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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 October 2018

Monday



*Honor. Patriotism. Duty*

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# 9 sugarcane workers murdered in Negros

## *Women, teens among victims*

By GILBERT BAYORAN

**BACOLOD CITY —** Nine sugarcane workers, including minors, were shot dead by some 40 armed men in what authorities described as a "massacre" in a plantation in Sagay City, Negros Occidental on Saturday night.

The victims — all members of the National Federation of Sugarcane Workers (NFSW) — were identified as Eglicerio Villegas, 36; Angelife Arsenal; a certain alias Pater; Dodong Laurencio; Morena Mendoza; Necnec

Dumaguít; Bing Bing Bantigue; and Joemarie Ughayon and Marchtel Sumicad, both 17 years old, according to Western Visayas Police director Chief Superintendent John Bulalacao.

Initial investigation showed that NFSW members entered and occupied the farm owned by a certain Carmen Tolentino, at Hacienda Nene in Purok Firetree, Barangay Bulanon on Saturday morning, a day after the owner harvested sugarcane for the season. The victims were resting in makeshift tents when the armed men opened fire at about 9:30 p.m., according to surviving NFSW members.

Sagay City Police head Chief Inspector Robert Mansueto yesterday said there were 11 persons in the makeshift shelter set up by the victims.

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## 9 sugarcane From Page 1

Nine of them were killed on the spot, while two others managed to escape, he added.

Some of the victims were shot in the head, as police investigators aired suspicions that they were shot from a distance.

Danilo Canete, one of the two survivors, confirmed to *MBC Aksyon Radyo* that they were resting in their makeshift shelters when the armed suspects approached and opened fire at them. He was able to survive by seeking refuge in a sack of rice, after which he fled the scene of the incident.

"The suspects were approximately 12 meters away based on the distance between the victims and the bullet casings recovered at the scene," Mansueto said, adding that at least 10 gunmen were involved in the shooting, based on statements of witnesses.

The bodies of three of the victims - Bantigue, Dumaguit and Mendoza - were allegedly burned by the suspects, according to Bulalacao.

Police recovered 19 empty shells of M16 Armalite and .45 caliber pistol, assorted food items of the victims and burned cellular phones at the scene.

Negros Occidental Police provincial director Senior Superintendent Rodolfo Castil disclosed that inspection conducted by Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) indicated that about five to seven suspects may have been involved in the commission of the crime, contrary to earlier reports.

He added that Provincial Crime Laboratory personnel also recovered a .38 caliber revolver with a spent shell from one of the victims, and ammunition for a 12 gauge shotgun from the pocket of another victim, indicating that the two fought back.

"We have reason to believe to believe that the suspects initially tried to intimidate (the victims) but some of them retaliated," Mansueto said.

The gunmen took the victims' firearms before escaping toward an unknown direction

on foot.

Bulalacao said the shooting took place about 10 kilometers away from the city proper and 400 meters from the main highway.

The house of Maricel Ortiz, about 30 meters away from the scene of incident, was hit by stray bullets.

Sagay City Police received information through a cellular phone call from a concerned citizen at around 9:30 p.m. that a shooting incident led taken place, according to the police regional director.

### **Condemnation, reward**

"We condemn the shooting incident that resulted in the (deaths) of nine farm workers, perpetrated by more or less 40 armed suspects," Bulalacao said. "We extend our sympathy to the victims and their families."

Sagay City Police and Special Action Force are in pursuit of the suspects while a thorough investigation gets underway to ensure their arrest.

The pieces of evidence and other personal belongings of the victims recovered from the

crime scene are still being examined by the SOCO team. The remains of the victims are at the FDN Memorial Chapel pending post-mortem examination while surviving witnesses are temporarily under the custody of Sagay City Police.

Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr. who also condemned the incident and ordered the police to conduct an in-depth probe, yesterday offered P250,000 reward to those who may provide information leading to the identification and arrest of the suspects.

An additional P250,000 reward was also offered by the city government of Sagay headed by Mayor Alfredo Marañon III, who also assured burial expenses and other assistance to the families of the victims.

### **Land dispute**

Land dispute is among the possible motives being looked into by the police that triggered the killings after receiving reports that two groups have been fighting over a piece of property in the area.

None of the victims were

involved in illegal drugs and other crimes, according to the police.

Mansueto said that he got reports that the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) already issued a Notice of Coverage to subject the area under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program of the government.

Mansueto, however, said that the DAR has yet to issue a Certificate of Land Ownership Award for the beneficiaries.

The police have also yet to check with the DAR if the victims are agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Castil said they have some persons of interest now being pursued by police probers, but he refused to give details on their identities, pending ongoing investigations.

Capt. Raul Llanes, 303rd Infantry Brigade spokesman, yesterday said they did not monitor any presence of armed men in the area and neighboring areas prior to the incident.

If indeed, there were 40 armed men in the area, Llanes said it could have been monitored by the 79th Infantry Battalion whose headquarters are

in Barangay Bato in Sagay City.

### **'Merciless'**

The NFSW Negros has condemned "with all our strength" the "merciless killing of nine farmers."

"The brutal killings happened on the first night of the land cultivation area initiated by the NFSW in Hacienda Nene," the group said in a statement yesterday.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary-general Renato Reyes called for a swift investigation into the Sagay killings.

"We condemn this atrocity and demand justice," Reyes said.

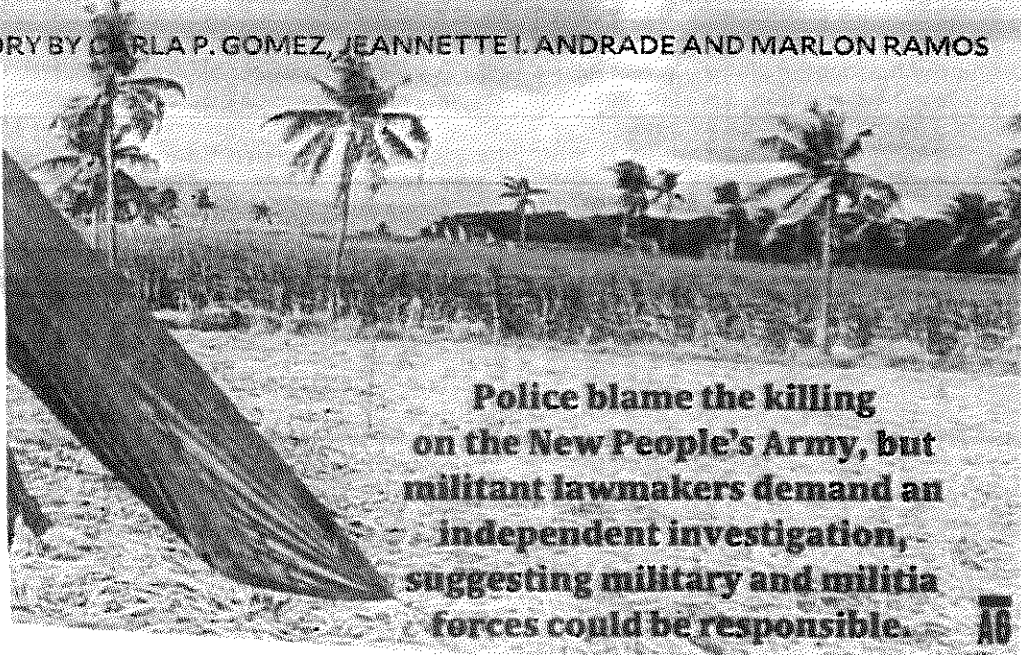
Meanwhile, senatorial aspirant Erin Tañada is seeking the immediate arrest of the suspects in the Sagay killings.

"Bullets can never be the answer to the farmers' request for social justice, to own the land they till and to end poverty and hunger among their families," he said.

"The government has to stand up for the families of the victims of this gruesome mass murder and to bring justice to their death," he added. - With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Emmanuel Tupas

# 9 SUGAR FARMERS SHOT DEAD IN NEGROS

STORY BY CARLA P. GOMEZ, JEANNETTE LANDRADE AND MARLON RAMOS



**Police blame the killing on the New People's Army, but militant lawmakers demand an independent investigation, suggesting military and militia forces could be responsible.**

**A6**

## FROM A1

By **Carla P. Gomez,**  
**Jeannette I. Andrade**  
**and Marlon Ramos**  
@Team\_Inquirer

The Philippine National Police is blaming communist rebels for the killing of nine farmers in Sagay City on Saturday, but militant lawmakers suspect the military and militia forces were behind the attack in Negros Occidental province.

Chief Insp. John Bulalacao, Western Visayas police director, said in a statement on Sunday that elite forces were pursuing the killers, who, he claimed, were possibly members of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

Bulalacao said the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NPA, its armed wing, were carrying out "Oplan Bungkalan at Okupasyon," a plan to cultivate and occupy private and government land

using their "mass base."

But the militant Makabayan bloc in the House of Representatives demanded an independent investigation, suggesting that the military and militia forces could be responsible for the killings.

"We demand an immediate and impartial probe," former Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares said in a statement on Sunday.

"We will not stop until justice has been served," Colmenares said.

### Killings condemned

Killed were nine farmers, three of whom were women and two were minors. They were identified as Eglicerio Cambannga Villegas, 36; Angeliffa Dumaguit Arsenal, 47; Paterno Baroy, 48; Renc Laurencio Sr.; Morena Mendoza, 48; Marcelina Dumaguit, Rommel Bantigue, 41; Jo-marie Oghayon, 16, and Marchtel Sumicad, 17, all of Sagay.

Bulalacao said the victims were fresh recruits of the Negros Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW).

NFSW condemned the killings. The labor group said the victims were forced to plant vegetables and root crops to feed their families on idle sugar land covered by the government's agrarian reform program but remained undistributed to farmers.

According to police investigation, 14 NFSW members occupied part of Hacienda Nene, Purok Pine Tree, at Barangay Bulanon, Sagay, at 9:45 p.m. on Saturday.

Investigators said the sugar

plantation was the subject of a land dispute.

The sugarcane on the plantation owned by Carmen Tolentino had been harvested, and the farmers went in and pitched a tent there, according to Senior Supt. Rodolfo Castil, Negros Occidental police director.

### Five survived attack

Castil said the farmers were resting in the tent on Saturday night when five to seven gunmen arrived and opened fire on them.

Earlier reports placed the number of gunmen at about 40.

Castil said two of the farmers managed to escape during the shooting while three were not there during the attack.

The gunmen also burned the bodies of three of the farmers, using sugarcane waste and gasoline, according to Chief Insp. Roberto Mansueto, Sagay City police chief.

He said two of the victims were armed and appeared to have fought the attackers.

Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr. and his son, Sagay Mayor Alfredo Marañon III, condemned the killings and offered P500,000 for information that would lead to the identification and arrest of the killers.

### Military's handiwork?

Colmenares, who hails from Negros Occidental, said Brig. Gen. Eliezer Losaños, commander of the 303rd Infantry Brigade, had previously accused farmers involved in the land cultivation system in the province of being NPA members.

"That is really absurd be-

cause the issue of land is a legitimate issue. This is an attempt of the Duterte government to quell any form of protest by criminalizing legitimate demands," Colmenares said.

Aniakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao condemned the "barbaric and brutal murder" of the farmers.

### House probe

Casilao said the latest killings brought to 45 the number of peasants to be killed on Negros Island since President Duterte came to power in June 2016.

Among those killed, he said, was party-list lawmaker Flora Jemola, chair of the Sagay chapter of NFSW.

He said Jemola was stabbed dead by killers believed to be militiamen from the Army's 12th Infantry Battalion on Dec. 21, 2017.

Another NFSW leader, Ronald Marilanat, was killed by the same militiamen two months later, he said.

Casilao said he would introduce a resolution for an inquiry into Saturday's killings in Sagay

—WITH A REPORT FROM AP INQ



# US, China back rules vs air mishaps

**SINGAPORE:** The United States, China and several other countries on Saturday agreed in principle to guidelines on preventing unplanned warplane encounters, the latest effort to avoid military confrontations in Asia.

Risks of chance encounters between military aircraft spiraling out of control had risen in recent years as Beijing becomes ever more assertive in the South China Sea, stoking tensions with rival claimants in Southeast Asia.

While not a claimant, Washington has also been drawn into the row as it has traditionally been the dominant naval and air power in the Asia-Pacific.

The Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (Asean) agreed to the guidelines on managing air encounters on Friday, at the annual meeting of the 10-member bloc's defense ministers.

US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and his Chinese counterpart General Wei Fenghe were among eight defense chiefs from outside Asean to give their "in-principle" backing to the guidelines, a joint ministerial statement said.

India, Russia, Japan, South

Korea, Australia and New Zealand have also given broad backing to the new framework, Singapore Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen said.

Any incident involving military jets can lead to a "cascade of activities that you cannot control," warned Ng, who hosted the meetings.

"You can have a gung-ho pilot who switches off everything and decides 'I'm going to intimidate,'" he told reporters.

"That would be a disaster."

The guidelines set norms of behavior for pilots to prevent untoward encounters. These include always having two-way communications open and adhering to existing aviation conventions.

The new rules follow similar guidelines already in place to prevent naval vessels from unintended

mishaps at sea.

Early last year, a Chinese warplane buzzed a US Navy surveillance aircraft over the South China Sea, with the US claiming their plane was in international air space.

In 2016, a Chinese fighter aircraft also intercepted a US Navy surveillance plane over the sea.

Four Asean members — Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam — have conflicting claims in the South China Sea with Beijing.

China claims sovereignty over almost the entire area, including waters near the shores of smaller countries.

## Drills a US request

On Sunday, the Philippine Department of National Defense (DND) said scheduled exercises between

Asean and the United States were requested by Washington.

Teodoro Torralba, DND assistant secretary for assessments and international affairs, said the details of the maritime drills between Asean countries and the US would be determined next year.

