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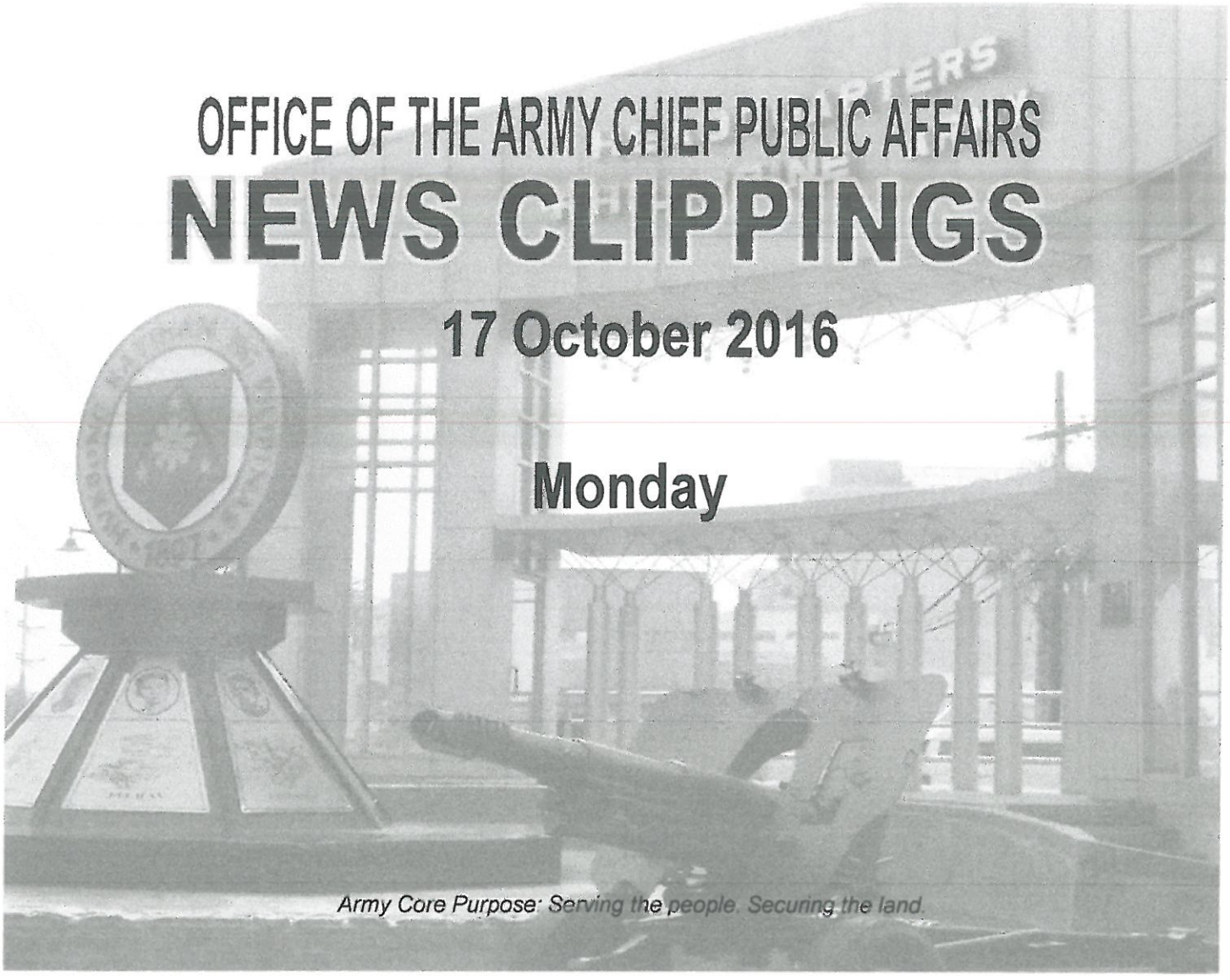

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Monday

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Trusted since 1898

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No barter of sovereign rights in China visit – DU30

Trump challenges Clinton to drug test, says vote 'rigged'

Friendship can't move mountain for Norway and Tailand

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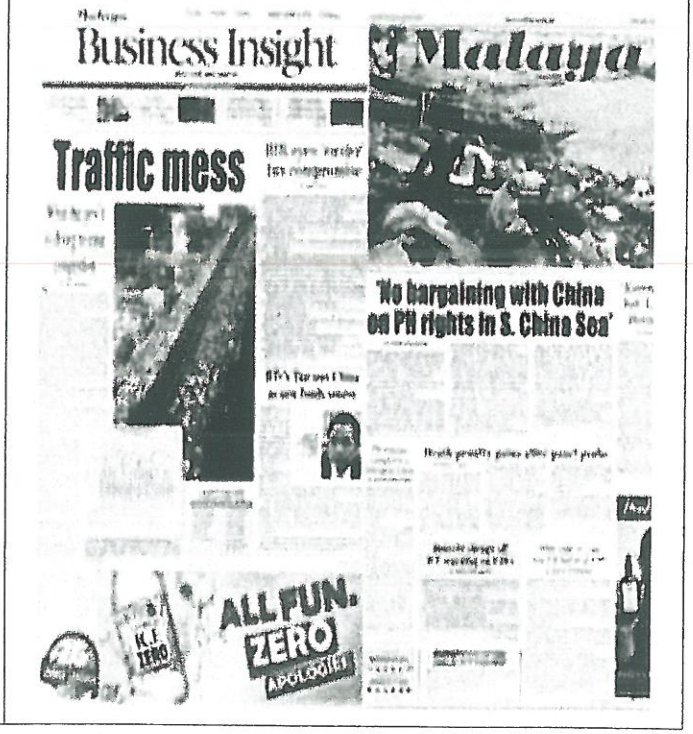
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ALL FUN. ZERO APOLOGIES

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
Weather Division
ISO: 9001:2008
Registry No. 01 100 1534769

SEVERE WEATHER BULLETIN #23-FINAL

FOR: TYPHOON "KAREN" (SARIKA)
TROPICAL CYCLONE: ALERT

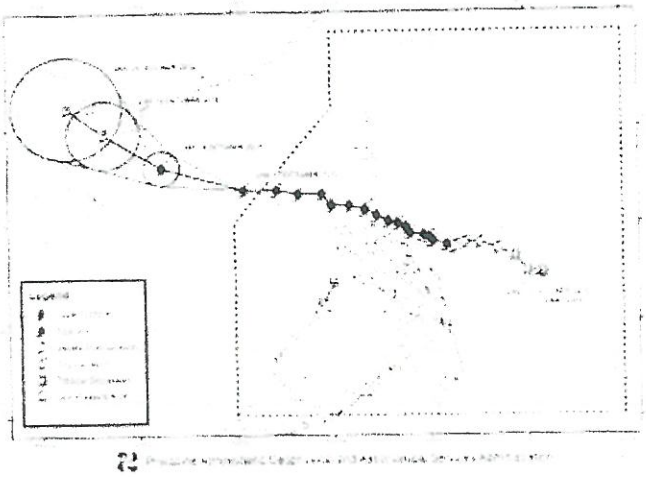
ISSUED AT 4:30 AM, 17 October 2016

TYPHOON "KAREN" IS NOW OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR).

- Estimated rainfall amount is from moderate to heavy within 500km diameter of the typhoon
- Fisherfolks and those with small seacrafts are advised not to venture out over the northern and western seaboards of northern Luzon and the western seaboard of Central Luzon.
- Meanwhile at 2:00 AM today, the Typhoon with international name **"HAIMA"** was located at **1,430 km East of Visayas (12.2°N, 137.8°E).** It is expected to enter the eastern boundary of the PAR this afternoon(17 October 2016).

