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NEWS CLIPPINGS

26 September 2018

Wednesday



Honor. Patriotism. Duty

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Trillanes arrested, posts bail

Senator won't go home, sees more 'legal harassment'

By PAOLO ROMERO and ROBERTZON RAMIREZ

Opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV yesterday yielded to the police and posted bail before the Makati City regional trial court (RTC) on charges of rebellion.

Trillanes was picked up at the Senate by a team of policemen led by National Capital Regional Police Office chief Director Guillermo Eleazar, accompanied by a court sheriff.

Trillanes posted bail of P200,000 on charges of rebellion before the Makati court.

Before he was allowed to post bail, Trillanes underwent booking procedures with his

mug shots taken at the Makati City Police.

Earlier in the day, Makati RTC Branch 150 Judge Elmo Alameda ordered the arrest of Trillanes, almost three weeks after President Duterte voided his amnesty and revived the charges of rebellion against him in failed uprisings in 2003 and 2007.

In a 22-page order, the court

also granted the motion of the Department of Justice (DOJ) for a hold departure order to prevent Trillanes from leaving the country.

The court said there was "factual and legal basis" for Duterte's order to detain the rebel officer-turned-politician under Proclamation No. 572.

Duterte issued Proclamation

Turn to Page 6

Trillanes

From Page 1

572 on Aug. 31, revoking the amnesty granted to Trillanes and directing the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to "apprehend" the opposition senator and recommit him to the detention facility where he had been incarcerated prior to the grant of amnesty in 2011.

It also directed the DOJ and the AFP court-martial "to pursue all criminal and administrative cases" filed against Trillanes in relation to the Oakwood mutiny in 2003 and Manila Peninsula siege in 2007.

Trillanes was granted amnesty by then president Benigno Aquino III on Nov. 24, 2010 through Proclamation No. 75 along with his fellow rebel officers of the Magdalo group over the 2007 rebellion.

The government, through the DOJ, sought the issuance of the arrest warrant after Duterte said Trillanes should be not be arrested in the absence of a court order.

The court considered the argument of the prosecution that Trillanes failed to present a valid copy of his amnesty application form.

"Evidently, he failed to present the original hard copy, a duplicate copy or even a photocopy showing that he personally accomplished and filed with the (defense depart-

ment) Amnesty Committee his official amnesty application form duly acknowledged and stamp marked received by said office," Alameda said.

"A cursory examination of the omnibus motion filed by the prosecution to issue warrant of arrest and hold departure order against Senator Trillanes reveals that it raised valid grounds that require factual determination of the issues in order to arrive at a just resolution, so that none of the parties would be deprived of due process," he said.

The court said the state would be deprived of due process if the case of rebellion against Trillanes is not revived.

"The order of dismissal was issued in contravention of the Rules and Procedures in the processing of amnesty application pursuant to Proclamation No. 75 series of 2010," Alameda said.

Alameda was the same judge who dismissed the rebellion case against Trillanes following the amnesty granted to him under Proclamation No. 75.

He said the dismissal order, "being a void order, it has no legal and binding effect, force or efficacy for any purpose."

He added the Sept. 7, 2011 dismissal order is already nonexistent, which means it cannot attain finality "and the

doctrine of immutability of judgment cannot apply."

"This court is not unaware of the rule that a final judgment may no longer be altered even if the alteration is meant to correct erroneous conclusion of fact or law," Alameda said.

He said the doctrine of double jeopardy does not apply in the case of Trillanes since it not does follow the general rule and the dismissal of the case was void from the start.

The hearing on the case against Trillanes was scheduled on Nov. 21.

State prosecutor Juan Pedro Navera, on the other hand, said they are neither happy nor sad about the court's decision treating it like a regular criminal case.

"We will let the Rules of Criminal Procedure take its own course as in any other criminal case... ours is just a duty to prosecute where there is probable cause," Navera said.

'I hope he's watching'

Eleazar said Trillanes did not resist arrest and calmly went with them to court.

He said they waited at the office of Senate sergeant-at-arms Jose Balajadia before they were escorted to the senators' lounge at around 3 p.m. where Trillanes was waiting.

"I did not touch the warrant (of arrest). Arresting him (Trillanes) was not my busi-

ness," Balajadia later told reporters.

Eleazar read Trillanes his rights after the sheriff served the warrant.

Trillanes was not cuffed when he boarded the police van on the way to the Makati Police for booking procedures before going to the court for filing of bail.

When asked if he had anything to say to Duterte, the former Navy officer remarked: "I hope he's watching this now because he will go through the same procedure soon."

He said he could still be locked up by authorities for other reasons, considering Duterte's zeal to have him and other critics jailed.

Some lawmakers went with Trillanes to oversee the arrest procedure. He was accompanied by Sens. Francis Pangilinan, Paolo Benigno Aquino IV and Risa Hontiveros.

After undergoing court procedures, Trillanes was released late in the afternoon and returned to the Senate.

Earlier in the day, Senate President Vicente Sotto III said he will not allow any forcible arrest of any member of the chamber, even as he disclosed that Trillanes assured him that he will yield peacefully.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto said the authorities must ensure Trillanes' safety.

"Since the charge, by order

of the court, is bailable, his security must be ensured by the State," Recto said.

Sen. Grace Poe expressed confidence Trillanes can defend himself but questioned the revocation of his amnesty, especially that it was concurred with by both the Senate and House of Representatives.

Poe warned future amnesty proclamations will be viewed with distrust.

"I hope and pray the courts will be objective and fair. It's clear the amnesty went through Congress. That should be a basis (for its legality)," she said.

To silence dissent

Vice President Leni Robredo, who was at the Senate yesterday for the hearing of the proposed 2019 budget of her office, said the issuance of the warrant against Trillanes was a development of the Duterte administration's effort to silence dissent.

"Dissent is very important in a healthy democracy. There should be a place for dissenting views. This can only help in governance. Just because there is dissent doesn't mean that there is an intention to cause any harm," Robredo said.

Pangilinan said that while they respect the order of the court, "we disagree with it."

"It is as clear as day that the revocation of the grant

of amnesty is illegal and an abuse of presidential powers must be vigorously opposed," Pangilinan said.

Aquino, for his part, called for an end to the threats and intimidation against members of the opposition.

He said the administration has neglected the needs of the people with its insistence on going after Trillanes and other critics of the administration.

Hontiveros condemned the issuance of the warrant against Trillanes, saying that this is "a black eye for democracy and rule of law as our courts caved in to the whims of President Duterte."

Rights defenders said the arrest of Trillanes is part of the persecution of critics of the Duterte administration.

Carlos Conde, Human Rights Watch Researcher-Asia Division, said the arrest is the latest in the relentless campaign to silence those who dare to challenge Duterte's murderous drug war.

"He (Trillanes) has likewise supported the International Criminal Court's preliminary examination of the complaints against President Duterte related to the drug war," he said.

Trillanes' arrest sends a chilling effect among other critics of the Duterte administration, the group said. - With Marvin Sy, Rhodina Villanueva, Cecille Suerte Felipe, AP

DU30 RATINGS PLUNGE DUE TO HIGH PRICES

STORY BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

The latest Pulse Asia survey shows President Duterte's approval and trust scores have declined to their lowest levels. Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque says rising inflation caused the drastic drop.

A2

FROM A1

By the Inquirer Staff
@Team_Inquirer

Gut issues are pulling down the approval and trust ratings of President Duterte.

His approval and trust ratings saw double-digit declines early this month, plunging to their lowest levels, as soaring prices of basic commodities hurt consumers, especially the poor, who spend a big part of their income on food.

Results of a Pulse Asia survey released on Tuesday showed Mr. Duterte's approval and trust scores declining 13 points and 15 points, respectively, although a majority of Filipinos still approve of his work and expressed trust in him.

The President's approval rating stood at 75 percent and trust rating at 72 percent, both his lowest since September 2016.

Mr. Duterte's ratings fell among all socioeconomic classes and across geographic areas.

The biggest declines were in Class D, the poor, who gave him an approval rating of 74 percent, down 13 points and trust rating of 71 percent, down 16 points.

Approval ratings of Mr. Duterte in Class ABC—the rich and middle class—as well as in Class E, the poorest of the poor, also recorded double-digit declines.

Unperturbed

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said Mr. Duterte was unperturbed by ratings and was focused on doing his job.

"We are not affected by it because the President will do his best to discharge his duties," he said at a news briefing.

Roque said rising inflation could have caused the drop in the ratings because higher rice prices negated the administration's gains in other areas.

The survey was conducted from Sept. 1 to 7, when the



President Duterte

Philippine Statistics Authority reported nationwide inflation in August hit 6.4 percent year-on-year, a nine-year high.

Inflation was higher in Metro Manila at 7 percent and highest in the Bicol region at 9 percent.

Prices of food and nonalcoholic beverages rose further to 8.4 percent.

Soaring rice prices

Rice prices, especially those of commercial varieties, skyrocketed last month amid the depleted stocks of the National Food Authority, which sells cheap rice consumed by the poor.

In areas like Zamboanga City and Tawi-Tawi province, prices of commercial rice rose to P70 to P80 per kilogram, prompting their local governments to declare a state of calamity.

Rising fuel prices, weakening of peso, low supply of certain commodities and the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act were also blamed for the rising cost of living.

The TRAIN law raised the excise on goods such as oil, cigarettes, sugary drinks and vehicles to compensate for a higher tax-exempt personal income.

'Withering appeal'

"The (President's) populist appeal has withered as people suffer from inflation and eco-

nomie uncertainty," Akbayan Rep. Tom Villarin said in a statement.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate said people were "feeling the worsening difficulties, which can no longer be covered up by empty promises."

"It's the economy; it's the food prices; it's the jobs," Zarate added.

Highest among officials

Even so, Roque noted that the President's trust and approval ratings were the highest among top officials.

The approval and trust ratings of Vice President Leni Robredo were essentially unchanged between June and September.

Robredo got an approval rating of 61 percent in September from 62 percent in June and a trust rating of 56 percent, unchanged from June.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III obtained an approval rating of 73 percent and a trust rating of 66 percent.

Distrust in Arroyo

Forty-three percent expressed distrust of Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Only 19 percent trusted her.

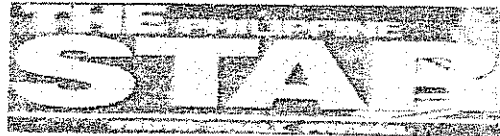
Villarin said the installation of Arroyo as Speaker in July may have also contributed to the decline in the President's trust ratings.

"[Arroyo] became the lightning rod that absorbed people's distrust in Duterte's administration," he said.

The approval rating of the House of Representatives declined 10 points to 56 percent, while that of the Senate dropped 6 points to 63 percent.

The Supreme Court's approval rating declined 11 points to 52 percent.

Pulse Asia interviewed 1,800 adults and used a margin of error of plus-or-minus 2 percentage points. —REPORTS FROM CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO, MELVIN GASCON, JEROME ANING AND LEILA B. SALAVERRIA; ANA ROA, INQUIRER RESEARCH; AND REUTERS INQ



'Tagging opposition smacks of ML tactic'

By HELEN FLORES

Vice President Leni Robredo slammed yesterday the latest attempts to link her and opposition figures to the so-called Red October destabilization plot against President Duterte.

Robredo, in a statement, said linking critics of the government to ouster plots against Duterte is a tactic used during martial law to silence the opposition.

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Tagging From Page 1

"Baseless allegations that link my involvement in legitimate opposition activities with illegal actions, particularly when they come from high ranking military officials, undermine not just the opposition but also our democracy," she said.

Red October is another term for the 1917 revolution in Russia that overthrew the autocracy and established the Soviet Union.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) deputy chief of staff for operations Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade earlier claimed that Tindig Pilipi-

nas, whose leaders belong to the Liberal Party (LP) chaired by Robredo, almost got involved in the plan but backed out after realizing that communists were behind the move.

Robredo said silencing the opposition "was a prelude to establishing a regime of corruption, abuse and dictatorship."

In an interview after attending the LP's National Executive Council Meeting in Quezon City yesterday, the Vice President called the AFP's allegations linking opposition groups to ouster plans as "dangerous."

"It's dangerous because

they are setting the stage, that they can do this even without proper basis," she said.

"When I first heard that they're linking me to the alleged conspiracy with the communists, I found it hilarious. But when a top AFP official was the one making such allegation, it's a different story," she said.

"If they say that their basis is intelligence, we have a problem here because that is not true. When you use wrong intelligence, you are putting our country in a dangerous situation," the Vice President said.

There is no plot to oust or kill Duterte, Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) found-

ing chairman Jose Ma. Sison said on Monday.

Sison, in a statement posted on the National Democratic Front (NDF) website, said the allegations are part of Duterte's plan to realize his "fascist dictatorship a la Marcos."

"Duterte and his military minions and propagandists are now frenziedly carrying out a psy-war campaign to glorify the Marcos fascist dictatorship and to fabricate conspiracies to justify the eventual declaration of martial law nationwide and further realize Duterte's scheme," Sison said.

Sison also accused the Duterte administration of "militarizing civil agencies of the government under an

inter-agency task force, making (Ferdinand Marcos Jr.) the vice president and declaring martial law or state of emergency nationwide."

"Duterte is really crazy by trying hard to bring the country to perdition or hell. Peace negotiations would have been a more economical effort of the Duterte regime, were it not for its mania for fascist dictatorship," Sison said.

The AFP is "inventing" the plot to overthrow the Duterte administration, the CPP added in a statement.

"The CPP denounces the AFP for conjuring this fictional plot, which clearly aims to set the stage for applying increasingly draconian measures

against the Filipino people," the CPP said.

"Like the rest of the AFP's fakery, it is a poorly concocted story," the CPP added.

The CPP admitted that its armed wing New People's Army (NPA) is not strong enough to overthrow the government. Meanwhile, the military announced the arrest of eight persons, including ranking NPA leaders, as well as the recovery of high-powered firearms in a raid by the Philippine Army and the National Bureau of Investigation in Teresa, Rizal yesterday morning. - With Jose Rodel Clapano, Edith Regalado, Artemio Dumlaog, Michael Punongbayan

Me

Palparan remains in AFP custody

Retired Army general Jovito Palparan Jr. remains in the custody of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig despite a court order for his transfer to the national penitentiary following his conviction in the kidnapping of two University of Philippines students in 2006, an official said yesterday.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said Palparan,

dubbed by human rights groups as "The Butcher," has yet to be transferred to the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa.

"He is still with the Army Custodial Center despite a commitment order issued by the Malolos Regional Trial Court in Bulacan," Guevarra told reporters.

Guevarra said they would ask the AFP why Palparan's

transfer to the NBP has been delayed.

Palparan and his two co-accused - Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado and S/Sgt. Edgardo Osorio - were sentenced to life in prison for the kidnapping of UP students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño in Hagonoy, Bulacan in June 2006. Cadapan and Empeño remain missing.

- Edu Punay

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Palparan ordered transferred to Bilibid

By JEFFREY G. DAMICOG

The Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Malolos City, Bulacan has served the commitment order against convicted retired Army Major General Jovito Palparan Jr. for him to be transferred to the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City. Justice Secretary Menardo Gue-

varra revealed yesterday that the commitment order issued by Malolos RTC Branch 15 was served over the weekend to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).
"Gen. Palparan has already been committed from the AFP detention center to the NBP," Guevarra told reporters.
Palparan has been detained in Fort

Bonifacio in Taguig City in 2014.
Last Sept. 17, Judge Alexander Tamayo of Malolos City RTC Branch 15 issued a decision, finding Palparan guilty of kidnapping and serious illegal detention as penalized by under the Revised Penal Code.
The case stemmed from the 2006 disappearance of UP students Karen Empeno and Shriyn Cadapan.

Also found guilty with Palparan were Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado Jr. and Staff Sgt. Edgardo Osorio.
The court sentenced the three men to reclusion perpetua, and were each ordered to pay ₱100,000 as civil indemnity and ₱200,000 to each of the families of Empeno and Cadapan.
One of their co-accused, Master Sgt. Rizal Hilario, remains at-large and,

because of this, the court has issued an alias warrant for his arrest, and ordered the case archived. 3

Palparan moved to Bilibid

Retired General Jovito Palparan and his fellow convicts in the kidnapping of University of the Philippines (UP) students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan in 2006 are now detained at New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City.

The two students were never seen again after their abduction in Hagonoy, Bulacan.

"Gen. Palparan has already been committed from the AFP detention center to the NBP," Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra yesterday told the *Daily Tribune* via text message.

The commitment order was signed by Bulacan Regional Trial Court Branch 15 Judge Alexander Tamayo.

"I hereby commit to you the person of accused M/Gen. Jovito S. Palparan Jr., Lt. Col. Felipe G. Anotado Jr. and SSgt. Edgardo Osorio having been convicted as per the decision promulgated by this Court 17 September 2016," the commitment order read.

Finding Palparan and his two co-accused guilty of kidnapping and serious illegal detention, the court sentenced them to *reclusion perpetua* or life imprisonment.

In the Philippines, life imprisonment actually translates to up to 40 years in prison.

Judge Tamayo also ordered Palparan and his fellow convicts to pay the amount of P300,000 each in civil indemnity and

moral damages to the families of the two UP students.

Ex-general convicted for kidnapping 2 UP students.

Palparan was arrested by authorities on 12 August 2014 in a house in Sta. Mesa, Manila after three years in hiding.

Prior to the promulgation of the case, Palparan was detained in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

Bureau of Corrections chief Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa said Palparan will not be given special treatment at the maximum security compound of NBP. **Alvin Murcia**

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Palparan moved to NBP

By JEFFREY DAMICOG

Convicted retired Army Major General Jovito Palparan Jr. has been transferred to the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City based on the commitment order issued by a court in Malolos City, Bulacan.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra revealed yesterday that the commitment order issued by Malolos Regional Trial Court Branch 15 was sent over the weekend to the Armed Forces of

the Philippines (AFP).

"Gen. Palparan has already been committed from the AFP detention center to the NBP," Guevarra told reporters.

Palparan had been detained in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City since 2014.

Last Sept. 17, Judge Alexander Tamayo of Malolos City RTC Branch 15 issued a decision declaring Palparan guilty of kidnapping and serious illegal detention as penalized under the Revised Penal Code.

The case stemmed from the 2006 disappearance of UP

students Karen Empeno and Shrllyn Cadapan.

Also found guilty with Palparan were Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado Jr. and S/Sgt. Edgardo Osorio.

The court sentenced the three men to reclusion perpetua and were each ordered to pay P100,000 as civil indemnity and P200,000 to each of the families of Empeno and Cadapan.

One of their co-accused, M/Sgt. Rizal Hilario, remains at-large and, because of this, the court issued an alias warrant for his arrest and the case archived.

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Palparan inilipat sa Bilibid

Inilipat na sa New Bilibid Prison sa Muntinlupa City si dating Army Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr., matapos na mahatulang mabilanggo ng habambuhay ng Malolos RTC sa pagdukot sa dalawang aktibistang UP student na sina Karen Empeno at Sherlyn Cadapan noong 2006.

Kinumpirma ni Justice Secretary Menardo Gue-

varra na noong Sabado pa nang mailipat sa Bilibid sina Palparan, retired Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado Jr. at Staff Sergeant Edgardo Osorio.

Bukod sa pagkakuulong ay inatasan din ng korte sina Palparan, Anotado at Osorio na bayaran ang pamilya nina Empeno at Cadapan ng halagang P100,000 bilang civil in-

demnity at P200,000 para sa moral damages bawat isa.

Una nang sinabi ni Bureau of Corrections Director retired Gen. Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa na posibleng sa maximum security compound ng NBP ikulong si Palparan kung saan nakapilit ang mga may 'heinous crimes.' - *Doris Franche-Borja*

Palparan kalaboso na sa Bilibid

Kinumpirma ni Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra na inilipat na sa New Bilibid Prison sa Muntinlupa si retired Army Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. na nahatulan ng habambuhay na pagkabilanggo ng Malolos Regional Trial Court dahil sa pagdukot sa dalawang stu-

dent activist ng University of the Philippines noong 2006.

Ayon kay Guevarra, Sabado pa nang mailipat sa NBP sina Palparan, retired Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado Jr. at Staff Sgt. Edgardo Osorio na napatunayang guilty ng korte sa kasong kidnapping at

serious illegal detention sa kaso nina Karen Empeno at Sherlyn Cadapan.

Inatasan din ng korte sina Palparan, Anotado at Osorio na bayaran ang pamilya nina Empeno at Cadapan ng halagang

NI DORIS FRANCHE

P100,000 bilang civil indemnity at P200,000 para sa moral damages bawat.

Una nang sinabi ni

Bureau of Corrections Director retired Gen. Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa na posibleng sa maximum security com-

pound ng NBP ikulong si Palparan kung saan nakapilit ang mga may heinous crimes.

Gayunman, mananatili ng 60 araw sa NBP's Reception Diag-

nostic Center si Palparan para sa quarantine at medical examinations upang mamalaman kung maayos ang pangangatawan nito.

Makati judge revives rebellion case vs Trillanes

By **Lella B. Salaverria**
and **Matthew Keysio-Cruz**
@Team_Inquirer

"Democracy lost today," Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV declared as he left his Senate office to go with police officers and post bail after the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) ordered his arrest on revived rebellion charges on Tuesday.

"Officially, we have no democracy. This case goes beyond me," Trillanes told reporters.

Judge Elmo Alameda of Makati RTC Branch 150 issued a warrant for the arrest of Trillanes a day after the senator submitted an affidavit of a military officer attesting to the former military rebel's filing an application for amnesty in 2011 and admission of guilt in taking part in attempts to overthrow the government in 2003, 2006 and 2007.

Proof of application

The affidavit of Col. Josefa Berbigal, head of the secretariat of the temporary amnesty committee of the Department of National Defense (DND) that processed the applications of military rebels for amnesty in 2011, belied the claim of President Duterte that his fiercest critic in Congress did not apply for amnesty nor admit guilt.

For those reasons rebutted by Berbigal, Mr. Duterte on Aug. 31 voided the amnesty granted to Trillanes and ordered the revival of the coup d'état and rebellion charges against the senator.

His order set off a controversy that, together with rising inflation and a shortage of low-priced rice, pulled down his approval and trust ratings.

But Judge Alameda, in his order to arrest Trillanes, said the senator "failed to present the original hard copy, a duplicate copy or even a photocopy showing that he personally accomplished and filed" an application for amnesty.

Earlier, Trillanes showed

pictures of himself holding the accomplished application form for news photographers as he applied for amnesty at the DND on Jan. 5, 2011.

Former Defense Undersecretary Honorio Azcueta, the then head of the DND amnesty committee, said on Sept. 9 that Trillanes applied for amnesty, "[t]hat's why on record he was granted amnesty."

