didn't find them in the DND, so we do not know where they are," he said.

### Proclamation No. 75

The DND's legal affairs chief and head of records on Oct. 5, told a Makati Regional Trial Court that all the records, minutes and other documents related to the amnesty given to Trillanes and 276 other mutineers under President Aquino's Proclamation No. 75 were missing from the DND archives.

They said the records could not be found in their respective offices.

On Sept. 21, the DND Legal Affairs Office submitted a letter

to the Department of Justice stating that there were no available documents, transcript of stenographic notes and minutes of deliberation related to the amnesty proclamation.

Lt. Col. Thea Joan Andrade also told the court that Trillanes' amnesty application form could not be found in the Office of the Deputy Staff for Personnel, or J1, the Armed Forces' repository of documents.

Andrade's certification became one of the bases of President Duterte's Proclamation No. 572, voiding Trillanes' amnesty and ordering his arrest. **AU**

Lorenzana also said he could not confirm that Trillanes and the other mutineers applied for amnesty. **INQ**

# PH sends aid team to tsunami-hit Indonesia

THE Philippines on Wednesday deployed a humanitarian mission team to provide aid to Indonesia, which was hit by an earthquake and tsunami two weeks ago.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana led the send-off ceremony for the 25-person contingent headed by Civil Defense deputy administrator Nicanor Faeldon.

The team will deliver six units of water filtration system, six units of generator sets, tents and sleeping kits.

The military's C-130 plane will transport goods and other materials in affected areas.

The quake killed more than 2,000 people on Sulawesi Island.

AF

**DEMPSEY REYES**



# Magdalos' applications for amnesty 'all missing'

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Wednesday, replying to reporters' questions, the application for amnesty of Senator Antonio Trillanes IV and the rest of Magdalo soldiers were all missing.

The defense chief made the statement in defending Solicitor General Jose Calida from the accusations of Trillanes it was Calida who stole the senators' application for amnesty which he submitted to the Defense department.

"We do not know where they are," Lorenzana said in an interview, in reply to questions if all the amnesty applications of Magdalo soldiers are missing.

"All we could find in the Defense department is the Proclamation 75 of [then] President [Benigno] Aquino [III], plus the documents signed by [then Defense] Secretary [Voltaire] Gazmin... The accusations the application form was stolen by SolGen Calida is untrue," Lorenzana added.

Lorenzana was referring to Aquino's Proclamation 75 which granted amnesty, with the concurrence of Congress, to Magdalo soldiers who participated in failed coup attempts in 2003, 2006 and 2007, as well as the January 2011 letter of Gazmin which purportedly stated the AdHoc committee of the DND found the amnesty application of Trillanes and 38 others in order.

News videos have also shown Trillanes submitted his application for amnesty wherein he ticked a box stating that he is admitting guilt in violation of all laws, GMA News also said.

Trillanes also had a video footage presenting his certificate of amnesty which he had framed, GMA News added.

But Lorenzana said Trillanes did not apply for amnesty.

"I cannot confirm that [Trillanes] applied because I did not see it," Lorenzana added.

President Rodrigo Duterte recently voided the amnesty granted to Trillanes eight years ago on the grounds that Trillanes did not apply for amnesty and did not admit guilt for his past crimes.

# Lorenzana lashes out anew at Taguiwalo

BY VICTOR REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday lashed out anew at former Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo for criticizing the alleged militarization of the Duterte administration.

“Militarization? Bullshit!” Lorenzana told reporters in an interview at the Air Force headquarters in Villamor Air Base in Pasay City where he sent off an Air Force plane loaded with supplies for victims of the quake and tsunami in Indonesia.

Taguiwalo has opposed President Duterte’s designation of outgoing Army chief Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista as DSWD secretary, saying Bautista’s appointment only bolster the militarization

of the current administration. Sen. Franklin Drillon and other government critics have also described the designation of Bautista as a militarization of the government. Bautista is due to bow out of the military on Oct. 15 upon reaching the retirement age of 56.

“When the name of general Bautista was announced (as the incoming DSWD secretary) by the President, she reacted ‘why him?’ I said why not,” Lorenzana said of Taguiwalo, who failed to get the nod of the Commission on Appointment.

Lorenzana said security forces did not react after she was named DSWD secretary in 2016, despite her association with the Left.

“Everybody should have the chance to serve their government, whether you are military or not.

Why are they singling out the military? Don’t we have a right to serve in the government?” he said.

Lorenzana, a retired Army major general who headed the elite Special Operations Command of the Army, is among the many former military officers currently occupying posts under the Duterte administration.

The list includes former AFP chiefs Hermogenes Esperon (national security adviser), Eduardo Ano (DILG officer in charge), Roy Cimatu (environment secretary), Rey Leonardo Guerrero (Maritime Industry Authority administrator), Ricardo Visaya (National Irrigation Administration administrator), Emmanuel Bautista (undersecretary under the Office of the President), and Ricardo David (defense

undersecretary for defense policy).

At least two former Army chiefs are also occupying post in the current administration – Reynaldo Mapagu (defense undersecretary for civil, veterans and retiree affairs) and Glorioso Miranda (board member at the Bases Conversion and Development Authority).

“Are we not capable?” Lorenza said. “General Bautista has proven himself. He served his country loyally and with dedication for the past 37 years and they question him as DSWD (secretary)?”

“I think everybody can do that (job of DSWD secretary). So let’s give him a chance because they (Taguiwalo and other leftists) were given a chance also. We did not complain. Why are they complaining now?” Lorenzana said.

## US renews offer to sell fighter planes to PH

BY VICTOR REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said his American counterpart, James Mattis, has renewed Washington's offer to sell F-16 multi-role fighters to the Philippines under the Armed Forces modernization program.

Lorenzana said Mattis renewed the US offer last month during their meeting in Washington. The offer was first made in August.

Asked what his response to Mattis' offer was, Lorenzana said, "We will consider it."

Lorenzana said the defense

department may not buy F-16s which he said are "too expensive." He did not say how much the F-16s cost.

"He (Mattis) also offered their new attack helicopters but they are also expensive," Lorenzana also said.

DND spokesman Arsenio Andolong said Mattis, US Secretary of the State Mike Pompeo, and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross brought up the US intention to sell F-16s to the Philippines in August. Later that month, President Duterte said the Philippines does not need F-16s because it is not at

war with other countries. Duterte said what the military needs are aircraft to fight insurgents.

Andolong said he does not know how many F-16s were offered by Mattis and the cost.

Andolong said government has allotted P61 billion for the acquisition of 12 multi-role fighters under the ongoing AFP modernization program.

"We don't know the F-16 variant they are offering. I think they (US) are going to compete in the public bidding. We are procuring 12 multi-role fighters and the approved budget for the contract is P61 billion.

Their offer, their tender, should fit our budget," he said.

The Air Force is in dire need of more capable assets to protect the country's air space. The most capable aircraft currently in the inventory of the Air Force are 12 FA-50 lead-in fighters acquired from South Korea a few years ago.

A senior military official said the government can afford to buy F-16s.

"The acquisition of MRF is in our plan. Which that will be, I don't know... The F-16 becomes a candidate in the consideration," he said. *by*

## Sacked cop behind shabu smuggling: Customs officer

BY JOAN DAIRO

A CUSTOMS intelligence officer yesterday told the Senate blue ribbon committee a dismissed police official was behind the smuggling of billions of pesos worth of shabu stashed in magnetic lifters that passed undetected at the Manila International Container Port (MICP).

Jimmy Guban, from the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), told Sen. Richard Gordon that Senior Supt. Eduardo Acierito facilitated the entry of the shipments at the MICP last July.

Grilled by Gordon, Guban claimed it was Acierito who gave him the information about the arrival of the shipments.

"It was Col. Acierito," Guban replied when asked

by Gordon who was behind the smuggling of the illegal drugs shipments that arrived at the MICP.

"He knew that the shipments contained illegal drugs. He knew the shipments were arriving," he added when pressed by Gordon.

Gordon persisted: "Did Col. Acierito direct the entry of the drugs?" to which Guban replied, "Yes."

Acierito, who was present during the hearing, denied Guban's allegations, saying: "Your honor, I acknowledge that I am a dismissed officer. But I was just sharing information to the PDEA and the BOC. I was just trying to help them... I just told them that there was a shipment that was coming in. But the claims that I am behind the smuggling

See SACKED > Page B6

### SACKED

of the shipment, that is not true, I will never do that. I have been in police service for 18 years, I served our country well. I will never do that."

Acierito said a reliable informant from way back when he was still with the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Group service tipped him about the arrival of the shipment of shabu from Malaysia.

Acierito used to be the deputy director of the controversial Anti-Illegal Drugs Group that was dissolved after its members were linked to the killing of South Korean Jee Ick Joo at Camp Crame.

Acierito was also found to have been involved in the anomalous issuance of AK-46 rifles from August 2011 to April 2013 that found their way in to the hands of the NPA.

Guban said that as far as he was involved, it was the first time that Acierito got involved in illegal drugs. "Ito lang po ang alam ko (This is the first project that I know)," he said.

Guban, who was detained and cited in contempt by the Senate blue ribbon committee for lying, reiterated it was Acierito who told him about the first shipment from Malaysia that contained two magnetic lifters with some 350 kilos of shabu worth P2.4 billion and the second shipment from Vietnam and Hong Kong that had four magnetic lifters believed to have contained an estimated one ton of shabu approximately worth P6.4 billion.

He said Acierito even taught him how to open the magnetic lifters when combined operatives from the Bureau of Customs, the PNP and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Authority (PDEA) seized the first shipment. Guban was present when the shipment of two magnetic lifters was opened by the operatives after it was found abandoned one month after its arrival at the MICP.