"It will be finalized when Thailand convenes the Adsom (Asean Defense Senior Officials' Meeting) working group early next year," Torralba told reporters in a text message coursed through the DND public affairs service.

Thailand will be hosting Asean meetings next year after the 2018 summits and related events in Singapore.

The announcement of the drills came after the ongoing Asean and China maritime drills in Zhanjiang.

## Agreement lauded, but...

Magdalo Party-list Rep. Gary Alejano on Sunday praised the signing of the multilateral air encounter code.

Alejano said the pact would establish peace and security in the Asean, as it includes an agreement on sharing information regarding terrorism threats.

"In the context of the West Philippine Sea [South China Sea] dispute, we hope the pact will address territorial aggression. China, one of the Asean partners, does not even honor the existing international guidelines and rulings. While we can expect the Asean states to abide, it might be a different story for China," he added.

AZ

AFP, DEMPSEY REYES  
AND GLEE JALEA

# US, China agree on air control

## *Asean, 6 other nations support rules managing air encounters*

SINGAPORE—The United States, China and several other countries on Saturday agreed in principle to guidelines on preventing unplanned warplane encounters, the latest effort to avoid military confrontations in Asia.

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The Association of Southeast Asian

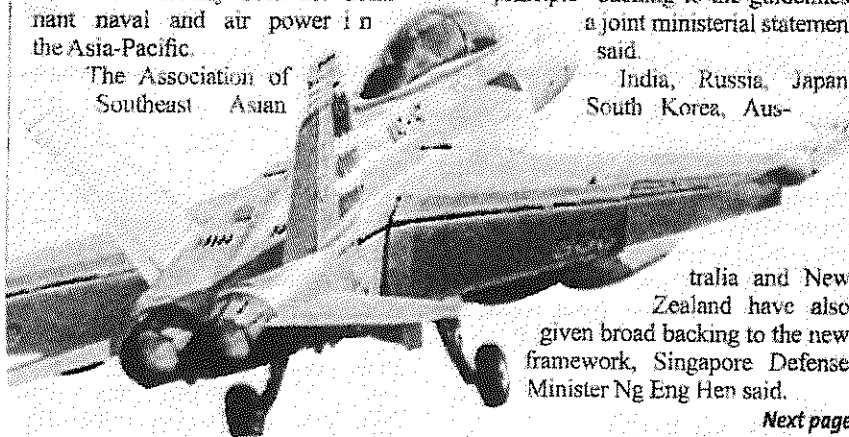
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## US, China...

*From A1*

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China claims sovereignty over almost the entire area, including waters near the shores of smaller countries. **AFP**

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**BRP Tarlac back from Russia**

The Philippine Navy vessel that completed historic port visits to Russia and South Korea is returning on Monday. On the same day, the Philippines would welcome a goodwill visit by an Indonesian Navy vessel. Cmdr. Jonathan Zata, Navy public affairs chief, said the ceremony for the return of the BRP Tarlac would be held at South Harbor. The ship, with a crew of 300, completed port visits to Vladivostok and Jeju Island. Zata said it was the first time that a Philippine Navy ship went on a port visit to Russia.

—JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE

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## 2 dead in motorbike collision

ILOILO CITY – Two men, one of them an Army corporal, died in a collision involving two motorcycles in Miag-ao, Iloilo at past midnight yesterday.

Arvin Flonasca, 28, of Barangay Bacauan, and Cpl. Clyde Rileta of Bohol died at the scene.

Flonasca was driving his Motoposh Pinoy motorcycle along Zulueta Avenue when it collided with a Honda XRM driven by Rileta.

Rileta's passengers – Cpls. Jake Villanueva and Ryan Bauzon – were taken to a hospital for treatment.

The soldiers, all from the Army's 94th Infantry Battalion, were on their way to Montecarlo in Miag-ao when they figured in the accident. – Jennifer Rendon

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# Gatchalian: Martial law scary only at first glance

By Julie M. Aurelio

@JMAurelioINQ

The Senate will have to assess the current situation in Mindanao if there was, indeed, a need to extend martial law beyond Dec. 31, 2018.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian

made this remark in a radio interview on Sunday, following Malacañang's statement that it was taking its cue from the military over whether to extend martial law.

"We will study it very carefully," Gatchalian said.

"At first glance, martial law

might be scary," he said.

"But if you go to Mindanao, they are happy because warlords are now afraid to go around," he added.

### Sentiments

Gatchalian said the Senate should listen to sentiments

aired by Mindanao residents and "study these carefully" in looking at the reasons why martial law should be extended for a third time.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said, however, that there were no proposals yet from the military to extend

martial law.

### IS threat

Mindanao was placed under martial law on May 23, 2017, following an attempt by local followers of Islamic State (IS) to establish an IS base in Marawi City. Gatchalian said the threat

of terrorism still existed in Mindanao. *14*

He said investments and businesses did not seem to have been adversely affected by martial law.

"I talked to some businessmen in Mindanao" who support martial law "because there is now order," Gatchalian said. INQ

# Thorough study of Mindanao martial law extension pushed

**B. HANNAH L. TORREGOZA**

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian said the Senate should first assess whether or not there is a need to extend martial law in Mindanao anew in the event President Rodrigo Duterte asks for it.

Gatchalian said that while many citizens

may feel threatened over the possibility of the extension of martial law in the southern region, lawmakers should weigh its pros and cons, especially in Mindanao where threats of terrorism prevails.

"We should study this very well. Like in the past two martial law declaration requests, senators were given a full briefing through

an executive session," Gatchalian said in a radio interview.

"We must study why there is still a need to extend martial law," Gatchalian said.

Both houses of Congress jointly acceded to extend the declaration twice.

But the martial law declaration in Mindanao is set to expire on December 31 this year.

Gatchalian said he believes that

while the constitutional requirements for martial law to be declared – threat of invasion and rebellion – is not present, the move may still be beneficial for the Mindanaoans.

"When you go to Mindanao, the people there are happy because the warlords, the goons, the private army are scared to roam around because of the presence of the military personnel, because they might be arrested or detained. So there is a

sense of peacefulness," he said.

Gatchalian also said some business groups in Mindanao also support the martial law declaration in the region.

"They are confident that there would be no encounters with negative elements because of the presence of many policemen, and checkpoints," he said.

"So let's look at all angles, let's check the sentiments of the business community," the senator said.

## *ML extension sa Mindanao pag-aaralan ng Senado*

Pag-aaralan ng Senado kung kinakailangang palawigin pa muli ang Martial Law sa Mindanao kung hihilingin ito ni Pangulong Duterte

Itong ay pag-aaralan namin nung mabuu. Tulad nung nakaraang dalawang martial law requests, nagkaroon ng full briefing ang mga senador through an executive session. Gusto natin pag-aaralan mabuu kung bakit pa kailangan "extend ang martial law," ayon kay Sen. Win Gatchalian.

Naniniwala si Gatchalian na nakinabang ang mga residente ng Mindanao sa pag-iral ng Martial Law.

"Kapag pumunta ka ng Mindanao, kung makausap mo yung mga nandun, natutuwa sila dahil yung mga warlord, yung mga goons, yung mga private army ay takot gumala dahil maraming sundalo, baka mahuli sila at ma-detain sila. So nagkaroon ng katahimikan," dagdag pa ni Gatchalian.

"Ang Mindanao isang malaking isla yan e. Dugtong-dugtong yan. Kung may mangyan sa Marawi, pwedeng mangyan yan sa Sarangani. Madaling pumunta yung mga terrorist. May ganung banta ang importante ngayon ay wag na nating hintaying mangyan pa," gitip pa ng senador.

Naiina ito, sinabi ng Malacañang na hihintayin nito ang rekomendasyon ng militar kung kailangang magpatupad ng extension ng martial law. (Rudy Ardali)



## PN welcomes Indonesian navy ship in Manila today

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Indonesian Navy Ship, KRI BIMA SUCI (945) will arrive today for a three-day goodwill visit in the Philippines until October 25, the Philippine Navy (PN) said.

Commander Jonathan V. Zata, the

director of the Naval Public Affairs Office, said the Indonesian Navy ship will be arriving at Pier 15, South Harbor, Manila, about 8 a.m.

Zata said the PN will render a welcome ceremony upon arrival of the visiting navy ship.

He said this will be followed ▶6

## PN welcomes Indonesian... ◀1

by a port briefing aboard the naval vessel mainly composed of Indonesian Navy cadets.

The ship, officially baptized on Sept. 12, 2017 in Vigo, Spain, replaced the legendary KRI Dewaruci, an institution since 1953 forming cadets of the Indonesian Navy.

KRI Bima Suci is bigger than her predecessor (KRI Dewaruci) with an overall length of 111.20 meters, a beam of 13.65 meters, and a height of 49 meters counting from the ship's deck.

The ship has 26 sails that reach a total surface of 3,352 sq meters while the main dock is at 9.2 meters over sea level.

KRI Bima Suci is in effect a modern ship equipped with a series of extremely sophisticated navigation and communication tools and with a reverse osmosis water supply.

### BRP Tarlac returns

Later at 1 p.m., the PN will render an arrival ceremony for the 300-man contingent onboard BRP Tarlac (LD801) after its historic visits to Vladivostok, Russia and Jeju Island, South Korea.

Zata said the arrival ceremony for BRP Tarlac will be held at Pier 15, South Harbor, Manila.

This is the first time that the Philippine Navy conducted a port visit in

the Russian Pacific Fleet. It also participated in the activities related to the Western Pacific Naval Symposium 2018 hosted by the ROK Navy in Korea.

"The activities strengthened regional maritime cooperation and promote multilateral cooperation among participating navies," Zata said.

The 300-man contingent led by Captain Florante N. Gagua, the Commander of the Naval Task Force (NTF) 87, left Korea at around 10:30 in the morning last October 16.

Zata said apart from Navy Chief Vice Admiral Robert A. Empedrad and the navy top brass, they are still confirming the attendance of senior official from the Department of National Defense (DND) to attend the arrival ceremony.

# PNP-NCRPO tapping over 3,000 cops for Undas security

**B. MARTIN A. SARDONGONG\***

**A** total of 3,238 police officers will be deployed in Metro Manila cemeteries to ensure the peaceful and orderly commemoration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on November 1 and 2.

Philippine National Police - National Capital Region Police Office (PNP-NCRPO) Director Guillermo Eleazar on Sunday said that the

police officers will be deployed as early as October 31 to prepare for the influx of visitors in cemeteries.

There are 81 cemeteries and 30 columbaria in Metro Manila.

The PNP - NCRPO has also tapped other government agencies, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), concerned local government units to further bolster security

measures

"Beat patrollers along with K9 handlers and explosives ordnance experts will also be posted to secure key security areas and vital installations to prevent terrorist activities," he said.

The NCRPO chief also noted that all police station chiefs were tasked to implement increased police visibility and intensify patrol operations to ensure public safety in Metro Manila.

# NCRPO taps 3K cops for 'Undas'

Augmentation force at cemeteries to ensure public safety and security

By Mario J. Mallari

More than 3,000 policemen from the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) will be deployed to ensure public safety and security during the upcoming All Saints' Day.

NCRPO chief Director Guillermo Eleazar said total of 3,298 NCRPO personnel will take to the streets of Metro Manila for the observance of "Undas 2018."

The NCRPO deployment will serve as augmentation to the troops of the five police districts in Metro Manila.

"All police units under the NCRPO will double police visibility and intensify operations to ensure public safety in Metro Manila," Eleazar said.

The police deployment will focus on areas of public convergence like cemeteries, sea and air ports and other transport terminals.

There are 81 cemeteries and 31 columbaries in Metro Manila. The NCRPO deployment will start 31 October.

Eleazar said the NCRPO has already started close coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), local government units and other government agencies concerned.

"We tapped the support of other government

agencies and counterparts such as the AFP, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Bureau of Fire and Protection, local government units and volunteer groups to serve as force multipliers in providing maximum security and public safety, including motorist assistance and traffic management along routes leading to different areas of interest such as cemeteries, terminals, train stations, seaports and airports," Eleazar said.

**Soldiers, MMDA personnel will also act as force multipliers against threats.**

Beat patrollers along with the K9 handlers and explosive ordnance experts will also be posted to secure key security areas and vital installations to prevent terrorist activities most likely at the four biggest cemeteries in the region.

"We designated police supervisors to closely monitor the overall conduct of the operations in coordination with the respective district directors," Eleazar said.

"We assure, we supervise and we continuously coordinate with other stakeholders as well as strict implementation of security coverage and public safety operations," he added. τ

# 3,000 Metro cops to secure 'Undas'

By MARTIN A. SADONGDONG

A total of 3,238 police officers will be deployed to secure Metro Manila cemeteries during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on November 1 and 2, respectively.

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Guillermo Eleazar said yesterday that the cops will be sent to the field as early as October 31 to prepare for the influx of visitors which are expected to reach millions.

In total, there are 81 cemeteries

and 30 columbaria in the entire Metro Manila so the NCRPO also tapped its counterpart government agencies in providing maximum security to the public.

Additional forces from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), concerned local government units and other volunteer groups will help secure "Undas".

Eleazar said they will also provide motorist assistance and traffic management along routes leading to different areas of interest such

as cemeteries, terminals, train stations, seaports and airports.

"Beat patrollers along with K9 handlers and explosive ordnance experts [will also be] posted to secure key security areas and vital installations to prevent terrorist activities," he said.

The NCRPO chief also said that the police will not take a break from conducting anti-criminality and anti-illegal drug operations even during the holidays.

The NCRPO also encouraged the public to be extra vigilant against criminals who are expected to take advantage of the holidays. *uj*

## Mahigit 3,000 pulis, alerto sa Undas

Nasa kabuuang 3,238 miyembro ng Philippine National Police (PNP) ang ipakakalat sa mga sementeryo sa Metro Manila upang magbigay-seguridad sa nalalapit na paggunita ng All Saints' Day at All Souls' Day sa Nobyembre 1 at 2.

