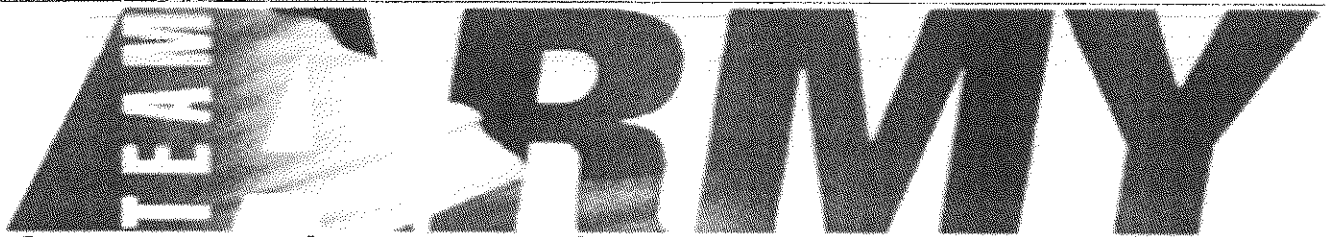


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02 September 2018

Sunday



Honor. Patriotism. Duty

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LENI: STAND UP TO DICTATORS

BY JESSICA DAVILA

Instead of looking up to ironfisted leaders whose powers come from fear and intimidation, people should recognize as 'real heroes (those) who draw strength from compassion,' Vice President Leni Robredo said during the Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony.

FROM A1

By Dexter Cabalza
@dexcabalza1NQ

On her third year as keynote speaker at the Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony on Friday, Vice President Leni Robredo urged her audience to "fight for those who cannot defend themselves."

"The message for all of us is clear: Each one of us is called to turn our gaze to the last, the least and the lost," Robredo said.

The Vice President also took a jab at President Duterte's recent remarks, which said that the Philippines was "better off with a dictator, the likes of (former President Ferdinand) Marcos," than with Robredo at the helm.

In her speech, Robredo told the six Magsaysay laureates to stand up to dictators across the continent and to be inspirations in creating "quiet, courageous and hardworking heroes," who would be the "last line of defense of humanity" to avoid a strongman-led future where "people are killed, institutions are decimated and our very way of life threatened."

Robredo's speech which was flashed onscreen at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' main hall, named a specific dictator.

"Quiet bravery and empathy, and leaders that put in the hard work of actually transforming the lives of people, are rarities in these times, when dictatorship Marcos-style is said to be better," read an excerpt of Robredo's speech.

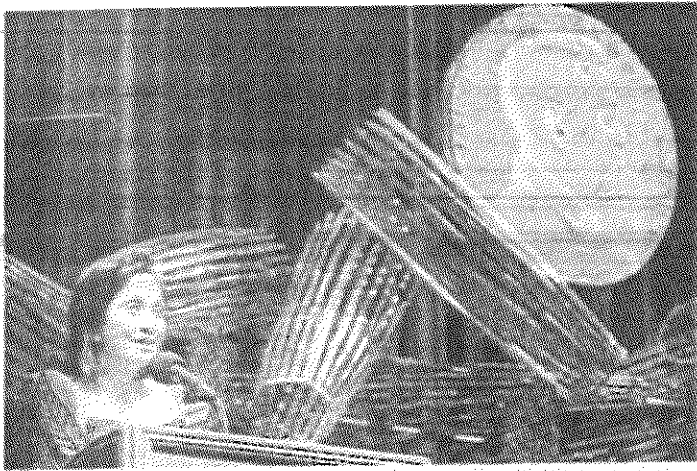
Marcos, whose 20-year strongman rule was marred by thousands of human rights abuses and corruption amounting to billions of dollars, was ousted during a popular uprising in 1986.

'Defiantly hopeful'

Robredo also noted the importance of remaining "defiantly hopeful" and "actively determined to change the future, the way [former] President [Ramon] Magsaysay showed us in the way that he lived."

"I speak of hope that is not passive but grounded on a culture of discipline, excellence and service," she added.

Asia, Robredo said, is home to men and women "who throughout time, have fought for freedom and independence, where demanding for truth is the norm, and where power re-



NO PUTTING HER DOWN Fight for those who cannot defend themselves. Vice President Leni Robredo rallies her audience, including the six Magsaysay laureates, at the Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony on Friday. —RICHARD A. REYES

sides in the hands of the people."

Asians have also remained resilient, ensuring that human lives would not be snuffed out by any tyrant, the Vice President said. "We have had a long history of bloody struggles in very dark times and I refuse to believe that we suffered for nothing," she added.

Instead of looking up to dictators whose powers come from fear and intimidation, Robredo said we should recognize the Ramon Magsaysay awardees as

"real heroes who draw strength from compassion."

"You are the ultimate proof that quiet bravery is the most potent kind of strength and that empathy belies a deeper kind of power, not weakness," the Vice President said.

On its 60th year, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards honored six individuals for their selfless service.

The awardees included Howard Dee, who had served five administrations, from

President Cory Aquino to her son, President Benigno Aquino III, and led peace building and reform initiatives with separatist groups.

"During these difficult times, do not be discouraged. Do not despair. It is in darkness that our lamps should be lit. It is in darkness that we see the stars. Goodness and righteousness will triumph. Justice and peace will reign in our land," Dee said when he received the award.

Bharat Varwand of India was recognized "for his tremendous courage and healing compassion in embracing India's mentally ill destitute," while Sonam Wangchuk, also from India, won the award "for his uniquely systematic, collaborative and community-driven reform of learning systems in northern India."

Peace with nature

"In declaring peace with nature, we will have to redesign our education system to heal the planet and its people," Wangchuk said in his speech.

Youk Chhang, a survivor of Khmer Rouge atrocities, was recognized for preserving the memory of the victims of the Cambodian genocide in order to bring justice, national reconcili-

ation and collective healing.

"We must remember mistakes of the past," Chhang told the audience. "It is not easy because it requires us to consciously accept additional pain in the present so that our children will not relive them in the future. But this is the pathway to justice. Justice will always begin and end with the duty of memory."

Timor Leste's Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz received the award for building a lay institute dedicated to uplifting the poor through self-help programs in healthcare, education and agriculture.

Vo Thi Hoang Yen of Vietnam was feted for "her creative and charismatic leadership in the sustained campaign to break down physical and mental barriers that marginalized persons with disabilities have."

Each of the six awardees received a medallion, a certificate and a cash prize. Since its founding in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation has recognized 305 individuals and 25 organizations.

Recognized as Asia's version of the Nobel prize, the award was named after President Magsaysay, who died in a plane crash in March 1957. INQ

25 Boracay hotels, resorts get DOT nod

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

Anticipating the Oct. 26 re-opening of resort island Boracay, the Department of Tourism (DOT) has released an initial list of 25 accommodation establishments with a total of 2,063 rooms that are certified compliant with the requirements of the Boracay inter-agency task force and can begin operations when the island begins receiving visitors next month.

The compliant establishments and the number of their rooms are: Luana Hotel / Hue Hotel (122); Astoria Current (156); Boracay Mandarin Island Hotel (52); Boracay Haven Resort (63); Boracay Haven Suites (63); Casa Pilar Beach Resort (82); Boracay Holidays Beach Resort (76); El Centro Beach Resort (44); De Paris Beach Resort (16); Best Western Boracay Tropics (64); Surfside Boracay Resort and Spa (14); Fairways and Bluewater Beach Resort (700); Discovery Shores (87); The Lazy Dog (26); Red Coconut Beach Hotel (50); Starfire Resort (9); Canyon de Boracay (31); AV Seven Resort (7); Azalea Apartment Hotel (284); Reef Retreat Resort (12); Nigi-nigi Nu Noos'E Nunu Noos Beach (37); The Club Ten Beach Resort Boracay

Turn to Page 2

25 Boracay

From Page 1

(21); Ferra Hotel (37); Den Pasar Beach Resort (4); and Blue Coral Beach Resort (6).

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the rehabilitation of the island will go beyond the soft opening date of Oct. 26.

"Despite the soft opening, the government's efforts to

rehabilitate (Boracay) shall continue as we rehabilitate the island in stages," Puyat said during her keynote address at this year's Philippine Travel Exchange.

Puyat said completion of the first phase of rehabilitation will be in October, the second phase by the middle of next

year and third phase by the end of 2019.

"This is to make sure that all tourism establishments and service providers are compliant with the standards set by the government and that all necessary infrastructure and facilities are in place," Puyat said.

The inter-agency task force earlier said it will be holding a dry run or partial opening of

the island from Oct. 16 to 25, to be ready for its full reopening.

"(The dry run) will allow us to assess what else needs to be done before the island is reopened to all tourists, both domestic and foreign, on Oct. 26," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

Cimatu added that during the dry run, only Filipino tourists will be allowed to enter Boracay, with the locals as priority

The public is advised to wait for the DOT announcement on what hotels will be opened as only 1,000 hotel rooms will be available on the first day of the dry run, he said.

As this developed, a Department and Natural Resources (DENR) official yesterday said the government has yet to come up with a specific number of tourists that will be allowed to stay in Boracay when it reopens.

DENR undersecretary and deputy spokesman Benny Antiporda said concerned agencies will determine a carrying capacity for the island.