Guban also said it was Acierito who instructed him to pick SMYD Trading as the consignee for hire for the second shipment that contained four magnetic lift-

ers, which were later found abandoned in a warehouse in Cavite.

Guban's claims were backed by testimony given by former PDEA Deputy Director General for Administration Ismael Fajardo, who admitted the "tip" about the first shipment came from Acierito.

Fajardo said he relayed the information to Guban, who then shared the info to Deputy Commissioner Ricardo Aquino of the BOC Intelligence Group and former CIIS Director Adzhar Albani.

Albani said that Guban told him about the shipment as early as July 16, 2018 when the latter informed him that Fajardo had invited him to attend a case conference on the shipment.

"Guban told me that there was information from Dir. Fajardo that a drug shipment will be passing through the port. He also said that he has been invited by the PDEA to attend a case conference," said Albani, who was later found to be under suspension at the time that he got the call from Guban.

Another BOC official, Deputy

Commissioner Ricardo Quinto of the Intelligence Group, said both Fajardo and Guban relayed to him the same information. "I immediately informed the Commissioner," Quinto said.

Acierito said he took the information as true because the informant's tips have always yielded positive results in the past years that they worked together.

Gordon expressed "serious doubts about the possibility of the people who have been chosen" to safeguard the country's ports from illegal shipments.

"There is someone who can't remember things, then there is one who seems likeable but is suspended... I am in a quandary now on how the BOC will operate properly because of the seeming incompetence of some people here," Gordon said.

Gordon said he will coordinate with the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman and submit all evidence gathered by the committee for further investigation of the liabilities of public officers.

17



# House misses budget OK goal

By Hananceel Bordey

The House of Representatives missed its self-imposed deadline yesterday to pass the P3.757-trillion national budget on third and final reading before Congress takes a one-month recess as a key House member cited the need to further review it.

Turn to page 6

# House misses budget OK goal

From page 1

Minority Leader Danilo Suarez said there was "no chance" of approving the 2019 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) as the so-called small committee still has to introduce "more amendments" before taking it back to the plenary.

Last 3 October, the House passed the budget bill on second reading after which Majority Floor Leader Rolando Andaya Jr. announced the forming of a small committee "to receive and resolve amendments" to the measure or House Bill 8169.

The small committee was composed of Andaya, Suarez, Vice Chairman of Appropriations Committee Maria Carmen Zamora, Malabon Rep. Federico Sandoval II, Davao Oriental Rep. Corazon Nunez-Malanyaon, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman and COOP NATCCO Rep. Anthony Bravo.

Lagman, an opposition lawmaker, said the copies of the GAB also needed "to be printed and distributed to congressmen."

"This will be taken up after we come back from our Halloween break (which is) on the second week of November," Lagman said.

Lagman added Speaker Gloria

Macapagal-Arroyo's proposal for an additional P20-billion budget for the Department of Agriculture is still the "subject to the deliberations of the committee."

### Budget topic at Palace meet

Last Tuesday, a meeting was held at the Palace that included Arroyo, Mr. Duterte, Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, Majority Floor Leader Andaya and Deputy Speaker Arthur Yap that discussed the budget and other priority pieces of legislation of the administration.

The President also requested Arroyo to consider funding for the housing projects for members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police and the financing for water system in the housing projects for the victims of super typhoon "Yolanda" in the 2019 budget.

Arroyo also committed to extend the validity of the P19.6-billion National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Fund for Marawi City Rehabilitation until next year through a joint resolution of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

### Fed shift deferred too

Suarez said the Charter change efforts

for the proposed Federal shift will likely be deferred to the next Congress even after the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments completed its own federal charter draft.

"Amending the Constitution now will take a gargantuan effort from both Houses," Suarez said.

"With the limited time in the 17th Congress, it will not likely prosper. It may have to wait for the 18th Congress," he added.

### A small committee will "receive and resolve amendments" to the budget bill.

The House panel's draft has marked difference from the proposal of the Mr. Duterte's created Consultative Committee.

While the President and Vice President will have terms of four years with one reelection, the limit to seek an election was removed on legislators.

Suarez said Mr. Duterte may still certify the bill on the proposed federal charter as urgent to fast-track it.

However, senators had crossed party lines while expressing doubts the support that the draft federal charter will get in the chamber.

METING OUT 'DEATH SENTENCE'

# NPA OWNS UP ATTACK ON EX-MAYOR ACCUSED OF USING

## PRIVATE ARMY VS REBELS

By **Joey A. Gabieta**  
@joeygabietalNQ

TACLOBAN CITY—Communist rebels owned up to the attack on a former Samar town mayor who allegedly committed crimes against the people, mainly corruption, during his tenure in office.

In a press statement, New People's Army's (NPA) Arnulfo Ortiz Command, which largely operates in Samar province, said the attack on Ananias Rebato, former mayor of San Jose de Buan town, was the rebels' attempt to mete out the death penalty on him.

The 57-year-old former mayor was shot several times by four assailants around 1 a.m. on Tuesday while he was boarding his vehicle after attending a fiesta in the village of Baclayon, 7 kilometers from San Jose de Buan.

### Assailant killed

His close-in bodyguard and nephew, Severino Tesoro, 24, was killed.

The other bodyguards of

Rebato were able to fire back, killing one of the attackers.

Rebato, longtime mayor of San Jose de Buan, an impoverished town tagged as an insurgency hotbed, was believed to be planning to run for vice mayor next year, his political comeback.

Rebato was brought to a hospital in Tacloban City. He was said to be already out of danger.

According to the NPA group, Rebato was involved in counterrevolutionary activities like maintaining a private army "aimed at harassing suspected NPA members and sympathizers."

### Farmers targeted

The NPA also claimed Rebato was behind the abduction of a farmer in the village of San Nicolas in San Jose de Buan.

Rebels claimed that Rebato holds the rank of first lieutenant in the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, making him a legitimate rebel target.

Rebato, the NPA said, "spearheaded the building of a vast in-



LINK A communist rebel connects to the internet at a rebel camp somewhere in the Cordillera mountains. —EV ESPIRITU

telligence network" against rebels that targeted farmers.

"He openly campaigned for the surrender of peasants" who would be presented as NPA members who surrendered, the NPA statement said.

Rebels also accused Rebato of rampant corruption and sexual harassment of women during his term as mayor from 2007 to 2016.

But Capt. Francis Agno, spokesperson for the 8th In-

fantry Division based in Catbalogan City, Samar province, dismissed the NPA claims.

Rebato, according to Agno, was not a military asset.

#### NPA enemy

The rebels were angry at Rebato because "he never gave in to them as he chose to coordinate with the military and police," Agno said in a phone interview.

Agno said he personally knew Rebato because he had been assigned to San Jose de Buan from 2012 to 2014 during Rebato's tenure as mayor.

"The former mayor was a good man," Agno said.

"He never committed any atrocities against his people," Agno added.

He said the NPA group was forced to admit the attempt to kill Rebato because a witness was able to identify the slain assailant as a member of the NPA.

"They are just making up these issues against the former mayor after it was established that one of the perpetrators was an NPA member," Agno said. INQ

# Rody: Rogue cops linking Chinese trader to drugs

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte has declassified a report that links a group of former policemen and government officials to a Davao-based businessman allegedly involved in the illegal drug trade.

The President made the disclosure on Tuesday night as he vouched for the integrity of businessman Michael Yang but denied that he has appointed him as his adviser on economic affairs.

"Michael Yang was there in Davao 20 years ago. As a matter of fact, he is often seen with the ambassador of China," said Duterte, whose presidency has banked on the campaign against illegal drugs and corruption.

In an impromptu press briefing after the induction of officers of the Malacañang Press Corps the other night, Duterte noted that Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua, who has a military background, could not be misled by Yang if the businessman is involved in illegal activities.

"Zhao is a military man and they have the most elaborate intelligence network. Would you think a military man would..." Duterte said, referring to China's vast intelligence network.

Yang, who reportedly lives in a mansion in the posh Forbes Park in Makati City, was part of Duterte's delegation during one of his official trips to China.

Photos also showed Yang present at last August's baptism of the son of former Customs chief and currently deputy administrator of Office of Civil Defense Nicanor Faeldon.

Before Duterte ordered his aides to release a copy of a dossier classified as "secret," the President noted that some scalawags in uniform often target affluent Chinese nationals.

In the report, members of the group were identified as retired police colonel Eduardo Acierto, Col. Leonardo Suan, Supt. Ismael Fajardo Jr, Supt. Lorenzo Bacía, Insps. Lito Pirote and Conrado Caragdag, and Senior Police Officer 4 Gerardo Liwanag.

Duterte said Acierto was

a co-accused of former police chief Alan Purisima in graft charges connected with the supposedly anomalous contract that the Philippine National Police (PNP) entered into with courier service company Werfast Documentary Agency Inc. in 2014.

Acierto was among the police officials who were also involved in a separate case of criminal and administrative complaints over the missing 1,004 AK-47 firearms allegedly sold to the New People's Army several years ago.

The PNP is now investigating the police officers named in the report released by Malacañang on Tuesday night.

PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Benigno Durana Jr. admitted that the PNP has not filed any case against the police officers.

At present, Durana said the police officers named in the report have been relieved from their sensitive positions.

Durana said Suan has been reassigned to the Police Holding and Administrative Unit from his former assignment

at the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Bacía has been sent to ARMM from the Bicol region, while Pirote and Caragdag were sent to Cordillera Administrative Region from the Drug Enforcement Unit in Region 3. Liwanag was assigned to the Cagayan Valley.

"So far this is an intelligence information, a continuing investigation... not only these police officers but also other police officers who may have derogatory reports, especially in illegal drugs," Durana added.

## Web of crimes

In the report submitted to the President, it seemed that Fajardo and his group were also involved in a web of criminal activities.

