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13 October 2018

Saturday



Honor. Patriotism. Duty

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BINAY SIBLING RIVALRY STIRS UP MAKATI POLLS

STORY BY DEXTER CABALZA

The reelectionist mayor is confident of beating her brother, who says he has more allies among city and barangay officials. It remains to be seen whether their father, former Vice President Jejomar Binay, can settle their dispute.

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FROM A1

By Dexter Cabalza
@dexcabalzaINQ

VOTE 2019

#ELECTION 2019

Unless one of the two siblings concedes to the other, a Binay versus Binay fight for Makati City's top post in the May 2019 elections is already set in stone.

Mayor Abby Binay confirmed to the Inquirer on Friday that she would be running for reelection under the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) alongside her father, former Vice President Jejomar Binay, who would run for Makati first district representative.

Abby said she was "ready for anything," even going head-to-head with her younger brother, former Mayor Junjun Binay. "I will run, regardless of who else is running for mayor. It's a categorical statement that I am running."

Father's blessings

In a separate interview on Thursday, Junjun announced he was "really inclined to run for mayor because of the strong clamor for me to go back."

While both siblings said they would wait for their parents to return home today to discuss and finally settle the issue, Abby was certain it was she who would get their father's blessings.

"As far as I'm concerned, there is no longer room for discussion," she said, showing a certification of nomination and acceptance (Cona) signed by their father on Sept. 27, the day their parents flew to Italy for a pilgrimage.

"This means that I am the party candidate for mayor of Makati of UNA as signed by the chairman. Does he (Junjun) have his Cona yet?," she said.

Abby just laughed when

asked what she would do if their father retracted his decision and supported her brother. "I think it's a little too late for my dad to do that because he signed [the Cona] under oath. Unless he issues another one, in which case we will be both candidates of UNA," she said.

Family agreement

Under election rules, if a political party nominates more than one candidate for the same position, all the nominations for that post "shall be denied by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and they shall all be declared independent."

But Junjun said he would wait for his father's return "and he may be enlightened when he learns that I have the numbers."

The younger Binay appealed to his sister to "give way this time, just as I gave way for her last election."

According to Junjun, there was a family "agreement" that Abby would only serve one term as mayor.

Abby was surprised, saying that it was her first time to hear about it.

"It is news to me. I don't remember anything ... no one even reminded me of that. Even my dad doesn't even say that," she said.

"If I only knew that I would serve as a bench warmer or just a dummy, I would not have run at all," Abby added.

On Tuesday, 13 out of the 18 councilors, as well as the officials of 21 out of the 33 barangays in the city an-

nounced their withdrawal of support for the mayor and called on Junjun to reclaim the position from his sister.

In a statement, the officials called Abby "heartless" and "insensitive" to the needs of the city's marginalized sectors, including the senior citizens and street vendors.

'Binay brand'

"The councilors asked me to listen to the feel on the ground because there was dissatisfaction," Junjun said, adding that Makati residents "really miss the Binay brand of leadership" that he and his father espoused.

For Junjun, a Binay leader is one who "interacts with people on the street, goes around even in a T-shirt and slippers, embraces ordinary folks and is easy to approach any time of the day."

"These have never been done by my sister. She has not done what I and our father did that we are so loved by the people of Makati," he said, noting how he was able to get 83 percent of the total votes when he ran in 2013 against Kid Peña. (Abby won again against Peña in the 2016 polls with 52 percent of the votes.)

Junjun told his sister: "You are not merely running the City Hall."

The mayor shot back: "How can I have projects if I do not know what the Makati residents want? I cannot do that without going down [to] the people."

She said it was during her term that City Hall services were extended to the barangays through satellite offices and village caravans.

"If the people were not able to feel me, I hope that the service is felt. It is not my physical presence that is

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FROM A2

important. What is important is the service," Abby added.

If she did not show enough of the "Binay brand" of service, it would be their father who should be complaining to her, she said. "But why is our father the one supporting me [in the elections]?"

Questions have been raised on whether Junjun could even run again for public office in view of the corruption charges still pending against him in connection with the construction of the Makati City Hall

parking building.

Former Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes, his legal counsel, on Friday said that there was no ground to disqualify him from running in the midterm polls since no court has rendered a final judgment perpetually barring the former mayor from seeking public office.

No disqualification

"The rule is, even in Comelec's Question [No.] 22, the judgment should be final and executory. In his case, it's not yet final so there's no disqualification to speak of," Brillantes said.

Under Question 22 on the

certificate of candidacy, aspirants are asked whether they were ever found liable for an offense carrying a penalty of perpetual disqualification that was final and executory.

Two years ago, the Office of the Ombudsman barred Junjun from running for public office due to his alleged role in the overpriced P2.3-billion Makati City Hall Parking Building II. However, in May this year, the Court of Appeals reversed the decision, citing the condonation doctrine.

At the Comelec office where he accompanied his eldest sister, Sen. Nancy Binay, who filed her candidacy papers for re-

election, Junjun said he hasn't seen Abby since July.

"The last time we spoke was during my birthday, July 12," he said.

Junjun said he accompanied Senator Binay because there was no one in the family available to go with her.

Hope for peaceful resolution

He said he was hopeful that when their parents return "we would be able to talk about what direction the family will take," referring to his dispute with Abby.

"Of course my dad isn't here, so it would be difficult to make a move without again

talking," he said.

Both siblings wanted to peacefully resolve their conflict.

Junjun said it would all be better if Abby just left City Hall. "Her style is more for Congress and not for mayor," he said.

That was unacceptable to Abby. "Why is he telling me what I can and cannot do? That's unfair," she said.

Asked if it was possible for one of them to run as the other's vice mayor, Abby said that was unpalatable.

"I find it unappealing that two siblings will be sitting at the topmost posts at the City Hall. It leaves a bad taste in the

mouth," she said.

Abby believes she will win against anyone. "I don't want to be overconfident, but we always base on data. Our surveys say I will overwhelmingly win, regardless of scenario," she said.

According to a commissioned survey by pollster Pulse Asia in August, she would win 69 percent of the votes if she ran against Junjun. She would still win with 67 percent of the votes against Ricky Yabut, son of former Makati Mayor Nemesio Yabut, and by 65 percent against former acting Mayor Kid Peña.

—WITH REPORTS FROM JOVIC YEE AND FAYE ORELLANA INQ

Teddyboy is new DFA chief

Faeldon takes over BuCor

By HELEN FLORES

Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Teodoro "Teddyboy" Locsin Jr. confirmed yesterday he will replace Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, who will run as Taguig City representative in next year's elections.

Candidates began registering on Thursday for the mid-term elections scheduled for May 13, 2019.

More Cabinet members are expected to quit and run for elective positions.

"I was asked, I said yes," Locsin said on Twitter, referring to President Duterte's offer for him to be the next foreign affairs chief.

Duterte appointed Locsin as the country's envoy to the UN in September 2016 at a time when the country had an uneasy relationship with the international organization over the administration's war on drugs.

"I didn't say no when asked as I didn't when he told me I

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Teddyboy From Page 1

was UN ambassador," Locsin, a lawyer and former journalist, said.

"I will be secretary of foreign affairs which includes the UN; I will have a direct hand until the architecture of sovereign independence in all matters of state that my team started to erect is remitted. Talent that doesn't exist outside DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs) will complete it," he also said on Twitter.

"Still UN work is like sharpening a blade every day," the diplomat said.

Locsin was Makati City representative from 2001 to 2010. He served as speechwriter and press secretary of the late president Corazon Aquino and was a publisher and editor-in-chief of Today newspaper from 1993 to 2005.

Cayetano, Duterte's running mate in the May 2016 polls, joined Duterte at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Leaders Gathering in Bali, Indonesia this week.

It was his last overseas travel as foreign secretary.

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as he will file his certificate of candidacy next week.

As he prepared to leave, Cayetano yesterday called on officials and employees of the DFA to give their full support to Locsin.

"I think he could do a better job than I did but he needs your support," Cayetano said in his message after leading the flag retreat ceremony at the DFA-Office of Consular Affairs ASEANA in Parañaque City.

"It's tailor made for him. I've seen him in action and I'm looking forward to great things he'll be able to do for the country and for the OFWs," he added, referring to overseas Filipino workers.

Cayetano also thanked the DFA personnel for making the reforms at the agency possible, specifically the "fast, efficient, accessible and secured passport services."

Under Cayetano's leadership, the DFA implemented the e-payment system, the Passport on Wheels program and the OFW portal that was able to assist thousands of applicants since the projects were launched in January.

Meanwhile, former foreign affairs secretary Albert del Rosario also welcomed Locsin's appointment. "As a lawyer, journalist, businessman, politician and diplomat, Amb. Teddyboy Locsin Jr. is known to be highly intelligent, articulate and independent-minded," Del Rosario said in a statement yesterday.

"There is no doubt that - with his multi-disciplined skills to be combined with personal conviction towards advancing our national interest at all times - Amb. Locsin will be able to more effectively move forward our nation's defined foreign policy pillars encompassing the promotion of our national security, enhancement of our economic diplomacy and the promotion of the welfare of our Filipinos overseas."

Former Philippine National Police chief Ronald dela Rosa filed his certificate of candidacy for senator at the Commission on Elections yesterday, leaving the Bureau of Corrections as director general.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said Dela Rosa will be replaced by retired Marine captain Nicanor Faeldon, who is currently the deputy administrator for operations of the Office of Civil Defense and former Bureau of Customs (BOC) official.

Faeldon resigned from the BOC in August 2017 when he was dragged into the P6.4-billion shabu shipment.

There are rumors, however, that Faeldon is planning to run as Mindoro governor.