Antiporda made the clarification in response to a news report that the number of tourists will be limited to 19,000.

"The carrying capacity could still either be up or down," he said - With Robertzon Ramirez, Emmanuel Tupas



'Del Pilar retrieval won't spark SCS tension'

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Malacañang is confident the operation to extricate the BRP *Gregorio del Pilar* from a sandbar near Hasa-Hasa (Half Moon) Shoal in the West Philippine Sea will not create tensions with China, which is claiming the area as its own.

"It's ongoing, with no problems from China," presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said.

The *Del Pilar* is one of the three Hamilton-class cutters the Philippine Navy acquired from the US Coast Guard in 2011 and commissioned as flagship.

"I understand that efforts are being undertaken to retrieve the grounded *Del Pilar*."

Turn to Page 6

Del Pilar From Page 1

Roque said.

"Let's not speculate," he said when asked to comment on the possibility that China might block efforts to retrieve the grounded BRP *Del Pilar*, the Philippine Navy's flagship. The vessel got stuck at the shoal on the evening of Aug. 29.

Indeed, Chinese vessels are "at the scene" ready to help the Philippine Navy in the retrieval operations, said Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying on Friday.

"China Coast Guard vessels are already at the scene. *Nanhaijun 115*, spe-

cialized in maritime search and rescue, is also in nearby waters," said Hua.

"China is discussing with the Philippines on the relevant search and rescue matters," she added.

But Col. Noel Detoyato, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office chief, said PCG personnel and *Del Pilar* crewmembers were devising ways to retrieve the grounded ship.

"We can extricate on our own as per initial assessment made by FF15 crewmembers and divers from the Philippine Coast Guard," Detoyato said, referring to the vessel by its body

6

number.

Roque said it was the same ship sent to Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal in 2012 by the previous Aquino administration to arrest Chinese poachers.

Chinese maritime surveillance vessels, however, blocked the Philippine ship and allowed the poachers escape with their illegal catch, including giant clams and baty sharks.

While preparations were being made to remove the grounded *Del Pilar* from Hasa Hasa Shoal, a Chinese Navy space tracking ship arrived at Sasa Port in Davao City last Aug. 31. It is expected to stay in Davao until tomorrow.

The Chinese vessel's arrival was reportedly coordinated with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The AFP Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) said *Yuan Wang 7's* port call is subject to conditions stated in a Diplomatic Note issued by the DFA.

Yuan Wang 7's port call was the fifth by a Chinese vessel since President Duterte assumed office in 2016.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the country may not be able to afford a submarine from Russia or any other source



Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence 'Bong' Go poses with Philippine Coast Guard officers during the 33rd founding anniversary of the Coast Guard District in Southeastern Mindanao at its headquarters in Sasa Wharf last Thursday. Go, who was guest of honor and speaker, was inducted as member of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary. He said the Duterte administration is earmarking P3.8 billion for the purchase of new PCG ships, patrol boats, firearms and other equipment.

and may have to settle for surface vessels instead.

"A submarine is very expensive. In the first place, the capital outlay is already very expensive. To maintain it is also very expensive. To man it, you need two sets of crew that will alternate in manning the submarine," he said in response to questions raised by former Marine captain-turned lawmaker Gary Alojano of Magdalo.

A submarine is estimated to cost \$300 million to \$350 million, excluding

armaments.

The United States, the country's traditional ally, has raised concerns about the planned purchase of a submarine from Russia.

"I don't think that's a helpful thing to do (for our) alliance and I think ultimately we can be a better partner than the Russians can be," said US Assistance Defense Secretary Randal Schriver, referring to the planned submarine purchase.

— With Jess Diaz, Edith Regalado, Janvic Mateo, Jaime Laude

Rody visits Japan navy ships in Subic

By JAIME LAUDE

A Japanese flotilla composed of Japan's biggest warship to drop anchor in Philippine waters since World War II as well as two destroyers, was personally welcomed by President Duterte at the Alava Wharf in Subic Bay, Olongapo yesterday.

Commodore Jonathan Zata, Navy spokesman, said helicopter carrier *JS Kaga* (DDH-184), Akizuki-class destroyers *JS Suzitsuki* (DD-117), and Murasama-class *JS Inazuma* (DD105) arrived at Alava Port at around 8 a.m.

President Duterte was accorded rouser honors upon

Turn to Page 6

Rody visits From Page 1

boarding the carrier *Kaga*. Malacañang said the President's gesture showed his administration's warm ties with Japan.

"The Philippine Navy (PN) rendered the customary naval honors for the arriving Japanese warships belonging to the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) Escort Flotilla Four," Zata said.

The three warships have a total of 850 officers and crew members, who will participate in various civic activities along with their local counterparts.

Zata described the goodwill visit of the JMSDF warships as routine navy-to-navy engagements.

"As you may recall, the JMSDF provided us with five TC90 planes with some of these planes, after being refurbished, are now being used for maritime air surveillance," Zata said.

For this year alone, JMSDF warships have already made three port calls.

Kaga is the biggest Japanese warship to visit the country since World War II, Zata pointed out.

The increase in the frequency of port calls in the country by Japanese warships comes at a time when the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom (UK) are stepping up their respective naval activities in the South China Sea in the face of

China's expanding naval presence in the region.

"Both navies (Philippines' and Japan's) share strategic partnership and common interests of a peaceful and stable region and rules-based approach to international engagements and resolution of conflict," Commodore Antonio Pacles, commander of the PN's Sixth Amphibious Assault Force, said in remarks welcoming the visiting Japanese navy officers and sailors.

Rear Admiral Tatsuya Fukuda, flotilla commander, said their visit is primarily aimed at improving operational capabilities as well as enhancing interoperability and cooperation with Japan's allies "while contributing to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific Region."

Task force to remove Navy vessel stuck in shoal

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Saturday activated a joint task force for the retrieval of a Navy ship that ran aground in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) on Wednesday.

Col. Noel Detoyato, AFP spokesperson, said the Joint Task Force Goyong will retrieve BRP Gregorio del Pilar (FF-15) at the Hasa-hasa Shoal, which is located between Pagasa (Thitu) Island and the southern tip of Palawan.

Task Force Goyong is composed of officials from Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Air

Force and the Philippine Navy.

The group is led by Commodore Rommel Galang.

"He was flown in so that the ship captain of FF15 can concentrate on the day to day operations of FF15 and the safety and security of his ship," Detoyato said.

"So, while waiting for the tugboats and other PCG and Navy platforms to arrive, surface and underwater assessments are being done to come up with the right plan of retrieval," he added.

ROY D.R. NARRA

Chinese 'ghost ships' haunt BRP Del Pilar

AFP denies *South China Morning Post* report, saying only PH Coast Guard ships are in the area

By Elmer N. Manuel

Did China send "ghost ships" to eye or, according to the *South China Morning Post* (SCMP), help the Philippine Navy's BRP *Gregorio del Pilar* which ran aground at Hasa-Hasa Shoal in the disputed West Philippine Sea (WPS)?

According to an SCMP report, Chinese coast guard vessels were already at the shoal while another search and rescue ship was also on standby in nearby waters.

But the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday denied the report that Chinese vessels were present where the frigate wandered into — on shallow water.

In a radio interview, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Noel Detoyato said that there were no Chinese coast guard ships in the area.

Only Philippine Coast Guard vessels were in the area as they assessed the damage on the frigate, Detoyato said. He added they have already removed unnecessary crew and equipment from the ship to make it float higher on the water line.

Detoyato

assured the public investigations are being conducted while reiterating the Philippine warship is still sound.

The BRP *Del Pilar* got stalled on Wednesday in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone at the WPS while the frigate was patrolling the area going to Ulugan Bay in Palawan.

"We are discussing with the Philippine side how we can provide assistance," China's foreign ministry spokesman Hua Chunying was quoted as saying in the SCMP report.

China's *Non Hai Jiu 115*, or "South China Sea Rescue," was dispatched to the Spratly Islands in July and has since been permanently stationed at Subi Reef, it added.

China and the Philippines are laying claim to the WPS, called South China Sea by the former. The Philippines has secured an international arbitral ruling that invalidated China's expansive nine-dash claim over almost all of the WPS.

The Asian economic and military giant has also stopped up island-building and militarization efforts in the waters, while the Philippines has taken "diplomatic actions" on the incursions.

The stranded PN warship is a 8,250-ton Hamilton-class cutter

which the Navy acquired from the US Coast Guard in 2011. It was then converted into a frigate with a helicopter, 25mm auto-cannon, 76mm cannon and machine guns.

The AFP has formed a team to investigate the incident. Detoyato said the team is expected to be aboard the ship Saturday.

We are discussing with the Philippine side how we can provide assistance, China's foreign ministry spokesman Hua Chunying said.

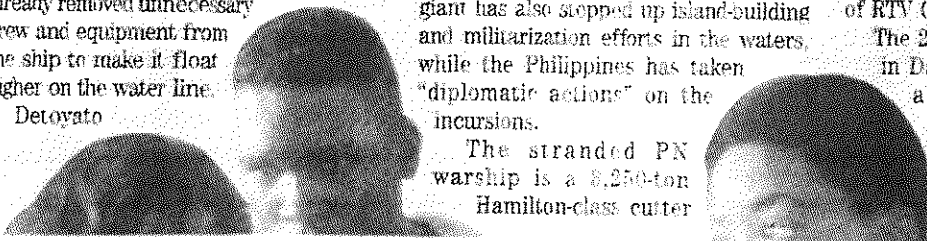
He added BRP *Gregorio del Pilar* is recoverable, with minimal damage to the hull.