Based on the dossier, Fajardo and his team were also involved in the arrest in early 2016 of former Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino and his alleged cohort Yan Yi Shuo alias Randy in connection with a P380-million drug case in Manila. - With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Pia Lee-Brago 4



MULTIPLE MURDER, FRUSTRATED MURDER CHARGES FILED

# PNP PINS DEADLY PDEA AMBUSH ON SLAIN DRUG SUSPECT'S TO RELATIVES

By Jaymee T. Gamil  
@JGamilINQ

The Philippine National Police has accused 10 relatives of a slain drug suspect of involvement in the deadly ambush of five Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) agents in Kapa, Lanao del Sur, last week.

On Wednesday, the PNP announced the filing of multiple murder and double frustrated murder charges against the 10, all close relatives of Comayog Macapagal, who was killed in a buy-bust operation by police undercover agents on Aug. 8.

Police said Macapagal was in a drugs watch list in Marawi City.

"His relatives [had] threatened to retaliate against government troops," said PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Benigno Durana Jr., in a statement announcing the filing of charges against the suspects.

### Older brother

Police identified Macapagal's older brother, William Comayog Gandawali, the barangay chair of Inudaran, Tagoloan II, as the mastermind in the Oct. 5 highway ambush that killed five antinarcotics agents and wounded two others, including a police employee.

Chief Insp. Christopher Cabugwang, chief of the provincial drug enforcement unit and

said to be the real target of the ambush, said witnesses had pointed to Gandawali as the mastermind.

Also named suspects in the ambush were Gandawali's son Oscar, who allegedly "organized" his relatives to avenge Macapagal's death; Macapagal's son Aiman Gandawali; Macapagal's nephews Lala Lolo Amboloto, Jamal Lolo Amboloto, Palawan Salem Macalabo and Mizangkad Panonde Gandawali and Jamel Borar alias "Meme-kan," and two other John Does.

Killed in the ambush were PDEA agents Kenneth Tabulo, Kristine Mae Torlao, Lores Joy Amar, Binzo Dipolla and Diobel Pacinic. The group was on its

way to Marawi City after attending a program for drug surrenderers in nearby Tagoloan town when unidentified gunmen opened fire on their vehicle.

### Two others wounded

PDEA agent Rachel Genta-panan and Normina Dicap, an office personnel in the Tagoloan police station, were wounded in the attack. They are recuperating at Brokenshire Medical Hospital in Davao City.

Chief Supt. Graciano Mijares, director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao regional police, said there was evidence to pin down Gandawali and the rest of the suspects.

None of the suspects had

been arrested as of Wednesday but "further investigation and massive intelligence operations are now being conducted by the PNP and [the military]," the regional police said in statement.

Police with a search warrant went to Gandawali's house on Wednesday but failed to find him there. But the search, witnessed by Tagoloan councilors, yielded a loaded pistol and a loaded M16 rifle, ammunition and a hand-drawn map.

The PDEA has requested the National Bureau of Investigation to also investigate the four policemen who were supposed to secure and escort the slain PDEA team during their trip to Marawi. The policemen have

been relieved from their posts.

PDEA Director General Aaron Aquino had earlier cast suspicion on the police for overtaking the PDEA team's vehicle and leaving them behind shortly before the ambush.

### Police escorts

On Tuesday, Aquino said the police had insisted on providing escorts despite the PDEA team's initial refusal.

"The PNP said that so far, they [have seen] no lapses in the police [escort security], but we [in the PDEA] see that somehow, they have something to do with the ambush," Aquino said.

— WITH A REPORT FROM DIVINA M. SU-FOR INQ

# NPA owns up ambush of ex-Samar town mayor

By Ronald O. Reyes

TACLOBAN CITY—The Arnulfo Ortiz Command of the New People's Army has claimed responsibility for the attempt to kill ex-Mayor Ananias Rebato of San Jose De Buan in Samar.

"The death penalty issued by the people's court went through the process of filing the case, thorough investigation, verification of presented evidence and deliberation of the justices before arriving at a unanimous decision. The people's court has repeatedly summoned the former

mayor to answer the charges and attend the hearing of his case, only to be shunned and instead he requested the military to conduct military operations aimed at harassing and silencing the complainants," said the NPA in a press statement dated Oct. 9.

In a statement, the NPA accused Rebato of "31 counts of rape and multiple sexual harassment perpetrated on women 'scholars,'" "involvement in counter-revolutionary activities," and "massive corruption of public funds, pocketing millions' worth of infrastructure projects."

The NPA also claimed the former

mayor, now recuperating at a hospital in Tacloban City, "holds the rank of first lieutenant under the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or ISAFP."

Meanwhile, Capt. Francis Agno, spokesperson of the Philippine Army's 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan City, Samar, reiterated that Rebato "is a good man."

He belied the accusations of the NPA against Rebato.

"The ex-Mayor is not an ISAFP member. The accusations are invented," added the chief of the army's division public affairs office.

# Duterte identifies 7 cops in illegal drugs

**BY RAYMOND AFRICA**

PRESIDENT Duterte on Tuesday night identified at least seven former and active police officers reportedly involved in the illegal drugs trade in the country.

Duterte, in a matrix given to the media, identified the cops as Senior Supt. Eduardo Acierto, formerly detailed with the defunct PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs, Special Op-

erations Task Force; Senior Supt. Leonardo Suan, also formerly with the AIDSOTT; Supt. Ismael Fajardo Jr., formerly with PDEA; Supt. Lorenzo Bacia; Senior Insp. Conrado Caragdag; Insp. Lito Pirote; and SPO4 Alejandro Liwanag.

Acierto has been dismissed from service in connection with the questionable purchase of 1,004 pieces of AK-47 assault rifles that found their way into the hands of

New People's Army.

The "secret special report" dated September 12 described the police officers as either assigned with the PNP Drug Enforcement Group, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, or the Bureau of Customs.

The processes of restructuring organizational landscape within the PNP anti-drug unit (have)

See DUTERTE > Page B6

## DUTERTE

noble objectives. However, it was shrouded with the reality that it was merely aesthetics and technicalities on changing names and mandates of these differently-called organizations," the report said.

"People being appointed and recruited into these organizations were the same personalities, creating polls of agents and personnel who are mostly corrupt and have already created networks with different drug lords across the country and abroad," the report added.

The report showed Acierto on the top of the matrix and was even tagged as the "mentor" of Fajardo, who was relieved by PDEA chief Aaron Aquino in connection with the P6.8 billion shabu shipment.

Fajardo was described to be a "recycler of drugs and fabricator of stories."

"Together with Fajardo, Acierto has maintained connections with various narcotics financiers and manufacturers inside and outside the country, including those Chinese nationals who are incarcerated in different penitentiaries," it added.

The report said the group also uses parts of seized illegal drugs to plant or create a scenario which they will claim as accomplishment.

Fajardo allegedly keeps portions of the recovered drugs "for

personal use and/or for reselling."

"The practice of 'recycling' has been accepted among members of his groups (from SOU3, AIDG) for those practical justifications although in reality, they are simply using alibis to justify their greed for money and personal agenda," it said.

PNP chief Oscar Albayalde said the active police officers have been relieved from their posts and are now undergoing investigation. He said their names were also mentioned in a Senate hearing last month in connection with the shabu shipment placed in magnetic lifters.

"They are all undergoing investigation and pre-charge evaluation and if there are enough evidence they will face summary hearing procedure. They are now at the holding and accounting unit," Albayalde said.

PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Benigno Durana Jr. said the investigation being conducted against these officers will give them due process since intelligence information, the basis of Duterte's matrix, is not admissible in court.

"But definitely a case buildup and thorough investigation is in motion right after we relieved them based on the order of PNP chief Albayalde," Durana said, adding the seven officers' activities were strictly monitored after they were relieved from their respective posts.

*Benitez*

ANG NANGUNAHANG PANGALANGKAP NA TRIBUNAL SA BAYAN 28.00

### Trainer ng hit squad ng NPA, timbog

ILOILO CITY - Natimbog ng awtoridad ang umano'y lider al trainer ng liquidation squad ng New People's Army (NPA) na nakabase sa Iloilo City, nifong Martes ng gabi, ayon sa Philippine National Police (PNP).

Sa pahayag ng PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), dinakma si Salvador Hisuan, 45, alyas Ka Pepe, sa Iznart Street sa nabanggit na lungsod dahil sa kasong murder, pasado 6:00 ng gabi.

Nagsisilbi umano itong platoon leader ng Central Panay Front ng NPA at isa rin sa mga nagtuturo sa mga miyembro ng sparrow unit ng kilusan upang pumatay ng mga opisyal ng pamahalaan at tauhan ng PNP.

5 Tara Yap



### 7 Maute men surrender in Lanao Sur

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Seven members of the Maute group surrendered in Pagayawan, Lanao del Sur on Tuesday.

The militants also turned over three M1 Garand rifles, a carbine, four caliber .45 pistols and a 9mm to the Joint Task Force Ranao of the 55th Infantry Battalion, Maj. Gen. Roseller Murillo, commander of the First Army Division and Task Force ZampeLar, said.

Murillo said the names of the surrenderees, who underwent debriefing, were withheld for security reasons.

He said the number of Maute militants and their followers has dwindled

following the death of their leaders in the fighting in Marawi.

"We encourage the others to lay down their arms to live peacefully," Murillo said.

Meanwhile, in Maguindanao, authorities defused two bombs recovered along the Cotabato-Isulan highway in Barangay Macasampen, Guindulungan and Tamontaka, Datu Odin Sinsuat on Tuesday night.

Capt. Ervin Encinas of the 6th Infantry Division said there are indications that members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom fighters planted the bombs. - Roel Pareño, John Unson

# 7 Maute members surrender in Lanao del Sur

By BONITA L. ERMAC

Seven Dawlah Islamiya/Maute members and supporters surrendered Tuesday to Joint Task Force Ranao in Pagayawan, Lanao del Sur.

