

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

NEWS CLIPPINGS

19 October 2019

Friday



Honor. Patriotism. Duty

TABLE OF CONTENTS

19 OCTOBER 2018

Weather Forecast- http://pagasa.dost.gov.ph/weather/daily-weather-forecast		
Page Nr.	Title	Source
NATIONAL NEWS		
1-2	ML in Mindanao maybe extended - Palace	P Star-1
3-5	755,973 FB Accounts in PH compromised	PDI-A1
AFP/ SECURITY RELATED NEWS		
6	US, Chinese Defense Chief holds talks at security meet	PDI-A15
7-8	China academic exec wants good ties with PH to last beyond Duterte admin	M Bulletin-1
9	DND pushing for ROTC revival	P Star-10
10	Palace open ML extension in Mindanao	PDI-A5
11	Gov't open to longer Mindanao martial law	M Times-A8
12	Mindanao to gain from extended ML	D Tribune-1
13	Martial law extension may be needed: Panelo	Malaya- B6
14	Extension of martial law in Mindanao eyed	Tempo-12
15	Extension ng Martial Law sa Mindanao depende sa AFP	Ngayon-2
16	Martial law extension sa Mindanao, posible	Balita-2
17	233 finish soldier course in E. Visayas	M Bulletin-13
18	DSWD, Army engineers to build schools for IPs in Davao del Norte	M Bulletin-14
19-20	DU30: Dynasty forced	D Tribune-1
21	25 rebelde, lumahok sa peace summit	Balita-5
22	NDFP consultant's companions ordered freed	PDI-A13
23	AFP tells pols: Don't pay reds campaign fees	PDI-A8
24	Military to block Red's permit scheme	M Times-A2
25	Permit-to-campaign ng NPA, tinutukan	Balita-5
26	FDA chief's convoy ambushed; 3 cops killed	PDI-A12
27	3 cops killed , FDA chief unhurt in NPA ambush	P Star-17
28-29	3 dead in FDA chief convoy ambush	M Times-A1
30	Ambush: FDA chief unharmed, cops killed	D Tribune-3
31	3 cops killed in NPA ambush in CamSur	M Bulletin-11
32	3 cops killed, 3 wounded in NPA ambush in CamSur	Malaya-B1
33	3 pulis patay sa ambush	Tempo-4
34	3 pulis todas, 3 sugatan sa NPA ambush	PM-3
35	NPA ambush: 3 pulis utas	Ngayon-9
36	Visayas cops on alert for rebels	P Journal-7
37	More NPAs keen on yielding-DND	M Bulletin-7
38	AFP to candidates: We'll secure you against NPAs	M Bulletin-2
39	CPP told to stop recruiting youth for 'terrorism'	M Times-A2
40	Insurgency gains cited	M Standard-A6
41	6 rebelde sumuko sa Mindoro	Balita-5
42	700 drones idedeploy para iwas-ambush - PNP	Ngayon-3

43	'Wag magbayad ng PTC, PTW sa NPA	Ngayon-2
44	Alert up vs armed groups raising campaign funds	P Star-6
45-46	Delay in Marawi rehab irks Duterte	PDI-A6
47	Slow Marawi rehab exasperates Duterte	M Times-A3
48	Marawi still to break ground; Rody fumes over rehab delay	M Standard-A2
49	Marawi Rehab Kickoff reset	P Journal-7
50	Abu sayyaf captive freed in Sulu	P Star-17
51	Abu Sayyaf captive freed	Malaya-B2
52	4 BIFF men arrested in Maguindanao	P Star-17
53	Troops capture 4 BIFF bandits, foil attacks	M Times-A7
54	Pagdami ng private armed group, ikinabahal	Balita-5

EDITORIAL/OPINION/COMMENTARY

55	Preventing a repeat	P Star-12
56-57	Can we sure of our senatorial elections?	M Times-A1
58-59	Cream rises – and values dip?	M Times-A4
60-61	Seeing Red	M Standard-A4
62-63	Pathetic antics	D Tribune-5
64	Testing the supreme court	Malaya –B5
65	What torture?	Malaya-B5
66-67	A big mistake	D Tribune-4
68	Counter-insurgency policy	Malaya-B4
69	Plot of many colors	Malaya-B5
70	Empower the IPs	Malaya-B5
71	Joma's word of honor	Malaya-B5
72	Call to youth	Malaya-B5

ONLINE NEWS

73	ASSISTANCE Another Set of Surrenderees receives E-Clip benefits from the Government	www.dwdd.com.ph
74-75	LAW ENFORCEMENT Government forces arrest 4 BIFF members in Maguindanao	www.dwdd.com.ph

ML in Mindanao maybe extended – Palace

Intel failure in Marawi: Rody takes full responsibility

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

The government might consider extending martial law in Mindanao again as it has helped security forces maintain peace and order as well as protect civilians from further terror attacks, Malacañang said yesterday.

The government is set to lift martial law in Mindanao on Dec. 31, the second and supposedly last extension allowed by Congress for the proclamation, which was issued by President Duterte on May 23, 2017 at the outset of the five-month siege of Marawi City by Islamic State (IS)-linked militants from the Maute, Abu Sayyaf and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters.

"According to the military, the martial law has helped in the peace and order situation and it has dissuaded the terrorists from inflicting the usual violence against the population," presidential spokesman

Turn to Page 8

Salvador Panelo said.

Asked if the government would stick to the scheduled lifting of martial law by the end of the year, Panelo merely said even local residents appeared to have accepted its benefits.

"As I said, if it is helping the population – the population is not even opposing it, so to my mind, there is a need to extend it," Panelo said.

But he said the President, as commander-in-chief, would seek insights from Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police (PNP) before seeking another extension of martial law in Mindanao.

"But according to the President that will depend on the advice, the recommendation of the military because they are the ones on the ground," he said.

"Again, as I said, that will depend on the recommendation of the military. The President always heeds the advice or recommendation of the military and other police forces there, because they are

the ones knowledgeable on the conditions existing there," Panelo added.

He explained that martial rule is instrumental in neutralizing IS-inspired terrorists who wanted to establish a caliphate in Southern Mindanao.

"What I'm saying, there is a need to extend if that particular martial law would be helpful in maintaining peace and order. Because if it does not, then why do you have to maintain it?" he said.

So far, Panelo admitted that there are no proposals yet in the Cabinet or from the security cluster to extend martial law.

"No, there is no suggestion. The President always waits for the recommendation of the military," he said.

Failure of intelligence

In remarks before businessmen at the Manila Hotel last night, President Duterte said he has assumed full legal responsibility over what he himself described as a failure of intelligence that led to the siege of Marawi last year, as he vowed that rehabilitation efforts would go full swing in the coming months.

He said the military and the police provided him with reliable information about a brewing attack in Marawi by Muslim militants.

"So, it was a failure of intelligence and because I'm the guy who sits there, I would just have to assume full legal responsibility for it, that's why the (fighting was) prolonged," Duterte said.

Top military officials including Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Carlito Galvez visited Marawi on Wednesday to lead the rites commemorating the first anniversary of the city's liberation. The President did not attend the commemoration rites.

Prior to the siege, Duterte said he was in talks with Beijing for the purchase of weapons to preempt an attack by the militants.

"I went to China to talk about the acquisition of firearms because I knew that Marawi was about to explode. I was given good results by the intelligence community," he said.

"We were able to estimate the number of guns. But we never - we failed to appreciate that they have piled up tons of ordnance, explosives and

everything," Duterte added.

"So we spent a lot of money there, instead of putting it in infrastructure. I really do not know - I'm not an economist," he said.

Duterte said he has left to Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Finance Secretary Sonny Dominguez and National Economic and Development Authority secretary general Ernesto Ferrua the task of spearheading rehabilitation efforts.

"I leave it to Diokno, Sonny and Pernia. *Sila'yung nag-aral sa economics. Ako diyan, I remember I only got 78 in college. And I don't remember how - if I passed that g***** subject in high school,"* he said.

A private consortium is undertaking the rehabilitation of Marawi, but residents lament the slow progress of the project.

"I do not interfere. As a matter of fact, you all know, no commercial transactions of government would ever - either private or public or quasi - reach my desk," Duterte said.

"*Walang kontrata sa gobyerno ni isa. MRT, LRT, reclamation, lahat'yan, it starts and ends with a Cabinet member,*" the President said.

Earlier yesterday, Panelo

emphasized before reporters that the government has not abandoned Marawi rehabilitation efforts. He said the President has ordered the "full implementation of the rehabilitation."

He also quashed insinuations that the administration was handling the Marawi rehabilitation efforts the same way the Aquino administration did in rebuilding Tacloban in the aftermath of Super Typhoon

Yolanda.

"He has ordered the full movement that will immediately rehabilitate the place and as I said earlier, the groundbreaking will start at the end of the month. So hopefully, *dire-diretso na tayo (we go full steam ahead),*" Panelo said.

Panelo also expressed appreciation for the US government's providing P1.35 billion for livelihood projects in Marawi.

755,973 FB ACCOUNTS IN PH COMPROMISED

STORY BY ROY STEPHEN C. CANIVEL

The National Privacy Commission says the Facebook breach affected profile information like full name, e-mail address, phone number, location and search queries, making users likely targets of identity theft. **A10**

FROM A1

By Roy Stephen C. Canivel
@roycanivel_INQ

Personal information of more than 755,000 Facebook users in the Philippines was compromised last month, making them likely targets of spam operations and phishing attacks, according to the National Privacy Commission (NPC).

The NPC made the disclosure after a compliance order was filed against Facebook Inc., the first of its kind following a data breach in September that compromised the personal information of tens of millions of users across the globe.

An independent body created under Republic Act No. 10173, or the Data Privacy Act of 2012, the NPC seeks to ensure that personal information in the government and private sector's information and communications systems are secured and protected.

User data were compromised in different extents, according to the agency, citing an update it received from Facebook on Oct. 13.

Compromised data

A total of 755,973 users were affected, with large numbers having had their online footprint, such as search queries and Facebook posts exposed.

Philippine-based user accounts numbering 387,322 had their basic profile information compromised, such as full name, e-mail address and phone number.

Others might have had it worse.

On top of having their basic profile information known, 361,227 accounts also had other pieces of data breached, such as location, recent search queries on Facebook, and the top 500 accounts they follow.

A total of 7,424 users had

IN THE KNOW: Security tips

A Facebook account may have been hacked if personal private information, such as e-mail, password, name or birthday, has been changed.

Other indicators include friend requests that have been sent to unknown people, messages unintentionally sent and posts unintentionally created by the real user.

Here are security tips from Facebook:

- Do not use the Facebook password anywhere else online. Do not share it with others or include a name or common words into the combination.
- Never share login information such as e-mail and password.
- Do not accept friend requests from unknown people.
- Log out of Facebook when using a computer being shared with others.
- Run antivirus software on the computer and watch out for malicious software.
- Never click suspicious links or download anything.

For more information, visit the Hacked Accounts section of the Facebook Help Center. —INQUIRER

RESEARCH

Source: facebook.com

more information exposed, such as Facebook posts, list of friends, groups they are members of, and the names of people they recently chatted with.

The world's largest online social network, with 1.5 billion daily users, claimed that the vulnerability was fixed on Sept. 28, three days after it was discovered.

Affected users should have been notified through their Facebook app about the issue.

But a representative from the NPC said the notification did not detail the extent of compromise.

In a statement on Sept. 29, the NPC said Facebook termi-

nated the log-in sessions of those who were seen affected by the breach, having them enter their login credentials again.

The company, which is still reeling from the earlier Cambridge Analytica data breach scandal, insisted that there was "no material risk of more extensive harm occurring," the NPC said. It, however, does not agree with Facebook on this matter.

"[T]he risk of serious harm to Filipino data subjects is more than palpable," said Privacy Commissioner Raymund Liboro in the compliance order.

In effect, Filipino users become more likely targets of cyberattacks.

Spam, phishing

"As Facebook itself notes, the main potential impact for affected users will be an increased likelihood of getting targeted for professional 'spam' operations and 'phishing' attacks," Liboro said.

He said Facebook should



The main potential impact for affected users will be an increased likelihood of getting targeted for professional 'spam' operations and 'phishing' attacks

Raymund Liboro
National Privacy Commissioner

consider the fact that a lot of Filipinos were unaware of how harmful the attacks were even though the risk and vulnerability of Filipinos were one of the

highest in the world.

The level of awareness of such risks in the Philippines is not the same as that in developed countries.

Cultural gap

Considerations should be made to take into account the "cultural milieu in which the risk is appreciated," Liboro said.

"The commission ... deems it necessary that Facebook contemplate this cultural gap when notifying the affected data subjects. Facebook should modify its approach and provide a more conducive method that enables affected Filipino data subjects to better grasp the risks they face," he added.

What happens now?

It remains to be seen if the data breach would prompt the NPC to file any charges against the popular social networking company.

Investigation of a separate breach is still going on, the Cam-

bridge Analytica scandal, in which the data of millions of users worldwide—including more than a million Filipinos—were "improperly shared."

In this most recent case of data breach, Facebook was directed to perform certain measures, according to the compliance order.

Identity theft insurance

This included telling Facebook to make a choice: either provide an identity theft and phishing insurance for affected users, or put up a helpdesk in the Philippines within six months.

Liboro also told Facebook to submit a more comprehensive report about data breach notification, notify those who were affected in accordance with NPC rules, implement a program directed at Filipino users to increase awareness of identity theft and phishing, and provide evidence that it had indeed complied with these orders. **INQ**

ASIAN SECURITY

US, CHINESE DEFENSE CHIEFS HOLD TALKS AT SECURITY MEET

SINGAPORE—US officials said on Thursday that relations with the Chinese military might be stabilizing as their respective defense chiefs met at an Asian security conference.

US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis met for nearly 90 minutes, 30 minutes longer than scheduled, with his Chinese counterpart, Gen. Wei Fenghe.

Staright forward and candid

Randall Schriver, the Pentagon's top official for Asia-Pacific affairs, said Mattis described the talks as "straight-forward and candid" and asserted that high-level talks were especially valuable during times of tension.

Schriver said the discussions covered numerous is-

sues but focused especially on the disputed South China Sea, where Chinese military activity was viewed by Washington as irresponsible and Beijing complained of an inappropriate US military presence.

Difference of opinions

"That's an area where we will continue to have differences and talk through," Schriver told reporters after the meeting.

Mattis and Wei discussed an existing US invitation for Wei to visit the United States, but details remain to be worked out, Schriver said.

"There was a commitment on both sides to try to find a time" for such a meeting, he added.—AP

China academic exec wants good ties with PH to last beyond Duterte admin

By **ELISON A. QUISMORIO**

BEIJING, China – An official of the China Institute of International Studies here is pitching a plan that would essentially maintain the good bilateral ties between the Philippines and China beyond the term of President Duterte.

“There is very concrete data, we have a lot of cooperation. But how to look at the future?” asked Liu Qing, the director of the Institute’s Department for Asia-Pacific Studies during an exchange of ideas with Manila-based journalists Tuesday, October 16.

“I think we need to further make a working plan, something like that. For example, we can have a five-year plan, or a 10-year plan. Medium-term plan, long-term plan,” he said in his very serviceable English.

Liu and a handful of his colleagues met with the Filipino journalists at the Institute’s base, which is the old Embassy of Hungary in the Capital City. The building has been standing since 1890.

The official wants the current state of bilateral relations between the two nations to endure, not unlike the old building. ►9

China academic... ◀1

He acknowledged President Duterte's hand in improving these ties, which was at a low point in 2013 because of the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) territorial disputes.

"It's only because of President Duterte. After him, who? We need a strategic plan," Liu stressed.

Duterte, who won the Palace race via landslide in 2016, is already a multiple-time China visitor as president. He began what has been described as the Philippines's pivot to China, which has since inspired other ASEAN members to do the same.

The 73-year-old Filipino leader is scheduled to step down from Malacañang in 2022.

Liu enumerated some highlights of the smoothened ties between Manila and Beijing.

"We opened about 14 new flights [to the Philippines] and last year Chinese tourists to the Philippines reached more than one million. And China became the Philippines's number one trade partner," Liu said.

"Also China supports the Marawi rebuilding. About \$25 million. I'm not sure," the director added.

Liu hinted that there's room for this improved ties to grow, thus making his proposed plan - although general - quite tantalizing.