Trillanes' application and those of 94 other military mutineers were approved after three weeks.

Eight months later, Makati RTC Branches 150 and 148 dismissed the rebellion and coup d'état charges against Trillanes.

Application form missing

What happened to his application form is unknown. But after the Office of the Solicitor General had been inquiring about it, the military issued a certification saying there was no copy of the form available.

That certification became the basis for Mr. Duterte's Proclamation No. 572 voiding Trillanes'

amnesty, which the senator had asked the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional.

'Barren of probative weight'

Trillanes had asked Alameda to dismiss the bid of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to revive the rebellion charges against him, but the judge said that because an admission of guilt would have been included on the application form, the lack of a form meant it could "be safely stated here that Senator Trillanes failed to comply with the minimum requirement of expressly admitting his guilt."

He dismissed the documents submitted by Trillanes as "barren of probative weight to prove [the former military rebel's] compliance."

The court, he said, was "morally convinced of the sufficiency and legality of the issuance of Proclamation 572."

Alameda said the proclamation would remain legal and valid unless the Supreme Court were to decide otherwise.

The judge ordered Trillanes'

arrest and set the bail at P200,000.

Trillanes posted bail in court, accompanied by Senators Francis Pangilinan, Bam Aquino and Risa Hontiveros, after he was booked at the Makati City Police Station.

Darkness and evil

Trillanes said his arrest was a clear example of Mr. Duterte harassing his critics, "the ones telling the truth who he could not face."

"For all intents and purposes, darkness and evil prevailed in our country. So whatever happens next is in the hands of the Filipinos," he said.

"The court has spoken," countered presidential spokesperson Harry Roque. "Let's stop the drama by [press conference] and allow the legal process to take its course."

Trillanes said he decided to go with the arresting team to fulfill his promise that he would honor a warrant of arrest issued by a civilian court, "no matter how unjust that warrant may be."

He said his arrest had noth-

ing to do with anything except Mr. Duterte's anger and vindictiveness.

Mr. Duterte has vowed to imprison Trillanes after the senator, during the 2016 presidential election campaign, disclosed what he called secret bank accounts of the then mayor of Davao City that the latter claimed contained hundreds of millions of pesos in unexplained wealth.

Last year, Trillanes linked one of Mr. Duterte's sons and his son-in-law to drug smuggling from China and extortion.

Failed democracy

Trillanes said he had debunked all the arguments that the Duterte administration had raised to justify the scrapping of his amnesty.

"They forced and twisted the law, which is why democracy and our institutions failed," he said.

Vice President Leni Robredo, who was in the Senate for a budget hearing when police officers arrived with the arrest warrant, said the arrest of Tril-

lanes was a sad development.

"We feel that dissent is important in a healthy democracy. We should give space for dissenting views," Robredo said.

Hontiveros described Trillanes' arrest as a "blackeye for democracy."

Aquino called on the Duterte administration to stop intimidating and attempting to scare its critics.

Sen. Grace Poe said that if Trillanes' amnesty could be questioned, all other amnesty grants would be in peril as well.

"So how can there be trust?" Poe said.

House reactions

Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano called Trillanes' arrest "an assault to the whole Philippine justice system."

"With the issuance of the warrant of arrest against Senator Trillanes, the pretensions of the Duterte administration that we are still in a democracy has been removed. We are in a dictatorship now," Alejano said.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said that instead of issuing a warrant of arrest, the lower court should have reported the results of its "fact-finding" to the Supreme Court, which is hearing Trillanes' challenge to the legality of Proclamation 572.

For Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra, however, the order to arrest Trillanes was significant, as it showed "the court's recognition that the rebellion case is still alive."

The DOJ has also asked Makati RTC Branch 148 to reopen the coup d'état case and order the arrest of Trillanes.

"As it is, we are waiting for a miracle from Branch 148. We're slightly more hopeful, but we have to expect the worst," Trillanes said.

"You have to expect the worst because the enemy is the devil," he added.

—WITH REPORTS FROM CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO, JEROME ANING AND VINCE F. NONATO INQ

Trillanes should honor court order — Palace

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

There is no more legal impediment for the implementation of Presidential Order No. 572 that voids the amnesty granted to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV during the previous administration, presidential spokesman Harry

Roque Jr. said yesterday.

In a statement, Roque said this goes to show that President Duterte respects the decision of the judiciary.

"The court has spoken... Whatever Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV has to say can be addressed to the court," he said.

"Let us stop the drama by (conducting) press conferences and allow the legal process to take its course," he said.

In another interview, Roque said the Makati regional trial court (RTC) can now proceed with the trial and find out whether Trillanes should be held liable for the rebellion charges filed against him.

"At this point, the military tribunal would be superfluous because the law provides that where you have concurrent jurisdiction over the civilian courts

and the military courts... here you have a determination by the solicitor general, and actually, by the President, that he would defer to the court," he said.

"That means the matter now is entirely on the regional trial court," Roque said.

It is up to the senator to appeal the decision of the local court, according to Roque.

"He can still appeal the decision of the RTC on the issue. He can bring this up to the appellate court. Meanwhile, he has to honor the decision of the court

unless he gets a restraining order of the Supreme Court (SC) or the Court of Appeals," he said, before the senator surrendered.

"Right now, the warrant of arrest is immediately executory and he should respect our court and voluntarily surrender and face the charges against him," he added.

Since Duterte has deferred to the Makati RTC, Roque said Malacañang is hoping that Trillanes will equally respect the court and voluntarily surrender so that he may prove his innocence of the charges leveled

against him.

Will Trillanes suffer the same fate as that of detained Sen. Leila de Lima in seeking relief from the SC against Duterte's Proclamation No. 572 that voided the amnesty he obtained during the previous administration?

A document submitted to the SC yesterday showed that Trillanes falsified the notarization of his petition earlier this month seeking to strike down the proclamation for alleged violations of the 1987 Constitution. *W* - With Edu Punay

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Trillanes arrested, posts bail

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Within three hours, senator goes through process, returns to Senate

By Rey E. Reguejo, Joel E. Zurbano
and Macon Ramos-Araneta

AFTER being holed up in the Senate for almost three weeks, Senator Antonio Trillanes IV took less than three hours to surrender to the police, have his mugshots and fingerprints taken at the Makati Central Police station, post P200,000 bail and return to the Senate Tuesday.

After a Makati court issued a warrant for his arrest, Trillanes left the Senate past 3 pm with a police team led by Metro-Manila police chief Guillermo Eleazar.

He returned to the Senate past 5 pm after posting bail before the Makati Re-

gional Trial Court Branch 150, which is hearing a case against him for his role in the 2007 Manila Peninsula Siege.

Earlier, Judge Elmo Alameda of the Makati RTC Branch 150 issued an arrest

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Trillanes...

From AI

warrant 21 days after President Rodrigo Duterte signed Proclamation No. 572, nullifying the amnesty granted to Trillanes by President Benigno Aquino III.

The court set a P200,000 bail for his temporary liberty.

State prosecutors earlier asked Alameda to order Trillanes' arrest and prevent him from leaving the country, saying the nullification of his amnesty meant that the case against the senator related to the 2007 Manila Peninsula Hotel siege must be pursued.

The military man-turned politician is also facing a separate coup d'etat case at the Makati RTC Branch 148 for leading the 2003 mutiny at the Oakwood Premier hotel, also in Makati City.

Last month, President Duterte voided the amnesty granted by former President Benigno Aquino III to Trillanes for his alleged failure to file an application form and admit guilt for his crime.

Prosecutors said the rebellion charges filed against Trillanes have yet to be terminated by the court despite the issuance of Proclamation No. 75 issued by Aquino, which granted him amnesty.

Trillanes, a former Navy lieutenant, was among those who led mutiny in Oakwood Premiere Hotel in Makati City on July 27, 2003 and the Manila Peninsula siege on November 29, 2007. Both were aimed at ousting President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Alameda on Tuesday also granted the Justice Department motion for the issuance of a hold-departure order against Trillanes.

The Makati City Regional Trial Court Branch 150 on Tuesday revived the rebellion case against opposition Senator Antonio Trillanes IV as it granted the Department of Justice's motion for the issuance of warrant of arrest and a hold departure order against him.

Alameda said that after the hearing it conducted on Sept. 14, the prosecution managed to prove that Trillanes actually did not apply for amnesty.

The DoJ prosecutors led by Acting Prosecutor General Richard Anthony Fadullon presented a certification dated Aug. 30, 2018 issued and signed by one Lt. Gen. Thea Joan Andrade of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Discipline, Law and Order Division to prove that the senator failed to apply for an amnesty.

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"The court's evaluation of the...certification is that it confirms the claim of the prosecution that Senator Trillanes did not apply for amnesty," the court said.

Alameda said the burden of proving compliance with the minimum requirements to be entitled to amnesty under Proclamation No. 75 issued by the previous administration lies with Trillanes.

"However, Senator Trillanes through his counsel failed to convince this Court that he indeed complied with the minimum requirement to personally fill up and file the official amnesty application form as required in Section 5, 6, and 11 of DND [Department of National Defense] Amnesty Committee Circular Dated December 21, 2010," Alameda said.

The court also noted that Trillanes failed to present the original hard copy, a duplicate copy, or even a photocopy to substantiate his claim that he personally accomplished and filed his amnesty application form.

The court also gave weight to the online news report published on January 5, 2011, which was presented by the prosecution to prove that Trillanes failed to expressly admit his guilt for the crimes committed during the Oakwood mutiny and Manila Peninsula incident.

Now that the amnesty has been voided, the court said, it would regain jurisdiction over his case, despite its dismissal on Sept. 7, 2011.

That dismissal, Almeda said, can also be considered void and has no legal and binding effect, given the issuance of Proclamation No. 572.

"With the revocation of the amnesty granted to Senator Trillanes the resulting consequence is that the order issued on Sept. 7, 2011 dismissing the case of rebellion becomes void ab initio. Proclamation No. 572 was precisely

issued to rectify the erroneous grant of amnesty to accused to Trillanes due to his failure to comply with the basic minimum requirements of filing his application and the admission stated in the said application of his guilt of the acts/crimes covered by the amnesty," the judge said.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra welcomed the order of the court, saying the DoJ was confident from the very start that its bid to bring Trillanes back to jail would be granted.

Makati RTC Branch 148 Presiding Judge Andres Bartolome Soriano has yet to issue an order with regard to the coup d'etat case against Trillanes.

Prior to the grant of amnesty, Trillanes and several members of the so-called Magdalo soldiers were charged with a case for coup d'etat before Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 148 for the Oakwood mutiny in 2003 and a case for rebellion before Makati RTC Branch 150 for the 2007 Manila Peninsula siege.

After posting bail, Trillanes returned to his Senate office, where he has been holed up since Sept. 4.

In an interview, Trillanes told reporters that it's really to fight a demon, referring to the President.

He said it was obvious that the decision of the lower court was swayed and influenced by the President's hell-bent wish to send him to jail.

He bewailed what he called the railroading of the justice system just to accommodate the whims of the President. His lawyers would exhaust all possible legal remedies, believing that the truth would prevail, he added.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto said the government must ensure first the safety of Trillanes.

"Since the charge, by order of the court, is bailable, his security must be ensured by the state," he said.

Senator Juan Edgardo Angara said he hopes Trillanes will be afforded justice by the court.

Senator Grace Poe said she was confident that Trillanes would be able to defend himself.

She said she was baffled when Trillanes' amnesty was questioned, despite its approval by both chambers of Congress.

"So how can we have trust [in the grant of amnesty]?" she said.

Opposition Senator Risa Hontiveros branded Trillanes' arrest as "a black eye for democracy and the rule of law."

She considered the issuance of the warrant a part of the government's attempt to intimidate political critics and said it foreshadowed a crackdown on the opposition.

"It reeks of panic and desperation over the growing opposition to the President's authoritarian rule. Beyond the President's intolerance of opposition politics, it exposes the depths of his paranoia and fear of dissent," she said.

"It also effectively shows President Duterte's incompetence and lack of strong leadership," she added.

Instead of being tough on inflation and the rice crisis, instead of mustering the needed political will to address the country's economic slowdown, she said, Duterte has been wasting his time and energy, as well as precious government resources, on trying to obliterate the democratic opposition.

"He intimidates and terrorizes people, particularly his critics, to compensate for his incapacity to govern," she said.

Senator Paolo Benigno Aquino IV said the real enemy of the administration government was poverty and high prices, not the opposition.

In a news briefing in the Senate, Trillanes said "democracy lost" when the Makati court sustained Duterte's cancellation of his amnesty in connection with the rebellion case that was dismissed seven years ago due to the amnesty.

"Democracy was defeated here. Like what I said last week, our petitions in court are a test case of the strength of our judicial system," Trillanes said.

"Officially, we no longer have democracy... I did not commit any crime, I was given amnesty seven years ago," said Duterte.

With Maricel V. Cruz and Nat Mariano

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Trillanes arrested, posts bail

BY BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO

POLICE on Tuesday arrested Sen. Antonio Trillanes 4th after a Makati court revived a rebellion charge against the ex-mutineer, who immediately posted bail of P200,000.

The Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 granted the petition of the Department of Justice (DoJ) to issue a warrant of arrest and hold-departure order against the senator.

Trillanes was forced to come out of self-imposed detention at the Senate to appear before the Makati court, as he criticized the judge,

Elmo Alameda, for ignoring documents he had submitted to prove compliance with all the requirements for amnesty in 2011, during the term of then-President Benigno Aquino 3rd.

"Talo po ang demokrasya sa araw na ito. Kahit na pinakita na namin lahat ng ebidensiya e, inilabas pa rin ang warrant of arrest. Wala po akong krimen na ginawa. Ito ay maliwanag na panggigipit (Democracy is defeated today. Even if we already presented all the evidence, they

➤ ArrestedA2

Trillanes arrested

still issued a warrant of arrest. I did not commit any crime. This is clearly harassment),” Trillanes told reporters.

Before posting bail, Trillanes briefly attended the Senate session. The senator then went to the Senate lounge wherein he was met by National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Guillermo Eleazar, who read to him his rights.

The Senate sergeant at arms, retired general Jose Balajadia, said Eleazar then served the arrest order on Trillanes. Balajadia then led Trillanes to the sergeant at arms’ office, where the senator was turned over to Eleazar.

Fellow opposition senators Francis Pangilinan, Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino 4th, and Risa Hontiveros accompanied Trillanes to the Makati Police headquarters and to the Makati RTC to post bail.

‘The court has spoken’

Reacting to the arrest order, Palace spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said: “The court has spoken. As the President has said, we will respect the decision of the judiciary. Whatever Senator Antonio Trillanes 4th has to say can be addressed to the court. Let us stop the drama by [press conference] and allow the legal process to take its course.”

Chief Presidential Legal Adviser Salvador Panelo said the order was anchored on solid legal ground.

“Trillanes should face the music and dance as Frank Sinatra’s would croon in his song with the same title. He has stop milking the issue and act pathetically as if he is a victim of injustice. The law of Karma as well as of the law has finally caught up with his shenanigans. He has been using his position as senator in planting the seeds of hate and sedition against [President Duterte] and the government,” Panelo said in a statement.

Justice Secretary Menardo Cueva said that from a purely legal standpoint, “the court’s order is significant because it considers the case as still very much alive.”

Opposition surprised

Vice President Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo, who happened to be at the Senate to defend the budget of her office, lamented the arrest order against Trillanes.

“We were a bit surprised because I know that the rebellion case against him has already been dismissed with the granting of the amnesty. The crime, anyway is bailable,” Robredo said in an interview.

“It’s sad. We feel that dissent is every important in a healthy democracy. I hope dissenting views would be given some space. The absence of dissent breeds abuse. Public officials like us should always be on our toes,” Robredo said.

Senate President Pro-Tempore

Ralph Recto said the government must ensure Trillanes’ safety.

“Since the charge, by order of the court is bailable, his security must be ensured by the State.”

Pangilinan said: “While we respect the court order we disagree with it. It is as clear as day that the revocation of grant of amnesty is illegal and an abuse of presidential powers and must be vigorously opposed.”

Hontiveros said the issuance of the warrant of arrest against Trillanes was “part of the government’s attempt to intimidate political critics and a looming crackdown on the opposition.”

Sen. Grace Poe said she was confused. “The amnesty went through the Senate and the House of Representatives. It’s not only him that was granted amnesty. Several others were given amnesty too on the same period. So, if the amnesty granted to him will be questioned, what would happen to the amnesty granted to the other individuals?” she asked.

Failure to present papers

Makati Judge Elmo Alameda, through Clerk of Court Diosfa Valencia, said the decision to issue the arrest warrant and travel ban against Trillanes came after the senator’s camp failed to produce his application form for amnesty.

“Upon the voiding *ab initio* of his amnesty, which is the basis of the case, the court had to issue the warrant because the application form was proof for application,” Valencia said.

Trillanes’ lawyer Reynaldo Robles, however, was able to produce a certificate of the senator’s amnesty, affidavits of military officials saying he filed for amnesty, and official Department of National Defense amnesty secretariat documents.

Alameda sustained his decision to allow only the actual application form to be the primary evidence as it was “the best proof that the senator applied for amnesty.”

Branch 150 said that the court’s jurisdiction over the senator’s rebellion case was merely a “reiteration of its previous authority to hear and decide the case” despite its dismissal in 2011, because of the supposed “discovery” that Senator Trillanes had failed to file his application for amnesty, which should contain his admission of guilt.

The court dismissed in September 2011 the rebellion charges against Trillanes in connection with the 2003 Oakwood mutiny and the 2007 Manila Peninsula siege after he was granted amnesty by the Aquino administration.

Alameda set a hearing for an initial presentation of evidence from prosecutors on November 21 at 2:00 p.m.

WITH NEIL JAYSON
N. SERVALLOS

Trillanes returns to Senate after posting P200K bail

BY EVAN ORIAS AND JOAN DAIRO

See TRILLANES > Page B5

A MAKATI City court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and barred him from leaving the country pending the resolution of the rebellion case filed against him in relation to the 2007 Manila Peninsula siege.

Trillanes voluntarily surrendered to police authorities and posted a P200,000 bail hours after the arrest warrant was issued.

He was taken into custody by NCRPO chief Guillermo Eleazar, who served the arrest warrant at the Senate accompanied by Makati police chief Supt. Rogelio Simon.

Trillanes went through the standard booking procedures at the Makati City police station, then proceeded to the Makati City Regional Trial Court Branch 150 to post the P200,000 bail set by Judge Elmo Alameda for his temporary liberty.

After his release order was issued by the court, Trillanes returned to the Senate and arrived at the premises around 5:20 p.m.

Trillanes said he will continue to stay at the Senate until he has consulted with his lawyers on their next step. He also said he will talk with the Senate leadership on the issue of his continued stay in his fifth floor office, where he has been holed up since early September after Proclamation 572 voiding the amnesty granted to him in 2011 was issued by Malacanang.

Trillanes became the second lawbreaker in less than two years, after Sen. Leila de Lima, to be arrested in what human rights groups say is a "relentless campaign" to silence the critics of President Duterte.

Alameda issued the warrant of arrest as he upheld the validity of Proclamation 572, which said the amnesty given to Trillanes was void because the senator allegedly did not apply for the amnesty.

In his 22-page ruling, Alameda said he found legal basis for the issuance of the proclamation, noting there was no copy of the senator's application for amnesty in the records.

Alameda also said Trillanes failed to convince the court that he complied with the requirements for the amnesty, such as the admission of guilt and the application for amnesty.

Since the amnesty was void, Alameda said there was no legal basis for the dismissal of the rebellion case against Trillanes in 2011.

The rebellion case was dismissed by the Makati City RTC Branch 150 in 2011 on the basis of the amnesty granted to Trillanes by former President Benigno Aquino III in 2010.

Alameda also barred Trillanes from leaving the country while the case remains pending with the court.

Prosecutors sought the HDO, arguing the senator has the means and resources to flee to another country and escape prosecution.

Trillanes' lawyers on Monday submitted supporting documents to the court to prove the senator indeed applied for amnesty, including the sworn affidavits of two former members

TRILLANES

of the DND Ad Hoc Amnesty Committee which received, processed and approved the application.

Trillanes is also facing coup charges before the Makati City RTC Branch 148 for the Oakwood hotel takeover in 2003.

'DEMOCRACY LOST'

Trillanes was holding a committee hearing when informed that a warrant has been issued for his arrest. After the hearing, he briefly met with his lawyers and held a press conference before he surrendered to police authorities.

"Democracy lost today. As I said last week, the petitions we are filing in court are a test on the independence of the judicial system," Trillanes said.

He lamented that while his lawyers have presented supporting documents to belie the basis used by Malacanang in voiding his amnesty, "the court still issued the warrant of arrest.

"Officially, there is no democracy anymore. This case goes beyond me. I did not commit any crime, I was granted amnesty seven years ago. All that is happening now is Mr. Duterte's tactics to silence his political critics," Trillanes added.

In another press conference after he posted bail, Trillanes said he will continue to stay in the Senate since he expects the government to continue to harass him.

"Definitely not (free to go home). You have witnessed that we cannot be complacent because if we do that, they will find other ways to attack me. We expect other forms of harassments in

the days to come and unless and until this issue has been formally settled then (it will stay in the Senate)," Trillanes said.

Asked what kind of harassments he expects, Trillanes said his camp foresees more cases to be filed against him. "I expect legal harassments, court cases," he said.

Trillanes said he was disappointed that the Makati court gave in to the pressure tactics of the Duterte administration.

He said that while he is expecting a "miracle" from the Makati RTC Branch 148, he was only "slightly more hopeful but we have to expect for the worse."

Makati RTC Branch 148 is handling the coup d'etat case against the senator. Coup is a non-bailable offense.

Trillanes said he and his lawyers will sit down and discuss legal remedies they can avail, even as he expressed doubt that he can get any relief from the courts.

POLITICAL CRACKDOWN

Several lawmakers condemned the arrest order against Trillanes, saying the administration was putting more focus on its crackdown against the opposition.

Rep. Gary Alejano (PL, Magdalo) assailed the latest development in Trillanes' case, saying it has come to a point that even the judiciary is being used to go after the opposition.

"We've reached a point where our courts are becoming tools of the administration to clamp down on its political opponents," Alejano said in a statement.

Alejano said "there is someone who backed down from the pressures of the Duterte administration."

The lawmaker, however, said that even the opposition views the issuance of an arrest warrant as "an unjust action, we will abide by the legal orders - we will continue to have faith on our institutions and legal processes."

"The people have been forgotten while the government is busy silencing Senator Trillanes and other critics. The enemy is poverty and high prices of commodities, not the opposition," Sen. Bam Aquino said.