The Army's 55th Infantry Battalion,

under the Joint Task Force Ranao, supervised the surrender of the group who brought along their firearms.

The group turned over four rifles and four five handguns.

Maj. Gen. Roseller Murillo, Joint Task Force Zampelan commander, commended the troops and various stakeholders for the surrender of the Maute group.

"Maute's numbers were dwindling with their organizational leadership and capabilities, and we encourage others to lay down their arms to live peacefully," Murillo said.

28



Ang Maramihan sa Pagpapaligay ng mga Maute sa Lanao 18.00

### 7 'Maute' sumuko sa Lanao

Pito umanong miyembro ng Maute group ang sumuko sa Joint Task Force Lanao sa Pagayawan, Lanao del Sur, kamakailan.

Sumuko ang mga ito sa 55th Infantry Battalion (IB) ng Philippine Army (PA), bitbit ang kani-kanilang mga armas na kinabibilangan ng tatlong M1 Garand rifle; isang Carbine; apat na .45 caliber pistol; at isang 9mm pistol.

Isinasailalim pa sa custodial debriefing ang mga ito, ayon sa

militar

Kaugnay nito, nagpasalamat si Maj. Gen. Roseller Murillo, Joint Task Force Zampelan commander, sa tropa ng pamahalan at sa iba pang community leaders sa matagumpay na pagsuko ng pitong Maute member.

"Maute's were dwindling with their organizational leadership and capabilities, and we encourage others to lay down their arms to live peacefully," sabi pa ni Murillo.

**S. Bonita L. Ermac**



## No circus please, Comelec asks filers

BY GERARD NAVAL

THE filing of certificates of candidacy (COCs) for the May 2019 national and local elections starts today, and the Commission on Elections is asking aspiring candidates to keep the process dignified.

"We just want to emphasize that the goal of our preparations is for it to be dignified," said Comelec spokesman James Jimenez.

For those planning to make a stop at churches before filing, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines asked them to maintain the solemnity of the areas.

"Just don't make it similar to attending a political rally, because the church is really a place for praying," said Fr. Jerome Secillano, executive secretary of the CBCP's Public Affairs Committee. "You

shouldn't go there and make public speeches because that would be inappropriate."

The Comelec's main office at the Palacio del Gobernador building in Intramuros in Manila faces the Plaza Roma in front of the Manila Cathedral. A few meters away is the San Agustin Church.

Jimenez said that at the Comelec main office, the entourage of those aspiring to be senatorial candidates will be limited to four, and 10 for party-list organizations, including the nominees.

"We don't want to turn it into a circus of supporters. We don't want it to be chaotic and disorderly," he said.

Outside the main office, the Comelec can no longer control what the aspirants will do. "We

See NO CIRCUS > Page B3

## NO CIRCUS

appeal to the supporters to take it upon themselves not to be rowdy during this process," Jimenez said.

The filing of COCs is today and tomorrow, and from Monday to Wednesday next week.

Based on Comelec Resolution No. 10420, those eyeing to be senatorial candidates must file their COCs at the Law Department of the Comelec's main office in Intramuros, Manila.

For party-list groups, the "certificate of nomination" and "certificate of acceptance of nomination" shall also be filed before the Comelec Law Department.

Those running for seats at the House of Representatives must file their COCs at the Office of the Regional Election Director (RED) in the National Capital Region for those in Metro Manila, and the Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor (PES) for those in the provinces.

COCs must be filed at the PES office for those running for provincial posts, and at the Office of the Election Officers for city/municipal posts.

Those running for ARMM governor and vice governor must file their COCs at the Office of the RED-ARMM, while those who want to be members of the ARMM Legislative Assembly must file their COCs with the concerned PES.

The Comelec said a person holding a public appointive office or position, including active members of the Armed Forces, and other officers and employees in government-owned or -controlled corporations, shall be considered resigned from office upon the filing of COC.

On the other hand, anyone holding an elective office or position shall not be considered resigned upon the filing of a COC, whether for the same or any other elective office or position.

An aspirant who files a COC for more than one office shall not be eligible for any of them.

## SPOTLIGHT

Jimenez said the Comelec expects to see "major names" during the five-day COC filing period. He said gone are the days when aspirants wait for the last day to file.

"We foresee that the filing will be spread out. We expect that there will be major names for every day of the filing because they would not want to steal each other's spotlight," he said.

Jimenez also said the Comelec expects more individuals to file COCs this year as compared to the 2016 polls.

"That is just based on our projection. We get that sense that many are looking to run in this election," said Jimenez.

## 61 MILLION VOTERS

Jimenez said around 61 million Filipinos are expected to be registered as voters for the May 2019 elections, or about three million more than in the 2016 elections.

Comelec is also expecting about 1.9 million registered overseas absentee voters, a little higher than the 1.3 million in the 2016 polls.

Earlier, the Comelec said about 2.3 million filed applications during the voter registration period which ended on September 29.

Jimenez also said about one-

third of the 61 million belong to the 18 to 35 years age bracket.

## PRIVATE ARMED GROUPS

The PNP needs to dismantle at least 266 private armed groups (PAGs) nationwide to ensure safe elections.

PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Benigno Durana Jr. said based on the monitoring of the PNP intelligence community as of the second quarter of the year, these inactive PAGs have at least 2,000 members with some 1,500 firearms, and could be activated for the forthcoming elections.

Durana said majority of these PAGs are based in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and a handful are in Abra.

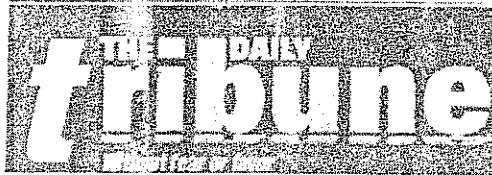
He said these PAGs have been the subject of dismantling operations by the PNP as early as two months ago.

He said the presence of these PAGs were felt in most barangays considered as traditional "election hot spots."

Durana said the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has signed peace agreement with the government under the Bangsamoro

Organic Law, will join government forces in dismantling PAGs.

"So, it's not only the government running after them (PAGs) but we have the help now of our brothers from the MILF. So, we are now in a better position in Mindanao to address PAGs than before," Durana said. - *With Raymond Africa*



# Indon jail claims another Filipina

By Kristina Maralit

BALI, Indonesia — After Mary Jane Veloso, another Filipina's life hangs in the balance for drug charges and is languishing at an Indonesian jail facility.

Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Leehiong Wee deferred revealing the identity of the Filipina inmate since he has yet to fully get details of the case. She is currently detained at a facility in the city of Semarang in Central Java.

"No execution date yet. I'm still not fully aware of the details; I just learned about it last week," Wee told reporters at a pocket news conference at

*Turn to page 2*

**She may follow the fate of Mary Jane Veloso who was sentenced to death by firing squad in October 2010**

*From page 1*

the Patra Bali Resort and Villas here.

He said the consulate had extended financial assistance to the unnamed Pinay and may personally visit her in jail in a week or two.

She may follow the fate of Mary Jane Veloso who was sentenced to death by firing squad in October 2010 after being caught with 2.6 kilograms of heroin hidden in her suitcase at the Yogyakarta airport.

Convicted as a drug mule by an Indonesian court, Veloso was granted reprieve in April 2016 by President Joko Widodo after he agreed to the Philippine government's request to resolve Veloso's illegal recruitment case against her alleged recruiters Maria Cristina Sergio and Julius Lacanila before a Nueva Ecija court first.

Sergio and Lacanila are facing charges for human trafficking, estafa and simple illegal recruitment.

In 2016, the Nueva Ecija Regional Trial Court Branch 88 decided to allow Veloso to testify against both through a statement to be taken from her jail cell in Wirogunan Prison. This decision, however, was overturned by the Court of Appeals early this year.

**Terror tops agenda**

Terrorism will be the key agenda when Mr. Duterte meets with the Indonesian President at the Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) Leaders' Gathering today.

Wee said one of the concerns shared by the two nations is the peace and order situation in the region.

"The Philippines' military attaché has been regularly meeting with Indonesian authorities in Lombok and Bali on various issues, especially terrorism," Wee told reporters.

"Both countries are stepping up security measures and Indonesia is helping the Philippines improve on peace and order, especially in the southern part," he added.

**We are pleased to give \$300,000 for humanitarian assistance, in cash and in kind.**

Wee shared that the Celebes Sea separating the territories has "always been a problem" given the fact that known Islamic State (IS) operators have set up base in Indonesia and use the body of water as a back door to enter Mindanao.

He said "a lot of things" have already been set in place to ensure threats of terrorism and extremism in the region are minimized if not totally eliminated.

Just recently, the Philippines was lauded by the US State Department for its "improved counterterrorism capabilities in the face of evolving and increasingly robust terrorist threat" as mentioned in its Country Reports on Terrorism for 2017.

**Hope remains for Veloso**

Wee said he remains optimistic that Veloso will not be executed. He gave assurance that the government is doing all it can to help the convicted single mother of two.

"The embassy is doing everything to help her out. We have lawyers to help her on the legal side and she is also regularly given financial assistance," Wee said.

"Every three or four months, the embassy sends people to see her. In the next week or two, I will also be going there," he added.

Wee also said he and other Embassy officials also recently visited 48 Filipino fishermen who were arrested and jailed in Manado and Bitung after being caught illegally fishing in Indonesia. Twenty have already been released while the rest are just waiting for authorities' orders to be sent back to the Philippines.

**\$3-M aid to Indonesia**

Also following through with its earlier promise to extend help, the government sent relief supplies to calamity-stricken island of Central Sulawesi.

**Embassy officials also recently visited 48 Filipino fishermen who were arrested and jailed in Manado and Bitung.**

A magnitude 7.5 earthquake jolted the city of Palu, home to roughly 400,000 people, last 28 September, that triggered a massive tsunami that virtually wiped out anything and everything in its path.