"If we have a working plan, medium-term or long-term, then I think we can maintain the bilateral relations stable, growing steadily."

During the meeting, Filipino journalists proposed ratcheting up people-to-people relations, as opposed to government-to-government relations since the latter is already on the upswing. Liu was receptive to this.

He also called it a "very good idea" to launch a 30-minute or hour-long TV program in the mainland that would tackle nothing but Filipino culture. This is in line with the improvement of people-to-people relations between Filipinos and Chinese.

DND pushing for ROTC revival

The Department of National Defense (DND) has pushed for the passage of several measures pending in Congress, including the revival of the mandatory Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in colleges and universities.

Aside from the revival of ROTC, the DND-drafted bills pending in Congress are the National Defense Act of 2018, Philippine Defense Industry Development Act of 2018, Anti-Terrorism Act and Special Economic Defense Zone Authority Act.

"These are key pieces of legislation being advanced by the DND to strengthen the country's defense capabilities and improve its national security," Defense Undersecretary

for policy Ricard David Jr. said.

David's office is spearheading moves for the passage of these bills by capacitating key defense personnel and staff to harmonize and standardize the department's policy formulation.

On the revival of ROTC, the new defense bill will require not only college students to undergo basic military training but also Grades 11 and 12 students under the K-to 12 program.

Earlier, President Duterte called for the revival of the ROTC program in colleges and universities.

The ROTC was scrapped in 2002 due to abuses on cadets and cadettes by their military trainers.

- Jaime Laude

Palace open to ML extension in Mindanao

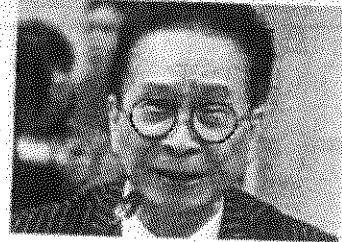
By Julie M. Aurelio
@JMAurelioINQ

While there has been no proposal yet to extend martial law in Mindanao beyond December, Malacañang is not discounting the possibility of its extension if it will help maintain peace and order in the region.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said any extension of military rule would depend on the assessment and recommendation of the security sector, particularly the mili-

tary and police commands in Mindanao.

In a press briefing on Thursday, Panelo said the military had underscored the role of martial law in helping improve the peace and order situation in the region in the aftermath of the siege of Marawi City by Islamic State-inspired jihadi groups.



Salvador Panelo

Usual violence

He said martial law had "dissuaded the terrorists from inflicting the usual violence

against the population."

"If it is helping the population, and the population is not even opposing it, to my mind there is a need to extend it,"

Panelo said.

The security sector, however, has not recommended an extension of martial law in Mindanao beyond Dec. 31, he added.

"There is a need to extend it, in particular, martial law would be helpful in maintaining peace and order. If it does not, why do we have to maintain it?" Panelo said.

He made the remarks a day after the first anniversary of the liberation of Marawi City from the Maute terrorist group, which battled government

forces in the city for five months.

President Duterte placed Mindanao under martial law on May 23, 2017, following the attack on the city.

Marawi siege anniversary

He later extended martial law until the end of 2018 to allow the security sector to suppress lawless violence and rebellion in all parts of Mindanao.

Mr. Duterte missed the commemoration of Marawi City's liberation on Wednesday, as he

had other activities scheduled in Malacañang.

Panelo said the President would still consider the recommendation of the military and the police on whether to lift or extend martial law in Mindanao.

"That will depend on the recommendation of the military. The President has always heeded the advice and recommendation of the military and police force. They are the ones who are knowledgeable on the conditions existing there," Panelo said. INQ MS

Govt open to longer Mindanao martial law

MALACANANG is open to the possibility of extending martial law in Mindanao if such declaration will help maintain peace and order in the conflict-stricken region.

In a news briefing, Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo on Thursday said they cannot provide a clear timeline yet for the lifting of martial law in Mindanao, as it will depend on the military's recommendation.

"According to the military, the [Mindanao] martial

► Mindanao A8

■ MINDANAO FROM A1

Govt open

law has helped in the peace and order situation. And it has dissuaded the terrorists from inflicting the usual violence against the population. If it is helping the population, the population is not even opposing it, so to my mind, there is a need to extend it," Panelo told reporters.

"But according to the President, it will depend on the advice, the recommendation of the military because they are the ones on the ground," he said.

According to Panelo, there has been "no suggestion" so far to extend martial law in Mindanao.

"What I'm saying there is a need

to extend if that particular martial law would be helpful in maintaining peace and order. Because if it does not, why do you have to maintain it?" he said.

"Again, as I said, that will depend on the recommendation of the military. The President always heeds the advice and the recommendation of the military and other police forces there because they are the ones who are knowledgeable on the conditions existing there," Panelo added.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea earlier said an extension of martial law in Mindanao was an "option" in the wake of a recent deadly attack in Sultan Kudarat.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

Mindanao to gain from extended ML

By Kristina Maralit

An extension of martial law in Mindanao beyond this year would depend on the recommendations of the security cluster of the Cabinet but presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said he is all for its prolonging beyond this year.

"It is helping the population — the population is not even opposing it, so to my mind, there is a need to extend it," Panelo said.

"That will depend on the recommendation of the military. The President always heeds the advice or recommendation of the military and other police forces there because they are the

Turn to page 6

From page 1

ones who are knowledgeable on the conditions existing there," he added.

Panelo, however, clarified there is no suggestion so far from the military to extend martial law in Mindanao.

Duterte imposed martial law in the entire region in May last year amid clashes between the government troops and the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute group and Abu Sayyaf in Marawi City.

Congress later granted Duterte's request to extend martial law even after Marawi had been freed from the terrorists' presence on 17 October 2017.

Panelo said martial law can be extended if it "would be helpful in maintaining peace and order."

"Because if it does not, then why do you have to maintain it?" he added.

Panelo quoted military officials as saying martial law has helped in the peace and order situation and had dissuaded the terrorists from inflicting violence against the population.

Ground-breaking delays

Panelo admitted Mr. Duterte is getting exasperated over the long-delayed groundbreaking of the most affected area of war-torn Marawi City.

"Yes, he was exasperated but then again, the red tape for that is over. It will start soon," Panelo said, noting that the groundbreaking will begin by the end of October.

"Sometimes you cannot also avoid delays. We have too much problems in Marawi. What is important is it will

start at the end of the month and it will be fast," Panelo said.

The Palace spokesman shrugged off Duterte's absence during Wednesday's first anniversary of the liberation of Marawi City from IS occupation.

"It conflicted with certain schedules that occurred yesterday or the other day," he said.

"His non-attendance doesn't mean that he was not interested. In fact, he has been doing a lot of things for the rehabilitation of that place," Panelo added.

All up to Rody

Whether or not Duterte will allow the release of the so-called "narco-list" before the May 2019 elections remains up in the air, Panelo disclosed.

The Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) has announced it is seeking the President's approval for the release of a list containing the names of politicians and candidates allegedly involved in the illegal drugs trade to help guide voters as they elect their respective leaders in the midterm elections next year.

Martial law can be extended if it would be helpful in maintaining peace and order.

The Chief Legal Counsel reiterated that the President recognizes every candidate's right to due process and the right to a day in court, adding that being included in the said list does not automatically merit a disqualification unless proven guilty and convicted with finality.

"The President has yet to categorically announce if he will approve the release of this list amid the forthcoming elections," Panelo said.

"The President, pursuant to his mandate to serve and protect the people, is taking into consideration all rights and interests involved in order to ensure that the 2019 elections are not only credible and peaceful but also one that is truly reflective of the people's desires and aspirations," he added.

Although the supposed narco-list does not by any means prove the involvement of politicians in the proliferation of illegal drugs, Panelo stressed that what it contains are not "mere conceptions but are based on intelligence reports which underwent a series of comprehensive assessments."

No verdict

Should Duterte give the go-ahead to release the names on the said list, Panelo said it should not be perceived as a verdict against candidates vying for positions in the midterm polls.

"They are free to seek recourse and object to the findings of our authorities in clearing their reputations," Panelo said.

The spokesman likewise advised those whose names are on the DDB's narco-list to "keep calm" since the DDB has not yet been given the greenlight to reveal the names.

He added that there are ways for politicians being tagged in illegal drug activities to prove their innocence and clean their names.

Martial law extension may be needed: Panelo

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

CHIEF presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo yesterday said there may be a need to extend the implementation of martial law in Mindanao to maintain peace and order in the area and prevent terrorist attacks.

However, he said, any decision to extend or lift martial law will depend on the recommendations of the military.

He said based on the military's reports, "It is helping the population. The population is not even opposing it, so to my mind, there is a need to extend it (martial law)," he said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, martial law administrator, said a review of the martial law implementation in Mindanao is being reviewed and a recommendation will be submitted to President Duterte "first week of December."

Duterte imposed martial law on May 23, 2017 hours after the Maute terror group attacked Marawi City. Martial law was extended to December 2017 then to December 2018.

The Marawi conflict ended in October last year but martial law remained as authorities continued to run after Maute remnants in

See MARTIAL > Page B6

MARTIAL

Marawi and amid reports of continuing recruitment by the Maute and other terror groups in some parts of the country.

Officials commemorated on Wednesday Marawi's liberation from terrorists.

The President did not attend the ceremonies. Panelo said "his non-attendance doesn't mean that he was not interested."

"He has been doing a lot of things for the rehabilitation of that place," he said adding that Duterte has expressed exasperation over the delay or slowness in the rehabilitation of the city.

The start of reconstruction activities has been reset to the end of this month. It has been reset for about eight times because of delays in the bidding of contracts, among others.

"Sometimes you cannot also avoid delays... What is important is it will start at the end of the month and mabilis na iyan," Panelo said.

The government hopes to complete its rehabilitation program by December 2021. - *With Victor Reyes*

Extension of martial law in Mindanao eyed ²

By GENALYN D. KABILING

The government could extend martial law in Mindanao if it would help maintain the peace and order situation, according to a Palace official.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has recognized the martial law proclamation has so far kept terrorists at bay and maintain peace in the south.

"According to the military, the martial law has helped in the peace and order situation and it has dissuaded the terrorists from inflicting their usual violence against the population," Panelo said during a Palace press briefing.

"If it is helping the population, the population is not even opposing it so to my mind, there is a need to extend it," he added.

Panelo further explained that there was a need to extend martial law if it would be "helpful in maintaining peace and order." "Because if it does not, why do you have to maintain it," he added.

Panelo however said the President would still consider the recommendation of the military and police on whether to lift or extend martial law.

"According to the President, that will be depend on advice, the recommendation of the military because they are the ones on the ground," he said.

"The President always heeds the advice, the recommendation of the military and other police forces because they are the ones knowledgeable on the conditions existing there," he added.

Panelo issued the remarks following the first anniversary of the liberation of Marawi from the clutches of Islamic State-linked militants.

President Duterte placed Mindanao under martial law on May 23, 2017 following the attack of the Maute terror group in Marawi City.

The martial law proclamation has been extended until the end of the year supposedly to suppress lawless violence and rebellion in Mindanao.

Extension ng Martial Law sa Mindanao depende sa AFP

Hihintayin ni Pangulong Duterte ang rekomendasyon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) kung kinakailangang palawigin muli ang pag-iral ng Martial Law sa Mindanao.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo, nakadepende sa magiging rekomendasyon ng AFP kung kailangan pang magpatupad ng extension ng ML sa Mindanao o tuluyang bawlin na ito.

Aminado ang AFP na malaking tulong sa pagmamantala ng peace and order sa Mindanao ang pag-iral ng Martial Law.

"If it is helping the population, in my mind, there is a need to extend the implementation of martial law," sabi ni Panelo.

Siniguro din ng presidential spokesman na hindi matutulad sa Yolanda recovery mess sa Tacloban ang rehabilitation sa Marawi City.

Bago matapos ang Oktubre ay isasagawa na ang ground breaking sa Marawi City. *(Rudy Andal)*

1 Martial law extension sa Mindanao, posible

Maaaring palawigin ng pamahalaan ang batas militar sa Mindanao kung makatutulong ito na mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaayusan sa rehiyon, ayon sa Malacañang.

Ipinahayag kahapon ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na pinahahalagahan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang martial law proclamation ni Pangulong Duterte dahil nakatutulong ito na ma-discourage ang mga terorista at napanatili rin ang kapayapaan sa lugar.

"According to the military, the

martial law has helped in the peace and order situation and it has dissuaded the terrorists from inflicting their usual violence against the population. If it is helping the population, the population is not even opposing it so to my mind, there is a need to extend it," sabi ni Panelo.

Ayon kay Panelo, pinag-aaralan na ng Pangulo ang rekomendasyon

ng militar at pulisya kung babawin na o palalawigin pa ang martial law sa Mindanao.

Matatandaang isinailalim ng Pangulo sa batas militar ang Mindanao noong Mayo 23, 2017 kasunod ng pagsalakay ng Maute-ISIS sa Marawi City. Kalaunan, pinalawig ito hanggang Disyembre 31, 2018.

Genalyn D. Kabling

233 finish soldier course in E. Visayas

CATBALOGAN CITY — Two classes totaling 233 candidates completed the soldier course last Wednesday at the headquarters of the Army's 8th Infantry Division here. Most of the new batch of soldiers came from Samar and Leyte provinces. There were 241 candidates at the start of the two-month course. The new recruits will be assigned to the 8th ID. At the end of the course, the division commander, Maj. Gen. Raul Farnacio, reminded the candidates not to fail their parents and the people who trust them by overcoming the challenges during the rigorous training.

"Kays ninyong malagpasan ang lahat ng pagsubok. Tiwala sa sarili, posibleng asul at pag-isa, ang inyong magiging puhunan at sandigan. Higit sa lahat, huwag na huwag ninyong kalamutan ang pagtawag sa Panginoon para sa gabay at patnubay," Farnacio said. He also stressed the importance of sacrifice in the military service.

"Sa mga nagsipagtapos ngayon, mahanin at alagaan ninyo ang propesyon na pinasok nyo. Sana naliwanagan kayo na ang trabaho natin ay higit pa sa ating mga sarili. Lay ninyong tatandaan, bayan muna bago sarili," Farnacio said. (Marie-Jonette Grace Marticio) B

DSWD, Army engineers to build schools for IPs in Davao del Norte

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has partnered with the Philippine Army engineers to construct at least seven schools for indigenous people (IP) in a town in Davao del Norte.

The Eastern Mindanao Command of the Philippine Army, through the 52nd Engineering Brigade, has entered into an agreement with DSWD and the local government of Talaingod, Davao del Norte for the construction of classrooms intended for the children of the Lumad indigenous people (IP).

The project is under DSWD's Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS), one of the government's poverty-alleviation programs implemented by the Department, which uses the community-driven development approach to empower communities in targeted poor and disaster-affected municipalities.

It will initially be implement-

ed in seven sites in Barangay Sto. Niño, Talaingod, which is considered a geographically isolated and disadvantaged area.

Under the agreement signed by the parties, the implementation of the project shall adopt a convergence strategy and will use a "whole of nation approach," wherein communities involved shall participate and the programs of different agencies involved will be integrated.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Eastern Mindanao Command represented by Brig. Gen. Dionisio Baudin, Commander of the 52nd Engineering Brigade, committed to providing security, technical assistance, limited labor, and supervision until the completion of the project. 14

"The real job is after the signing of this agreement. We assure everyone that we are sincere and will carry out the task of building these classrooms for our IP children and youth," Baudin said.

DU30: Dynasty forced

Go to Davao, ask people

Barangay captains won't campaign for people they don't support

By Kristina Maralit and Elmer N. Manuel

President Rodrigo Duterte is not in favor of dynasties or

families cornering local and national posts for generations in the political landscape but to ensure continuity of programs, he was "forced" to pass it on to

his children.

"I don't want political dynasty but we are forced," Duterte said at the concluding rites of the 44th Philippine

Business Conference and Expo at the Manila Hotel on Thursday night.

The President said his critics should conduct a survey in Davao

to find out how their constituents view dynasties.

"Go to Davao and conduct a survey. Ask the people. Because

Turn to page 2

Duterte also expressed his confidence that aspiring senator and former Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go will most likely win a seat in the Senate

From page 1

the barangay captains won't campaign for people they don't support. Usually, when one starts it, it continues from there because the people ask for them. That's politics," he stated.