Sinabi ni National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Guillermo Eleazar nitong Linggo na maagang ipakakalat sa Oktubre 31 ang mga pulis upang mapaghandaan ang pagdagsa ng mga bibisita sa mga puntod ng kani-kamulang mahal sa buhay, na inaasahang aabot sa milyon.

Sa kabuuhan, may 81 sementeryo at 30 columbaria sa buong Metro Manila kaya naman nakipag-ugnayan na ang NCRPO sa mga katuwang nitong ahensya sa pagbibigay ng seguridad sa publiko.

Katuwang ng PNP ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), mga lokal na pamahalaan, at iba pang volunteer groups.

Bukod sa seguridad, sinabi rin ni Eleazar na magbibigay din ng tulong ang pulisya sa mga motorista sa pangangasiwa sa trapiko sa mga rutang papunta sa mga sementeryo, terminal, istasyon ng tren, pantalan, at paliparan.

"Beat patrollers along with K9 handlers and explosive ordnance experts [will also be] posted to secure key security areas and vital installations to prevent terrorist activities," sabi ni Eleazar.

**Martin A. Sadongdong**

## 9 dead in armed attack at Negros Occidental farm

**BACOLOD CITY.** Three women and two minors were among the nine people killed when 40 armed men strafed their tent in the middle of a 75-hectare sugarcane field in Sitio Daroc Hacienda Nene Purok Fire Tree, Barangay Bulanon, Sagay City, Negros Occidental around 9:45 p.m. on Saturday.

Chief Inspector Robert Mansueto, Sagay police chief, identified the victims as Eglicerio Villegas, 36; Angelipe Arsenal, 47; Paterno Baron, 48; Rene Laurencio, Morena Mendoza, and Necne Dumaguit, 49; Rannel Bantigue, 41; Jomarie Ughayon, 16; and Marchiel Sumikad, 17. Of the nine victims, three were allegedly burned.

Four others survived the attack.

► **Attack A8**

### ATTACK FROM A1

## 9 dead

The Philippine National Police (PNP) Western Visayas, said on Sunday that they suspect the shooting incident to be connected with land conflict.

The victims, all residents of Barangay Bulanon, were allegedly members of the militant National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW).

Recovered from the crime scene were 12 empty shells of a 5.56 caliber firearm, seven empty shells of a .45 caliber firearm, one cartridge of a .38 firearm.

Danilo Cañete, one of four survivors said they were resting in their makeshift tent, when suddenly about 40 armed men approached and opened fire at them. The shooting lasted for about 10 minutes.

He told Radyo Bandera-Bacolod that upon hearing the gunshots he crawled towards a sack of rice and pretended to be dead.

"But, I smelled gasoline was being poured on our tents with the intention of setting it on fire, I ran towards my house which is about 150 meters from the field. Four of us survived because we ran and I

was actually the last," he added.

Cañete added that they became members of NFSW upon knowing that the land they were tilling may be part of the government's land reform program.

"We had hoped it will be divided among 31 of us claimants," he said.

Another survivor, Rene Manlangit said their group entered Hacienda Carmen with the intention of planting corn and monggo.

He admitted that the land cannot be awarded to them because it is not subject of agrarian reform and is covered by a deed of donation and a notice of coverage.

Manlangit said they did not ask permission from the land owner Carmen Tolentino because the land is leased to a certain Allan Singbenco.

The victims were rushed to the FDN Memorial Chapel in Sagay City.

"The Sagay City Police Station and the Special Action Force is now on hot pursuit operation against the suspects while a thorough investigation is being conducted to ensure the arrest of the perpetrators," said Chief Supt. John Punalacao, regional director for PNP Western Visayas Bulalacao.

"We extend our sympathy to the victims and their families...I

have already issued orders to use maximum resources to ensure the arrest of the criminals so that justice may be served to the victims and their families in the soonest possible time," he added.

Sagay City Mayor Alfredo Marañon 3rd has offered a reward of P250,000 to anyone who can give information about the suspects with Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr., adding P250,000.

### Collective land cultivation

Meanwhile, the Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (KMP) said it had just started a collective land cultivation or "bungkalan" activity in the area on the morning of the shooting incident.

The KMP launched the activities in "idle agricultural lands across the country in 2016 to assert the farmers' rights to land and genuine agrarian reform," the group said in a message to *The Manila Times*.

The KMP considers the Negros region as "the hacienda capital of the Philippines" with the highest rate of landholdings that remain undistributed to farmers.

"This latest incident of peasant killings will add to the growing list of farmers and

sugar workers killed in hacienda capital Negros. More than 40 activists, mostly farmers and peasant leaders have been killed in Negros under the Duterte regime," the KMP said in a statement released on Sunday.

The KMP recalled the killing of Ronald Manlanat, an NFSW member in Hacienda Joefred, Barangay General Luna, on February 21. The group said that unknown armed men, they believed to be suspected elements of SCAA/CAFGU under the army's 12th Infantry Battalion, shot Manlanat with an entire M16 magazine.

Flora Gamola, then the municipal leader of NFSW was also killed in the "bungkalan area" of Hacienda Susan, Barangay Poblacion on December 21, 2017. She died from 13 stab wounds inflicted by unknown assailants. The KMP believed that the attackers were also SCAA/CAFGU members.

The group believes that these incidents reflect the resistance of landlords, "employing goons and private armies" to curtail land distribution to farmer-beneficiaries.

**EUGENE Y. ADIONG,  
DEMPSEY REYES AND  
DIVINA NOVA JOY DELA CRUZ**

# 9 killed in Negros land dispute

An alleged dispute over land ownership resulted in the death of nine people in a remote barangay in Sagay City, Negros Occidental on Saturday, reports reaching the Philippine National Police headquarters in Quezon City on Sunday showed.

According to Negros Occidental Provincial Police Office director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Castil, those killed were not residents of Sagay based on initial reports they gathered.

But the information provided by Police Supt. Joem Malong, spokesman for the Western Visayas regional police, showed the victims were from Sagay. In fact, the shooting incident happened in Purok Firetree, Barangay Bulanon in Sagay City at around 9:45 p.m. Saturday, he added.

The victims were members of the Negros Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW) and identified as: Eglisario Villegas, 36, Angelipe Arsenal, Alias Morena Mendoza and Marchtel Sumicad, 17, all of Barangay Bulanon, alias Pater, alias Bingbing Bantigue and alias Dodong Laurencio of Barangay Plaridel; alias Necnet Dumaguit and alias Jomarie Ughayon Jr., 17, a resident of Purok Cesco, Barangay Rafaela Barrera.

Citing witnesses, Castil said a group of armed men arrived at the land occupied by the victims and opened fire.

"Based on initial reports, the motive here is land dispute, Castil said.

A separate report from the Negros Occidental Provincial Police, said the shooting took place in Hacienda Nene in Purok Firetree, Barangay Bulanon in Sagay City, adding the suspects

numbered "more or less forty unidentified armed men."

Police said they received a phone call from a concerned citizen informing them of the incident.

Based on initial police investigation, several farm workers reportedly belonging to NSWF occupied an agricultural land that is part of Hacienda Nene owned by a certain Mrs. Carmen Tolentino on Saturday morning, one day after the owner harvested sugar cane from the farm.

**According to Negros Occidental Provincial Police Office director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Castil, those killed were not residents of Sagay based on initial reports they gathered.**

The armed men allegedly caught the farm workers off-guard as they were resting when the shooting started. Some of the workers managed to escape after scampering for safety. The suspects also burned three of the workers who died during the shooting.

At least 12 pieces of cartridge case of a 5.56 caliber firearm, a homemade caliber .38 with one cartridge case and seven pieces of fired cartridge case of a .45 caliber firearm were recovered from the scene.

Joint operatives from the Negros Occidental Provincial Police Office and the Special Action Force have launched a manhunt for the suspects.

✶ **Komfie Manalo**

## ORA MISMO

OPINIONES



### Hustisiya sa Negros 9 massacre

MAY premyong P250,000 ang sinumang maka-kapag-nguso sa mga autoridad patay man o buhay na mga kriminal na nag-massacre sa 9 miyembro ng National Federation of Sugar Workers o NFSW sa Hacienda Purok Firetree, Barangay Bulanon Sagay City, Negros Occidental.

Sabi nga, kabilang sa mga niratrat ay 4 na bebop at dalawang menor de edad. Ang mga ito raw ay nagpapahinga sa isang kubo na nakatirik sa kanilang sakahan.

May iba't-ibang bersyon ang lumalabas sa mga kuwentuhan ng mga barbero dahil may mga nagsasabing mga sundalo ang lumira sa 9 people, may nagtuturo naman na 6 killers ang rumatrat sa mga pinetay?

Naku ha!

Sino kaya?

Magulo pa ang imbestigasyon hindi pa mainaw ang nangyaring massacre at wala pang maayos na testigo kakanta laban sa mga salarin.

Sabi ng mga asst ng mga kuwago ng ORA MISMO, hindi daw mga residents ng Sagay ang mga niratrat na magbubukid?

Avon sa mga asst ng mga kuwago ng ORA MISMO, magulo pa ang kuwentuhan blues may mga nagsasabi ang patayan ay dahil umano sa agawan ng lupang sinasaka.

Sa ipinadalang mensahe ng 'Ang Unyon ng mga Manggagawa o UMA' ikinakanta ni John Milton Lozande, secretary general ng parehong UMA at NFSW, na responsable diumano sina Boss Digong at AFP sa kamuhimuhing gawa ng karahasan laban sa mga minasaker?

Sinasabi ang sakahan daw ay minimintina ng Bagong Hukbong Bayan rebels communal farms?

Naku ha!

Totoo kaya ito?

Bago hangyan ang masaker may dalawang lider ng NFSW, ang pinatay din sa Sagay City.

Si Flora A. Jemola, chairperson of NFSW-Sagay City, ay napatay noong December 21, 2017, sa isang LCA area sa Hacienda Susan Brgy. Poblacion 1 Sagay City. Namatay ito matapos maglamo ng 13 saksak. Pinaghihinalaang elemento diumano ng SCAA/CAFGU members sa ilalim ng 12th IB of the Philippine Army?

Ayon sa sumbong, napatay din si Ronald Manlanet, member ng local chapter ng NFSW sa Hacienda Joefred, Barangay General Luna, Sagay City, noong February 21, 2018. Pinaghihinalaan din ang mga lumira dito ay mga elemento diumano ng SCAA/CAFGU members sa ilalim ng 12th IB of the Philippine Army? Niratrat ito nang isang magazine ng M16 sa ulo ng killer.

Sinasabing may mga pagbabanta na sa buhay ni Manlanet dahil sa pakikilahok sa cultivation campaign sa Barangay Luna, kung saan ang mga hacienda workers at magsasaka ay nananawagan para ipatupad ang agrarian reform.

Umbot na sa 45 ang bilang ng mga magsasakang namatay sa Negros Island sa ilalim ng rehimeng Duterte.

Ang feudal at semi-feudal situation sa Negros ay katakut-takot.

Isinisigaw ng grupo ng mga magsasaka ang "Justice to the Negros 9 massacre"

Mabigyan kaya?

Abangan.



## Ex-police, AFP men join La Union poll fray

**LUNA, La Union:** Members of a new political party called Alliance of Former AFP and PNP Members (Luna, La Union Chapter) have filed their respective certificates of candidacy (CoC) for the 2019 mid-term elections.

AFP is the Armed Forces of the Philippines and PNP, the Philippine National Police.

The new alliance is composed of former police and military men.

In a text message, retired Col. Abelardo Garcia, president and overall chairman of the board of the alliance, said the formation of the political party will ensure peace and order in the town in next year's polls.

Garcia is running for vice mayor under the ticket of Romeo Resur-

reccion.

For councilors, the candidates are former police officials Mario Ringor, Primitivo Estabillo, Edgardo Flores and Carlos Tampos Jr., former military official Benedicto Navalta, former Education official Cesar Higoy, and former *barangay* (village) chairman Francisco Pony Aguinaldo.

Completing the slate of the alliance is lawyer Romeo Camacho.

Their team Pudno nga Anak ti Luna (Real Offspring of Luna) will be pitted against incumbent Luna officials, including Mayor Victor Marvin Marron.

Garcia ran but lost against Marron in the 2016 mayoral race in Luna. **WILLIAM JUN GARCIA**

## PNP, reresbak sa Army

**TATANGKAIN** ng Philippine National Police (PNP) chess team na makaresbak sa pakikipagtagisan ng talino kontra sa powerhouse na Philippine Army Chess Team sa pagpapatuloy ng AFP-PNP-PCG Olympics 2018 Chess Team Championships ngayon sa PNP Sports Center sa Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Nasa ilalim ng kandili nina team manager PSSUPT Jormel Estomo, coaches SPO3 Jomar "Jones" Mendoza Pascua at SPO1 Renato "Buboy" Abalos, ang PNP chess team ay binubuo nina Estomo, PSI Horizon Villanueva, PINSP Ronald Agabao, PSUPT Antonieto Canete, PSUPT Jaime Santos, PCINSP Christopher Muego, PINSP Ferdinand Aterrado, PCINSP Alfred Arturo, PSUPT Romilo Datu, PSUPT Jonas Escarcha, PCINSP Bryan Gregorio, PCI Alberto Gaddi, PO3 Jerry Tolentino, SPO2 NM Ali Branzuela, PO2 NM Rolando Andador, PO2 Leandro Macasinag, SPO3 Demetrio Laroya, PO1 Mcwayne Molina, SPO3 Ruvillo Paulin, PO3 Ernie Abanco, PO2 Jones Maghuyop, PO1 Neptali Batucan, PO1 Danilo Tiempo, PO3 Ireneo Calvadores, PSUPT Antonio Dizon, PSUPT Laurence Reloj, PSUPT Torres at PSUPT Emmanuel Tabuena.