The PCG's BRP *Sindangan* arrived at the site of the grounding 11 a.m. Friday and will be joined by the BRP *Cabra* to render assistance. The BRP *Nestor Reinoso* is also on hand to provide help.

Two tugboats had been sent from Batangas to do the actual recovery of the ship.

Meanwhile, a Chinese research vessel docked at the Sasa Wharf in Davao City Friday morning, according to a report of RTV One Mindanao.

The 225-meter-long MV Yuan arrived in Davao City at 7 a.m. to conduct a goodwill visit and replenish supplies, according to an agent from the vessel, who refused to be interviewed in front of the camera.



Another Chinese ship docks in Davao

By CNN Philippines

ANOTHER research vessel of the Chinese government has docked at a port in Davao City, less than two months after a Chinese ship made a call there.

Major Ezra Balagtey, Spokesperson of the Military's Eastern Mindanao Command, yesterday confirmed that Yuan Wang 7 dropped anchor at Sasa Wharf on Friday. Balagtey

said the ship is expected to leave on Monday and is staying at the port for replenishment.

"Her stay in the Philippines is subject to the conditions as stated through Diplomatic Note issued by DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs)," Balagtey told reporters in a text message.

In July, another Chinese research and surveillance ship, Yuan Wang 8, also docked at Sasa Wharf. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana then said there

was "nothing unusual" in the port call, saying the ship would only replenish supplies.

Retrieving PH frigate

Meanwhile, retrieval operations are underway for BRP Gregorio del Pilar, the Philippine Navy's flagship that ran aground at a shoal in the disputed South China Sea on Wednesday night.

Reports said China has sent Coast Guard and rescue vessels to help with the retrieval operations, but

the Philippine Navy said it was not informed of such moves. The Armed Forces also said the Philippines can do it alone.

"We did not ask for help from anybody. We can on our own, we can resolve this one," Armed Forces Public Affairs Chief Col. Noel Detorato told reporters in a phone interview Friday.

Malacanan refused to speculate on what China would do in response to the grounding incident.

168 new officers to join Army

A total of 168 new officers who recently graduated from the Officer Candidate School in Capas, Tarlac will join the Philippine Army.

The Officer Candidate Course "Emancipator" Class 50-2018 is comprised of teachers, criminologists, nurses, engineers, bankers, agriculturists and other professionals.

Second Lieutenant Lowiemae Maceda led the batch. She received the Secretary of National Defense Saber award.

Maceda, a graduate of Technology Communication, vowed to make a difference in the lives of Filipinos.

2LT Alvin Nicolas Jr. and 2LT Vincent Dacomas were the recipients of the Chief of Staff Saber Award and Commanding General Philippine Army Saber Award, respectively.

Maj. Gen. Casiano Monilla, commander of Training and Doctrine Command, said the 168 newly minted officers would be deployed to strengthen the Army's tactical units who are in charge of quelling insurgency and terrorism in the country. **ROY D.R. NARRA**

Duterte eyes military equipment from Israel

MANILA, Sept. 2 (PNA) — President Duterte is considering buying modern equipment for the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) during his visit to Israel next week, according to his top aide.

In a media interview with Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go said PCG commander Ron Go

is planning to buy patrol boats, ships, firearms and other equipment from Israel. He said he will be in Israel from September 7 to 8, and in Istanbul from September 10 to 11.

Duterte is to be visiting Israel and return from the kingdom of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's invitation and to attend the 33rd anniversary

of the PCG in Davao City, respectively. He will be in Israel from September 7 to 8, and in Istanbul from September 10 to 11.

They will check the possible equipment to help modernize the Philippine Coast Guard and *king may magustohan, ibibilang* government if they want the equipment, the government will buy," Go told reporters.

He said the government had

allocated P2 billion for the procurement of new patrol boats and firearms, and P1 billion for ships, patrol boats, firearms and other modern equipment.

"*Natipak 1.2 billion program na nakatalaga. Maaaring man sa mga bagong 1.2 na patrol boats, armas at iba pang equipment (More than 1 billion has been set aside. It will go to the*

A2

■ EQUIPMENT FROM A1

Duterte eyes military equipment

purchase of ships, patrol boats, firearms and other equipment," according to Go.

He said 10 new 54-meter patrol boats from Japan have just arrived and these would help ensure security of the seas and stop illegal activities.

"*Kararating lang ng 10 new 54-meter patrol boats from Japan. Isa ito sa pinakita nung pumunta kami ng Japan (The 10 new 54-meter patrol boats just arrived from Japan. These were presented to us when we visited Japan).*" Go added.

Go, who was the guest of honor and speaker in the 33rd anniversary

celebration of the PCG in Southeastern Mindanao in Davao City, recognized the PCG's important role in the Duterte administration's campaign against drugs, corruption and crime.

"*Maraming salamat sa suportang n'yo. Kung di dahil sa inyo, mahihirapan ang gobyerno (Thank you for your support. Without you, the government would have a hard time).*" the President's top aide said.

"*Nakikiusap ako na suportahan niyo ang Pangulo sa kampanya laban sa droga, korupsiyon at kriminalidad (I ask you to continue to support the President in his cam-*

campaign against drugs, corruption and crime)," he added.

Meanwhile, Go said he was honored to be inducted as a member of the PCG Auxiliary.

"I am proud *na maging kasama sa Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary. Papaano po kami makatulong sa ating karagatan, sa ating mga coastline pangalagaan natin ang ating karagatan (I am honored. I am proud to be part of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary. We will help maintain our waters, our coastline. We should take care of our waters).*" he added.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

13



AFP and PNP join forces for ML monitoring

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) joined forces in relation to the martial law (ML) in Mindanao by signing a Joint Letter Directive on 31 August 2018.

It will also provide a system to monitor and assess the operationalization of local government unit councils and committees.

This document serves as an implementing directive in monitoring local chief executives in Mindanao as contained in ML Instructions 1 issued by the ML Administrator and National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

AFP Chief of Staff General Carlito Galvez Jr. and PNP Chief Oscar Albayalde signed said directive at the AFP General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Joint Letter Directive seeks to establish a monitoring system in coordination with the PNP and other law enforcement agencies in order to effectively assist the Provincial Governors in Mindanao and the ARMM Regional Governor.

It will also provide a system to monitor and assess the operationalization of local government unit councils and committees; and monitor participation of local officials in all programs, activities and projects of these LGU councils and committees.

Interaction of local officials with their constituents will also be monitored to determine if they are present and discharging their official functions in their localities, as well as supervising their various executive departments in the implementation of government programs and services for the benefit of their constituents.

Kathleen Mae Bulquerin

New grads boost army fight vs terror

By Kathieen Mae Bulquerin

More men and women are set to join the military's fight against rebellion as 168 graduates of the Officer Candidate Course 'Emancipator' Class 50 - 2018 finished their training in simple closing rites on Thursday, 30 August, at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Officer Candidate School (OCS), TRADOC, Camp O' Donnell, Capas, Tarlac.

Maj. Gen. Robert Arevalo, Army Vice Commander, presided over their commissioning as 2nd Lieutenants in the Regular Force in behalf of the Commanding General, Philippine Army.

In the history of OCS, this is the largest class thus far, comprised of professional individuals such as teachers, criminologists, nurses, engineers, bankers, agriculturists, and others.

Ranking number one in the class and receiving the Secretary of National Defense Saber Award was 2nd Lieutenant Luwimae Maceda, a graduate of Bachelor of Arts in Technology Communication from Cagayan De Oro City. 12

As a training institution, the Command strove hard to fortify them and ingrain in their hearts the virtues of Valor, Integrity and Duty.

Graduating number two and three, respectively, were 2nd Lieutenant Alvin Nicolas Jr., who received the Chief of Staff Saber Award; and 2nd Lieutenant Vincent Dacomos, who was given the Commanding General Philippine Army Saber Award. Both are engineers by profession.

"I am fully confident that in these young servant leaders, idealism, nobility and patriotism shall always flourish. As a training institution, the Command strove hard to fortify them and ingrain in their hearts the virtues of Valor, Integrity and Duty," said Major General Casiano G. Monilla, Commander of Training and Doctrine Command.

Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar was present as the Guest of Honor and Speaker for the ceremony.

He said the new batch of OCS graduates will soon be deployed, in addition to the previously dispatched 240 2nd lieutenants, to help bolster the Army's tactical units. These are the troops at the forefront of quelling insurgency and terrorism in the country. 12



Defense budget questioned

SOLONS questioned the Department of National Defense (DND) for having bigger adjustment on its proposed national budget for 2019.

Unlike other agencies which got huge cut, the DND's allocation will rise 11.24 percent to P49.18 billion.

During the budget hearing, House Members sought for justification from DND officials, led by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Addressing the queries and concerns of the lawmakers, Lorenzana presented the variances to the budget that caused the significant increase in their 2019 budget proposal, namely, 35 percent or P17.25 billion, increase in personnel services; P745 million increase in maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE); and P405 million increase in the capital outlay.