His eldest son Paolo Duterte filed his certificate of candidacy for Davao City's 1st District representative. Daughter and incumbent Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio is seeking reelection, while youngest son Sebastian Duterte will be Sara's runningmate.

The Dutertes have been leading Davao City since 1986 when the Chief Executive was appointed as officer-in-charge by former President Corazon Aquino after the People Power Revolution.

He then ran and won the mayoralty race in 1988 and served until 1998. Duterte then ran as a representative of Davao City's 1st district and won before being elected again as mayor of Davao City in 2004 and 2007.

Sara followed suit in 2010 with President Duterte as her vice mayor.

In 2013, President Duterte returned as mayor with son Paolo as his vice mayor.

Beware of Sara

Mr. Duterte also joked that her daughter, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, may have been behind the ouster of former House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez. She never confirmed any role in the controversial replacement of Alvarez by now Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during a coup in the chamber on the day that the President was to deliver his third State of the Nation Address (SoNA).

In a speech before businessmen who attended the Philippine Business Conference and Expo, the President cited that he is "afraid" of his own daughter, who can even oust "a Speaker."

"Be careful with that woman. She can oust even a Speaker. She operated in Davao as mayor. Look what happened in Congress, so someone was ousted..." said Duterte, although he quickly added that the ousted House Speaker is his friend.

"Bebot is a close friend of mine," Duterte said.

The President recounted that he knew nothing of his daughter's role in Alvarez's ouster but noted that he got wind of it when Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat informed him of

what the Davao mayor told her on the day of his SoNA.

Telegraphed message

"They saw each other in the washroom. 'Tell my father, I'm sorry I didn't know the implication. It was Inday who maneuvered it,'" said the President, adding that if his daughter outwits him, then he might face a *coup d'etat* or a junta.

When one starts it, it continues from there.

In the same speech, Duterte also expressed his confidence that aspiring senator and former Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go will most likely win a seat in the Senate in the 2019 mid-term elections.

The President noted that his former long-time aide had suddenly rose to prominence after opposition lawmakers asked Go to appear in a Senate investigation on the P15.5-billion frigate deal that he allegedly facilitated.

Go has denied making interventions in the deal.

Choose wisely

Duterte also urged the people to "choose your candidates wisely" in the upcoming mid-term polls, as he lamented the election of officials who "wallowed in their lost sense of pride" and cited how lawmakers in previous

Congresses supposedly abused their power and put resource persons in their investigations to shame.

"Choose your candidates wisely. Now that you have seen Bong Go, he'll be senator. It's true, he will win. He was not known before, but look at him now," said Duterte. "It was all witch-hunting... People are being shamed there."

This is not the first Duterte tried predicting the outcome of the May 2019 elections. Recently, he discouraged former presidential spokesman Harry Roque from running for senator, predicting that he will just lose and that the military will not support him.

Duterte has been repeatedly saying that he would not allow his Cabinet members and police and military officials to be insulted in congressional investigations.

The two chambers of Congress conduct investigation "in aid of legislation" into various anomalies involving government agencies and it is not unusual for lawmakers to blow their top and vent their anger towards resource persons suspected of corruption.

"Like what I am telling to Cabinet members, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines, if you are summoned, go there by all means, obey the legal process. But don't allow yourselves to be insulted," Duterte said.

25 rebelde, lumahok sa peace summit 5

DAMPAQUINO, Tarlac City - Asot sa 125 rebel returnees ang nakilahok sa Peace Summit ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM).

Binigong din naman ni Lt. General Emmanuel Salamat, NOLCOM commander, ang kinatawan ng bagong hukus sa pakikisa sa karenapan tungo sa pagtatagong buhay at tagaling responsibing mamamayan ng bansa.

Ang dalawang araw na summit ay may temang "Bukas Looking Pagtanggap sa Pagsuporta, na magbigay ng social protection at livelihood assistance ang bawat rebel returnee, permi magkaroon ng mas maayos na pamumuhay.

Ninanda din, anya, ng mga rebel returnees ang madayayang alternatibong persan para matugunan ang kaguluhan.

Bukas din umasa ang mga tagapagan ng pamahalaan upang tulungan ang mga nito magbalik-tulon sa gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program.

Leandro Alborote

NDFP consultant's companions ordered freed

By Maricar Cinco
@maricarcincoINQ

SAN PEDRO CITY—The chief prosecutor of Laguna province on Wednesday ordered the release of three of four companions of a National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant who were arrested in Sta. Cruz town on Monday.

Lawyer Kristina Conti of the Public Interest Law Center said Adelberto Silva was "consulting" with the four people he was traveling with as part of his job on the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (Caser), the NDFP's proposed economic agenda, when they were arrested by policemen and soldiers at Barangay Pagsawitan on Monday afternoon.

Gun rap

Policemen claimed they recovered two .45 caliber guns and explosives from the car used by Silva, 71, and his companions Edisel Legaspi, Ireneo Atadero, Hedda Calderon and driver Julio Lusania.

In a resolution on Wednesday night, Laguna prosecutor Ma. Victoria Dado dismissed the case of illegal possession of firearms against Legaspi, 60; Atadero, 55; and Calderon, 63.

Dado ordered their release from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

The case of illegal possession of explosives was referred for further investigation.

As of 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, however, reports said Legaspi, Atadero and Calderon had yet to be released by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Human rights group Karapatan said Atadero, a former overseas worker, was an organizer of the labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno, while Legaspi was a farmer.

It said Calderon, a retired social worker, was a consultant to party-list group Gabriela.

But Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr., commander

of the Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade, identified Legaspi as secretary of the New People's Army's Southern Tagalog Party Committee.

Karapatan said Silva's arrest was a violation of the previously signed Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) for peace negotiators.

"We have to deny that Adel Silva is part of any [destabilization plot], this so called 'Red October'. This story is laughable but we are not amused," said Conti.

Silva was facing a separate multiple murder charge, which was covered by a warrant issued a few months ago by a court in Manila.

In 2016, the government granted Silva, along with communist leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, temporary liberty to allow them to join the peace negotiations. President Duterte, however, terminated the talks.

In a telephone interview from Camp Crame on Thursday, Silva said they were headed to a resort in Liliw town, Laguna, for a "discussion" on Caser when they were stopped by policemen and soldiers in Sta. Cruz.

Witnesses

"We were held at gunpoint. [We were] asked to alight... and lie on the ground for over an hour. There were many people who witnessed it," he said.

"We were not carrying any firearm or explosive. It was them [policemen] who put them there," he said.

Silva slammed what he called another trumped-up charge against him. In 2015, he was arrested in Bacoor City, Cavite province, also for illegal possession of firearms. The case was later dismissed. MB

"On our part, we want to push forward with the peace process and that trip [in Laguna] was for that purpose," he said.

Silva said the government should respect the provisions under the Jasig that protects peace negotiators, regardless of the status of the talks. INQ

SISON: IT'S A LIE

AFP TELLS POLS: DON'T PAY REDS CAMPAIGN FEES

By Jeannette I. Andrade
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
@Team_Inquirer

The military on Thursday warned politicians running in next year's midterm elections not to pay "permit to campaign" (PTC) fees to communist rebels, but Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chair Jose Maria Sison said there was no such thing.

Speaking to reporters at Camp General Servillano Aquino in Tarlac City, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the rebel collection was nothing but extortion during the election period in areas where the CPP and its armed wing, New People's Army (NPA), are active.

"That is what we want to put an end to because candidates need to freely go to places to campaign and the voters must be free to go to voting precincts without being harassed," he said.

Col. Noel Detoyato, spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, urged candidates who might be forced to pay PTC fees to coordinate with the AFP and the Philippine National Police for their security.

Hundreds of millions

Detoyato claimed the CPP-NPA earned hundreds of millions of pesos from the fees during elections.

In an online interview on Thursday, Sison told the Inquirer that claims that candidates had been approached by supposed NPA emissaries to discuss PTC payments "could be hearsay or rumor from anticommunist politicians or rival candidates."

"The parties and candidates do not pay for any permit to campaign," he said. "They (candidates) just have to talk to the revolutionaries to respect their freedom to campaign."

Sison advised candidates not to carry firearms so they would not be mistaken for policemen or soldiers.

He said the candidates were free to campaign "provided they do not enter the territory of the people's government with an armed force or sacks of money to buy votes."

Legal sanctions

The former CPP chair, who lives in exile in Utrecht, the Netherlands, said his comments were based on his knowledge of the communist movement as chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

"The Duterte regime and its military minions are lying when they say that the NPA uses the election campaign period to extort from political parties and candidates by demanding payments for the permit to campaign," Sison said.

Lt. Gen. Danilo Pamonag, head of the AFP Southern Luzon Command, warned candidates that they could face legal sanctions if they paid PTC fees.

"Supporting terror organizations is punishable by law. A permit-to-campaign scheme is a form of extortion, which is illegal," Pamonag said. —WITH A

REPORT FROM JEROME ANING INQ

Military to block Reds' permit scheme

BY DEMPSEY REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have vowed to stop a permit scheme imposed by the New People's Army (NPA) on politicians during election campaigns.

The defense chief said the communist rebels had enforced

the "permit to win" and "permit to campaign" schemes in previ-

ous elections.

A "permit to win" is a fee charged by the NPA on candidates to ensure they will get the most number of votes in the area where communist rebels are in control. The "permit to campaign" is a toll fee for candidates who want to campaign in an NPA-controlled area, but with no assurance of votes.

"We want to cut this kind of practice because all candidates have all the rights to do their cam-

paigning in a particular place, as well as the voters themselves, they have the right to vote for whoever they want to win without someone forcing them," Lorenzana told reporters in Tarlac.

Lorenzana said the government would continue operations against the rebels and receive surrenders, even during the campaign ahead of the May 2019 elections.

The military said it would heighten security within

areas surrounded by NPA members.

Col. Noel Detoyato, AFP public affairs chief, said all candidates, whether national or local, should coordinate with the AFP and the Philippine National Police for additional security if the rebels demand payment for "permits."

"They just have to coordinate with us and we will provide area security for them," Detoyato told reporters.

Detoyato said NPA permit costs ranged from P60,000

for those running for governor, to the "hundreds of millions."

He said the "permits" modus was different from the revolutionary taxes charged by the NPA on businesses. *A2*

"That is happening every election. They (NPA) would threaten the candidates that is why we have to be serious in coordinating with us and the candidates to at least put a stop on the rebels' scheme in asking for permit cash," Detoyato said.

Permit-to-campaign ng NPA, tinututukan §

Paiiingitin ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Philippine National Police (PNP) ang pagbabantay sa mga kandidato sa 2019 midterm elections sa posibleng pagkuha ng permit-to-campaign (PTC) at permit-to-win (PTW) sa New People's Army (NPA) na nasakabundukan sa Mindanao.

Sa pahayag ni PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Benigno Durana, Jr., gagawin nila

ang lahat upang tiaktikan ang nasabing mga kandidato na sumusuporta rin sa operasyon ng rebeldeng grupo sa Compostela Valley.

Sa pang naman ni Col. Gilbert Saret, commander ng 1001st Infantry Brigade (IB) ng Philippine Army (PA) na nakabase sa Maceo, Compostela Valley, madalas namamataan ang mga kaanil ng NPA sa lugar upang piilit ang mga kandidato na kumuha sa kanilang permit upang hindi

sila manggala sa pangangampanya ng mga ito.

Hindi, arya, nila pinapayagan ang pagkuha ng anumang permit orula sa rebeldeng grupo dahil lumalabas na serbales ito ng pagsuporta ng kandidato sa kanilang adhukam.

Nagsasagawa na umanong intelligence monitoring kaugnay ng usapin.

Fer Taboy

FDA chief's convoy ambushed; 3 cops killed

Official unhurt; PNP says communist rebels behind CamSur attack

LEGAZPI CITY—Three policemen were killed and three others were wounded when suspected communist rebels attacked them while they were escorting a government official in Lupi town, Camarines Sur province, on Thursday, police said.

Chief Insp. Maria Luisa Calubaquib, spokesperson for the Bicol regional police, said the policemen were tailing the vehicle of Nela Charade Puno, director general of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), when they were waylaid by suspected New People's Army fighters.

FDA exec not target

From the airport in Pili



HIGHWAY ATTACK Policemen secure a section of the highway in Lupi town, Camarines Sur, after an ambush staged by suspected communist rebels. —PHOTO COURTESY OF BICOL PNP

town, Camarines Sur, the group was heading to Daet town in nearby Camarines Norte province, when about 20 armed men fired at them at Barangay Napolitan in Lupi at past 9 a.m.

Calubaquib said Puno was unharmed. The official was in Bicol to attend a consumer awareness activity in Daet.

Chief Supt. Arnel Escobal, Bicol police director, said it was

possible that the gunmen were targeting the policemen and not Puno.

Pursuit

"The [police vehicle] that was hit was [traveling] behind the vehicle of the FDA chief," Escobal said.

Police identified the slain policemen as SPO1 Percival Rafael, PO3 Carlito Navarroza and PO1 Ralph Jason Vida. *M2*

Wounded were PO1 Jonathan Perillo, PO1 Ruby Buena and PO1 Rodolfo Gonzaga.

Escobal said Army soldiers and policemen have joined forces to pursue the armed men.

—REPORTS FROM MA. APRIL MIER AND STEPHANIE FLORIDA INQ

3 cops killed, FDA chief unharmed in NPA ambush

By CELSO AMO

LEGAZPI CITY – Three police officers were killed when suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels attacked a convoy of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Director General Nela Charade Puno in Lupi, Camarines Sur yesterday.

The fatalities were identified as Senior Police Officer 1 Percival Rafael, PCS Carlito Navarroza and PO1 Ralph Jason Vida.

PO1s Jonathan Perillo, Ruby Buen and Rodolfo Gonzaga were wounded and brought to the Bicol Medical Center in Naga City for treatment.

Puno, who was supposed to go to a gathering in Daet, was unharmed.

The police officers were in two marked police cars while Puno and several

FDA employees were in another vehicle when they were waylaid in Barangay Napolidan at about 9:10 a.m., Chief Inspector Malou Calubaquib, Bicol police spokesperson, said.

Calubaquib said personnel of the First Camarines Sur Police Provincial Safety Company and Army soldiers near the scene responded to the incident.

Pursuit operations for the rebels are ongoing.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Oscar

Albayalde said communist rebels are trying to make their presence felt after peace talks bogged down.

Albayalde said he ordered a thorough investigation into the incident.

He assured the public that police and military personnel are conducting offensives to prevent rebels from attacking non-combatants and civilians.

"I condemn in no uncertain terms the attack on FDA Director General Nela Charade Puno and her team in Camarines Sur. The DOH leadership is currently coordinating with authorities for a full investigation,"

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said.

"The safety of Director General Puno and FDA employees is our priority...

They have the full backing of the department," Duque said.

Meanwhile, in Negros Oriental, an NPA rebel was killed while two soldiers were wounded in an encounter in Sitio Nabali-an, Barangay Carol-an, Ayungon town at around 4 a.m. also yesterday.

Col. Alberto Desoyo, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, said soldiers of the 62nd Infantry Battalion were checking the reported presence of an armed group in the area when they were fired at by around 15 rebels.

Desoyo said rounds of ammunition were recovered at the scene.

— With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Mayen Jaymalin, Gilbert Bayoran

3 dead in FDA chief convoy ambush

BY ROY D.R. NARRA

THREE police security escorts to the head of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) were killed in an ambush by gunmen, suspected to be members of the communist New People's Army (NPA), on Thursday morning in Lupi, Camarines Sur.

FDA Director General Nela Charade Galang-Puno and her team were "unharm[ed]," the Department of Health said in a statement.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque condemned the attack

— AmbushA2

28

and demanded a full investigation into the incident.

He said the safety of Puno, wife of businessman and former Road Board executive director Rodolfo "Dody" Puno, was the department's priority.

The FDA chief, who was on her way to Daet, Camarines Norte which had passed an ordinance requiring establishments to secure an FDA clearance prior to obtaining a business license, was moved to a safe location, Duque said.

The Bicol Provincial Police Office said Senior Police Officer (SPO) 1 Percival Rafael, Police Officer (PO) 3 Carlito Navarro and PO1 Ralph Jason Vida died after about 20 unidentified armed men waylaid their group on the national highway in Barangay Napolidan.