"This will be an exciting match between two powerhouse teams in the AFP-PNP-PCG Olympics. Expect fireworks on the board," sabi ni PNP chess team coach SPO3 Jomar "Jones" Pascua.

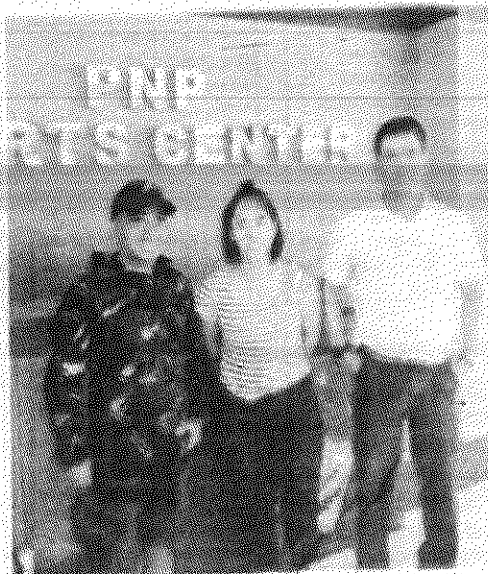
Natalo ang PNP chess team kontra sa Philippine Army Chess Team, 4.5-7.5, sa kaniyang first encounter nitong Oktubre 10.

Ang Army woodpushers na nasa gabay naman nina team Manager Brigadier General Rodel Mauro Alarcon, Special Service Center Director Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Lachica at coach Corporal Idefonso "Ponching" Datu ay kinabibilangan nina Datu, Captain Marlou Daguito, Captain and National Master Lawyer Bob Jones Liwagan, Team Captain Lieutenant

Colonel Perpetuo Tan Jr., Lieutenant Colonel Lebrito Olmuguez, Lieutenant Colonel Martin Famador, Mayor Edgar Gonzales, Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Parba, First Lieutenant Irene Rivera, Major Kristine Joy Castillo, Major Cyprus Legaspina, Lieutenant Colonel Emmanuel De Deque, Corporal Grandmaster Darwin Laylo, Sargeant Grandmaster Jayson Gonzales, Private GM-elect Ronald Dableo, Private International Master Joel Pimentel, Sargeant National Master Carlo Rosaupan, Private First Class Antonio Chavez Jr., Private Alfred Rapanot, Private Kevin Mirano, Private Kevin Arquero, Private First Class Raquel Suan at TSG Oscar Colmenares.

Nakalikom ang Philippine Army squad ng five wins, hawak naman ng PNP ang 4-1 marka, habang ang defending champion Philippine Airforce ay may narpong 3-3.

Sina Tan Jr. at Chavez Jr. ang top scorer ng Philippine Army na may tig 4.5 points habang sina Canete at Branzuela ang nangunguna namati sa Philippine National Police na may 4.5 markers



**PINASINAYAHAN** ng Woman Grandmaster Janelle Mee Frayna ang AFP-PNP duel kasama sina Lieutenant Colonel Vicente Flora Jr. (kanan) ng Philippine Airforce chess team at Senior Sargeant National Master Ronald Liavanes (kaliwa), coach ng Philippine Airforce chess team.

# 'Personalized' gifts for rebs who give up

By Jeannette L. Andrade  
 @jlandradeINQ

The Department of National Defense (DND) continued to dangle houses and funding for livelihood in a bid to entice communist rebels to surrender through a well-fund-

ed program that bore no mention of the root causes of the rebellion.

In a statement, Defense Undersecretary Reynaldo Mapagu said rebels should give up their guns and "come home and reunite with their families this Christmas."

Mapagu heads the multi-

agency Task Force Balik Loob, which was created to end the countryside rebellion rooted in agrarian unrest.

He said 225 former rebels from northern Luzon had already enrolled in the surrender campaign called Enhanced

Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP).

#### Offer

E-CLIP, Mapagu said, offered rebels housing, education, livelihood, health care and other benefits in exchange for

their surrender.

Aid to rebels, he said, "is personalized."

"This is not a one size fits all approach," he said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines chimed in, saying "people's revolution is al-

ready passe."

In a separate statement, AFP spokesperson Brig Gen Edgard Arevalo said rebels should see they're being sent to battle by leaders who "luxuriate in money they extort from business persons." INQ

# Order to free 3 activists tagged Reds voided

By Maricar Cinco  
 @maricarcincoINQ

SAN PEDRO CITY—The chief provincial prosecutor of Laguna has voided the order to release three of the four people arrested with Adelberto Silva, a consultant for the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

Laguna Prosecutor Ma. Victoria Dado amended her earlier resolution and found probable cause to charge Silva, his driver Julio Lusania, Hedda

Calderon, Ireneo Atadero and Edisel Legaspi with illegal possession of explosives, a non-bailable offense.

Dado, in a resolution on Oct. 18, found probable cause to charge only Silva and Lusania.

In that resolution, Dado ordered the release of Calderon, Atadero and Legaspi.

## Change of tune

Calderon is a consultant for Gabriela party-list group, Atadero is an organizer of militant labor group Kilusang Mayo

Uno, and Legaspi is an organic farmer.

But on Oct. 19, Dado amended her resolution and voided the release order, according to Christina Palabay, secretary general of human rights group Karapatan, in a phone interview on Sunday.

Palabay said the reversal came after the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, which sent the team to arrest the four, submitted new evidence to the prosecutor.

Silva, in an earlier phone in-

terview from detention at Camp Crame, said he was traveling with the three on Monday and headed to a resort in Liliw town, Laguna, for a meeting on Caser, one of the draft agreements in peace talks between NDFP and the Duterte administration.

## Lofty goals

Caser, or Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms, was the focus of negotiations that President Duterte scuttled.

The proposed pact sought to spur industrialization and carry out sweeping land reform to address what rebels said was the root of rebellion in the countryside.

The group of Silva was stopped by police and soldiers as it reached Sta. Cruz town.

The military said they were leaders of the New People's Army in Southern Tagalog, particularly Legaspi.

Police said firearms and explosives were recovered from the car carrying the group.

But Silva said the firearms and explosives were "planted" by the police and the military.

"This is a classic case of how state forces are really into the business of filing cases from out of nowhere," Palabay said.

She said the arrest of Silva, months after the government terminated the peace talks, had "reached the maximum," as they saw it as a violation of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines. INQ

# AFP to communist surrenderees: We will protect you

By **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday reassured surrendering members of the New People's Army (NPA) of protection from their former comrades who might try to prevent them from living normal lives back in the fold of the law.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said the government is committed to ensuring the returnees' safety and giving them a chance to live happily with their families.

Arevalo noted the military helps provide protection to qualified surrenderees "from their former comrades who might want to deprive them of this opportunity to be with their families and mainstream society again."

"This is the best time to surrender and avail of these benefits now enjoyed by hundreds of former rebels," he declared as the AFP joined President Duterte in his continuing call for NPA members to lay down their arms as most of them have already done.

Arevalo said rebel returnees have a chance "to avail of the offer to have a new lease of a peaceful, productive and joyful life with their loved ones in a community of fellow Filipinos welcoming and embracing them back to its folds."

"Their so-called people's revolution is already passé as more and more Filipinos - including the ones in their losing 'army' of communists - have realized the inutility of their

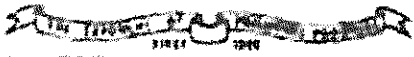
pretended ideology that has now turned into terrorism of the people and the exploitation of their own," he noted.

Arevalo said hundreds who have surrendered, and those still in the mountains but have sent surrender feelers, now say that they came to realize that while they were being pushed to fight it out in the frontlines, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) leadership in Europe and in the cities luxuriate in the money they extort from business persons.

"The government has the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) in full swing to ensure that former rebels will have a holistic package of benefits that they can avail such as, but not limited to, health, education, livelihood assistance and legal assistance," he stressed. 3

Arevalo said the NPA rebels do not need the likes of Jose Maria Sison to broker for peaceful and meaningful lives for them because they can, as the AFP has been supporting, avail themselves of localized peace talks.

"That is more responsive to their particular needs and situations. CPP leaders abroad are out of touch and have only their personal interests to protect in making ludicrous demands for the talks but do not perform their share to make peace work," he said.



# Duterte reiterates call for NPAs to surrender

By ANTONIO L. COLINA IV

**D**AVAO CITY - President Rodrigo R. Duterte admitted that he was growing frustrated by the entry of foreign corporations that own some lands in the country, but he insisted that the Communists need not resort to killing to change this reality.

"Life is not a revolution," Duterte said, Friday, during the inauguration of the new Gaisano Grand Citygate Mall in Buhangin district here.

"Philippines is agriculture-based. We will really till the land even if we have to ask for help. I know that some lands are now owned by what we call foreign corporations and that hurts. I felt hurt by it, too," he said.

Duterte acknowledged the support of the New People's Army (NPA) in helping him win the 2016 presidential elections. He asked them to help him find "a way for all of us to live," not necessarily get rich.

Duterte promised the NPA surrenderers houses and jobs. He said he will have them undergo training at the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to study and learn new skills.

Duterte vowed to give away all government-owned lands to the people, including members of the NPA as he did in Boracay that was closed to tourists for a six-month rehabilitation.

"I ordered the Secretary of Agrarian Reform to distribute government-owned lands to the people and even the NPAs... What I did so that the poor people will not be shortchanged is declare land reform over a portion of Boracay. It will be given to the natives," he said.

The President reiterated his call to members of the New People's Army (NPA) to sur-

render their arms to the government, not only for themselves but also for their own children as nothing will come out of their underground movement.

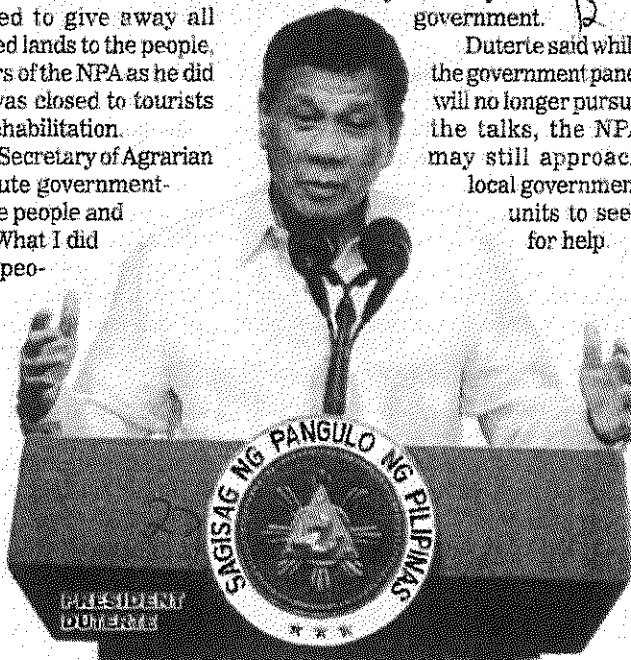
Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) chair Jose Maria Sison said in a statement on Saturday that the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) was ready to go back to the negotiating table with the government.

Sison said that the standing policy of the NDFP was to "negotiate with the GRP (Philippine Government) anytime it is ready to resume the peace negotiations in accordance with The Hague Joint Declaration and further agreements."

He encouraged the President to lift his Proclamation 360 that he issued on November 23, 2017, ordering the government panel to stop all negotiations with the Communist group for failing to show "sincerity and commitment in pursuing genuine and meaningful peace negotiations as it engaged on acts of violence and hostilities, endangering the lives and properties of innocent people."

Sison said the President was trying to bribe the members of the NPA, the armed wing of the communists, with his promises of giving them house and a job if they surrender to government.

Duterte said while the government panel will no longer pursue the talks, the NPA may still approach local government units to seek for help.



# AFP backs call for Reds to surrender

THE New People's Army (NPA) does not need Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria "Toma" Sison in achieving lasting peace in the country, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said on Sunday.

In belittling Sison's role in ending what is probably the world's longest communist insurgency, Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, AFP spokesman, said the military joined President Rodrigo Duterte's renewed call for communist rebels to surrender to the government.

"The NPA [rebels] do not need the likes of Jose Maria Sison to broker for peaceful and meaningful lives for them. They can avail [themselves] of localized peace talks,

as the AFP has been supporting [such talks]," Arevalo said in a statement.

"CPP leaders abroad are out of touch and have only their personal interests to protect in making ludicrous demands for the talks but do not perform their share to make peace work," he said.

Arevalo cited the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program, in which former NPA rebels receive a "wholistic package" of benefits such as health, education and livelihood and legal assistance.

"This is the best time to surrender and avail (sic) of these benefits now enjoyed by hundreds of former rebels," he said.

At the same time, the military spokesman branded the revolution being

pushed by the NPA rebels as "passe," saying Filipinos have "already realized the inutility" of the ideology being presented by the local communists.

In a speech last Friday, Duterte reiterated that he was willing to provide jobs to NPA rebels surrendering to the military, saying he did not want to kill them.

Arevalo backed the statement of the President, boasting that hundreds of communist rebels had yielded.

"[T]hey have come to realize that while they were being pushed to fight it out in the frontlines, the CPP leadership in Europe and in the cities luxuriate in the money they extort from business persons," he said.

A3

DEMPSEY REYES

# Palace to Reds: Walk the talk on peace

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Malacañang yesterday renewed its call for the Communist Party of the Philippines to support President Duterte's call for peace after CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison reiterated his openness to resume the stalled talks with the government.

On Saturday, Sison said the communists are willing to resume talks with the government in accordance with The Hague Joint Declaration and other agreements.

He said it would be up to Duterte to end his position of having terminated the negotiations.

The rebel leader, however, accused Duterte of bribing communists when he offered jobs to New People's Army (NPA) members who surrendered to the government.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the communists must first show genuine sincerity for the resumption of talks.