At the hearing, Antonio Tinio questioned the budget utilization of the DND.

He noted that there has been an improvement from 87.5 percent in 2015 to 89.4 percent in 2017. However, he said that it is relatively unexceptional compared to the performance of other agencies, such as the Department of Education (DepEd), which achieved a 93.9 percent budget utilization.

Tinio based partly his query on the cash-based budgeting system.

"Hindi pangatapos ng performance or utilization rates, dapat ay may paghahaba, hindi pagtaas sa budget proposal," Tinio said.

Tinio said there should still be a drop in the DND budget proposal due to the cash-based budgeting system, which essentially implies lowered budget to be utilized within a year.

However, Tinio said there was an augmentation in the proposal because of the considerable increase in the maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) and capital outlay.

Jester P. Manalastas

Pagdaong ng Chinese vessel sa Davao may clearance sa DFA

Kinumpirma kanilang isang opisyal ng militar ang pagdaong ng isang Chinese research vessel sa lungsod ng Davao noong Diyeses ng umaga.

Ayon kay Mateo Eza Batagtey, spokesman ng AFP-Eastern Mindanao Command, may diplomatic clearance mula sa Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) ang pagdaong ng Chinese vessel sa Davao City.

M/V Yuan Wang 7 vessel is expected to leave on 03 September 2018. Her stay in the Philippines is subject to the conditions as stated through diplomatic note issued by DFA, panayag ni Batagtey.

Dumaong ang 225-meter long M/V Yuan Wang sa Davao City para magsegawa ng goodwill visit at mag-replenish ng mga supply para sa mga crew ng barko.

Ang mga crew ay sumakay rin ng apat na bus para mag-tour sa lungsod ng Davao.

Nabatid pa na ang M/V Yuan Wang ay mananatili sa Sasa Wharf sa loob ng apat na araw.

Hindi ito ang unang pagkakatapon na dumaong sa Davao City ang Chinese vessel. Lumapag din dito ang Chinese aircraft nito lang ison matapos ang pagbisita ni Pangulong Duterte sa Beijing, *Joy Santos*

12



Go through process, NHA tells Kadamay members

BACOLOD CITY - After meeting with concerned officials, around 1,000 informal settlers led by the militant Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay), who camped out at a government housing project in this city left on Friday.

Susan Nonato, National Housing Authority (NHA) architect and head of the project implementation team of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Philippine National Police, stressed that the units Kadamay is targeting have been awarded to uniformed personnel.

Nonato said Kadamay should submit a list of its

members and go through the process if they want to avail themselves of housing units.

Kadamay members brought some of their personal belongings and their children when they stormed an NHA project in Barangay Felisa on Thursday.

The P360-million project was completed in 2015. At least 1,498 units were awarded to police and military personnel.

Mayor Evelio Leonardia said the city government would apply for a loan to develop an area in Barangay Vista Alegre to provide housing for informal settlers.

- Gilbert Bayoran

Kadamay leaves gov't housing site in Bacolod

BACOLOD CITY (PNA) — At least 1,000 informal settlers led by the urban poor group, Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay)-Negros, left a government housing site in Barangay Felisa here Friday afternoon after

camping out overnight Thursday and demanding for housing units. The informal settlers, led by Bertha Ante and Erenco Luninos, vacated the Ciudad Felisa housing project for police officers and soldiers, on orders

of National Housing Authority (NHA) architect Susana Nonato, head of the housing project's implementation team. The NHA representatives, led by Nonato, with assistance from the Ba-

colod City police, led by Senior Supt. Francisco Ebreo, negotiated with the leaders of the informal settlers at the Business Inn hotel on Friday morning.

During the dialogue, they gave Kadamay-Negros until 3 p.m. to vacate the housing site. By about 4 p.m., the group left.

Kadamay-Negros vacates NHA project in Bacolod

BACOLOD CITY: The militant urban poor group, Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap in Negros Island (Kadamay-Negros), called off plans to take over a housing project for uniformed personnel after the National Housing Authority (NHA) ordered them to vacate their property on Friday.

NHA officials in Negros said all 1,498 housing units in the 10-hectare compound in Purok Guanzon, J.I. Gonzaga in Barangay Felisa in this city had already been awarded to Philippine National

Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) personnel.

The group, comprised of about 1,500 family members, heeded the NHA order, adding that they do not want a violent confrontation. They held an indignation program at the main entrance of the housing project before leaving.

Alejandro Ongsoco, NHA project manager, said the group had requested to occupy the housing units in the area based on Joint Resolution No.02 that authorizes the NHA to award to other qualified ben-

eficiaries the unawarded housing units.

He pointed out to Kadamay members that the housing units have already been awarded to their rightful beneficiaries and are just awaiting installation of power and water utilities.

Kadamay had requested the local NHA office in Bacolod to facilitate a meeting among the officers of the AFP, PNP and the group's leaders next month.

The letter has been forwarded to Colonel Leonido Yanson of the AFP Housing Board, and Police Regional Office-6

deputy director for administration, Chief Supt. Carlo Feliciano.

Feliciano replied on August 23 that he would attend the meeting, although Yanson has yet to respond to the request.

Ereneo Luminos, secretary-general of Kadamay-Negros, cited the Joint Resolution President Rodrigo Duterte signed last May, claiming that informal settlers are entitled to unoccupied units the NHA constructed.

Aside from Kadamay-Negros, other militant groups under the Bagong Aly-

ansang Makabayan (Bayan) also stormed the housing site on Thursday morning.

Christian Tuayon, chairman of the National Federation of Sugar Workers, said they consider their "one-day encampment" at the compound as "victory for the urban poor."

In April, Kadamay also forcibly occupied a housing project meant for government workers in Pandi, Bulacan and demanded that the houses be given to them for free with basic services such as water and electricity.

EUGENE Y. ADIONG

Large business delegation joining Rody in Israel trip

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

More than 150 Filipino businessmen will accompany President Duterte on his visit this week to Israel, according to the Israel foreign ministry.

Embassy officials said yesterday Duterte will lead a business seminar for heads of large companies from Israel and the Philippines.

Duterte is scheduled to leave this afternoon for the official trip to Israel, followed by the official visit to nearby Jordan.

Before he leaves for Israel, Duterte accepted the credentials of Israeli Ambassador to the Philippines Rafael Harpaz during the presentation of credentials at Malacañang last Friday.

After the presentation of credentials, Duterte and Harpaz exchanged views on how to further strengthen Philippine-Israeli relations.

"President Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are looking forward to meeting the President," Harpaz said.

Philippine-Israel relations stand on the noble deed of the Philippines through the late President Manuel Quezon's "Open Door" policy that saved 1,300 Jewish people from the Holocaust.

"Israel is eternally thankful to the gracious deed of the Philippines to save Jewish lives," he said.

"We are also appreciative of the approximately 30,000 Filipinos who are working as caregivers to many Israelis in need," Harpaz added.

The ambassador also expressed appreciation to the thousands of Filipino professionals who participate in development programs in Israel and in the

Philippines, through MASHAV, Israel's international agency for development cooperation.

He also commended the more than 600 Filipino students from 29 state universities and colleges who participate in the 11-month internship in modern agriculture program in Israel every year.

In a pre-departure briefing last Thursday, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Ernesto Abella said it will be the first time that a Philippine president visits Israel and Jordan.

From Sept. 2 to 8, the Department of Foreign Affairs said the President will work to expand ties with Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan upon the invitation, respectively, of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan.

"The visits will mark historic milestones, benefit trade and strengthen relationships with key partners in the Middle East," Abella said.

Duterte's official visits to Israel and Jordan are in line with the administration's foreign policy of "friends to all, enemies to none."

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra was designated as government caretaker when President Duterte leaves today.

The usual caretaker during presidential trips abroad, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, the so-called "little president," will be part of Duterte's official delegation.

The President is set to depart at around 1 p.m. today from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before returning to the country via Davao City on Sept. 9.

Among those expected to join the President on the trip are presidential daughter and Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio and son Sebastian Duterte.

In Israel, Duterte is expected to sign agreements with Netanyahu on areas of cooperation concerning labor, science and investment.

Turn to Page 5

...deal with Filipinos in the implementation of the deal through an official meeting. The deal involves a transfer of about 25,000... of the year... to... participate... 11,000... 40 years ago... of the

formal... between...
An official of the... Conference of the... yesterday and by... meeting of President Duterte in Israel and Jordan... show they are given...
By an interview with... *Radio Times*... 11... chairman... said that the President...
Page 7

Large

From Page 5

the OFWs in these two Middle East countries gives an impression that he values their contribution to the country and recognizes their love for their families.
The official trip of President Duterte to Israel is expected to hasten the defense department's key procurement projects from the highly military-capable Jewish state for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).
Philippine Coast Guard commandant Admiral Elson Hermogino, who is joining the trip, would also look for ammunition that could be installed in their newly acquired vessels.
"What we will be looking for in Israel are armaments for our new vessels and other law enforcement and anti-terrorist equipment," said Hermogino.
A senior military official, who asked not to be named,

said that included in talks between Filipino and Israeli officials during Duterte's visit is the procurement of military equipment.
"We are looking forward that defense deals will be discussed or even forged during the President's visit to Israel," the official said.
The source pointed out that Israel has been a major source of key military equipment like radars and missile systems currently being used in the three major services of the AFP.
Some Philippine Navy ships are now equipped with Israeli-made Spike ER (Extended Range) missiles.
Aside from the Navy, dozens of the Army's infantry fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers are also armed with Israeli-made remote control weapons systems. — With Evelyn Macairan, Jaime Laude, Edith Regalado

Zambo del Norte attack: Death toll now 6

ZAMBOANGA CITY -

The death toll in the attack by unidentified armed men of a coastal village in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte on Friday has increased to six.