"Instead of being tough on inflation and the rice crisis, instead of mustering the needed political will to address the country's economic slowdown, he (Duterte) wastes his time and energy, as well as precious government resources, on trying to obliterate the democratic opposition," Sen. Risa Hontiveros said.

Hontiveros called on the public to "amplify the voice of dissent and reason" amid the government's "looming crackdown on the opposition."

Senate President Vicente Sotto III said the Senate will "remain efficient" despite the latest legal development.

"Life goes on. We just have to move on," Sotto told reporters, adding: "Whatever it is, habarapin namin and then do our work. Tuloy trabaho."

'FACE THE MUSIC'

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo said Trillanes should just face the music.

"The order is anchored on solid legal ground. Trillanes should face the music and dance as Frank Sinatra would croon in his song with the same tide. He has to stop

milking the issue and act pathetically as if he is a victim of injustice. The law of karma as well as of the law has finally caught up with his shenanigans," Panelo said.

Panelo said Trillanes has been using his position as senator to plant the seeds of hate and sedition against Duterte and the government.

Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said Malacanang respects and abides by the court's decision on Trillanes' case.

"The court has spoken... Whatever Senator Antonio Trillanes IV has to say can be addressed to the court. Let us stop the drama by presscon and allow the legal process to take its course," Roque said.

STANDARD PROCEDURES

The Makati City Police, Southern Police District, and the National Capital Region served the warrant of arrest against Trillanes at the Senate building in Pasay City after the session started at 3 p.m.

Senators Francis Pangilinan, Hontiveros and Aquino accompanied Trillanes at the Makati police office when he underwent booking procedures, and again at the Makati court when he posted bail.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Army Major General (ret.) Jose Balajadia said Eleazar arrived at the Senate compound past 2 p.m. and presented him the arrest warrant.

Shortly after undergoing booking procedures at the Makati police station, Trillanes arrived at the Makati RTC past 4 p.m. where he was subjected to a medical examination at the court's clinic. - *With Jocelyn Montemayor and Stella Sarmiento*

Trillanes arrested, posts bail

Sen. Antonio F. Trillanes IV was arrested yesterday after the Makati City Regional Trial Court Branch 150 issued an alias warrant of arrest and hold-departure order against him in connection with his rebellion case.

In a 22-page order, Makati RTC Branch 150 Judge Elmo Alameda granted the motion filed by the Department of Justice in connection with the rebellion case against Trillanes and other Magdalo soldiers over the Manila Peninsula siege in 2007.

"In a view of the above disquisition, the prosecution's omnibus motion dated Sept. 7, 2011 for issuance of warrant of arrest and hold-departure order against Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV is granted. Bail for temporary liberty of the accused is fixed at P1200,000 per order dated Feb. 16, 2010," Alameda said.

Alameda said the burden of proving compliance with the minimum requirements to be entitled to amnesty under Proclamation No. 75 issued by the previous administration rests on Trillanes. "However, Sen. Trillanes, thru his counsel, failed to convince this Court that he indeed complied with the minimum requirement to personally fill-up and file the official amnesty application form as required in Section 5,6, and 11 of Department of National Defense Amnesty Committee Circular dated Dec. 21, 2010," Alameda pointed out.

The trial court noted that Trillanes failed to present the original hard copy, a duplicate copy, or even a photocopy to substantiate his claim that he personally accomplished and filed his official amnesty application form.

The court also gave weight to the

online news report published on Jan. 5, 2011 which was presented by the prosecution to prove that Trillanes failed to expressly admit his guilt for the crimes committed during the Oakwood mutiny and Manila Peninsula incident.

"Since Sen. Trillanes cannot produce the copy of the official application form for amnesty which he purportedly filed with DND Amnesty Committee containing the admission of guilt expressly made, it can be safely stated here that Sen. Trillanes failed to comply with the minimum requirement of expressly admitting his guilt for the offenses committed during the Oakwood Mutiny and the Manila Peninsula incident," Alameda explained.

The trial court said with Trillanes' amnesty being declared void ab initio, it has regained jurisdiction to hear and resolve the case despite its dismissal on Sept. 7, 2011.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra welcomed the order of the court, saying that the DoJ was confident from the very start that its bid to bring Trillanes back to jail will be granted by the court.

"That is how I construe the deeper meaning of the order granting the issuance of a warrant of arrest," Guevarra said, when asked whether or not the order is tantamount to the reopening of the rebellion case and a ruling based on its merit.

Yesterday afternoon, a police team from the National Capital Region Police Office, headed by the chief of police of Makati Senior Supt. Rogelio Simon, was sent to Senate to serve the arrest warrant against Trillanes.

NCRPO chief Director Guillermo

Eleazar, who served the warrant, fetched Trillanes at the parking lot of the Senate, where he had been holed up since President Duterte nullified his amnesty.

Trillanes, from the Senate, went to the Makati police headquarters to turn himself in. Police took his mugshot and biometrics.

The opposition senator was accompanied by Senators Bam Aquino, Kiko Pangilinan, and Risa Hontiveros.

Afterwards, they went to the Makati RTC Branch 150 and paid bail at 4:50 p.m. or 10 minutes before the court closed.

Based on the release order of Alameda, the initial presentation of prosecution evidence is set on Nov. 21 at 2 p.m.

Trillanes, in a press conference before proceeding to the court to post bail, said he would go with arresting officers despite the fact that the warrant has not been served to him personally.

He said the issuance of the issuance of the arrest order shows that democracy has been compromised.

"Natalo po ang demokrasya ngayong araw na ito. Ang kaso naming ito sa korte at pagsubok sa tibay ng ating demokrasya, sa tibay ng ating justice system," he said. "Pinuwersa at binaluktot ang batas kaya nag-fail ang ating demokrasya at mga institusyon," Trillanes added.

Trillanes returned to the Senate last night after posting bail. He said that he was hoping for a miracle that would prevent his arrest for his coup d'etat case at the Makati RTC Branch 148. (PNA, Jeffrey G. Damicog, Vanne Elaine P. Terrazola, and Jel Santos)

TRILLANES YIELDS

Arrest order finally issued, senator gives up self

By Hector Lawas, Alfred Dalizon, Marlon Purificacion, Efren Montano

THE Makati regional trial court yesterday issued an arrest warrant and hold departure order against embattled opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV whose amnesty was voided by President Duterte's Proclamation No. 572.

Judge Elmo Almeda of Branch 50, who was handling Trillanes' rebellion case from the 2007 Manila Peninsula siege, set a P200,000 bail bond for the opposition leader's temporary liberty.

The senator immediately posted bail after his arrest and undergoing booking procedures.

Duterte recently voided Trillanes' amnesty due to the lawmaker's supposed failure to meet minimal requirements.

Apart from Branch 150, Makati RTC Branch 148 was also handling the coup d'etat case against Trillanes over the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

The amnesty was granted in 2010 under Proclamation No. 75 of then president Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Trillanes challenged the legality of the President's proclamation before the Supreme Court arguing that it violated his constitutional rights.

No resistance

Trillanes yesterday voluntarily turned himself over to National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Guillermo Lorenzo T. Eleazar moments after a Makati court ordered his arrest for rebellion in relation to the infamous 2007 Manila Peninsula siege.

The staunch critic of President Duterte did not put up any resistance to NCRPO officials led by Eleazar who came to serve the warrant of arrest against him.

However, before he yielded to the NCRPO chief at the Senate lounge, Trillanes, who had been holed up at his Senate office since last September 4, met with his colleagues in the minority bloc and even attended their regular session.

Trillanes later left the Senate premises on board a police mobile vehicle and went straight to the Makati City Police Station's Warrant Section where he underwent routine booking procedure including fingerprinting and taking of his mug shots.

Almeda was the same judge who handled the rebellion case against Trillanes over the 2007 Manila Peninsula Siege but dismissed the case in 2011 pursuant to the amnesty received by the former Navy officer. President Duterte last month revoked Trillanes' amnesty over his reported failure to comply with two minimum

requirements: filing an application and admitting his guilt.

Arrest condemned

Senate Sgt. at Arms Jose Balajadia said that the arresting team headed by NCRPO chief Eleazar arrived at the Senate at 2:30 in the afternoon to implement the arrest.

"Nasunod ang protocol at naging maayos naman ang lahat ng proseso," Balajadia said.

Trillanes was accompanied by fellow opposition Senator Kiko Pangilinan, Risa Hontiveros and Barn Aquino. His colleagues condemned his arrest.

"I condemn in the strongest possible terms the issuance of a warrant of arrest against Senator Antonio Trillanes. It is a black eye for democracy and rule of law as our courts caved in to the whims of President Rodrigo Duterte," Hontiveros stressed.

Aquino meanwhile offered a prayer for Trillanes.

"Lord, we ask for your guidance today as many occurrences happen in our halls. We pray for our colleague, Sen. Sorny Trillanes as he goes through many trials today," Aquino prayed.

Court decision

"The court has spoken."

So said Malacañang yesterday, stressing it respected the decision of a Makati court to issue a warrant of arrest against Trillanes on a charge of rebellion.

"The court has spoken. As the President has said, we will respect the decision of the judiciary. Whatever Senator Antonio Trillanes IV has to say can be addressed to the court," said Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque in a statement yesterday.

Roque also alluded to Trillanes' frequent press conferences or press cons at the Senate as he was facing the threat of arrest.

"Let us stop the drama by press con and allow the legal process to take its course," Roque said.


Earlier, Roque said, "Since the President deferred to the regional trial court of Makati, and an order has already been issued for his arrest, we are hoping that Senator Trillanes will equally respect our court and voluntarily surrender to the court so that he may prove his innocence."

Trillanes is the second opposition senator ordered arrested under Duterte's regime, the first being Senator Leila de Lima who remains in detention on drug charges. ☺

Palace on Trillanes arrest

STOP THE DRAMA

By EFREN MONTANO



SEN. ANTONIO FUENTES TRILLANES IV
REBELLION
CC No. 07-312
RTC Br. 151, Makati City
September 25, 2018

"THE court has spoken. As the President has said, we will respect the decision of the judiciary. Whatever Senator Antonio Trillanes IV has to say can be addressed to the court. Let us stop the drama by press con and allow the legal process to take its course." Page 6

STOP...
From Page 1

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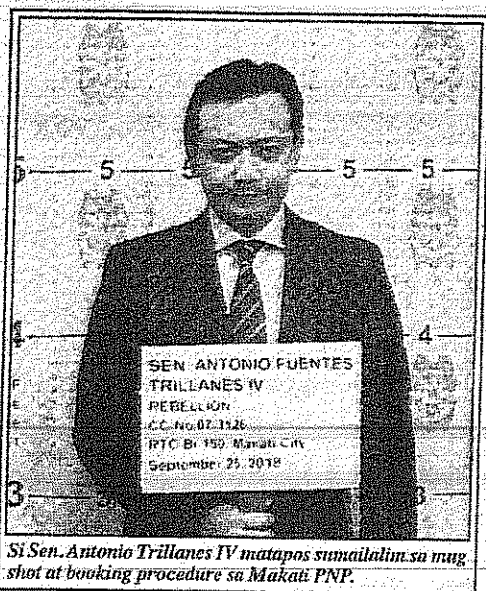
our court and voluntarily surrender to the court so that he may prove his innocence."

Roque made this statement after Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 issued an arrest warrant against Trillanes on Tuesday. Trillanes can post bail of P200,000.

Police were on their way to arrest Trillanes when Roque issued his statement.

Trillanes is one of the fiercest critics of President Rodrigo Duterte. He is the second opposition senator ordered arrested under Duterte's regime, the first being Senator Leila de Lima who remains in detention for drug charges.

Trillanes inaresto, nagpiyansa



Si Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV matapos sumailalim sa mugshot at booking procedure sa Makati PNP.

Naglabas kahapon ng warrant of arrest at hold departure order (HDO) si Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Ermo Alameda laban kay Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV kaugnay sa Proclamation 572 ni Pangulong Duterte na nagpapawalang-bisa sa ipinagkaloob na amnesty ng nakaraang administrasyon kaugnay sa kasong rebelyon ng senador.

Inatasan ni Judge Alameda ng Makati RTC branch 150 ang court sheriff at Makati police chief na isilbi ang arrest warrant laban kay Trillanes sa Senado.

Nagtakda naman ng piyansang P200,000 ang korte para sa pansamantalang kalayaan ni Trillanes sa kasong rebelyon kaugnay sa Manila Peninsula

Nina RUDY ANDAL, LORDETH BONILLA at DORIS FRANCHE

siege noong November 2007.

Ang Department of Justice (DOJ) ang naghain ng mosyon sa Makati RTC upang magpalabas ito ng alias warrant of arrest at HDO laban kay Trillanes.

Naroron din si NCRPO Director Guillermo Eleazar upang samahan ang Makati police chief at court sheriff sa Office of the Senate Sgt. At Arms (OSAA) at tanggapan ni Senate President Vicente Sotto III para sa pagsilbi ng arrest warrant kay Trillanes.

Dumiretso naman sa Makati RTC branch 150 si Trillanes kasama ang kanyang abogado na si Atty. Reynaldo Robles upang maghain ito ng piyansang P200,000.

Alas-3:24 ng hapon nang dumating sa Makati City Police si Trillanes, kung saan isinailalim ito sa documentary procedure o booking procedure gaya ng fingerprinting at mugshot.

Kahit nakapaglagag ng piyansa, nagpasya pa rin si Trillanes na manatili sa Senado.

Sinabi ni Trillanes, anumang oras ay puwedeng maglabas din ng warrant of arrest ang Makati RTC branch 148 kung saan ay binuhay ang kaso nitong kudeta kaugnay ng Oak-

wood mutiny noong 2003.

Bukod dito, may nangangangailangan din siyang report na anumang oras ay puwedeng siyang arestuhin ng militar batay sa Proclamation 572 ni Pangulong Duterte.

Ayon naman kay Trillanes, natalo ang demokrasya sa araw na ito.

"Nanaig ang kadiliman at kasamaan sa ating bayan. Kung ano mang mangyayari sa hinaharap, nasa mga kamay na ng sambayanang Pilipino. Makikitang pinuwera at binaluktot ang

batas, panayag ni Trillanes sa pagharap nito sa media kahapon.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque na nagsalita ng ang korte hinggil sa kaso ni Trillanes kaya dapat itigil na ng mambabatas ang kanyang drama at sa korte na lamang ito magpaliwanag.

Mula nang ilabas ng Presidente ang Proclamation 572 ay nagsilbing kanlungan ng mambabatas ang kanyang opisina sa Senado para makaiwas sa pag-aresto sa kanya ng AFP.

Trillanes inaresto

NI BELLA GAMOTEA

Kusang sumama si Senador Antonio Trillanes IV sa mga tauhan ng National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) na sumundo sa kanya sa Senado kahapon nang oras makaraang mag-isyu ang Makati City Regional Trial Court (RTC) ng alias warrant of arrest at hold departure order (HDO) laban sa senador.

Matapos sumailalim sa booking procedure sa Makati Police ay personal nang naglagak ng P200,000 piyansa si Trillanes sa Makati RTC Branch 150.

Pasado 1:00 ng hapon kahapon nang umalis si Makati RTC Branch 150 Sheriff Joseph Edwin Carreon, kasama ang mga tauhan ng Makati City Police, sa ilalim ni Senior Supt. Rogelio Simon, upang isilbi kay Trillanes ang resolution order.

Sa dalawang-pahinang resolusyon na ipinalabas ni Makati RTC Branch 150 Judge Elmo Alameda, pinagbigyan ng hukuman ang hirit ng Department of Justice (DoJ) sa mosyon nito na mag-isyu ng warrant

of arrest at HDO ang korte kaugnay ng kasong rebelyon ng senador.

Iniutos din ng korte kay Trillanes na personal itong maglagak ng P200,000 piyansa para sa pansamantalang paglaya.

Matatandaang inihain ng DoJ ang nasabing mosyon kasunod ng pagbawi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa amnestiya ni

Trillanes, na naipagkaloob sa senador noong panahon ni dating Pangulong Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino, taong 2010.

Nabatid na Setyembre 11 nang ibinasura ng Makati RTC 150 ang mga kasong rebelyon at kudeta laban kay



Sen. Trillanes

Trillanes at sa iba pa nitong kasamahan sa Oakwood Mutiny at Manila Peninsula siege, dahil sa naturang amnesty grant sa senador.

Samaantalala magpapalabas ng consolidated resolution ang Davao City Prosecutor's Office kaugnay ng apat na iba't ibang kaso ng libel na isampa nina dating Vice Mayor Paolo "Pulong" Duterte at Atty. Manases "Mans" Carpio laban kay Trillanes.

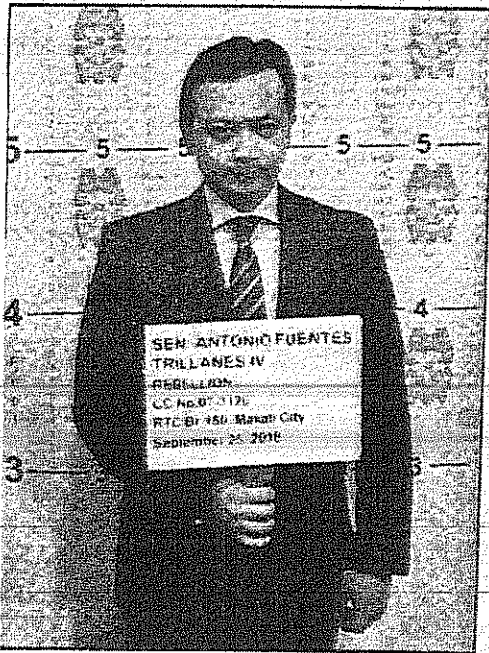
Ayon kay City Chief Prosecutor Atty. Nestor

"Buts" Ledesma, pag-isahin na lang ang nasabing mga kaso at reserolbahin ng City Prosecutor dahil halos pareho lang ang "parties involve" at ang respondent sa kaso.

2 May ulat ni Beth Camia

Warrant of arrest, HDO inilabas ng korte...

TRILLANES INARESTO SA REBELYON



Nagpalabas kalhapon ang Makati court ng warrant of arrest at hold departure order laban kay Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, matapos na magpalabas ng Proclamation 572 si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na nagpapawalang bisa sa kanyang amnestiya sa nabigong kudeta noong 2003 at 2007.

Ang Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 150, na humahawak sa kasong rebelyon laban kay Trillanes sa nangyaring 2007 Manila Peninsula siege ay nag-isyu ng arrest warrant.

Sa dalawang pahinang kautusan ni Judge Elmo

Nina RUDY ANDAL, LORDETH BONILLA at DORIS FRANCHE BORJA

Aiameda ay hindi rin pinapayagan si Trillanes na lumabas ng bansa pero may piyansa na P200,000 para sa pansamantala nitong kalayaan kaugnay sa Manila Peninsula siege noong November 2007.

Naroroon si NCRPO director Guillermo Eleazar

upang samahan ang Makati police chief at court sheriff sa paghahain ng warrant of arrest kay Trillanes.

Bago naghungo sa korte ay dinala muna si Trillanes sa himpilan ng pulisya at surapailalim sa mug shot at finger printer.

Pagkatapos sa pulisya ay dumiretso sa Makati RTC branch 150 si Trillanes kasama ang kanyang abogado na si Atty. Reynaldo Robles at naghain ng piyansang P200,000 para sa kanyang pansamantalang kalayaan na itinakda ng korte.

Sinabi naman ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque na nagsalita na ang korte tinggil sa kaso ni Trillanes kaya dapat itigil na ng mambabatas ang kanyang drama at sa korte na lamang ito magpaliwanag.

MANILA BUREAU
OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY

Warm welcome for returning Navy ship

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Philippine Navy (PN) gave a warm welcome at South Harbor, Manila, for the 200 Navymen and Philippine Marines aboard the BRP Ramon Alcaraz who took part in the 14th Multilateral Regional Maritime Exercise codenamed "Kakadu 2018" in Darwin, Australia.

Navy Chief Vice Admiral Robert A. Empedrad joined the families and friends in welcoming the sailors, marines and reservists comprising the Naval Task Force (NTF) 91 headed by its commander, Navy Captain Junjie B. Tabuada.

Tabuada said every member of NTF 91 must be excited to arrive home, "after one month and four days, of which 23 days were actually spent at sea, logging in more than 500 hours steaming time, while traversing

more than 5,763 nautical miles."

Empedrad lauded the participating troops and underscored the significance of the Navy's conduct of International Defense and Security Engagement as "the means by which we enhance partnership and build closer ties with our regional partners."

He added that Alcaraz "was able to show to the whole world that we can stand equally and at par with the first world countries even with our older ships."

Exercise Kakadu was considered as Australia's largest maritime exercise which aims to promote greater levels of military cooperation and understanding amongst regional nations.

This year's participants were 24 naval vessels and 21 aircraft from 26 countries. This is the third time that the PN participated in this exercise

since its inception in 1993, and a second time for FF16 since 2014 when it was sent for the same exercise as its maiden overseas deployment following its acquisition.

Kakadu is also the third International Defense and Security Engagement participated by the PN for this year alone after Exercise Komodo in Indonesia in May and RIMPAC Exercise in Hawaii from June to August.

"It is a concrete manifestation of a navy that is steadily improving and modernizing. It was further validated through various exercises done ashore and aboardship which provided an avenue for both our sailor and marine components to prove they can keep up with the best navies in the world in the conduct of naval maneuvers and fleet tactical exercise," Empedrad said. 2

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September 2018

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Nationinbrief

NOLCOM, MERALCO INK DEAL ON SOLAR PANELS FOR FISHERFOLK

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac City: The Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) partnered with One Meralco Foundation with the signing of a deal in putting up two units of solar panels at the structures of Mavulis Island in Batanes for the fisherfolk. The solar panels, installed through Portal Solar Photovoltaic (PV) generator, feature built-in lithium battery, charge controller and inverter. Mavulis Island, the northernmost island of the Philippines, is frequently visited by fishermen mostly from Itbayat town for its abundant fishing and farming ground. Maj. Ericson Bulosan, Nolcom public information officer, said because of its rich fishing waters and where Taiwan and Philippines' exclusive economic zones overlap, there were several previously alleged foreign intrusions in the area. The agreement is expected to provide protection to fishermen in the area through better lighting and energy for their operation, was led by One Meralco Foundation president Jeffrey Tarayao and Nolcom chief Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Salamat.

Handwritten signature

JERRY M. HERNANDEZ

Itoгон operations shift to retrieval mode

BY VICTOR REYES

RESCUE workers at a landslide site in Itoгон, Benguet shifted to search and retrieval operations Monday night as hopes for finding any survivor dimmed.

Fifty-four bodies have been recovered since the landslide hit a former mining site in Barangay Ucab on September 16.