"The government cannot sit with their leaders in the same negotiating table while the latter's armed comrades are committing criminal acts and bringing harm to our people. These include the ambushing of our armed forces and innocent civilians while enforcing their so-called revolutionary taxes and destroying the properties of individuals or entities who refuse to give in to their orders," Panelo said.

He challenged Sison and his forces "to walk the talk and support the President's call for conciliation toward the nation's quest for enduring peace.

Panelo said the government has been dismayed over what he described as the rebels' "opportunistic attacks."

Panelo denied that Duterte's offer of livelihood was a form of bribery.

He said the sooner the armed conflict ends, the better it is for our country.



Meanwhile, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año said Sison's new offer to resume peace talks is an attempt to relieve the pressure from the rebels, which he said is losing the battle in the hinterlands.

Año said the ambush on the convoy of Food and Drug Administration chief Nela Charade Puno showed that Sison's offer to resume the peace talks is pointless.

Malacañang denounced the ambush that killed three police officers and wounded three others in Camarines Sur on Thursday.

Panelo gave assurance that the perpetrators would be brought

thoughts for the speedy recovery of the policemen who were wounded during this brazen assault," Panelo said.

Año said there is no use talking peace if the rebels keep on sowing lawlessness and terrorism like the Camarines Sur ambush.

Puno and her staff survived the attack that occurred in Lupit town on Thursday.

- With Cecille Suerte Felipe

to justice

He commended the slain police officers and condoled with their families.

"We also send our prayers and

## Palace cautious on peace talks, snipes at Joma for 'lack of control'

By Nat Mariano

THE Palace on Sunday was cautious about the prospect of reviving peace talks with the communist rebels.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said even the Communist Party of the Philippines founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison has no control over the rebel forces on the ground.

"The problem with Joma Sison is he

wants to talk, but he does not have control over his forces. While negotiating, he ambushes our police forces," Panelo told radio dzBB on Sunday.

"They said, we cannot be killing each other for the rest of our lives, but they have been like that for 50 years. Maybe we should change our track. Let us give ourselves and our families a chance," he said, pushing for a change of tactics.

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### Palace...

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Panelo's remarks came after Sison said the CPP-National Democratic Front of the Philippines is willing to resume the peace negotiations whenever President Rodrigo Duterte is ready.

"The standing policy of the NDFP is to negotiate with the GRP anytime he is ready to resume the peace negotiations in accordance with The Hague Joint Declaration and further agreements," Sison said.

In November last year, the President signed Proclamation 360, terminating the peace negotiations with the CPP-New People's Army-NDFP.

Duterte has also started to offer housing and employment assistance for rebels who surrender as a way of ending the hostilities.

"Your underground movement will not amount to anything. But I am ready to accept you if you surrender. Bring your firearms, give it to me, and I will give you a house and a job. You can be sure of that," the President told the communist rebels in a speech Friday.

Defense Undersecretary Reynaldo Mapagu, chairman of Task Force Balik-Loob, echoed Duterte's call for rebels to lay down their arms and "cooperate" with the government.

Mapagu asked rebel returnees to tell

their former comrades to come home and reunite with their families for the Christmas season.

"I hope they would accept the government's generosity to come back into society for them to be with their loved ones in time for Christmas," the Defense official said in a statement.

He said former rebels can avail of a housing unit or assistance worth P450,000, skills training, livelihood opportunities, business capital, health care, and education for their children as long as they adhere to the rule of law.

"The assistance the government gives is personalized for the rebel returnees. It's not 'one size, fits all' approach that everyone receives the same assistance then ceases," he said.

TFBL implements the government's reintegration program, calling on communist rebels to take the government's offer through the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program. It then monitors and assesses the implementation of E-CLIP at the national level.

The government's chief negotiator, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, said the administration would continue to pursue localized peace talks with communist rebels, despite Sison's offer.

"You have to remember that our President already decided that in the meantime we will try the other track of the peace

negotiations, which is the localized peace talks," Bello said in an interview with the ANC news channel.

Despite the talk of peace, the Philippine National Police on Sunday alerted all field units to conduct counter-actions against members of the CPP-NPA following the recent attacks against police officers in various provinces.

The PNP said the increased activities by the communists could also be part of its "saber-rattling" tactics to project an image of strength to highlight the forthcoming CPP anniversary on Dec. 26, and bolster its extortion activities in the forthcoming election season.

In Negros Island, in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, launched a manhunt of a group of some 40 armed men who set on fire a bulldozer and a back hoe owned by PhilSouth Construction in Barangay Bolisong, Manjuyod, Negros Oriental in the evening of Oct. 18.

No casualties were reported in the incident.

Passengers of a commercial bus who witnessed the incident, told police investigators that the armed men shouted "Mabuhay ang Bagong Hukbong Bayan" while setting the heavy equipment on fire.

Investigators are looking into extortion as a motive for the incident.

Local officials of Negros Oriental denounced this latest communist attack,

saying it stalled the construction of a vital farm-to-market road.

"Those behind this crime are resisting entry of development in the countryside that would have ushered government presence and availability of goods and services that will benefit people in the barrios," PNP chief Oscar Albayalde said in a statement.

In separate incident, three policemen were killed while three others were wounded in an ambush by suspected NPA rebels in Barangay Napolidan, Lupi, Camarines Sur on Oct. 18.

The casualties were assigned as security escorts of Food and Drug Administration Director General Nela Charade Pano.

On Oct. 16, suspected communist rebels also ambushed a group of policemen in Aurora that resulted in the death of PO2 Ronald Ruidera.

"We condemn these latest acts of lawless terror by the local communist movement against symbols of government authority. We mourn their loss, but assure [the public that] the ends of justice will be served," Albayalde said.

"This is not only an attack on the police, but an assault on a national agency that protects consumer welfare," he added.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines on Sunday expressed support for the President's fresh calls to NPA fighters to lay down their weapons and rejoin mainstream society. **With PNA**

## No use talking peace with Reds, says Año

INTERIOR officer-in-charge Eduardo Año yesterday said the ambush staged by the New People's Army in Camarines Sur last week only showed the "futility" of holding peace talks with the communists.

Last Thursday, three policemen died while three others were wounded after an NPA group attacked a convoy of policemen securing Nela Charade Puno, director general of

the Food and Drug Administration, who was to attend an event in Daet town. Puno was unhurt.

Condemning the attack, Puno said, "This violent incident against government officials who are just doing their jobs is a pure act of terrorism that shows the futility of talking to Joma Sison."

He was referring to Jose Maria

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### • FROM PAGE B1 •

#### NO USE

"Joma" Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines whose armed wing is the NPA

President Duterte terminated formal peace negotiations with communist group middle of this year due to abuses by NPA rebels, including killing of soldiers and civilians, even while the talks were ongoing. He has also said the communist leaders apparently want a coalition government, which Duterte said he cannot allow.

Puno's convoy, consisting of her main vehicle and two police vehicles, was passing through Barangay Napolidan in Lupi, Camarines Sur

at around 9:10 a.m. on Thursday when around 20 NPA rebels opened fire, killing three police security escorts and injuring three others. Puno's vehicle sped off as the NPA rebels continuously fired at the tailing police car.

"How can Joma expect to have meaningful peace negotiations when they are killing our police officers and ambushing government officials including the FDA head who was just there to attend a government event?" said Año, chief of the Armed Forces before he was appointed to the interior department.

"We in government are working double time to ensure peace and order in the country. Instead of talking to Joma, we will instead

pursue localized peace talks as mentioned by the President because we will never give up on peace," he said.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo asked NPA rebels to surrender and not wait for Sison, who has been on self-exile in the Netherlands since the late 80s, and other communist leaders to broker a peace accord with the government.

Echoing Duterte, Arevalo said Sison and the other leaders are a luxurious life in the Netherlands and have only their "personal interests" to protect in the peace negotiations.

"The NPAs do not need the likes of Jose Maria Sison to broker for peaceful and meaningful lives for

them," he said.

"CPP leaders abroad are out of touch and have only their personal interests to protect in making ludicrous demands for the talks but do not perform their share to make peace work," he also said.

On Friday, Duterte renewed his call to the communist rebels to surrender, offering them houses, and the chance to enter politics.

Military estimates place the NPA strength to about 3,000 to 4,000.

A few hundred NPA rebels have surrendered to the Armed Forces and availed of the government's Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program. About 9,000 rebel supporters have also surrendered. - Victor Reyes

'WE CAN FORGE PEACE'

# AFP to NPA: Drop Joma

Duterte stressed that the only way for the peace talks to move forward is for the other parties to agree to his conditions

**By Mario J. Mallari**

Echoing President Rodrigo Duterte's call to New People's Army (NPA) combatants to surrender, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday challenged the Maoist rebels to

abandon Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Maria Sison and forge peace with government.

Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, AFP spokesman, said now is the best time for communist fighters to rejoin the mainstream

society with the all-out support being offered by the Duterte administration to rebel-returns.

"Their so-called people's revolution is already passe as more and more Filipinos — including the ones in their losing army of communists — have

already realized the inutility of their ideology," Arevalo said.

Arevalo also called the CPP-NPA as a terror combine.

On Saturday, Mr. Duterte said he was willing to accept NPA rebels back to the fold of the law if they decide to lay down their arms.

The President said he is open to localized peace talks, like the one being advocated by his daughter Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio.

Mr. Duterte dismissed negotiating with Sison, who is in exile in The Netherlands.

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## The NPA does not need the likes of Sison to broker for peaceful and meaningful lives for them

**From page 1**

Arevalo parroted the President's pronouncement against Sison.

"The NPA does not need the likes of Sison to broker for peaceful and meaningful lives for them. They can, as the AFP has been supporting, avail themselves of localized peace talks," Arevalo said.

"That is more responsive to their particular needs and situations," he added.

According to Arevalo, "CPP leaders abroad are out of touch and have only their personal interests to protect in making ludicrous demands for the talks but do not perform their share to make peace work."

**Their so-called people's revolution is already passé.**

The military claimed thousands of NPA rebels have already surrendered, with even more sending surrender feelers due to demoralization in their ranks.

"They now came to realize that while they were being pushed to fight it out in the frontlines, the CPP leadership in Europe and in the cities luxuriate in the money they extort from business persons," Arevalo said.

Arevalo added rebel-returnees enjoy all-out government assistance under the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) to ensure that former rebels will have a holistic package of benefits that they can avail themselves of like health, education, livelihood assistance and legal

assistance.

He said the AFP also helps provide qualified ECLIP enrollees protection from their former comrades who might want to deprive rebel-returnees of their opportunity to be with their families and the mainstream society again.

**it's okay. Drop the firearms, drop the gun and we will not have a problem.**

The President canceled the peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the political wing of the CPP-NPA, in 2017 after communist rebels continued attacks against government forces.

But the Chief Executive said he is willing to sit down with the rebels "if they want to surrender."

After four rounds of talks, government canceled peace talks with the Maoist rebels on 22 November 2017 with President Duterte citing "recent tragic and violent incidents all over the country committed by the communist rebels" as reasons for the termination of the peace process.

Duterte stressed that the only way for the peace talks to move forward is for the other parties to agree to his conditions. Among them is to hold the negotiations in the country, the signing and honoring of a ceasefire, stopping the collection of revolutionary taxes and that no coalition government will be forged if peace is sealed between the two parties.

The security cluster is also waiting for the President to issue an executive order regarding the guidelines in starting localized peace talks with insurgents.

President Duterte agreed to a first round of talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF on 22 to 26 August 2016 in Oslo, Norway.

The second round of talks was held on 6 to 10 October in the same year.

Both camps agreed to impose a ceasefire on armed hostilities during the third round of talks on 19 to 25 January

in Rome, Italy. But the agreement did not hold for long with government ending its unilateral ceasefire on 3 February 2017 while the communists followed suit the following day.

The major personalities set free for the talks, including top-ranking communist leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamson, returned to the underground movement after government issued arrest warrants against them.

**CPP leaders abroad are out of touch and have only their personal interests to protect.**

Backchannel talks, however, led to the fourth round of talks on 3 to 6 April 2017 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The scheduled fifth round of discussion was suspended following exchanges of harsh words from both Mr. Duterte and Sison while the NPA and the military have resumed intensified attacks against each other.

**The military claimed thousands of NPA rebels have already surrendered, with even more sending surrender feelers due to demoralization in their ranks.**

The President's offer is coming amid what military claimed is a CPP-NPA-organized "Red October" Duterte-ouster plot. The AFP claimed it had fizzled out even before it could take off.

But the AFP said the "Red October" is a moving plot and may even take place at yearend when the CPP celebrates its 50th anniversary on 26 December 2018.

"Set down your arms and we will not have a problem. If you wish to join politics, it's okay. Drop the firearms, drop the gun and we will not have a problem," Mr. Duterte said.

"We will not be just friends but Filipino brothers and sisters," Duterte added.

"Sison and I will no longer talk. But to the other communists, if you don't want Sison to talk to me, surrender," Mr. Duterte said.

## Gov't urges rebels to come home for Christmas, live peaceful lives

By FRANCIS T. WANEFIELD

The government, through Defense Undersecretary Reynaldo B. Mapagu, Chairperson of the Task Force Balik-Loob (TFBL) is asking rebel returnees to help urge their former comrades still involved in the armed struggle to come surrender, return to their families this Christmas and enjoy the benefits of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP).

"Sana ay tanggapin ng mga kapatid nating mga rebelde ang kabutihang loob ng ating pamahalaan, bumaba na sila sa kabundukan, at magbalik sa lipu-

nan para makapiling nila ang kanilang mga pamilya, lalo na nitong nalalapit na kapaskuhan (We hope that the rebels accept and welcome the kindness shown by the government, that they leave their mountain hideouts, return to society and be with their families this Christmas)." Mapagu said last week, when 126 former rebels from Northern Luzon were briefed on the benefits they may avail of from various government through TFBL.

The benefits include a housing unit or housing assistance worth ₱450,000, skills training, livelihood opportunities, business capital, healthcare for themselves and their family members, edu-

cation for their children, among others.