The double disaster has so far left almost

2,000 people dead and the number is expected to rise as no orders issued just yet to halt the search and retrieval of bodies. As many as 5,000 are still believed to be missing from the twin disasters.

"We are pleased to give \$300,000 for humanitarian assistance, in cash and in kind," Wee said.

Indonesia has always been among the first to send aid to the country in times of disasters, most notably when typhoon "Yolanda" (Haiyan) struck in 2013.

"We are ready to send more aid as the need arises," Wee added. "Indonesia was very helpful in times of need by the Philippines, particularly when 'Yolanda' struck many years ago. This is a good way of showing our brotherly relationship with Indonesia, we regard Indonesians as our big brothers."

According to Wee, the Philippine Air Force's (PAF) Lockheed C-130 "Hercules" cargo aircraft flew directly to Palu carrying six generators, six water filtration units, 100 tents and assorted sleeping kits.

He said various businesses from the private sector in Manila have also directly sent help to the Indonesian Embassy.

Indonesia's envoy to the Philippines, Dr. Sinyo Harry Sarundajang, expressed gratitude for the Filipinos' help.

"In behalf of the government

and the people of Indonesia, I would like to thank your government and your people for the support to us during times of disaster. You always show sympathy and give help. I am very happy. We are very grateful," Sarundajang said.

#### RP planes in relief

The government also sent a plane loaded with relief goods to Palu in Indonesia in response to calls for humanitarian assistance.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the government committed to two sorties of C130 cargo planes for Palu – the first one left yesterday and the other will leave on the 15th.

Lorenzana said upon arrival in Palu, the PAF's C130 plane will also assist in ferrying goods from within Indonesia.

He said the Duterte administration is also donating certain amounts to assist the rehabilitation efforts in Palu.

"We could have reacted earlier but we had also disasters here in the Philippines...up to now we are still retrieving bodies at the landslides. So there will be two sorties of C130 – one for

today and another on the 15th," Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana was referring to the landslides in Itogon, Benguet and Naga City in Cebu that killed nearly a hundred people.

The defense chief stressed the Philippine humanitarian mission would not be involved in the actual retrieval operations in Palu.

**Veloso was granted reprieve in April 2015 by President Joko Widodo.**

"We will be helping them ferry goods," Lorenzana said.

For his part, Indonesia's Deputy Chief of Mission in the Philippines Dhewajini expressed Jakarta's gratitude to the Philippine government for the prompt humanitarian assistance.

"We thank the government and the people of the Philippines for all the condolences and assistance. When my government opened (our doors) for international support, the Philippine government quickly responded," Dhewajini said.

With Mario J. Añalar, Kathleen Mae Bulguerin

### Misuari sasabak sa Sulu

Sasabak na rin sa larangan ng pulitika ang anak ni Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Chairman Nur Misuari.

Si Hadji Uto Karim Misuari ay maghahain ng kanyang certificates of candidacy (COC) para sa pagka-gobernador ng lalawigan ng Sulu sa 2019 midterm elections.

Ang hakbang umano ni Misuari ay dahil sa panawagan ng mga political leaders ng iba't ibang angkan sa Sulu maging ang ilang religious at sectoral leaders doon sa pama-

magilan ng Ipinakot na manipesto na humihikayat sa kanya na tumakbo bilang gobernador ng Sulu.

Noon pang Oktubre 8, 2018 sinimulan ng iba't ibang grupo ang signature campaign bilang suporta kay Misuari.

Ang batang Misuari ay nagtapos ng kanyang pag-aaral sa mga kilalang unibersidad sa Middle East at ngayon ay tinatawag na "Son of the Revolution" na naging kasangkapan sa pagbuwag sa diktaduryang pamumuno sa Sulu.

Ayon kay Prof. Sammy Adju, dating chancellor ng Mindanao State University na desperado ang mamamayan ng Sulu na humanap ng bagong henerasyon na magsusulong ng tunay na kapayapaan at kasaganaan sa lalawigan.

Panawagan naman ni Munib Hashim, convenor ng Misuari for Governor Movement na kailangan ng Sulu ng isang mamumuno na ang isipan ay makabago at magsusulong sa "genuine political and economic reforms" sa Sulu.

Naniniwala rin sina Anju at Hashim na ang isang katulad ni Hadji Uto Karim Mis-

uari ang dapat maging katuwang ni Pangulong Duterte sa Sulu sa isinusulong na "Tunay na Pagbabago."

2

35

## LANDSCAPE

## Explosives

By GEMMA DRUZ ARANETA

On the very day an official of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) cavalierly issued a list of schools "that have been, and widely known to have been used, as fora for communist recruitment..." (Rappler.com), I happened to ask my grand daughter what she learned in school that day. She was staying with me for a week because her parents went out of town to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

With an innocent smile, this 13-year-old declared: "Lola, today we learned how to make bombs." I could not believe my ears. Bombs? You mean to say things that explode? Yes, she said, they were making explosives, they made things explode in the schoolyard, duly supervised by their class teacher, it was part of the lessons for the day.

Flabbergasted, I asked her to give me an example of the explosives. She said they put seven mentos candy tablets in a family-sized bottle of coke and after less than a minute it exploded. She made a swooshing sound of a thousand bubbles and flung her arms in the air as she exhaled a "booom!" Could that be the millennial version of a Molotov cocktail?

So, I asked if there were other "experiments" of the explosive type and as if it were the most natural thing on earth, she replied that there were a couple more. In between giggles, she said the boys were really clumsy at making the little bombs. Really? I have always thought that boys were more adept at making weapons of mass destruction. Apparently, that was not the case in her school. The "little bombs" were made of baking soda, which had

to be wrapped carefully in paper, secured with rubber bands after which the bundles were carefully inserted in little plastic bags filled with water and vinegar. Hurl them on the ground and they explode.

My granddaughter said she had finished making 16 of these explosives while the boy next to her was still struggling with his first bomb. She laughed as she told me how the poor chap was spilling the baking powder all over the place and could not twist the rubber bands around his fingers. How strange, I said, the boys I grew up with made dangerous weapons with rubber bands and twigs; they were called slingshots. They would mercilessly shoot birds (and their neighborhood enemies) with pebbles ejected by those deadly elastic bands. She concluded that girls are more adroit with their fingers because they have a lot of practice with hair ties. They can make elaborate hairdos twisting and twirling several elastic ties while boys can barely make a decent ponytail.

The fact that the AFP revealed its list of subversive schools just when my granddaughter and her classmates were experimenting with "little bombs," threw me out of kilter. Why the explosives? What was your teacher talking about while you were making bombs? I had to ask. Nothing, she said, he was just showing them how to put the ingredients together. What a relief; there was no mention of Red October or of destabilizing the government with cases of mentos cocktails, or joining renegade bands with their knapsacks stuffed with baking soda explosives.

I will not mention the name of the school nor where it is located, lest the

AFP include it in their list of "recruitment centers" for the Communist Party and the New People's Army. Teachers beware, do not conduct similar bomb-making experiments, no matter how innocent and harmless; you might arouse the suspicion of the AFP.

What if those experiments were conducted in a different school, in another part of the National Capital Region? Would it alarm the present dispensation? And make them see red at every turn? Will there be raids, with students, parents, and teachers arrested? One can never be too careful.

During a reunion with my batchmates of Maryknoll (now Miriam College), we spoke about that AFP list of "recruiter" schools. It has become an Honor Roll, so we are offended that our alma mater was ignored. Weren't we the Katipuneras, among the first to join EDSA 1? Levity aside, we pondered on the dire consequences of such an accusation to the survival of our educational institutions.

Even history is no longer a safe subject to teach during these ominous times; imparting knowledge about the past has suddenly become subversive. Teachers who lecture about what really happened during those years of martial law may lose their jobs as they are suspected of destabilizing the government. They are accused of brainwashing students and prodding them to join outlawed organizations like the New Communist Party and the New People's Army. Yet, Jose Rizal himself exhorted that we should open the book of the past. We must deconstruct the bombs and explosives of times gone by.

(ggc1898@gmail.com)



## Hasn't reality bitten Carpio yet?

**A**CTING Chief Justice Antonio Carpio is using the China bogeyman to frighten us out of the decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC).

During the oral arguments on the Philippines' withdrawal from the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the ICC, Carpio warned that pulling out of that treaty would entail losing a "legal deterrent" against China's possible aggression.

He said that if China established a naval base on Scarborough Shoal or invade the Philippine-occupied Pag-Asa island in the Spratlys, our country would not be able to sue Chinese officials, such as President Xi Jinping and members of the Chinese military for aggression.

Extolling the Rome Statute, Carpio said that it was "the only international treaty in the world that holds military and political leaders of states that commit the crime of aggression individually accountable before an international tribunal. No other."

Carpio isn't so precise.

Though the Rome Statute is the only treaty that has established a permanent court for international crimes, such as the crime of aggression, it's not the only mechanism available in the international political order that could try those crimes.

Article 42 of the UN Charter gives the UN Security Council (UNSC) the power to establish courts that could do that. For example, in 1991, the UNSC established the International Criminal Tribunal to prosecute individuals who committed war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.



FOR THE  
MOTHERLAND

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The Rome Statute also gave the UNSC the power to refer situations to the ICC. The ICC can assume jurisdiction over those situations even if they are not in the territory of an ICC member state, just like Libya.

In both instances, the permanent members of the UNSC—the United States, China, Russia, France, and the United Kingdom—can veto any move to prosecute their officials in any international tribunal that can try aggression. It's worth noting that among these five, only France and the UK are members of the ICC.

Now, let's assume that the Philippines remains at the ICC. The only way any Chinese official could be prosecuted at the ICC is when the international crime happened in the territory of a member country of the court, or if the situation is referred to it by the UNSC. The latter would be farfetched as China or its ally Russia would just veto it.