"There are still 20 missing... They're now presumed dead," said Itoгон Mayor Victorio Palangdan.

In the landslide in Naga City in Cebu, which occurred four days

later, search and rescue operations continued yesterday.

"We are still on search and rescue (operations). We are still hopeful of recovering more survivors," said Capt. Joe Patrick Martinez, deputy commander of the military's 3rd Civil Relations Group based in Cebu.

The death toll in the landslide near a quarry site rose to 62 yesterday, up by eight from Monday. Thirty-five persons remained missing. Ten survivors have been found.

Martinez said workers will con-

tinue with the search and rescue mission "as long as it takes."

The Naga police reported 56 bodies recovered and 10 rescued as of 4:30 a.m. yesterday.

Chief Insp. Roderick Gonzales, city police chief, said combined government and volunteer organizations are still in ground zero in Sitio Sindulan, Barangay Tina-an and Barangay Naalad where at least 24 houses were buried.

He said about 500 government workers and volunteers are

See ITOGON > Page B3

ITOGON

involved in the search operations.

In the Itoгон landslide which buried a bunk house of small-scale miners, life-finder equipment failed to detect life, said Palangdan.

"We have not recovered any survivor who was actually buried. The only survivors we got were not

actually buried," he said.

"We already retrieved a total of 54 (bodies) but the total (fatality) is 74," said Palangdan.

The landslide was triggered by heavy rains brought by typhoon "Ompong." Authorities said the typhoon left about 60 to 70 fatalities in other areas in Benguet and in other parts of the country. — *With Raymond Africa*

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY

NPA leader falls

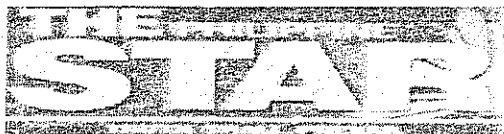
The military announced yesterday the arrest of a leader of the New People's Army's (NPA) operating in South Cotabato.

Police and military personnel arrested Ofelia Bunahog, with aliases of Decay and Wada, a member of the executive committee of the NPA's Far South Mindanao Region and secretary of Guerrilla Front 73, in Barangay Centrala at around 9 p.m. on Monday. - 12

Bunahog's arrest was based on warrants for rebellion, illegal possession of firearms and explosives and frustrated murder.

- Michael Punongbayan

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RED OCTOBER

'Soldiers in cahoots with LP'

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY - President Duterte has claimed that some soldiers are in cahoots with the opposition in a plot to overthrow his administration.

"I was hurt because some people in the military are communicating with the Liberal Party, those rebel soldiers. I can't understand their loyalty," the President said.

"That's my ill feeling toward those soldiers. I don't mind if they

Turn to Page 6

Soldiers From Page 1

get angry with me. That's nothing. But to be in cahoots with the enemy? I can step down anytime. But the problem is the nation... If you are true to your country, do not bed with the enemy," Duterte added.

The President insisted on Monday that no uprising against an existing government will succeed without the involvement of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

"Nothing will succeed without the help of the (AFP)," the President told soldiers at Camp Teodulfo Bautista.

Duterte added that should

the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) believe that he is no longer fit to lead the country, there is no problem.

All they have to do is tell him and he will step down, Duterte said. Meanwhile, the President assured the soldiers that he would fulfill his mandate and work according to his campaign promise.

"I will work according to my promise. Corruption, drugs, I will not benefit from them," Duterte said in Filipino.

Duterte said he has made sure that he would not get involved in any government purchase or contract.

"No purchase of ships or airplanes reach my desk. These stop in the departments concerned. I curse a lot because I am angry at corruption and illegal drugs," Duterte added.

Duterte told the opposition to wait for the elections if they are not satisfied with his performance.

"If you do not like me as president - Duterte is inept, clueless, it's OK. Fine. Just wait for the elections three years away," he said.

Steps vs ouster moves

Expose. Monitor. Preempt. These are the steps that the military will take to counter the so-called ouster plot be-

ing orchestrated by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) against President Duterte beginning next month in a grand scheme dubbed as Red October.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the AFP will first inform the public about the plot.

"Exposure is (the) first step," Lorenzana said yesterday.

"Second is to monitor their activities and (those of) their affiliates," Lorenzana added.

Lorenzana said the third step is to "preempt if there are indications that (the CPP) will conduct destabilization or any violent mass movement."

The DND chief said the military takes alleged plans

to oust Duterte or destabilize the government seriously, considering that such plot was uncovered as early as February 2017 in an encounter between government troops and the New People's Army in Bukidnon.

"It was hatched by the CPP-NPA in October 2016 even before the President cancelled the peace talks. After (the cancellation), the implementation (of the ouster moves) became an urgent program by the CPP-NPA," Lorenzana explained.

"Their plan was to get as many civil organizations as possible to join their mass actions led by their progressive fronts. It is supposed to cul-

minate this October," he said.

Lorenzana, however, noted that based on CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison's latest pronouncement that Duterte will not last until the middle of 2019, there may have been a change in plans.

"Maybe they have moved their goals, considering the lackluster performance of their so-called massed rallies last martial law anniversary. We are closely monitoring them, including other groups," he said.

Red October, Lorenzana added, much like the other plots of the CPP-NPA, will fail for lack of popular support. - With Alexis Romero, Michael Punongbayan, Cecille Suerte Felipe

Duterte: Some soldiers conniving with LP, Reds

BY RALPH EDWIN U. VILLANUEVA

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said he was displeased that some members of the military were conniving with the opposition and communists to oust him from office.

Duterte told reporters in Jolo, Sulu on Monday evening that some of his troops were supporting Sen. Antonio Trillanes 4th, one of his ardent critics, and were involved in moves to remove him from power.

"What hurts is, you Liberal [party] and some military, you are connecting with rebel soldiers then that is it. You three — the Yellow, soldiers that I do not understand where their loyalty is, and the Liberal. This is where I have resentment," Duterte said.

"I have no problem with them being angry with me, but to do it in cahoots with the enemy... Me, I am just one. I can fall now, but the problem of the country... if you are true to your country, do not bed

with the enemy," he added.

Duterte also said that if the opposition was bent on ousting him, it should wait for the elections in 2022.

But he said he would readily step down if the military and police told him to.

"You know, this plot, plot, plot. I have one thing to say: Nothing will succeed without the help of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. If the military, the Armed Forces, and the police think that I cannot be a President, tell me. There will be no fights. If they said I will be replaced, I will go," Duterte said.

Duterte earlier said the opposition was moving to oust him from his post after he issued Proclama-

tion 572 revoking the amnesty given to Trillanes in 2011.

He said he had obtained intelligence information on the supposed ouster moves from a foreign, sympathetic country.

The military has said that members of Trillanes' Magdalo group, the Liberal Party and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) were moving to collude and oust the President.

The supposed movement was dubbed "Red October."

Robredo not part of ouster plot - Palace

Malacañang on Tuesday said the face of the opposition, Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo, was not connected with the ouster moves.

This was after Robredo said earlier in the day that the Red October plot was a "dangerous and baseless" claim.

"Well, as far as VP Leni is concerned, that's a fair statement, because as far I know, she was not amongst those specifically named

to be part of the conspiracy. She is after all the second highest elected official," Palace spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said in a news briefing.

"She took an oath to support the Constitution and she's expected not to support any unconstitutional means to remove the President," the spokesman added.

Roque said the military did not mention Robredo's name as part of the plot.

The Palace spokesman also stood by the accuracy of military intelligence information.

"We stand by the intelligence information as gathered by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, these are documents seized from members of the CPP and NPA (New People's Army). It clearly provides for creating a broad coalition with Liberal Party members and the Magdalo. But again, I stress, you can do everything, nothing will happen. The support of the people is overwhelming for the President," he added.

Roque, on Monday, said Duterte was "people power-proof." *hr*

DU30: Some military execs 'in cahoots' with LP, Magdalo

By CNN Philippines

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte hit some members of the military for allegedly conniving with his "enemies" -- the Liberal Party (LP) and Magdalo Group.

"Ang (ma)sakit ko dito, kayong mga Liberal at mga military, nakipag-ugnayan sila sa mga sundalo na rebelde (Magdalo Group). Tapos iyun na 'yung tatlo: Yellow, mga sundalo na hindi ko maintindihan ang utak kung saan ang loyalty nila, pati 'yung mga Liber-

al. Diyan ako naghinanak-it sa sundalo. But to go into cahoots with the kalaban..." Duterte said on Monday after he visited wounded soldiers in Jolo, Sulu.

He questioned the loyalty of the yet unnamed military officials.

"If you are true to your country, do not bed with the enemy, kung ayaw mo ako na presidente, Duterte kasi bugok walang alam. Okay lang, fine. Hintay lang sila ng election. Few years away," the President said.

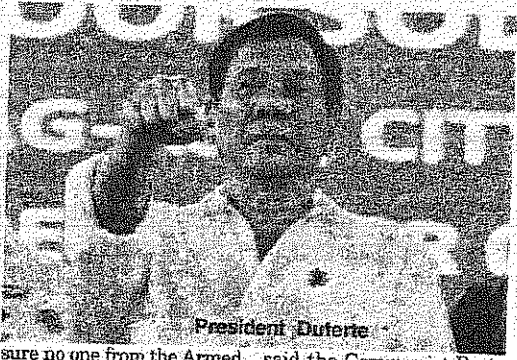
He also said the supposed "Red October" ouster

plot against him will not succeed without the help of the troops. He also spoke against soldiers whom he claimed have turned against him.

"Tong plot na ito, nothing will succeed without the help of the Armed Forces. If the military and the police think na hindi ako bagay maging presidente, sabihan nila ako. Walang away-away," Duterte said.

He added, "Kung sabihin nila na dapat palitan ako, larga ako."

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque on September 12 said Duterte is



President Duterte

sure no one from the Armed Forces would heed supposed calls to overthrow his administration.

Top military officials

said the Communist Party of the Philippines is working with opposition groups to oust Duterte supposedly in October.

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Army seizure of firearms at farm in Rizal linked to 'Red October'

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Joint elements of the Philippine Army's 80th Infantry Battalion (80IB) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) seized on Tuesday high-powered firearms at a farm in Teresa, Rizal which a military general linked to the ouster plot against President Duterte dubbed "Red October."

According to Brigadier General Arnulfo Marcelo B. Burgos Jr., Commander of the 202nd Infantry (UNIFLER) Brigade which has operational jurisdiction over the area, the government troops and agents served the warrant which was issued after months of intelligence operations against Armando Lazarte,

alias "Pat" and "Romano," secretary of the NPA's Sub-Regional Military Area 4A, and Tirso Alcantara alias "Bart," the former Commander of the NPA Terrorists' Regional Unit Guerilla.

Unfortunately, the two were not in the area when the warrant was served.

Burgos said troops and NBI agents served at 7:30 a.m. the warrant in a farm that is believed to be a safe house of top NPA leaders in Southern Tagalog.

"The presence of top NPA leaders and the proximity of Teresa town to Manila are indicators that the threat of "Red October" cannot be downplayed and that the plotters are just awaiting for an opportunity to execute their plans," Burgos said.

Burgos added that they will remain proactive in addressing any form of threats within our jurisdiction since our primary mandate is to be the vanguards of the national government's southern frontier.

Lt. Col. Melencio Ragudo, commander of the 80IB, said the joint operations with the NBI at Coral Farm, located at Sitio Dalig of the said municipality, resulted to the recovery of four M653 (baby armalite) rifles, one M203 Grenade Launcher, five US made 12-gauge shotguns, one caliber .45 pistol, one caliber .38 revolver, one 9mm KG3 machine pistol, six units of two-way radios, two grenades, eight cellphones, enemy documents and numerous war materials as well as weapon system

accessories.

He added that the owner of the six-hectare farm, Ki Be E, alias "Lily Ong," was among the eight personalities apprehended by the government forces.

One of the apprehended personalities revealed to authorities that two of the M653s belong to alias Bart while the other two, including the grenades, were owned by alias Pat Romano. The person also confirmed that the two NPA leaders were regular visitors of Coral Farm.

Major General Rhoderick M. Parayno, army 2nd Infantry Division commander, congratulated the troops and agents for the successful operations which preempted the destabilization plot.

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Robredo no plotter, says Palace; ouster move foiled

By Nat Mariano

VICE President Leni Robredo is not part of the alleged conspiracy to remove President Rodrigo Duterte from power, Malacañang said Tuesday as she denied her involvement in the "Red October" plot announced by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"As far as VP Leni is concerned, that's a fair statement. As far I know, she was not among those specifically named to be part of the conspiracy," Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque told reporters.

"She is, after all, the second highest elected official. She took an oath to support the Constitution and she is expected not to support any unconstitutional means to remove the President."

Former President Benigno Aquino III on Tuesday also dismissed the allegations of conspiracy among the opposition, including the Liberal Party and communist rebels, to remove Duterte from power.

He challenged the capability of the communist rebels to play an integral role in the plan to oust the President.

The military on Tuesday claimed to have prevented a threat to oust Duterte under the "Red October" scheme following the seizure of a cache of high-powered firearms during a raid at the supposed safe house of two top communist leaders in Rizal province. **With Rio N. Araja, Francisco Tuyay, Macon Ramos-Araneta and PNA** A2

Leni not part of Red October plot — Palace

By Efren Montano
VICE President Leni Robredo, does not seem to be part of it, the Palace

said yesterday. Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque made this statement after the vice president described the military's allegation about Red October as "baseless" and "laughable if they were not so dangerous."

"As far as VP Leni is concerned, that's a fair statement, because as far I know, she was not among those specifically named to be part of the conspiracy," Roque said in a Palace press briefing.

"She is after all the second highest elected official. She took an oath to support the Constitution and she should not and she's expected not to support any unconstitutional means to remove the President."

In a statement, Robredo said the allegations against her party, particularly when they come from high ranking military officials, undermine not just the opposition but also

our democracy. They politicize the AFP, subvert Constitutional protections, and weaken a crucial mechanism for ensuring public accountability."

The vice president also said the statement of the military is supposed to discredit the opposition.

"For while the claims themselves are absolutely ridiculous, the attempt to delegitimize various opposition groups and personalities by linking them to an alleged extra-constitutional 'plot' is alarming," she said.

Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, AFP deputy chief of staff for operations, claimed that opposition coalition Tindig Pilipinas almost got involved in the plan but backed out after realizing that communists were behind the move.

Parlade alleged that communist leaders Rev Casambre and Satur Ocampo are allegedly leading the coalition.

Robredo naaalarma sa 'Red October' plot

Nina RAYMUND F. ANTONIO, FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD at GENALYN D. KABILING

Nakakatawang nakakafakot. Ito ang reaksiyon ni Vice President Ma. Leonor "Leni" Robredo sa mga alegasyon na nag-uugnay sa kanya at sa Liberal Party sa diumanong "Red October" plot para patalsikin si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Sinabi ni Robredo, lider ng oposisyon, na "alarmino" ang alegasyon ng militar na siya at ang LP, na kanyang pinamumunuan, ay bahagi ng planong patalsikin si Duterte.

"For while the claims themselves are absolutely ridiculous, the attempt to delegitimize various opposition groups and personalities by linking them to an alleged extra-constitutional plot," aniya.

Iginili ng Vice President na walang basehan ang mga alegasyon ng mga opisyal ng militar laban sa kanila, at sinisita nito hindi lamang ang oposisyon

kundi ang demokrasya ng bansa. Nagbabala si Brigadier General Antonio Parlade, deputy chief of staff for operations ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), nitong weekend na may planong tinatawag na "Red October" para paalisin sa puwesto si Duterte.

Sinabi niya na ang Liberal Party at si Senator Antonio Trillanes IV at ang kanyang grupong Magdalo ay nais na makipag-alyansa sa mga grupong Tindig Pilipinas at Movement Against Tyranny para sa planong patalsikin ang Pangalo.

Ayon kay Robredo pinopoliitika ng mga opisyal ng militar ang AFP sa pag-uugnay sa oposisyon sa Red October.

"They politicize the AFP, subvert Constitutional protections, and weaken a crucial mechanism for ensuring public accountability," aniya.

Nilinaw naman ng Malacañang

kahapon na hindi kasama si Robredo sa listahan ng mga personalidad na nagbabalak na patalsikin si Duterte.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque, inaasahan nilang hindi susuportahan ni Robredo ang anumang planong patalsikin ang duly-elected President.

"As far I know, she was not amongst those specifically named to be part of the conspiracy," ani Roque sa news conference sa Palasyo.

Sinabi ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana kahapon na manigpit nilang binabantayan ang komunisang New People's Army at iba pang grupo na nagbabalak na paalisin sa puwesto si Pangulong Duterte.

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ni Lorenzana na sineseryoso nila ang mga banta mula sa komunista at "grand coalition and broad united front".

'Red October' silat sa raid

Nasilat ng tropa ng militar ang "Red October" o ang planong pagpapatalik kay Pangulong Duterte na diumano'y ihulunsad ng CPP-New People's Army (CPP-NPA), oposisyon at iba pang grupo matapos ang raid sa safehouse ng mga lider ng mga rebeldeng komunista sa Southern Tagalog Region. kahapon ng umaga.

Sa report ni Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr., commander ng Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade, dakong alas-7:30 ng umaga nang isilbi nila ang search warrant sa Coral Farm sa

Brgy. Daig, Teresa, Rizal na hinihinalang safehouse ng mga mataalaas na lider ng NPA sa Southern Tagalog.

Ayon kay Burgos, ang nasabing farm base sa intelligence report ay pinagkukutaan ng mga lider ng NPA na sina Armando Lazarte alyas Pat/Romano, secretary ng NPA's sub-Regional Military Area IV A at Tirso Alcantara alyas Bart, dating commander ng NPA Terrorists Regional Yunit Guerilla.

Nabatid naman kay Lt. Col. Melencio Ragudo, Commander ng Army's

80th Infantry Battalion, na nagsagawa sila ng pinagsanib na law enforcement operations ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) sa Coral Farm.

Narekober sa operasyon ang apat na M653 Baby ArmaLite rifles, isang M203 grenade launcher, limang US 12 gauge shotguns, isang cal. 45 pistol, isang cal. 38 revolver, isang 9 Mm KG3 machine pistol, anim na units ng two-way radios, dalawang granada, walong cell phones, mga dokumento at sari-saring mga kagamitang pandigma. (Joy Santos) 2

36 Reds surrender to army

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

A total of 36 underground members of Communist Terrorist Groups (CTGs) surrendered to the Philippine Army's 81st Infantry "Spartan" Battalion (81IB) in Ilocos Sur on Sunday, it was learned yesterday.

Nine members of the Kabataang Makabayan, a CTG solid mass organiza-

tion in Barangay Legazpi, Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur surrendered to the 81IB Community Support Program (CSP) team, in the presence of barangay officials.

Another 10 members of Kabataang Makabayan and 17 members of the Samahang Magsasaka surrendered on the same day to the 81IB CSP team, also in the presence of barangay officials at Barangay Bugnay, Candon

City, Ilocos Sur.

The surrenderers were presented to their respective municipal mayors.

The army said it is a known fact that mass organizations such as the ones previously mentioned often become the breeding ground for CTGs.

"They take advantage of the youth's idealism and thirst for adventure. For other groups, they fuel the issues and exploit their weakness," it said. *g*

NDF consultant eludes arrest in Rizal town

A National Democratic Front (NDF) consultant on peace negotiations with the government eluded arrest in Teresa, Rizal, on Tuesday.

Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Burgos Jr., commander of the Philippine Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade, said they were about to serve an arrest warrant against Tirso Alcantara alias "Ka Bart," but the NDF consultant slipped away.

"He is too slippery and that is why we were not able to arrest him again," Burgos told reporters.

He said Alcantara was first spotted at a village in Umiray, Quezon, in May this year.

Government troops and agents from the National Bureau of Investigation, according to Burgos, were about to serve the warrant, only

to find firearms in a farm in Teresa.

Recovered were four M653 or baby ArmaLite rifles, one M203 grenade launcher, five US-made 12-gauge shotguns, one cal. .45 pistol, one cal. .38 revolver, one 9mm KG3 machine pistol, six two-way radios, two grenades, eight mobile phones, documents and war materiel.

Alcantara was among those ordered released by President Rodrigo Duterte in 2016 when he announced that he was ready to hold peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Alcantara and 20 others, however, were ordered rearrested by the government after Duterte decided again to scrap the talks last year.

A2 **DEMPSEY REYES**

Destab: 'There is, there's none'

By Mario J. Mallari
and Kristina Maralit

Two talking heads of the
Armed Forces of the Philippines

(AFP) yesterday gave conflicting scenarios about the alleged ouster plot against President Rodrigo

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Duterte, with one saying it is still on while another is claiming it is not.

This as the Chief Executive himself also alleged some of his soldiers "are sleeping with (his) enemies" amid conflicting claims of destabilization against the government.

But Col. Edgard Arevalo, the AFP spokesman, said the members of the "legitimate opposition," like the Magdalo and Tindig Pilipinas, have removed themselves from the reported oust-Duterte move, highlighted by the AFP announcement of the alleged "Red October" plot and the "Operation/Plan: Talsik" which the military said were being planned by the Communist Party of the Philippines and several anti-Duterte groups.

Arevalo said the political opposition's detachment from the reported destabilization plots was evident during the 21 September rally that commemorated the proclamation of martial law by the late President Ferdinand Marcos in 1972.

According to Arevalo, even the Magdalo (which is part of the Tindig Pilipinas coalition) had expressed support to a democratic government and had allegedly vowed never to join groups aiming to overthrow a democratically elected government and replace it with a communist system.

'Oplan Aklasan' and 'Kampanyang Talsik' are rolling plans until the CPP is able to generate enough support in December in time for the 50th CPP anniversary.

The Magdalo used to be a fraternal organization of soldiers which launched a series of coups against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in protest of massive corruption in the AFP during her term.

One of its leaders who also served as the face and voice of the group is Sen. Antonio Trillanes, who was ordered arrested by a Makati City Court for a case of rebellion in connection with the anti-Arroyo coups.

Several opposition groups, Arevalo said, also expressed that they will not support destabilization.

"They (opposition groups) told our chief of staff Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. that they support our democratic government," Arevalo said.

The President, however, on Monday let out his sentiment during his visit to wounded soldiers in Jolo, saying he is hurting over reports some military leaders are conniving with forces out to oust him from power.

"What hurts me here (is that) you Liberal (Party) and some of those from the military have been in talks with the rebels (CPP-New People's Army)," Mr. Duterte said. "The soldiers, I cannot understand where their loyalty lies."

"That's my resentment with them, those soldiers. I don't care if they get mad at me, that's nothing. But to go into cahoots with the enemies. Me, I am just one. I can even fall now," he added.