Three other police officers were wounded. They were identified as PO1 Ruby Buena, PO1 Rodolfo Gonzaga and PO1 Jonathan Perillo. They were brought to Bicol Medical Center in Naga City to receive medical treatment.

The victims were aboard a Philippine National Police (PNP)-

marked vehicle escorting Puno and her team.

The First Camarines Sur Provincial Public Safety Company responded and retaliated, prompting the suspects to retreat.

Chief Supt. Arnel Escobar, Bicol police regional director, in a text message to *The Manila Times*, also confirmed that Puno was safe and was brought to Naga City with her aides.

The incident could further heighten animosity between the government and the CPP.

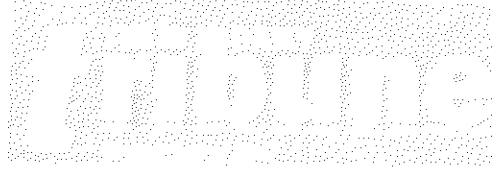
The Duterte administration cancelled the resumption of peace talks with the communist rebels in June, citing the need to hold public consultations.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who had been angered by NPA attacks on soldiers and police even during peace talks, remains open to negotiating with the rebels, Malacañang said on Tuesday in reaction to a *The Manila Times* exclusive interview with CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison.

In the interview with *The Times* Chairman Emeritus Dante Ang, Sison accused members of the Cabinet security cluster of swaying Duterte into suspending the peace talks in favor of a "military solution."

The military however said Sison was lying, and explained that peace negotiations were terminated because of rampant recruitment and extortion by the NPA, as well as the need to review previous and proposed agreements and hold consultations with the public.

WITH
CATHERINE
MODESTO



Ambush: FDA chief unharmed, cops killed

Puno, who was in another vehicle, was unharmed

By Elmer N. Manuel

Three police officers were killed and three others were wounded after their convoy was attacked by unidentified armed men in Lupi town, Camarines Sur Thursday morning.

Chief Insp. Maria Luisa Calubaquib of the Bicol police said the lawmen were acting as security escort for Food and Drug Administration Director General Nela Charade Puno on her way to Daet, Camarines Norte when armed men fired at them in Barangay Napolidan around 9:10 a.m.

Calubaquib said Puno, who was in another vehicle, was unharmed. The police identified those killed in the ambush as SPO1 Percival Rafael, POS Carlito Navarroza and PO1 Ralph Jason Vida while the wounded were PO1 Jonathan Perillo, PO1 Ruby Buena and PO1 Rodolfo Gonzaga.

The gunmen managed to hit only the police vehicle at the rear of the convoy, killing the three cops onboard.

According to Bicol police regional director Chief Supt. Arnel Escobal, Puno's vehicle was able to speed away when the armed men began firing on the police escorts.

Escobal said it is likely that communist New People's Army could have been behind the attack.

"There's no other armed group in that area," Escobal said in an online interview.

Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said it is investigating the possibility that information on the route taken by the convoy of Puno was leaked to suspected communist rebels.

In a statement, PNP chief Director

General Oscar Albayalde said they are probing whether there was a "failure of intelligence" in the incident.

"Maybe there was a leak," Albayalde said.

The PNP chief added that an advance party from the military which left ahead of Puno's group, also passed by Barangay Napolidan in Lupi, Camarines Sur on Thursday morning.



3 cops killed in NPA ambush in CamSur

By JINKY TABOR
and NIÑO N. LUCES

LUPL, Camarines Sur — Three policemen riding in the security back-up vehicle assigned to the convoy of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Director-General Nela Charade Puno were killed in an ambush in Barangay Napolidan here yesterday morning.

Chief Superintendent Arnel Escoba, Police Regional Office 5 (PRO5) director, said Puno was safe as no bullet hit the FDA Chief's vehicle.

However, the police patrol vehicle at the tail-end of the convoy enroute to Daet, the capital of this province, was riddled with bullets from about 20 heavily-armed suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels, Escoba said.

Chief Inspector Malu Calubaquib, spokesperson of the Police Regional Office 5 (PRO5), identified those killed in the 9:10 a.m. attack as Senior Police Officer 1 Percival S. Rafael, PO3 Carlito S. Navarroza, and PO1 Ralph Jason D. Vida.

Three more lawmen in the same patrol vehicle were wounded: PO1s Jonathan P. Perillo, Ruby S. Buena, and Rodolfo F. Gonzaga.

They were taken to the Camarines Norte Provincial Hospital for treatment, while immediate coordination was made with the military for support.

"Coordination has been made with the Philippine Army units and were already in joint pursuit operation," Calubaquib said.

The victims were providing security to the FDA official who was set to attend the Consumers Awareness Advocacy and Collaboration Activity in Daet.

Meanwhile, Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Oscar Albayalde announced that at least 700 drones have been purchased to aid law enforcement in security operations and avoid ambushes.

Albayalde said the drones that are set to arrive soon will be issued to all the police operating units, especially to elite units like the Special Action Force (SAF) and the Provincial Mobile Groups (PMGs).

"These will be a standard issue for them so that whenever they conduct operations like rallies and internal security operations, they could use the drones," said Albayalde.

Apart from yesterday's ambush in Camarines Sur, NPA rebels also ambushed a group of policemen in Aurora province last Tuesday that resulted in the death of Police Officer 2 Ronald Rudera. (With reports from Ruel Saldico and Aaron B. Recueno)

3 cops killed, 3 wounded in NPA ambush in CamSur

BY RAYMOND AFRICA

THREE policemen were killed while three others were wounded when they were ambushed by a group of communist rebels while escorting the head of the Food and Drugs Administration in Camarines Sur yesterday morning.

Reports reaching PNP chief Oscar Albayalde identified the fatalities

as SPO1 Percival Rafael, PO3 Carito Navarroza; and PO1 Rapolh Jason Vida; while the wounded were PO1 Jonathan Perillo, PO1 Ruby Buena, and PO1 Rodolfo Gonzaga. All are members of the Camarines Sur Police Provincial Office.

The cops were detailed as security escorts of FDA Director

See 3 COPS ► Page B6

General Nela Charade Puno who was on her way to attend the Consumer Awareness Advocacy forum at Prime Suite Hotel in Daet, Camarines Sur.

Puno was brought to safety at the Sipocot Municipal Police Station after the ambush and did not make it to the event.

Albayalde said the convoy of Puno was negotiating the highway in Barangay Napolidan, Lupi town when an improvised explosive device went off at the roadside. After the explosion, around 20 communist rebels opened fire.

Puno's vehicle and a vehicle carrying cops sped away but the second police vehicle, bringing up the rear of the convoy, was targeted by the rebels.

Though wounded, some of the policemen

fought back until members of the 1st Camarines Sur Provincial Public Safety Company arrived and drove the rebels away.

Albayalde said the attack was planned as evidenced by the IED at the roadside but added the rebels may have been after the firearms of the cops.

"But all of their firearms were intact and our policemen, though wounded, managed to fire back and they prevented the rebels from taking their guns," Albayalde said.

"I am having this investigated because despite the coordination made, it seems the information on that event leaked out," Albayalde said.

Albayalde reminded his men anew to intensify intelligence gathering to prevent a repeat of the incident.

He said he will order the mandatory use

of drones as a means to survey the surroundings when troops make movements.

He said that was the plan of Chief Supt. Amador Corpus, Central Luzon Police Regional Office chief, to ensure the safety of his men who were sent to respond to an arson incident in Maria Aurora, Aurora province last Tuesday.

Corpus' men, however, apparently did not follow his instructions, resulting to the death of a cop, PO2 Ronald Martial Ruidera, and the wounding of another, SPO2 Angelo Gawat.

"They were warned not to immediately send a team to investigate the burning incident. At the same time they were instructed to use a drone to survey the surroundings before they proceed. We do not know why they did not follow the order," Albayalde said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the defense and military establishments want to end the permits to campaign and win schemes of the communist New People's Army during elections.

The campaign period for senators and party list groups starts on Feb. 12. Candidates for the House of Representatives, regional, provincial, city and town officials can start campaigning on March 30.

"They (NPA rebels) have some areas where they force the candidates to pay what they call campaign fee. We want that stopped because we want people (candidates) to freely enter and leave areas to campaign," Lorenzana said. "The voters should also be free to go places (where the candidates are campaigning) without anyone sowing violence," said Lorenzana. — *With Victor Reyes*

3 pulis patay sa ambush

LUPI, CAMARINES SUR — Patay ang tatlong pulis at sugatan ang tatlong iba pa sa ambush sa convoy ng escort ni Food and Drug Administrator Director General Nela Charade Puno bandang 9:30 ng umaga kahapon sa Brgy Napolitan, Lupi, Camarines Sur.

Ayon kay Chief Supt. Amel Escobal, regional director ng Philippine National Police (PNP) Bicol, patungo ang opisyal sa Daet, Camarines Norte, nang maganap ang ambush sa bahagi ng Maharlika Highway sa naturang bayan.

Biglang pinaulanan ng bala ng mga pinaniniwalaang miyembro

ng New People's Army (NPA) ang bahaging likod ng convoy.

Sinabi ni Escobal na wala namang tamang bala ang pribadong sasakyan ni Puno.

Nakaligtas si Puno habang isinugod sa Camarines Norte Provincial Hospital ang mga sugatang pulis.

Napag-alaman na bisita si Puno sa Consumer Awareness Advocacy and Collaboration Activity sa Bayan ng Daet, Camarines Norte, ngayong araw.

Nagsanib pwersa ang PNP at Philippine Army sa pagtugis sa mga tumakas na gunmen. **(Ruel Saldico/Jinky Tabor)**

FDA director nakaligtas...

3 PULIS TODAS, 3 SUGATAN SA NPA AMBUSH

Tatlong pulis na escort ang nasawi, habang tatlong iba pa ang nasugatan sa naganap na pag-ambush ng mga New People's Army (NPA) rebels kay Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Director General Nela Charade Puno, kahapon ng umaga sa highway ng Brgy Napohdan, Lupit, Camarines Sur.

Ang napatay na mga pulis ay kimilalang sina SPO1 Percival Rafael, PO3 Carlito Navarroza, at PO1 Ralph Jason Vida. Habang nasugatan at dinala sa Bicol Medical Center sina PO1s Jonathan Perillo, Ruby Buena at Rodolo Gonzaga, pawang miyembro ng Camarines Sur

Provincial Police Office (PPO) na pawang nakatalagang security escort ni Puno na nakaligtas sa ambush.

Sa report ng pulisya, dakong alas-9:10 ng umaga ay bumabagtas ang sinasakyan ni Puno at convoy ang mga pulis na lulan ng PNP marked vehicle patungong Daei nang sila ay pagbabarilin

ng nasa 20 rebelde na nakaposisyon sa lugar.

Mabilis na nagresponde sa lugar ang route security personnel mula sa 1st Camarines Sur Provincial Police Security Company hanggang sa magsinatras ang mga rebelde patungo sa direksyon ng kabundukan. -Joy Santos, Jorge Hallare-

NPA ambush: 3⁹ pulis utas

Tatlong alagad ng batas ang nagbuwis ng kanilang buhay habang tatlo sa mga kasamahan nila ang sugatan nang tambangan ang convoy ni Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Director General Nela Charade Puno ng nasa 20 armadong miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa highway ng Brgy. Napolidan, Lupi, Camarines Sur nitong Hu-

Nina JOY CANTOS at **JORGE HALLARE** webes ng umaga.

Kinilala ang mga napatay na pulis na sina SPO1 Percival Rafael, PO3 Carlito Navarroza at PO1 Ralph Jason Vida.

Patuloy namang nilalapatang ng lunas sa pagamutan ang mga sugatang pulis na sina PO1 Jonathan Perillo, PO1 Ruby Buena

at PO1 Rodolo Gonzaga, pawang miyembro ng Camarines Sur Provincial Police Office (PPO).

Masuwerte namang nakaligtas si Puno na nakasakay sa ibang behikulo sa nasabing convoy na pinaniwalaang tunay na target ng nasabing ambush.

Ayon sa ulat ng Police Regional Office (PRO) V, dakong alas-9:10 ng umaga, habang bumabagtas sa naturang lugar ang convoy para escortan si Puno patungong Daet, Camarines

Norte nang pagsapit sa isang lugar ay agad na pinaulanan ng bala ang sinasakyang PNP vehicle ng mga biktima ng mga nakaposisyon nang mga rebelde na ikinasawi ng tatlong pulis at ikinasugat ng 3 pa nilang kasamahan habang mapalad namang nakaligtas si Puno.

Nagsasagawa na ngayon ng hot pursuit operations ang pinagsanib na elemento ng Philippine Army at ng pulisya laban sa grupo ng mga rebelde na responsable sa pananambang.

Visayas cops on alert for rebels

By ALFRED DALIZON

ALL police forces in Visayas region were reminded to be in constant alert against more possible New People's Army attacks in the aftermath of an encounter in Ayungon, Negros Oriental which left one suspected armed rebel dead, the Journal Group learned yesterday.

Sketchy police reports said that a platoon of scout rangers from the Army's 62nd Infantry Battalion led by 1Lt. John William Portillano were conducting combat operations in Barangay Carol-an in Ayungon town when they encountered around 15 heavily-armed NPA guerrillas at 3:35 a.m. yesterday.

The clash led to the killing of a suspected NPA member identified only as one 'Ka Dagul' and the wounding of two soldiers. Following the incident, police set up checkpoints in the municipality and nearby areas to intercept the fleeing guerrillas, some of them also believed to have been wounded in the firefight.

A police report also said a team of Special Action Force commandos and soldiers from the Army's 303rd Brigade at around 4 a.m. yesterday recovered a cache of firearms and other deadly weapons abandoned by two motorcycle-riding men in Sitio Bayabas, Bgy. Bagong Silang in Don Salvador Benedicto, Negros Occidental.

Reports said the security troops were surprised

when the motorcycle driver accelerated upon seeing them causing their load - a white sack - to fall down the ground.

When inspected, the sack was found to contain two three M-16 automatic rifles, one M-16 bandolier, a rifle grenade, five long steel magazines, four short steel magazines and a plastic magazine with 201 rounds of live ammunition and a rifle grenade.

More NPAs keen on yielding – DND

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana disclosed that a growing number of New People's Army (NPA) rebels are sending surrender feelers, adding that the strength of the group is fast fading.

Lorenzana made the statement following the two-day Peace Summit for the Former Rebels (FRs) in Northern Luzon Command, where 1,256 rebel returnees were welcomed back to mainstream society.

Lorenzana attributed the de-

cline of the NPA to the effective implementation of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP), the flagship program of the Duterte administration that seeks to deliver social healing and national unity.

E-CLIP provides a wider array of benefits based on the particular needs of former rebels and their families such as financial assistance, housing, education, skills training, healthcare, legal assistance, and among others, through a convergence of various national and local government agencies.

AFP to candidates: We'll secure you against NPAs

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Thursday asked candidates in next year's mid-term elections to coordinate with them in case New People's Army (NPA) rebels ask for "campaign fees" from them.

Colonel Noel Detoyato, AFP Public Affairs Office Chief, said there is a need for candidates to talk to the military to cut off the communist rebels' "Permit to

campaign, Permit to win scheme" in areas that are NPA-infested.

"Kailangan lahat ng kandidato mag-coordinate lang sa amin kung sila ay... mag-coordinate sa pinakamalapit na PNP or AFP na unit in their area para matulungan sila (There is a need for all candidates to coordinate with the PNP or AFP units in their area to help them)," Detoyato said.

Detoyato said candidates only need to coordinate with them and they will provide area security to them. 2

CPP told to stop recruiting youth for 'terrorism'

AN indigenous peoples' (IP) leader has appealed to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) to go back to "the fold of the law" and stop "recruiting" the youth to become "terrorists."

"I am asking the CPP-NPA to stop recruiting the youth in Cordillera as well as around the Philippines. You have already been around for 50 years, but your cause has gone nowhere and will not go anywhere," Mario Ludais, a Cordillera Region IP leader, said in an interview.

Ludais is part of the Liga Independencia Filipinas, a group that accuses the CPP, founded by Jose Maria Sison, of "waging a useless war against the government" and "urging students to turn against the government."

The remark came after Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, claimed the CPP had been recruiting university students to take part in a plot to oust President Rodrigo Duterte.