Location of eye/center	At **4:00 AM** today, the eye of Typhoon **"KAREN"** was located based on all available data at **565 km West of Dagupan City,** Pangasinan (OUTSIDE PAR)(16.7°N, 115.1°E).
Strength	Maximum sustained winds of up to **130 kph** near the center and gustiness of up to **200 kph.**
Forecast Movement	Forecast to move **West Northwest** at **22 kph.**
Forecast Positions	• **24 Hour**(*Tomorrow morning*) **985 km West Northwest of Dagupan City, Pangasinan(OUTSIDE PAR)** • **48 Hour**(*Wednesday morning*) **1,305 km West of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte(OUTSIDE PAR)** • **72 Hour**(*Thursday morning*) **1,625 km West of Basco, Batanes (OUTSIDE PAR)**

Track of Typhoon "KAREN" [SARIKA]



NO TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNAL

With this development and unless re-entry occurs, this is the final warning for this weather disturbance.

Prepared by: MAGGE

Checked by: MPM

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17 October 2016

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Page: 1

Thousands stranded as Karen exits; Lawin enters Phl

Story on Page 6

By HELEN FLORES

Typhoon Karen stranded thousands of passengers and left at least four people dead as flights were canceled and ships grounded in local ports yesterday.

The weather bureau reported that another storm is expected to enter the country today.

One person drowned, another died of head trauma, while two others died of ailments aggravated by the storm, so far the strongest this year.

Three fishermen were reported missing in Catanduanes last Saturday morning while a male scuba diver was also reported missing in Mabini, Batangas.

PCG spokesman Commander Armand Balilo said over 4,000 passengers were stranded in various ports in Luzon as the typhoon made landfall in Aurora province early yesterday.

He said most of the stranded were in Bicol and Batangas.

Senior Inspector Malou Calubaquib, Bicol PNP spokesperson, identified one of the fatalities as construction worker Rene Magtangob, 39.

Provincial safety officer Gerry Beo said the man drowned in Bato, Catanduanes after being swept by strong river currents.

Beo said a farmer, who was not immediately identified, died after his head hit the ground when he encountered strong winds.

Calubaquib said Felicito Tesorero, 79, died of heart failure in Barangay Buenavista, Bato town; and Rowena Torrepalma, 17, died of epileptic seizure while at the evacuation center in Barangay Cagraray, also in Bato town.

The three missing fishermen from Viga town were identified as Zaldy de Jesus and Luis Tupig, both residents of Baran-

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gay Buenavista, and Renerio del Valle of Barangay Tambongon.

Balilo said the still unidentified diver was reported missing off the coast of Barangay Mainit in Mabini.

He said search and rescue operations were launched for the victim.

Landslides were also reported along the national highway due to heavy rain in San Andres and Gigmoto towns in Catanduanes.

Beo said a month's worth of rain poured Friday as the typhoon approached from the Pacific Ocean, swelling rivers and creeks and flooding low-lying farming villages.

Some 260,000 residents have no electricity in the island province of Catanduanes.

Flash floods also hit Barangay Divino Rostro in San Andres, Catanduanes as well as barangays Bustrac, Sta. Elena and Baras in Nabua, Camarines Sur.

Calubaquib said over 1,000 residents were evacuated in Catanduanes, Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur.

The PCG said a total of 4,719 passengers were stranded at ports nationwide, mostly in the Bicol region and Batangas, according to latest figures.

The PCG said that 16 vessels, 11 motorized boats, 460 rolling cargoes were not allowed to travel from various ports.

Balilo said vessels were still not allowed to sail until the weather bureau lifts storm signal warnings in the storm-affected areas.

He cited PCG regulations prohibiting sea vessels in ports covered by at least public storm signal number 1 from sailing.

Flights canceled

Philippine Airlines (PAL) and PalExpress canceled 40 international and 73 domestic flights due to the effects of Typhoon Karen.

PAL said the firm would not operate the flights originally schedule yesterday while Malaysian Airlines flight MH 805 from Manila to Kuala Lumpur was also canceled.

PAL spokesperson Cielo Villaluna said PAL is doing its best to inform affected passengers (whose contact numbers are available to PAL) of their flight cancellations via email or text notification.

Affected passengers may also call PAL Hotline (02) 855 – 8888, log on to *www.philippineairlines.com* or visit the nearest PAL ticket office or partner travel agent for their flight rebookings once weather clears.

Re-booking penalties/charges are waived if affected passengers rebook their flights within 30 days from their original flight date or within ticket validity period.

Over 2,500 families or about 12,500 individuals were preemptively evacuated in Iloços region, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Bicol as Karen made landfall.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) is still verifying reported casualties.

NDRRMC executive director Ricardo Jalad said the situation remains manageable and preemptive evacuation of families was conducted.

Jalad said there were five roads rendered impassable but continuous monitoring is being conducted on reports that the typhoon caused rock slides and landslides.

"We were able to determine the amount of rainfall in some areas where there was more than 100 millimeters of water in the past six hours. There are a lot of landslide prone areas in Baler," he added.

First Lt. Catherine Hapin, spokesperson for the Army's 7th Infantry Division, said the team of Enlisted Reservist of 1st Ready Reserve Battalion rescued over 50 residents at Malued District in Dagupan City, Pangasinan.

Karen made landfall over Baler, Aurora at around 2:30 a.m. yesterday, bringing heavy rains and strong winds that toppled trees and power lines and ripped off roofs.

The heaviest rain was experienced in Daet, Camarines Norte, registering 199.5 millimeters yesterday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Karen's strongest winds, meanwhile, hit Baler, Aurora with 180 kilometers per hour, followed by Virac, Catanduanes with 137 kph.

Karen, which weather forecasters described as the most damaging typhoon to enter the country so far this year, moved out of the Luzon landmass yesterday afternoon and is likely to exit the Philippine area of responsibility between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. today.

As of 10 a.m., the storm was hovering over Bolinao, Pangasinan, packing winds of 120 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 200 kph. It is forecast to move west-northwest at 22 kph.

However, the weather bureau warned the people that another storm, with international name Haima, is forecast to enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) this afternoon.

Turn to Page 8

OFFICE OI ... oacp ... l: 5285, 5295

Thousands

From Page 6

Haima, which will be given the local name Lawin once inside the PAR, is expected to affect Luzon on Wednesday or Thursday.

The new storm had intensified from a severe tropical storm to a typhoon yesterday afternoon.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, Haima was located at 1,535 east of Visayas packing winds of up to 160 kph.

Haima will be the 12th tropical cyclone to enter the Philippines this year and the fourth this month.

Weather forecaster Shelly Ignacio said Haima has a slim chance of making landfall based on current forecast.

"Haima is not expected to hit land but will graze Luzon's east coast," Ignacio said.

PAGASA lowered yesterday tropical cyclone warning signals in some areas in Luzon affected by Karen as the typhoon continued to weaken.

As of 11 a.m. yesterday, signal No. 2 remained hoisted over Pangasinan, Tarlac, Zambales and La Union.

PAGASA warned residents in areas under signal No. 2 against possible storm surges.

Metro Manila, which was still placed under signal No. 1, also experienced rains and gusty winds.

Other areas under storm warning signal No. 1 were Ilocos Sur, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Benguet, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan, Bataan, Cavite, Rizal, Laguna, Batangas and Northern Quezon.

Karen will continue to dump moderate to heavy rains in provinces within its 400-km diameter.

PAGASA also warned the public against rough to very rough seas in the northern seaboard of Northern Luzon and the eastern and southern seaboards of Southern Luzon due to Karen.

Mountaineers

In Bataan, 100 mountaineers were rescued after they were stranded in Mount Tarak, Mariveles at the height of the storm.

Senior Supt. Benjamin Silo, acting director of the Bataan police, said the mountaineers are now safe after they were rescued near Barangay Alis-Asin.

Sixteen tourists were also stranded while trekking Mt. Pulag in Kabayan, Benguet.

Andrew Alex Uy, director of the Cordillera Office of the Civil Defense, told **The STAR** that the tourists took shelter at camp 3 of the Easy Trail nearest to the Babadac Ranger Station.

Uy said the staff of the Tourism Office, DENR Park Management Bureau and Police personnel of the Kabayan Municipal Police Station provided assistance to the trekkers.

He said park rangers were deployed to Mt. Pulag camp 3 to rescue the stranded tourists.