Duterte said he will voluntarily step down from the presidency if the soldiers and the police will tell him so.

Duterte called on the military to remain loyal to the flag as he vowed to focus on fulfilling his duty as Chief Executive, particularly his continuing fight against illegal drugs and corruption.

"If you are true to your country, do not [bed] with the enemy. Just say you don't want me anymore as your President - Duterte is stupid, Duterte is no good. It's okay. That's fine. They can wait for the elections, it's only three years away," the President said.

"If they say I have to be replaced, I will leave," Duterte added. "But for now, I will fulfill my promise of fighting corruption, drugs."

Prior to this, the Palace expressed support to the AFP's proposal of creating a national anti-insurgency task force to quell the Maoist rebellion.

The President, the Palace reiterated, also prioritized additional salaries and benefits of uniformed personnel.

"Under my administration, I went on a buying spree. There was no request I did not grant (the

soldiers)," Duterte said.

The AFP over the weekend bared an alleged conspiracy tagged as "Red October" as a connivance among the Liberal Party, Trillanes and the Magdalo group, along with armed leftist groups allegedly plotting to overthrow the President from power.

Despite Arevalo's statement, however, Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, gave a more detailed "Red October" plot.

According to Parlade, the CPP is planning to recreate a "First Quarter Storm" scenario similar to those in the early 1970s when the youth and poor sectors organized anti-government protests.

Parlade also reiterated Tindig Pilipinas, an umbrella organization of groups and personalities identified with the opposition LP, of forging an alliance with the CPP-NPA to oust Duterte.

They (opposition groups) told our chief of staff Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr. that they support our democratic government.

"The Red October Project is mainly designed as intensified mass campaign by the CPP and its urban based organizations using legal covers," Parlade told the *Daily Tribune*.

"The CPP-Central Committee, through its national political commission, aims to foment continuing labor unrest, agitation among the urban poor communities and peasants and the revival of First Quarter Storm among universities, schools and colleges to mobilize the youth and students," he added.

After mustering enough forces, Parlade said the CPP will sabotage large gatherings then blame the government, like it did following the 1971 bombing at Plaza Miranda.

"Oplan Aklasan' and 'Kampanyang Talsik' are rolling plans until the CPP is able to generate enough support in December in time for the 50th CPP anniversary," Parlade told *Daily Tribune*.

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'Oust-Duterte plot doomed to fail'

BY VICTOR REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Delfino Lorenzana yesterday said the communist movement is eyeing protest actions like those in 1986 to cause the ouster of President Duterte.

However, he said, the "Red October" plot hatched by communist party leaders in October 2016 is doomed to fail because it lacks "popular support."

"What they planned to do is initiate mass actions which they

hope to snowball into a 'people power,' such as what they intended last September 21 or ML (martial law) anniversary," Lorenzana said.

The 1986 "people power" protest ousted the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. The protests had the support of the military which withdrew support from Marcos, their commander-in-chief.

"Their plan was to get as many civil organizations as possible to

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OUST-DUTERTE

join their mass actions led by their progressive fronts. It is supposed to culminate this October," Lorenzana said of the supposed ouster plan.

The September 21 rally at the Luneta Park in Manila marked the 46th anniversary of the martial law declared by Marcos.

"The turnout was pitifully small," Lorenzana said referring to the anti-Duterte crowd at the Luneta.

"Despite this setback, they (CPP/NPA) will keep trying," he also said.

ROBREDO PROTESTS

Vice President Leni Robredo said the military's claim linking her and other members of the political opposition to the ouster plot poses a threat to democracy.

"Baseless allegations that link my involvement in legitimate opposition activities with illegal actions, particularly when they come from high ranking military officials, undermine not just the opposition but also our democracy," she said in a statement.

She was reacting to statements made Sunday by Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, assistant AFP deputy chief of staff for operations, who said the military has documents proving that the communists forged an alliance with the political opposition, particularly with the camps of Robredo and opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, and the Magdalo group that staged a mutiny against the Arroyo administration. Trillanes was among core leaders of the Magdalo.

Parlade also said the political opposition cut ties with the communist Movement Against Tyranny just before the martial law commemoration.

Duterte earlier this month said members of the opposition belonging to the Liberal Party or the "Yellows," the Magdalo together with soldiers in the active service, and the rebels Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army have formed an alliance

aimed at ousting him.

Robredo said government's attempt to "de-legitimize various opposition groups and personalities by linking them to an alleged extra-constitutional plot is alarming."

She said a similar tactic of "branding critics as criminals" was used during martial law to silence the opposition.

The Vice President maintained that the opposition plays a crucial role in guarding democracy.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Robredo has not been in the supposed plot.

"She was not amongst those specifically named to be part of the conspiracy. She is, after all, the second highest elected official. She took an oath to support the Constitution and she should not and she's expected not to support any unconstitutional means to remove the President. Pero ang ating AFP naman po, hindi ko po sila narinig na pinangalanan si VP Leni (I never heard the AFP identify her as among conspirators)," Roque said.

Parlade yesterday said the military is helping expose the ouster plan to prevent the youth and students from taking part in it.

"It's okay to stage rally as long as the goal is clear, as long as they are not up for violence. Ever since, that is part of their plan, the exploitation of the youth and student sector," said Parlade.

President Duterte on Monday night said those plotting to oust him should just wait for the next national elections instead of "bedding the enemy."

The President, during a visit to soldiers confined at the Camp Teodulfo Bautista Station Hospital in Jolo in Sulu, lamented that some soldiers are conniving with the "Liberals" or "yellows" and the rebels.

He said what hurts him is the fact that he has done everything to promote their welfare, including increasing their salaries and benefits and providing them more equipment. — *With Angela Lopez de Leon and Jocelyn Montemayor*

AFP to file raps vs oust DU30 plotters

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is looking for enough evidence to file charges against those behind "Red October" or the move to oust President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

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AFP...

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This was according to AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo.

Arevalo said they are part of other government agencies who are tasked to look for strong evidence against those behind the so called Red October move.

Red October is a plan allegedly led by communist group to destabilize and oust the President.

Earlier, the President

revealed that the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), New Peoples Army (NPA) National Democratic Front (NDF) and group of Senator Antonio Trillanes were recruiting members or forces to carry out the plan to unseat him.

Arevalo said as of press time, the government formed a National Task Force for Ending Insurgency that aimed to unite government agencies that will help in the effort of ending the problems that serves as root of insurgency in the

country.

Among these problems includes poverty and unemployment.

NPA leaders' safe house raided

As part of their effort to stop any plan to oust the President, government forces yesterday raided the safehouse of top NPA leaders in Teresa, Rizal.

The operation resulted in the arrest of eight persons and recovery of high powered firearms believed to be intended for the red october move.

Philippine Army's 292nd Infantry Battalion Commander Brig. Gen. Marcelo Burgos said joint elements of the Philippine Army's 80th Infantry Battalion and the National Bureau of Investigation served search warrant against Armando Lazarte alias Pat/Romano, secretary of the NPA's sub-regional military area 4A, and Tirso Alcantara alias Bart, former Commander of the NPA Terrorists Regional Unit Guerilla at Coral Farm, Sitio Dalig, Teresa Rizal at around 7:30 am.

The operation resulted in the recovery of four

M653 baby armalite rifles, one M203 grenade launcher, five U.S. made 12-gauge shotguns, one caliber .45 pistol, one caliber .38 revolver, one 9mm K&G machine pistol, six two-way radios, two grenades, eight cellphones, enemy documents and several war materials and weapon system accessories.

One of the arrested was Ki Be E alias Lily Ong, owner of the 6-hectare farm,

Burgos said the presence of top NPA leaders and the proximity of Teresa town to Manila are indicators that the threat of "Red October" cannot be downplayed and that the plotters are just waiting for an opportunity to execute their plans.

"We will remain proactive in addressing any form of threats within our jurisdiction since our primary mandate is to be the vanguards of the national government's southern frontier," Burgos said.

One of the apprehended personalities revealed to authorities that two of the M653s belong to alias Bart while the other two,

including the grenades, were owned by alias Pat/Romano.

The person also confirmed that the two NPA leaders were regular visitors of Coral Farm.

Maj. Gen. Rhoderick M Parayno, commander of the Philippine Army's 2nd Infantry Division, congratulated the troops and agents for the successful operations which preempted the destabilization plot.

"We will remain steadfast in accomplishing our mission of preserving the Filipino people's peaceful and democratic way of life by ensuring order across our area of responsibility," Parayno said.

He added that the successful government action "should serve as a warning to the few remaining NPA terrorists in Southern Tagalog - lay down your arms because you will never succeed, we will catch you."

"Red October" is the purported anti-government plan involving the Communist Party of the Philippines to oust President Rodrigo Duterte from Malacañang.

AFP building up case vs anti-DU30 plotters

NPA rebels linked to plot nabbed in Rizal

By Zaida delos Reyes

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is now looking for enough evidence to support charges against those behind "Red October," or the move to oust President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said they are part of other government agencies tasked to look for strong evidence against those behind the so-called Red October move.

Red October is a plan allegedly led by the communists to destabilize the Duterte administration.

Earlier, the President revealed that the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), New Peoples Army (NPA)-National Democratic Front (NDF) and the group of Sen. Antonio Trillanes were recruiting members or forces to carry out the plan to unseat him.

Arevalo said the government had formed a National Task Force for Ending Insurgency that aimed to unite government agencies in the effort to end the problems that serve as the root of insurgency in the country.

These problems include poverty and unemployment.

NPA leaders arrested

As part of the effort to foil the "Red October" plot government forces yesterday raided the safehouse of top NPA leaders in Teresa, Rizal.

The operation resulted in the arrest of eight persons and recovery of high-powered firearms believed to be intended for the Red October plot.

Philippine Army's 202nd Infantry Battalion Commander Brig. Gen. Marcelo Burgos said Joint elements of the Philippine Army's 80th Infantry Battalion and the National Bureau of Investigation at around 7:30 a.m. served a search warrant against Armando Lazarte alias Pat/Romano, Secretary of the NPA's Sub-Regional Military Area 4A, and Tirso Alcantara alias Bart, the former Commander of

the NPA Terrorists' Regional Yunit Guerilla at Coral Farm, located at Sitio Dalig, Teresa, Rizal.

The operation resulted in the recovery of four M653 baby armalite rifles, one M203 Grenade Launcher, five U.S. made 12-gauge shotguns, one caliber .45 pistol, one caliber .38 revolver, one 9mm KG3 machine pistol, six units of two-way radios, two grenades, eight cell phones, enemy documents and several war materiel and weapons system accessories.

Among those arrested was Ki Be E alias Lily Ong, owner of the 6-hectare farm.

Burgos said the presence of top NPA leaders and the proximity of Teresa town to Manila are indicators that the threat of "Red October" cannot be downplayed and that the plotters are just waiting for an opportunity to execute their plans.

Military monitors groups plotting to unseat Duterte

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday that they are closely monitoring the New People's Army (NPA) and other groups who are plotting to unseat President Duterte from power.

In a statement, Lorenzana said threats coming from the communist and "grand coalition and broad united front" are also being taken seriously.

"We take it seriously. Remember that this was uncovered last Feb 2017 in an encounter in Bukidnon. It was hatched by the CPP/NPA in Oct of 2016 even before the President cancelled the peace talks," Lorenzana

said.

"After it was cancelled, the implementation became an urgent program by the CPP-NPA," he added.

Lorenzana said the CPP-NPA's plan was to get as many civil organizations as possible to join their mass actions led by their progressive fronts. Their plan is supposed to culminate this October but may have moved it for another date," Lorenzana said.

"However, if you have been listening to Joma Sison he came out recently to say that PRRD will not last till middle of 2019. Maybe they have moved their goalpost considering

the lackluster performance of their so-called massed rallies last martial law anniversary," the DND secretary said.

"We are closely monitoring them including other groups," he added.

On Monday, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said that their revelation of the communist plot to topple the Duterte administration through their October revolution or popularly known as "Red October" is not meant to protect President Duterte but the government itself.

AFP spokesman Colonel Edgard Arevalo made the statement even as he reiterated that its request for

the creation of a national task force intended to end insurgency does not seek to obtain additional budget for the military or to cause burden on the people.

In press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Arevalo said that they are very much aware of the plot to topple the Duterte administration and taking the matter seriously.

He, however, stressed that they are not protecting the Chief Executive but the government per se.

Arevalo, at the same time, stressed that they are not against freedom of speech for as long as it is within the bounds of the law.

"Let us not be mistaken or let us not be misled, or let us not be misconstrued. We are not against any legitimate exercise of the people's freedom of speech,

freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly only that in so doing, that must be within the bounds of law," Arevalo said.

Arevalo said they are exposing the plans of these "grand coalition and broad united front" so that the public will be made aware of this plans.

Earlier, AFP assistant deputy chief for operations Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade revealed that they were able to recover documents indicating that various anti-Duterte groups are plotting to unseat President Duterte from power.

Parlade said their main objective is to oust President Duterte using issues like extrajudicial killings, martial law, inflation, the increase in the prices of basic commodities, and tyranny of the media. (Francis T. Wakefield)

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Duterte to military: Shun any alliance with enemies of State

Amid the alleged "Red October" ouster plot against him, President Duterte has called on the military to shun any alliance with government enemies if they were "true to your country."

The President issued the statement after expressing resentment towards some members of the military who were allegedly in cahoots with some opposition forces to overthrow him from power.

Duterte asserted that the military and police need only tell him that he was unfit to lead the coun-

try, and he would leave his post to avoid bloodshed.

"Ang sakit ko dito, kayong mga Liberal, pati 'yung ibang sa military, nakipag-ugnayan sila kay 'yung mga sundalo na rebelde. Tapos 'yun na 'yun, iyong tatlo. Yellow, mga sundalo na, hindi ko maintindihan ang utak kung saan ang loyalty nila, pati 'yung mga Liberal," he said during a media interview in Jolo, Sulu last Monday.

"Diyan ako naghihinakit sa kanila 'yung mga sundalo na 'yan. Hindi na bale magalit sila sa akin,

wala 'yon. But to go into a cahoots sa, with the kalaban, ako isa lang ako eh. Pwede man ako mahulog ngayon," he said.

Duterte, who previously claimed that communist rebels and his political rivals were plotting to remove him by next month, maintained that the country's soldiers must loyal to the country at all times.

He said they should tell him straight if they were no longer satisfied with his performance. "If you are true to your country, do not bed with the enemy. Sabihin

mo, ayaw mo akong Presidente, si Duterte kasi bugok, walang alam, eh okay lang, fine. Maghintay lang sila ng election, three years away," he added.

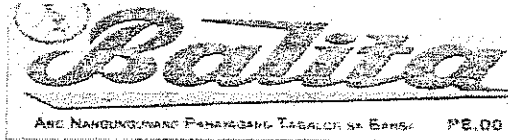
The military recently bared that the communist rebel group was behind the alleged Red October conspiracy to oust Duterte. The group was allegedly conniving with the Liberal Party and Sen. Antonio R. Trillanes IV and his Magdalo Group in the alleged ouster plot.

The President, in his remarks last Monday, renewed his offer to

step down if the military was not satisfied with his governance. He acknowledged that no ouster plot would prevail without the support of the military.

"Nothing will succeed without the help of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. If the military, the Armed Forces, and the police think na hindi ako bagay na maging Presidente, sabihan nila ako. Walang away-away," he said. "Kung sabihin nila na dapat palitan ako, larga ako," he said. (Genalyn D. Kabiling)

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3 PNP detachment, inatake ng NPA

NI FER TABOY

Pinatunayan ng mga rebelde na nananatiling malakas ang kanilang puwersa nang atakehin ng mga hinihinalang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang ilang police detachment ng Philippine National Police (PNP) sa Masbate, kahapon ng madaling araw.

Unang inatake ng mga rebelde ang kampo ng First Maneuver Platoon ng First Provincial Mobile Company sa

Barangay Lalaguna, Mobo, dakong 12:00 ng hatinggabi.

Sa report ng Masbate Provincial Police Office (MPPO), walang nasugatan sa hanay ng mga pulis habang inaalam kung may nasugatan sa panig ng mga rebelde sa sampung minuto ang bakbakan na naganap sa layong 800 metro mula sa likuran ng kampo.

Makalipas ang 20 minuto,

pinapatukan naman ng mga rebelde ang police community assistance center sa Bgy. Bayombon, Masbate City.

Ayon sa awtoridad, tumagal ng 25 minuto ang labanan.

Pinaulanan din ng mga armadong grupo ang Second Provincial Mobile Company sa Bgy. Sto. Niño, Cataingan, dakong 2:30 ng madaling araw.

Walang nasaktan sa dalawang huling insidente. 5



Pinagkukutaan ng mga NPA lider, sinalakay

Sinalakay ng mga militar ang safehouse ng mga lider ng mga rebeldeng komunista sa Brgy. Dalig, Teresa, Rizal.

Sa ulat ni Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr., Commander ng Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade, dakong alas-7:30 ng umaga nang isilbi nila ang search warrant sa Coral Farm na hinuhimang safehouse ng mga matataas na lider ng NPA sa Southern Tagalog at nakakumpiskang mga matataas na armas.

Base sa intelligence report na ang nasabing farm base ay pinagkukutaan ng

mga lider ng NPA na sina Armando Lazarte alyas Pat/Romano, Secretary ng NPA's Sub-Regional Military Area IVA at Tirso Alcantara alyas Bart, dating Commander ng NPA Terrorists Regional Yunit Guerilla.

Si Alcantara ay nakajaya sa ilalim ng Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) noong 2016 habang umiiral pa ang peace talks sa pagitan ng gobyerno at ng CPP-NPA-NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Demo-

cratic Front).

"The presence of top NPA leaders and the proximity of Teresa town (Rizal) to Manila are indicators that the threat of "Red October" cannot be downplayed and that the plotters are just awaiting for an opportunity to execute their plans", ani Burgos.

Narekober sa operasyon ang apat na M653 Baby Armalite rifles, isang M203 grenade launcher, limang US 12 gauge shotguns, isang cal. 45 pistol, isang cal. 38 revolver, isang 9 Mm KG3 machine

pistol, anim na units ng two-way radios, dalawang granada, walong cell phones, mga dokumento at sarsaring mga kagamitang pandigma.

Ibinulgar ng opisyal na ang may-ari ng anim na ektaryang lupain ay si Ki Be E alyas Lily Ong nakabiling sa walong personalidad na inaresto ng security forces.

Kinumpirma naman ng isa sa mga nasakote na ang dalawang M653 rifles ay pag-aari ni alyas Ka Bart habang ang dalawang granada ay gamit naman ni Romano. Ang dalawang lider ng NPA ay palagi umanong bisita sa Coral Farm.

Pinaniniwalaan naman na ang mga nakumpiskang mga armas ay gagamitin ng grupo ng CPP-NPA sa "Red October" upang ibagsak sa kapangyarihan si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte. *Joy Camas*

Opisyal ng NPA arestado

Isang mataas na lider ng Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) ang naaresto sa inilunsad na law enforcement operation sa Brgy. Centralia, Surallah, South Cotabato kamakalawa ng gabi.

Kinihala ni Eastern Mindanao Command Spokesman Lt. Col. Ezra Balagtey, ang nasakoteng suspek na si Ofelia Buanhoj alias Ka-Decay/Wada; Front Secretary ng Guerilla Front (GF) 73 at miyembro ng Executive Committee ng Far South Mindanao Region (FSMR).

Sinabi ni Balagtey, ang suspek ay nasakote ng mga elemento ng 27th Infantry Battalion ng Phil Army sa bisa ng warrant of arrest na inisyu ng RTC Branch 26 sa kasing rebelyon at frustrated murder sa isang operasyon sa Brgy. Centralia, Surallah ng lajawigan dakong alas-9 ng gabi.

Si Commander Decay ang tumatayong lider ng NPA rebels sa South Cotabato na responsable sa paghahasik ng terorismo at extortion sa lugar. (*Joy Cantos, trainee Hermie Rivera*)

we

PROBE SHOWS 7 TAUSUG MEN CIVILIANS, NOT SAYYAF

By Mart Sambalud
@inqmindanao

DAVAO CITY—Seven Tausug men killed in what the military said was a clash between soldiers and terrorists were civilians, according to results of an investigation by two human rights commissions.

The investigation results came as President Duterte gave medals to 17 Scout Rangers who were part of the group of soldiers being blamed for the Tausug men's killing.

On Monday, Mr. Duterte visited the 17 wounded Scout Rangers at a hospital in Jolo, Sulu province, to pin medals and hand over .45-caliber pistols.

Jerome Succor Aba, spokesperson for the Moro group Suara Bangsamoro, said the visit only added to the pain of the men's relatives.

Not terrorists

Mr. Duterte's visit to the soldiers became more controversial after findings made by the Commission on Human Rights and Human Rights Commission of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao showed that the slain men—aged 16 to 30 years old—were all civilians and not Abu Sayyaf members, as claimed by the military.

The two commissions had launched a joint probe of the killings.

Aba said Mr. Duterte's visit was an attempt to "wash the blood off the hands of the offending soldiers."

The families of the men said the seven had sought permission from soldiers to harvest fruits from their trees on the day they were arrested.

Hunt for Sahiron

The military said the men were among some 70 members of Abu Sayyaf who clashed with a group of Scout Rangers belonging to Class 205-18 in the village of Bakong in Patikul town, Sulu.

Seventeen Scout Rangers suffered minor shrapnel wounds during the clash and brought to the Camp General Bautista Hospital in Jolo, Sulu, where the President visited them.

The military said the Scout Rangers, still students, were on a mission to get Radullan Sahiron and two other Abu Sayyaf leaders—Hajan Sawadjaan and Idang Susukan—in an area of Patikul with grid coordinates 51NTG8929270577. INQ

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Teacher snatched in Sulu freed for P.2 M?

By ROEL PAREÑO and JOHN UNSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A public school teacher kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Patikul, Sulu over the weekend was released on Monday.

Shariff Benjamin Asamli Ubaid, a resident of Jolo, was reunited with his family after reportedly paying P200,000 to his captors.

The Sulu police said Ubaid, a teacher at the Camp Andres Central Elementary School, was released at

around 6:30 p.m. in Barangay Danag also in Patikul.

Ubaid reportedly had just attended a prayer marking the 100-day death anniversary of his brother when he was taken along Godinez street in Barangay Latih near Jolo.

The victim managed to

call one of his co-teachers, saying they were heading out of Jolo.

The kidnapers reportedly demanded P1 million in exchange for Ubaid's release, but later reduced it to P200,000.

Chief Superintendent Graciano Mijares, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police director, said they are still validating the reported payment of ransom.

"The government does not

allow that; we still have to verify that," Mijares said.