Ludais also called on the New People's Army (NPA) to "support the government's war against corruption and drugs."

The Liga Independencia Filipinas' call is for the CPP to end terrorism and "support President Rodrigo Duterte," he said.



NO TO COMMUNISM Members of La Independencia Filipinas link arms as they march to Mendiola on Thursday to denounce the armed struggle of the New People's Army. PHOTO BY J. GERARD SEGUIA

Glaiza Pineda, Liga Independencia Filipinas youth sector representative from Bataan, backed the military's bid to expose the CPP for turning Metro Manila universities into its "recruitment ground."

"They (CPP) are influencing the youth to drop out of their schools and eventually use arms to turn against the government," Pineda said.

"They (youth) were encouraged to destabilize the government so what we ask of them is: better stay in school and support the govern-

ment," she added.

Pineda said she was not also recruited by the NPA. She also did not know anyone who had been recruited.

Liga Independencia Filipinas marched to Mendiola, Manila on Thursday to rally against CPP and its armed wing, the NPA, and its political wing the National Democratic Front (NDF).

Religious leaders joined the march.

Liga Independencia Filipinas' Cabanatuan leader, Baptist Bishop

Joel Espino Raner, said: "Many lives are already wasted. It is time to end the violence and the suffering that they brought and will bring upon the next generation."

The group also prayed for their "brother-cadres" fooled by the CPP-NDF to "go back to a peaceful life and be of help to the government." *AR*

The march and ceremonies were also held in commemoration of Indigenous Peoples' Month this October.

CATHERINE MODESTO

E-CLIP

Insurgency gains cited

THE Duterte administration's implementation of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program is the primary reason why the insurgency in the country is now on a decline, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

"Our government is here, led by President Rodrigo Duterte. He will give everyone a chance to return to the fold of the law, live a new life in peace and make everyone able to contribute to development," Lorenzana said in a statement sent to reporters Wednesday.

Through this program, more rebels are sending surrender feelers to the government, he said.

The DND chief made this comment during the final leg of the two-day Peace Summit for the Former Rebels at the Northern Luzon Command headquarters in Tarlac.

The event also included the surrender of firearms and the ceremonial acceptance of 125 FRs from Regions 1, 2, 3 and Cordillera.

E-CLIP is the flagship program of the Duterte administration that seeks to effect social healing and national unity through a whole-of-nation approach towards the higher objective of having just and lasting peace.

It also provides social equity to former members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front and the Militia ng Bayan by devising a different modality of providing benefits and services to the FRs, in order to reintegrate them into mainstream society.

Lorenzana also commended the efforts of all agencies under the Task Force Balik-LooB, headed by Defense Undersecretary Reynaldo Mapagu, which implements the E-CLIP by consolidating all the programs of TFBL lead and partner agencies, as well as local government units which implement the reintegration program in their localities through the E-CLIP Committees headed by provincial governors. **PNA**

6 rebelde sumuko 5 sa Mindoro

Anim na umano'y miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang sumuko sa militar sa Occidental Mindoro, kamakailan.

Kabilang sa mga ito ang apat na kaarib ng Milisyang Bayan (MB) at dalawa mula sa Sangay ng Partido sa Lokalidad (SPL) ng NPA Communist terrorist group.

Sumuko ang mga ito sa 4th Infantry Battalion (4IB) ng Philippine Army (PA) at sa pulisya ng Occidental Mindoro nitong nakaraang Martes.

Ipinahayag ni Lt. Col. Dennis Gutierrez, Commanding Officer ng 4th IB, ang anumay matasang lumakda sa tropa ng pamahalaan bilang bahagi ng Arouse Organize Mobilize (AOM) tactics ng kilusan.

Tumanggi na ang militar na ibunvag ang pagkakakilanlan ng mga ito para na rin sa kanilang seguridad.

Gayunman, inamin ng mga ito na pagod na sila sa mga pangako at paniniwag ng kilusan na magtatagumpay sila sa kanilang ipinaglalaban sa gobyerno.

"The NPA's propaganda is frustrating. We're convinced by the government programs by seeing our comrades who surrendered before us, living peacefully with their families, something that we have never felt when we are under the NPA organization", ayon sa isa sa mga sumukong rebelde.

Francis T. Wakefield

41

700 drones idedeploy para iwas-ambush - PNP

Nakatakdang ideploy ng Philippine National Police (PNP) ang 700 drones sa mga Regional Police Units ng pulisya sa buong bansa.

Ayon kay PNP Chief P/Director General Oscar Albayalde, malaki ang maitutulong ng nasabing mga drones sa "iwas ambush" ng mga pulis sa anumang operasyon na kanilang pinapasok.

Noong Martes, ay napatay sa ambush ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) si PO2 Martial Ronald Ruidera habang sugatan naman si SPO2 Angelo Gawat sa ambush sa Maria Aurora, Aurora noong Martes.

Inamin ni Albayalde na hindi nasunod ang security order ni Police Regional Office (PRO) 3 Director P/Chief Supt. Amador Corpus na inatasan ang kanilang police units na magdeploy muna ng drone para mai-tsek muna ang lugar bago magresponde sa anumang insidente.

"That's part of surveillance dapat kasi lalong lalo na yung mga ambush sites high ground ang in-occupy ng mga kalaban, meron kang pauunahin na mga tropa so you can use the drone," anang opisyal.

"Magiging standard issue sa kanila yan whatever they conduct operations like sa rally and internal security operations magiging standard na use of drone," wika niya.

"Isang deterrence yan pag nakita ng mga kalaban na mayroong nagpapalipad ng drone, mabubulebog ang mga ito," ani Albayalde na sinabing magagamit ang mga drone sa mga kilos protesta at maging sa iba pang security operation.

Bukod sa mga drones pitong bagong helicopter rin ang nakatakdang magdadag sa kapabilidad ng PNP na idedeliver na sa susunod na taon. (Joy Cantos)

AFP sa mga kandidato

'Wag magbayad ng PTC, PTW sa NPA

Nararawan katiyaon ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa mga kandidato na huwag magbayad ng Permit to Campaign (PTC) at Permit To Win (PTW) sa rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA).

Sinabi ni AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Col. Noel Detoyato na anumang kandidato na hinaharass ng NPA rebels sa PTC at PTW scheme ay dapat na makipag-koordinasyon sa AFP o sa PNP.

"Wala silang (kandidato) kailangang kunin na permit," sabi ni Detoyato kung saan karaniwan na umano ang modus operandi ng NPA rebels na nangongitong sa mga kandidato sa tuling sasapit ang eleksyon sa bansa.

Nabatid pa na, nananakot ang mga rebelde sa mga kandidato na isasabotahe ang kanilang pangangampanya kapag hindi nagbayad ng PTC habang ang PTW ay ang kabayaran upang itumba ang kanilang mga kalaban sa pulitika.

"So malaman lang natin kung saan ang mga pupuntahan nila para magkaroon ng area security. Actually its not a revolutionary tax. There is no such thing as revolutionary tax. It is plain and simple extortion," sabi pa ng opisyal. (Joy Cantos)

Alert up vs armed groups raising campaign funds

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Security forces are closely monitoring armed groups reportedly on a "fund-raising activity" for politicians running for the May 2019 elections in the Zamboanga peninsula, an election official revealed yesterday.

Commission on Elections (Comelec) regional director Wilfred Jay Balisado said some groups are reportedly planning to kidnap wealthy per-

sonalities in the effort to raise funds for some politicians running in next year's midterm elections.

Based on the threat assessment of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), Balisado said there are armed groups in the region capable of kidnapping and extortion to raise funds.

He said the military and the police are closely monitoring the towns of Sibuco, Sirawai, Siocon and Baliguian in Zam-

boanga del Norte, and the towns of Ipil and Kabasalan in Zamboanga Sibugay.

"We have already some threat assessment. In fact, I had a meeting two days ago with NICA and I noted they have some alert level, including in the areas of Triple SB and those in Kabasalan and Ipil," Balisado said, referring to the towns of Sibuco, Sirawai and Siocon.

He said the assessment was based on the previous kidnap-

ping and extortion incidents in the areas where armed groups are known to operate.

"And the campaign period next year Feb. 12 to March, these armed groups will take the opportunity to raise money, permit to campaign or permit to enter their supposed territories. Those are the possibilities," Balisado said.

Based on police and military reports, at least three kidnap victims separately taken since last year and August this year

by armed groups in the areas of Labason, Siocon and Sirawai towns in Zamboanga del Norte are believed to have been transferred to the custody of the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu.

The military also disclosed that a town mayor and a businesswoman in the identified areas were also placed under watch for kidnapping by the armed group.

6

Delay in Marawi rehab irks Duterte

By **Julie M. Aurelio**
 @JMAurelioINC

President Duterte is exasperated with the delay in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi City, presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said on Thursday.

It had been one year on Wednesday since Mr. Duterte declared Marawi liberated from terrorists who had seized and held it for five months, but hundreds of thousands of residents who had been displaced by the fighting for control of the city remained in government-run shelters.

The groundbreaking rites that would mark the start of reconstruction had been postponed at last five times, sparking restiveness in the shelters.

Red tape dealt with

Mr. Duterte was "exasperated," Panelo said, adding that the red tape had been dealt with and that a new date had been set for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Eduardo del Rosario, head of Task Force Bangon Marawi, the group charged with the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the city, said on Wednesday that the groundbreaking rites would be held on Oct. 28.

It had been scheduled for Oct. 17, the first anniversary of the retaking of Marawi from ter-

rorists, but Mr. Duterte was not available to lead the ceremony.

"We are doubling our efforts for the preparation of the groundbreaking activity. The President's presence is very important," Del Rosario said.

Panelo told reporters on Thursday that Mr. Duterte had ordered full implementation of the rehabilitation phase of the reconstruction program.

"The groundbreaking will start at the end of the month so hopefully it will be smooth sailing from there," Panelo said.

Fighting between government forces and local terrorists linked to the Islamic State jihadi group in Iraq and Syria reduced much of Marawi to rubble and displaced hundreds of thousands of residents of the city and surrounding areas.

Five-month delay

The start of reconstruction was originally set for June 2018 but it was moved to July after the Chinese-led Bangon Marawi Consortium, composed of five Chinese and four Filipino companies, was disqualified due to failure to comply with the financial, technical and legal requirements.

In July, Del Rosario said the groundbreaking would be held in the third or fourth week of August and that his group was talking with Power China,

which was next in line among the private developers that had bid for the P16-billion project.

But in August, Del Rosario told reporters in Marawi that the groundbreaking had been moved to September.

September came and went but there was no groundbreaking.

Earlier this month, Del Rosario said the ceremony would be held on the first anniversary of Marawi's liberation.

But again the plan fell through.

Hundreds of displaced residents tried to march into the

city on Tuesday, the eve of the commemoration of the first anniversary of its liberation from the terrorists.

'Anyare?'

But soldiers blocked the marchers' path as they neared a bridge from where they could have seen the ruins of their homes in the city's commercial district.

The marchers protested, but Army Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Task Force Lanao, said the military could not allow people in because dozens of unexploded ord-

"One year ago you said your plan was beautiful. Where is the plan?" he said. "We have many questions but up to now there are no answers."

Fresh assurance

Reached for comment, Del Rosario gave fresh assurance that the residents would be able to return to their homes.

He said, however, that they would have to wait longer, as the date for the start of the reconstruction had been changed again.

Soldiers were seen on Tuesday providing security to government workers surveying properties in the commercial center that would be rebuilt.

The project is expected to start with the clearing of debris in a 6-hectare area in the commercial district that had been the main battle zone.

Finmat Corp., a local company, will undertake the P75-million operation.

The clearing will be followed by the construction of schools, barangay centers, convention center, central market and parking area, and other structures.

The government expects to finish the job toward the end of 2021, less than a year before Mr. Duterte's term ends.

—WITH REPORTS FROM GEOFFREY MAITEM AND INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ

nance still littered the district.

But the residents had grown impatient. "Anyare?"—what happened—the marchers asked the government through their banners and placards.

"One year ago you said our Marawi was free. But we never felt the freedom," said Drieza Abato Lininding, secretary general of the rights group Bangsamoro National Movement for Peace.

"One year ago you promised to rebuild our houses. But we still live in tents and shelters," Lininding said.

Slow Marawi rehab exasperates Duterte

PALACE spokesman Salvador Panelo on Thursday admitted that President Rodrigo Duterte was "exasperated" with the slow rehabilitation process in Marawi City, which was ravaged by a five-month war between the Maute terror group and government troops.

Panelo said groundbreaking rites for the reconstruction of the Islamic City will be held at the end of October.

"Yes, he was exasperated. But that red tape is already over. [The rehabilitation] will start soon," Panelo said in a news briefing. "We cannot avoid delays. But, the groundbreaking will start by the end of the month so for me, [the rehabilitation] will be faster. The problem in Marawi is too big," he added.

The groundbreaking for the reconstruction project was moved several times. It was originally set in March, but the task force in charge of the project postponed it to April, then to May.

In May, the task force said the groundbreaking would be on the first week of June, but this was again moved to July. In July, the task force said it would be in August but it was reset to August and later, to September.

Last week, Task Force Bangon Marawi secretary-general Falconi Millar said the groundbreaking would be on October 17, the first anniversary of the liberation of Marawi.

On Monday, the task force announced that it would push through on October 28.

The groundbreaking will signal the start of the cleaning of debris in most affected areas.

Filipino company Finmat International Resources Inc. was chosen to head the debris management, Task Force Bangon Marawi chairman Eduardo del Rosario said.

Millar voiced optimism that the rehabilitation process would be finished by the end of 2021.

**RALPH EDWIN U.
VILLANUEVA**

Marawi still to break ground; Rody fumes over rehab delay

By Nat Mariano

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte was exasperated with the delays in the groundbreaking for the rehabilitation of Marawi, the Palace said Thursday after the planned reconstruction was postponed at least five times.

"He was exasperated, but things are about to start. It's natural to have complications in negotiations," Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo told reporters Thursday.

The original date scheduled for the rehabilitation of Marawi City's ground zero was set on Oct. 17. But it was moved to the end of the month as the President would not be able to attend.

Panelo defended Duterte's absence saying there was only a conflict of time with certain schedules.

He also said the President's non-attendance did not mean he was not interested.

"In fact, he has been doing a lot of things for the rehabilitation of that place," Panelo said.

Asked whether the Duterte administration would experience the criticism the former Aquino administration received on the rehabilitation case of Tacloban after Super Typhoon "Yolanda," Panelo expressed optimism that the Duterte administration would not be put in hot water.

"The President hates bureaucratic red tape. That is precisely why he said he was appointing military men because they didn't ask questions, they just followed orders," Panelo said.

"He has ordered the full movement that will immediately rehabilitate the place and as I said earlier, the groundbreaking will start at the end of the month. So hopefully we're going straight now." A2

Marawi rehab kickoff reset

THE groundbreaking for the rehabilitation of Marawi City's ground zero which was set to take place Wednesday, October 17, was once again moved, this time to the end of the month, because President Rodrigo Duterte will not be able to make it on that day.

"We cannot avoid de-

lays. The groundbreaking will start at the end of the month," Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said yesterday.

Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) Secretary-General Falconi Milar said they are coordinating with the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) to fix Duterte's schedule.

"The date of the groundbreaking has not yet been finalized as we are still closely coordinating with the PMS for the availability of the President," he said.

The October 17 date was previously mentioned by TFBM Chairperson Eduardo del Rosario last October 12. He had said that the groundbreaking date could be moved if Duterte is not available on that day.

Asked why Duterte could not visit Marawi City on the first anniversary of its liberation from terrorists, Panelo said the President had other events to attend to.

"It conflicted with certain schedules that occurred yesterday or the other day," said Panelo.

Duterte's events on October 17 and 18 included the signing of an oil exploration deal with an Israeli firm, a meeting with Japanese Special Adviser for Foreign Affairs Katsuyuki Kawai, and dinner with the Armed Forces of the Philippines



Panelo
Council Sergeants Major.

But Panelo said Duterte's absence from Marawi on October 17 does not mean the city's rehabilitation is no longer a priority.

"His non-attendance does not mean he was not interested. In fact, he has been doing a lot of things for the rehabilitation of that place," said the spokesman.