The civilian fatalities were identified as Absar Gamba, Kabiran Ginsing, Saddam Tahir, Jaayri Lumihig and Muslimin Adan, who were caught in the crossfire as responding government troopers shot it out with the gunmen. Chief Superintendent Edwin de Ocampo, Zamboanga peninsula deputy police director, said.

Amsid Callun, a militiaman, was earlier reported as among those killed.

The gunmen also snatched

Ruto Roda and his wife Helen from their house in Barangay Piakan and used them as human shields against pursuing government troopers.

A minor, Jering Carbi, was wounded.

Ocampo said the gunmen fled with their captives toward Sibuco town after additional soldiers were deployed in the area.

Patrol boats of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao were deployed to put up a naval blockade to prevent the suspects from escaping.

The Philippine Coast Guard also dispatched inflatable rubber boats to search for the suspects and rescue their captives. — **Roel Pareño**

US help for PH in war on terror to continue

By Jeffrey Maitem, Judy Quiros and Edwin G. Fernandez @inqmindanao

The United States will continue to support the Philippine military's antiterror operations, especially after the bombing in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, that killed three people and hurt 57 others.

"At the request of the government of the Philippines, US special operations forces continue to assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Mindanao through support that increases intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities," said Molly Koscina, US Embassy spokesperson.

Military operations

Koscina did not specify what support the Philippines could expect, but during the five-month siege of Marawi last year, Filipino troops apparently received drone and satellite intelligence from the United States.

The military tagged two



TRUSTED ALLY The US government's continuing role in Philippine security could be gleaned from regular military exercises between American and Filipino soldiers, like this drill in Zambales province in May. —EDWIN BACASMAS

groups of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) as being behind the deadly attack that killed three people and wounded dozens of others in Isulan on Tuesday night.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the 6th Infantry Division, said one of the groups was led by a certain Ismael, alias Bungos, who operated in the Maguindanao area.

Sobejana declined to fully identify the two suspected BIFF leaders because of ongoing manhunt operations.

"We're trying our best to capture them to give justice to the victims," Sobejana added.

The Isulan bombing was the second terror incident claimed by local Islamic State affiliates after the suicide bombing last month that left 11 people dead

in southern Basilan.

The Special Investigation Task Group Hamungaya released a sketch of the Isulan bomber in Cotabato City.

Manhunt

Chief Supt. Eliseo Tam Rasco, Cotabato regional police director, presented the computer-generated facial sketch of the bomber who eluded arrest shortly before the 8:30 p.m. bomb attack on Tuesday.

Rasco described the suspect as being 20-25 years old, about 5'6" tall, of medium build and weighing about 60 kilograms, and of fair complexion.

The blast came while Isulan was on the second day of celebrating its foundation day and its Hamungaya Festival.

Supt. Aldrin Gonzales, Cotabato regional police spokesperson, noted another computer-generated sketch of the suspect circulated on social media the day after the bombing, but that was a fake.

"That was done by somebody who wanted to muddle the investigation," Gonzales told the Inquirer. INQ

Armed men kill 4, abduct couple in Zamboanga town

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Gunmen in camouflage uniforms seized a couple and killed four others they used as shield from pursuing government forces, including a militiaman who tried to stop them in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte.

The fate of the husband and wife, Roco and Elen Rada, remains unknown after

they were abducted in Barangay Piakan late on Friday afternoon by men, believed to be rebels.

The armed men also seized three civilians and used them as shields against pursuing soldiers and eventually killed them along the way. The militiaman who tried to rescue the

couple was shot dead by the suspects, responsibility for the abduction, killing of the four but security forces continued their operation on Saturday to rescue the victims.

There were no details about the two hostages, whether they are traders or belong

to a family in the town.

The victims include an infant, from a farm in Barangay San Nicolas in Sirawai town and demanded a P400,000 ransom for their safe release.

The victims—Feliciano Javier, 28; his wife Elsa, 28, and their five-month-old

baby Vincent Junior Javier, 23, and his

year-old son Yari—are keepers in a lot owned by Valiente Toio Felizarta, the town's municipal engineer. They were eventually released two weeks later in Barangay Gata in Talipao town.

A7 AL JACINTO



CAFGU, 5 PA PATAY SA Mag-asawa dinukol... ENKQUWENTRO SA ZAMBOANGA

Nasawi ang anim na katao kabilang ang isang miyembro ng Cafgu habang isang mag-asawa ang hinostage matapos na umatake ang isang grupo ng armadong

kalalakihan sa Brgy. Piacan, Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, Biyernes ng gabi.

Ayon sa ulat ng Police Regional Office (PRO) 9, nagbuwis ng buhay sa

Nina JOY CANTOS at RHODERICK BENEZ insidente ang miyembro ng Cafgu na si Amiel Callan.

Ang mga nasawing sibilyan ay nakilala namang sina Ahsan Gumba, Kabiran Gising, Saditan Tahir, Jaayri Lumilig at Muslimin Adan habang sugatan naman ang isa pa ng mga itong kasamahan na si Jering Carbi.

Batay sa imbostigasyon, dakong alas-6:05 ng gabi

nang umatake ang limang mga armadong kalalakihan na nakasuot ng camouflage uniform na lutas ng pump boat na de motor.

Nagresponde naman ang militar kanilang ang mga Cafgu nang marinig ang pagpapawalat ng mga armadong lalaki sa natatanging komunidad.

Upang hindi mabukol ng tropa ng gobyerno ay duo na puwersang dinukol ng mga salapi ang

mag-asawang kimilalang sina Rufe Roda, 62, isang retradong Cafgu at misis nitong si Helen Roda, 64, na ginawang pamangalalang upang makatakas sa lugar na tumabal patungo sa direksyon ng karagatan ng Sibaco, Zamboanga del Norte sakay ng pump boat.

Tinutugis na sa kasamayan ng tropa ng militar ang mga suspek upang mailigtas ang mag-asawang binag.

Matandang mag-asawa hinostage Zambo attack: Cafgu, 5 sibilyan utas!

Antin katao kabilang ang isang miyembro ng Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) ang nasawi habang hinostage ang isang mag-asawang matanda ng isang armadong grupo na umatake at nagpeulan ng bala sa ilang kabahayan sa Brgy. Piacan, Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, ayon sa opisyal kahapon.

Sinabi ni Chief Inspector Helen Galvez, Spokesman ng Police Regional Office (PRO) 9, naghawis ng buhay sa insidente ang Cafgu na si Amsid Calun habang ang mga sibilyan ay nakialang sina Apsar Gumba, Kabiran Ginsing, Saddam Tahir, Jaayri Luming at Muslimin Adan.

Base sa ulat, sugatan naman ang isa pang kasamahan ng mga nasawi na si Jering Gabi.

Sinabi ni Chief Inspector Helen Galvez, spokesperson ng Police Regional Office (PRO) 9, bandang alas-6:05 ng gabi nang umatake ang limang armadong lalaki na nakasuot ng camouflage uniform tulad ng pump boat na de-motor.

Nagresponde naman ang tropa ng militar at mga Cafgu na nakabase sa Piacan

Nina JOY CANTOS AT RHODERICK BENEZ

detachment. Sirawai nang maring ang pagpapalitan ng bala ng di pa natukoy na grupo sa nasabing komunidad na nagresulta sa paltan ng pulok ng magkabilang pang.

Se kasagsgagan ng babakan, puwersahang tinangay ng mga suspek ang mag-asawang sina Rulo Roda, 62, isang retiradong Cafgu at misa naong edad, 64, kapwa resident sa lugar na ginawang "human shield" upang makatakas sa lugar. Tangay ang mag-asawang hostage, tumahal patungo sa direksyon ng katagaran

ng Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte ang armadong grupo sakay ng pump boat.

Inaalam na ng militar at pulisya kung anong grupo ang responsible sa madugong pag-atake na hinihinola ng mga awtoridad na ang mga bandatang Abu Sayyaf at iba pang lawless elements sa lugar ang may kagagawan.

Patuloy naman ang hot pursuit operations ng pinagsanib na elemento ng Sirawai Municipal Police Station, 422nd Infantry Battalion ng Pnl Army at Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Force Mobile Force Company Jabat sa mga suspek upang ligtas ang dalawang binag.



Ang nakabuhayong lalaki sa antin na katao na napatak sa pag-atake ng armadong grupo sa Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte kamaglalawa. (PRO-9 photo)

PNP releases sketch of Isulan bomber

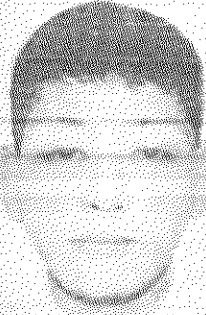
The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Saturday released a computerized facial sketch of the suspect behind the detonation of an improvised explosive device (IED) in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on August 28 that killed three and wounded 36 others.