There were also reports that officials of the Department of Education in the ARMM helped in the negotiations for Ubaid's release.

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding two foreigners and nine Filipinos.

Lt. Col. Gerry Besana of the Western Mindanao Command said there is no letup in military operations to rescue the remaining hostages.

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ASG kidnaps Sulu teacher

BY AL JACINTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Suspected Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bandits have reportedly abducted a public school teacher in Sulu, sources said on Tuesday.

The victim, Shariff Benjamin Asamli Ubaid, was seized in the capital town of Jolo on Saturday morning, said one of his friends who appealed to the terrorists to free their hostage.

According to this friend, the teacher was a hardworking one.

The abduction was reported only on Monday after the ASG bandits allegedly used Ubaid's mobile phone to demand P1.5 million in ransom for

his safe release.

No other details of the kidnapping were made available, but on the eve of his abduction, Ubaid wrote this on his Facebook account: "Have faith in Allah, everything will be in good hands!"

Police and military authorities did not release any information or reports about the latest abduction, as well as the Department of Education (DepEd)

in the Autonomous Regions in Muslim Mindanao.

The motive of the abduction is still unknown, but the Abu Sayyaf has been largely blamed for many ransom kidnappings in the troubled region of Mindanao.

The kidnapping happened while the entire southern Philippines is under an extended period of martial rule over threats of terrorism and insurgency.

It was unclear how the abductors managed to enter Jolo and escaped with their hostage considering the huge presence of soldiers and policemen in the town.



Shariff Benjamin Asamli Ubaid

AJ

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Comelec conducts special registration for MNLF members

By BONITA L. ERMAC

MUNAI, Lanao del Norte - Members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) participated in a special registration conducted by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) prior to the Bang-

samoro Organic Law (BOL) plebiscite and the 2019 elections at the Municipal hall here Sunday.

Lanao del Norte State Chairman AbdulAziz Batingolo Mutia, also known as Kumander Dante, said the MNLF members considered the registration necessary and important because this

would allow them to also avail of whatever benefits that government has lined up for them.

"That's why bumaba talaga kami galing bundok, maka-rehistro kami para maisali kami kung ano ang mga benefits na ipagbigay ng ating gobyerno (That's why we came down, so that we can register and join the electoral process, and avail of whatever benefits the government will give)." Ku-

mander Dante said.

Mutia said the plebiscite that will be held to ratify the BOL, as well as the mid-term elections in 2019, were also important to them.

"Lahat iyan mahalaga sa amin. Mahalaga sa amin ang plebiscite dahil kasali kami sa naghihirap na makukuha ang BOL, at mahalaga din sa amin na makaboto kami sa 2019 para makapili kami kung sino ang

gusto naming kandidato (Both are important to us, we value the plebiscite because we were one in all the efforts to get the BOL, and it's also important to us who we will vote for in the 2019 elections)," he explained.

More than 3,700 MNLF members in the entire Lanao del Norte, and more than 1,000 in Munai town came to Comelec centers to register. | 3

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He

A1

Women are front-liners vs youth radicalization

Last of three parts

NEAR the Mapandi bridge in Marawi City, a young boy no more than five years old unabashedly told his father in a mix of Maranao and Yakan: "Pa, if you did not listen to Ma cursing you, and if you joined ISIS (Islamic State) like your friends, you would have died like

SPECIALREPORT

► Front-liners AB

FRONT-LINERS FROM A1

Women are front-liners vs youth

them." They were returning to Marawi from their evacuation center for the first time since the siege.

In Barangay Bacolod Chico, a boy wrapped his arm around his beloved grandmother. Despite the destruction of their home during the Marawi battle, the family smiled warmly as the grandmother exclaimed, "Allah is great! We lost our home, but the children are all safe. None of them joined ISIS. We are all alive."

These were among the many realizations of displaced Marawi City residents as they began to survey the damage wrought by last year's prolonged battle, as well as the process of rebuilding their lives.

Given the continued recruitment efforts by Islamic State sympathizers despite their loss in Marawi and the destruction of their informal networks, destroying the local narcotics trade and other "shadow economies" will

not be enough as there is also the question of the thousands of indoctrinated children left behind.

A group called "Can Mothers Challenge Extremism" has examined the potential of mothers in counter-terrorism.

The group's independent study was carried out in regions affected by violent extremism such as Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Palestine and Israel.

The results of the study showed that mothers trusted themselves and other mothers first in protecting their children against extremism. The current security approach, including in the Philippines, tends to focus on the role of national and local authorities.

Globally, almost every known terrorist organization in recent history has recruited women into their causes.

In the Philippine context, however, women, mothers and grandmothers can serve as effective

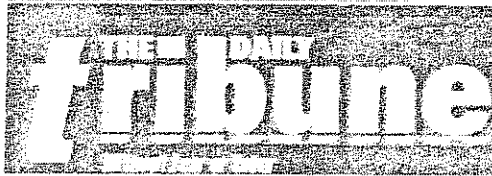
front-liners in de-radicalizing young people drawn to extremism.

In the case of Ishmael Omar, one of the "bakwits" or internally displaced persons from Marawi, parental influence reinforced his already strong resolve not to become an IS fighter.

"Ngayon, karamihan ng mga kaibigan at kakilala ko na mga kabataang nag-ISIS, patay na. (Now, most of my peers and acquaintances who joined ISIS are dead.) Pati ang ibang mga kamag-anak namin na nag-ISIS, patay na rin (Even our other relatives who joined ISIS are already dead)," he said in an interview.

"Ako, dahil sa mama and papa ko, hindi talaga ako na-recruit. Pero talagang hindi tumitigil dati ang ISIS sa pag-recruit sa akin (Because of my own mother and father, I was not recruited. But ISIS was relentless in trying to recruit me)," he added.

DREI TOLEDO



Terrorist leader arrested

The Surallah Municipal Police Station together with the Philippine Army 27th Infantry Battalion, arrested a leader of a local terrorist group operating in Cotabato City for a standing warrant of arrest for rebellion and frustrated murder.

Ofelia Fronteras Buanhog, who goes by the alias Decay/Wawa, was believed to be the Front Secretary of Guerilla Front 73 and has been known to lead the group in a number of extortion and violent activities.

At about 9 p.m. last Monday, Buanhog was arrested by the joint forces of the government forces in Barangay Centrala, Surallah town.

Buanhog has a standing warrant of arrest issued by Regional Trial Court Branch 26 with criminal case 6882-LS for rebellion, violation of RA 9516 Section 1 for illegal possession of explosives and for frustrated murder.

According to Lt. Ezra Balagtey, Eastern Mindanao Command spokesman, Buanhog didn't resist the arrest and nothing was taken from her. **Kathleen Mae Bulquerin**

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ARMM may realign budget for BOL plebiscite in 2019

COTABATO CITY: Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Mujiv Hataman has suggested that a fraction of the regional government's budget for 2019 be realigned for the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) plebiscite scheduled on January 21, 2019 in case funding for the referendum will not come on time.

"We support the BOL all the way and budget should not be a problem, we are recommending to allow part of the ARMM proposed budget to be used for the plebiscite," Hataman said on Tuesday.

He pointed this out in the wake of reports that there is no allocation in the P3.757-trillion 2019 national budget for the BOL plebiscite, which requires P857 million.

Lawmakers have said the P10-billion budget submitted by the Commission on Elections for 2019 does not include expenditures for the

plebiscite.

But Senator Loren Legarda said it is understandable since the law was certified urgent and passed in the middle of the year therefore not funded in the 2018 General Appropriations Act which was signed in December 2017.

Hataman said Congress may realign over P800 million for the plebiscite from the P10.1 billion infrastructure fund for the region proposed by the ARMM next year.

In a media report on Saturday, lawmakers said if the funding problem is not settled in Congress within the succeeding days, one option would be for the Comelec to use its savings from the barangay elections held last May.

Another option would be to seek funding from the Office of the President.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

Void from the start?

EDITORIAL

The criminal cases against Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV were revived after the amnesty

granted to him by then president Benigno Aquino III was declared void by President Duterte. While the amnesty was granted to a group of rebel soldiers following the same procedures, only Trillanes lost the privilege.

Malacañang argues that the amnesty granted to Trillanes was invalid because he did not apply for it, and only Aquino's defense chief Voltaire Gazmin approved it. Aquino has said his amnesty proclamation covered all the rebel soldiers.

Yesterday, Judge Elmo Alameda of the Makati Regional Trial Court's Branch 150 set aside materials presented by Trillanes to prove that his amnesty grant is valid. Alameda went along with the petition of the Department of Justice and ordered Trillanes' arrest for rebellion. But the judge allowed Trillanes to post P200,000 bail.

Trillanes might yet end up back in detention for the crime of coup d'etat in connection with the Oakwood mutiny. This was filed before another Makati trial court, Branch 148. The offense normally does not allow bail.

Malacañang voided the amnesty on the same day that Trillanes' committee began its probe into possible conflict of interest and graft against Solicitor General Jose Calida, whose family-owned security company has bagged

several contracts with various government agencies. The President said the voiding

of Trillanes' amnesty was the idea of Calida, who was also the one who initiated a quo warranto petition to kick out Maria Lourdes Sereno as chief justice.

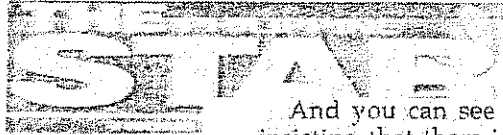
Still to be resolved is whether Malacañang can void an amnesty without Senate approval for individual recipients. The Supreme Court under Teresita de Castro, however, has refused to touch the amnesty issue.

Some quarters argue that what applies to one should apply to all. With Alameda's order, all the other rebel soldiers who were given amnesty together with Trillanes, some of them now working for the government, are in limbo.

The amnesty given by Fidel Ramos during his presidency to those who launched coup attempts against Corazon Aquino may also be affected. Among the recipients are Sen. Gregorio Honasan, Armed Forces chief Carlito Galvez and Chairman Danilo Lim of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

If the government is challenging the validity of Trillanes' amnesty, it should also go after the other recipients. Failing to do this bolsters accusations that the government, supported by a compliant judiciary, is engaged not in prosecution but persecution of its critics.

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SKETCHES

ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

Red October

A Masbate native who is now a blue-collar worker in Manila says communist rebels have a strong presence in his home province.

The worker understands that the insurgency feeds on poverty, bad governance and social injustice. He says that criminality is high in his province, with even the impoverished being robbed of their earnings from the sale of backyard crops and livestock. Or else they are forced to sell their crops to middlemen at unreasonably low prices. When thievery happens, the worker says, the victim has three options.

One is to just grin and bear it, praying for divine justice to catch up with the crooks.

A second option is to report the case to local authorities – the barangay and police. There is no certainty that the culprit will be caught. If the suspect is arrested, he may be allowed to post bail or manage to escape. Or the case may be dismissed because the poor litigant does not have the time or resources to pursue a court case that can drag on for a decade, even with assistance from the Public Attorney's Office.

Such litigants just want the stolen goods back, plus a bit of jail time for the thief, in hopes that the punishment will teach the culprit a lesson so he won't steal again and the victim will feel safe. Such crime victims, however, often fail to get redress in the country's dysfunctional criminal justice system.

So they take the third option, if presented to them. The blue-collar worker says that when people in his village turn to the New People's Army with complaints not just of thievery but also of abuse by the wealthy or state forces, the culprit is shot dead. In return for the swift justice, the NPA occasionally gets free meals from the grateful household.

The gratitude can be abused. A "donation" of chickens and an occasional pig to the NPA can weigh heavily on an impoverished household. The worker says the household is also typically compelled to pay "revolutionary taxes" about twice a month.

Serious trouble can erupt when the military gets wind of the assistance, even if forced, given to the NPA. A terrible fate can await NPA sympathizers, whether genuine or simply those who are left with no choice but to give in to rebel extortion.

Reprisals by government forces, however, can backfire and drive more people to turn to the NPA for swift justice.

This is the situation in just one province. You can see why we now have the world's longest running communist insurgency.



And you can see why government forces are insisting that there is a genuine communist plot, code-named "Red October," to oust President Duterte next month.

Incidentally, Russian Ambassador Igor Khovaev asked me why we call our homegrown rebels communists.

"Look at me, I am a communist," Khovaev told me when he was our guest some weeks ago on "The Chiefs" on Cignal TV's *One News*. Neither the Leninists nor Maoists would recognize the rebellion being waged by the Communist Party of the Philippines, said Khovaev, who grew up in Russia when the Soviet Union was still in existence.

The envoy of course understands that for many members and sympathizers of the Philippine communist movement, the driving force is not ideology or the attainment of some vague communist utopia.

Poverty, social injustice, state abuses, glaring inequities, weak governance – these roots of public discontent made the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) attain utmost strength during the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

Today, thanks to the persistence of the problems, aggravated by the dirty war on drugs, the insurgency is enjoying such a resurgence that an administration led by an immensely popular president feels threatened by a supposed plot to oust him.

From exile in the Netherlands, one of the world's most liberal societies, CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison pointed out to *The Chiefs* that the communists are waging a rebellion, so obviously, their ideal goal is to overthrow the government.

But Sison has denied that there is any "Red October" plot spearheaded by his group.

President Duterte has claimed that Joma Sison is dying of cancer and that the communist rebellion would be crushed by mid-2019. Still, even with the CPP leader's allegedly poor health, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) maintains it is taking seriously the supposed ouster plot.

The opposition Liberal Party as well as the Magdalo group of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV have also denied conspiring with the communists to topple Duterte. The Magdalo in particular has stressed that it cannot possibly work together with rebels who continue to kill government forces, which the group is representing in Congress.

Still, President Duterte has insisted that certain elements in the AFP are part of Red October, and the plot is still on.

Since the Marcos dictatorship, the AFP has evolved in terms of professionalism and now enjoys a much-rehabilitated image in the eyes of the public. Let's hope it is not staking that hard-earned respect on a fabricated conspiracy.

If Red October turns out to be a case of smoke and mirrors to justify a crackdown on political dissent, it could work in favor of the communist movement.

Like Sison's purported looming demise from cancer, the death of the communist rebellion by next year could turn out to be greatly exaggerated.

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EDITORIAL

Moving on is not forgetting

THOSE who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. This cautionary observation from the philosopher George Santayana seems rather appropriate today in view of the revisionist retelling our shared national experience with martial law in the 1970s, coming from one of its architects, Juan Ponce Enrile.

Enrile, as defense secretary, was in the inner circle of President Ferdinand Marcos when he declared military rule in 1972, and served as martial law administrator. For the next decade, he remained one of Marcos' most loyal allies and was rewarded with great power and wealth, breaking with the dictator only when his regime began to crumble in the wake of the assassination of opposition leader Senator Benigno Aquino Jr.

In a press conference on Feb. 22, 1986 at the start of the People Power revolution, Enrile admitted that the attack on his car on Sept. 22, 1972, was staged in order to justify the declaration of martial law. The confession, covered by radio and television, was witnessed by millions of Filipinos.

In subsequent interviews, Enrile confirmed that the assassination attempt was staged.

But in his memoir, Enrile contradicts himself, and says political opponents had spread rumors of the ambush being staged.

This week, Enrile went a

step further in his revision of history, saying in an interview that only one person—a drug dealer—had been executed during martial law, and not one was arrested for his religious or political beliefs.

"Name me one person that was arrested because of political or religious belief during that period. None. Name me one person who was arrested simply because he criticized Marcos. None," Enrile said in his interview.

Sadly, nobody was there to contradict Enrile, since the interview was conducted by Marcos' son, former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Had Enrile addressed his question instead to someone from the Human Rights Victims' Claims Board, he might have obtained 11,103 names who will receive compensation for human rights violations they suffered under Marcos's martial law regime.

These names were not the result of any propaganda—they were based on claims received, evaluated, processed and investigated by the HRVCB—and rep-

resented only 14 percent of the total 75,749 applicants.

Angered by Enrile's claims, prominent politicians who suffered under martial law have also made their voices heard.

Against this backdrop, we welcome the Palace statement that Enrile cannot twist history and claim there were no arrests of political activists under martial law.

"As far as the Palace is concerned, there are decisions affirming that there were grave human rights violations committed during the Marcos regime. There's even a law in Congress which provides for compensation for victims of martial law," Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said. "I don't think they can twist history when there's a law and there are court decisions attesting to what happened during martial law."

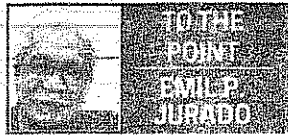
At 95, perhaps Enrile's memory may no longer be what it was. But those of us who lived through the martial law years and know people who were detained for their beliefs, remember.

It is often suggested these days that we need to move on from that period in our history. On this we agree. But moving on does not mean forgetting the excesses of the past, pretending they did not exist, or falsely believing that they could not happen again. *AF*

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The political season is on



WITH eight months away from the mid-term elections in May, things are heating up. Poll surveys are listing the names of the possible winners in the Senate race. The same goes for local government posts.

Election fever is upon us, indeed!

The Senate race is led by women. There are Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio and Senators Grace Poe, Cynthia Villar and Nancy Binay. Another possible winner is former Senator Pia Cayetano. Other familiar names are Sonny Angara, Koko Pimentel, Serge Osmeña and Jinggoy Estrada.

These personalities have the advantage of awareness. I have been a journalist for over 70 years and I know for a fact that popularity is already winning half the battle.

But while I know that popularity counts for a lot, there are other factors: Credentials, advocacies, and of course funding.

Popularity may be a lot, but by itself it is not enough. I can only cite the case of the late movie icon Fernando Poe Jr. He was very popular but he still lost to Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Voters obviously wanted somebody with better credentials and more substance.

Among those on the list I mentioned above, Villar, Binay and Pimentel are known for their own advocacies. They are well versed in government and the intricacies of legislation.

The race is tight, indeed, and those whose only qualification is loyalty to President Duterte likely will not make it. The Senate, now more than ever, needs to be composed of independent minds. We have no need for lapdogs—Harry Roque, Bong Go and Ronald dela Rosa come to mind—there.

In Metro Manila, two cities are worth watching: Manila and Makati. In Manila, Fred Lim wants to return as mayor. Isko Moreno is also interested. But I don't see how they can win against Mayor Joseph Estrada, who is doing a great job.

In Makati, the fight will be between two Binay siblings, Junjun and Abby. The odds seem to favor Abby as she is the incumbent mayor, but who knows?

The fact that former Vice President Jejomar Binay is running for Congress tells us that Makati is the city to watch. I expect him to win.

The elections will be a distraction from the problems our people are bearing.

Presidential daughter Sara Duterte-Carpio says she will seek reelection as Davao City mayor. But people will still consider the polls an acid test for President Duterte given the many problems hounding us.

What to me is tragic is that the Liberal Party cannot seem to fill its slate for the Senate race. Yes, there are Senator Bam Aquino, former congressman

Erin Tañada and lawyer Mel Diokno. Aside from these three, who seem to be only relying on their surnames, who else is in the running? Even ousted Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Ser-

eno did not want to be included in the opposition slate.

I said funding is a big factor. A senatorial candidate should have his or her own source of funds. They should not rely on party money or contributions. This is why I believe many candidates become allies of the incumbent.

In previous elections, a candidate for the Senate must have at least P100 million. For governor it's at least P50 million. For mayors outside Metro Manila, perhaps P30 million. Surely if you don't have money to throw around, don't even think of running.

If you rely on contributors, say businessmen, then that begins the usual cycle of corruption and patronage.

This is why drug lords and gambling lords always dominate the political scene. This has always been the nature of our politics. How sad.

The Armed Forces keeps talking about a Red October scenario. A coalition is out to oust the President, it says. The group is made up of the Liberal Party, the Magdalo Group and other

The political...

From A4

critics of the President, and the communists.

But why will the Liberal Party connive with the communists?

Also, it has been proven that people power cannot succeed without the support of the military. Likewise, a military uprising cannot succeed without the support of the people. So what is the AFP talking about?

Mr. Duterte should really stop talking about destabilization. He knows too well that he has the support of the people. His ratings remain high. More importantly, most people do not like Vice President Leni Robredo.

There is no mystery about inflation. Inflation rises when the supply of money outpaces the production of goods. It's just a matter of supply and demand.

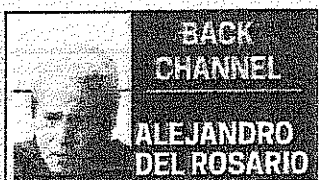
Look at what happened when Typhoon "Ompong" struck Northern Luzon. With the destruction of crops and livestock, the demand for food rises, causing the supply of money to outpace supply of goods. And the supply of money comes from money in the hands of government.

This is the reason why in most countries, inflation is so low. Their governments do not increase money supply.

I laugh when politicians say that the US-China trade war or the soaring oil prices are causing inflation. What a ruse.

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Affirming the Mutual Defense Treaty



DESPITE irritants triggered by President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-US statements, Manila and Washington reaffirmed their commitment to the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty. In a meeting in Washington on Sept. 19, Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo discussed addressing regional challenges including Beijing's militarization of the South China Sea. Unimpeded passage along international navigational lanes for commercial cargo ships is the main concern of the US State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said the two secretaries also took up the threats of terrorism and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

“The two secretaries also took up the threats of terrorism and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

Secretary Pompeo, according to Nauert, reiterated the US readiness to assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines to modernize by granting weapons including warships for its territorial defense. A rising China and its agenda of hegemony in the Southeast Asian region is a great concern to the US.

In another good development, two Philippine senators—Edgardo “Sonny” Angara and Sherwin Gatchalian—said they would restore cuts in the budget of the Department of Education. Angara, who was elected president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, said

scholarships for deserving students must not be sacrificed in the altar of the P3.57-trillion national appropriations act. He was also concerned that slashing the DepEd budget would hamper the building and repair of schools and classrooms destroyed by a series of typhoons.

Mamba on mayors

Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba took exception to our column last Friday about the vice governor and 10 mayors who were in Manila when Typhoon “Ompong” swept the province. In the interest of fair play, we are running his letter that took issue with some of our comments. Here it is in full:

I write relative to your Sept. 21 column titled “Why Cagayan mayors were in Manila.”

At the outset, let me make clear I was never informed of the travel or invitation from Malacañang of the 10 mayors and provincial officials your column referred to. I did not know that these officials left their area of re-

sponsibility because none of them requested travel authority from my office. Hence, I could not have fed “false reports” to Palace reporters.

It was days after Ompong devastated Cagayan that I learned of the Palace invitation. I read news reports that SAP Bong Go extended the invitation long before Typhoon Ompong threatened and cancelled the meeting precisely because of the oncoming typhoon. To my mind, the concerned mayors and provincial officials should have exercised the same acumen.

Turn to A5

Affirming...

