SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

Healthy Buhay at Hanapbuhay!
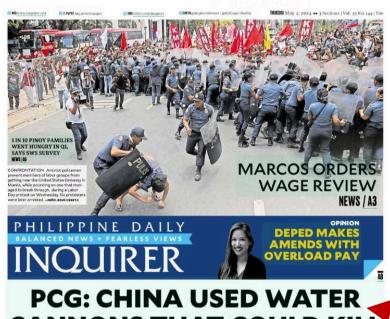
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SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES
LEGES SERVATÆ PAX FIAT
OFFICIAL SEAL

1 IN 10 PINOY FAMILIES WENT HUNGRY IN Q1, SAYS SWS SURVEY
NEWS/A6

MARCOS ORDERS WAGE REVIEW
NEWS / A3

CONFRONTATION Antiriot policemen prevent members of labor groups from getting near the United States Embassy in Manila, while pouncing on one that managed to break through, during a Labor Day protest on Wednesday. Six protesters were later arrested. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

OPINION
DEPED MAKES AMENDS WITH OVERLOAD PAY

PCG: CHINA USED WATER CANNONS THAT COULD KILL

By Nestor Corrales
@NCorralesINQ

China Coast Guard (CCG) ships for the first time fired potentially deadly high-pressure water cannons on two government vessels which were sailing to Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal) to deliver aid to Filipino fishermen this week, a Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) official said on Wednesday.

The "jet stream pressure" used in the water cannon attacks was so strong that it broke a steel railing and deformed the frame of a canopy on the PCG's BRP Bagacay, said Commodore Jay Tarriela, the PCG spokesperson for the West Philippine Sea.

It also damaged the heating and ventilation and the air conditioning, electrical, navigation and radio systems of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic

Resources (BFAR) vessel BRP Bankaw, he said.

None of the Filipino vessels' crew and the Filipino and foreign journalists traveling with them were wounded in the attacks on Tuesday.

According to SeaLight of Stanford University's Gordian Knot Center for National Security Innovation, a 220-pound per square inch (PSI) blast from a shipborne water cannon could easily knock down ship personnel and "send them crashing into steel bulkheads or overboard into the sea."

"Well, if we are going to look at how it bent the railing of the Philippine Coast Guard vessels because of the water cannon, obviously that would be very fatal," Tarriela said at a press briefing in Manila.

A GMA News reporter on the Bagacay said that the CCG water cannon blast was "so strong, you could really feel the shaking of the pilot house" where he and others took shelter.

"This is the first time that the coast guard vessel has been subject to a direct water cannon with that kind of pressure that even resulted in structural damage," Tarriela said.

"It just goes to show that Goliath is becoming more Goli-

ath. They don't hesitate to use brute force to violate international law," he added.

Tarriela said it was "still not an armed attack" as only water cannons were used by the Chinese.

"The only difference is perhaps they are increasing the PSI, the pressure of the water, but as far as the Coast Guard is concerned, this is still not an armed attack," he added.

WORLD / B3
MAJOR SHIFT: US SET TO RECLASSIFY CANNABIS AS LOW-RISK DRUG

OPINION / A8
EDITORIAL: DOCTORS TURNED MERCENARIES

BUSINESS / B1
MAHARLIKA KEEN ON FUNDING BCDA PROJECTS

DISTRIBUTION LISTS FORGED
Ex-QC councilor gets 32 years for 'ghost' handouts

By Kathleen de Villa
@kdevillaINQ

A former Quezon City councilor was sentenced to up to 32 years in prison for projects that, on paper, supposedly provided free raincoats, tents, sports equipment and other items for his constituents 16 years ago.

In a decision promulgated on Tuesday, the Sixth Division of the Sandiganbayan found Dante De Guzman guilty of violating the antigraft law on four counts.

Aside from serving a prison term of 24 to

NEWS
Columbarium built for drug war victims

Urns containing the ashes of 11 victims of the Duterte administration's brutal war on drugs have been...

REGIONS
Top Bohol tourism sites up for rehab

TAGBILARAN CITY—Two major tourism sites in Bohol will undergo rehabilitation to preserve their nat...

WORLD
Pro-Palestine rally leads to arrests

NEW YORK—Dozens of helmeted police flooded Columbia University's campus in the heart of New York City on Tuesday to evict a building occupied by pro-Palestinian student protesters and detain demonstrators. Police climbed into Hamilton Hall via a second-floor window they reached from a laddered truck, before leading handcuffed students out of the building into police vans. —STORY BY AFP

NEWS
Being HIV-positive not basis for firing

The Supreme Court's Third Division has ruled that a Filipino worker in Saudi Arabia who was fired in 2017 over a positive human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) test was entitled to backpay and damages. It said a person's HIV status was not enough basis for termination under Philippine law, adding that for a foreign law to apply, it must be stipulated in the contract and should not be contrary to Philippine laws. —STORY BY JANE BAUTISTA

PCG: CHINA USED WATER CANNONS THAT COULD KILL

24 APR -2 P4:24

SENATE

P.S. R. No. 982

RECEIVED BY: _____

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CLAIM OF A "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" INVOLVING THE ADMINISTRATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THAT EFFECTIVELY RESTRICTED THE FORTIFICATION OF THE BRP SIERRA MADRE IN AYUNGIN (SECOND THOMAS) SHOAL

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2024, former Palace spokesperson Harry Roque bared that former Pres Rodrigo Duterte accepted a "gentleman's agreement" that would limit the resupply mission to the BRP Sierra Madre, grounded at Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal, to only food and water;

WHEREAS, by virtue of the said agreement, the Philippines effectively agreed to desist from bringing in construction materials to fortify the rusting and dilapidated Sierra Madre;

WHEREAS, without repairs to the BRP Sierra Madre, a World War II era warship, the vessel would soon collapse and, in the words of former Justice Antonio Carpio, "end our presence in Ayungin Shoal;"

WHEREAS, the National Security Council (NSC) itself, through its Assistant Director General Jonathan Malaya said that it was not aware of such an agreement and encouraged Atty. Roque to explain the circumstances of the deal and how it was brokered, considering its implications to national security;

WHEREAS, the NSC also stated that an agreement, if existing, "infringes and violates our sovereignty as a nation;"

WHEREAS, the "gentleman's agreement" would explain the relentless harassment [and ca]nnons of our resupply missions by Chinese forces;

WHEREAS, if confirmed to be true, this "gentleman's agreement" would be tantamount to a surrender of the Philippines's sovereignty and, in the words of former Philippine Navy flag officer-in-command Eduardo Santos, the Navy Chief who in 1999 ordered that the BRP Sierra Madre be run aground to serve a naval outpost in the Shoal, "an act of treason;"

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the claim of a "gentleman's agreement" involving the administration of former President Rodrigo Duterte and the Chinese government that effectively restricted the fortification of the BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal.

Adopted,

RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator

SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES

LEGES SERVATÆ PAX FIAT

OFFICIAL SEAL