Chief Supt. Eliseo Tam Rasco, regional director of Soccsksargen Region, described the alleged bomber as a 20 to 25-year-old male, 5'6 to 5'7 feet tall, weighs 55 to 60 kilograms, medium built and white complexion.

The description was based on the accounts of the witnesses who survived the blast.

Soccsksargen Region is comprised of the provinces of South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Saranggani, with General Santos City.

Investigation by the Special Investigation Task Group, showed the suspect detonated the IED using a cellular phone with nine volts battery power source as triggering device of the bomb contained in a barrel of a water pump.



■ Cartographic sketch of the suspect released by the Philippine National Police.

The IED was placed under a motorcycle parked in front of a business establishment near the *alay-alay* (second hand clothes) area.

Meanwhile, Gov. Pax Mangudadatu of Sultan Kudarat reiterated his offer of P1-million reward to anyone who can provide

information that would lead to the arrest of the bomb suspect.

"I will give P1-million reward to the persons who can pinpoint or identify and bring me the bombing suspects, dead or alive," Mangudadatu said.

Mangudadatu was visibly irked after the suspects managed to sneak in the heavily guarded celebration of the Isulan foundation anniversary and Hamungaya festival last Tuesday.

PNP Chief Director General Oscar Albayalde previously said they were identifying the group behind the attack even as the Abu Turayf group from the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and the Islamic State earlier claimed responsibility for the attack.

Isulan municipal peace and order council and the local crisis management committee have cancelled all activities for the festival that was supposed to end September 1.

**ROY D.R. NARRA AND
JULMUNIR L. JANNARAL**

Youth power in Bangsamoro

By ANTONIO L. COLINA IV

DAVAO CITY — A young Moro leader from Basilan province hopes the newly signed Bangsamoro law would end the decades-long armed conflict, and bring a new era of "peace and progress" in Mindanao.

Moro leader Hafima A. Sahal, 24, brims with optimism while sharing how she wants to engage her fellow Moro youth in changing the "image" of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), most especially in her home province and Marawi City, Lanao del Sur that was destroyed by a five-month armed conflict between the military and Islamic State-inspired Maute Group.

Sahal is a member of a group called Action Bridges Aspiration (ABA), which conducts trainings for students, out-of-school youth, and young professionals in Zamboanga, Basilan, and Tawi-Tawi.

"As a Bangsamoron, what I want is for us to have a peace progress and not just peace process always. After the peace talks, there would be implementation and then they would go back to peace talks again even if they have not yet completed what should have been implemented. We feel it becomes a cycle that keeps repeating," she said.

She is hopeful that the Moro people can move into a real "peace progress" as the development cannot be attained if the Bangsamoro Law remains just like a "concept paper."

Sahal encouraged her fellow youth to keep their hope amid the growing "disappointment and frustration" stemming from the failed promises, emphasizing the need to continue their participation in the peace-building activities in their communities.

"I hope they would participate and be aware of what's happening as this is their right as a youth. They are useful even the OSY (out-of-youth), and the old and young. All of us have the right. If they do not take part, if something happens, they will not understand because they are not informed," she said.

She said enlisting the youth for peace-building would keep them away from the influence of the terrorist groups.

Work for peace together

She hopes the people will work together to achieve a peaceful Bangsamoro.

She asked: "When do we have the peace progress? When does this end? When do all of us in the ARMM start working for peace?"

"The government is just there but sometimes we cannot also blame the youth if they no longer want to participate because they might feel it wouldn't be sustained and it would be gone again," she said.

Sahal urged the youth to "continue doing what is right and continue what our predecessors have started because we cannot start if we do not know our roots and our identity." She said it's important that they know their origin to achieve understanding among people in a multi-cultural society.

A member of the Basilan Young Leaders Program in 2015, she knew the work for peace would not be easy because there would always be "misunderstanding."

"In peace-building, there will be misunderstanding, for example, when you go to the community to give projects and, of course, projects are targeted for specific beneficiaries. But people will tend to ask why only Basilan? Why only

Sulu? Why only Tawi-Tawi?" she said.

But she emphasized that it's important to keep on despite the difficulty and do not promise the youth something that cannot be done or sustained.

"Some people are afraid of us. They are Muslims. We cannot avoid that because it's what they see on social media. We wish that one day nobody would be afraid of us because everyone is welcome in our home. They can visit us in our place," she said.

She shared that her province of Basilan has quite a number of beautiful destinations and a melting pot of diverse Moro, Chris-

tians, and Lumad cultures.

"In ARMM, there are so many things that we lack. Like our heroes we are not taught in schools who they are," she said.

She cited the importance of incorporating in "peace education" the rich history of the Bangsamoro, narratives, and heroes in schools.

Growing up, she felt bad the youth knew nothing much about the heroes in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur,

and Maguindanao.

"We consider ourselves leaders but who are our great leaders? Who are they? What are their stories?" she said.

2

THE DAWNING OF BANGSAMORO

By KEITH BACONGCO

COTABATO CITY - In 50 years of sporadic peace, the signing of the Organic Law on the Bangsamoro for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanae (OLBAMMM) into law by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has bolstered hopes that decades of conflict and marginalization in Muslim-dominated areas in Mindanao may finally come to an end.

Though some believe that the measure may not be the absolute

solution, at least, it could contribute in laying the foundations for genuine and lasting economic, political, and social reforms in the region.

The decades of conflict did not only polarize the populace, but it also shelved the economic potentials of the region.

For the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's (MILF), there is so much promise that the Bangsamoro government would be mutually beneficial to all sectors in the region.



The dawning of Bangsamoro ◀1

"It's a formula for peace," pointed out MILF Implementing Chair Mohagher Iqbal pointed out, adding that they hope to see a more harmonious atmosphere among the constituents in the region.

He added that OLBARMM was not just crafted for the welfare of those within the Bangsamoro territory, but was also tailored for everyone to mutually share its benefits.

But first, Iqbal emphasized, the grassroots and the other sectors must be educated to fully understand the law.

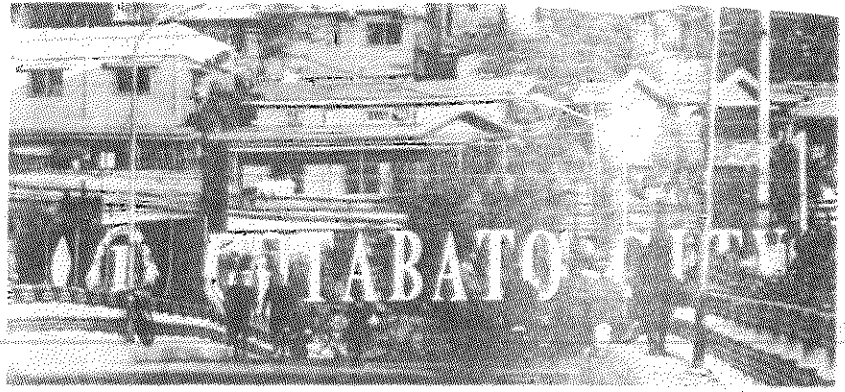
"There is a need for a dialogue with those within and outside the territory that will be covered by the plebiscite. We need to discuss how this new law would be beneficial to all," he explained, while referring to the upcoming plebiscite required for the ratification of the law, as well as the inclusion of the some areas in the proposed territory.

Under the law, the government will hold the plebiscite not more than 150 days from the signing of the BOL into law, but not earlier than 90 days.

Aside from the present ARMM (the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi, and the cities of Marawi and Lamitan), other proposed inclusion are the cities of Cotabato and Isabela in Basilan, six towns in Lanao del Norte and the 35 barangays in six towns of North Cotabato.

Except for cities of Cotabato and Isabela, all other areas voted yes to their inclusion in the ARMM in a 2001 plebiscite.

North Cotabato Governor Emmylou Taliño-Mendoza says the provincial government is open to any dialogue. "I agree na dapat may dialogo," she told Manila Bulletin in reaction to Iqbal's statement.



BRIDGE OF HOPE -- A huge welcome sign is emblazoned at the end of this bridge in Cotabato City, welcoming residents, visitors, and possible investors. Morning scene at a corner in downtown Cotabato City, which is bracing for development with its possible inclusion in the new Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). (Keith Bacongco)

Mendoza said dialogue could help address the concerns of all the stakeholders. "Only an informed citizenry could make an informed choice.

She also hopes that the Bangsamoro law would have a positive impact on the lives of the people in the region and bring long lasting peace and development not only the region and in the entire country. "I welcome and fully support this peace initiative."

Not a perfect law but...

While admitting that OLBARMM may not be a perfect law, it is something that the Bangsamoro people can start with, said Iqbal who also chairs the MILF's information committee.

He said the law was 85 percent compliant with Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), a peace deal they signed with the government on March 27, 2014. The OLBARMM is the enabling law of the CAB.

One of the most important provisions, Iqbal cited, was on the powers of the autonomous government.

"Autonomy means powers and access to resources," he explained adding that having autonomy should also mean having a good engine in running the government. "The engine is very important, which is the parliamentary form of government. It's less politics and quick decision."

Aside from the 35 powers provided in the law, the Bangsamoro government will also get huge boosts in the existing powers granted to the current ARMM government, he added.

