

71 former rebels receive gov't aid

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Saturday awarded 71 former rebels (FRs) in Misamis Occidental with financial assistance of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) of the government during a ceremony in Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental.

During the awarding ceremony, Lorenzana personally handed over the checks worth P65, 000 to former rebels and P15,000 to Yunit Militia members as part of the reintegration and financial assistance of the program.

The event was attended by Governor Herminia Ramiro, Province of Misamis Occidental; Asec. Roosque Calacat, Assistant Secretary for Barangay Affairs and Partnership; Usec Reynaldo Mapagu, Task Force Balik Loob; Vice Governor Virginia Almonte; Major General Roseller Murillo, 1st Infantry Division

Commander; E-CLIP committees, Philippine National Police (PNP), LGUs and other stakeholders.

Col. Bagnus Gaerlan, 102nd Infantry Brigade Commander, said 69 out of 71 surrenderees were regular Communist NPA Terrorist members. The two others were Yunit Militia.

On the other hand, Ramiro said E-CLIP have changed the lives of FRs in Misamis Occidental.

"With this program, rebels in our province decreased," Ramiro said.

"To our FRs, there is no turning back, you are now our partners for peace and development in our province," she added.

Alias Man-Man, one of the FR, during his testimony mentioned his hardships and struggles while with the NPA armed group. He likewise thanked the president for

the reintegration program.

"The promise of our government is different compared to Communist NPA Terrorist. We fulfil our promise of a good governance, they (NPA) didn't," Lorenzana said.

"The E-CLIP thru the leadership of President Duterte is complete, where convergence of government units and agencies to serve our FRs is being implemented," he added.

Murillo thanked Ramiro and the stakeholders of the province for implementing the E-CLIP.



THE FIREFLY RIDES AGAIN - Thousands of cycling enthusiasts join the Firefly Brigade, a bicycle riding event designed to raise awareness on a safe and sustainable transportation system. The event was hosted by Fillinvest in Muntinlupa City in partnership with Manila Bulletin. (Manny Llanes)

De Lima slams hero's burial for Marcos

By HANNAH L. TORREGOZA

Opposition Senator Leila de Lima on Sunday reminisced the way the Duterte administration consented to the burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani with full military honors, to the utter disappointment of human rights victims during his 21-year rule that was marked with much atrocity.

De Lima, in recalling the second year anniversary of Marcos' burial, urged Filipino to never forget the "traitorous scheme" employed by the present regime and learn from the lesson of history.

"Dalawang taon na po ang nakaraan nang ginimbal tayo ng balitang inilibing na ang mga labi ng diktador na si Ferdinand Marcos sa Libingan ng mga Bayani. Ito nga po ay napakalaking insulto sa dangal at alaala ng mga tunay na mga bayaning nahihimlay sa sagradong lugar na iyon (It's been two years since we were shocked by the news that the remains of the former dictator Ferdinand Marcos was interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. This was a really great insult in the dignity and memory of the real heroes who lie in that sacred place)," De Lima said in her latest dispatch.

"Ito ay napakalaking insulto sa lahat ng mga biktima ng karahasan, pagpatay, torture at pang-aabuso sa ilalim ng Batas Militar ni Marcos. Ang patraydor na paglilibing na ito ay isa ring malinaw na pagtatangka na ibaon sa hukay ang tunay na kasaysayan - ang katiwalian at ang kawalang katarungang namayagpag sa diktadurya (This is a real big insult to all the victims of violence, killing, torture and abuse under the martial rule of Marcos. The traitorous way of burying him there is a clear attempt to bury and forget what really happened in the past - the corruption and injustices that prevailed during the dictatorship)," said the senator.

But while this was the case, De Lima said it cannot be denied that the truth will prevail, as this is what happened in the case of former first lady Imelda Marcos.

The Sandiganbayan's Fifth Division earlier ruled she is guilty of seven counts of graft involving \$200-million, the case stemming from her creation of seven private foundations in Switzerland into

which the funds were funneled.

Mrs. Marcos, however, was allowed to post a P150,000 bail by the court while appealing her prison sentence of 42 to 77 years.

"Pero pilit man nilang itago ang kanilang mga kabuktutan, sa huli, lababas at lababas ang katotohanan (Even though they try hard to hide this travesty, in the end, the truth will come out and prevail)," said de Lima, who is currently detained at the Philippine National Police (PNP) Custodial Center over drug charges.