Classes in all levels in both public and private schools in Muntinlupa City and Nueva Ecija were suspended today due to the effects of the typhoon.

PAGASA said the storm would continue to dump moderate to heavy rains in Central and Northern Luzon.

– With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Rudy Santos, Edu Punay, Perseus Echeminada, Celso Amo, Eva Visperas, Raymund Catindig, Ramon Lazaro, Vic Alhambra, AP

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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'We'll insist on what is ours'

Duterte to raise arbitral ruling with China

By ALEXIS ROMERO

The sovereign claims of the Philippines in the South China Sea are not up for bargain with China.

President Duterte made the statement yesterday even as he vowed to boost ties with the emerging superpower during his four-day state visit to Beijing later this week.

"We will stick to our claim. We do not bargain anything. We will continue to insist on what is ours," Duterte told reporters at the Davao International Airport before leaving for a three-day visit to Brunei.

"I will be very careful not to bargain anything for after all, I cannot give what is not mine and which I am not empowered to do by any stretch of imagination," he added.

Duterte noted the Constitution does not allow him to give up any of the Philippines' territorial claims.

He said the arbitral tribunal ruling that favored the Philippines would be discussed during his state visit to China, but there would be "no hard impositions." Duterte will proceed to China after his visit to Brunei.

"When you go there, you want to talk. Remember, there

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We'll insist

From Page 1

are only two options, we go to trouble or we talk. We can choose the path there in between," Duterte said.

"The (international tribunal) decision

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will be taken up but there will be no hard impositions. We will talk, we will maybe paraphrase everything in the judgment and set the limits of our territories, the special economic zones," he added.

Last July, a Hague-based arbitral court voided China's nine-dash line claim, which covers about 90 percent of the South China Sea including areas also being claimed by the Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan and the Philippines.

The tribunal ruled the Philippines has sovereign rights over the Panganiban (Mischief) Reef, Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal, and Recto (Reed) Bank, areas off Palawan that are within China's nine-dash line.

The court said China had also violated its duty to respect the traditional fishing rights of Filipinos when it denied them access to Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal in 2012. The shoal, known to local fishermen as Bajo de Masinloc, is located 124 nautical miles from the nearest point in Zambales and is within the Philippines' 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

China refuses to recognize the ruling, which it has described as "illegal since Day One."

Last week, Duterte said he would not dwell on the Philippines' claim to Panatag Shoal during his visit to China but would ask Chinese leaders to allow Filipino fishermen to enter the area.

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, a member of the team that challenged China's expansive maritime claim before the international tribunal, warned Duterte may be impeached if he gives up the Philippines' sovereignty of the shoal.

Duterte, a lawyer, agrees with Carpio's statements.

"It's an impeachable offense. I won't fight with that statement. It's all correct. It's all legal. So I agree with him," he said.

"I said we cannot barter something that belongs to the Filipino people. I cannot be the sole authorized agent for that. It is not allowed under the Constitution."

Starting point

In an interview with *Al Jazeera*, Duterte said talks with China should start with the arbitral ruling.

"Nobody is going to give up the judgment that is in our favor. I cannot give it up. Nobody can give it up nobody in the constitution allows anybody to give it up. Even the president cannot give it up," Duterte said.

"I cannot go out beyond the boundaries of this paper. Let's talk. Let's begin here," he added, referring the arbitral court's decision.

Duterte said giving up the Philippines' maritime claims is "one sure way of going to impeachment."

The President stressed that he would not go to war with China over the maritime dispute.

"What do you think will happen to my country if I choose to go to war? Fight alone? I would call upon other countries to help me? Who would die for my country except us? So we can only talk. That's why they invited me for talks. I will go," he said.

When asked to react to criticisms that he appears to be negotiating tenuously despite the Philippines' victory in its case against China, Duterte replied: "It would be arrogant to go there and say I'm going there to fight for this and that."

"You have to go there with a little bit of courtesy," he added.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said he is hoping the President would address the concerns with his Chinese counterpart.

Yasay blamed the previous administration for allowing China to complete its military occupation of the disputed rock features within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

"What our people should realize and understand is that the provoking and inflexible tack taken by the previous administration in resolving the dispute has led to the completion by China of facilities that are inherently designed for military purposes in some of the rock features within our EEZ, while we stand completely helpless with our ally and traditional partners," Yasay said.

"Worse, we have been tricked into removing our public vessels from control over Bajo de Masinloc and displacing our fishermen from their traditional fishing ground while desperately trying to eke a living for their families," he said.

Yasay urged the public to just pray for the success of Duterte's visit to China, saying it is a mission of keeping peace and stability in the region through mutual respect and understanding between two nations.

"His goal is to forge closer political, economic and cultural ties on the premise that the South China Sea is not the sum total of our relationship with our Asian neighbor," Yasay said.

"Promoting the paramount welfare of our people through better and enduring friendships is the best way to ensure the peaceful settlement of our disputes no matter how long it might take, without derogating our maritime entitlements in the SCS under international law in order to promote the national interest as mandated by the Constitution," he said.

Stronger ties

The maritime issue is not the only agenda of Duterte's state visit to China.

Duterte said he is looking forward to exchanging views with Chinese leaders on how they can boost bilateral relations, trade and investments.

Duterte is scheduled to meet with China President Xi Jinping, China Premier Li Keqiang and National People's Congress chairman Zhang Dejiang during his state visit.

"This is the first state visit of a Philippine president to Beijing since 2011 and signals a key turning point in both our histories. We'll look forward to renewing our ties of friendship between the Philippines and China and to reaffirm the commitment to work closer to achieve shared goals for our countries and peoples," Duterte said in his departure speech.

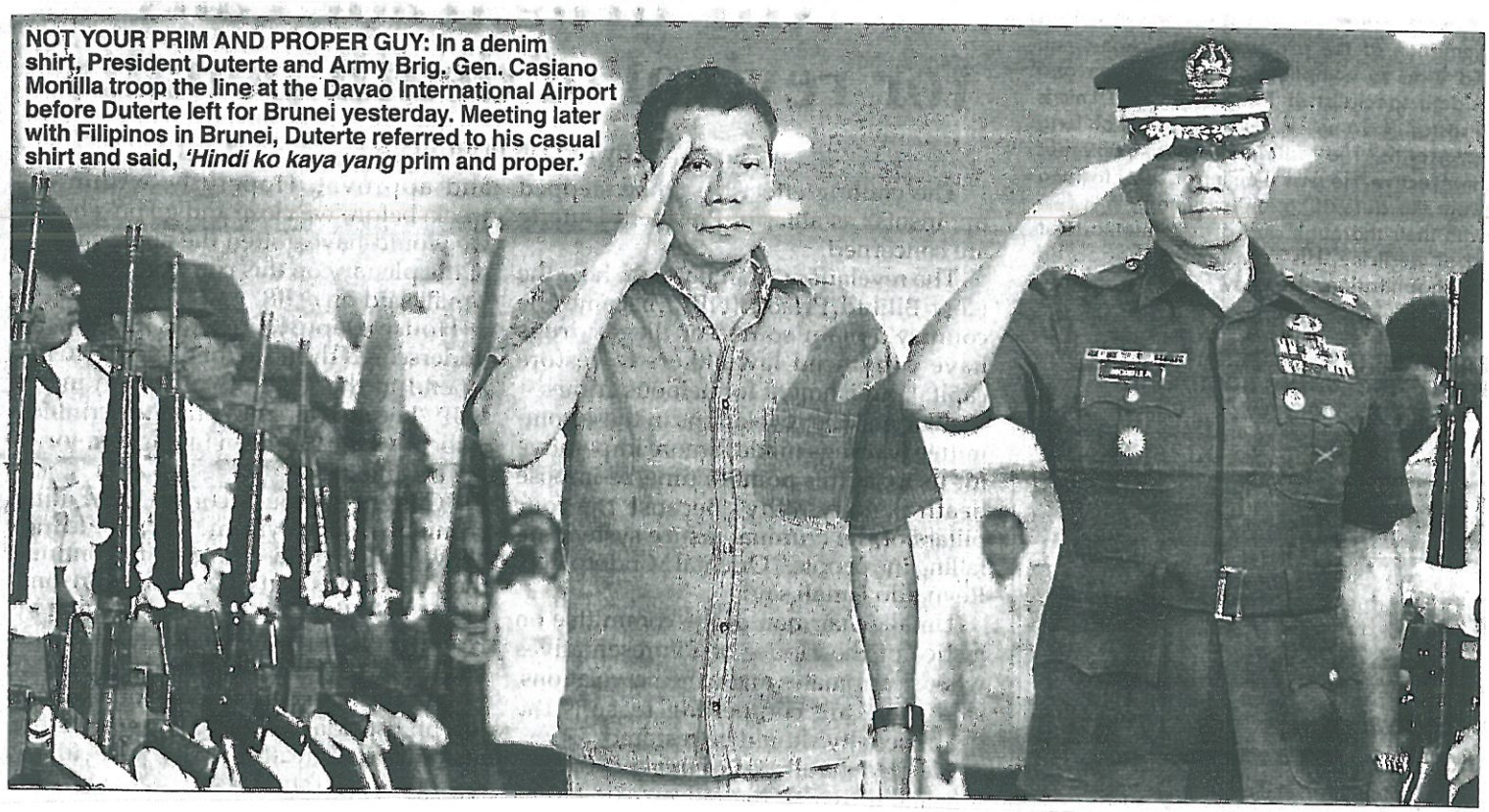
"As we mark this year the 41st anniversary of the establishment of relations between China and the Philippines, we will look at the sum total of our relationships," he said.