In determining whether a crime happened within the territory of a member state of the ICC, the territory must be an internationally recognized territory of that state.

The definition of territory that the ICC would certainly use is territory as defined by international law. Maritime-wise, a country's territory stops at 12 nautical miles (NM) from a country's baseline. Scarborough Shoal and Pag-Asa island are

beyond that 12 NM.

Surely, ICC doesn't limit territory to those under the effective control of a member state. As international criminal law scholar William Schabas argued in his influential book *The International Criminal Court: A Commentary on the Rome Statute*, the treaty doesn't require the state to "actually exercise effective control" over its territory.

Schabas used the example of northern Cyprus, occupied by Turkey since it invaded it in 1974. The international community, as expressed in different resolutions of the UNSC, considers northern Cyprus as part of the territory of Cyprus. Thus, though under the effective occupation of Turkey, which isn't a member of the ICC, the court can still have territorial jurisdiction over the international crimes committed in northern Cyprus as it's recognized as a territory of an ICC member state.

But Scarborough Shoal and Pag-Asa island aren't in the same league as northern Cyprus. Which country has sovereignty over these South China Sea features is still disputed. No matter how much we convince ourselves that they are ours, if they are not internationally recognized as part of our territory, the ICC won't also recognize it as part of our territory.

The ICC is not the proper forum that can decide on sovereignty issues.

To resolve the Scarborough Shoal sovereignty issue, it's either you go to the International Court of Justice or to an arbitration court. Their processes can only be activated by a mutual agreement with China. Meanwhile, to resolve Pag-Asa island's sovereignty issue, all of its claimant countries—China, Vietnam and the Philippines—must be involved in the proceedings.

Lastly, Carpio has a very unrealistic idea of "legal deterrence" in international relations.

Law in the international political order doesn't have the deterrence effect of law in the domestic political order.

In the domestic political order, people are deterred by law from committing a crime out of fear of the force behind the law. You break the law, the government takes away your freedom. Decisions of local courts have force behind them. In the international political order, unless the law or court is created or backed by the UNSC, the law or the court decision would be nothing but a bunch of elegantly worded sentences.

But what exactly made Carpio think that a court with no real force behind it could deter his hypothetical Chinese actions, if in the first place our ally, with a very powerful military, couldn't scare them off from establishing a naval base in Scarborough Shoal or taking over Pag-Asa island?

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## How President Duterte has changed Asia

WHEN President Rodrigo Duterte attends the 33rd Association



REPUBLIC SERVICE  
RICARDO SALUDO

tion of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Singapore on November 11-15, his

► SaludoAS

his fellow Asean leaders, international media, and curious onlookers may be watching for telltale signs of illness.

That would be ironic. For all the talk of cancer, Barrett's disease, or whatever may be ailing the President, his two-and-a-half years in office, in fact, showcase not weakness but strength, particularly his immense impact not just on Southeast Asia, but on the entire hemisphere, from Japan to Saudi Arabia, Russia to Australia.

Take-away Duterte, and what would have become of these regional events since he took office on June 30, 2016:

— Beijing increased its clout in the South China Sea, as Washington failed to move most of its naval forces to the region under its "Pivot to Asia" policy, due to Manila's retreat from the 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

— Japan boosts ties with the Philippines, matching China's infrastructure largesse, plus donating marine surveillance aircraft and patrol boats, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visiting Manila and Davao.

— Asean will hold its first military exercises with China's People's

Liberation Army (PLA). Another first: Russia donates arms to the Philippines, and exchanges naval visits with the country.

— Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore boost anti-terrorism cooperation, following the Marawi war against Islamic State-inspired and -funded extremists in Mindanao.

— Following the Philippines' war on drugs, Indonesia and Bangladesh intensify their anti-narcotics campaigns, using lethal force against narco-syndicates, defying Western criticism.

— Middle East nations adopt policies for better conditions and protection of overseas workers, following the Kuwait-Philippines dispute, conciliation, and labor pact.

### Asia's geopolitical recasting

No one saw all this coming when the erstwhile little-known mayor of faraway Davao City reluctantly agreed to run for the presidency in December 2015, then improbably rose up the surveys, and eventually buried his opponents in a landslide victory in May 2016.

This writer did signal the possibility of big geopolitical

changes in Duterte's first month in office. When the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in the Hague ruled on the Philippine suit over China's maritime claims and reclamation, Western media jeered Beijing's threatened rejection of the decision.

However, this column's July 14, 2016, article saw something even bigger happening: "The geopolitical ball is now in Rodrigo Duterte's court. How the Philippines' new President plays would impact the next round of high-stakes rivalry between America and China for preeminence in East Asia."

And so he did. By reversing his predecessor's embrace of America and squabbling with China, President Duterte shifted Asia's geopolitical fulcrum.

With US forces unable to set up shop in the Philippines, China faced no formidable adversary within the so-called first island chain of archipelagos surrounding the country: Indonesia, the Philippines and Japan.

However, knowing that Duterte could quickly rev up EDCA and let Uncle Sam back in, the Chinese actually followed key provisions of the Hague ruling it rejected: letting Filipino fishermen back to Panatag

Shoal, and stopping reclamation in the disputed Spratly islands.

Unnerved by Manila's coziness with Beijing, Tokyo scrambled to offer economic and military aid. Recently, for the first time since World War 2, Japanese tanks were deployed outside Japan, in military exercises in the Philippines last week.

Unable to deploy massively without bases in the Philippines, the US brought in allied navies to join it in challenging China's territorial claims over illegally reclaimed islands in the Spratlys.

America created the Quadrilateral alliance with Japan, Australia and India, which have all sent vessels into the South China Sea. So have Britain and France, US allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization defending Europe.

Next month, the US plans its biggest naval exercise in the South China Sea, ratcheting up its so-called "freedom of navigation" operations, or fonops, challenging Chinese maritime claims.

This week, Duterte told Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jiajua that the Philippines will stay clear of the American saber-rattling on the high seas, as the country prepares to welcome President Xi Jinping

on his November visit to Manila.

### Defying the West

Along with recasting Asian geopolitics, President Duterte led the way in defying Western standards on human rights. Putting the safety of law-abiding Filipinos over due process, he unleashed deadly force against drug networks.

More than 5,000 have died in police operations, and many thousands more drug-related personalities were killed by hitmen. America, Europe, Australia, Canada, and the United Nations decried the deaths; so did rights groups here and abroad.

But Duterte cussed his critics, from then US President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, to the European Union, the UN Human Rights Council, and the International Criminal Court. And he withdrew the Philippines from the ICC, and rejected EU aid with rights conditions.

Two of Asia's most populous nations, Indonesia and Bangladesh, have also taken a deadly line against narcotics. A few hundred have died in both countries, and Bangladesh has reinstated the death penalty. So has Sri Lanka.

In geopolitics as in rights advo-

cacy, Duterte weakened the West's decades-old dominance in Asia. Rather than taking the cue from America and Europe, Asia is now putting national interest and law and order first.

### Will Duterte's way last?

In 2022, President Duterte ends his six-year term. Or sooner: he talked several times about resigning once the country adopts federalism. And last week, he said he will not prolong his life if diagnosed with cancer, based on recent tests (they were negative).

Amid talk of term limits and terminal illness, Asia may wonder if Duterte's geopolitical and law enforcement influence would last.

Would his successor let US forces gush in, escalating the armed rivalry between America and China? And would he or she restrain police guns, pulling back Asia from its deadly anti-drug drive?

Whatever happens, one Duterte tack will likely stick: Asia will no longer let the West dictate security, international, law enforcement, and other policies.

Even after Duterte, Asians may well do their thing, and to hell with the West.

20

## Naval exercise in the South China Sea

**T**HE United States has scheduled naval military exercises in the South China Sea in November, particularly in the disputed areas of the West Philippine Sea, and has invited the navies of its allied nations to participate.

The venue and the timing of this military exercise are suspect, coming as it is in the same week that Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to visit Manila, following his attendance at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Papua New Guinea.

**'Duterte will not squander the gains of practical bilateral cooperation between the two nations just to please an old ally, the US, whose reliability is under a cloud of doubt.'**

The sinister implication is that the American military exercise is a not-so-subtle move to steal the thunder out of Xi's visit to Manila, during which the Chinese and Filipino presidents are scheduled to witness the signing of various accords, including the joint oil and energy exploration in the South China Sea and several major "Build, Build, Build" agreements.

The Philippines, which is the nearest geographical host of this military event, necessarily belongs on top of the list of invitees or proposed participants.

It is interesting to note that the US, Japan, and the Philippines have just concluded a 10-day naval exercise called "Kamandag" (Venom) to improve their navies' operational capabilities and upgrade their humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training.

It was the first time that armored military vehicles of Japan were used on foreign soil since the country adopted a pacifist constitution following its defeat in World War II in 1945. Since "Kamandag" is very recent, one wonders why the US would immediately embark on similar war games in November.

It is just as well that President Duterte assured Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua, who visited him in Malacañang last Monday, that the Philippines will not join this particular naval exercise.

Earlier, China expressed concern over the naval military exercise that the US will conduct in the area at about the same time the Chinese president will be in the Philippines. A report by CNN 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.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Philippine government would ensure that Xi's visit would be fruitful and seamless, which is just expected because of the many tangible benefits the nation will receive from such visit.

This will be the first ever state visit of President Xi in Manila, and President Duterte is expected to cite the favorable growth momentum enjoyed by Philippine-China relations for the last two years.

**Duterte will not squander the gains of practical bilateral cooperation between the two nations just to please an old ally, the US, whose reliability is under a cloud of doubt.**

**ONLINE NEWS**  
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**Guevarra: It was AFP that linked Rizal farm raid to 'Red October'**

By: Cathrine Gonzales - Reporter / @cgonzalesINQ  
INQUIRER.net / 02:57 PM October 10, 2018

It was the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that linked the raid by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on a farm in Teresa, Rizal to the "Red October" plot, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said.