Moreover, Iqbal underscored the importance of having the Special Development Fund for the reparation of war-ravaged communities in Mindanao. "But it would take about 20 years for our communities to fully recover."

Under the law, the government will provide ₱5 billion every year for a period of 10 years in accordance with the Bangsamoro Development Plan. Former war-torn areas are not just located inside the current ARMM, but are spread across neighboring provinces.

In terms of legislation, Iqbal noted that the Bangsamoro government would prioritize education, social services, economic empowerment, and health services.

The MILF official also highlighted another salient point of the OLBARMM, particularly on wealth sharing, saying that the provision would provide more resources to further boost the economic programs and services of the Bangsamoro government.

Under the new law, the Bangsamoro government will get 75 percent from local taxes and 25 percent will go to the national government after 10 years.

In one of the recent forums, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Undersecretary Nabu Tan said this provision in the OLBARMM would unlock the potentials of the region.

Since resources are not provided every year, Tan said the ARMM government has to beg to Congress to get its annual budget.

"It's in the organic law before that the region shall appropriate the funds. What is there to appropriate? There is no income," said Tan, who had served as ARMM's vice governor from 1993 to 1996.

Furthermore, the former ARMM official pointed out that OLBARMM is not just a commitment to the CAB, but a reform law.

Meanwhile, Iqbal belied allegation made by critics of the MILF that it the commitment and sincerity should it be primarily tasked to run the autonomous government.

"We have the dedication in pursuing our struggle for almost 50 years. And that basic qualities can be brought in to the Bangsamoro government. And these would become our strength in pursuing good governance, transparency, and accountability," he added.

However, he admitted that running a revolutionary struggle is different from nation-building. "In revolution, you are simply destroying. That's one of the basic the essence of revolution. In nation building, you're constructing a nation," he said.

Tougher war on extremism seen in Bangsamoro

BY ALI C. MACABALANG

COTABATO CITY - Omar Hamza (not his real name) is seeing brighter prospects for his young family to be able to live a normal life openly following the enactment of Republic Act 11054, prescribing more autonomous governance in the Bangsamoro region and giving the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) a lead role in the war on violent extremism.

"I am readying to bring my family out of covert lifestyle because I believe the right time has come," Hamza averred in the Maranao dialect with a glow of smile in his face.

Hamza had sneaked out in 2010 from a training camp in Butig, Lanao del Sur for recruits by the "Ghuraba" which he said was the original group formed by jihadist brothers Omar and Abdullah Maute upon arrival from Islamic studies in the Middle East.

Hamza, who was 20 years old at the time of his escape, fled to a city in Central Mindanao in early 2011 and narrated what he described as "weird" orientation being given to recruits by the Maute brothers and their ideologues led by Abdunajid Humam aka Alim Owaida or Abu Dar.

"We were told that killing through assassination, ambush and bombing of non-believers in an emerging caliphate leadership is justified. Looting is even justified. I felt scared of the orientations because I know those were deviations from the true teachings of Qur'an and Hadith (recorded practices Prophet Muhammad). So I escaped," he recalled.

He said the "Ghuraba," which literally means "stranger" was patterned from counterparts in the United Kingdom and Europe where "discriminated" minority Muslims turned to violent militancy. The Maute brothers, both believed slain in the 2017 Marawi siege fighting, eventually mustered about 20 "well-trained recruits" and affiliated their group with the Dawla Islamiyah, a component of the Khilafah Islamiyah Movement (KIM), he added.

Teaching against extremism

The provincial government of Lanao del Sur has mandated the accreditation of madaris (Islamic and Arabic schools) in its domain after realizing that one or more of such schools were teaching Islamic violent militancy. For its part, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) officialdom has intensified planning and implementation of socio-economic and infrastructure projects meant to uplift the living conditions of Moro people.

"Extremists are exploiting narratives about poverty and perceived government neglect or discrimination among Moro communities in convincing recruits. We intensified efforts to prove the narratives irrelevant through interfaith dialogs in rural areas, carrying out at same time poverty-alleviating projects and interventions," ARMM Governor Mujiv Hataman said.

So far, Hataman said, more 100 combatants of the ASG have returned to the folds of law in separate ceremonies in Basilan and Sulu. A possible replication of the convergent approach is being mulled for other ARMM areas like Lanao del Sur, Basilan and Maguindanao, he said.

Researchers have found existing special education programs in Maguindanao more comprehensive in fighting violent ideology. These include the Maguindanao Children Development Center (MCDC) and the Maguindanao Program on Educational Assistance and Community Empowerment (MagPEACE).

The MCDC started operation about four years ago in Buluan town with an initial seed money of P10 million allocated by the provincial government through Maguindanao Governor Esmail Mangudadatu, center manager Heraton Alang said.

Alang said the center, which provides in-house studies from kindergarten to Grade VI, initially covered four-year ago 105 children from poor families in Maguindanao, including households of Moro rebels. The number of MCDC pupils has grown to more than 400 as of last school opening, she said.

After spending three academic years in the MCDC, Samson (not his real name) is now "well educated" in the regular curriculum combined with Islamic and Arabic lessons, according to his mother, widowed by a Moro rebel slain earlier in an armed clash with soldiers somewhere in Maguindanao.

Samson said in the vernacular: "When I grow up, I will embark on jihad akbar (greater

Islamic struggle) to influence people towards peaceful and productive life, not the kind of jihad my father had waged."

In Islamic parlance, fighting for self-determination with the use of gun is defined as jihad asgar (minor struggle). This philosophy is "ignored" by Moro rebels thinking of dying as "martyrs" to gain place in paradise," local Islamic cleric Ishak Katambak said.

"Islam, which is derived from salaam (Arabic term for peace), encourages preaching for serenity and coexistence in society via jihad akbar that is assured of more Divine rewards. Armed jihad is justified only when one's religion, life, property or country is under attack," explained Katambak, a consultant on Islamic affairs by Gov. Mangudadatu.

The MCDC employs at in-house teachers more than a dozen of graduates in education of MagPEACE, which has already produced more than a thousand of alumni in various college and post-graduate studies like medicine and law, said Mangudadatu, who founded the program in early 2011 with few hundreds of scholars. The project scholars now account for close to 7,000, he said.

Alliance against extremism

Before President Duterte signed into law RA 11054, known as the charter of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), concerned local professionals organized the Alliance for Genuine Unity in Mindanao (AGUM) to expand across the Bangsamoro region the education-based approacher founded in Maguindanao against extremism, illegal drugs and other organized crimes.

Gov. Mangudadatu, installed as AGUM interim head, said he has recently conducted sorties in Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi for exploratory talks on the creation of alliance chapters in such areas.

"Teaching peace and concerted campaign against social and economic ill is one of the eight-point agenda of the Maguindanao provincial government. We wish to share now the campaign with other areas in ARMM," he said.

Bolder campaign

Efforts against violent ideology of extremism will be intensified or bolder when the BARMM, which will replace ANMM under RA 11054, starts formal operations sometime in January next year. MILF Vice Chairman Ghazali Jaafar said on Saturday in an interview with the Bulletin by phone.

"We will pursue our promise that in the Bangsamoro, there will be no room for extremism," said Jaafar who headed the Bangsamoro Transition Commission that crafted the original draft of RA 11054.

"We will talk more intimately with leaders of known extremist groups and persuade them to give peace a chance. I think they will agree with us because their armed struggle for social discrimination is something will address first in the operation of BARMM," Jaafar said.

When asked of possible armed actions if extremism would defy the MILF campaign, Jaafar said: "We will use all the power vested in us (in the proposed autonomous region) to ensure that nobody spoils the peace we have achieved initially, hinting at combat against militants.

In recent months, MILF field commanders had rallied soldiers in surgical operations that captured some BIFF camps in Maguindanao. They also assisted civilian and military officials in diplomatic negotiations that yielded the surrender in three batches of close to 30 bomb-making members of the BIFF (Aji G. Macabalan). (V)

INTERVIEW



ATTY. JAY DE CASTRO
KAMAKAILAN ay pinasinayahan ni Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea ang Hardin ng Lunas Harvest Festival sa Philippine Army Headquarters, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, kung saan iba't-ibang klaseng gulay ang maani sa 900 square meter lot sa kampo matapos ang

10 araw at ipinamigay sa 50 pamilya ng mga sundalo.

Ang Hardin ng Lunas ay pagtatayo ng advocacy o self-sustaining livelihood program ng Tarlac Heritage Foundation sa pamamagitan ng Chairwoman nito, si Dr. Isabel "Isa" Cajuango Santay at ng Philippine Army, na nagpaya pamamamayan ni PAC's Rolando Bautista.

Ang pagtatayo ng Hardin ng Lunas ay maging simula sa Camp O'Donnell ng PA noong 2012, sumubod sa Malasakitang Ina at ngayay sa PA headquarters sa Fort Bonifacio.

Sa kasalukuyang festival ay nakapag-ani sina Sec. Medialdea, Dr. Santay at sen. Bautista ng perhay

Hardin ng Lunas

okra, bawang, ampalaya, upo, mustard, spinach at iba pa.

Sa kasalukuyang talumpati, sinabi ni Sec. Medialdea ang kababayaran ng Hardin ng Lunas sa ating mga kababayan at aniy-ay dapat maging proyekto sa buong bansa para makatulong sa kabubayaran at kabesturan ng ating mga mamamayan.