Yasay added critics have been sowing conflict and fear that Duterte might end up yielding the country's interests to China.

Yasay said Duterte is pushing hard the Philippines' maritime claims, which was bolstered further by the July 12 arbitral ruling.

"Therefore, I urge all Filipinos to wish the President well on this trip and to pray for the best in accepting the stark reality that humanity is capable of swiftly and decisively annihilating itself with weapons of mass destruction it created. Under these circumstances, there is no substitute for peace in resolving our disputes," Yasay said.

– With Pia Lee-Brago



NOT YOUR PRIM AND PROPER GUY: In a denim shirt, President Duterte and Army Brig. Gen. Casiano Monilla troop the line at the Davao International Airport before Duterte left for Brunei yesterday. Meeting later with Filipinos in Brunei, Duterte referred to his casual shirt and said, *'Hindi ko kaya yang* prim and proper.'

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Page: 1

US: No CIA plot to kill Duterte

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

Reports about a supposed plan of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to assassinate President Duterte and destabilize his administration have no basis, US Ambassador Philip Goldberg has said.

"Those kinds of statements are not correct, not

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US From Page 1

true but we're friends of the Philippines," Goldberg, who is winding up his tour of duty in Manila, said.

"We're allies of the Philippines. We respect democracy in the Philippines and so I don't know what that's all about quite frankly but I leave it at that. It has no foundation," Goldberg told reporters during a forum of leaders of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Friday at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City.

Duterte dared the US to oust him as he vowed not to allow the Americans to treat Filipinos like a "doormat."

Duterte earlier claimed he received reports that the CIA would want him dead.

Goldberg gave assurance that diplomatic relations between the US and the Philippines will remain stable even after the election of a new American president next month.

Goldberg emphasized the US' commitment to the Philippines is clear and that Washington remains Manila's ally.

"We have been good allies. We remain good allies. I think that whatever government is in the United States will have the Philippines as an ally and friend," he added. "I don't think that change in administration in the US will affect it."

Goldberg earlier said the US has not failed the Philippines and Washington is hopeful the two countries will be able to "work through" whatever difficulties exist and see the relationship endure.

Goldberg was reacting to a statement made by Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. that the US has "failed" the Philippines, forcing Duterte to break the country's "shackling dependency" on its ally and liberate Filipinos from submission to American demands and interests.

When asked if the US failed the Philippines, Goldberg said "No."

"The United States is a good friend of the people of the Philippines and works continually with the government and the people of the Philippines to make it a better relationship so that's what we have done. That's what we'll continue to do," Goldberg said.

"Of course I'm unable to hear some of the things that are said or written, and we do these things despite some of those discordant notes," he said.

Yasay stressed the independent foreign policy being pursued by Duterte was to put an end to the country's subservience to the US.

He said the "carrot and stick" policy of the US towards the Philippines has been effectively used through the years since the country's independence to force Filipinos into submission to American demands and interests.

But Goldberg stressed the relationship between the Philippines and the US has been very fruitful and has benefited both countries.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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DU30 TO RAISE UN RULING

STORY BY GERMELINA LACORTE

- **President Duterte says he will take up UN tribunal decision in his talks with Chinese leaders**
- **But he says he will not be bargaining territories, and there will be 'no hard imposition'**
- **He adds that moves to forge closer ties with China won't affect our maritime sovereignty**

A19

DUTERTE'S CHINA VISIT

DU30 TO RAISE SEA RULING WITH CHINA

FROM A1

By Germelina Lacorte
@germelinaINQ

DAVAO CITY—President Duterte on Sunday said there would be no bargaining of territory in his talks with China's leaders this week, allaying fears that the Philippines may lose some of the gains it has earned in the international tribunal ruling over disputed areas in the West Philippine Sea.

"We will speak softly but we will not bargain anything," the President told the media at a briefing before he left for state visits to Brunei and China.

"We will continue to insist that it is ours and the international tribunal decision will be taken up but there will be no hard imposition," the President said.

Some concerns

Mr. Duterte acknowledged some concerns in the Philippines that his rapid moves to forge close ties with China could affect the country's maritime sovereignty, but he said that would not happen.

The award by the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague dealt a blow to China's extensive

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PREDEPARTURE BRIEFING President Duterte briefs journalists on his agenda in going to Brunei and China at the airport's departure area in Davao City. —GERMELINA LACORTE

claims in the South China Sea. China has refused to recognize the case.

Mr. Duterte said he was mindful that the West Philippines Sea was a special area of concern for the Philippines.

Carpio warning

"I will be very careful not to bargain anything because after all, I cannot give what is not mine and it is something I am not empowered to do," he said.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio earlier warned President Duterte that China may ask the country to concede rights in the South China Sea before agreeing to any deals or joint exploration projects.

Carpio recalled that Wu Shicun, president of China's National Institute for South China Sea Studies, had told former President Fidel V. Ramos that before explorations could take place, the Philippines must first acknowledge Beijing's sovereignty over the disputed Scarborough Shoal.

Sovereignty

He said that this had always been China's position, but stressed that the President could not concede sovereignty.

Ramos was the President's special envoy to China.

Mr. Duterte attended a get-together of the Filipino community at Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex, after he arrived in Brunei on Sunday night.

He is set to meet the Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah during his three-day visit to that Southeast Asian country, after which he will make his first state visit to China. INQ

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: 47

2nd 'green' activist killed in ComVal

Human rights group refutes claim case drug-related

TAGUM CITY—Another environmental activist in Compostela Valley was killed by still unidentified assailants in a murder case that some police officers said could be among hundreds of cases of street killings related to drugs.

Joselito "Anoy" Pasaporte, 32, was outside a cockpit in the town of Mabini, Compostela Valley when he was attacked by a lone gunman past 4 p.m. on Thursday, according to police yesterday.

Senior Supt. Armando de Leon, acting Compostela Valley police chief, said Pasaporte is a drug suspect who is No. 6 on the watch list of police in Mabini town.

His colleagues, however, said Pasaporte is a member of Panalipdan Youth, an environment group based in Compostela Valley.

Jay Apiag, Karapatan Southern Mindanao spokesperson, said Pasaporte had become the second activist to be murdered in Compostela Valley in just a week.

Finished off

Senior Insp. Jesser Vagilidad IV, Mabini police chief, said Pasaporte was shot by a man wearing black short pants and shirt outside the cockpit in Barangay Cadunan.