NBI agents seized a cache of high-powered guns during the raid.

"The NBI's raid in Teresa was purely for a criminal purpose (of illegal possession of firearms and explosives); it was the AFP who linked it to 'Red October,'" Guevarra said in a message sent to reporters.

The NBI which conducted the raid earlier said it has yet to find evidence that the confiscated guns were related to the ouster plot against President Rodrigo Duterte.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) also denied that the raid was related to the "Red October"

However the AFP linked the raid to the ouster plot, saying that there were communist rebels hiding in the area

The AFP earlier claimed that the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is trying join forces with opposition groups to hatch a plot to oust President Rodrigo Duterte

In addition, the military had also claimed that the (CPP) has started organizing 18 universities and colleges in Metro Manila to join the ouster plot. The military's claim was denied by officials of the 18 schools. /muf

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## **NPA owns up to slay try on former Samar town mayor**

By: Joey A. Gabieta - Correspondent / @joeygabietaINQ

Inquirer Visayas / 01:42 PM October 10, 2018

TACLOBAN CITY -- The New People's Army (NPA) took responsibility on the ambush of a former Samar town mayor for allegedly committing "counter-revolutionary" acts and corruption.

In a press statement, the Arnulfo Ortiz Command, which largely operates in Samar province, said the ambush on Ananias Rebato, former mayor of San Jose de Buan was the communist group's attempt to mete the death penalty on him.

The 57-year-old former mayor was shot several times by four assailants about 1 a.m. Tuesday while he was about to board his vehicle after attending a fiesta-related activity in Barangay Babaclayon, 7 kilometers away from the town proper. He was brought to a hospital in Tacloban City. He is said to be out of danger, as of this posting.

However, his close in security and nephew, Severino Tesoro, 24, was killed.

The other security members of Rebato were able to fire back, killing one of the perpetrators.

Rebato, a long-time mayor of the impoverished town and a hotbed of insurgency, was said to be gunning for a political comeback in next year's elections as vice mayor.

According to the NPA command, Rebato was involved on counter-revolutionary activities such as maintaining a platoon of goons "aimed at harassing suspected NPA members and sympathizers."

The NPA command also claimed that the former mayor was behind the abduction of a farmer in Barangay San Nicolas of said town.

Further, the NPA command alleged that Rebato hold a rank of first lieutenant under the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

"He spearheaded the building of a vast intelligence network for counter-revolutionary activities targeting peasants. He openly campaigned for the surrender of peasants to be later paraded as NPA surrenderees," the group said.

Aside from his alleged campaign against them, the NPA command said Rebato was also involved in corruption when he was the mayor of the town. Rebato served as mayor from 2007 until 2016.

They likewise claimed that Rebato was involved in instances of sexually harassing women. But Captain Francis Agno, spokesperson of the 8th Infantry Division based in Cathalogan City, Samar dismissed the NPA's allegation that Rebato is part of ISAFP.

"He is not (a military asset). They disliked the former mayor because he never gave in to them as he chose to coordinate with the military and the police," Agno said in a phone interview.

Agno said he personally know Rebato because he was previously assigned in San Jose de Buan from 2012 until 2014 while Rebato was mayor.

"The former mayor was a good man. He never committed any atrocities against his people," Agno added.

He said the NPA command was forced to come out and admit to the slay try on Rebato because one of the gun men who was killed was identified by residents of Babadayan as an NPA member.

"They are just making up these issues against the former mayor after it was identified that one of the perpetrators was an NPA member," Agno said. /k

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## **2 IEDs defused in Maguindanao ahead of Duterte's visit**

By: Edwin O. Fernandez - @inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Mindanao / 01:20 PM October 10, 2018

CAMP SIONGCO, MAGUINDANAO – Army bomb experts on Tuesday night disarmed two powerful improvised explosive devices (IEDs) found along the national highway in Maguindanao.

The discovery of the two IEDs – one in front of Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in Barangay Broce, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao and another in Guindulungan, also in Maguindanao – came hours before President Rodrigo Duterte's scheduled visit to the Army's Camp Siongco, headquarters of

The first IED was found around 10 p.m. Tuesday beside the highway in Sitio Pansul, Barangay Macasampen, Guindulungan town. The IED was placed inside a carton, according to Sr. Insp. Zukanain Kunakon, town police chief.

Civilians alerted the police about the suspicious box, which contains four 81 mm mortars and one 60 mm mortars attached to a mobile phone that served as triggering device, Army bomb experts said.

"it was safely deactivated at about midnight," Kunakon told reporters

Kunakon said the IED was so powerful that it could have maimed or killed commuters passing along the national highway.

Around 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, villagers alerted the police and military about a suspicious box beside the highway in Barangay Broce, in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, about a kilometer away from the 6th Infantry Division headquarters where Mr. Duterte is set to visit later Wednesday.

Major Arvin John Encinas, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said alert civilians reported to authorities what they believed was a roadside bomb, prompting authorities to quickly cordon off the area.

"The bomb was made of an 81-mm mortar with mobile phone as triggering device," Encinas said.

Chief Insp. Gabri Lakibul, Datu Odin Sinsuat police chief, said the bomb was found near the gate of Mindanao State University (MSU–Maguindanao) Postgraduate School.

No one has claimed responsibility but authorities believed it was the handiwork of IS-linked Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

"It has the trademark of BIFF," a bomb expert told reporters. The bomb expert added that it was similar to other IEDs exploded and recovered in lairs of BIFF in the province.

Abu Misry Mama, speaking for a faction of the BIFF, denied his group was behind the foiled bombing.

"Maybe from other faction of the BIFF, not from us," Mama, said referring to the two other BIFF groups that has pledged allegiance to ISIS.

No military or police officials would say if the IEDs could have anything to do with the Mr. Duterte's visit.

The President is scheduled to arrive at past noon Wednesday here to visit the wake of five slain agents of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in an ambush in Lanao del Sur last week. /kga



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## CA confirms ad interim appointments, nominations of 74 senior AFP officers

By: Mails Ager - Reporter / @MAger11Q

INQUIRER.net / 12:43 PM October 10, 2018

The Commission on Appointments (CA) has confirmed the ad interim appointments and nominations of 74 general and senior officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Among those confirmed by the CA on Wednesday were AFP spokesman, Brigadier General Edgard Arevalo and Major General Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the 8th Infantry Division.

Below is the list of the newly confirmed officials of the AFP:

### Ad interim appointments:

1. Aaron Buleclac to the rank of Colonel, Dental Service
2. Cesar Tojong to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
3. Luis Capacia to the rank of Colonel, Dental Service
4. Josefino Lanuncia to the rank of Colonel, Medical Corps
5. Job Gonzales to the rank of Colonel, Medical Corps
6. Achilles Estravila to the rank of Colonel, Medical Administrative Corps
7. Glenn Celebrado to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Navy-Marines
8. Luther Purizalan to the rank of Colonel, Dental Service
9. Ariel Tabaquero to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
10. Rodolfo Gesim to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
11. Acmiad Omar Jr. to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
12. Jose Dodjie Belloga Jr. to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
13. Pablo Lorenzoto the rank of Brigadier General
14. Sergio Benitez to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
15. Virgilio Soriano to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
16. Michael Manalo, to the rank of Colonel, Dental Service
17. Glicerio Peralta to the rank of Brigadier General
18. Nelson Pecache, to the rank of Colonel, Medical Corps

19. Arlene Frageto the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army

*By 2020, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.*

20. Angelito Retuta to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
21. Roberto Huet, to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
22. Roderick Guerrero, to the rank of Colonel Judge Advocate General Service
23. Jeroboan Deveza to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
24. Adolfo Espuelas Jr. to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
25. Leomar Jose Doctolero to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
26. Peter Burgonio to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
27. Mario Jacinto to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
28. Michael Logico to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
29. Dino Anthony Flores to the rank of Colonel, Medical Corps
30. Julieto Estoque to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
31. Onorlie Brillantes to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
32. Eldred Harrieto Regala to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
33. Randolph Rojas, to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
34. Audie Mongao to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
35. Emil Cruz to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
36. Pompeya Jason Almagro to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
37. Rodney Intal to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
38. Pedro Balisi Jr. to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
39. Adriano SJ Duanion to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
40. Rosendo Abad Jr. to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
41. Marinela Cailipan to the rank of Colonel, Medical Corps
42. Arsenio Sadural to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
43. Rolando Fernandez Jr. to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
1. Virgilio Luna to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
2. Paulito Idul to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army

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

4. Lynart Castisimo to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
5. Allen Paredes to the rank of Major General
6. Eugenio Boquio to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
7. Galileo Goyena Jr to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
8. Ronald Jess Alcudia to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
9. Felisa Tuliao to the rank of Colonel, Veterinary Corps
10. Joel Albarda to the rank of Colonel, Chaplain Service
11. Renato Nato to the rank of Captain, Philippine Navy
12. Arlino Sendaydiego to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
13. Daniel Tansip to the rank of Colonel, Chaplain Service
14. Fernando Ventura to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
15. Elmer Aterado to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
16. Nathaniel Casem to the rank of Major General
17. Rolando Dumawa to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army

**Nominations:**

61. Erickson Gloria to the rank of Major General

**Ad interim appointments:**

62. Pleagio Valenzuela to the rank of Major General
63. Rene Diaz to the rank of Brigadier General
64. Redentor Cabanizas to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
65. Alejandro Baclayon to the rank of Major General

**Nominations:**

66. William Gonzales to the rank of Brigadier General
67. Edward Libago to the rank of Brigadier General
68. Edgar Arevalo to the rank of Brigadier General
69. Adrian Sanchez Jr. to the rank of Brigadier General