The OCD has yet to be furnished with Faeldon's new assignment and officials could only shake their heads upon hearing the news.

"Being a newcomer at the OCD, he has yet to prove his worth and now he is being given a new assignment as BuCor director, a highly sensitive post," one of the Camp Aguinaldo officials, who asked not to be named, said.

Another official expressed hope that Faeldon will not commit the same "blunder"

at the BuCor, referring to the P6.4-billion shabu shipment that remains unresolved with regard to the masterminds even after various investigations.

The officials said Faeldon's new appointment would show that he is really one of the "trusted" men of the President.

Nearly 320 seats in the two-chamber legislature and more than 17,000 local government positions, from 81 provincial governors to about 1,600 municipal councilors, will be contested nationwide.

The performance of candidates identified with or who used to be officials of the administration in the midterm elections is usually perceived as a vote for or against the current government.

Good choice?

Senate President Vicente Sotto III and Senators JV Ejercito and Loren Legarda hailed the appointment of Locsin as foreign affairs secretary.

"One of the best appointments ever. Excellent choice. The Philippines cannot be bullied with him as DFA chief," Sotto said.

Sotto, chairman of the Commission on Appointments, said he expects Locsin to breeze through the bicameral body once his nomination to the DFA is taken up.

"Teddyboy Locsin, although a fighter, I know, will always square his actions and circumscribe his passions within due bounds," Sotto added.

Ejercito said the DFA would certainly benefit from his long experience in public service.

"As our country navigates a world facing trade wars, the resurgence of protectionism, violent extremism, transnational crimes and territorial disputes, I am confident that he can ably represent the interests of the Filipino people before the international community," Ejercito said.

"The global challenges that we face are indeed formidable but so is our incoming foreign affairs chief," he said, adding that Locsin's appointment was exceptional.

Legarda, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, congratulated Locsin, saying he is fit for the job, "honed by his long years of experience in public service, both as a journalist and a public official."

"A lawyer by profession and worked with various Philippine presidents, Teddy has vast knowledge of national and local issues surrounding the country and how the dynamics of world politics affect our nation," Legarda said in a statement.

"His stint as Philippine permanent representative to the United Nations seemed to have foreshadowed his appointment as the country's top diplomat. I am certain he will not waver in protecting our people and our nation's interests," she added.

Legarda said she would work with Locsin in advancing the Philippines' diplomatic relations with other nations and upholding the four pillars of Philippine foreign policy - With Evelyn Macairan, Jaime Laude, Paolo Romero, Marvin Sy, Reuters

Civil society group backs 3 anti-Du30 Senate bets

VOTE 2019

#ELECTION 2019

By **Jaymee T. Gamil**
@JGamilINC

They vowed to address the worst controversies under the Duterte administration, and could well represent the country's three main islands based on their respective hometowns.

"They will fight for all of us. They will be our fighters against poverty, for social inclusion and for the nation's sovereignty," Tindig Pilipinas, a coalition of civil society organizations, said in a statement.

At a press conference in Cubao, Quezon City, on Friday, the group endorsed for the 2019 senatorial race Free Legal Assistance Group chair Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno, Bangsamoro Basic Law proponent Samira Gutoc-Tomawis, and Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano.

Diokno, a native of Batangas province, spoke about the President's bloody antidrug campaign and said that he "cannot be quiet and sit tightly by while this government continues to kill thousands of people in what they mistakenly call a war on drugs ... [this is actually] a war on our legal system, on the society we know, on our democracy."

Former Marine and Negros-born Alejano took the Duterte administration to task for taking what he considered to be a defeatist stance on the country's West Philippine Sea dispute with China.

"It is so difficult to accept that our government has just seemingly let pass the intrusion and grabbing of our territory, and the abuse of our citizens. The West Philippine Sea is ours. We should get it back," Alejano said.

"For me, this is cowardice. This is a betrayal of our nation," he added.

Alejano also hit the government for its "Build, Build, Build" campaign that, he said, will bury the country in foreign debt and result in the influx of Chinese workers in the country who could "rob [our people] of livelihood."

Marawi civic leader Tomawis said she would bring "the voice of evacuees and of women" in the Senate. "Never, in 25 years, has there been a Muslim woman's voice in the Senate ... I can be the first," she said.

The candidate said the bombing of Marawi was "not the fault of the population [but of] policy and decision making."

She added: "Terrorism does not die with more bombs. Terrorism needs to be rehabilitated through humane programs. Transitional justice, not force."

Hilbay entering race

Also on Friday, supporters of Florin Hilbay described the former Solicitor General as the "second coming" of the late Sen. Raul Roco, who has often been considered "the best President we never had." Roco died of prostate cancer in 2005.

"It's simple: We should fight for what is right," Hilbay said on his Twitter account when he officially announced his sena-

torial bid.

Hilbay, who headed the Philippine legal team that snared a major victory in the international arbitral court when it recognized the country's sovereign rights in the disputed West Philippine Sea, will run under Aksyon Demokratiko, the political party that Roco founded for his 1998

TAKING A STAND Tindig Pilipinas leaders endorse three senatorial candidates—(behind the flag, from left) Free Legal Assistance Group chair Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno, Bangsamoro Basic Law proponent Samira Gutoc-Tomawis and Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano—at a gathering in Cubao, Quezon City, on Friday.

—NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

very high demand, the law here in the Philippines is very lax and we don't have the death penalty," former police chief and now Bureau of Corrections head Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa said.

Also on Friday, Sen. Francis Escudero filed his COC in a bid to be the next governor of Sorsogon, his home province, under the Nationalist People's Coalition.

and hopefully, after the 2019 election, we can tackle it."

Aside from the senator, her father, former Vice President Jejomar Binay, has signified his bid for a congressional seat in 2019.

There is also the possibility of a "Binay versus Binay" showdown in Makati, after former Mayor Junjun Binay and current Mayor Abigail Binay said that they would seek the mayoral post.

'Bato' enters race

The chief architect of President Duterte's brutal and bloody campaign against illegal drugs also threw his hat into the ring on Friday and promised that he would prioritize the passage of the death penalty law.

"I asked the convicted Chinese drug lords in Bilibid, 'why do you insist on trafficking drugs here in the Philippines?' They said that aside from the

How about Sara?

Mr. Duterte expressed confidence that his daughter, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte, would not run for any national position in the 2019 midterm elections.

"Believe me, she's too wise for that," he said at a press briefing in Davao City.

But the President said he did not know the political plans of his son, former Davao City Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte, who, later on Friday, filed his COC for congressman of the first district of Davao.

"Frankly, I have not talked to my son for the longest time since he had his own family. Maybe he finds few opportunities for me to talk to him," Mr. Duterte said.

—WITH REPORTS FROM JULIE M. AURELIO, MARLON RAMOS, JOVIC YEE, MAILA AGER AND GABRIEL PABICO LALU INQ

presidential bid.

Nancy files COC

Filing her certificate of candidacy (COC) on Friday, Sen. Nancy Binay, who is seeking a second term, denied that her family was running a political dynasty since "we still do not have a clear definition [of] political dynasty. We've filed a bill in the Senate

Rody meets with Vietnam leader over SCS issues

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

In a bid to thrash out maritime claims over the South China Sea, President Duterte met Vietnamese

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc on the sidelines of the Leaders Gathering of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Bali, Indonesia. Duterte said he discussed delineation of boundar-

ies with the top Vietnam official.

"I also met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and this has something to do with delineation of our boundaries," Duterte said in his arrival speech from Bali.

"And I told him that in due time, but we will take a longer period for we have to establish even our continental shelf limits," Duterte said.

Duterte attended the leaders gathering last Thursday.

According to Duterte, the two leaders vowed to work closely in ensuring regional stability.

"We both committed to work more closely to achieve shared goals for stability in the region," he added.

Duterte did not go into details about his talks with the Vietnamese leader.

In 2005, the Arroyo administration struck a tripartite deal for the Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking (JMSU) among the Philippines, Vietnam and China.

The JMSU is a tripartite agreement among the Philippine National Oil Co., China National Offshore Oil Corp. and Vietnam Oil Gas Corp. or PetroVietnam regarding oil explorations in the South China Sea.

The tripartite agreement covers a total of 142,886 square kilometers.

The Philippines and Vietnam claim parts of the South China Sea while China virtually claims the whole region.

Manila and Hanoi had stronger relations when the Vietnamese showed subtle support for the Philippines' landmark arbitration case against China in the South China Sea, reports said.

Duterte has remained in touch with Hanoi officials in the past ASEAN meetings even if the two countries had disagreements on the need to deal with China over the reclamation activities in South China Sea.

The bilateral relations remain even with the Philippine Navy warship's entanglement with Vietnamese fishermen.

Duterte's meeting in Bali with the Vietnam prime minister was ahead of the official visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in Manila next month.

Manila and Beijing see the possibility of working on a joint oil exploration deal during the visit.

Common good

Duterte also echoed the Philippines' commitment during the Leaders' Gathering

where all member-countries vowed to work for better relations and the common good.

"At the end of the meeting, the Philippines remains committed to work closely with ASEAN and key global institutions to ensure a peaceful, secure and stable environment that promotes the greater common good," Duterte said.

In his opening statement upon arrival at Francisco Bangoy International Airport in Davao, Duterte reiterated the Philippines' commitment for a stronger ASEAN.

"I am pleased to be back home from an engaging interaction with my fellow ASEAN leaders and heads of international institutions at the ASEAN Leaders' Gathering in Bali," he said.

At the meeting, Duterte said he reiterated the Philippines' national priorities of inclusive growth, stable and secure environment and economic integration in the region.