Vagilidad said witnesses heard three gunshots outside the cockpit and three more inside.

"It appears that the assailant had chased the victim into the cockpit where he was finished off," Vagilidad said.

Nuns join a rally in Quezon City demanding a stop to extrajudicial killings of drug suspects. The growing list of victims of those killings now include Joselito Pasaporte, a youth environment group member. —RICHARD REYES

While provincial police chief De Leon said Pasaporte was a drug suspect, Vagilidad, the town police chief, said policemen in Mabini are still investigating the killing.

The motive for the killing, said Vagilidad, "could be drugs, personal or he might have had a quarrel with gamblers."

Vagilidad said police are checking Pasaporte's background as an environmental activist.

Pasaporte was the second activist slain in a week in Compostela Valley.

On Oct. 10, motorcycle-riding gunmen shot and killed Jimmy Saypan, secretary general of the Compostela Farmers' Association (CFA).

Saypan was on his way to Compostela town when attacked.

Baseless accusation

CFA and the municipal government of Compostela have been opposing the entry of a large mining company in the rice and banana growing town.

Agusan Petroleum and Mineral Corp. (AgPet) has applied for a mining exploration permit for at least 12,000 hectares of largely tribal lands in Compostela's Ngan village.

Karapatan's Apiag accused the military of being behind the killings.

But Capt. Rhyan Batchar, spokesperson of the Army's 10th Infantry Division, said the accusation is baseless.

Batchar earlier said the Army division is one in condemning the murder of Saypan and allegations of military involvement are "unfounded."

"We will be grateful to those who will help us purge our ranks," said Batchar. —FRINSTON LIM INQ

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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AFP, PNP assured of salary hikes within 6 years

By DELON PORCALLA

A lawmaker has assured members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police that President Duterte's promise to double their salaries would be implemented within the next six years.

Rep. Joey Salceda, vice chairman of the House committee on ways and means and the appropriations committee, said over the weekend that he would help formulate the programs of AFP and PNP to fulfill Duterte's vow to double the salaries of uniformed personnel.

Salceda, former chief of the National Economic and Development Authority, said the salary increases of PNP and AFP men would cost the government about P163 billion – or roughly P18,000 for each.

Currently, the PNP's salary budgets stand at P95 billion, excluding the P25 billion in pensions of retired members. The AFP salary budget is at P68 billion and P43 billion in pensions.

Salceda, who also sits as vice chair of the local government and economic affairs committees, said the House leadership under Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez has been "eyeing some areas" where the government can source the funds for purposes of increasing the salaries of AFP and PNP members.

"We are focusing on a roadmap to enhance the welfare of our uniformed personnel as well as attain long term organizational and service reforms to strengthen law enforcement and security of the country," he said.

Meanwhile, the Bicol Regional Advisory Council on PNP Transformation and Development has elected Salceda as its chairman, replacing Vice President Leni Robredo, who headed the body when she was Camarines Sur congresswoman.

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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Rody to respect SC on Libingan burial

President Duterte is hopeful that the Supreme Court (SC)'s decision on the burial of former president Ferdinand Marcos will be based on law and not on emotions.

"I hope that the Supreme Court will decide not on the emotion, but of course we know that it will be all legal at the end of the day. What the Supreme Court will rule must be followed," the President told reporters in Davao City before leaving for Brunei for a three-day state visit.

Duterte was asked to react to

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Rody to From Page 1

information that the high court may rule on petitions seeking to stop Marcos' burial tomorrow.

"We will follow what the Supreme Court says for after all, it is the Supreme Court who interprets the law and decide which of the public interest is served among the contending parties," the President said.

Duterte maintained that his decision to allow the burial of Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani has legal basis.

"My position is that there is a law which grants Marcos a burial in the Libingan ng mga Bayani. My position that as long as there is that law, it shall be followed," he said.

Marcos, who was ousted in the 1986 EDSA revolution, died of kidney, heart and lung ailments in 1989 while in exile in Hawaii. The late strongman's remains were brought back to the Philippines in 1993, the body now in a glass coffin in Ilocos Norte.

Days before he assumed office, Duterte said he is in favor of interring Marcos at the heroes' cemetery as a former president and war veteran. He ordered the defense department to start preparations for the burial last month.

Human rights victims and activists are opposed to the burial, saying Marcos does not deserve to be interred at the final resting place of heroes. They also believe that Marcos is not a real hero because he allowed humans rights violations during his 20-year presidency.

Seven petitions seeking to stop the burial have been filed before the Supreme Court.

Duterte said the debate on whether Marcos is a hero may not be resolved for now.

"In the matter of the medals and heroism of the late Marcos, that is not the issue and that is to be resolved maybe in the generations to come. It could not be decided on the group now which were actively and physically and emotionally involved in the issues that went past," the President said.

"We can never have a good reading but what I must say now is that we have alienated the entire, almost entire Ilocano peoples. We cannot just do that because we are all Filipinos." – **Alexis Romero**

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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RRD: Only SC can stop FM burial at LMB

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYUOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said the burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani would proceed unless the Supreme Court rules otherwise.

The President, in a briefing at the Davao International Airport before he left for his state visits to Brunei and China, said he hopes that the High Court would finally rule on the issue of the burial as he reassured that he would follow whatever decision the Supreme Court metes out.

"It is the Supreme Court who interprets the law and decides which of the public interest is served among the contending parties. My position is that there is a law which grants Marcos a burial in the Libingan ng mga Bayani. My position (is) that as long as there is that law, it shall be followed," Duterte said.

He reiterated that he is not considering the issue of the medals and heroism of the late president in favoring the burial at the Heroes' Cemetery but what is written in the law. He had repeatedly said that under the law a former president, a soldier and a veteran who served during the war are among those who can be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The President reiterated that the burial issue had

See RRD ➤ Page B6

RRD

divided the country and alienated the supporters of Marcos, majority of them Ilocanos, and it is time to heal that division.

"We are all Filipinos and I hope that the Supreme Court will decide not on the emotion but of course, we know that it will be all legal at the end of the day. What the Supreme Court will rule must be followed," he added.

The status quo ante order issued by the Supreme Court putting on hold the government's plan to bury former Marcos at the LMB is set to expire this week.

The six earlier petitions challenging Marcos' burial at the Libingan were filed by groups of martial law victims led by former Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman and former Commission on Human Rights chair Etta Rosales; a group led by former senator Heherson Alvarez; a group of UP students; and former Muslim Mindanao human rights chair Algamar Latiph. -- *With Ashzel Hachero*

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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Communists recruiting amid ceasefire – Army official

By GILBERT BAYORAN

Recruitment by the New People's Army (NPA) in southern Negros continues amid the ceasefire being observed by the government and communist rebels, a Philippine Army official said yesterday.

Col. Francisco Delfin, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, disclosed they were able to monitor movements of a small group of rebels visiting some Negros hinterland barangays, which did not have any of the Army Bayanihan Team members conducting meetings with the

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Communists

From Page 1

populace.

Bayanihan, or the Internal Peace and Security Plan, is the military's counter-insurgency program.

Delfin said they believe that the NPA was recruiting new members.

But Delfin said he was optimistic that the people would no longer be "fooled" as they were now aware of the true intentions of the rebel group.

Despite the developments, Delfin said the ceasefire in Negros Island Region appeared to be holding as there were no violations monitored on both sides.

The ceasefire agreement calls for the cessation of hostilities between government troops and communist rebels as peace negotiations resumed.

Delfin said he was hoping that the peaceful atmosphere in the hinterlands would continue.

Luis Jalandoni, former chief negotiator of the National Democratic Front, disclosed in a recent peace forum in Davao City that the NPA should not be made to lay down their arms, because they should be able to continue to protect the communities.

With the ongoing ceasefire, Delfin said they were maximizing their Bayanihan Team activities in the Negros hinterlands amid criticisms from the NDF-Negros.

"If they (NPA) want to help, it will be most welcome," Delfin said, adding "this will further strengthen our effort to help those in the hinterlands."