Ayon kay Dr. Santay, layamin nilang pagyamanin ang mga brodi nagagamit et napapakinabangang lupa sa mga kampo para sa hospesyo ng mga sundalo at kanilang pamilya.

Amya ang pagtatayo ng

Hardin ng Lunas sa mga brodi kasama sa Lunas sa pamamagitan ng mga pagtatayo sa ating mga dalubiran, mga kampo, mga sila at kanilang pamilya ng "healthy lifestyle" sa pamamagitan ng kasalukuyang "Project Garden Landscaping Skills and Techniques" kung saan maglalaman nila ang mga pagtatayo at maging mga pamamagitan ng mga

Umagay "It's all about upang, larawan at mga aring ating mga mamamayan ay na makabayan ng mga es at pagtatayo ng mga simula ng pamamagitan ng mga "back to" pamamagitan.

On-line gardening at mga katalad na pamamagitan, maging hindi nila problema sa ating pagtatayo at maglalaman ng ating dalubiran, mga kampo, mga sila at kanilang pamilya ng "healthy lifestyle" sa pamamagitan ng kasalukuyang "Project Garden Landscaping Skills and Techniques" kung saan maglalaman nila ang mga pagtatayo at maging mga pamamagitan ng mga

Sinabi pa ni Dr. Santay na ang kasalukuyang pagtatayo ng brodi ay hindi problema, kung saan ayon kay Dr. Santay ay maging hindi sa ating mga kampo, mga sila at kanilang pamilya ng "healthy lifestyle" sa pamamagitan ng kasalukuyang "Project Garden Landscaping Skills and Techniques" kung saan maglalaman nila ang mga pagtatayo at maging mga pamamagitan ng mga

Dr. Santay ang brodi.

Lungsod ng Tarlac
Heritage Foundation at
suporta nila ng pamamagitan
Duterte, walang duda na
maging maso-solusyon
ang problema sa kabubayan
at kakabayaran ng mga
kampo ng ating mga
mamamayan.

Para sa akin, brodi ay
pagtatayo ng mga
dalubiran, mga kampo, mga
silang harangang pagtatayo
ng kasalukuyang pamamagitan
baso kung tutuharan lang
natio ang magandang usa
h ng ating mga kabubayan
ang brodi.

Ang akong ama ay
ibang "genuine Horano",
maka sa Saratunga, Horano
at magsabi ko na walang
atong mamamayan ngayon
na lupa, kung may labanan
tong bahagi sa kanilang

pagtatayo, a lahi ng
kampo, mga sila at kanilang
pamilya ng "healthy lifestyle"
sa pamamagitan ng kasalukuyang
"Project Garden Landscaping Skills
and Techniques" kung saan
maglalaman nila ang mga
pagtatayo at maging mga
pamamagitan ng mga

Sa akong pagtatayo,
on sa bayan ng ating mga
ay wala akong natatamo,
na maging kampo ng pagtatayo
sa palengke, magkaka-
lawing pagtatayo.

pagtatayo ng mga
dalubiran, mga kampo, mga
silang harangang pagtatayo
ng kasalukuyang pamamagitan
baso kung tutuharan lang
natio ang magandang usa
h ng ating mga kabubayan
ang brodi.

Napakaganda sa mga
Sana ang magtatayo
katapalan ito na maging
dalubiran ng mga
erong Duterte at maging
sa ating mga mamamayan
on, lalo sa kabubayan ng
lungsod ng Tarlac.



Nagpaparamdam ang mga terorista

SA mga nangyayaring pagsabog na nararanasan sa Mindanao mukhang nagpapalakas ng puwersa ang mga terorista. Baka nagbabalak na namang maghacik ng kaguluhan. Kaya dapat iwasang magpatulug-rulog sa panatili ang mga kawal ng gobyerno. Kita n'yo naman nalusutan kaya ng mga kaibang. Akala ko pag sinabing martial law, batas militar ang gumagana. Mukhang malamya yata ang mga nagpapatupad ng martial law sa Mindanao. Anong silbi ng mga check points n'yo? Bakit marami pa rin ang nakakalusot na bomba sa inyo? Kaawa-awa naman ang mga kababayan natin sa

Mindanao. Halos isang buwan ba lamang ang lumipas ng magpasabog sa isang van sa Lantaran, Basilan at ngayon ginulatang naman ang mga tao habang ginugunita ang kapistahan sa Isulan, Sultan Kudarat. Ibig sabihin kailat ang mga terorista ngayon sa Mindanao. Kung hindi magiging alerto ang mga militar at pulis diyan may mga lugar pa yan silang papasabugin kaya maging gani na sana sa kanila ang dalawang beses silang nalusutan ng mga terorista.

Kaya ayon nakakita na naman ng butas ang gobyerno upang palawigin ang martial law sa Mindanao. Para sa akin hindi masama di ba? Kung maaalala n'yo under martial law ngayon ang Mindanao. Wala namang naagrayadong mamamayan. Di naman katulad ng martial law sa ilalim ni diktador Ferdinand Marcos. Mas nakakatakot na ang ginawang pagpapasabog ng mga terorista kaysa sa ipinapatupad na martial law sa ngayon. Gusto lang ng gobyerno maging maayos at ligtas ang ating mga kababayan.

Sana naman ang mga over acting na mambabatas ay ipaubaya n'yo na sa gobyerno ang desisyon, dahil mis-mong mga kababayan natin ooor ay gusto ng mapayapang pamumuhay. Ang mga kontrabida lang naman diyan ay galing sa Luzon at Visayas. Kaya kaya ang tumira sa mga lugar na pinasasabugan

ONLINE NEWS

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

DND chief commends 2ID troops' gains in anti-insurgency ops

By Saul Pa-a September 1, 2018, 7:34 pm



Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana (right) with Major General Rhoderick M. Parayno (left), Commander of the Philippine Army's 2nd Infantry "Jungle Fighter" Division (2ID) troop the line during the military arrival honors at the 2ID quadrangle during his visit to the 2ID, Camp Gen. Mateo Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal on Aug. 31, 2018. *(Photo courtesy of 2ID-DPAO)*

CAMP GEN. MATEO CAPINPIN, Tanay, Rizal -- Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana on Friday commended troops for the success of their anti-insurgency operations but at the same time reminded them to also uphold human rights.

Lorenzana visited the Philippine Army's 2nd Infantry "Jungle Fighter" Division (2ID) in this camp to grace the inauguration of the 2ID's Division Training School (2DTS) administration building, training pool, view deck, and park.

The defense chief was accorded the traditional military honors at the division quadrangle with Major General Rhoderick M. Parayno, 2ID Commander.

Lorenzana commended the efforts of the soldiers in maintaining peace and security in the region, specially against the threats from the New People's Army (NPA).

He underscored the government's resolve to attain just and lasting peace in the country, citing the program for rebels who surrendered, laid down their arms and returned to the fold of the law under the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP).

"Under the E-CLIP, a former rebel can receive cash and livelihood assistance, firearms remuneration, access to housing, loans, medical and legal assistance among others. It also includes educational benefits which can be extended to the rebel's immediate family members," the DND chief said.

He mentioned about the 13 rebels who surrendered last August 14 and now recipients of the E-CLIP in the 2ID's area of responsibility, especially from Batangas.

Lorenzana was with Department of the Interior and Local Government OIC-Secretary Eduardo Año, who officiated the mass oath-taking of the rebel surrenderers as they took their "Oath of Allegiance" in recognition of the Philippine government's authority, in Tanauan City.

In his address, he reminded the soldiers about the importance of respecting human rights, as he spelled out President Rodrigo R. Duterte's plans and programs for the welfare of the soldiers and boost their morale. *(PNA)*

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

6 killed, 2 abducted as militiamen, gunmen clash in Zambo Norte

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr September 1, 2018. 2:55 pm

ZAMBOANGA CITY -- Six people, including a militiaman, were killed while a child was wounded following a clash by militiamen and unidentified gunmen in a remote area in Zamboanga del Norte, an official disclosed Saturday.

Chief Supt. Edwin de Ocampo, deputy regional director for administration of Police Regional Office 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula), said the gunmen also used two individuals as human shields during the clash that occurred in Piacan, a coastal barangay in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, at about 6:05 p.m. Friday.

De Ocampo said the clash broke out as the militiamen - based at the Piacan detachment - responded to the reported arrival of five unidentified gunmen, clad in camouflage uniforms, at the village's shore.

He said the clash resulted in the death of a militiaman and five civilians hit in the crossfire. The fatalities were identified as Amsid Callun, the militiaman; Absar Gumba; Kabiran Ginsing; Saddam Tahir; Jaayri Lumihig; and Muslimin Adan.

The wounded minor was identified as Jering Carbi, whose age was not immediately known.

De Ocampo said the gunmen seized Rufo Roda and his wife, Helen, and used them as human shields as they escaped. Rufo is also a militiaman.

The gunmen fled with the couple on motorboats.

Police units in Zamboanga del Norte, in coordination with military authorities, have already launched an operation to track down the whereabouts of the Roda couple.

De Ocampo said the Zamboanga Coast Guard has deployed two Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats to assist the police and military forces in their search for the gunmen. *(PNA)*