"I stressed the importance of a stronger ASEAN in order to sustain the efforts towards greater peace, progress and prosperity (for) Southeast Asia and its peoples," the President said, reading from a prepared speech.

As a regional bloc, Duterte urged ASEAN member-countries to "capitalize on its strength as a highly competitive region in order to maintain its steady growth path."

"I emphasized that we should invest in ourselves and within ASEAN," he said.

"Only when we are willing to invest in ourselves can we ensure resiliency amid the challenges of trade tensions, threats to security and stability and increasing natural calamities," the President said.

Duterte said he also personally conveyed to Indonesian President Joko Widodo the Philippines' condolences to the Indonesian people who suffered successive earthquakes and tsunami.

"In times of need, Indonesia was ready to help. Now, we are giving back. That's the ASEAN way. That's our duty as brother and a neighbor," he added.

Duterte seems content that "Indonesia welcomed the humble assistance we coursed through the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management." 2

The Department of National Defense, on the other hand, said it would ask the US not to time their port call during the visit of Chinese President Xi in Manila next month. - With Edith Regalado, Jaime Laude

Japan PM Abe to make rare China visit

BEIJING: Shinzo Abe will pay the first visit to China by a Japanese prime minister since 2011 later this month, Beijing announced on Friday, in the latest sign of warming ties between the rivals.

Abe will visit from October 25 to 27 and mark the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between the two nations, said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang.

The visit will "elevate our bilateral ties and put bilateral cooperation back on the right track," Lu

said at a regular press briefing.

Lu added that the two sides will work to "jointly uphold multilateralism and the free trade system" — a comment that comes as China and the United States are mired in a trade war that the International Monetary Fund said this week will hobble global growth.

Lu said there a reception was planned to celebrate the Sino-Japanese friendship treaty, which was signed on October 23, 1978.

Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping have met numerous times over the last few years on the sidelines of international events.

But no Japanese prime minister has paid an official visit to China since 2011 and no Chinese president has visited Japan since 2010.

'New stage'

Relations between Beijing and

Tokyo soured in 2012 over a territorial dispute over several tiny Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea.

Upon returning to power in 2012, Abe took a firm position on Japan's sovereignty over the island chain, aggravating tensions with Beijing.

But he has since softened his rhetoric and called on China to press North Korea to give up its nuclear and missile programmes.

Abe announced last month that he planned to visit China later this year.

"After that, I very much wish to

invite President Xi to Japan," Abe said after meeting the Chinese leader on the sidelines of an economic forum in Russia.

"Through this exchange of visits at the leaders' level, I hope to raise Japan-China relations to a new stage. I am firmly determined in this regard," he said at the time.

Japanese businesses have also voiced desire for closer ties with China to boost trade.

Despite the rapprochement, sources of tension linger.

Last month, Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera

said China had been "unilaterally escalating" its military activities in the past year, including carrying out new airborne operations around Japan and running a nuclear submarine near disputed East Coast isles.

Japan also carried out in September its first submarine drills in the disputed South China Sea, which Beijing mostly claims. At the time, the Chinese foreign ministry said Tokyo "should act cautiously and avoid doing anything which would harm regional peace and stability." B6 AFP

PH, Vietnam discuss sea boundary issues

By Kristina Maralit

BALI, Indonesia – To ensure peaceful resolution of their respective maritime and island claims in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), President Rodrigo Duterte and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc discussed the delineation of maritime boundaries in the sidelines of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting here.

Both countries are claimants to the disputed territory, said to be rich in oil and natural gas deposits, along with Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia and China.

"This has something to do with

delineation of our boundaries. And I told him that in due time, but we will take a longer period for we have to establish even our continental shelf limits," the President said upon his arrival at the Davao International Airport from the one-day gathering late Thursday night.

In May 2014 the Philippines signed with Indonesia a historic agreement defining the maritime boundary between their overlapping Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) in the Mindanao Sea and Celebes Sea. The agreement was signed after 20 years of negotiations.

During their meeting, Duterte and Phuc expressed commitment to work closely

together in achieving progress and stability throughout Southeast Asia.

They also agreed to seal the Vietnam-Philippines action plan for 2018-2023 soon to enhance cooperation between the two nations.

This has something to do with delineation of our boundaries.

Among areas of bilateral cooperation being explored between Manila and Hanoi include national defense and security, economy and trade, energy and maritime affairs.

The President and Vietnamese PM also

reiterated their support to the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea and the finalization of an effective, practical and legally-binding Code of Conduct in the East Sea.

Both leaders likewise agreed to highlight the significance of enhancing cooperation in maritime affairs and creating conditions for both Filipino and Vietnamese fishermen for legal, safe and sustainable fishing.

According to Duterte, Vietnam remains a close friend and ally of the Philippines and he wishes to continue advancing the strategic partnership between the two nations.

No PHL-US exercise to coincide with Xi visit

IT'S official: There would be no military exercises between the Philippines and the US next month in time for the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

This was confirmed by Department of National Defense Chief Delfin Lorenzana on Thursday, following the announcement of the US Embassy in Manila and the Palace itself that there would be no major US-Philippines joint exercise planned for November.

Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque earlier said that China expressed concern over a military exercise that the United States will be conducting the same time that the Chinese president will be in the country.

"Every time they [us] do that *naman e*, especially *mag-port call ditto 'yung papunta din sa mga port natin... meron naman silang pasabi e*, and we will *ano*, we will just tell them not to, '*wag lang i-timing din sa visit*,'" Lorenzana said.

In Cabinet shuffle, Rody looks for replacements

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte is still scouting for replacements for some members of his Cabinet who are running for the Senate and local posts in the 2019 midterm elections.

Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Teodoro Locsin Jr. has accepted the offer to become secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs after Duterte designated him to replace Alan Peter Cayetano, who is running for congressman in Taguig City.

Duterte is now looking for Locsin's replacement as envoy to the UN.

"There has to be replacement because there are positions to be vacated," Duterte said, speaking to media upon arrival in Davao City from Indonesia yesterday.

"But you know my choices. It has nothing to do with politics. It has nothing to do *na* I want to ingratiate myself to the military. I don't need that," he added.

Aside from Cayetano, also expected to run in the coming polls are Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castriciones, Secretary to the Cabinet Leoncio Evasco Jr. and Guiling Mamondiong, director of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, Special Assistant to the President Bong Go and presidential adviser on political affairs Francis Tolentino are also among those supposedly eyeing Senate seats or local posts in the 2019 polls.

Duterte had appointed

current presidential legal adviser Salvador Panelo as presidential spokesman replacing Roque.

Duterte said he will also be speaking with Roque regarding his political plans.

The President is obviously not pleased with Roque's hemming and hawing on whether to leave the Cabinet and pursue his plans to run for the Senate.

Panelo held his first press briefing as the new presidential spokesperson although he has been visible to the Malacañang Press Corps as Palace legal counsel.

Panelo presented to the media a memorandum dated Oct. 11 which effectively assigns him as the new spokesperson.

The order leaves Roque with no post to return to when he arrives from China on Monday.

Duterte has just appointed retired Army commanding general Lt. Gen. Rolando Bautista as head of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Special Assistant Go informed the President during their flight back home that Roque has relayed to him that he will no longer run for any post.

"The flight was smooth. But when we were talking about Harry, I got dizzy. 'So, where are we heading with this Bong?' So, I said, 'I'll just talk to him. Better,'" Duterte said.

"Are you really running or not? Running, then not running," he said, surmising the decision might be reached in 2021.

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In Cabinet From Page 4

Roque, now in China on a personal trip, will return on Monday. He said he wants to sit down with the President for guidance.

The Palace also plans to reorganize the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) and revert its functions to the Office of the Press Secretary.

Duterte said he will look for another legal adviser if Panelo wants to focus on being the official presidential spokesman.

Duterte also expressed doubts whether current PCOO Secretary Martin Andanar will be up to task as political adviser since he has not won any election – whether local or national.

“Second, Martin Andanar should be around. *Siya – palit-palit sila, pero* there must only be one press secretary. And historically, *na ano lang. Ano talaga ‘yan.* It was addressed as a press office, press secretary,” he said.

Appointing Andanar as political adviser might end up as a political disaster, Duterte said in jest, that’s why he is looking at every possible candidate.

“*Disgrasya tayong lahat kung* political adviser. *Talo, tamungin mo nga kung namalo ba siya ng eleksyon ni minsan? ‘Di biro lang ‘yan.* I’ll consider everybody,” Duterte said.

At the same time, Duterte defended his decision to appoint retired military and police

officials to key posts in government. He said officers from the uniformed services are good at executing his orders without much ado.

Alan asks Rody’s support

Cayetano clarified yesterday that he had asked Duterte to support his bid to become speaker of the House of Representatives.

Cayetano said he believes he could “significantly” contribute to Duterte’s administration if he leads the House.

“I can’t give significant contributions if I’m just one of the hundreds of lawmakers,” he told reporters after attending his last flag retreat ceremony at the DFA-Office of the Consular Affairs in Parañaque City.

Cayetano was Duterte’s runningmate in the May 2016 elections.

Cayetano is expected to file his certificate of candidacy on Wednesday, the last day of filing.

He is running under the Nationalista Party.

Cayetano earlier said the decision to run for Congress was made after he had a heart-to-heart talk with the President.

He said the President asked his officials who are seeking elective posts to resign to allow him to reorganize his team.