From A4

As early as Sept. 10, 2018, I announced during the flag-raising ceremony at the provincial capitol that Super Typhoon Ompong was likely to hit the province and directed everyone to prepare for the same. In fact, the provincial government was incessant with the announcements, preparations and preemptive evacuations. Had I known of the impending travel of the concerned officials, I would have stopped them from leaving their areas of responsibility. Given that they did not request for travel authority, they should have nonetheless exercise better judgement by not leaving

their people, considering the people's traumatic experience and devastation from Super Typhoon "Lawin."

I am not privy to the purpose of the mayors' and other provincial officials' travel to the Palace on Sept. 14, 2018 and as to why former Senator Juan Ponce Enrile was with them. But it is not for them to

judge whether or not I am serving my people well. I bring the funds and services of the provincial government to everyone of the 820 barangays in the province under the No Barangays Left Behind Program or rendering 24/7 quick response services through the Task Force Lingkod Cagayan with six stations strategically located province-wide or opening communications with the Governor 24/7 under

the I Text Mo Kay Gov services. I bring frontline services of the provincial government closer to the people or improving the hospitals and making the provincial health services responsive to the needs of the people by fighting illegal drugs, insurgency, terrorism, corruption and impunity by local officials. [If this is not service, then I don't know what "serving the people well" is.

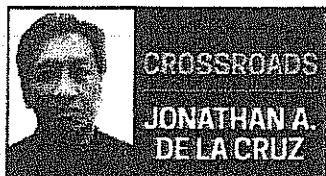
Cagayan was once the premier province in northern Luzon. Compared to Isabela, Kalinga, Apayao and Ilocos Norte, Cagayan was resplendent. Look at us now.

MANUEL MAMBA
Mayor, Cagayan Province

26

AS

Martial law: The historical narrative



IT WAS AFP Chief of Staff Carlito Galvez who noted that then President Marcos was justified in declaring martial law in 1972. Citing the historical record, Galvez said that the country was on the verge of disintegration and chaos in the run up to that fateful September. There was the growing Communist insurgency supported by China and other like regimes. The secessionist movement in the South fueled by Malaysian interests. An economic downturn magnified no end by the profligacy of the privileged class. Deepening divisions among members of the political elite giving rise to warlords and private militias and the worsening crime situation across the archipelago.

The State decided to cut off those who stood in the way of stabilizing the situation and preventing the country's Balkanization. In a very real sense, the country was at war.

To Galvez, this historical confluence of events in the midst of the Cold War prompted Marcos to make use of the extraordinary constitutional option of putting the entire Philippines under martial law to save the Republic. Of course, this narrative runs counter to that promoted by those who were against such an imposition in the first place: the old oligarchy who had to part with their privileged status, the political elite who had to surrender their standing and private armies to the martial law government, members and fighters of the CPP/NPA/NDF and their supporters; the secessionists and a subset of the intelligentsia and their foreign partners.

But a majority of our people at that time, whether out of fear or belief, as well as the US and its Western allies, welcomed martial law and saw it as a necessary initiative to arrest the chaos and decline enveloping the country. Unfortunately, abuses committed by the security forces and even by those

waging armed struggle against the state soon became the centerpiece of the martial law narrative and took wings after 1986. That is now being revisited especially by those like Galvez and the military establishment who fought hard to bring the peace and ensure the country's territorial integrity.

And so, 46 years after the declaration of martial law, there is growing public interest in revisiting the past and hear out the entire story, so to speak, not get confined to the narrative of those who detested its implementation in the first place. As Brigadier General Antonio Parlade Jr., AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations emphasized a "complete historical narrative will show that the declaration was justified."

"In a very real sense, the country was at war in 1972."

Said Parlade: "The narrative of martial law always starts in 1972 during the declaration itself. But no one is talking about the circumstances, the events before martial law... Instead of pointing all accusing fingers at the former President, the public should pin the blame on the 'monsters' New Peoples' Army [NPA] and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] both of which waged war on the duly elected authority."

The two monsters escalated their destabilization efforts, combining their armed uprising and bombings across the archipelago with protest marches, strikes and other legal maneuvers, culminating in the bombing of the Liberal Party's "Miting de Avance" in 1971, which was blamed on Marcos but was found out later on as a CPP/NPA operation in league with opposition leaders. By the time, the daily spectacle of killings and violence and protest actions became so widespread and brought the

country to its knees. It had to be stopped before the situation got out of control.

"I am just stating facts," Parlade continued, "which should have been part of history prior to martial law which the media never wanted to talk about. It's time people should know. That's necessary for the nation to heal itself and move on."

Again, there will be a strong rebuttal to Parlade's views. It is inconceivable to bring the anti-martial law/anti-Marcos groups to even consider inquiring into the issues which have surfaced questioning their version of martial rule. In fact, Parlade has been called all sort of things including being a revisionist. But Parlade has stood his ground and he deserves our accolades. But to go back.

"It's not revisionism," Parlade said. It is completing the historical narrative—the stories which came out after 1986. That is the Edsa story. That is incomplete and in many instances unavailing. He even claims that then Senator Ninoy Aquino in one public engagement admitted that given the circumstances in 1972, he himself would have declared martial law.

But even as he justified the imposition of martial law in 1972, Parlade acknowledged the abuses committed by the security forces and the backsliding at all levels which occurred after. But it is the notion of the AFP and the security forces being themselves the monster in the eyes of the public second only to then President Marcos as perpetrated by those who entered the scene as conquering "heroes" in 1986 which grates. It is a continuing black eye which the military establishment wishes cleared and put in proper perspective.

"The AFP was very much a victim of martial law also," Parlade said. "We don't deny the abuses. Those who were part of that dark history have all retired. Some have died. Others have suffered for their misdeeds. So let's stop blaming the AFP."

Indeed, it is time the historical narrative is completed. Let the light shine on that chapter of the nation's history. Let the real lessons be learned and let the biases and prejudices unlearned so we can move on.

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26

A1

What Red October plot?

I HAVE a real problem with this so-called "Red October" plot to bring down the Duterte administration. I don't think the Armed Forces actually has enough intelligence to go after the shadowy people behind this alleged plot, assuming that it does exist. **RoblesA4**



LOWDOWN

JOJO
ROBLES

What Red October plot?

Forget about the cheap cinematic allusion of the plot's name. My concern has to do with the Armed Forces of the Philippines conducting the business of thwarting such plots through the media using the unfamiliar weapons (to them, anyway) of press releases and media briefings.

The military should not, in my view, be doing its work like politicians, warning of phantom forces being assembled to bring down established and legal authority. What I'd like to see the AFP doing is rounding up actual persons involved in the alleged plot — before they even announce that they've uncovered it.

In the first place, President Rodrigo Duterte himself has already repeatedly talked about groups — including the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed component, the New People's Army — planning to unseat him next month. That probably inspired the military publicists and gave them the idea for the reference to the debut Tom Clancy novel that became a hit Cold War submarine movie thriller.

Understand, as well, that Duterte said the basis for his revealing the plot is not even the AFP's intelligence-gathering efforts. The President explained that a friendly foreign country that he did not identify was the source of his information.

Also, even exiled Communist Party leader Jose Maria Sison had long ago declared, upon the collapse of the peace talks between the government and the communists, that he and his

comrades were joining the effort to oust Duterte. That is an admission from Sison himself that the communists are already working to remove the President that a quick Google check will uncover.

All the military had to do was to dream up a name for the plot. The "Red October" name was their only contribution, as far as I know.

Of course, I've heard the old joke about military intelligence being an oxymoron. But that's really just an ignorant putdown, for the most part.

With its huge intelligence resources, the military has done fine work in the past of uncovering threats to the Republic. And even its previous spokesmen have done an excellent job of getting the AFP's message out without resorting to the cheap propaganda that has been coming out from Camp Aguinaldo recently.

I remember the time, not so long ago, when the AFP had the most capable spokesman in all of government in Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla. Alas, Padilla was so good at his job that he was promoted to deputy chief of plans — and the AFP lost the best mouthpiece it ever had, in my view.

But now we are treated to the spectacle of the AFP chief of staff himself, General Carlito Galvez, and his deputy chief of operations, Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, talking about a "broad-based" coalition to which the communist old guard and even ousted Supreme Court chief justice Maria Lourdes Sereno belong, working to bring down Duterte. And this without mak-

ing even one arrest first or revealing one actual document to back up their claim.

Perhaps it is relevant to mention here that Parlade was sacked in 2011 as Army spokesman for calling on the government to suspend its truce with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front. And soon, if Parlade and his boss insist on talking about a Duterte ouster plot that they cannot prove, maybe the general will reprise the defense he made back then, that "I just did my job and said what I think was right."

To be fair to Parlade, I actually sympathized with his call back then to suspend peace talks with the MILF rebels, which he made in the aftermath of the killing of 19 Army men in an encounter with the Moro secessionists in Al Barka, Basilan. Parlade said his sentiments were shared by nearly all the soldiers on the ground at the time, who were aghast that the administration of Noynoy Aquino continued to talk peace with the MILF after the brutal killings.

But perhaps Parlade should also be reminded of what he said after Al Barka, which was this: "We are not politicians, we are soldiers, professional soldiers."

Well, sir, that may still hold true for your men on the ground. But the AFP's leadership, of which you are now an important part, seems to be acting a lot like the politicians you once detested.

Then again, I've not really been impressed with the entire leadership of the military under Duterte from the very beginning, or since he named the US-loving

Delfin Lorenzana as defense secretary. And I'm not the only one who thinks so, but perhaps even Duterte himself, who frequently ribs his defense secretary about staying so long in Washington that he's practically a member of the bureaucratic "deep state" that has never cottoned to the former mayor of Davao City.

For the life of me, I still wonder why Duterte keeps Lorenzana around, when his defense secretary has not only kept his excellent ties with the Americans under an anti-American president, but has also shown no compunction about cozying up to the opposition to Duterte. I'm talking about the two times that Lorenzana has given security briefings to Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo while the President was away on official visits abroad, when everyone knows that Robredo is as in demand in this administration as a bad case of herpes.

Of course, the reason why Lorenzana is defense secretary is because Duterte's first choice for the job, the much-admired Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro (who held the position in the Gloria Arroyo years), turned him down. At the very least, I think Teodoro would have come up with a better name for the plot than "Red October," had he accepted the job as defense secretary.

Which brings us right back to this publicity stunt that Galvez, Parlade and the AFP top brass is implementing right now. To them I say: just do your job and leave the politicking and scary scenario-building to the politicians.

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X1

Roque's absurdity: Sison and wife got P2.4M as human rights victims

A GAIN that cliché I can't help but use for this affront to the Republic: Only in the Philippines.

Communist Party founder Jose Ma. Sison spent his entire adult life trying to violently overthrow our democratic system. By many accounts, he had personally ordered the execution of probably

► TiglaoAG



RIGOBERTO D. TIGLAO

Marital law victims Josema Sison, wife receive P2.4M in compensation

Joma: NPA could kill 1 soldier a day

Revolutionaries become instant millionaires, thanks to a Yellow law.

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Roque's absurdity: Sison and wife got P2.4M as human rights victims

several dozen Filipinos whom he condemned as counter-revolutionaries, ordered the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing of a Liberal Party rally, and for nearly 50 years now exhorted the party's New People's Army to wipe out soldiers and policemen of the Republic.

He was captured in 1977 and faced charges of rebellion, subversion, and murder in two military courts, a process deemed constitutional by the Supreme Court in 1981, since the crimes were committed during Martial Law.

Corazon Aquino ordered him freed eight days after she assumed power on Feb. 25, 1986. A few months later, after a speaking tour at the University of the Philippines, he abandoned his comrades in the country and went abroad, finally settling in the Netherlands in 1987. There he continued his incessant exhortations for the NPA to intensify their killing of the Republic's soldiers — one soldier a day, he even boasted a few months ago.

Yet last May, he and his wife Juliet got P2.4 million, remitted to his bank in Utrecht. For his arrest in 1977 and incarceration, and because his wife's psychological travails due to his detention, they were declared "human rights violations victims" during the Marcos regime, deserving to be, as Sison himself quipped, "instant millionaires."

It was the Human Rights Victims' Claims Board (HRVCB) attached to the Commission on Human Rights that declared the Sison couple as "human rights violations victims," and gave them P2.4 million. Among the members of the

board (who are appointed by the President) who decided on this was now CHR chair Chito Gascon, and former National Democratic Front spokesman Byron Bocar.

Trail of blood

How on earth could the top communist whose party's insurgency has left a trail of blood all over the Philippines merit that?

It was authorized under Republic Act 10368, or the Human Rights Victims Reparations Law, passed in February 2013. It was former President Benigno Aquino's huge gift to the Communist Party that lobbied for it through its representatives in Congress, which consequently supported him almost entirely during his regime.

The money for compensating the alleged victims of martial law came from the \$670 million (\$350 million in 1986) which the Swiss Federal Court ordered remitted to the Philippine government, after concluding they were illegally acquired by Marcos and his wife Imelda.

About 10,000 have been beneficiaries of the law. The joke that had been going around among leftist activists and former NPAs, after the first releases were made: "I didn't know we won. We are now receiving our back pay."

It is this law which Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque Jr. the other day invoked as having already determined martial law's "history," which is really the Yellow and communist narrative that there was widespread violation of human rights under the Marcos regime.

Referring to former senator Juan

Ponce Enrile's recent claims questioning that Yellow narrative, Roque said, "I don't think they can twist history when there's a law and when there are court decisions attesting to what happened during Martial Law."

Roque exaggerates; there are no other "court decisions" confirming the Yellow and Reds' narrative of martial law. Only this R.A. 10386 does that. It was passed at the height of Aquino's power, during which he had Congress under his thumb, bribed by billions of pesos from his now notorious Disbursement Acceleration Program that was initially intended to get the legislative body to remove Chief Justice Renato Corona in a few months' time.

It was authored by Aquino's loyal legislators like Lorenzo Tañada 3rd and Edcel Lagman and communist party-list congressmen such as Neri Colmenares and Teodoro Casiño. The bill was cleverly introduced in March 2012, at the height of Corona's impeachment trial, most probably in a *quid pro quo* for the Left's support for Aquino's project to assault the Supreme Court.

Hereby declared

The law's Section 1 legislated a history of Martial Law.

"It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the heroism and sacrifices of all Filipinos who were victims of summary execution, torture, enforced or involuntary disappearance and other gross human rights violations committed during the regime of former President Ferdinand E. Marcos covering the period from September 21, 1972 to

February 25, 1986."

Thus, Sison simply submitted while he was in the Netherlands newspaper articles that he was arrested and detained, and claimed that his wife suffered psychologically, and the board awarded them P2.4 million.

I am astonished at how Roque, formerly a legal academic, could subscribe to this blatantly inane view that a bunch of opportunistic politicians could legislate history. That is what the Aquino-controlled Congress did when the law they passed defined as anybody incarcerated under Marcos' martial-law powers, as automatically a human rights victim, each one or his heirs entitled to as much as P1.8 million in "compensation."

What if another Congress were to enact a law declaring that all arrests, disappearances, and extrajudicial killings from the day Cory captured power in February 1986 to 1991 — which numbered 10,882* up to 1988 alone — are human rights violations, with the victims also entitled to P1 million compensation? Such a law might even declare that the more than 200 killed and wounded in the 1987 Mendiola massacre and in the fight against Hacienda Luisita will be given an additional P2 million in compensation. It could even declare that Cory had the worst human rights violations among Philippine presidents. So what if there are no reports by historians to verify that RA 10386 wasn't based on any historical studies, yet it was enacted into law?

History cannot be legislated. It is stupid for Roque to claim that Enrile is "revising the history of Martial

Law," simply because there are as yet no objective history narratives of that period written by scholars and peer-reviewed. There were no reports on that era by historians, nor even by the National Historical Commission, to Congress when the bill was rushed. There is totally no mention at all in the law of the one thing that caused the arrests and even killings: the war waged by the communists to violently overthrow the democratically elected government.

What we have are the books written by American parachute journalists right after Marcos fell wishing to cash in on the best-seller possibilities of hate-Marcos books, and hacks of the Yellow cult, and recently by a crackpot blogger who thought that she could make tons of money if another Yellow president won, who would make her book required reading in our schools.

There is only one case about which several mainly European states indirectly legislated a history: That of the Holocaust in which 6 million Jews were killed by the Nazis. This was by making it illegal for anybody in their nations to deny that the Holocaust occurred.

I hope Roque realizes that the law he claims has determined what the martial law era was leads to such an absurdity as the top communist — himself guilty of human rights abuses (as I wrote Monday) and who had waged a bloody war against the Republic — being declared as a human rights victim, and with his wife awarded P2.4 million as compensation.

He should also realize that the mob that claims widespread

human rights violations during Martial Law is the very same gang that alleges that his boss in his war against illegal drugs is following in Marcos' footsteps. Or is Roque just being clever, calculating that he would be the "DDS" whom the Yellows and the Reds would vote as Senator next year?

It probably says a lot about Sison that nobody knew that he and his wife had applied for compensation as human rights victims, until he admitted it when interviewed by a Europe-based TV network reporter.

Most top communist leaders, retired or current, like Bernabe ("Commander Dante") Buscayno, army defector Victor Corpus, former party chairman Rodolfo Salas, and Satur Ocampo did not apply for compensation. They had proudly claimed that they joined the revolution to serve the people, and for money. I guess, to use a sentence allegedly made by Imelda Marcos: "Some are smarter than others," whether you're a capitalist or a communist.

* This is the figure reported, purportedly based on local reports, in the book by Richard Kessler, *Rebellion and Repression in the Philippines* (1989: Yale University) which I reported in a 2016 column, "Human rights abuses under Cory as bad as dictator's record — Marcos critics' own data."

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RevGov – the end game

LAST week, a letter addressed to the President purportedly signed by the AFP Chief of Staff and the major service commanders edited by an eminent newspaper columnist, Carmen (Chit) Pedrosa, was circulated in social media. I must presume by now, this has reached the President's ear.

It is supposed to be a letter that the President has been waiting for presumably to give him the *raison d'être* to act. This letter did not mince words "...there is enough ground already to dissolve Congress and declare RevGov..."

Although spreading in social media people are skeptical that the military's highest echelon would be so insolent as to address the president openly, almost egging him to act outside the Constitution. This institution after all has been assiduous in following constitutional mandates after its shameless foray as Marcos stooge during the Martial Law regime. Since then, it has acquitted itself well. Chances are this is a fake letter. So, I called Chit Pedrosa, a colleague since the administration of GMA when we were both recruited in the 2005 Consultative Commission (ConCom) to amend the 1987 Constitution. Chit and I are both federal-parliamentarians. The 2005 draft document has been improved over the decade and now published as a pamphlet, *The Centrist Proposals*. Although Chit did not confirm or deny her role in the mentioned AFP letter, she is aware and claimed to be sympathetic to it. She agrees with the tenor.

At this level, the sentiments behind the call for RevGov may be a legitimate reflection of people's frustration and near desperation on overcoming the challenges confronting Philippine society today. The expectations of the Filipinos were heightened upon the appearance on the scene of a maverick *Promdi*. The Deegong, as a successful Davao mayor was perceived to



be the fresh face from down south to replicate his successful formula to the rest of the country. It hasn't work out that way.

He was no match against the very system he wanted to change while working within it. Or at least, the people he brought with him to the bureaucracy were never able to break themselves from the mold of a prosaic mindset. Except for a few, their level of

This has to be said for the nth time. The convoy of the prime minister of Singapore, a polymath gives way to buses because of the deep conviction that the function of the mass carriers like buses is more important than his function as the head of government.

More than two years after that burst of candidness, what is the score of the Duterte administration on metropolitan traffic management? Sadly, what is taking place — I do not know whether he is on top of the traffic situation — is the opposite. Mass carriers are being penalized. Cars, the source of the traffic perdition and affliction, are allowed to reign with impunity.

"Burn those cars," which would

thus, his obligatory but stressful interactions with the elite and the oligarchy. Both are suspicious of each other as neither sprung from the same cultural mold with similar perspectives. But the former must work with the latter as he has the political will and, coupled with his control over the state sanctioned power, has the potential to destroy, given time. But time is not exactly in the President's favor. They can sit him out on his legal term limits, as they did over the decades for all those elected to power that purport to reform the system the oligarchy has exploited for itself.

And the Deegong is most relentless. He showed this when the state's teeth were bared against Ongpin and the Prietos; thus, reinforcing the oligarchy's determined opposition against his initiatives to bring about systemic change through constitutional revisions and political restructuring.

Spearheaded by the oligarchy and its allies among the political dynasties, the opposition and quislings in the bureaucracy, they have managed to stop the Deegong in his tracks. He is now forced to work closely within the system, through the perverted electoral exercise that is decidedly stacked against him.

Let me again quote the AFP Major Commander's letter to PRRD: "...recent events have placed us

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in a quandary as those who, like us are pledged to abide by the Constitution, have beyond doubt been the ones habitually undermining and making a mockery of it even while hiding behind it to escape prosecution.

... Even more curiously, despite the many weaknesses in our electoral process that have been exposed, not a single member of Congress has made a single proposal for electoral reform...

Mr. President, we fully understand that it is not in your nature to ask us to transgress the Constitution we have all sworn to uphold. However, as our Commander-in-Chief we are obliged to present to you our concerns... We fear that without timely and decisive action, not only will everything we have fought worked hard and died for will come to naught, threatening the future of our children and future generations."

An option is presented to the president that is double-edged. If he employs the drastic method of declaring revolutionary government, the risk of quick collapse and quick death of democracy as we know it is imminent. If it fails.

This is the downside of the proposition. But to some, this may be preferable to the slow strangulation that the elite and the oligarchy have been applying to the body politic that has caused grave disparity between the "have and the have-nots" and in the process has institutionalized poverty.

The upside to RevGov, if successful could unshackle the Filipino from the decades of stark poverty, deprivation and injustice. But the threat alone will put sense into the oligarchy as they can't afford to lose all. The imminent danger could precipitate real concessions and negotiations as the oligarchy could be destroyed, and a new governance paradigm may emerge. The Deegong knows how to play the zero-sum game. And this is the ultimate!

But would RevGov be sustained by the likes of the Deegong? Does he have the temperament and the moral spine to carry it through? And is virtue a precondition to a RevGov leadership? DU30 is 74 and tired. He is old, maybe narcissistic, a trait that will help him contemplate on his legacy. Nothing defeats a man's biases better than a glimpse of the specter of his mortality. *73*

Plot unravels

“Rody has proven lately that he is miles ahead of his opponents. Based on AFP information a movement preceded Red October.”

In the parlance of the revolutionary movement, a catalyst is needed to speed up the attainment of its goal of social upheaval.