The Marawi groundbreaking has been moved at least 5 times. Originally set for June, it was moved to July, then August, then September, then October 17, before Malacañang announced the new end-of-October schedule.

Efren Montano

Abu Sayyaf captive freed in Sulu

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY - A man kidnapped along with his wife by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Zamboanga del Norte last Aug. 31 was released in Sulu on Wednesday.

Rufa Roda, who is in his 60s, was escorted by an unidentified man following negotiations by a certain Al and the reported payment of an undetermined amount of ransom, police said yesterday.

Roda, who was released in Jolo at about 7:30 p.m., was recovered by personnel of the Joint Task Force Sulu and a military intelligence unit, according to a report of the Sulu police.

Roda's wife Elen remains in the hands of the kidnap-

pers.

Authorities transported Roda to this city on a ferry boat also on Wednesday night. He underwent debriefing and medical checkup before he was turned over to his family.

Roda and his wife were snatched from their house in Barangay Piakan, a coastal village in Sirawai town.

A neighbor of the victims, a member of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit who tried to rescue the couple, was killed in a gunfight with the kidnapers. The gunmen also shot dead several other villagers as they escaped.

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding a Dutch man, a Vietnamese and eight Filipinos.

Abu Sayyaf captive freed

BY VICTOR REYES

A MAN was released by his Abu Sayyaf captors in Jolo town in Sulu on Wednesday night, more than a month after he and his wife were abducted in Sirawai town in Zamboanga del Norte.

The military said Rufo Roda was recovered by soldiers and policemen in downtown Jolo at around 7:30 p.m. He was given a medical check-up and subjected to debriefing before he was ferried to Zamboanga City.

Roda's release brings to 10 the number of kidnap victims still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, including Roda's wife, Elen, and two foreigners.

Roda, earlier described by the military as a businessman, and his wife were seized by the Abu Sayyaf in Barangay Piakan in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte

on August 31. Four barangay residents were killed in the incident.

The couple was later brought to Sulu, a bailiwick of the Abu Sayyaf. A police report said a P1.2 million ransom was paid for the freedom of the couple but it was not clear why only one of them was released.

The military could not immediately confirm if ransom was paid.

Defense and military officials have been discouraging families of kidnap victims from paying ransom, saying this will only embolden the group to carry out more kidnappings.

The Abu Sayyaf is known for other atrocities like bombings, extortion, and beheading of kidnap victims.

The group has about 300 to 400 members, mostly based in Sulu and Basilan.

4 BIFF men arrested in Maguindanao

SULTAN KUDARAT – Four members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were arrested in General SK Pendatun town in Maguindanao on Wednesday.

Ronex Langalen, 47; Anwar Abdullah, 26; Aliakbar Selung, 20, and Renante Milan, 37, are under the custody of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Maj. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana of the Army's 6th Infantry Division said an M14 rifle, a Garand, two launchers for B-40 anti-tank rockets, two fragmentation grenades and various types of ammunition were recovered from the bandits.

Local officials said the arrested BIFF men and their leader Parido Balabagan, alias Bariog, who remain at large, had planned to attack several communities after residents refused to shell out so-called protection money.

17
- John Unson

Troops capture 4 BIFF bandits, foil attacks

ZAMBOANGA CITY: The military aborted what could have been another fatal attack by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) with the capture of one of its commanders and three of his men in Lambayong Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

Officials said one of those captured was Datu Parido Balabagan, a BIFF commander whose group is allegedly planning to carry out terror attacks in Sultan Kudarat.

Security forces also seized from the bandits two M14 rifles, two anti-tank rocket launchers and three fragmentation grenades.

The operation, which was launched before sunrise on Wednesday at a pro-Islamic State hideout in Barangay Lumabao, General SK Pendatun town, was the result of intensified campaign against terrorism and vital intelligence passed on by civilians.

AL JACINTO

Pagdami ng private armed group, ikinabahala 5

Nababahan na ang Philippine National Police (PNP) kaugnay ng pagdami ng private armed group (PAG) sa mga ikinakonektadong election hotspot sa Mindanao.

Sinabi ni PNP-Regional Office-12 spokesman, Senior Supt. Achin Gonzales, binabantayan ni nito ang mga trucker nilang lugar, kabilang na ang Polomok at Tupi sa South Cotabato.

Angya, sa natabing mga lugar nasasama ang iba't ibang uri ng armos, ISIS flags sa isangawing operasyon na ikinareporma ng mga miyembro ng ISIS-inspired group, kamakailan.

Posible ang, angya, magamit ng mga publiko ang mga PAG upang lumakha ng karamasang mga knaleman sa eleksiyon.

Amnaco narereha, Binantalan Division spokesperson, Army Captain Arvin Enriquez ng Philippine Army (PA) na sa ka mga pinaglutuhan nito ng pansin ang Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) at ang iba pang karang bayan nito sa North Cotabato.

Fer Taboy

Preventing a repeat

Soldiers and police who fought in the siege, a number

of whom suffered permanent disabilities, as well as relatives of the security forces and civilians killed in the fighting gathered in Marawi this week to mark the first year since the city was officially liberated from Maute terrorists.

The five-month siege ended with the deaths of Maute brothers Abdullah and Omar together with Abu Sayyaf commander Isnilon Hapilon, said to be the IS "emir" in Southeast Asia. The Maute brothers' father Cayamora and mother Farhana were also arrested, with the father later dying of illness while in detention.

Putting key supporters of the Maute brothers behind bars, however, does not guarantee the full neutralization of the threat. President Duterte, in a speech yesterday, admitted there was a failure of intelligence in Marawi, for which he said he was taking full responsibility. That failure cannot be repeated in the face of a persistent threat.

Said to be inspired by the terrorist Islamic State, the Mautes had sufficient firepower – as the

EDITORIAL

President himself acknowledged – to take on much of the

Armed forces of the Philippines for five months. The group also appeared to have ample funds, which security forces suspected was raised not just from legitimate businesses operated by the Maute family but also through criminal activities such as drug trafficking. The siege indicated considerable support for the Mautes and whatever violent cause they were espousing.

In March this year, the IS in Southeast Asia announced that it had picked a new regional emir, an Abu Sayyaf sub-leader born in Lanao del Sur who goes by the name of Abu Dar. The military said Abu Dar managed to slip out of Marawi near the end of the siege, bringing with him cash looted from the devastated city.

The Abu Sayyaf has been decapitated several times in the past two decades, but it has always managed to regroup and bounce back. The government must stop this once and for all, and make sure the Maute threat is neutralized for good. There can be no repeat of the Marawi siege.

dr

Can we be sure of our senatorial elections?

A TOTAL of 152 individuals were reported to have filed their



FIRST THINGS FIRST

FRANCISCO S. TATAD

certificates of candidacy (CoC) for the May 14, 2019 senatorial elections. And

→ Tatad A5

Be

Can we be sure of our senatorial elections?

185 for the party-list system.

Even the 94-year-old former senator Juan Ponce Enrile has filed, with no plans of enduring a stressful campaign but using the social media instead to reach out to the voters. Former senator Jinggoy Estrada has filed after his half-brother Sen. J.V. Ejercito did, so has former senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., from inside his detention cell at Camp Crame. Enrile, Estrada and Revilla were charged and detained by the Aquino administration for their alleged misuse of the "pork barrel," but Enrile and Estrada have been allowed to post bail.

A merry mix

Former presidential spokesman Harry Roque has also filed, after discovering the cracks in President Duterte's character, and announcing he was running as party-list representative of Luntiang Pilipinas. It's going to be a merry mix of characters.

But does it mean the senatorial election will come through, without any attempt to preempt or disrupt it? For the most fatal of all reasons, some remain skeptical, despite all assurances from government. They are not looking at the communists triggering a bomb to disrupt the campaign or the election itself; they are, ironically, looking at DU30.

In violation of presidential protocol, all known official norms, and the Commission on Elections' specific rule that an individual filing his/her CoC may be accompanied by not more than four individuals, DU30 led an entire barangay to accompany Special Presidential Assistant Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go in filing his CoC before the commission. They apparently wanted to make sure he knew where to sign his name.

'Uniquely egalitarian'

The Comelec has justified this violation of its own rule, by saying that some VIPs deserve some special treatment; in our "uniquely egalitarian" system some are more equal than others. The Comelec has apparently decided that Bong Go is entitled to put up a "show of force," to avoid any impression that not enough people support his running. But the focus here is now on DU30 rather than on his factotum.

Exactly what signal was DU30 trying to

send to everybody? Analysts are divided on their interpretation. Some analysts believe he wanted to show that Bong Go is a shoo-in for the Senate because of his personal endorsement. Except that, we do not have an unsullied record of electing even our most illustrious Cabinet members to the Senate. And Bong Go hardly falls within that category.

In the last few months, Bong Go has saturated the country with his ubiquitous mug shot, making it the most widely advertised mug everywhere, even before he became a senatorial candidate. Yet many people may have come to regard him as the "endorser" of some commercial product, even though they cannot identify his product. Some people recognize Sen. Ping Lacson as the endorser of a particular brand of hard drink, but what is Bong Go's equivalent?

Bong Go or Arthur Yap?

More than this, in Bohol and nearby provinces, many tend to confuse Bong Go with the outgoing congressman and gubernatorial candidate Arthur Yap. Except for their dentures, they are uncanny look-alikes. But perhaps the similarity works for Bong Go rather than for Arthur Yap, so the analysts may be right after all: Go could be a cinch for the Senate, with DU30's endorsement and the blessing of Smartmatic.

However some other analysts are quick to add — "Provided the elections are held as expected, and not preempted or disrupted." Which shows great fear they would be preempted or disrupted.

It is probably all paranota. But they see in DU30's unnecessary presence at Bong Go's filing, an attempt to build an iron-clad alibi—in case the elections should self-destruct, as the least optimistic analysts and observers fear they could. Having gone to Bong Go's filing, at the cost of correct presidential protocol and plain common sense, he could say he was so eager to see the elections go through and to have his factotum take his honored place as a senator of the realm, except that certain events had intervened.

The real October plot

Although the military says they have scuttled the alleged Red October plot to oust the President, qualified intelligence sources

insist that DU30's threat of a "revolutionary government" has never been lifted, and may have in fact gained momentum after the reported dismantling of the "Red October" threat. The October threat remains, but it is no longer Red, according to these sources. To them, the threat is a deep family secret, and aside from DU30, his daughter Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio is the primary keeper of that secret.

According to their analysis, what gives DU30's game away is Inday Sara's sudden and unexplained decision to abandon her announced plan to run for the Senate and just seek reelection as mayor instead. She is definitely more qualified and more electable than Bong Go and most of the 152 who have filed. And she had already launched her regional *Hugpong ng Pagbabago*, which seeks to tie up with PDP-Laban, DU30's adopted party, to field senatorial candidates, and to prepare her to succeed her father when his term expires in 2022. All that has now gone kaput. Why?

Would Sara have abandoned the prospect of sitting in the Senate if she saw no risk of the senatorial election being scuttled or vaporized? In fact, aside from accompanying Bong Go to the Comelec, DU30 has done nothing to choose his own senatorial candidates, the way Aquino chose his candidates in 2013, to make the Senate a strong partner of the Executive.

The military replaces the Reds?

Analysts suspect that where before DU30 was trying to package a revolutionary government with the CPP/NPA/NDF or with Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco Jr.'s communists, he may now be trying to package a revolutionary government with selected elements of the Armed Forces, whose loyalty to his person he may have won through his policy of material reward and personal inducement.

A revolutionary government by the military cannot be less dangerous than one by the communists. But DU30 seems to shift from one option to the other in search of power beyond what the Constitution provides and what the sovereign people are willing to see the President exercise. I am hoping all this speculation is but for the birds, but what happens if it isn't?

dy

Cream rises – and values dip?

I AM delighted to see the list of San Beda University Alumni Association honorees that SBC Alum Association Executive Director Dr. Joffre Alajar furnished me. I see not a single commitee there, contrary to what the military would have us believe. Fake news.

Heading the list is new Supreme Court Justice Joey Reyes. I first met him when he was a staffer of Justice Felix V. Makasiar, who would call me occasionally from the SC during the Dark Years and thunder: "Ne, you hit us again!" I'd say. "Sir, *yan po ang natutunan ko sa inyo*" Even then, it was evident that my head was not properly and tightly screwed on; I marched to the beat of a different drummer, taking the less-travelled road, as it were.

No. 2 honoree is new SC Justice Ramon Paul L. Hernando, who I understand is 52 and should be in the SC until he is 70. (In January 1987, I, then 47, was handed a signed SC appointment, which I declined. I had tried to convince Bobby de la Fuente, to join the SC; he declined. I was successful with



T.G.I.F.
RENE SAGUISAG

his *compadre*, Flor Regaladado, 96.7 percent in the 1954 bar; Bobby, 95.95 percent, grades to stand till the end of time.)

Justice Makasiar would only pick the best and the brightest. His other staffer at the time was Marino de la Cruz, my stude, who retired as an RTC Manila judge.

The other honorees are equally deserving of recognition and reward. To them, I add my felicitations. I was just wondering whether Mayor Jaime Rusillon should also be included. He's the bossing of Siargao, just rated as No. 1 tourist destination hereabouts by *Conde Nast Traveler*, which ranked it as "best island in the world." There has to be a nexus. I hope Siargao is not as choked with over-regulation as Boracay, with reports of visitor limits, electronic tracelets, etc., as if we perceive tourists as meriting disrespect, like fugitives on the run.

Many are running in the May 2019 elections, a great Pinoy pastime. From *Binitbing Palanggana* to the presidency, mahihilig, when the bell rings. Teng! Teng! *takbuhan na po sa gitna ng rueda*. To the question whether I am running, my stock response is, with my cane on uneven surface, "*di na nga po makalakad, tatakbo pa!*" Urged to run for the presidency even, I'd retort, "of what country *naman kaya?*" Better to be asked why I am not running than being asked why.

I hope the winners will agree with Bill Bradley, Princeton and Oxford alum, and New York Knicks star who ran for the US Senate after—not before—retiring from the NBA. A book about him, by Phil McPhee, was entitled *A Sense of Where You Are*. He later wrote *Life on the Run* where he said that winning an election "is not supposed to be a thrill. You have just won the right to serve the people... an honor but not a thrill."

The candidates should have a sense of where they are, know their place, and remember what they have been elected for—to

toil for and serve the sovereign people; no show of the arrogance of power and greed. We expect them to "choose the harder right, instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half-truth, when the whole can be won." As is said, good people should go to the priesthood or the nunnery but the best ones should go to politics, which should not be the oligopoly of rascals.

This week, I was asked by certain candidates to accompany them in filing certificates of nomination and acceptance (CONAs). There were newsmen and picture-taking and video-taping. Prez Duterte need not worry. We are too busy texting and pix-taking to launch a coup, a cure worse than the disease. I just gently told the local Complec personnel concerned to take good care of the forms we filed so that these may not join the ranks of the *desaparecidos*, "*pakiusap lang po, huwag naman kami sanang ma-Trillanes*," haha.

The other day Mayor Abby Binay filed her CONA. The

AP

» Saguisag A5

Cream rises – and values dip?

day before, Junjun, her brother, did. Normally, one may say that the Binays and the Estradas enjoy the paradise of pedigree, but not this time. How I wish they could find a way to reconcile, but a Prez Duterte, Mayor Duterte and Vice Mayor Duterte?

Meantime, we need to be on the same page with the military. Early this month, Gen. Antonio Parlade, Jr. disclosed that San Beda U, among other schools, had been infiltrated by the commies. Huh? Then, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced that the threat had been neutralized. Wow, *galing, bilib*. Permit me to doubt that we are inciting and plotting at SBU, contrary to what military intelligence may fantasize. To begin with, Holines said, "every idea is an incitement." Red October? Krazny Oktyabr? Our Red Lions explode only on the basketball floor. And now, a White December for a White Christmas the song says we are dreaming of. The military is singing our San Beda colors, the Red and the White.

In 1972-1973, after Martial Law was inflicted, I kept criticizing ML in the classroom and was advised to be "prudent." I left teaching to remain a free man in a wider cage in which to roam. More democratic space.