– With Helen Flores

New Army chief a silent worker, says Lorenzana

Quiet but efficient. This was how Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana described incoming Army chief Maj. Gen. Marairog Alberto, commander of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP). "He's a silent worker. Low-profile, but good," Lorenzana said of Alberto in an interview in Quezon City on Friday. Lorenzana said Alberto, who will replace retiring Army chief Lt. Gen. Rolando Bautista, was his subordinate when he was the commander of the Special Operations Command. "He's also a Scout Ranger... he also toured Mindanao for a long time." Alberto graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1986. He also completed a counterterrorism fellowship program and has a masteral degree in Strategic Studies from the National Defense University in the United States. Before becoming chief of the ISAFP, he had been a brigade commander in Luzon and in Mindanao. —JAYMEE T. GAMIL

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Alberto is new Army chief

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) welcomed the designation of Major General Macairog Sabeniano Alberto as the next Commanding General of the Philippine Army (PA).

Alberto will replace outgoing Army chief Lieutenant General Rolando Joselito D. Bautista, who is set to retire from the military service on Monday, at the age of 56.

No less than President Duterte is expected to grace the turn-over ceremony to be held at the Philippine Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

In a statement, AFP Spokesman Brig Gen Edgard Arevalo said Alberto is a highly respected leader and commander, having distinguished himself in the field of combat, intelligence, and civil military operations in various echelons of the AFP hierarchy.

Arevalo added that Alberto is well-respected among subordinates, peers, and more senior officers of the now more than 98,000 Army troopers.

"He is known for his dedicated, no non-sense, and passionate approach to mission accomplishment while ensuring the welfare of the men and women under his command," Arevalo said.

New Army chief welcomed

By Kathleen Mae Bulquerin

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Friday welcomed the designation of Maj. Gen. Macairog Sabeniano Alberto as the next Philippine Army chief.

Alberto will replace Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, who is scheduled to retire on Monday after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56. President Rodrigo Duterte earlier had said he would appoint Bautista as secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

"Maj. Gen. Alberto is a highly respected leader and commander having distinguished himself in the field of combat, intelligence and civil military operations in various echelons of the AFP hierarchy," AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said.

He added the incoming Army commander is "well-respected" among subordinates, peers and senior officers of the more than 98,000-strong Army.

"He is known for his dedicated, no non-sense, and passionate approach to mission accomplishment while ensuring the welfare of the men and women under his command," Arevalo added.

Alberto is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1986 while his predecessor, Bautista, is a member of PMA Class of 1985.

The incoming Army commander is well-respected.

The incoming Army chief is a graduate of various courses both local and abroad, including the Scout Ranger Course, Strategic Intel Course, Counter-Terrorism Fellowship Program and Master of Arts (Strategic Studies) from the National Defense University, USA.

He also holds a Master's degree in Public Management Major in Development and Security from Development Academy of the Philippines.

Alberto served as commanding officer of the 2nd and 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion, Task Force Davao and head of the 1001st Infantry Brigade, a unit of the 10th Infantry Division in Mindanao before his appointment as chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP. 3

He was a recipient of various medals, including the Military Commendation Medal, Military Merit Medal, Bronze Cross Medal, UN Service Medal/Ribbon, Silver Wing Medal, Gold Cross Medal and Distinguished Service Medal.

Naming of new Army chief lauded

THE military on Thursday lauded the designation of Major Gen. Macairog Sabeniano Alberto as the next Philippine Army chief replacing Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, who is scheduled to retire on Monday after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56.

"Major Gen. Alberto is a highly respected leader and commander having distinguished himself in the field of combat, intelligence, and civil military operations in various echelons of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) hierarchy," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said.

The incoming commander is "well-respected among subordinates, peers, and more senior officers" of the more than 98,000 Army troopers.

"He is known for his dedicated, no non-sense, and passionate approach to mission accomplishment while ensuring the welfare of the men and women under his command," Arevalo added. PNA



AFP welcomes Alberto appointment

The Armed Forces of the Philippines welcomed the designation of Major Gen. Macairog Sabeniano Alberto as the next commanding general of the Philippine Army.

Alberto will replace outgoing Army chief Lt. Gen. Rolando Josellito D. Bautista who is set to retire from the military service on Monday at the age of 56.

Bautista is a member of the Philippine Military Academy "Sandiwa" Class of 1986.

President Duterte is expected to grace the turnover ceremony to be held at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said Alberto is a highly respected leader and commander, having distinguished himself in the field of combat, intelligence, and civil military

operations in various echelons of the AFP hierarchy.

Arevalo added that Alberto is well-respected among subordinates, peers, and more senior officers of the now more than 98,000-strong Army.

"He is known for his dedicated, no nonsense, and passionate approach to mission accomplishment while ensuring the welfare of the men and women under his command," Arevalo said.

Alberto is a member of the PMA "Sinagtala" Class of 1986.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva said they are grateful and welcomes the designation of Alberto, the 60th commanding general of the Army.

Villanueva said Alberto is a well-rounded officer and highly respected leader and commander,



ALBERTO

having distinguished himself in the field of combat, intelligence, and civil military operations.

"We believe that the Army which is composed of more than 98,000 troopers will be in good hands and will further soar up high in accomplishing its mandate and attaining its vision of becoming a world class," Villanueva said.

(Francis T. Wakefield)

Court ends hearing on DOJ motion seeking Trillanes' arrest

The Makati City Regional Trial Court Branch 148 has wrapped up proceedings on the motion filed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) seeking the arrest of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV on charges of coup d'etat for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny. Presiding Judge Andres Bartolome Soriano said "the factual issues" in Trillanes' case were "now considered submitted for resolution." The court did not admit two of the 17 exhibits or evidence submitted by Trillanes' camp because they were not duly authenticated, Soriano said. "It must be emphasized that the court admits some of the exhibits which may have a doubtful admissibility in the interest of prudence," the court said. Among the evidence admitted by the court was Trillanes' certificate of amnesty, the affidavits of Col. Josefa Berbigal, Honorio Azcueta, Dominador Rull and Emmanuel C. Tirador. Rull and Tirador were present when Trillanes submitted his amnesty application form. The senator submitted photographs as proof. --- TETCH TORRES-TUPAS



No arrest order yet as court wraps up

By Elmer N. Manuel and Alvin Murcia

Beleaguered Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV got another reprieve yesterday on the non-bailable *coup d'etat* charges for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny but the day of reckoning is expected soon.

After weeks of deliberation, the Makati

Turn to page 6

From page 1

City Regional Trial Court Branch 148 wrapped up proceedings on the motion filed by the Department of Justice (DoJ) seeking Trillanes' arrest.

The Makati court said it now considers the DoJ motion submitted for resolution, according to RTC Branch 148 Judge Andres Soriano.

In a four-page order dated 11 October, Soriano admitted all of the evidence Trillanes offered, except printouts of the official Facebook page of the Department of National Defense (DND) and a "throwback picture" of his, since these were not duly authenticated and never identified by defense witnesses in court.

The rest of the evidence, which include Trillanes' certificate of amnesty, the affidavits of four defense witnesses and a printed photo of the senator's application for amnesty, were admitted even as the court noted the DoJ's objections.

"...The factual issues as specified in the order dated 28 September 2018 and the issue on the 'legality' of Proclamation 572 based on the pleadings/motions filed by the parties - as they may bear upon the prosecution's Urgent Ex-Parte Motion for Issuance of Hold Departure Order and Issuance of Alias Warrant of Arrest against Antonio Trillanes IV are now considered submitted for resolution," Soriano said in his order.

Proclamation 572 revoked the amnesty which former President Benigno Aquino granted to Trillanes which effectively revived the rebellion and *coup d'etat* charges on him as a result of three military uprisings against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The court order also noted of the 17 exhibits or evidence submitted by the camp of Trillanes, the court has not admitted Exhibits 9 and 12 because they were not duly authenticated, presented and identified by any witness in court.

"Exhibit 9" is a printout of the official Facebook page of the DND while "Exhibit 12" is a printout of Trillanes' throwback picture swearing in to the amnesty application he has submitted.

Soriano admitted all of the evidence Trillanes offered, except printouts of the official Facebook page of the Department of National Defense and a "throwback picture."

On the other hand, other evidence submitted by Trillanes' camp have been admitted and will be considered in determining whether the court will grant the DoJ's request.

Proof admitted

Among the admitted evidence were Trillanes' certificate of amnesty, the affidavits of Col. Josefa Berbital, Honorio Azcueta, Dominador Rull and Emmanuel Tirador.

Berbital is the head of Ad Hoc Amnesty Committee Secretariat that received the amnesty application while Azcueta is a former undersecretary of the Department of National Defense and head of the ad hoc committee.

Rull and Tirador were present when Trillanes submitted his amnesty application form and submitted photographs as proof.

The court also recognised Exhibit 4 which is a printed photograph of Trillanes' application for amnesty. The court said it is admitted despite objection from the DoJ because it is part of Rull's testimony.

The court said "this is without prejudice to the determination of its probative value in due course."

"If they are thereafter found relevant or competent; on the other hand, their admission, if they turn out later to be irrelevant or incompetent, can easily be remedied by completely discarding them or ignoring them," the court added.

5 days for rejoinder

State prosecutors were also given five days by the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 to file their rejoinder on the reply of Trillanes' camp.

Presiding Judge Elmo Alameda's order was in response to the manifestation of prosecutors opposition to the motion for reconsideration of Trillanes against the issuance of the arrest warrant and hold departure order in connection with the revocation of his amnesty.

Among the evidence prosecutors challenged in the case was the original copy of the affidavit of Berbital dated 20 September 2018.

The prosecution panel said they object to the purpose of the document because "Col. Berbital failed to substantiate during her testimony on 5 October 2018 her statements in her affidavit that accused Trillanes admitted his guilt to the offenses subject of the amnesty."