These are on top of immediate assistance and livelihood assistance from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), which also provides firearms remuneration depending on the type and condition of the weapon surrendered.

E-CLIP is the flagship program of the Duterte administration that provides social equity to former members of the CPP-NPA-NDF and the Militia ng Bayan.

TFBL, on the other hand, is an interagency body that monitors and assesses the implementation of E-CLIP at the national level.

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## 7 Communist terrorists yield in Compostela Valley

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Seven members of the Communist New People's Army Terrorist Group (CNTG) recently surrendered to the military in Compostela Valley, bringing along with them war materiel and other revolutionary items.

The military said a certain Bert was a member of the Yunit Pampropaganda Platin, while alias Bryan was with the Sentro de Granidai (SDG) group both of Guerilla Front 25 of the Sub-regional Committee, Southern Mindanao Regional Committee. Both surrendered to Lt. Col. Palmer M. Parungao on October 15.

They brought with them war materiel and instructional materials used by cadres in teach-ins and recruitment.

The two surrendered an improvised explosive device (IED), improvised 22 caliber long rifle, books, publications, notebooks, reference materials, placards and other documents of intelligence value. War materiel they brought along include IED blasting paraphernalia, 12 clips for a garand rifle, WACOM V105 radio and one caliber 40-mm magazine.

Meanwhile, alias Dats, a former Komiteng Rebolusyonaryo sa Munisipalidad chairman, facilitated the surrender of a political guide and organizer of the Guerilla Front 25.



## Palace hits ambush of FDA chief's convoy

MALACANANG on Sunday condemned the recent ambush of the convoy of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Director-General Nela Charade Puno last Thursday.

The two-vehicle convoy of Puno was attacked in Lupi, Camarines Sur, by suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA).

Three police security escorts of the FDA chief were killed, while Puno herself and her team were "unharmful," according to the Department of Health.

"We strongly denounce the ambush of Food and Drug Administration [FDA] Director-General Nela Charade Puno and her convoy in Camarines Sur which left at least three policemen dead and three others wounded," Palace spokesman

► Ambush **AB**

### ■ AMBUSH FROM A1

## Palace hits

Salvador Panelo said in a statement.

Panelo lauded the policemen who were killed in the line of duty and sent the government's condolences to their families.

He confirmed that Puno would not be attending the wake of the policemen, based on advice from authorities.

"We likewise send our prayers and thoughts for the speedy recovery of the policemen who were wounded during this brazen assault," Panelo said.

He added that the government would do any means necessary to put those responsible for the crime behind bars.

"Investigation is now underway and we will ensure that the perpetrators of this unjustifiable act are brought to justice," Panelo said.

On Friday, President Rodrigo Duterte again asked the members of the NPA to surrender to the government as he offered them jobs and houses.

"Listen, NPAs, I'm not fighting with you and I don't want to kill you, but I don't know about you. But we are really friends," Duterte said in a speech in Davao City.

"Your underground movement will not amount to anything. But I am ready to accept you if you surrender. Bring your firearms, give [them] to me, and I will give you a house and a job," he added.

Duterte had made conflicting statements on resolving the communist insurgency in the country.

For one, he said there will be no longer peace talks with the rebels, but, for another, he said "localized" peace talks would still be a possibility.

**RALPH U. VILLANUEVA**

## AFP denies viewing dissent as a crime

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday denied it was considering dissent on the Duterte administration as a crime.

Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo, AFP spokesman, was responding to a statement of former Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares, condemning the arrest of nine members of Gabriela, Anakpawis and Bayan-Muna and that of Adelberto Silva, a peace talks consultant for the National Democratic Front (NDF).

"To say that the government, AFP included, is treating dissent as a crime is a misleading if not a malicious imputation," Arevalo said in a statement.

Arevalo stressed that the apprehension of Silva and the others was based on the rule of law and "protected" the Filipino people, adding that it does not matter if those accused were activists or peace panel consultants.

Silva and four others were arrested in Santa Cruz, Laguna on Monday by the Philippine Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade.

"The accused may have been ordered released by the court since the charges were set for further investigation, but that doesn't make the case filed flawed. It is due process at work," the military spokesman said.

"We are, as that old adage says, a government of laws and not of men. No one is above the law," he said, citing the 1987 Constitution where the Philippine mili-

tary is recognized as the protector of the people and the state.

Arevalo also assured the public that the military would protect the constitutionally guaranteed rights to speech, freedom of the press, of association and to peacefully hold protests for expressing grievances towards the government.

Arevalo defended the military's decision to disclose the communist rebels' alleged plot to oust President Rodrigo Duterte codenamed "Red October" by infiltrating groups, staging protests, saying it is not "alarmist."

"It's being forthright. That the plan was foiled, that it fizzled out because it was prevented doesn't mean it was a propaganda or that the plot did not exist," Arevalo insisted.

The military previously released a list of universities and colleges where communist rebels were allegedly recruiting members to carry out "Red October" such as the University of the Philippines Diliman and Manila campuses, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of Santo Tomas, Adamson University, and Far Eastern University, among others.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said "Red October" has fizzled out and that Filipinos should instead look forward to a "White Christmas."

**DEMPSEY REYES**

## Alok ni Digong sa NPAs panahon na para tanggapin

Naniniwala si Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo na panahon na para tanggapin ng mga rebeldeng komunista ang alok na tulong ni Pangulong Duterte.

Sinabi ni Panelo na makakatayak daw sa pangako ng punong ehekutibo na handa itong tanggapin ang rebeldeng komunista sa oras na sumuko ang mga ito, na bibigyan pa umano ng bahay at trabaho.

Mamam aniya na baguhin na sa ngayon ang taklif o ruta sa pagtulong at pagbago sa lipunan.

Pero sa ngayon, nag-iingat ang Malacañang sa naging panayag kamakailan ni communist leader Jose Maria Sison na bukas daw ang Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) sa resumption ng peace negotiations sa oras na handa na muli si Pangulong Duterte.

Sinabi ni Panelo na ang problema raw kay Sison ay gusto niyang makipag-usap subalit hindi naman daw nito kontrolado ang mga nasa baba niya.

Habang nag-uusap daw kasi ang dalawang panig, may mga pagkaka-laon na na-ambush naman ang tropa ng pamahalaan. (Rudy Andal)

## Alok na tulong ni Duterte sa NPA rebels dapat tanggapin

Panahon na para tanggapin ng mga rebeldeng komunista ang alok na tulong ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ito ang paniniwala ni Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo at makakatiyak ang mga rebeldeng komunista na sila ay tatanggapin ng punong ehekutibo sa oras na sumuko sila at bibigyan pa umano ng bahay at trabaho.

Mainam aniya na baguhin na ngayon ang taktika o ruta sa pagtulong at pagbago sa lipunan.

Pero sa ngayon, nag-iingat ang Malacañang sa naging pahayag kamakailan na communist leader Jose Maria Sison na bukas umano ang Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) sa resumption ng peace negotiations sa oras na handa na muli si Pangulong Duterte.

Ayon kay Panelo na ang problema kay Sison ay gusto niyang makipag-usap, subalit hindi naman nito kontrolado ang mga nasa baba niya.

Habang kasi nag-uusap ang dalawang panig, ay may mga pagkakataon na na-ambush naman sa tropa ng pamahalaan. *-Rudy Andal-*

## Panawagan ni Duterte sa NPA suportado ng AFP

Nakiisa na rin sa panawagan ni Pangulong Duterte ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) para isuko ng mga miyembro ng mga rebeldeng grupo ang kanilang mga armas at magbait loob sa gobyerno para makapamuhay ng maayos sa kanilang mga komunidad.

Sa pahayag ni AFP spokesman Brigadier General Edgardo Arevalo, sinabi niya na marami ng mga komunistang rebelde ang sumuko at nakabait sa kanilang mga pamilya at komunidad kaya nangangahulugan lamang ito na laos na ang ideolohiya ng mga komunistang rebelde.

Iginili pa ni Arevalo na lumipas na na ang tinatawag nilang "peoples revolution" dahil marami nang mga Filipino kabilang na ang mga losing army ang nakaka-realized na muling ang kanilang tinatawag na ideolohiya.

Idinagdag pa niya na daan na miyembro ng komunistang rebelde ang sumuko at ang iba pang nasa bundok ay nagpadala na ng surrender feelers, dahil alam nila na nanganganib ang kanilang buhay dahil sila ang nangunguna sa bakbakan habang ang kanilang lider ay nasa Europe at namumuhay ng masagana mula sa pera na kanilang kinita sa pamamagitan ng extortion.

Avon pa kay Arevalo na ang Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) ng gobyerno ay umaarangkade na para masiguro na ang mga dating rebelde ay magkakaroon ng wholistic package at mga benepisyo na hindi lamang limitado sa kalusugan, edukasyon, livelihood assistance at legal assistance.

Kaya ito na umano ang tamang oras para sumuko ang mga rebelde at ma-avail ang mga benepisyo na ini-enjoy na ng mga "Former Rebels" o FRs. (Gemma Garcia)

## BOL campaign kicks off in December

By MAYEN JAYMALIN

The campaign period for approval of the Bangsamoro Organic Law kicks off in December, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has announced.

In a resolution, the Comelec said the campaign period for the Bangsamoro plebiscite would start on Dec. 7 and end on Jan. 19. Two days later, or on Jan. 21, the people in the plebiscite area will vote on whether to approve or reject the law, which provides for the creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The Comelec will supervise the conduct of an information campaign, including those for indigenous communities, women, youth, religious, professionals and the public and private sector employees in every barangay, municipality, city and province where the plebiscite will be conducted.

Information dissemination and public advocacy initiatives by the other government or non-governmental groups or individuals shall also be allowed.

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during the campaign period.

Every barangay within the plebiscite area are also directed to hold at least one assembly or "pulong-pulong" during the campaign period to enlighten the voters about the law.

The poll body has set the plebiscite period from Dec. 7 until Feb. 5. During this time, the carrying of firearms or

other deadly weapons is prohibited as well as the transfer of officers and employees in the civil service and the suspension of any elective provincial, city, municipal or barangay official.

From Jan. 20 to 21, the ban against the sale, purchase and use of intoxicating liquor will also be imposed. The ban also applies to giving and accept-

ing free transportation, food and drinks.

The plebiscite on Jan. 21 will start at 7 a.m. and close at 3 p.m.

A favorable result in the plebiscite, both for the areas proposed for inclusion as well as their mother units, shall result in their inclusion to the new region.

Aside from the current provinces under the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, other areas being eyed for inclusion are 39 barangays in North Cotabato, six municipalities in Lanao del Norte, and the cities of Cotabato in Maguindanao, and Isabela in Basilan.

## Comelec sets calendar for Bangsamoro plebiscite

BY GERARD NAVAL

THE executive will have more than a month to inform and educate the Bangsamoro people before they decide whether or not they want to be a part of the new political entity, the proposed Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

This after the Commission on Elections (Comelec) set the campaign period for the Bangsamoro plebiscite on December 7 until January 19, as provided under Resolution No. 10432.

The plebiscite is set on January 21.

During the campaign period, the Comelec will supervise the conduct of information campaigns on the plebiscite, including sectoral

campaigns for indigenous communities, women, youth, religious, professionals, and public and private sector employees, in every barangay, municipality, city, and province where the plebiscite will be conducted.

The poll body said information dissemination and public advocacy initiatives by government or non-governmental groups or individuals shall also be allowed during the period.

In addition, the Comelec has likewise directed every barangay within the plebiscite areas to hold at least one barangay assembly or "pulong-pulong" during the campaign period to enlighten the voters about the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

The Comelec has also set the

plebiscite period from December 7 until February 5, during which it prohibits the carrying of firearms or other deadly weapons; the transfer of officers and employees in the civil service and the suspension of any elective provincial, city, municipal, or barangay official.

It likewise prohibited campaigning on the eve of the plebiscite day.

Also banned from January 20 to 21 are the selling, buying, taking, or serving of intoxicating liquor, as well as giving and accepting free transportation, food, and drinks.

The actual plebiscite on January 21 will start at 7 am and will close at 3 pm.

The Comelec said the counting and canvassing of votes shall

immediately begin at the close of the voting.

The proposed BARMM is eyeing the current provinces under the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which are the provinces of Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi.

Also being eyed for inclusion in the would-be region are 39 barangays in North Cotabato, six municipalities in Lanao del Norte, and the cities of Cotabato in Maguindanao, and Isabela in Basilan. *32*

Under the law, only a favorable result of the plebiscite, both for the areas proposed for inclusion as well as their mother units, shall result to their inclusion in the new region.

# MNLF passes resolution expressing full support for BOL ratification

BY NONOYE E. LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Through a resolution, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has expressed full support the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) in a plebiscite on January 21, next year.

MNLF Chair Yusop Jikiri said members of the MNLF Central Committee, with the support of the Bangsamoro Peoples' National Congress (BPNC) chaired by Muslimin Sema, jointly expressed full support for the ratification of the BOL through a plebiscite by January next year.

Their position was made known through a resolution they adopted dur-

ing the BPNC and MNLF general assembly held recently in Indanan, Sulu where more than 4,000 members of the front coming from all over Mindanao had attended.

Jikiri said "in coordination with the government and our MNLF partners in convergence and other concerned sectors, we shall mobilized the MNLF and our people to campaign and lobby for support to the BOL or BARMM in the forthcoming plebiscite to ensure the success of the new Bangsamoro autonomy."

Jikiri said the group officially accepts and supports the BOL or BARMM as the more appropriate political solution to the Bangsamoro issue in

Mindanao.

Abuambri Taddik, chief of the intelligence national bureau said the BOL seems to be better than the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in terms of grant of more powers and fiscal autonomy which the ARMM has not enjoyed.

Taddik said that BARMM can be described as "ARMM plus, plus" because the BOL or BARMM has more power and economic clout than the ARMM.