70. Pio Difoso III to the rank of Major General

Ad interim appointment:

71. Maxima Ignacio to the rank of Brigadier General

Nomination:

72. Fabian Pedregosa to the rank of Brigadier General

Ad interim appointment:

73. Rami Bitong to the rank of Brigadier General

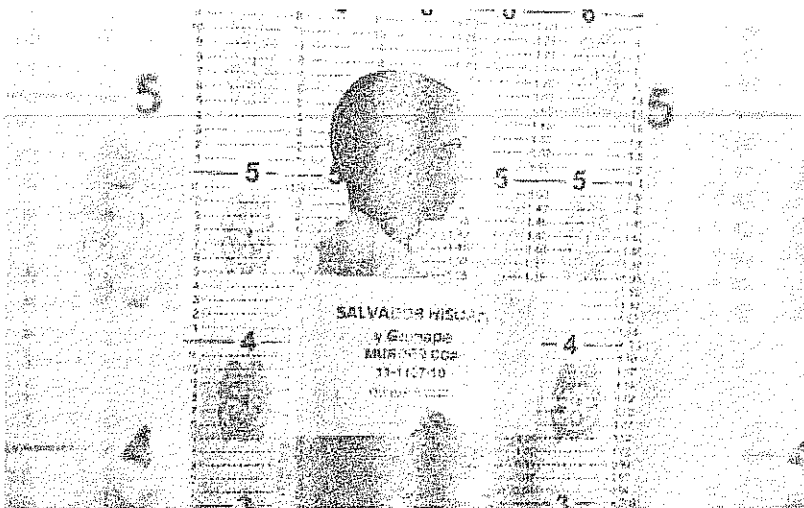
Nomination:

74. Cirilito Sobejana to the rank of Major General

www.pna.gov.ph

## NPA leader nabbed, 3 others surrender

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 10): NPA leader nabbed, 3 others surrender



**APPREHENDED.** Authorities arrested Salvador Hisuan, a New People's Army leader in Panay, due to murder with the use of unlicensed firearm in Iloilo City on Tuesday (October 9, 2018).

(Photo by Jennifer Rendon)

**ILOILO CITY --** The leader of a unit of the New People's Army of Komitieng Bahiyon, Panay, was arrested Tuesday afternoon in this city for murder, Colonel Benedicto Arevalo, commander of the Philippine Army's 301st Infantry Battalion (IB), said on Wednesday.

Joint elements of the Crime Investigation and Detection Group 6 and 301st IB's Intelligence Task Group arrested Salvador Hisuan (alias Kurander Pepe Speed) at around 5:45 p.m. along Ledesma St., City Proper here, by virtue of warrant of arrest for murder with the use of unlicensed firearm.

Hisuan, commander of the Regional Sentro De Grabidos (RSDG) or the Regional Operations Command (ROC), is a "very notorious" rebel leader in Panay and they have been monitoring him for a long time, Arevalo said.

"This is a lesson learned that the law could still catch up with them even if they hide for a very long time," he said.

He recalled that Hisuan was involved in the land mine blast targeting troops of the 47th Infantry Battalion and Scout Rangers at Barangay Datagan in Calinog, Iloilo that resulted in the killing of nine soldiers and wounding of 18 others.

He said Hisuan was also responsible for the killing of Captain Abelardo Motia of the 12th Infantry Battalion who was gunned down during a fiesta in Dumarao, Capiz. These incidents both happened in 2005.

Arevalo added that the arrested NPA leader is also responsible for the burning of equipment of individuals in Panay who refused to give in to their extortion demands.

"This will bring a big impact because he is involved in extortion activities," he said.

Hisuan is now under police custody. Arevalo refrained from disclosing the location for security reasons.

Meanwhile, Arevalo said prior to the arrest of Hisuan, three rebels who are members of Strike Force of Sentro De Grabidad (SDG) of the Central Front, Komitang Rehiyon-Panay surrendered to the Army's 61st Infantry Battalion based in Camp Monteclaro in Barangay Lotuba, Mag-aog, Iloilo at around 12:10 p.m.

They are identified as Marlon Castor Lozada alias Niko, 34; Jomar Camarig Depalubos alias PG, 29, both residents of Sitio Inuscan, Barangay Cahigon, Calinog, Iloilo; and Pablito Lozada Depalubos alias Atlas, 49, resident of Sitio Tinabasan, Barangay Buri, Tapaz, Capiz.

Arevalo said the surrenderers will avail of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program that provides incentives to include PHP15,000 immediate cash assistance; PHP50,000 livelihood assistance; PHP45,000 to PHP90,000 firearm remuneration depending on the type of firearm and access to other government assistance.

"There will also be additional assistance like housing, educational, health and many more," he said.

Arevalo said these rebels might have been tired of hiding. He added that they might also want to live peaceful lives with their families.

Arevalo assured that they will continue with their mission to pressure the rebel groups so they could not harm or harass civilians in Panay.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1050639>

www.pna.gov.ph

## 7 Maute members, supporters yield to military

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 10): 7 Maute members, supporters yield to military

Some seven members and supporters of the Islamic State for Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-linked Maute group in Lanao del Sur surrendered Tuesday to government troops

Maj. Gen. Roseller Murillo, Army's 1st Infantry Division commander, on Wednesday said the Maute members surrendered to the troops of the 55th Infantry Battalion under the Joint Task Force Lanao in Pagayawan town of Lanao del Sur.

Murillo said the seven Maute surrenderers turned over three .30-caliber Garand rifles, four .45-caliber pistols, a Carbine rifle, and a 9-mm pistol.

Murillo declined to release the names of the seven Maute members and supporters, saying the "custodial debriefing of the group is still on-going."

Maute, originally known as Dawlah Islamiya, has pledged allegiance to the ISIS. It was founded in 2012 by brothers Abdullah and Omar Maute

The group clashed with the military on several occasions, the most significant of which was the May 2017 Marawi siege

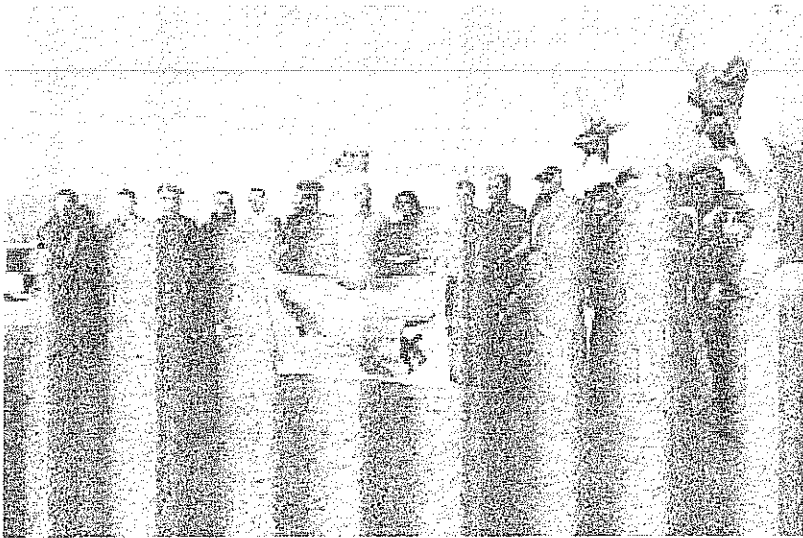
Abdullah and Omar, along with Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf leader Isnihan Hapilon were killed during the "Battle of Marawi" that ended in October 2017.

Murillo commended the efforts of the troops and various stakeholders that worked for the surrender of the seven Maute group members and supporters.

www.pna.gov.ph

## PH deploys C-130 loaded with aid supplies to Indonesia

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 10): PH deploys C-130 loaded with aid supplies to Indonesia



The Philippine government on Wednesday deployed a Lockheed C-130 "Hercules" cargo aircraft full of relief goods and other materials to earthquake and tsunami-ravaged Indonesia.

Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who was present during the send-off ceremonies at Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, said the C-130 mission is in response to the request for aid by the Indonesian government.

"This is just a request by the Indonesian government if we could provide some humanitarian assistance for the victims of the earthquake in Palu, so this request has been given to us. I think last week and it took us a while to prepare for the goods as I said a while ago we could have reacted earlier but we had also disasters here in the Philippines (a reference to Typhoon 'Ompong' which ravaged several provinces in Northern Luzon last month). Lately up to know, we are still relieving some bodies at the landslides," he added.

The Philippine Air Force C-130 carries six water filtration units, six generators, 100 tents, 4,400 assorted sleeping kits.

"I think we are also donating some amount, I don't know the exact amount that the government will give to the Government of Indonesia to be used for the rehabilitation of (earthquake and tsunami-hit) Palu," the DND chief said.

Lorenzana said that a second C-130 sortie is scheduled on Oct. 15.



"The C-130 (and its crew) will be staying there (Indonesia) for quite some time to help in the ferrying of goods," he added.

When asked if the Philippines will be deploying any manpower for the ongoing rehabilitation efforts in Indonesia, Lorenzana said this will depend on the Indonesian government.

"(We) will wait for the request of the Indonesian government if they want people from us to help in the rehabilitation," the DND chief added.

The DND chief, however, clarified that the Philippines will not be involved in the ongoing retrieval operations.

The magnitude 7.5 earthquake which struck Sulawesi, Indonesia took place last Sept. 28 killed an estimated 2,000 people and destroyed 7,000 houses aside from triggering a six meter tsunami.

Budi Dhewajani, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Indonesian Embassy to the Philippines, expressed gratitude for the aid being provided by Manila.

"We thank, as I have mentioned earlier, we thank the government and the people of the Philippines for all the condolence and assistance when my government (requested) for international support, the Philippine government quickly responded (to) assist us in this difficult situation," she added.