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) issued a statement criticizing the military for allegedly "maintaining their presence and continuing to make aggressive moves in and around the areas of operations of the NPA, including Negros Occidental, which it claimed forms part of the territories of the people's democratic government."

"There have been persistent reports of continuing presence of armed operating troops of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) in barangay centers, occupying barangay halls, community schools and daycare centers, senior citizen centers and other civilian structures. They continue to set up detachments or physical bases in the center of civilian population," the CPP said.

Delfin clarified only combat operations were being prohibited. The Bayanihan squads and teams will continue their presence in barangays to help the populace, he stressed.

Chief Supt. Renato Gumban, Negros Island Region police director, said while they were not operating against identified areas of the CPP-NPA, they would not spare anybody in their law enforcement campaign, including the serving of arrest warrants to NPA members facing charges in court.

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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MILF, AFP turn over 13 drug suspects

Thirteen suspected drug personalities operating in North Cotabato were turned over by the 602nd Infantry Brigade and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to the Cotabato police on Friday.

Ali Masgal Buat, Guiamalodin Palakad, Guiama Milikano, Mandag Mamalinta, Nandi Pagao, Taokie Lumilis, Kenny Dima, Ronnie Catulong, Morem Milicano, Omar Angking, Sari Lumilis, Mantoa Gombila and Tiyabong Mamalinta were alleged members of a drug ring led by Samal Masgal, alias Commander Madrox, who remains at large.

Two grenade launchers, assorted firearms, explosives, ammunition, sachets of shabu and drug paraphernalia were recovered from the suspects, police said.

The suspects were arrested in operations in Barangays Nabalawag, Kapinpilan and Kadingilan in Midsayap, North Cotabato from Oct. 5 to 11.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency witnessed the turnover of the suspects.

The Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) and the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG) coordinated the anti-drug operations because they were conducted in MILF-controlled areas.

"We've seen the determination of the MILF and government forces to enforce the directive of President Duterte to launch an all-out campaign against illegal drugs and criminality," said Carlos Sol Jr., director of the secretariat of the CCCH and AHJAG.

The government and the MILF signed an agreement of cooperation and coordination in the campaign against illegal drugs in MILF-controlled areas in July.

The agreement provides information exchange, including the submission by the MILF of a list of drug personalities in their areas as well as the holding of information drive on the ill-effects of illegal drugs in MILF-affected areas.

Drug suspect found dead

Meanwhile, in Benguet, a suspected drug personality who has yet to be identified was found dead in La Trinidad town on Saturday.

The fatality, believed to be a victim of summary execution, was found along the road in Sitio Lamtan in Barangay Puguis.

Police said the body of the victim bore multiple stab wounds while his head was wrapped in packing tape.

– Jose Rodel Clapano, Raymund Catindig, John Unson

17 October 2016

THE DAILY tribune

Page: 3

94 Abu Sayyaf terrorists neutralized so far in ongoing gov't offensive – AFP chief

An estimated 94 Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorists were "neutralized" since the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) started its offensive against the brigands in Basilan and Sulu last August.

"In view of President Duterte's resolve to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf Group, the AFP embarked on 579 massive focused military operations 426 of which were meant to end the atrocity and notoriety of these bandits and allied terrorist groups," AFP chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya said.

The government offensive started last August 25 shortly after the bandits beheaded 18-year-old Patrick Almodavar due to the victim's failure to pay the P1-million ransom.

The operations led to 54 armed engagements resulting to the neutralization of 94 ASG bandits of which 56 were killed, 21 surrendered and 17 captured, he added.

Key ASG leaders Nelson Muktadil, Braun Muktadil and sub-leader Mohammad Said were among the terrorists killed and with bodies recovered in intense combat and ensuing search and retrieval operations.

Visaya said at least three other ASG leaders were also killed but were not identified by name because their bodies were dragged by their fleeing comrades.

"They were nonetheless reported by reliable informants to have been buried in known locations following customary practice of the Moros," the AFP chief added.

The AFP's sustained combat and non-combat military operations backed by police, government officials and local residents led to the release or escape of 14 kidnap victims leaving only 12, Visaya stressed.

He added efforts will continue until all the hostages are released and the bandit group is totally eliminated. **PNA**

17 October 2016

Balita
Ang Nangungunang Pahayagang Tagalog sa Bansa ₱8.00

Page. 2

Habang palabas si 'Karen', papasok naman si 'Lawin'

SUPER-TYPHOON NAGBABANTA

Nina ROMMEL P. TABBAD, ELLALYN B. DE VERA, FER TABOY at LIEZLE BASA IÑIGO

Habang papalabas ang bagyong 'Karen' na bahagyang lumumpo sa north Luzon, papasok naman ang bagyong 'Lawin' na posible umanong maging super typhoon.

Ayon kay Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) weather forecaster Benison Estareja, "mas malaki si bagyong 'Lawin' at maraming maaapektuhan."

Ang bagyong 'Lawin' na inaasahang mas malakas sa bagyong 'Karen' ay papasok sa buong Luzon mamayang hapon at inaasahang lalakas sa Miyerkules hanggang Biyernes.

Sa unang pagtataya, may lakas na 210 hanggang 250 kilometer per hour ang bagyong 'Lawin'.

Dam binuksan

Nagpakawala kahapon ng tubig ang apat na pangunahing dam sa Luzon dahil na rin sa walang tigil na pag-ulan bunsod ng bagyong 'Karen'.

Sa pahayag ng Meteorological and Hydrological Division ng PAGASA, umapaw ang tubig sa Ipo Dam, Bustos, Binga Dam at Magat Dam sa San Mateo, Isabela.

Sinabi ng PAGASA na nagpasya silang buksan ang spilling gate ng apat na water reservoir matapos na umabot sa spilling level ang tubig ng mga ito.

3 patay

Tatlong katao naman ang iniulat na namatay dahil sa pananalasa ng bagyo.

Batay sa report, kabilang sa mga namatay ang dalawang bata na natabunan ng gumuhong tone-toneladang bato sa Binangonan, Rizal sa kasagsagan ng pananalasa ng bagyong Karen.

Sinabi ni Major Virgilio Perez Jr., Public Information Officer (PIO) ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)-Southern Luzon Command, naganap ang insidente kamakalawa dakong 10:00 ng gabi sa gitna na rin ng malakas na pagbuhos ng ulan.

Kinilala ang mga nasawi na sina Arcille Latoja, 26; Rex Adrian Latoja, 6; at Reynold Latoja, 3, habang patuloy na ginagamot sa ospital ang isa pang biktima na si Luisito Oliveros, 38.

Istranded

Dahil maraming pangunahing daan ang isinara, libu-libong pasahero naman ang naistranded dahil kay 'Karen'.

Sa Catanduanes, Sorsogon at Camarines Sur, tinatayang nasa 1,000 katao ang istranded sa mga pantalan dahil hindi pinayagang maglayag ang mga barko.

Mahigit 1,300 pasahero naman ang nanatili sa Batangas Port dahil din sa pagkansela ng biyahe ng mga barko.

Umaabot naman sa 8,000 katao ang inilikas sa mga bayan ng Baler, Dipaculao, Dinalungan, Casiguran, Dilasag at Dingalan.

Walang kuryente

Nagdulot rin ng matinding brownout si 'Karen' kung saan sa Pangasinan pa lang, 22 munisipalidad ang nawalan ng kuryente matapos ideklara ang Signal no. 3 sa lalawigan.

Maging ang Baguio City, Aurora at Benguet, nawalan din ng power supply.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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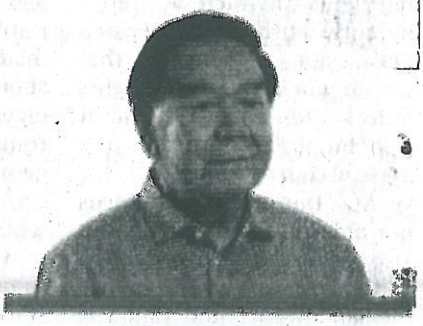
War games, wrong games

During a recent visit to Vietnam, President Duterte announced in a speech before the Filipino community that he was ending joint military exercises with US forces. He said that Phiblex 33 (Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise 33) would be the last during his term in office, and the terminations appear to be part of a continuing effort to reconfigure Philippine foreign relations aimed at reducing dependency on the United States while strengthening partnerships with other countries in the region, particularly China.