The national government has scheduled the holding of the plebiscite for the ratification of the BOL or BARMM in the Muslim autonomous region on January 21, 2019. **L**



6.0  
OK

## President to students: Finish studies, don't fret over grades

By ARCYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

President Duterte advised the youth to take their time and complete their studies without focusing too much on high grades.

Duterte recalled how he used to get low grades as a student, but still managed to become president.

The President also shared how his younger daughter Veronica would spend so much time studying, with little time for socializing.

"Ngano magdali man pud mo? Unsa may makuha nimo'g 95 (Why should you be in a hurry? What will you get out of 95)?" he said.

"Basta maka-75 ka lang, motungtong ka. Mura na'g hagdanan. Pareho ra nang alsaha. Ngano mang mag-95-95 ka nga ang 75 okay na man na, maka-kuros ka na man (As long as you can reach 75. It's like a ladder. It's the same kind of climb. Why would you go for 95 when 75 is just

as fine)?" he added.

Duterte also reiterated how most of his Cabinet men went to prestigious schools and got good grades but ended up working for him.

"Ila tanan valedictorian, ako 75 lang. Pero kinsa may ilang amo? Ang valedictorian? Ang 75 (All of them were valedictorians while I only had 75. But who's their boss now? Is it the valedictorian? It's the one who got a 75)," he said.

"So ayaw mo pagdali. Tama na nang manigkamot sa kinabuhi (So don't be in a hurry. Just work hard in life)," he added.

Duterte had always referred to Transportation Arthur Tugade, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana as his valedictorian friends.

The President had always made light of his education, saying he inspired the K to 12 program of the government because he finished high school in seven years instead of just four. U

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## SE Asia boosts fight vs militants

Singapore's defense minister on Saturday said Southeast Asian nations seeking to combat the threat of militancy have agreed to share intelligence as he warned of a "real and present" danger to the region.

More than a year after Islamic State-linked fighters seized the southern Philippine city of Marawi, the terrorist threat is as potent as ever, said Ng Eng Hen after hosting a meeting of defense ministers.

### Militants from other Southeast Asian countries were involved in the fighting.

"Unfortunately, even as the situation in Iraq and Syria improves, we are expecting more foreign fighters to come this way," he added.

Ng said all 18 ministers at the gathering in Singapore, from Southeast Asia and key partners outside the region, viewed "terrorism as a real and present threat."

The Southeast Asian delegates adopted an information-sharing platform called "Our Eyes" that will be used to share real-time intelligence that can immediately be acted upon, the minister added.

This came after the countries realized they had underestimated the threat before the attack on Marawi,

where the rebuilding effort could cost around \$1 billion, he said.

Proposed by Indonesia, the platform is based on an intelligence-sharing alliance set up by the United States, Britain and three other countries after World War II to monitor the former Soviet Union.

The weekend security meeting was attended by the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and their counterparts from countries including China, Australia, India and Russia.

In last year's assault on Marawi, hundreds of armed militants backed by foreign IS fighters attacked and took control of the largely Muslim city in a bid to establish a base in Southeast Asia.

Philippine troops, supported by sophisticated surveillance planes from the United States, dislodged the militants after five months of heavy fighting that left more than 1,000 people dead and the city in ruins.

Militants from other Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia and Malaysia, were involved in the fighting.

Those at the meeting "felt that this must never happen again to any city within ASEAN," Ng said.

AFP

## AFP captures 3 ASG members

Soldiers of the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) arrested three suspected members of the notorious Abu Sayyaf terrorist group during a military operation in Sulu last Thursday.

A report reaching the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) headquarters on Sunday, Wesmincom identified those arrested as Gafur Albani Absari, Medzfar Mangabong and Madjid Mangabong.

Wesmincom commanding officer Lieutenant General Arnel de la Vega, commented, "My congratulations to the troops of the Joint Task Force Sulu, headed by Brigadier General Divino Rey Pabayo for the aggressive measures taken in order to ensure that criminals will never be free to roam in the province."

The report said the AFP launched a military operation in Patikul, Sulu when the soldiers encountered the bandits in Barangay Maligay at about 9:40 a.m.

The soldiers, under the command of Lieutenant Jomalesa of the 5th Scout Ranger Battalion, initiated the successful "focused military operation" against the militants. The suspects were turned over to the 501st Brigade for debriefing and filing of appropriate charges in tandem with the Sulu Provincial Police Office.

**Komfie Manalo**

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### 3 ASG member naaresto sa Sulu

Naaresto ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang tatlong miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group na kinilalang sina Gafur Albani Absari, Medzfar Mangabong at Madjid Mangabong sa Sulu.

Base sa ulat ng Wesmincom, dakong alas-9:40 ng umaga ay nagsasagawa ng military operations sa Patikul, Sulu nang maaresto ang tatlong bandido sa Barangay Maligay.

Kaagad na dinata ang tatlong bandido sa 501st Brigade para masampahan ng kaukulang kaso sa Sulu Provincial Police Office.

Pinuri naman ni Wesmincom commander Lt. General Arnel dela Vega ang Task Force Sulu sa pangunguna ni Brigadier General Divino Rey Pabayo dahil sa matagumpay na operasyon. *Gemma Garcia-*

## Editorial

### What dire consequences if Trillanes is tried again?

**T**HERE are some among our citizenry who earnestly desire that Sen. Antonio Trillanes 4th should stand trial for his various acts of rebellion against our duly constituted government and betrayal of his oath as a man in uniform.

There are also others who earnestly believe that putting him on trial again, after being granted amnesty by the previous administration of Benigno S. Aquino 3rd, is grossly unfair and an abuse of authority by the Duterte administration.

We think these contrary positions should come to a head and be settled in court.

The opportunity to do so may have arrived with the curious development that various front leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines have come out to support Trillanes in his fight to avoid retrial.

This positioning of the Left on the side of Trillanes is striking because it was on account of a suspected alliance of forces of the communists, the Liberal Party and the Magdalo Party in what the Armed Forces tagged as a "Red October" plot to topple President Duterte.

The spirited defense of Trillanes by the Left may be indicative of the willingness by some of the

*These issues are best addressed head on in court, and not just through press statements.*

suspect plotters to confirm the alliance themselves.

Former Bayan Muna party-list representative Neri Colmenares said granting the petition of the Department of Justice (DoJ) to issue an arrest warrant against Trillanes would have serious implications on the country's democratic system. Colmenares, speaking at a forum in the University of the Philippines campus on Saturday, said an unfavorable ruling on Trillanes would have legal complications for other individuals who were granted amnesty and rebels seeking amnesty.

At the same forum, Gabriela party-list Rep. Emmi De Jesus declared that with an adverse ruling on Trillanes, there would be no stopping President Duterte from running after his perceived enemies. This would also have political consequences, because other rebels would then have second thoughts about seeking amnesty if it could be voided by any incumbent President, she said.

Other opposition voices are also trying to link Trillanes' case with that of Sen. Leila de Lima, who is in government custody on assorted illegal drugs charges.

At the general assembly of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), the cases of de Lima and Trillanes have been taken up in light of the alleged human rights violations committed against them by the Duterte government.

We believe these issues are best addressed head on in court, and not just through press statements.

The Left should have the opportunity to prove the dire consequences for the nation if Trillanes is tried again.

The IPU and the opposition should be given every opportunity to prove that the human rights of Trillanes and de Lima have been violated.

Statements do not count until they can stand up in court.

## Robredo's criticism

IT seems every time Vice President Leonor Robredo speaks before an international audience, she makes it a point to please her hosts, even though it would mean short of disparaging her own government.

**'Robredo's criticism of China is actually targeted at President Duterte's foreign policy of cozying up to China instead of kowtowing to the wishes of the United States.'**

Whenever she speaks on human rights, whether abroad or in the country, the Vice President never fails to quote the same statistics bandied about by detractors and media critics of President Duterte, without counter-checking her facts with independent or even official sources.

Robredo committed another faux pas in a speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-Pertamina Banyan Tree Leadership Forum in Washington DC last week.

In this talk, the Vice President acknowledged that China has a crucial role to play in Asia's economic progress but this could come with negative consequences especially to its neighbors.

She said: "The rise of China will no doubt usher in a new era of prosperity in Asia but aggressive expansionism that threatens to trample on the sacred precepts of international law and done at the expense of smaller, less powerful na-

tions must at all times be met with diplomatic resistance."

Robredo's criticism of China is actually targeted at President Duterte's foreign policy of cozying up to China instead of kowtowing to the wishes of the United States. The Vice President earlier warned that China's loans for "Build, build, build" projects might lead the Philippines into a debt trap, even mentioning the failed Hambantota port project in Sri Lanka, which had a very different set of circumstances than local projects.

Robredo added that despite public debates on the maritime dispute, the country's diplomats and military are doing their best to protect the Philippines' interests in the West Philippine Sea, suggesting in effect that the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Armed Forces are somewhat independent from the President's directives. p4

To better understand the context of Robredo's tirades on China and Duterte, it must be stressed that the CSIS, her lecture's sponsor, is an American think tank funded by the US intelligence community, and by foundations and institutions established and owned by the American arms industry. This is admitted by CSIS and allied groups in their own websites.

At this time when China President Xi Jinping will be visiting Manila, this US lobby group is expected to drum up opposition to China, using their cabal of media, public intellectuals and officials in the country.

Too bad for Robredo, because the single biggest project slated to be signed during Xi's visit is the \$3.5-billion long-haul South railway system from Manila to Matnog, Sorsogon which will bring progress and prosperity to her own Bicol region.

## Doubly tough for PECO

THE controversial Iloilo City utility firm Panay Electric Co. faces tough grilling at the Senate when survey leader Senator Grace Poe convenes today, Monday, the Senate Committee on Public Services. This is to decide whether or not the company deserves to be granted a fresh 25-year legislative franchise.

Poe, running as an independent candidate seeking a second six-year term in the upcoming May elections, is certain to be weighing her options carefully on PECO's case. This follows the overwhelming vote at the House of Representatives two weeks ago to refuse the 90-year-old monopoly a new franchise, and to grant the franchise instead to a More Minerals Corp., a utility firm owned by businessman Enrique "Ricky" Razon.

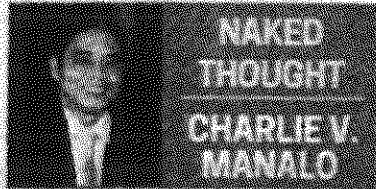
Early this year when she flew to Iloilo City for hearings on the TRAIN bill, an irate Poe may have already prejudged the case when she reportedly declared that she was inclined to deny PECO its franchise renewal application because of the tons of consumer complaints against the company for its record of bad service and its penchant for over-billing Iloilo City residents.

Poe was in Iloilo City in May when the over-billing complaint against PECO reached a crescendo. The Iloilo City Council had just passed a resolution urging the National Government to deny its franchise renewal following an intervention by the Energy Regulatory Commission to resolve complaints from Iloilo City households over monthly bills that rose by as much as 1,000 percent. PECO quickly blamed this on its new metering system that recomputed and re-billed from its customers' uncollected and unbilled previous consumption.

The same complaints that faced Poe in Iloilo City, meanwhile, also arrived at the House Committee on Legislative Franchises chaired by Rep. Josef Francis Alvarez, who eventually intimated that what sealed PECO's fate at the House were financial statements from PECO itself. These showed that while the company was facing complaints of over-billing, it posted successive years of net profits amounting to hundreds of millions of pesos—P198.27 million in 2014, P127.92 million in 2015, P139.26 million in 2015 and P191.1 million in 2016.

These profits occurred, Alvarez noted, despite a directive from the ERC itself to refund P631 million in over-billings to Iloilo residents in 2014.

Poe and her fellow senators in the Senate



committee on public services cannot ignore the political implications of the issues raised by Iloilo City residents and city officials against PECO, said Iloilo City Councilor Joshua Alm, one of those leading the campaign against PECO. No sane politician can ignore Iloilo City and Iloilo province with more than 1.4 million voters in an election year.

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Political analyst Ed Malay underscores the crucial role the social media will play in

“Senator Poe is certain to be weighing her options on this issue.”

the 2019 polls.

According to Malay, who also serves as the executive director of The Center, an independent polling firm, social media sites remain as viable tools of communications that can be employed by candidates in the coming elections.

Results of his recent survey rank Facebook as the preferred social media site by registered voters with ages from 12 to 65 years old with 52 percent of those surveyed saying they are glued to Facebook, 29 percent prefer Instagram and 19 percent taking to Twitter.

Of these, Malay said 89 percent said they use these sites one at a time, while 11 percent said they use it simultaneously.

Results of the survey further bare that some 45 percent of those surveyed said they use Facebook daily, 33 percent said they log on to Facebook weekly and 17 percent said they use it monthly.

Malay says that social media sites can be a great influencer for the coming polls as 38 percent of those surveyed said they use social media for three hours or more a

day. What will be a challenge for political strategists, Malay says, is how to offset the rather high 36 percent of those who said they don't believe the posts on social media which are politically related.

But at the same time, 38 percent said they believe what they see and read on social media sites. Ten percent said they have doubts on the authenticity of what they see and read while 16 percent said they simply ignore it.

The impact of these figures, it seems, greatly manifest in the ranking of Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos, who is one of those vying for a Senate seat.

According to Malay, of those surveyed, 61 percent said they have knowledge of Martial Law and the issues surrounding the late President Ferdinand Marcos. Some 40 percent said they came to know about Martial Law and Marcos through the social media. This, Malay said, should serve as an explanation to the rather low rating of Imee.

Malay's pronouncement is not actually new. Armand Dean Nocum of Dean and Kings has long been utilizing the social media for his PR firm, and even "before President Duterte and US President Trump proved to the world that social media campaigns can greatly help one get elected to public office."

While only a few took him seriously in 2015 when he pioneered the use of social media for PR purposes, Nocum vindicated himself when politicians who took his words seriously in 2016 ended up winning their coveted posts.