"Mabagal man ang naging pag-usad ng katarungan, hindi pa rin naging huli ang lahat. Dahil malinaw na pahayag ito sa buong mundo: Hindi bayani si Marcos. Nagnakaw ang mga Marcos (Even if the pace of justice was slow, it wasn't too late. Because it was clear to the whole world: Marcos was no hero. The Marcoses stole public funds)," she said.

"Napakalaki ng pagkakaiba ng mga bayaning nag-alay ng buhay at nagmalasakit sa bayan, sa diktador na nag-udyok ng mga pagpatay, at nagdulot ng pasakit at kalunos-lunos na pagdurusa sa napakaraming Pilipino (There is a huge difference between heroes who laid their life for the nation, to a dictator who encouraged killings and unleashed the sufferings of many Filipinos)," added the senator.

The strongman died in 1989 while in exile, but his heirs later returned to Manila and have since returned in the political arena.

Fake soldiers nabbed in Iligan

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The two persons that were apprehended by joint Armed Forces of the Philippines/Philippine National Police (AFP/PNP) elements during checkpoint operations at Bagong Tubod, Iligan City last week turned out to be fake soldiers.

Based on a report, the composite elements of AFP/PNP were conducting checkpoint when a certain Gilbert Pascolan and Andy Pastoral who presented themselves as soldiers and members of 304th Battalion, Philippine Army were flagged down.

Also found in their possession were firearms and grenades with no appropriate or legal documents.

The Philippine Army said the name of the

two personalities does not exist in its roster. Moreover, there was no 304th Battalion in its current organizational structure or any of its deployed ground forces.

In a statement, the Army said it cannot be denied that in many occasions, various criminal groups and terrorists disguises or play themselves as military to pursue their evil work. Lawless elements even wear military uniforms to carry out atrocious activities or impersonating as soldiers for criminal purposes.

H. No. 4136

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Seventeenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand eighteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11109]

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7816, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Nature and Scope of Franchise.* - Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, the franchise granted to the Manila Broadcasting Company under Republic Act No. 7816, entitled "An Act Granting the Manila Broadcasting Company a Franchise to Construct, Install, Operate and Maintain Radio and Television Broadcasting

Stations Within the Philippines, and for Other Purposes", hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assignees to construct, install, operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest radio and television broadcasting stations in the Philippines with the corresponding technological auxiliaries or facilities, special broadcast and other broadcast distribution services and relay stations, and to construct, install, operate and maintain communication facilities for the grantee's private use in its broadcast services and relay stations in the Philippines, is hereby renewed for another twenty-five (25) years from the approval of this Act.

SECTION 2. *Manner of Operation of Stations or Facilities.* - The stations or facilities of the grantee shall be constructed and operated in a manner as will, at most, result only in the minimum interference on the wavelengths or frequencies of existing stations or other stations which may be established by law, without in any way diminishing its own privilege to use its assigned wavelengths or frequencies and the quality of transmission or reception thereon as should maximize rendition of the grantee's services and/or the availability thereof.

SECTION 3. *Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission.* - The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) the appropriate permits and licenses for the construction and operation of its stations or facilities and shall not use any frequency in the radio/television spectrum without authorization from the NTC. The NTC, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the grant of any such authority.

SECTION 4. *Responsibility to the Public.* - The grantee shall provide, free of charge, adequate public service time which is reasonable and sufficient to enable the government, through the broadcasting stations or facilities of the grantee, to reach the pertinent populations or portions thereof on important public issues and relay important public announcements and warnings concerning public emergencies and calamities, as necessity, urgency or law may require; provide at all times sound and balanced programming; promote public participation; assist in the functions of public information and education; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise; promote audience sensibility and empowerment including closed captioning and not use its stations

or facilities for the broadcasting of obscene or indecent language, speech, act or scene; or for the dissemination of deliberately false information and willful misrepresentation, to the detriment of the public interest; or to incite, encourage, or assist in subversive or treasonable acts.

Public service time referred herein shall be equivalent to a maximum aggregate of ten percent (10%) of the paid commercials or advertisements which shall be allocated based on need to the executive, legislative, judiciary, constitutional commissions and international humanitarian organizations duly recognized by statutes: *Provided*, That the NTC shall increase the public service time in case of extreme emergency or calamity. The NTC shall issue rules and regulations for this purpose, the effectivity of which shall commence upon applicability with other similarly situated broadcast network franchise holders.

SECTION 5. *Right of the Government.* - A special right is hereby reserved to the President of the Philippines in times of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster or disturbance of peace and order: to temporarily take over and operate the stations or facilities of the grantee, to temporarily suspend the operation of any station or facility in the interest of public safety, security and public welfare, or to authorize the temporary use and operation thereof by any agency of the government, upon due compensation to the grantee, for the use of said stations or facilities during the period when these shall be so operated.