REVEILLE

RAMON J. FAROLAN

Each year for almost two decades, Philippine and US forces have conducted joint military exercises under a program called "Balikatan," the Tagalog term for the English "shoulder-to-shoulder." The exercises are aimed at improving military partnership and compatibility between the forces of both nations. It is unclear who benefits most. Filipino soldiers get introduced to more modern weaponry and new developments in warfare but, quite often, these weapons and equipment are out of reach to the average Filipino GI. In any conflict, our role would mainly be to provide warm bodies.

Phiblex 33, which started two weeks ago, is part of the Balikatan exercises aimed at improving capabilities in amphibious operations and civic assistance efforts during time of calamities.

According to Brig. Gen. John M. Jansen, commander of the US Third Marine Expeditionary Brigade, the US Marines learned jungle warfare and combat engineering from the Philippine Marines, while our Marines learned about amphibious operations from their US counterparts.

There is no doubt that civic assistance training that can be utilized in times of calamities is commendable given the number of typhoons and other natural disasters that hit the country from time to time. On the other hand, amphibious operations are basically offensive undertakings both tactical and strategic. I do not see the Philippine Marines engaging in offensive actions of this nature unless their objectives are the artificial islands created by China in the Spratlys, which makes it even more unlikely.

As a photo opportunity, it looks great to view Marines landing at beaches and wading through the surf beside rubber boats just like in World War II battles that have been glamorized by motion pictures like "Guadalcanal Diary" and "Sands of Iwo Jima," starring John Wayne. But from a national security standpoint, it is unlikely that our Marines will be utilized for such operations.

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MEDYO MEDIA

FERNAN G. EMBERGA

Tatak FVR

NATULOY rin sa wakas ang naudlot na "state visit" ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Brunei Darussalam na nakatakda sana noong September 4-5, 2016 pero biglang ipinagpaliban dahil sa malagim na Davao City bombing noong September 2, 2016. Bagama't ilang foreign trips na ang naisakatuparan ni PRRD—una sa ASEAN Summit sa Laos (Sept. 6-8), side trip sa Indonesia (Sept. 8-9) at Vietnam (Sept. 28-29)—ngunit ang mga ito ay nasa katergoryang working visits lang daw at hindi state visit.

Tumpak mga kamedyo! Anupa't maituturing na kaunaunahang state visit ni Pangulong Digong ang tatlong araw na pagbisita sa Brunei simula kahapon hanggang bukas (October 16-18, 2016). Ngayong araw na ito, nakatakda ang pulong nina Duterte at Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.

Mula sa Brunei, dediretso si Duterte at ang kanyang delegasyon sa Beijing, China para sa apat na araw na state visit mula bukas hanggang Biyernes (October 18-21, 2016). Mahigit 200 negosyanteng Filipino-Chinese daw ang kasama ng pangulo sa biyahe, at mga opisyal ng gabinete at burukrasya, ilang senador at kongresista.

Subalit marami pa rin ang nagtataka at nagtatanong, bakit daw hindi kasama sa China ang itinalagang special envoy doon na si dating Pangulong Fidel Valdez Ramos? May kinalaman raw ba ito sa matapang na "assessment" at labis daw na pagkadismaya ni FVR sa 100 days ng Duterte administration?

Magugunitang tahasang sinabi ni FVR—na umano'y nag-udyok kay Duterte na tumakbong presidente—na dismayado siya sa performance ng pangulo sa loob ng 100 araw dahil sa kabiguan nitong tugunan ang mga inaasahan ng mamamayan. May himutok din ang dating pangulo sa pakikipag-away raw ni Duterte sa mga pinuno ng western superpowers. Gayundin sa banta nitong putulin na ang pakikipag-alyado partikular sa Amerika at European Union upang maisulong ang "independent foreign policy" ng Pilipinas.

Subalit sinabi ni Presidential Communications Sec. Martin Andanar na mismong si FVR na ang nagsabi sa kanya na hindi ito kasama sa biyahe sa China. "Noong nag-usap kami sa security cluster meeting ni FVR ay sinabi niyang hindi siya kasama sa China trip ng Pangulo," wika ni Andanar.

Paliwanag ni Andanar na walang ibinigay na dahilan si FVR kung bakit hindi ito sasama sa China trip ni Duterte. Dahil dito, ipinagpalagay na lamang ng Malakanyang na ang hindi pagsama ni Ramos sa China ay bilang respeto sa pangulo. Baka raw kasi mahati ang atensyon ng mga host kung dalawang pangulo ng Pilipinas ang sabay na bibisita sa China kung saan inaasahan na magkakaroon ng pulong si Pangulong Duterte kay Chinese President Xi Jinping at Premier Li Keqiang.

Samantala, inakusahan naman ng Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) si Ramos ng "backtracking" sa itinutulak na independent foreign policy ng administrasyong Duterte. "Former GRP President Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, Amboy top dog, is now set to lead the pack to consolidate the pro-US camp of reactionaries to put on greater pressure on the Duterte regime to backtrack on its promotion of an independent foreign policy," pahayag ng CPP.

Kaugnay nito, pinaalalahanan ng CPP si Duterte na mag-ingat at huwag basta magtiwala kay FVR. "It is quite apparent that US military agents in the Philippines are closely working with Ramos to counteract Duterte's policy statements and measures against US military exercises and presence. He also seeks to countervail Duterte's efforts to influence the AFP and serve as the US counterpole," saad pa ng CPP.

Kaugnay nito, hinimok ng CPP si Duterte na doblehin ang pagpupunyagi at paspasan pa ang pakikipag-usap pangkapayapaan sa National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). Pinayuhan rin nito ang pangulo na palakasin pa ang kapit sa masang Pilipino sa pamamagitan ng pagtugon sa kanilang mga karaingan para sa lupang sakahan, trabaho, taas-sweldo, wakasan ang endo at kontrakwalisasyon, pagbaba ng presyo sa pagkain, petrolyo at pangunahing bilihin, gayundin ang libreng edukasyon at serbisyong pangkalusugan.

Kunsabagay, tandang-tanda pa raw ng sambayanang Pilipino ang malalaking kontrobersya at iskandalo ng mga katiwalian at pandarambong noong panahon ni FVR. Ilan lamang daw rito ang Mega dike scam, PEa-Amari scam, Petron-Aramco deal, Centennial Expo scam; PPA scam, NSC deal, MWSS privatization, Military camps and bases conversion scam, Operation dagdag-bawas at maraming iba pa. Gayundin ang kapalpakan at kabulastugan ng kanyang ipinagmalaking "Philippine 2000" na umano'y blueprint para sa pagiging newly industrialized country o nichood daw ng Pilipinas. Ang balintuna, hanggang ngayon ay ramdam na ramdam pa ng masa ang kalamidad na dulot ng Liberalisasyon, Deregulasyon at Pribatisasyon at ang trahedyang epekto sa bansa ng pinayagan niyang globalisadong pandarambong ng GATT-WTO. Ilan lamang 'yan sa mga tatak ng umano'y "Amboy" at "most travelled president" ng Pilipinas na si FVR, period!

17 October 2016

NGAYON
Diyaryong disente ng masang intelihente

Pahina. 4

Bahala si BITAG
Ni BEN TULFO e-mail: bahalasitulfo@hotmail.com

'Tinorture' ng pulis, army (Kilos Pronto exclusive)

MATAPOS maipalabas at trabahuhin ng **Kilos Pronto team** ang umano'y panu-*norture* nila sa *10th grader student*, dinis-armahan na ang dalawang pulis-Kyusi habang ini-imbestigahan naman ang dalawang myembro ng AFP.

Sina PO1 Larry Castillo at PO1 Gilbert Gabinete ng QCPD Station 7 at PFC Zaldy Pimentel at PFC Jayson Caliboso.