"Instead, during her cross examination, she testified that accused Trillanes only admitted guilt to the incidents but not the offenses for which he is being charged," the prosecution said.

Berbital's statement that the application for amnesty was in order, complete and in compliance with all the requirements of Proclamation 75 is "misleading."

The prosecution said during her testimony, Berbital could not confirm this allegation by presenting the original, duplicate or photocopy of the application.

It added she had no authority to conclude that Trillanes complied with all the requirements of Proclamation 75 which granted the amnesty, explaining that as mere head of the secretariat, she was not the approving authority to determine who among the applicants were qualified.

The DoJ said Berbital had "no authority to administer oath to accused Trillanes because DND Department Order 323 specifically provides for a notary public to be assigned to the secretariat who will duly administer the oath of the amnesty applicants."

They further objected to the testimony of Azcueta, noting that the latter "failed to substantiate his claim that he caused the strict compliance with all the requirements set forth by Proclamation 75 and DND Circular 1."

The panel also objected to the affidavit of Rull branding it as "self-serving and contains baseless and biased statements, the witness being the executive assistant of accused Trillanes," and had "no authority to determine whether the alleged application form was properly filled up by accused Trillanes."

Likewise, objected to by the prosecution was the affidavit of Tirador, a co-accused of Trillanes in the case.

The DoJ also opposed Trillanes' counsels' presentation of a blank application form for amnesty, citing that "a mere blank application form cannot prove the existence of a duly filled up application form."

The form, the prosecution said, "cannot prove admission of guilt by the accused Trillanes... because the same document requires the submission or attachment of a separate narration of facts of his involvement/participation in the offenses by which he is charged."

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DoJ nixes recall of Trillanes arrest

By Rey E. Requejo

THE Department of Justice on Friday objected to the appeal of opposition Senator Antonio Trillanes IV for the Makati City Regional Trial Court Branch 150 to recall its order for his arrest, in connection with the DoJ's move to revive the coup d'état and rebellion cases against him.

In an 11-page comment, the DoJ state prosecutors asked the Makati City RTC to dismiss the motion for reconsideration filed by Trillanes for lack of merit.

Trillanes' lawyer did not oppose the DoJ's filing of the comment, but manifested that it was filed out of time or 11 days after the appeal itself was filed on Oct. 1.

Nonetheless, the court gave Trillanes' camp up to five days to file its reply to the comment,

while the prosecution was given five days, within which to file its rejoinder.

Judge Elmo Alameda, the presiding judge of Branch 150, earlier ordered the arrest of Trillanes, in connection with previously dismissed rebellion charges in late September, but allowed him to post bail.

This prompted Trillanes to file a motion for reconsideration seeking to vacate and set aside the order for his arrest for being "premature"

and for lacking factual and legal basis.

The senator also asked the court to set the DoJ's motion seeking his arrest for hearing for the reception of testimonial evidence and to ultimately deny the government motion.

However, Assistant State Prosecutor Josie Christma Dugay argued there was no need for a hearing on the reception of evidence.

In its 11-page comment, the DOJ stressed there was no basis for Trillanes to request to set the case for reception of evidence on the factual issues.

The DoJ insisted the Makati City court had already ruled in favor of Duterte's Proclamation No. 572 "after both parties were able to present their evidence."

"Further, the issues/grounds raised by the accused in their motion for reconsideration were comprehensively and correctly ruled upon by

the Honorable Court," the DoJ said.

It cited Alameda's finding that Trillanes "failed to substantiate" his claim that he applied for amnesty due to his failure to present a copy of his application form.

"As correctly held by this Honorable Court, the best evidence to prove that accused Trillanes filed his application for amnesty is the duly fill-up application form itself, its duplicate or photocopy," the DoJ comment stated.

Without this document and given a "negative certification" from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, "there is no application to speak of, and its existence is suspect," the DoJ pointed out.

It also cited portions of the transcript of a hearing at the Makati RTC Branch 148, which handled the coup d'état case against Trillanes, that was held last week. 12



Senate, AFP shoot for third UNTV Cup wins

Games Sunday
(Pasig City Sports Center)
2 p.m. – Senate vs DOJ
3:30 p.m. – Malacañang-PSC
vs PhilHealth
5 p.m. – AFP vs PITC

Group A: Senate (2-0), AFP (2-0), DOJ (1-1), PNP (1-2), GSIS (1-2), PITC (0-2)
Group B: NHA (3-0), Malacañang-PSC (2-0), DA (2-1), PhilHealth (1-2), Judiciary (0-2), Ombudsman (0-3)

Defending champion Senate and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) try to keep their share

of Group A lead when they go up against separate rivals tomorrow in the 7th UNTV Cup at the Pasig City Sports Center.

The Defenders collide with the Department of Justice Boosters at 2 p.m. while the Cavaliers square off with the PITC Global Traders at 5 p.m. with Senate and AFP looking to notch their third straight wins in the annual tournament for public servants.

Malacañang-Philippine Sports Commission also shoots for a third

straight win and share of Group B lead when it tangles with PhilHealth at 3:30 p.m.

Senate coach Mike Fermin sees a tight contest with the Justice Boosters, saying: "We have to bring our A-game if we want to stay undefeated."

Out to lead Senate are Jeff Sanders, Garry Sevilla, Marlon Legaspi and Senators Joel Vilanueva and Sonny Angara.

Former Letran star Boyet Bautista is once again expected to lead

AFP after scoring 22 points in the team's 92-82 win over Philippine National Police the last time.

A victory by the Malacañang National Housing Authority for the lead.

But the Kamao will have their hands full against the PhilHealth Plus who are coming off a morale-boosting 122-99 win over the Ombudsman Graft Busters – thanks to a pair of 29 points from Jonathan Aldave and Mark Pedroso.

Faeldon bagong BuCor chief

Itinalaga ni Pangulong Duterte bilang bagong Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) director si dating Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon.

Kinumpirma ni Justice Sec. Menardo Guevarra na si Faeldon ang napili ni Pangulong Duterte na maging kapalit ni Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa matapos maghain ito ng kanyang certificate of candidacy kahapon para tumakbong senador sa ilalim ng PDP-Laban.

Si Faeldon ay dating hepe ng Customs subalit nagbitiw matapos na magsangkot sa P6.4 billion shabu shipment case.

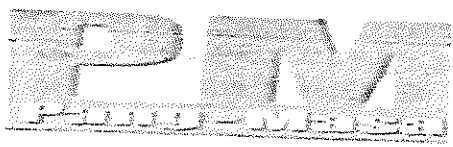
Kasalukuyan itong deputy administrator for operations ng NDRRMC at ng Office of Civil De-

partment of Justice. Samantala, inihayag naman ni Executive Sec Salvador Mañalac na ang napili ni Pangulong Duterte na bagong Army chief ay si Major General Macario Alberto.

Magreteriro na si Army Chief Gen. Rolando Bautista sa Lunes kaya papali-

tan ito ni Alberto na hepe ng Armed Forces' Intelligence Service (ISAFP).

Nauna rito inangun- syo na rin ni Pangulong Duterte na itatalaga nito si Bautista bilang kalihim ng Department of Social Welfare and Development. (Rudy Andal/Dons Franche)



Faeldon bagong Bucor chief

Si dating Customs Commissioner at Civil Defense Deputy Administrator Nicanor Faeldon ang itinalaga ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte bilang bagong Bureau of Corrections (Bucor).

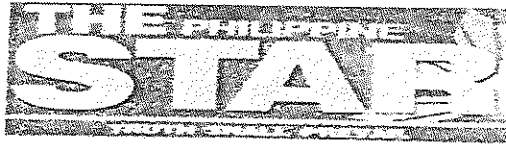
Ito ang kinumpirma ni Justice Sec. Menardo Guevarra na si Faeldon ang napili ni Pangu-

long Duterte na maging kapalit ni Ronald dela Rosa matapos maghain ang huli ng kanyang certificate of candidacy kahapon para tumakbong senador sa ilalim ng PDP-Laban.

Inihayag din ni Executive Sec. Salvador Medialdea na ang napili ni Pangulong Duterte na bagong Army chief ay si

Major General Macairog Alberto dahil sa magre-retiro na si Army chief Gen. Rolando Bautista sa Lunes

Inanunsyo na rin ni Pangulong Duterte na itatalaga nito si Bautista bilang kalihim ng Department of Social Welfare and Development. *Rudy Andal, Doris Franche-Borja-*



Reds kill Surigao Sur tribal leader

BUTUAN CITY – Suspected New People's Army rebels shot and stabbed to death a tribal leader in San Miguel, Surigao del Sur on Wednesday.

The fatality was identified as Rexan Brital, 42, a representative of the indigenous community in San Miguel to the municipal council.

Police said Brital was a rebel returnee. — Ben Serrano

Lorenzana: 'Red October' plot no more

Defense chief claims discovery of oust Duterte plan prompted opposition to scrap it

By Jaymee T. Gamil
@JGamilINQ

Goodbye "Red October," hello "White Christmas?"

After repeatedly describing the "Red October" ouster plot against President Duterte as real and looming, a top government official dismissed it and said it had melted away.

"The plot [was] discovered so it's no longer feasible. It's a goner," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters on Friday at the sidelines of the commemoration of the 2018 International Day for Disaster Reduction in Quezon City.

For now, no other plot seems to be brewing, he said.