SECTION 6. *Term of Franchise.* - This franchise shall be in effect for a period of twenty-five (25) years from the approval of this Act, unless sooner revoked or cancelled. This franchise shall be deemed *ipso facto* revoked in the event the grantee fails to operate continuously for two (2) years.

SECTION 7. *Public Ownership.* - In compliance with the constitutional mandate to democratize ownership of public utilities, the herein grantee, its successors or assignees, shall continue to maintain its status as a publicly-held corporation.

SECTION 8. *Self-regulation by and Undertaking of the Grantee.* - The grantee shall not require any previous censorship of any speech, play, act or scene, or other matter to be broadcast from

its stations: *Provided*, That the grantee, during any broadcast, shall cut off from the air the speech, play, act or scene, or other matter being broadcast if the tendency thereof is to propose and/or incite treason, rebellion or sedition; or the language used therein or the theme thereof is indecent or immoral: *Provided, further*, That willful failure to do so shall constitute a valid cause for the cancellation of this franchise.

SECTION 9. *Warranty in Favor of the National and Local Governments.* - The grantee shall hold the national, provincial, city, and municipal governments of the Philippines free from all claims, liabilities, demands, or actions arising out of accidents causing injuries to persons or damage to properties during the construction or operation of the stations of the grantee.

SECTION 10. *Commitment to Provide and Promote the Creation of Employment Opportunities.* - The grantee shall create employment opportunities and shall allow on-the-job trainings in their franchise operation: *Provided*, That priority shall be accorded to the residents in areas where any of its offices is located: *Provided, further*, That the grantee shall follow the applicable labor standards and allowance entitlement under existing labor laws, rules and regulations and similar issuances: *Provided, finally*, That the employment opportunities or jobs created shall be reflected in the General Information Sheet (GIS) to be submitted to Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

SECTION 11. *Tax Provisions.* - The grantee, its successors or assignees shall continue to be subject to all applicable taxes, duties, fees or charges and other impositions under Republic Act No. 8424, otherwise known as "The National Internal Revenue Code of 1997", as amended, and other applicable laws.

SECTION 12. *Sale, Lease, Transfer, Grant of Usufruct, or Assignment of Franchise.* - The grantee shall not sell, lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, nor assign this franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder to any person, firm, company, corporation or other commercial or legal entity, nor merge with any other corporation or entity, nor shall transfer the controlling interest of the grantee, whether as a whole or in part, and whether simultaneously or contemporaneously, to any

person, firm, company, corporation, or entity without the prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines and compliance with legal requirements stipulated in other statutes: *Provided*, That any person or entity to which this franchise is sold, transferred, or assigned shall be subject to the same conditions, terms, restrictions, and limitations of this Act.

SECTION 13. *Reportorial Requirement.* - The grantee shall submit an annual report to the Congress of the Philippines, through the Committee on Legislative Franchises of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Public Services of the Philippine Senate, on its compliance with the terms and conditions of the franchise and on its operations on or before April 30 of every year during the term of its franchise. The reportorial compliance certificate issued by Congress shall be required before any application for permit or certificate is accepted by the NTC.

SECTION 14. *Fine.* - Failure of the grantee to submit the requisite annual report to Congress shall be penalized by a fine of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) per working day of noncompliance. The fine shall be collected by the NTC from the delinquent franchise grantee separate from the reportorial penalties imposed by the NTC and the same shall be remitted to the National Treasury.

SECTION 15. *Equality Clause.* - Any advantage, favor, privilege, exemption, or immunity granted under existing franchises, or which may hereafter be granted for radio and/or television broadcasting, upon prior review and approval of Congress, shall become part of this franchise and shall be accorded immediately and unconditionally to the herein grantee: *Provided*, That the foregoing shall neither apply to nor affect provisions of broadcasting franchises concerning territorial coverage, the term, or the type of service authorized by the franchise.

SECTION 16. *Separability Clause.* - If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SECTION 17. *Repealability and Nonexclusivity Clause.* - This franchise shall be subject to amendment, alteration, or repeal by the Congress of the Philippines when the public interest so requires and shall not be interpreted as an exclusive grant of the privileges herein provided for.

SECTION 18. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 19. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
VICENTE C. SOTTO III President of the Senate
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on August 29, 2018 and August 15, 2018, respectively.

MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA Secretary of the Senate
DANTE ROBERTO P. MALING Acting Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved: OCT 30 2018
RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE President of the Philippines

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