It happened on 21 August 1971 when a bomb exploded during a *miting de avance* of the Liberal Party (LP), an incident that resulted in the protest actions against former President Ferdinand Marcos to intensify.

The anarchy that resulted forced Marcos to declare martial law more than a year later on 21 September 1972.

Now the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is using the same formula, with the help of the yellow mob which is desperate to oust President Rody Duterte through any means, to force his hand into taking a drastic move such as a nationwide declaration of martial law.

A book read by avid follower of Marcos and the martial law years written by former CPP member Dr. Mario Miclat “Secrets of the Eighteen Mansions: A Novel” which is available in most bookstores and printed by Anvil Publishing in 2010 states that the bombing was planned and executed by Sison.

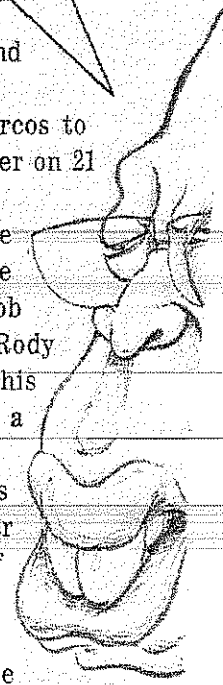
In the book, Sison was quoted as saying: “We will force Marcos to declare martial law. People will rise up in arms when he finally shows his fascist face.”

The book also cites a certain “Peter” an aide of Sison as telling him in October 1971 that “(the late Senator) Ninoy Aquino did not go to Plaza Miranda on the night of the bombing. Kumander Pusa phoned him.”

Kumander Pusa is Dante Buscayno who hails from Tarlac and who was then a key figure in the CPP.

Based on information that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) obtained, the coalition of anti-Duterte led by the CPP has designated next month as the start of the all-out campaign to remove Rody from power in a plot which they call as Red October.

WE WILL FORCE DUTERTE TO DECLARE MARTIAL LAW



W 11/09/ DAILY TR

The plot is too ambitious, however, as it envisioned that the people and consequently the military will go along with the conspiracy.

Gauging by the recent yellow rallies held, the plotters would be lucky if they can pull in 1,000 rallyists for their grand design.

Rody has proven lately that he is miles ahead of his opponents. Based on AFP information a movement preceded Red October, scheduled on the martial law declaration anniversary on 21 September but was preempted by Rody himself when he made public the alliance among the CPP, the yellow mob and the Magdalo group of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

“ We will force Marcos to declare martial law. Members of the yellow mob supposedly scurried away after the police and other government agents started asking questions. After the end of the peace negotiations, based on the AFP piecing of a horde of data it accumulated, the CPP started to broker alliances with critics of the Duterte administration, particularly the opposition Tindig Pilipinas and its allied organizations like the LP and the Magdalo group.

Among the names mentioned in the plot were the yellow Tindig Pilipinas, the left-wing Movement Against Tyranny, the LP, the camp of Vice President Robredo and the Magdalo of Trillanes.

Rody appears bent on frustrating the designs of the plotters by revealing to Filipinos their every move through the intelligence that he supposedly obtains from a foreign source.

Deprived of the element of surprise, the unholy alliance of the Reds and the yellows can only make a lot of futile noises similar to Trillanes who pitches his taunts against Rody while hiding behind the walls of the Senate.

The critical mass that the group seeks to obtain to make the plot a success remains with Rody and is expected to do so until the end of his term.

BBM, JPE and Marcos foes on martial law

Last week, on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the day President Ferdinand Marcos issued Proclamation No. 1081 which placed the entire country under martial law, ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile appeared in a one-on-one discussion with ex-Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. The discussion was disseminated on the social media.

Enrile was the Secretary (later, Minister) of National Defense during most of the Marcos administration and is the chief architect and administrator of martial law. He began his stint as the defense chief in 1970. In November 1971, Enrile made an unsuccessful run for senator. Despite his defeat, Marcos saved him from oblivion by reappointing him to the defense portfolio in January 1972, a post he kept until the end of the Marcos' presidency in February 1986. Enrile wielded tremendous power under Marcos.

In February 1986, Enrile and then Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff chose to be disloyal to President Marcos and holed themselves up at Camp Crame. Upon the instigation of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, civilians assembled outside the military camp to protect the mutineers from certain arrest by troops loyal to the commander-in-chief. That massive assembly which lasted for four days eventually became the so-called EDSA People Power Revolt.

After Corazon Cojuangco Aquino seized the presidency in February 1986, she kept Enrile as defense minister for a year. Mrs. Aquino eventually fired Enrile on suspicion that the latter was sympathetic to a segment of the military establishment that wanted to overthrow her administration.

Bongbong Marcos is the namesake and only son of the late president.

As senator, Marcos, Jr. was instrumental in stopping the controversial Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) which then President Benigno Aquino III tried to railroad into legislation through his Liberal Party (LP). The BBL would have created a Moro sub-state in Mindanao.

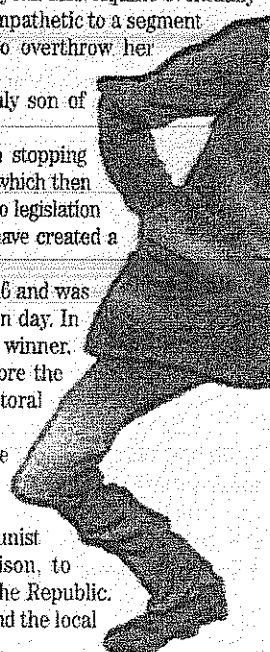
Marcos, Jr. ran for vice president in May 2016 and was the leading bet in the whole week after election day. In the end, Leni Robredo of the LP was proclaimed winner. Marcos, Jr. has a pending election protest before the Supreme Court sitting as the presidential electoral tribunal.

In his conversation with Marcos, Jr., Enrile said President Marcos resorted to martial law to neutralize the conspiracy between the LP led by then Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr., and the Communist Party of the Philippines led by Jose Ma. Sison, to overthrow the duly-constituted government of the Republic.

Enrile also suggested that the yellow army and the local communists are distorting the historical record.

As expected, Enrile's statements elicited criticism from many known anti-Marcos personalities. They accused Enrile of historical revisionism and of demeaning the significance of the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolt.

President Aquino III and ex-Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. added that the



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94-year-old Enrile must be experiencing memory lapses because of his age. How senior citizen groups in the country will react to that ageist remark should be interesting.

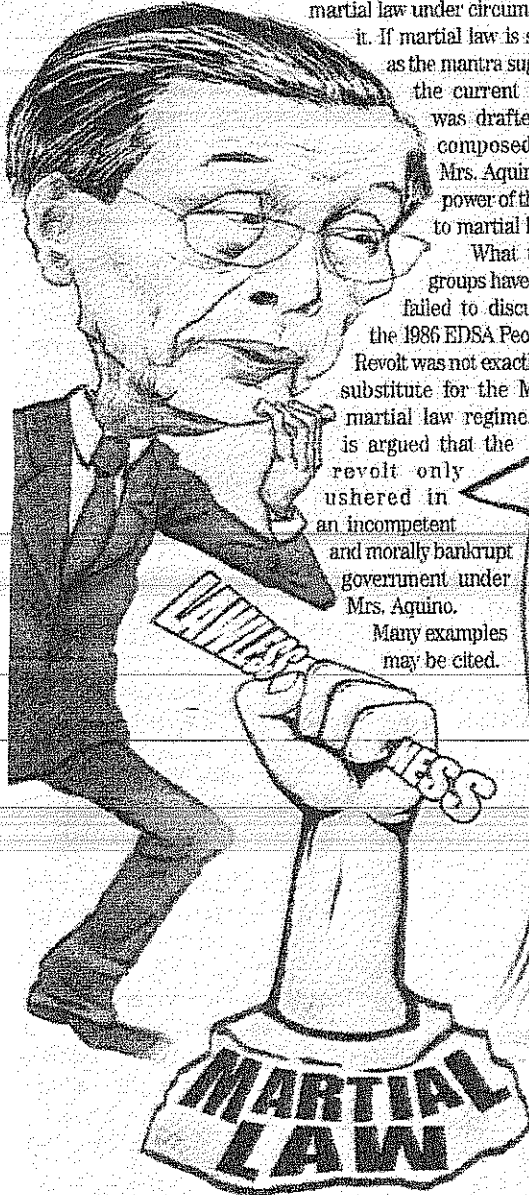
Noticeable was the common mantra of the noisy oppositionists – “Never again to martial law.”

Now that everything has been said, some sober evaluation is in order.

The mantra, “never again to martial law,” sounds misplaced under the current Constitution, which actually allows the President of the Philippines to resort to martial law under circumstances that warrant it. If martial law is so inherently wicked as the mantra suggests, then why does the current Constitution, which was drafted by a commission composed of appointees of Mrs. Aquino in 1986, retain the power of the President to resort to martial law?

What the anti-Marcos groups have conveniently failed to discuss is that the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolt was not exactly an ideal substitute for the Marcos martial law regime. It is argued that the revolt only ushered in an incompetent and morally bankrupt government under Mrs. Aquino.

Many examples may be cited.



Mrs. Aquino abolished the Batasang Pambansa composed of duly-elected assemblymen, a third of which came from the political opposition. Aquino campaigned for those candidates.

She disregarded security of tenure and filled up the non-elected bureaucracy with her own people, including her relatives.

By abolishing the Department of Energy, which was a Marcos creation, Mrs. Aquino created massive power outages throughout the country, thus gaining for the Philippines the infamous moniker, “the brownout capital of the world.” That abolition also triggered the expensive cost of electricity in the country today.

During the political campaign, Mrs. Aquino promised to close the gambling casinos all over the nation. Upon assuming office, however, she expanded the casinos and left its management in the hands of close associates of her relatives.

Despite her claim to restoring press freedom in the Philippines, Mrs. Aquino filed libel charges against two leading journalists of the period – Maximo Soliven and Luis Beltran. No President before her ever sued journalists for libel.

The media detested the brazen involvement of Mrs. Aquino’s relatives in many government transactions so much so that Beltran branded them as “Kamag-Anak, Inc.”

Innocent farmers attending a rally in Mendiola to protest Mrs. Aquino’s version of agrarian reform were killed or beaten by law enforcers. Farmers in the Cojuangco-Aquino-owned Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac demanding reforms suffered the same fate.

Regarding Enrile, his remarks were no longer surprising for many.

As the chief architect and administrator of martial law, Enrile is expected to defend the martial law regime he was part of. On the other hand, those who were put to a disadvantage when martial law was in force are likewise expected to disagree with Enrile’s statements.

The same can be said of Marcos, Jr., being the son of the father.

Both the pro-Marcos and anti-Marcos sides embody the extremes in the assessment of martial law in the Philippines as a historic fact and neither side is expected to yield. It is no wonder that both sides accuse each other of historical revisionism.

What does all that mean? It means there will always be different perspectives of what martial law in the Philippines was all about and those different perspectives will always be topics for heated debate during anniversaries associated with martial law in the country.

So, until the next anniversary ...

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As expected, Enrile’s statements elicited criticism from many known anti-Marcos personalities.

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The hunt for Red October

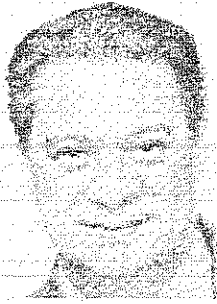
"THE Communists, the political opposition and renegade elements in the uniformed services are conspiring to try to bring down the duly constituted authorities by next month."

So claimed Ferdinand Marcos once. Or was that Corazon Aquino? Or maybe it was Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Actually the Communist Party of the Philippines, since its inception, has been unendingly plotting to bring the duly constituted authorities down so as to be able to establish a peoples' democratic republic which will be ruled by the party in the name of the people.

Just as it had been done by fellow Communists in Romania (before the people threw out the Communists); Bulgaria (before the people threw out the Communists); Hungary (before the people threw out the Communists); Yugoslavia (before the people threw out the Communists); Albania (before the people threw out the Communists); East Germany (before the people threw out the Communists and got the West Germans to integrate them into one united Germany Federal Republic); Czechoslovakia (before the people threw out the Communists); and of course the Soviet Union (before the people threw out the Communists).

For its part, the political oppo-



MAROON BLOODED

JOSE BAYANI BAYLON

If that pans out, my suspicion is that there will be a new one maybe named "Sweet November".

sition has always been plotting to overthrow the duly constituted authorities - by appealing to the voters in a succession of elections.

Once in a while, some of the members of the political opposition dabble in extremist/underground politics, keeping links open with fringe or radical groups in a mutually beneficial parasitic relationship - with one hoping to use the other to achieve its ends only to be junked beyond the finish line. But they're few and far between and 99.9 percent of the time find these strange "marriages of convenience" dissolved even before the ink is dry.

As for "renegade elements" in

the military, the experience of EDSA 1 and, to a lesser degree EDSA 2 has made the uniformed services conscious of their power. But they've never been unified enough to act as one solid force capable of dislodging the duly constituted authorities and imposing their martial will on the people.

Remember that Edsa 1 was provoked after a failed attempt by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement to capture Ferdinand Marcos and his family. "God Save the Queen" was a failed attempt to overthrow the government of Corazon Aquino; Edsa 3 in turn was a foiled attempt to oust Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo after

former President Joseph Estrada was arrested.

So, yes, there have been a number of attempts but they've always been foiled. Sometimes because the generals lose their nerve or because they are sufficiently "provided for" and so do not switch sides; others because a superpower intervenes and keeps a friendly government not only in power but also in its pocket.

As it was then, so will it always be.

But the Communists, the political opposition and elements in uniform working in harmony to achieve one end?

I have heard and do believe in the saying "The enemy of my enemy is my friend"; but this to me is just a little too much of a stretch.

I was therefore left unmoved by newspaper reports of a September 21 plot, and now of a Red October plot.

If that pans out, my suspicion is that there will be a new one maybe named "Sweet November."

I doubt if anyone will plan anything in December because even tanks on Edsa will be stopped by the rush hour traffic and kids singing Christmas carols, but when January comes around there could be a January Three Kings plot. And the Plot of the Broken

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THE HUNT

Hearts in February.

And so on and so forth.

But - I am sure this will be said - what do I know when I haven't seen the intelligence reports?

The other day, I began reading the book written by an ex-CIA operative named John Nixon whose biggest career assignment was to debrief the newly arrested Saddam Hussein.

If you don't recall, Saddam was ousted by US-led forces who invaded Iraq because intelligence reports spoke of weapons of mass destruction that Saddam was ready to unleash against his enemies, including the United States.

On the basis of those intelligence reports, the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom rallied their people behind flag and country and their troops - thousands of whom died in the effort to oust Saddam and to confiscate and destroy the WMD. Well, Saddam indeed was caught, tired and eventually hanged - but no WMD was ever found.

Imagine - intelligence agencies of the United States and the United Kingdom being able to produce intelligence findings that in the end were found to be baseless. Surely ours are far better, yes?

And so the hunt for Red October begins.

Maybe it's time to call in Jack Ryan!

ONLINE NEWS

26 SEPTEMBER 2018

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AFP: Palparan still under military custody

By: Tetch Torres-Tupas - Reporter / @T2TupasINQ

INQUIRER.net / 07:50 PM September 25, 2018

Former Army Major Gen. Jovito Palparan is still in the custody of the military despite the order of the Malolos Regional Trial Court (RTC) that he be committed to the New Bilibid Prison (NBP).

Palparan was found guilty on two counts of kidnapping and serious illegal detention over the disappearance of University of the Philippines (UP) students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño

After handing down the sentence, Malolos RTC Judge Alexander Tamayo also issued a commitment order for Palparan's transfer to NBP.

Aside from Palparan, the court also sentenced Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Felipe Anotado Jr. and S/Sgt. Edgardo Osorio for Cadapan and Empeño's disappearance, and similarly directed for their transfer to the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa City.

Army Spokesperson LTC Louie Villanueva confirmed that Palparan is still in their custody.

"Gen. Palparan is still under the custody of Army Custodial Center since the army is still waiting for the decision of the court (regarding) his disposition," he said in a message to reporters on Tuesday.

Villanueva said Palparan has a pending case with another court, which issued a separate commitment order stating that the former Army official should remain in the custody of the military.

"The Philippine Army for its part has already filed a motion clarifying to the Honorable Court on the appropriate disposition of Gen. Palparan," he said.

Atty. Edre Olalia, president of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL), earlier said they intend to inform the Malolos RTC about the non-compliance of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on its commitment order regarding Palparan's detention.

"The military and his coddlers are liable for contempt of court for open defiance or disobedience to an explicit judicial order to immediately commit the convict to the National Penitentiary as all convicted felons are," Olalia said.

Meanwhile, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said he will verify why Palparan remains in the custody of the military. /kga

www.inquirer.net

Army recovers high-powered guns in Rizal farm raid

By: [Maricar Cinco](#) - Correspondent / [@maricarcincoINQ](#)

[Inquirer Southern Luzon](#) / 04:58 PM September 25, 2018

SAN PEDRO CITY – Soldiers and government agents on Tuesday recovered high-powered firearms supposedly owned by communist guerrillas that targeted to overthrow President Duterte.

Armed with a search warrant, a joint team from the Philippine Army and the National Bureau of Investigation raided the private Coral Farm in Sitio Dalig in Teresa town, Rizal around 7:30 a.m.

Recovered were four M653 baby armalite rifles, an M203 grenade launcher, five U.S. made 12-gauge shotguns, and three pistols of calibers .45, .38, and 9mm.

They also found six units of two-way radios, two grenades, eight cellphones, and documents that contained “war materials.”

Brigadier General Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr., commander of the Army’s 202nd Infantry Brigade, said the search warrant was issued against Armando Lazarte alias “Pat” or “Romano,” allegedly the secretary of the New People’s Army (NPA) in Calabarzon, and Tirso Alcantara, a former commander of the NPA’s regional guerrilla unit.

Alcantara was a National Democratic Front consultant to the peace negotiations who was granted temporary liberty in 2016.

Alcantara had reportedly fled from the farm before the troops arrived this morning, according to Army’s division spokesperson Captain Patrick Jay Retumban in a text message.

Eight people, among them Lily Ong, the owner of the six-hectare farm, were arrested during the raid.

Burgos, in a statement, said the presence of NPA leaders in Rizal, a province adjacent to Metro Manila, were “indicators” of the supposed “Red October” destabilization plot against Duterte.

The Armed Forces earlier said a coalition led by the Communist Party of the Philippines with supporters of ousted Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, members of the group Tindig Pilipinas, and Liberal Party leaders, were planning to unseat the president next month.

Major General Rhoderick Parayno, Commander of the Army’s 2nd Infantry Division, said the operation had “preempted” the supposed destabilization./lb

www.inquirer.net

Joma denies LP-Reds-gov't soldiers conspiracy to oust Duterte

By: [Delfin T. Mallari Jr. - @inquireidotnet](#)

[Inquirer Southern Luzon](#) / 04:21 PM September 25, 2018

LUCENA CITY – Exiled Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria “Joma” Sison mocked President Duterte for claiming there was now a conspiracy between the political oppositions, communist rebels, and disgruntled government soldiers to topple down the Duterte administration.

“He (Duterte) is becoming desperate and afraid of his own shadow,” Sison said in an online interview from his base in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Sison said the so-called Red Revolution plot was “a figment of Duterte’s imagination.”

But Sison maintained that the broad united front of Filipino people that opposed the Duterte government “is open to the support and participation of the military opposed to Duterte.”

“But there is no conspiracy among them, the LP (Liberal Party) and the CPP-NPA,” Sison stressed.

He claimed that there were military officers and foot soldiers who opposed President Duterte for various reasons like “encouraging unlawful acts against civilians, giving corruptive rewards for fake surrenderers and fake encounters, trying to trick the military by issuing the proclamation to revoke the amnesty of Trillanes, favoritism in promotions, corruption of highest civil and military officers who are Duterte favorites and sympathy for the people who suffer from the deteriorating economic and social conditions like poverty, unemployment, low income and soaring prices of prime commodities.”

In a statement, the CPP strongly denied that the revolutionary movement was in cahoots with the political oppositions to bring down President Duterte from power.

“This so-called Red October plot is nothing but an AFP invention. Like the rest of the AFP’s fakery, it is a poorly concocted story,” the CPP said in a statement issued Tuesday.

It added: “Neither Duterte nor the AFP could show the public proof of their claims.”

Though the CPP admitted that a broad united front of democratic forces – progressive and patriotic forces, as well as various strands of politicians, religious and business groups – has emerged in both formal and informal alliances to oppose Duterte.//b

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Lorenzana: 'Red October' plot will fail due to lack of popular support

By: Frances Mangosing - Reporter / @FMangosingINQ

INQUIRER.net / 03:11 PM September 25, 2018

While the defense establishment is taking the supposed "Red October" ouster plot against President Rodrigo Duterte seriously, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana is confident that the plan supposedly directed by communist rebels will be unsuccessful.

"Like the other plots of the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army), this too will fail for lack of popular support," he told reporters Tuesday.

The purported plot, which is an alleged coalition of communist rebels and members of political opposition, aims to remove the President from office by next month.

AFP deputy chief of staff for operations Maj. Gen. Isidro Purisima on Monday explained that the groups are also targeting to discredit the Philippine government by internationalizing various issues to destroy the country's image abroad and to scare away potential investors.

The plan is said to culminate in October, which the military says coincides with the international celebrations for Marxism, indigenous peoples, and communism.

Lorenzana stressed that they would not need emergency powers to deal with the alleged plot to unseat the President.

"We are not yet facing an emergency situation. These are just irritants that somehow distracts us from properly governing," he said.

The military continues to insist on the said ouster plot, even if the previously reported Sept. 21 ouster plan, which they also claimed, failed to materialize.

"What they planned to do is initiate mass action which they hope to snowball into a people power such as what they intended last Sept. 21 or the anniversary of Martial Law. The turn out was pitifully small," Lorenzana said.

"Their plan was to get as many as civil organizations as possible to their mass actions led by their progressive fronts," he added.

Lorenzana said that they exposed the plot to the public to preempt it.

"Exposure is the first step. Second is to monitor their activities and affiliates. Third is to pre-empt if there are indications that they will conduct destabilization or any violent mass movement," he said.

But the defense chief said that the plan may not be executed next month, as what CPP founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison had hinted.

"If you are listening to Joma Sison, he came out recently to say that PRRD will not last until the middle of 2019. Maybe they have moved their goalpost, considering the lackluster performance of their so-called mass rallies last Martial Law anniversary," Lorenzana said, adding that they are closely monitoring them and the other groups.

Reacting to Duterte's statement that the decades-long communist insurgency would end by mid-2019, Sison said last week that it was more likely that the President would be ousted by that time. /je