In the Trillanes case we are warned by the Department of Justice not to comment on it given the *sub judice* rule which no one seems to obey in this country, beginning with the talkative Prez, who prejudices critics. The case involves serious policy considerations anyway and should be the subject of a robust, intense and uninhibited public debate. While only Sonny is being targeted by the Solicitor General who with his multitude of tasks found the time to search for documents that according to him were missing, I keep asking how that revocation of an amnesty may impact on our dozen or so clients in Oakwood, *Salimpusa*, who, along with the leaders, should just be asked to supply any deficiency, if that.

It is reported that the National Privacy Commission is looking at the loss of 277 amnesty applications, which may affect our *salimpusa*, not one of

whom, to my knowledge, has raised questions about the Prez's supposed humongous bank accounts or SolGen Joe Calida's family's intriguing security agency contracts.

The military has set up a Krazny Oktyabr straw man and knocked it out. Now noises about December. Result: more presidential visits and a higher budget to stroke soldiers and policemen with.

That many people viewed the relic of St. Padre Pio even in Davao may indicate our desperation in the fight against corruption. Not enough to rely on the tough Dutertes. The Prez reportedly makes noises before the military that he has given up, asking his guests to stand up if they agree that he should step down. But, no one stood up, of course, and we cannot ever give up on our people and Motherland. Hope springs eternal.

Now hopeful *Manong* Johnny Ponce Enrile (JPE) has filed his candidacy for the Senate. He will be 95 come February. He had masterfully handled Rene Corona's impeachment ending in conviction. Who will dare make an issue of the wild allegation that PNoy had bribed the senators to convict? Anyway, I am reminded of Strom Thurmond who served in the US Senate and reached 100 while there, where he became a celebrated elevator groper of women. Harmless? But, not armless, *Kamaudag Tsikboy Manong* ain't.

In another interesting development, Ambassador Teddy Boy Locsin replaces Alan Peter Cayetano as Department of Foreign Affairs top dog. Ted is eloquent in oral and written English, once, in 1986, he showed his unmatched command of body English by giving the "You are No. 1 sign," with his right middle finger. Now, he tells "useless" administration officials what he thinks of their mothers. *Susmariano!* In Pilipino, not in Spanish, he also masters where we see *lo cortés no quita lo valiente*, courtesy does not detract from valor.

I hope though never ever to see him doing the Nazi salute Prez Digong cherishes, so as not to add needlessly to the pain of what Jewish Justice Frankfurter characterized as the most vilified and persecuted minority in history.

Seeing red



FIRST, there was the Red October plot to oust President Rodrigo Duterte. The military with Armed Forces Chief General Carlito Galvez himself dismissed the plot as spawned by Palace spin doctors. Now comes another alleged conspiracy to topple Duterte in a so-called Red December. It is beginning to look like the ones purveying the Red scare are the Palace people themselves. Is it to distract the people from inflation and the high cost of living?

There are no weapons of mass destruction in the latest concoction about a Red December plot. The only weapon being used here is one of mass distraction to draw away the attention of the populace from the real gut issues of hunger and high prices

of basic commodities. These are what make people see red.

My God, what will they think of next? If reports of the President's failing health (not cancer) are true, then those who want to see him go do not need to oust him by force. Those who don't support the President should just bide their time for nature to take its course or wait for 2022 at the end of his six-year term. Then, voters can commit the same mistake--as they did when they elected an incompetent Noynoy Aquino and a Davao mayor to

the presidency. The "masa" voting bloc is our own worst enemy. This mass-based voting bloc elect candidates for their popularity instead of their competence, as they did former actor and college dropout Joseph "Erap" Estrada.

Political dynasties are able to perpetuate themselves because voters themselves allow them to thrive in practice of political patronage. Look at the Binays in Makati, the Cayetanos in Taguig, the Estradas in Manila and San Juan, etc. If all three win in the 2010 elections we are going to have two Estradas in the Senate (JV and Jinggoy), a Cayetano in the Senate and in the House, plus former vice president Jejomar Binay as Makati Representative in the House, a Nancy Binay in the Senate and either Abigail or Junjun Erwin Binay

as Makati mayor.

The proliferation of political dynasties has become big family business. Only in the Philippines!

Filipinos suffered and survived 300 years of Spanish rule and a half century under the Americans. The

last foreign forces here were the Japanese who occupied the country during the Pacific war. The question being asked by students of history is this: What took us so long to rid ourselves of the invaders?

Vietnam fought two major wars and won against the powerful armies of France and the United States. Modern-day Vietnam is now ahead of the Philippines economically and politically. Never mind what the pollsters tell you that we have the

“The proliferation of political dynasties has become big family business. Only in the Philippines!”

Turn to A5

Geo

Seeing red



FIRST, there was the Red October plot to oust President Rodrigo Duterte. The military with Armed Forces Chief General Carlito Galvez himself dismissed the plot as spawned by Palace spin doctors. Now comes another alleged conspiracy to topple Duterte in a so-called Red December. It is beginning to look like the ones purveying the Red scare are the Palace people themselves. Is it to distract the people from inflation and the high cost of living?

There are no weapons of mass destruction in the latest concoction about a Red December plot. The only weapon being used here is one of mass distraction to draw away the attention of the populace from the real gut issues of hunger and high prices of basic commodities. These are what make people see red.

My God, what will they think of next? If reports of the President's failing health (not cancer) are true, then those who want to see him go do not need to oust him by force. Those who don't support the President should just bide their time for nature to take its course or wait for 2022 at the end of his six-year term. Then, voters can commit the same mistake—as they did when they elected an incompetent Noynoy Aquino and a Davao mayor to

the presidency. The "masa" voting bloc is our own worst enemy. This mass-based voting bloc elect candidates for their popularity instead of their competence, as they did former actor and college dropout Joseph "Erap" Estrada.

Political dynasties are able to perpetuate themselves because voters themselves allow them to thrive in practice of political patronage. Look at the Binays in Makati, the Cayetanos in Taguig, the Estradas in Manila and San Juan, etc. If all three win in the 2010 elections we are going to have two Estradas in the Senate (JV and Jinggoy), a Cayetano in the Senate and in the House, plus former vice president Jejomar Binay as Makati Representative in the House, a Nancy Binay in the Senate and either Abigail or Junjun Erwin Binay

as Makati mayor. The proliferation of political dynasties has become big family business. Only in the Philippines!

Filipinos suffered and survived 300 years of Spanish rule and a half century under the Americans. The

last foreign forces here were the Japanese who occupied the country during the Pacific war. The question being asked by students of history is this: What took us so long to rid ourselves of the invaders?

Vietnam fought two major wars and won against the powerful armies of France and the United States. Modern-day Vietnam is now ahead of the Philippines economically and politically. Never mind what the pollsters tell you that we have the

“The proliferation of political dynasties has become big family business. Only in the Philippines!”

Turn to A3

Pathetic antics

The camp of putschist-turned lawmaker Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV is back in its old dissembling ways, in a vain attempt to portray itself as persecuted martyr for democracy when in truth it is just plain opportunist.

“No regrets, it was worth it, because before we decided to do it, we exactly knew the consequences of our actions.”

This time, it was through pathetic antics obviously meant to influence the decision of the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 148 handling the motion of the Department of Justice (DoJ) to reopen *coup d'etat* charges against the senator and order his arrest.

On Monday, Trillanes' supporters sent bouquets of flowers and letters, left in the hallways on the 14th floor of the Makati City Hall of Justice in front of the office of RTC Branch 148 Judge Andres Soriano. The flowers came with tags bearing the words "rule of law," "truth," "fairness," "hope" and "legacy."

For the flower stunt, Trillanes' supporters could be cited for contempt by the court, according to Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra.

"That's exactly the kind of pressure that has been exerted upon Judge Soriano. Some people have made it appear that any ruling against Senator Trillanes will be a deathblow to democracy and the rule of law," Guevarra said.

He noted that even a first-year law student knows that such acts tending to influence the decision of the judge are a clear and punishable case of contempt of court.

What made it crystal clear to be a deliberate ploy to sway the court's decision was the statement Magdalo partylist Rep. Gary Alejano issued just a day before.

"We have information that the pressure on him is really intense," Alejano said at a news forum at the University of the Philippines Hotel in Quezon City.

But Alejano cannot support with specific details his outrageous

and patently malicious accusation.

"We know that the current atmosphere is instilling fear among the people so that is where they are coming from – do not oppose us, do not step on us because we can always get back at you," was all Alejano could say.

Guevarra said Alejano's unfounded remarks proved the camp of Trillanes "is the one clearly trying to influence the decision-making of the judge." In contrast, he noted that the DoJ has not engaged it in *sub judice* argumentation in the media.

He maintained the DoJ does not interact with the judge, except through pleadings filed and arguments raised in open court.

To digress, Alejano – like Trillanes, obviously feels no compunction over the

failed military adventurism of the Magdalo putschist group.

"No regrets, it was worth it, because before we decided to do it, we exactly knew the consequences of our actions," Alejano said in a TV interview last July.

That is precisely one of the reasons President Duterte issued Proclamation 572 on 31 August this year, revoking the grant of amnesty to Trillanes. The proclamation noted that Trillanes did not actually file the required application for the grant of amnesty and did not admit guilt in his role on the 2003 Oakwood mutiny and the 2007 Manila Peninsula siege.

Alejano, who is running for senator in the 2019 elections, exhibits the same tendency of Trillanes to hurl baseless accusations at the Duterte administration to get media attention in the hope of boosting their political ambitions regardless of the negative consequences to the country's national interest.

For instance, last June Alejano alleged that President Duterte ordered a stop to patrols in the West

Philippine Sea and that China has taken control of the disputed Sandy Cay, prompting Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano to call him a "liar."

Cayetano slammed Alejano for using the country's territorial row with China to undermine the Duterte administration.

Going back to the latest caper of Trillanes' camp, it only betrays its panic over an impending verdict in favor of the government as it failed to provide any definitive evidence to prove the senator indeed filed an application for amnesty.

Its stunts evoke memories of the story about the advice law professors supposedly offer to new lawyers on their first case trial: "If you're strong on the facts, pound on the facts. If you're strong on the law, pound on the law. If you're not strong on the facts or the law, just pound on the table."

And that's what Trillanes' camp is doing — just making desperate noises.

By all indications, Trillanes is headed for jail. Alejano, who ranked 31-35 in the recent Social Weather Stations senatorial survey, is likely to end up in the dustbin of our political history.

A lot of Filipinos would surely welcome such development and say: Good riddance!

Testing the Supreme Court

THE numerous Oplan Sita operations of the PNP have been token undertakings that seem to hide the true nature of police vigilance under the Duterte administration.

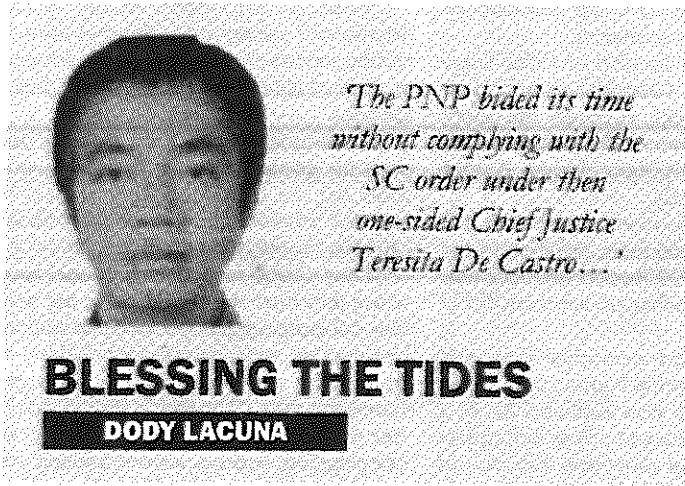
The checkpoints ignore enforcing the helmet ordinance for motorbike riders since, the police claim, the job belongs to the MMDA and local traffic enforcers.

Searches of motorbikes and identities of riders have not checked the still rampant killings by riding-in tandem assassins in Metro Manila, which was, after all, the real objective of Oplan Sita. Motorbike assassins avoid these mobile checkpoints and the very few apprehensions and encounters have been far and between.

The PNP does not really mind that it is being upended by the masked vigilantes who seem to be remarkably skillful in "eluding" police dragnets all the time. The public is numbed by the killing spree because many believe that nothing can be done against the PNP protecting its own, anyway.

It seems crystal clear that the PNP's accomplishment today rests on the mounting EJKs that have all but rendered criminal impunity customary in today's spiraling liquidation of political foes in urban and rural areas.

PNP chief Oscar Albayalde's claim that the number of cops slain or arrested in drug operations well justifies that the PNP remains committed to the rule of



BLESSING THE TIDES

DODY LACUNA

The PNP bided its time without complying with the SC order under then one-sided Chief Justice Teresita De Castro...

law stands out as an obvious diversion from the raging issue of EJKs involving the police.

TV news carry videos almost daily of slain drug suspects with handguns a few inches or half a foot away from the trigger finger of the fatalities. After exchanging fire with drug operatives in a buy-bust operation, the suspects are shot dead and react with the highly-implausible impulse of dropping their weapon in such a manner after bullets violently rack their bodies. To their credit, TV news producers show the almost fictionalized videos of certainly contrived police engagements and what has become an SOP of planting evidence.

Unlike the AFP, the police has been known to kowtow to the Chief Executive. Albayalde has likely directed the Internal Affairs Service not to go easy on errant

cops facing dissimilar cases but to "neutralize" the involvement of cops in thousands of EJKs.

So far, it is testing the patience of the Supreme Court which has ordered the PNP leadership middle of last year to submit its report on the drug operations that killed more than 4,854 drug users or dealers allegedly in self-defense.

Top police officials bided their time knowing too well that then one-sided Chief Justice Teresita de Castro was not inclined to commence any probe by seeking the report, which was ordered by Chief Justice Lourdes Sereno before her.

The PNP virtually ignores an SWS poll early this year showing "unanimous agreement of 96 percent among the people in opposition to the killings saying the suspects should be taken alive."

Undoubtedly, the public pulse

reinforces the high court's position compelling Malacañang and the police bureaucracy to embrace transparency and accountability as clearly articulated by the Constitution.

If he becomes the next chief justice, the unquestionably patriotic Antonio Carpio will not relent to any pressure under heaven, imagined or otherwise, to make the criminals in police uniform and most of the vigilantes they have become to finally face the might of the rule of law.

No one big or prominent enough has been put away by the police and vigilantes to become an icon for public outrage. Human rights advocates standing up for victims of the relentless and brutal drug war have been unable to curb the mostly cold-blooded killings.

The endless vicious incidents in our streets and alleys bring to mind the martyred Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. He spoke openly against the rightist government propped up by a brutal military engaged in the liquidation of peasant leaders and church workers.

He would say, "Persecution is necessary in the Church. Because the truth is always persecuted." The day before a sniper's bullet took his life the kindly Romero had a face-off with soldiers and said to them, "I beg you, I beseech you. I order you in the name of God: stop the repression." He was a saint before the eternal Kingdom of God long before the Catholic Church made him one.

What torture?

Where is the truest sense of law if human rights groups have already eaten into the minds of many? Recently, human rights watchdog Karapatan called on the Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) to release four women who were arrested in Nueva Ecija on Oct. 13 by the military for being members of the New People's Army.

Cristina Palabay, Karapatan secretary general, disputed this, describing Yolanda Diamsay Ortiz, 46, as a member of militant group Anakpawis, and Eulalia Ladesma, 44, as a member of the Gabriela Women's Partylist. Edzel Amocling, 23, and Rachel Galario, 20, are youth activists who have been advocating farmers' rights, she said.

Incidentally, the Philippine Army reported the women's capture in Rizal town, claiming they possessed a sub-machine gun, ammunition and four hand grenades but a Karapatan report said they were arrested in Natividad town, also in Nueva Ecija.

Palabay's statement has been the same words she keeps spitting against the government for the past years every time any rebel from their group is captured or killed in action. For example, she said the relatives of Ortiz and Ladesma have confirmed that the four women were in the custody of the CIDG at the old capitol building in Cabanatuan City, but paralegal workers were denied access to them. How come they are denied such basic remedy and/or protection of law? *BS*

Take note, the words we hear from her and all defenders of CPP-NPA are calls for the immediate release of the perpetrators. They will always condemn the attacks against activists and rights defenders. They will keep pushing the idea that there is torture despite national and international laws and agreements that prohibit its use.