"Maybe there's still 'White Christmas' because the holidays are coming," Lorenzana

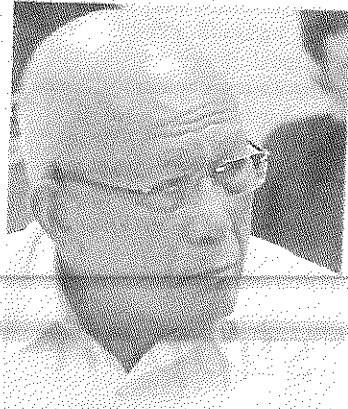
said in jest.

In a one-on-one interview with chief presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo last month, President Duterte said he had evidence of an ouster plot being hatched by opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and the Magdalo party list, in tandem with the Liberal Party (LP), the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New Peoples' Army (CPP-NPA).

Loose conspiracy

"It might be a loose conspiracy but they are into it," Mr. Duterte said, adding that he would soon have evidence on the information given to him by a foreign government.

Shortly after, Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, assistant deputy



Delfin Lorenzana

chief of staff for operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, claimed that the ouster plot would be set off by a "nationwide coordinated tactical offensive" between Oct. 11 and Oct. 17.

Parlade also claimed that communists were recruiting students from 18 top universities and colleges in Metro Manila to join the ouster plot.

Red-tagging

He identified some of the "Red-tagged" schools as De La Salle University, Ateneo de Manila University, University of Santo Tomas, Adamson University, Far Eastern University, the University of the Philippines campuses in Diliman and Manila, the University of the East campuses in Manila and Caloocan City, and Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Also being recruited were students of Emilio Aguinaldo College, Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology, San Beda Universi-

ty, Lyceum University, University of Makati, University of Caloocan City, University of Manila and Philippine Normal University.

Despite denials from Trillanes, the LP and CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison, Lorenzana maintained the plot was real.

"We got a document stating: 'Red October.' But when the AFP exposed it, the groups who had come together started breaking away so it didn't push through anymore," he said.

But in an interview on Wednesday, Lorenzana stood pat on Parlade's claims about the ongoing recruitment in Metro Manila schools.

"My suggestion to the [Philippine National Police] is that [there] should be a joint AFP-PNP dialogue with the

heads of universities so that they can understand why we are saying that, [while] we will also understand why they are denying that they are recruitment grounds [for] the CPP-NPA," he said.

PNP seeks dialogues

The PNP had earlier coordinated with the Commission on Higher Education about holding dialogues with the heads of the different universities. *M2*

From the start, members of the opposition have scoffed at the military's revelations of ouster plots, with Sison describing these as "[fabricated] conspiracies (meant) to justify the eventual declaration of martial law nationwide, and further realize Duterte's scheme of a fascist dictatorship." INQ

DND chief: No more Red October plot

By JAIME LAUDE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has neutralized the Red October plot, an alleged ouster move hatched by anti-government forces against President Duterte.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana bared this yesterday in an ambush interview on the sidelines of the commemoration of 2018 the In-

ternational Day for Disaster Reduction-Southeast Asian Day for Disaster Reduction (IDD-ADD) held at the covered court of Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

"It's no longer existent. It fizzled out because we uncovered and exposed it," Lorenzana said.

He further disclosed that recovered documents about the ouster plot now in the hands of

the defense and military establishment was really titled "Red October."

He claimed that when the AFP made Red October public, key personalities behind this ouster plot were forced to disband and abandoned their planned illegal acts.

AFP assistant deputy chief of staff for operations (J3) Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr. exposed the Red October

ouster plot against Duterte last month.

Parlade named the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), Liberal Party (LP), Magdalo (faction of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV), Coalition For Justice, a group of supporters of ousted chief justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and the Movement Against Tyranny, a group identified with the Commission on Human Rights, as forerun-

ners of the grand alliance behind the destabilization plot against the Duterte administration.

On top of this, Parlade claimed that 18 colleges and universities have become recruitment hubs of the New People's Army.

But AFP chief Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. and the Department of the Interior and Local Government cleared the LP

and Magdalo of any involvement in the supposed plot to overthrow Duterte.

"Wala na yang Red October na yan. Lusaw na (Red October is gone. It has fizzled out)," Lorenzana told reporters.

With the neutralization of Red October, the defense chief said that the Filipino people are now assured that they can celebrate and enjoy Christmas.

'Red October' plot to oust Duterte dissolved - DND

By MARTIN A. SADONGDONG

The supposed plot hatched by communist rebels and opposition groups to oust President Duterte has been dissolved, the Department of National Defense (DND) revealed Friday.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said that because 'Red October' had been uncovered and made public, the individuals and groups behind it ditched the plan.

"Wala na, hindi na natuloy 'yan kasi nabuking sila eh (It won't push through because they were found out)," Lorenzana said.

"There was a... we got a document really stating nakalagay doon (it was stated there) 'Red October.' Eh noong ilabas yun ng AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] eh nag-ano eh. Kasi initially mayroong mga kumpul-kumpul na grupo pero noong mabisto nagkalasan na kaya hindi na matutuloy (When the AFP released it, they [backed out.] Ini-

tially, there were groups joining forces, but when the plan was uncovered, the groups backed out and the plan fizzled out)," he explained.

Asked if the ouster plot was just merely shelved temporarily and would be relaunched in the following months, Lorenzana said the issue is subject to verification.

For now, Lorenzana said the public should enjoy the joyous Holiday season.

"Wala na 'yang Red October na 'yan, lusaw na. White Christmas siguro kasi Pasko na eh (There's no more Red October because it's already dissolved. Probably White Christmas because it's Christmas already)," Lorenzana quipped.

Duterte first raised the possibility last month that the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA), opposition Senator Antonio Trillanes and the 'yellows', apparently referring to the once ruling Liberal Party, have been conniving to oust him.

The military confirmed there was



PRESIDENT DUTERTE

a plot to destabilize the government but AFP Chief of Staff General Carlito Galvez Jr. later cleared the Liberal Party and Trillanes from the supposed ouster plot.

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The Manila Times

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'Red October' oust-Duterte plot sputters

THE "Red October" plot allegedly being brewed by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is fizzling and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Friday he was looking forward to a "White Christmas" instead.

"That [Red October plot] will not prosper anymore since we have uncovered their plans from the start," Lorenzana told reporters at the sidelines of the International Day for Disaster Reduction 2018 in Quezon City.

Despite the apparently aborted plot, he insisted that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was able to retrieve documents after armed clashes with the New People's Army (NPA), containing plans to oust President Rodrigo Duterte.

The "Red October" plot was supposed to take place on October 17, as earlier announced by the military through Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr., assistant deputy

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chief of staff for operations.

Parlade had also released a list of universities and colleges allegedly being used as recruitment grounds by the CPP and its armed wing, the NPA.

Among the 18 schools on the list are the University of the Philippines Diliman, UP Manila, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of Santo Tomas, Adamson University and Far Eastern University.

"When the AFP disclosed [the plot], initially, they [plotters] were collaborat[ing] [with] several groups but when their plans were exposed by the AFP, they scampered, which [move] is [the reason] why [the plotters] will not pursue [it] anymore," according to Lorenzana.

Instead of a "Red October," the Defense chief said in jest that he would rather opt to look forward to a happy December.

"Maybe White Christmas since the holiday season is approaching," he added, when asked if there would be color-coding in the coming months.

The supposed scuttling by the CPP and the NPA of the "Red October" plot came after the communists themselves and the political opposition, among other so-called destabilizers, laughed off the alleged plot to boot out Duterte from Malacañang.

Last month, Parlade told a television interview that members of the opposition, particularly from the Liberal Party (LP), were conniving with the communists to remove the President.

He, however, retracted his statement, saying some of the LP members withdrew their participation in the ouster plot after realizing it was hatched by the communists.

DEMPSEY REYES

'Red October' is now 'White Christmas'

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, lightheartedly adverting to the forthcoming "White Christmas" in December, has said the reported "Red October" plot to oust President Rodrigo Duterte will no longer push through.

Lorenzana said it was now time for "White Christmas," a 1942 Irving Berlin song reminiscing about an old-fashioned Christmas setting, with the first version sung by Bing Crosby.

In July, the military said it uncovered the ouster plot dubbed "Red October" through documents recovered by troops and confirmed by testimonies of communist rebels who have since surrendered.

But the defense chief when the plot was discovered, the conspiracy was discontinued.

Lorenzana earlier said the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army was planning to get support from various civic organizations to join their mass actions led by "progressive groups," a euphemism for militants and anti-government alliances.

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'Red' plot fizzles out

By Mario J. Mallari

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday declared the "Red October Project" designed to oust President Duterte has "melted" after the military discovered the plot.

"There is no more (plot). It melted," said Lorenzana.

Based on documents recovered by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) from arrested or surrendered New People's Army (NPA) leaders, the plot was supposed to be launched 11 to 17 October.

"When the AFP announced it, the groups behind it pulled back," said Lorenzana.

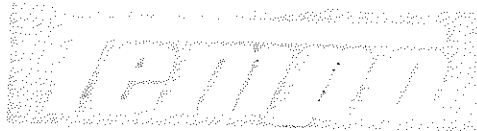
Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr., AFP assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, tagged the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) as being behind the "Red October Project."

Parlade identified CPP founding chair Jose Maria Sison as the "conductor" of the plot.

He initially tagged the opposition Tindig Pilipinas, particularly personality identified with the Liberal Party, as part of the sinister plan to oust the President.

The plotters, Parlade said, initially planned to launch the ouster plot on 21 September but the groups failed to gather support after Mr. Duterte publicly announced the plan.

The president directly pointed to the "yellows" or LP, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and the communist behind the plot.



Lorenzana: 'Red October' plot 'dissolved'

By MARTIN SADONGDONG

"Red October," an alleged massive connivance of communist rebels with various opposition groups to oust President Duterte, has been "dissolved," the Department of National Defense said yesterday.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the plot was dissolved because it was uncovered and made public, prompting the groups allegedly involved not to

push through with it.