Back then, Nocum said campaigning politicians learned from the AIDub (Alden and Yaya Dub) phenomenon.

"Politicians running in the 2016 elections can learn so much from the AIDub phenomenon. They too can unlock the immense power of integrated tri-media (print, radio and TV) and social media campaigns to boost their electoral bid. Both old and new media platforms are strong, but it is their fusion that can create a communication Big-Bang!" Nocum declared then.

And he was proven right.

"Now everyone from former Senate president Enrile to Congressman Neri Colmenares are saying they will campaign for the 2019 elections via social media," Nocum said.

So from hereon, with aspirants now having filed their respective COCs, expect heavy traffic on the social media.

## Idiotic claims of a dying democracy

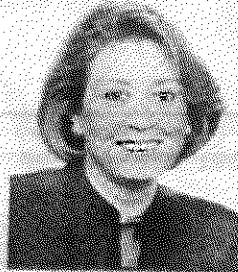
“  
Like  
tigers,  
these  
frigging  
hypocrites  
can't  
change  
their red,  
yellow  
and white  
stripes.”

Democracy is alive and kicking in the Philippines, and well do the usual yellow, Red and White critics of the Duterte government know it. But they insist anyway on what they call the “dire consequences” for democracy should the Makati City Regional Trial Court Branch 148 issue an adverse decision and order the arrest of the traitorous outgoing senator, Antonio Trillanes.

The critics' stupidity and illogic is appalling, which is probably why majority of Filipinos spurn them every single time in elections – the reason they instead run under the much abused partylist system.

Above ground commie former Bayan Muna partylist Rep. Neri Colmenares was quoted as saying that should the Makati branch judge issue an arrest warrant against Trillanes, this would have serious implications on the country's democratic system.

Say again? Is Colmenares saying that democracy rests on whether or not Trillanes, charged with a non-bailable crime of *coup d'état*



**FRONTLINE**  
Ninez Cacho-Olivares

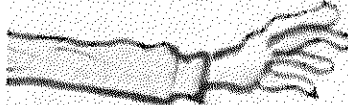
and rebellion, is arrested and jailed, because as the commie states, to arrest and charge the serial troublemaker who tried and failed to destroy democracy through a *coup d'état* will be “a blow to the respect of law and justice.”

Colmenares and his comrades along with the yellows, really have absolute zero credibility

when it comes to their claims of fighting for the law and democracy since it is fact that it is they who are serial destroyers of democracy and are known for disrespecting the law and the Constitution. They really should shut up about democracy being in peril in the country under presidents they don't like, and simply because they hunger for power and position.

It certainly was the group of above ground commies, Bayan Muna, their underground commies, and all those other Left-leaning critics and the usual power-hungry yellows who are known for the destruction of democracy in this country as they do not respect the Constitution and the law. Instead of elections, they stage revolts and oust constitutionally elected presidents, in order to put up an unelected substitute.

It was also then Hilario Davide Supreme Court that had no respect for the Constitution, democracy and the law when, despite the incontrovertible fact that then sitting President Joseph Estrada



did not die, did not resign, was not permanently incapacitated and was acquitted in a Senate impeachment court, these same groups ousted him unconstitutionally and illegally. Worse, Davide was part of the coup plot against Estrada.

So where were these hypocritical human rights groups, both in the country and abroad? Where was Europe's Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians that keeps on insisting that detained Sen. Leila de Lima charged in a drug trading conspiracy is a “political prisoner” and should be freed from detention immediately and that all legal proceedings against her should be abandoned, “given that no serious evidence appears to be forthcoming.”

No serious evidence? These jokes of parliamentarians should really study the case of Leila instead of demanding her release from detention. 4



They should know, or ought to know, that the reason no evidence has been presented in court by the prosecution is the fact — and it is fact — that Leila keeps on delaying her trial by submitting too many motions, and incessantly seeking the recusal of the judges, without any basis.

This IPU prefers to coddle an alleged drug trader in the name of democracy? What a laugh!

66 The same IPU has also chosen to defend Trillanes, who does not believe in democracy and has no respect for the law as the group aired its "deep concern" over the renewed charges of rebellion and *coup d'état* for incidents that took place in 2003 and 2007, who has been granted amnesty for the twin crimes.

*There is the opportunity to change presidents and their governments constitutionally.*

This big joke of a parliamentary group should really start to learn how to respect the courts' decisions — whether they like it or not.

None of these yellows, these Reds and these frigging White-robed meddlers and foreign human rights meddlers has any right to give out "sermons" on the state of democracy in the Philippines and simply because they want Duterte and his government ousted unconstitutionally and illegally.

One may like, dislike or hate Duterte, but the electorate's will has to be respected, as democracy rests on this.

There is the opportunity to change presidents and their governments constitutionally, which is for those who want Duterte replaced, to wait for 2022 to elect a new president of the country.

If these same lovers of the unconstitutional want a faster pace of changing democratically elected presidents, then get the Constitution amended to call for the election of sitting presidents every four years instead of six, or, if they have the numbers in the House and the Senate, then get the president impeached and convicted. Whatever moves these freaking unconstitutionalists make, should be done adhering to the law and the Constitution, although they will never change because it is in their nature to bring down presidents they dislike, to gain power for themselves.

This time around, however, it will be an uphill climb to political and state power through presidential ousters.

They don't deserve to gain political power — ever, unless they change their ways. But like tigers, these frigging hypocrites can't change their red, yellow and white stripes.

## 'Impeach' gang

Impeachment is no longer just a constitutional remedy to remove an unwanted President as far as Philippine politics is concerned. It has become an obsession of the opposition.

Under the 1987 Constitution, almost every President, except for Fidel V. Ramos, faced impeachment complaints starting with former President Corazon Aquino in 1988. Former President and now Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada became the first President to undergo an impeachment trial, albeit incomplete in 2001.

**66**  
*Their ultimate purpose in their bid to form a bigger bloc in the Senate is part of the plot to oust Duterte through impeachment.*

However, Estrada's predecessor and now House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is perhaps the world record holder in terms of the number of impeachment complaints received and dismissed by Congress with five. Every year after her election as President in 2004, an impeachment complaint was filed against her, except in the last year of her term.

Arroyo's successor, Benigno "Noy" Aquino III, had three impeachment complaints against him in 2014 but all were eventually dismissed by the House committee on justice. Incumbent President Rodrigo Duterte had

one filed by Magdalo partylist Rep. Gary Alejano last year that

suffered the same fate.

So far, no impeachment complaint was filed against Duterte this year, but he still has four years into his term and may still face yearly impeachment complaints from the opposition hell-bent on removing him from office. The obvious motive is to regain power and parry mounting allegations of corruption against officials of the Aquino administration.

Apparently, the early discovery of the Red October coup plot against Duterte forced the yellows to abandon the sinister plot, lick their wounds, regroup and go to Plan B, which utilizes the impeachment process to oust Duterte.

The lineup of the senatorial bets of the yellow Liberal Party (LP), which includes former Magdalo rebel and Magdalo partylist Rep. Gary Alejano,

gives away the hidden agenda of the yellows for impeaching Duterte.

Other members of the yellow senatorial slate include losing 2016 presidential candidate Mar Roxas, reelectionist Sen. Bam Aquino, Alejano, Vice President Leni Robredo's legal counsel, Romulo Macalintal, Free Legal Assistance Group chairman Jose Manuel I. Diokno, former Bangsamoro Transition Commission member Samira Gutoc-Tomawis, former solicitor general Florin T. Hilbay and former Deputy Speaker Lorenzo R. Tanada III.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, LP president and coalition campaign manager, proudly declared their candidates were riding on the platform of solving the soaring prices of consumer goods and rising inflation.

What demagoguery! The issue of inflation is a convenient excuse for the yellows to stoke the sentiment

of the people against the government in the hope their senatorial bets would win to improve their chances of impeaching Duterte.

The signs were on the wall long before the LP senatorial bets filed their certificates of candidacy. In August, Macalintal unabashedly prodded President Duterte to take a break from the presidency which would allow his client Robredo to take on the reins of power.

"You really need a good break Mr. Idol President and when you come back you can rest assure that the country has been that good, if not better, in the hands of the qualified VP Robredo," Macalintal was quoted saying.

Apart from the issue of inflation, the LP senatorial lineup indicates the yellows would likely harp on the cases filed against Duterte before the International Criminal Court to boost their bid to win Senate seats.

And there lies the hypocrisy of the yellows. Their ultimate purpose in their bid to form a bigger bloc in the Senate is part of the plot to oust Duterte through impeachment, not for the country's benefit but to serve their selfish agenda of tasting power anew.

The yellows are facing a very tall order. To have any prayer of getting the ball rolling on an impeachment complaint, they must secure either one-third of the seats in the House or enter into an alliance with other opposition blocs.

And in the remotest possibility they could muster that number in the House, they still need two-thirds of the 24-member Senate to ensure a verdict of conviction.

But that is going too far ahead. The first real hurdle for the yellows is the 2019 elections. Unfortunately for them, the people's high confidence and trust in Duterte portend doom for the yellow senatorial slate and its impeachment agenda.

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*The early  
discovery  
of the Red  
October coup  
plot against  
Duterte  
forced the  
yellows to  
abandon the  
sinister plot.*

Editorial**Wala pang nagagawa sa nasirang Marawi**

ISANG taon na ang nakalilipas mula nang ideklara ni President Duterte na liberated na ang Marawi sa kamay ng Maute pero hanggang ngayon, hindi pa makabalik ang mga residente sa kani-kanilang mga bahay na napinsala. Wala pa silang babalikan sapagkat wala pang nagagawang bahay. Mabagal ang rehabilitasyon at konstruksiyon.

Dahil sa pagkaatrasadong ito, nagalit ang Presidente at pinailimbestigahan kung may nangyayaring red tape. Ilang beses na umanong na-postponed ang ground breaking sa pagtatayo ng mga nasirang bahay. Kaya hanggang ngayon, libong residente pa ang nasa mga shelters at evacuation centers. Isang taon na silang nagtititil sa mga tirahan na karamihan ay nirereklamo ang kawalan ng tubig at kuryente.

Noong Martes, libong residente ang nagprotesta at nais na makapasok sa kani-kanilang mga bahay pero pinigilan sila ng mga sundalo. "Anyare sa Marawi?" nakasaad sa tarpaulin na hawak ng mga residente. Ilan ang sumisigaw na papasukin na sila. Sila na mismo ang magsasaayos ng kanilang tirahan para mapadali. Isang taon na raw silang nagtititil sa mga shelter at hindi na nila kaya ang sitwasyon. Nasaan na raw ang pangakong tatapusin agad ang kanilang mga bahay. Nakalaya nga raw sila sa mga terorista pero sa kalagayan sa mga shelter ay nananatili pa rin silang nakakulong. Bakit hindi pa sinisimulan ang paggawa? Hanggang kailan daw sila maghihintay?

Ayon kay Presidential Spokeperson Salvador Panelo, nagalit ang Presidente dahil hindi pa ginagawa ang mga bahay. Pinasisiyasat kung may nangyayaring "red tape" kaya hindi pa nasisimulan ang konstruksiyon. Nagulat daw ang Presidente sapagkat limang beses nang postponed ang ground-breaking. Ayon kay Panelo, nagsasagawa na ng imbestigasyon sa pagkakaantala ng rehabilitasyon at konstruksiyon.

Kahit naman nagpupumilit ang mga residente na makapasok sa Marawi para makita ang kanilang mga sirang bahay, mahigpit ang pagbabantay ng mga sundalo sapagkat marami pa umanong nakatanim na bomba. Hindi pa raw lubusang naki-clear.

Kawawa naman ang mga residente. Sobra na ang dinaranas nilang kalbaryo. Madaliin na ang paggawa para matapos na ang kanilang paghihirap. Nararapat iprayoridad ang mga biktima ng Marawi!

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## ONLINE NEWS

### 22 OCTOBER 2018

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# AFP backs PRRD's call for peaceful surrender of NPAs

By Priam Nepomuceno

**MANILA** — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday expressed support for President Rodrigo Duterte's fresh calls to New People's Army (NPA) members to lay down their weapons and rejoin the mainstream society.

"The AFP joins the Commander-in-Chief (President Rodrigo Duterte) in calling out to the terrorist NPA to lay down their arms as most of them have done and to avail of the offer to have a new lease of a peaceful, productive, and joyful lives with their loved ones in a community of fellow Filipinos welcoming and embracing them back to its folds," military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said in a statement sent to reporters.

The AFP spokesperson said the rebels should seriously consider this offer as their so-called "people's revolution" is already a passé as more and more Filipinos, including the ones in their losing "army" of communists, have already realized the failure of their pretended ideology that has now turned into terrorism of the people and the exploitation of their own.

"Hundreds who have already surrendered, and those who are still in the mountains but have already sent surrender feelers, now say that they now came to realize that while they were being pushed to fight it out in the frontlines, the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines) leadership in Europe and in the cities luxuriate in the money they extort from business persons," Arevalo added.

To provide for these surrenderers, the AFP spokesperson said the government has its Enhanced-Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) in full swing to ensure that former rebels (FRs) will have a wholistic package of benefits that they can avail of such as, but not limited to, health, education, livelihood assistance, and legal assistance.

"The AFP also helps provide to qualified E-CLIP enrollees protection from their former comrades who might want to deprive them (FRs) of this opportunity to be with their families and mainstream society again," he added.

Arevalo added that now is the best time to surrender and avail of these benefits now enjoyed by hundreds of these FRs.

"The NPAs do not need the likes of Jose Maria Sison to broker for peaceful and meaningful lives for them. They can, as the AFP has been supporting, avail of localized peace talks. That is more responsive to their particular needs and situations. CPP leaders abroad are out of touch and have only their personal interests to protect in making ludicrous demands for the talks but do not perform their share to make peace work," he added. *(PNA)*