I believe Karapatan had no evidence the four women were tortured. It is easy for them without any basis. The government adheres to the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights with the highest regards. - JUMEL G. ESTRANERO, defense research analyst and college Faculty, bluebaby_lemuj@yahoo.com

g

A big mistake

“The IS ideology of hate was the same tactic employed by the forces against Rody in the failed plots.

The botched twin plots of the yellows, the Reds and the traitorous Magdalos of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV were incredibly banking on getting to a critical mass of public protests to overthrow President Rody Duterte.

The President is not fond of flaunting the mandate that he holds, but one word from him calling for a people assembly would dispel all doubts as to whose side the Filipinos are really on.

The Red October and the Aklasan plots were preempted by Mr. Duterte when he indirectly announced uncovering the sinister alliance through a one-on-one with Chief Legal Adviser Sal Panelo, who is now his spokesman.

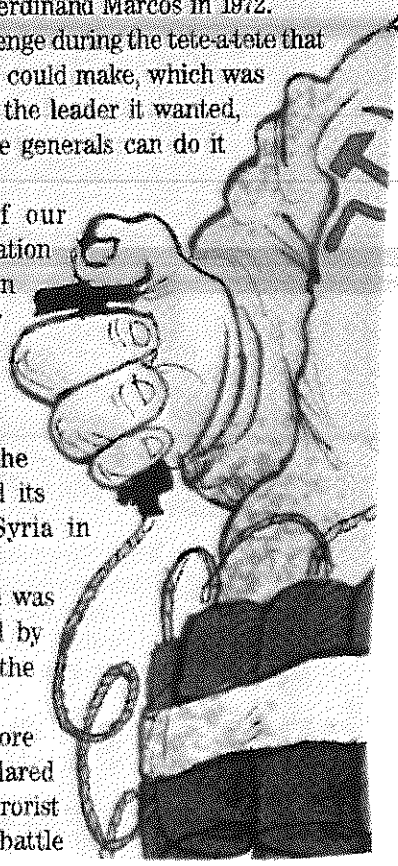
During the interview, Rody, apparently quoting from an intelligence report, said a plot for his assassination had been set on 21 September which marked the declaration of martial law by former President Ferdinand Marcos in 1972.

Rody also issued a challenge during the tete-a-tete that no faint-hearted President could make, which was for the military to choose the leader it wanted, as he said that he and the generals can do it over cups of coffee.

The fierce loyalty of our uniformed men to both nation and government was shown during the Marawi City siege by the Islamic State (IS), which lasted five months, with the terror group employing the same tactics that created its caliphate in Iraq and Syria in almost five years.

The IS ideology of hate was the same tactic employed by the forces against Rody in the failed plots.

On 17 October 2017 or more than a year ago, Rody declared Marawi City free from “terrorist influence” after the fierce battle



Lo

waged by the military and the police to purge the IS incursion.

A bigger threat was brought to the public after that. The Red October plot was more sinister as it sought the cover of legal protest movements against the President.

The plot was cooked up since Rody took office and the communists had used the space created by the peace negotiations that ended last year not only to consolidate but to expand its forces to include the yellow mob.

The alliance disbanded after the yellows, true to their color, turned chicken after Rody brought the plot to the public, exposing the truth that the effort to grab power by the opportunistic gang does not have wide support.

An effort to trample on the sovereign will expressed in the clear mandate given to Rody would likely be met by the most overwhelming mass action that will end any pretension of public support by Duterte opponents which is what the yellow mob wanted to avoid.

While the People Power movement targeted by Red October plotters will mainly be in Metro Manila, the supporters of Rody come from the entire country and all walks of life who would not blink an eye in defending their popular will.

“
*The
alliance
disbanded
after the
yellows,
true to
their
color,
turned
chicken.*

The plot was targeted for launch this month through mass actions that would have culminated in the military being pressured to abandon Rody or worse, to assassinate him.

Documents unearthed by the military from communist lairs showed that the Reds and its yellow allies were never sincere in dealing with Rody as their goal was always his ouster even when the communists were talking peace or the yellows were pretending to be allies in the super majority coalition.

The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) also had a history of traitorous acts such as the brutal ambush-killing of three soldiers who were on a humanitarian mission in Bukidnon last year while CPP leaders were on the peace table.

The deceitful acts happened while Rody was trying his best to show goodwill by releasing top CPP-NPA leaders to form part of the negotiating team and even giving the communists the option to nominate its allies to Cabinet posts.

It failed because naked opportunism was the only moving force behind the futile Red October plot.

Counter-insurgency policy

THE underlying purpose of any insurgency is to overthrow the government.

This shouldn't be hard to understand, even for an expert like Secretary Salvador Panelo, now presidential spokesman. Yet Panelo continues to squeeze the media value of the so-called Red October plot of ousting President Duterte from Malacañang by going with the military report that the communist rebels would again give it another try in December.

Panelo said there is nothing new about this intelligence report because the New People's Army rebels have been trying to unseat all administrations for the last 50 years.

'More Filipino lives will still be lost on both sides of the conflict because of President Duterte's flexing military muscles...'

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) earlier clarified that the plot to oust the President was a "rolling plan" that would culminate in December. Stargazers in the AFP are eyeing the rare coincidence that such a plan could occur on the eve of

the 50th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines on Dec. 26, 2018. Panelo gave some credence to the story when he stated that the military had "the resources and intelligence to validate what they're saying."

Earlier, the AFP said the Red October plot against Duterte had been discovered and fizzled out.

Now, the President's new spokesman said he won't even wonder why there's always a plot because that's precisely the rationale of the creation of the CPP, to oust the present government.

The President and his spokesman have charged that the rebels refused to honor what has been initially agreed upon, with the same charges hurled by Jose Ma. Sison and his minions against the government.

Duterte has taken the rather benign position that despite the destabilization plots and bellicosity, he is open to the possibility of a reconciliation with the communist rebels, who are after all Filipinos, too. *B4*

On the level of policy, the government position is ostensibly for the peace process, but more Filipino lives will still be lost on both sides of the conflict because of President Duterte's flexing military muscles, such as his direct order to soldiers, as their commander-in-chief, to kill confirmed rebels on sight wherever they may be and whenever the opportunity arises.

Plot of many colors

OKTOBERFEST is coming and the alleged Red October is nearing its end. What a hype of oxymoron. People say, "Forget Red October, Black November or White December." Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison has admitted that rebels are incapable of unseating President Rodrigo Duterte in the face of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' obsession with conspiracy plots. "What the revolutionary forces and the people are capable of is only to establish democratic government of workers and farmers in the countryside. These are the organs of democratic power," Sison said in an online interview from Utrecht, the Netherlands, where he lives in exile.

Last month, the President said he had evidence of a "loose conspiracy" involving opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, the Magdalo group, Liberal Party and the CPP-NPA to overthrow him. All parties have denied his claim.

On the other hand, the military decided to call the rebel plot "Oplan Talsik (Ouster)," which, it said, was aimed at summoning a critical mass for a broad united front to remove the sitting President. This is akin to the objective of Red October. Accordingly, under Oplan Talsik, the CPP-NPA intends to stir labor unrest through its "Oplan Aklasan (Revolution)," given that the workforce is the "most vulnerable due to increasing prices of commodities and inflation." *AS*

What the government has to observe is the back-up plan of CPP to weaken the government prior to its takeover. The usual act, like in any other state with insurgents, is to agitate people to rebel against the government by fomenting unrest, sowing discord and highlighting issues of alleged human rights abuses by government.

Let us be careful with the lies and deception of CPP-NPA. They are terrorists. They can kill a lot of innocent lives using their armed struggle. I am certain that what Joma Sison said is nothing but pure LIES. — JUMEL G. ESTRANERO, defense research analyst and college faculty, bluebaby_lemuj@yahoo.com

Empower the IPs

October marks the celebration of National Indigenous People's (IPs) Month in the Philippines, which honors the rich Philippine culture and tradition, considering that our nation has more than a hundred ethno-linguistic groups.

But the public has almost forgotten this because of what has been circulating in both mainstream and new media the past few weeks—the alleged “Red October” plot by the CPP-NPA.

I just came to realize its existence when I came to pass by a video on my Facebook newsfeed about a lumad leader asking for help because NPA rebels have been exploiting and abusing them.

I think no one among the members of our 110 ethno-linguistic groups deserve to be maltreated, especially by their fellow Filipinos. As we celebrate with them this month, may we all be reminded that we owe our Filipino identity to them because of their very rich culture and traditions? Thus, we must protect them with all our capacity against any entity that would want to harm them.

We may not hear about it at all times, but some videos would attest to the abuses on them by the rebels. They are used in protests and some are even forced to join NPA. The leftist groups deceive them with sweet promises, when in reality, they are just being used to go against the government for their selfish dreams of overthrowing the institution that truly cares for our IPs.

I pray that someday, through our efforts and support as kababayans of our IPs, they will be empowered and have their significant place in our society. Furthermore, I hope that our military and police would defend them—like what they have always been doing—against the lawless.

Long live the indigenous people of the Philippines! Long live the Filipinos! — RICH ANNIKA B. MADRILLEJOS

Joma's word of honor

It seems Joma Sison has new propaganda to divert opinion and perceptions from his organization. First of all, according to him, he supports the President's agenda like Filipinos being given jobs in the Philippines, but insisting on his group's version of land reform.

Second, is that they are open to participating in the election since according to him the people want to elect their leaders. Really?

Then, Sison said the CPP/NDF/NPA supports a continuing ceasefire. Is he really in good health? When did they follow such an agreement? Even in the times of SOMO (Suspension of Offensive Military Operation) which the AFP traditionally declares during Christmas and New Year's Day to give both sides a respite to celebrate with their loved ones, the Reds still attack the military. Where is the word of honor there? And he even questioned the government program's motive toward the rebel returnees. Well, simple, the government motive is to give chance and livelihood to the returning rebels once exploited by Sison's group.

Then, this is the most shocking. According to him, they welcome the resumption of peace talks without preconditions. Are they serious? No, they are not! ~~PS~~

I believe Sison's deceptive tactics are not believable any more. If he is serious and still has power over his followers, then do the right thing, order them to lay down their arms and stop the armed struggle. To Mr. Sison, return home and have localized peace talks, so that he can say that peace is possible in our lifetime. — SANDRA M. BALLARAN, peace advocate

Call to the youth

It is said that the youth is the hope of the nation. But how would it be possible if the mind of our youth is being ruined by terrorists?

The youth are supposed to be in school, studying, and focusing on the things that will make them better to achieve their goals. The youth must be the role model for the young ones.

The University of the Philippines is believed to be the school of the intelligent ones, where the students are called "Iskolar ng Bayan." UP students play a substantial role in fulfilling the University's mandate as agents of national development. As a "Iskolar ng Bayan," all UP students are entitled to support through subsidies provided by the national government. This is granted through discounts on tuition and other school fees.

In my own view, the NPA has indoctrinated the youth, making them believe fake promises and wrong ideologies and principles. The result of this is the youth has been recruited and now, trying to fight government. I find it so rude that the youth who have been given government's help are acting like they don't owe even a single thing to the administration.

If the youth keep letting terrorists fool them, I don't think it is still right for them to be tagged as "pag-asa ng bayan" because now, they are helping the NPAs spread the immorality of their organization, which is the reason our nation can't achieve the peace.

To the youth, do not let the terrorists fool you and never allow them to ruin your life and your future. Fight the terrorists and be the hope of our nation. - JHOI LORENZO

ONLINE NEWS

19 OCTOBER 2018

www.dwdd.com.ph

ASSISTANCE | Another Set of Surrenderees receives E-Clip benefits from the Government

Posted by Alvin Santiago

KIANGAN, Ifugao (DWDD) – Another Communist NPA Terrorist (CNT) member with thirteen (13) Militia ng Bayan (MB) members from Mt Province, Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya surfaced, surrendered and presented themselves to the Secretary of the National Defense Hon Delfin ALorenzanaduring the Former Rebels Peace Summit at Headquarters Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM), Camp Servillano Aquino, Tarlac City on the 16th Day of October 2018.

The voluntary appearance and surrender of the active NPA and MB members was a result of the thorough arbitration of the troops of 54th Infantry "Magilas" Battalion from Mountain Province, Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya. The former rebels were inspired by the stories of the previous surrenderees with the warm accommodation and treatment of the military personnel and the benefits they received from E-CLIP during the visit of PRRD in Camp Melchor F Dela Cruz, Upi, Gamu, Isabela.

According to one surrenderee, the CNT *threatened us that we will be treated inhumane if we will surrender to the government which is contradictory to our experience when we were with our Philippine Army facilitators in NOLCOM. We were treated like their own comrades, no gaps between facilitators and us-returnees. We were considered part of their family that made us comfortable at all times. Before returning to our homes we had a bunch of gifts coming from the government; grocery items, cash gifts and certificate of house entitlement from the National Housing Authority. All these were given to us freely by the government through the E-CLIP program in return to our sincere and voluntary surrender to the folds of the law*, the MB further stated.

LTC NARCISO B NABULNEG JR, Commanding Officer of 54IB stated, *It's heartwarming to know that the Magilas Troopers are doing their job passionately and with dedication that resulted to the voluntary surrender of the CNTs. To the brave ones, you did the right decision in returning to the folds of the law and embrace peace in the mainstream society*, LTC NABULNEG added. *To the CNTs remnants in Cordillera and Nueva Vizcaya, don't be deceived by the CNT self is ideology that brought you in the dark path, the government widely open its doors for your return through the E-CLIP program. It's not yet too late to embrace and be part of the long and lasting peace that we are all dreaming of, don't waste your time hiding in the mountains but rather spend your time wisely with your family, after all, nothing is more important than to be with your loved ones and enjoy a peaceful and productive life*, he further stated. **54IBCMO / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com.ph

LAW ENFORCEMENT | Government forces arrest 4 BIFF members in Maguindanao

Posted by Alvin Santiago

PRESIDENT QUIRINO, Sultan Kudarat (DWDD) – Combined elements of the Philippine security forces nabbed four members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters during a dawn raid in General Salipada K Pendatun, Maguindanao at 5:00am on Wednesday, October 17.

The suspects offered no resistance when heavily armed soldiers and policemen suddenly emerged in their hideouts to serve the arrest warrants against Datu Parido Balabagan a.k.a. Commander Banog of the BIFF 2nd Division. Unfortunately, Commander Banog, along with 8 of his men, was able to escape using a secret passage behind the compound where he was hiding.

Four high-powered firearms were seized including one Cal 7.62mm M14 Rifle, one Cal 30 M1 Garand Rifle, two Rocket-propelled grenade launchers, three MK2 Hand grenades and assorted ammunitions.

Lt Col Harold M Cabunoc, the Commanding Officer of the 33rd Infantry "Makabayan" Battalion, identified the suspects as Ronex Langalen, 47, Anwar Abdullah, 26, Allakbar Sekung, 20, and Renante Milan, 37. They were handed over to CIDG-ARMM chief PSSupt James Gulmatico for the legal cases that would be filed against them.

Colonel Robert Daus, the Commander of the 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade, said that the effort was part of the intensified law enforcement operations against peace spoilers.

"This is the outcome of our all-out effort against armed threats who attempted to attack the police station in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat a few days ago. I hope that this incident would serve as a stern warning against the group of Commander Banog who have eluded arrest," said Daus.

Meanwhile, Major General Cirilito Sobejana has directed the 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade to hunt down the remnants of the BIFF in GSKP town.

"You must continuously pursue them so that we can prevent their atrocities against hapless civilians. We will maintain the great teammanship with our brothers in the PNP to synergize our efforts against the enemies of the state," he said.

Lt Col Harold M Cabunoc, the Commanding Officer of the 33rd Infantry (Makabayan) Battalion, gives his guidance prior to the conduct of joint law enforcement operations against the members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters led by Datu Parido Balabagan a.k.a. Commander Banog early morning today. The combined elements of the PNP-SAF, CIDG-ARMM, 2nd Mechanized Battalion, and the 33rd Infantry Battalion netted four high-powered firearms during the operations

Members of the 33rd Infantry Battalion's Mortar Section manned the mortars to provide indirect fire support for the operating troops.





Lt Col Harold M Cabunoc and PSSupt James Gulmatico questioned the suspected BIFF members who were arrested during the raid on Commander Banog's hideout in Barangay Lumabao, General SK Pendatun, Maguindanao. 331B CMO / MCAG