"Wala na, hindi na natuloy 'yan kasi nabuking sila eh," Lorenzana said. "There was a, we got a document really stating nakalagay doon 'Red October.' Eh noong ilabas 'yun ng AFP eh nag-ano eh. Kasi initially mayroong mga kumpul-kumpul na grupo pero noong mabisto nagkalasan na kaya hindi na matutuloy," he added.

President Duterte first raised the possibility last month that the Communist Party of the

Philippines-New People's Army, opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes, and the "Yellowes," apparently referring to the Liberal Party, have been conniving to oust him from power.

The military confirmed there was a plot to destabilize the government but AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. later cleared the Liberal Party and Trillanes from the supposed ouster plan. The military also tagged cause-oriented groups Tindig Pilipinas,

Block Marcos, and CFJ or the group that supports former Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, among others.

Earlier this month, Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, AFP deputy chief of staff for operations, said the CPP had been recruiting members in at least 18 schools in Metro Manila, resulting into a meeting between the Philippine National Police and Commission on Higher Education to plan a dialogue between the AFP-PNP and school

administrators, not only in Metro Manila, but also in the provinces as well.

Lorenzana said they have to verify if the ouster plot was just shelved and would soon be relaunched in the following months.

For now, Lorenzana said the public should enjoy the joyous Holiday season. "Wala na 'yang Red October na 'yan, lusaw na. White Christmas siguro kasi Pasko na eh," Lorenzana said.

'Red October' plot lusaw na

Nalusaw na ang "Red October" ouster plot laban kay Pangulong Duterte, ayon kay Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. Sinabi ni Lorenzana

na nag-atrasan na ang mga nagpaplano sa Red October ouster plot matapos itong mabuking ng AFP. "Wala na, hindi na natuloy yan kasi na-

buking sila eh," wika ni Lorenzana.

"There was, we got a document really stating nakalagay dun Red October eh nung ilabas yun ng AFP, initially merong mga kumpol ng mga grupo pero nung mabulgar sila nagpulasan na kaya hindi na matutuloy," anang opisyal.

Una nang ibinunyag ni AFP Asst. Deputy for Operations (J3) B/Gen Antonio Parlade Jr. na ang Red October ay isa umanong sabwatan sa pagitan ng CPP-NPA at oposisyon para patalsikin si Duterte sa puwesto.

Kabilang umano sa alyansa ang supporters ni ousted Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno

at ang grupong Tindig Pilipinas na ang mga miyembro ay Liberal Party leaders.

Ayon pa kay Lorenzana, wala ring "Blue November" tulad ng mga mainit na paksa dahil malapit ng magtapos ang Oktubre.

Una na ring ibinulgar ni Parlade na maging ang 18 kolehiyo at unibersidad sa Metro Manila ay sinasabing aktibo ang recruitment ng CPP-NPA sa mga estudyante upang lumahok sa Red October plot.

"Lusaw na yung Red October, White Christmas na siguro kasi pasko na eh," pabiro at nakangili pang sinabi Lorenzana. (Joy Santos)



RED OCTOBER LUSAW NA! *Kasi nabuking sila - Defense chief...*

“Wala na hindi na natutulo yan kasi nabuking sila eh”
Ito ang inihayag kagapangon ni Defense Chief Delfin Lorenzana tungkol sa ouster plot laban kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na kung tawagin ay “Red October” mata-

pos ito ay matuklasan ng militar.
Ang “Red October” ay ang pinagsamang alyansa ng Communist Party of the Philippines-New People’s Army (CPP-NPA) sa pangunguna ni CPP-NPA founder Jose Maria Sison at ng mga kritiko ng administras-

yon upang agawin ang kapangyarihan kay Pangulong Rodrigo.
Ang Red October na una nang ibinulgar ni AFP Assistant Deputy for Operations (J3) Brig Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr., ay isa umanong alyansa sa pagitan ng CPP-NPA, mga kritiko ni Pangu-

Ni JOY CANTOS
long Duterte tulad ng Liberal Party, Magdalo Group, Tindig Pilipinas ni dating Pangulong Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III, Movement Against Tyranny, Coalition for Justice at iba pa upang

ibagsak ang administrasyon.
Anya, nagpulasan na ang mga nagpapiano sa Red October ouster plot matapos itong mabuking ng AFP
“There was, we got a document really stating nakalagay dun Red Octo-

ber eh nung ilabas yun ng AFP, initially merong mga kumpol mga grupo pero nung mabulgar sila nagpulasan na kaya hindi na matutuloy”, anang opisyal
Una na ring ibinulgar ni Parlade na maging ang 18 kolehiyo at unibersidad sa Metro Manila ay

sinasabing aktibo ang recruitment ng CPP-NPA sa mga estudyante upang lumahok sa Red October plot.
“Lusaw na yung Red October, white Christmas na siguro kasi pasko na eh.” pabiro at nakangiti pang sinabi Lorenzana.

Marawi rehab starts soon

The task force has a working budget of P15 to P16 billion

Task Force Bangon Marawi chairman, Secretary Eduardo del Rosario yesterday announced the groundbreaking for rehabilitation of Marawi will be held on 17 October, the first anniversary of the city's liberation from Maute extremists.

"Our people are now on the ground preparing for this. And since 17 October is very significant, as the declared date of liberation of Marawi, as declared by our President, we find it fitting that the groundbreaking will be on 17 October also," Del Rosario said in a press briefing.

He said clearing of the debris and rubble caused by the five-month siege will mark the first phase of the Marawi rehabilitation effort.

"We are now conducting a negotiated procurement and in the first award, it was given to FINMAT Corporation. FINMAT Corporation will undertake the debris clearing, the initial pilot worth P75 million," he said.

He said FINMAT will undertake the debris-clearing operations in the pilot area for Marawi rehabilitation which consists of six hectares.

Once the debris are cleared, construction of road networks with underground utilities will commence. Next would be the construction of vertical structures which would include 320 classrooms, 24 barangay centers, convention center, the grand central market, school for living tradition, a four-story parking area and other necessary infrastructures.

The task force set the target for the return of Marawi residents to "ground zero" not later than the second quarter of 2020.

For the rehabilitation of the entire city, Del Rosario said they expect it to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2021. He said the task force has a working budget of P15 to P16 billion for this purpose.

FINMAT will undertake the debris-clearing operations in the pilot area.

He reported that as of September 2018, the total number of internally-displaced persons stands at 11,949 families, down from 76,284 families last January 2018.

A total of 1,522 units of transitional shelters were constructed in Sagonsongan, Bakwit Village, Angat Buhay Program and Bahay Pag-asa. The transitional shelters are provided with common facilities such as temporary learning areas, prayer rooms, livelihood centers, police outpost and wet and dry market.

Del Rosario said efforts are ongoing for the development of a second site for transitional shelter in Barangay Buganga which will provide 1,500 units of temporary shelters. More than 600 out of the 1,500 units have been completed.

The task force is also providing business and livelihood opportunities to Marawi residents through the implementation of "Kawiyagan" – a livelihood program supporting the recovery and re-development of various industries and the local economy. 3

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Marawi rehab groundbreaking set Oct. 17 —Del Rosario

MORE than a year after the now infamous Marawi siege, the government will finally push through with groundbreaking rites on Oct. 17 to signal the start of the city's rehabilitation right at the heart of the five-month war at ground zero.

The groundbreaking rites marks the first year since President Rodrigo Duterte declared the city's liberation. A week after on Oct. 23, combat operations ended.

According to Task Force Bangon Marawi chairman Eduardo del Rosario, the ceremony will start with the clearing of the remaining debris at the 6-hectare area "most affected" by the conflict.

The debris clearing operations, which will amount to P75 million, will be carried out by a local firm.

"After debris clearing, we will undertake road network construction with underground facilities. Once it is done, we will proceed with vertical structures, construct 320 classrooms, 24 barangay centers, a convention center, grand central market, school for living tradition, parking area, and so forth," Del Rosario said in a Palace press briefing.

Originally, the groundbreaking was set for June, set a cost of P16 billion, but decided to suspend it due to problems in the procurement process.

Del Rosario also said that the military has already cleared ground zero of about 80 percent of unexploded ordinance, paving the way for the planned groundbreaking.

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Demolishing himself?



AT THE last round of the Supreme Court oral arguments last Oct. 9 on the Philippine withdrawal from the International Criminal Court initiated by President Rodrigo Duterte, acting Supreme Court Chief Justice Antonio Carpio argued that by doing so, the Philippines has deprived itself of the only court to defend its rights in case China launches an invasion of the Philippines' claimed islands or it sets up military facilities at the Scarborough Shoals.

However, Carpio never took the matter that the ICC would never get to act on any petition against China as it has veto power in the UN Security Council where any ICC case would be first referred to.

How a justice of the Supreme Court could make such a fundamental error in opinion in a formal discussion before the court is simply shocking.

Moreover, Carpio made other errors such as in saying that a recourse to the ICC offers a "very strong" deterrent against possible invasion of the West Philippine Sea when in the first place the most effective deterrent has been what President Duterte has been doing—engaging China in peaceful dialogue and negotiations, and potentially engage China in joint exploration and eventually development of resources in the disputed areas.

For a member of the Supreme Court, Justice Carpio has long behaved inordinately, showing undue involvement with issues not yet raised before the court and now one of these is carried into that forum. Justice Carpio has long been faulted for "extrajudicial" forays into matters that have not been brought to the court but could be, like the issues involving the Philippines' and China's claims over portions of the South China Sea which the Philippines has legislated into the West Philippine Sea.