Ekslusibong isinumbong ng biktima sa **Kilos Pronto** ang ginawang *water torture* at pambubugbog sa kaniya ng apat. Isinagawa sa loob ng banyo ng ES Transport bus terminal sa Cubao, QC kung saan siya dinampot, 10:30 ng umaga noong Oktubre 10.

Ayon sa pobreng anak ng *street sweeper*, pinahiga siya sa sahig ng banyo, tinabunan ng bimpo ang mukha at binuhusan ng isang balde ng tubig. Inipitan din daw ng mga bala ng baril ang kanyang mga darili saka piniga. Pilit daw siyang pinaaamin na kasamahan niya ang mga *snatcher* sa Cubao.

Nang hindi daw umamin ang nagmamakaawang 17-anyos dahil wala naman siyang aaminin, sinikmuraan ng isang sundalo ang balingkinitan niyang katawan.

Tumigil lang ang mga ito noong wala talaga silang napiga. Pero bago iti-nurn over sa QCPD Station 7 pinatos pa raw muna nila ang P150 na baon ng bata. Para mapagtakpan ang kanilang pagtu-*torture*, sinabi na lang nila sa istasyon ng pulis na nakuha nila sa bata ang isang beinte nuwebe na kutsilyo.

Pero sa halip na imbestigahan ang nangyari, ang hepe ng Women and Children's Protection Desk sa Presinto Syete na si P/Insp. Monalyn Siñel isa ring nasa talampakan ang kukute. Iti-nurn over sa barangay ang menor de edad dahil hindi daw 'yun police matters. Tsk...tsk!

Ipinalabas ang segment na ito noong Huwebes sa Kilos Pronto, bagong programa ng **Bitag Media Unlimited Incorporated.**

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

BAHALA SI BITAG... *Mula pahina 4*

Iniimbestigahan na ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng **KP team** at **BITAG team** ang isinumbong na torture incident ganundin ang mga pinangalanan nang abusadong alagad ng batas.

*Abangan ang **KILOS PRONTO** araw-araw sa UNTV Channel 37 tuwing 6:45 hanggang 7:45 ng gabi. Live streaming din ang KP sa KILOS PRONTO page kung saan uploaded ang daily episode sa loob ng 18 oras.*

ONLINE NEWS

17 OCTOBER 2016

5th ID units now on heightened alert for 'Karen'

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 16): **5th ID units now on heightened alert for 'Karen'**

The Isabela-based 5th Infantry Division has placed in units in Region 2 and the Cordillera Administrative Region on heightened alert as typhoon "Karen" continue to pummel the above-mentioned provinces.

With this, **5th Infantry Division commander Brig. Gen. Paul T. Atal also advised all units in Region 2 and the Cordillera Region, especially those covering low-lying areas, to be ready for possible deployment to evacuate and rescue residents affected by floods and other disasters that may be caused by the typhoon's onslaught.**

"Karen" made landfall in Baler, Aurora at 2:30 a.m. Sunday and is now crossing Luzon.
He added that the **5th Infantry Division Disaster Task Group is led by Major Jimson P. Talamayan** is now in full alert and ready for deployment anytime.

http://www.pna.gov.ph

MITIGATION EFFORTS | Military units alerted for impact of Typhoon Karen

Posted by **DWDD News Staff** on October 15, 2016 at 2:29 PM

MANILA, Oct. 15 — All units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have been put on alert as part of the mitigation efforts for Typhoon Karen.

This was disclosed by National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) executive director Ricardo Jalad in Saturday's update.

He added that all military units in regions that will be affected by 'Karen' have been ordered to pre-position equipment for disaster rescue and recovery operations.

Jalad said NDRRMC Operations Center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City has been placed on "blue alert" to constantly monitor the tropical storm's progress and impact.

According to the severe weather bulletin issued by PAGASA at 11 a.m. Saturday, 'Karen' has passed north of Catanduanes and is already moving towards the Aurora-Quezon area, with maximum sustained winds of up to 130 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 180 kph.

The state weather bureau forecast 'Karen' to move west-northwest at 17 kph. By Sunday morning, it is expected at the vicinity of Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija and by Monday morning, at 455 km. west-northwest of Iba, Zambales, outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility. (PNA)

TYPHOON KAREN | Storm leaves Aurora heavily damaged, without power; Dingalan isolated

By: **Cris Sansano and Jaime Sinapit, InterAksyon.com | Agence France-Presse**
October 16, 2016 3:14 PM

InterAksyon.com
The online news portal of TV5

BALER, Aurora, Philippines - (UPDATE, 4:45 P.M.) Strong winds brought by Typhoon Karen, which made landfall at this province in the wee hours Sunday morning, uprooted trees and peeled away tin roofs, as residents sought shelter in temporary evacuation centers.

More than one thousand families had to be preemptively evacuated in the town of Baler, where a big portion of the population live at coastal villages and flood-prone areas.

Washed-out road in the wake of Typhoon Karen in Aurora Province. (Photographed by Cris Sansano/InterAksyon.com)

Meanwhile, in Dingalan town, more than 6,000 families from 11 barangays were transferred to safety at various evacuation center around the town.

Town mayor Sherwin Taay disclosed that their relief supplies would last at most only two days, worrying that the road condition leading to Dingalan would remain not passable for days.

The only highway to Dingalan, particularly in Barangay Bagting and Kalabasa, also in the town of Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija has been flooded, and several sections have been washed out by rampaging flash floods, and strewn with debris, mud and boulders.

At least eight towns in the province have lost electricity, and communication remains difficult, at best.

Zero casualty so far – NDRRMC

Despite the considerable damage to Baler, no casualty has yet been reported even. Local disaster teams were verifying if three deaths reported in Catanduanes were related to "Karen," since they happened before the storm hit land.

"We've no complete datails yet but the situation is manageable. We're focusing on Baler where the typhoon made a landfall. The good thing is local officials there implemented preemptive evacuations. No casualty report so far from there," Executive Director Ricardo Jalad of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

(NDRRMC) said Sunday in a briefing at the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Camp Aquinaldo.

The mayor of Baler town in Aurora mentioned no casualty during his interview.

"But we are continuously monitoring. The mayor said the roofs of houses were ripped off and fallen trees. We don' t have a damage assessment yet but I think the extent is not that substantial," Jalad said.

He said some parts of Camarines Sur were affected by floods.

On the reported deaths in Catanduanes that are being verified, Jalad said, "These incidents reportedly happened two days before the arrival of Karen. We've to validate this through the Interior and Health departments who are in charge of validation."

According to Jalad, the NDRRMC and OCD are still lacking communication equipment for faster reporting and response to distressed areas.

"Our communication is mostly reliant on cellphones, although we've activated the rapid emergency telecom teams." Their presence, though, is now limited to the regional centers only. "We do not have the capability to dispatch many of these teams because we have limited communications capability," Jalad said.

The NDRRMC relies on the communication equipment of the military, he said.

Jalad said "Karen" has rendered at least five roads impassable due to fallen rocks and landlides.

"I'll be giving to you the affected roads when we get update reports from agencies," he said.

Meanwhile, the government is also preparing for the impact of storm "Haina."

11 boat passengers, 84 climbers rescued

The disaster agency said nearly 12,500 people had left their homes shortly before "Karen" struck, seeking refuge in government-run shelters and relatives' homes.

Eleven people were rescued after a boat capsized off the eastern island of Samar on Friday, while about 1,000 boats and 6,500 passengers were stranded in ports as the coast guard barred smaller vessels from putting to sea.

The disaster agency said 290 commercial flights, including 63 to international destinations, were cancelled.

Eighty-four climbers were rescued from three Philippine mountains in the typhoon's path, it added.

The Philippine islands are often the first major landmass to be hit by storms that generate over the Pacific Ocean. The Southeast Asian archipelago endures about 20 major storms each year, many of them deadly.

Haiyan, the strongest typhoon ever recorded to hit land, smashed into the central Philippines on November 8, 2013, leaving 7,350 people dead or missing.