Carpio has created a dilemma for

himself in having been so involved in the SCS matters outside the court that now creates credibility issues when he raises the issues in the court.

Carpio's public involvement in the SCS issues has already created the impression that this is a personal and pet issue of his. Worse is the association with pro-American elements this has created.

That is, the close links Carpio is seen to have established with American funded institutions such as the CSIS (Center for Strategic and International Studies) which the American independent media NGO Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting describes as "Think Tank Funded by Gov't and

“How Justice Carpio could make such a fundamental error in opinion in a formal discussion before the court is simply shocking.”

Arms Industry” in the US and the CSIS supported Albert del Rosario Institute of the American green card holder and Noyon Aquino's DFA secretary Albert del Rosario.

That Justice Carpio would raise these weak arguments in the oral argumentation which was certain to be splashed in media raises some questions. They coincide with blatantly clear provocation and psy-war operations of the US in proposing a military/naval exercise in the SCS all the way up to the Straits of Taiwan in time for President Xi Jinping's visit to President Duterte here in the Philippines when many all important agreements fulfilling the \$24-billion investment commitments of China will be signed. The known American-

leaning writers have also been very active at their work putting PH-China cooperation in a bad light.

Did Carpio use the Supreme Court oral arguments on the ICC issue as a forum to inject anti-China propaganda in a coordinated effort to becloud the atmosphere leading up to the President Duterte and President Xi Jinping meeting in November? To becloud the atmosphere the US has scheduled a military/naval exercise in the SCS leading all the way up to the Taiwan Straits, inviting the Philippines to participate along with Japan and other US treaty allies. News reports in local media alarmed Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua.

Duterte has actually been constrained to announce that the Philippines will not be joining any US military exercises with its allies, and assured Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua that the Philippines will not be taking part in the US proposed exercise. The Asia Times also featured two articles creating misinformation about PH-China projects, i.e. Mindanao writer Bong Sarmiento's "China leaves Duterte dream train at the station" and Richard Heydarian's "US, Philippines tacitly realign against China" and Jason Castañeda's "Duterte creating cracks in his military's command". All these three articles smack of disinformation prior to the November Xi visit to Duterte.

My response to the three articles: President Xi Jinping and President Rodrigo R. Duterte are signing the \$3.5-billion Manila-to-Matnog 600-kilometer train project development loan at 2-percent interest rate that will revive the legendary "Bicol Express," while the Mindanao projects are scheduled for finalization in Package 2 mid-2018. The rejection of US enticement for the PH to join its military exercise and the PH's participation in the China-Asean military exercise recently should make clear that the PH continues its independent foreign and military policies.

Lastly, Duterte's crackdown on the attempted "Red October" consolidates the unity of the government and its military forces.

Silent...

From AM

started when Labor Undersecretary, the activist Joel Maglunsod, was fired for allegedly supporting "illegal strikes." This claim by the President is absurd considering that Maglunsod himself assisted the Pacific Plaza strikers to ensure the legality of their strike.

Thereafter, workers of farm factory DBSN in Albuera, Leyte, were arrested and jailed for cyber-libel filed by the factory owner, Mayor Ramon Onate of Palompon town. He alleged that the workers committed libel for protesting the rampant contractualization practiced in his factory. He was ordered by Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello to regularize the workers yet what he did was to file a dubious criminal case.

Last Thursday, private security forces violently dispersed a group of striking workers of the Sumifru banana plantation in Compostela Valley. It is still to be determined if there were casualties

among the workers as of writing time.

The bottom line is, workers have long been attacked by both capital and the State, and it seems as though things are only continuing to intensify under this regime. It is imperative, then, for all workers to fight not only against plant-level issues or unjust labor policies, but for democracy and dignity.

And it is just as important for young professionals, students, teachers, writers, and citizens from all other sectors of society to stand with workers in their fight for justice. The struggles of the workers for justice in the workplace is intimately connected with the broader struggle for democratic freedom. In these precarious times, a strong and vibrant labor movement would go a long way towards safeguarding the democratic rights of all citizens.

This is why I decided to write this column. Twice a week, this semester, I find myself in BGC and Rockwell, Makati teaching constitutional law, philosophy of law, and environmental law to young people in the University

of the Philippines College of Law, De La Salle University College of Law, Ateneo School of Law, and Far Eastern University Institute of Law. In other semesters, I also teach in Lyceum College of Law also in Makati. In these places in BGC and Makati, one cannot avoid seeing how much wealth there is in the Philippines in the office buildings and especially in the condominiums. The least that I expect from the owners and residents of these condominium units and the managers of these buildings is that they treat their workers well, with respect and dignity.

Pacific Plaza is not an exception. I have special knowledge about the building and the union there because one of my relatives is connected to the latter. I have told him that there are good people who live there, some prominent ones. I sincerely believe that they care about these workers on strike. That like me, they want those workers to be silent no more, hungry no longer.

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ONLINE NEWS

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www.pna.gov.ph

Incoming chief vows to make Army 'agile force' vs. terrorism

By Rhoda Grace Saron

DAVAO CITY – The incoming commanding general of the Philippine Army vowed to make the army as an "agile force" in the government's fight against terrorism and insurgency.

Maj. General Macairog Alberto on Friday also thanked President Rodrigo Duterte for the trust and confidence in him, and vowed to live up to the expectations of the President.

Alberto said his top priority is to strengthen the Army so that it can respond to current and future challenges.

He also wants to accelerate the growth of the Army, increase the funding for soldier and family programs, and improve healthcare for both its active members and veterans.

Alberto also said he wants to improve the ranks through leadership training, enhance the Army's logistics procurement and decision making processes, and continue to enhance its war-fighting capabilities.

"Yung iba naman is existing na kaya ituloy lang or enhance (Others are already in place so it only needs to be sustained and enhanced)," he said.

Alberto bared that Brig. Gen. Erwin Bernard Neri is being eyed to replace him as the chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

Neri, who is currently assigned at the AFP general headquarters, is a member of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) class 1988. He was also the former commander of the Army's 1001st Infantry Brigade and commander of Task Force Davao.

Alberto will take over the post of Lt. General Rolando Bautista, who retires on October 15.

Alberto is a 1986 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy. *(Rhoda Grace Saron/PNA)*

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

www.inquirer.net

AFP chief says PH military schools behind by 50 years

By: [Valerie Damian](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)



CHANGE OF GUARD. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. (at far left) led the turnover ceremonies on Friday (Oct. 12) when retiring Army Maj. Gen. Donato San Juan II (at far right) was replaced by Army Major Gen. Ronnie Evangelista as superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy. PHOTO/EV Espiritu

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City – Philippine military schools will need to catch up with the rest of the world, according to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. on Friday.

“I was told that our education is behind other schools by about 50 years,” Galvez said in a speech to cadets of the Philippine Military Academy, citing a conversation he had with a general during a recent trip to the United States.

Galvez did not elaborate but said the Armed Forces of the Philippines will pursue and improve a PMA Road Map, which lays down how best to upgrade the academy’s infrastructure and its curriculum to make this premier military academy a world-class military institution by 2028.

Galvez was here to install Maj. Gen. Ronnie Evangelista as the new PMA superintendent, replacing Maj. Gen. Donato San Juan II who retired on the same day, when he celebrated his 56th birthday.

Evangelista said the country’s military education adapts to the changing times. “We have instructors from West Point (the United States Military Academy in New York) embedded here and they are surprised because we were able to maintain the standards,” Evangelista said.

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

tagged as terrorist instilling fear among tribal communities to demand obedience for their

skewed ideologies towards an armed struggle against the government. It also shows that the CNTs are losing their clout to its mass bases that they resort to such desperate actions. We will press the fight against these ruthless murderers to bring justice to our innocent and peace loving Lumads”.

His remains now lie at his residence at Sitio Nalindog, Brgy Bolhoon, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

Meanwhile, the Local Government Unit of San Miguel, Surigao Del Sur has condemned the killing. **36IBValor / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com.ph

FIREFIGHT | Talakag cops survive NPA ambush try

Posted by Alvin Santiago

TALAKAG, Bukidnon (DWDD) – Around 25 policemen who were supposed to respond to a murder incident in KM 27, Tikalaan in Talakag, Bukidnon, on Wednesday, October 10, were greeted with volley fire from suspected communist rebels who set up an ambush just four kilometers away from the crime scene.

Members of the Talakag town police and Police Regional Mobile Force Battalion-Northern Mindanao (RMFB-10) were about to put up a checkpoint at KM 23 of said village when they were fired upon by an unknown number of armed men.

However, no officer was hurt. Authorities are still checking whether there were casualties on the enemy's side. Police said the firefight lasted about 15 minutes.

Initial investigation disclosed that a certain Wenceslao Gaumban, of Poblacion, Kalilangan town, was stabbed to death by unidentified suspects. The victim sustained three stab wounds on the neck and hematoma on the right eye, which were believed to have caused his death.

Superintendent Surki Serenas, spokesperson of the Police Regional Office-Northern Mindanao (PRO-10), said the perpetrators were believed to be comrades of the armed group that attacked the responding policemen. Serenas said the victim possibly had with him a huge amount of money while on his way home when the suspects waylaid him. Investigators are pointing at a possible extortion by suspected NPA fighters. The ambush may have been staged to delay the police's response, Serenas said.

“Investigation is still ongoing with regards to the slain person. We are looking into two angles which could either be robbery-homicide or extortion gone violent,” Serenas said.

“The ambush of our responding troops only led us to think that the NPA could have been involved in the killing”. **Talakag PNP / MCAG**