

*Army vision: By 2001, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



**TEAM ARMY**

**Serving the people. Securing the land.**

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**01 December 2016**

**Thursday**

*Army Core Purpose: Serving the people, Securing the land.*

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# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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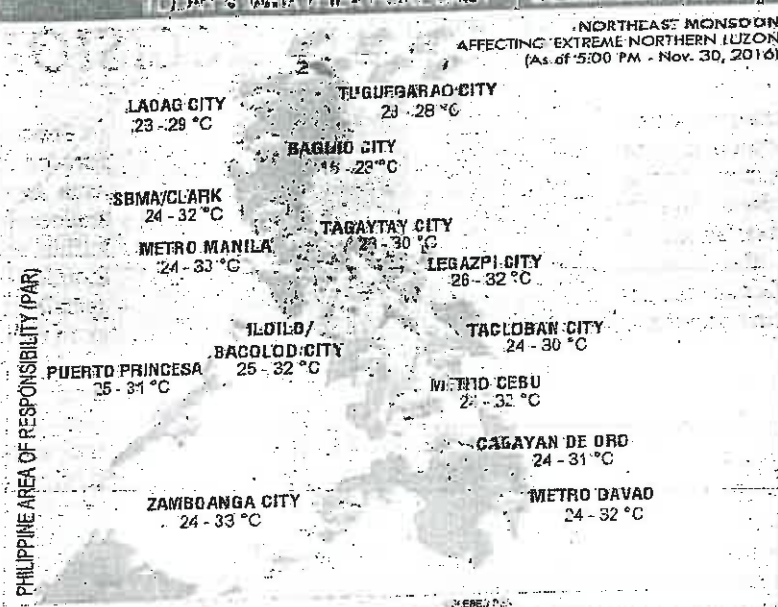
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BALANCED NEWS • PLEASANT VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST**

**NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON (As of 5:00 PM - Nov. 30, 2016)**



**PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)**

**SUNRISE** 6:05 AM

**SUNSET** 5:25 PM

**MOONRISE** 7:15 AM

**MOONSET** 6:57 PM

**NEW MOON** NOV. 21 8:18 PM

**FIRST QUARTER** DEC. 7 5:03 PM

**LOW TIDE** 6:20 AM

**HIGH TIDE** 10:45 PM

**MANILA SOUTH HARBOR**

-0.10 Meter

1.02 Meter


Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

Fair, cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy, sleet with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

METRO MANILA		TAGAYTAY		TACLOBAN	
24 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	23 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 29 °C
TUGUEGARAO		LEGAZPI		CAGAYAN DE ORO	
23 - 30 °C	23 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 30 °C	23 - 31 °C	24 - 33 °C
LAOAG		PUERTO PRINCESA		METRO DAVAO	
23 - 29 °C	24 - 33 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO		ILOILO/ BACOLOD		ZAMBOANGA	
14 - 23 °C	16 - 23 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
SBMA/ CLARK		METRO CEBU			
24 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C		

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# No martial law, say Speaker, DND chief

By JESS DIAZ

President Duterte is not planning to declare martial law despite proclaiming a state of lawlessness in the country and talking about suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said yesterday.

"It will not happen. I know him, he will not do it," Alvarez assured the public.

He was responding to fears expressed by opposition congressmen that the administration is apparently creating a scenario of violence and lawlessness that could lead to the proclamation of martial law.

Former president Fidel Ramos, whom Duterte calls his "critic and supporter," has said he does not believe Duterte would impose martial rule.

Ramos said the people rejected martial law in 1986 when they drove away the Marcoses from Malacañang.

However, opposition congressmen said while the people forced the Marcoses from power, Duterte elevated the late dictator to the status of

hero when he allowed his burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

For Rep. Gary Alejano of party-list group Magdalo, the President's decision to have Marcos buried at the cemetery for heroes was intended to gauge public reaction to "stronger authoritarian measures."

"If the people accepted the Libingan burial, then they might accept martial law," Alejano said.

Rep. Tom Villarin of Akbayan said Duterte's proclamation of a state of lawlessness and his talk of suspending the writ of habeas corpus and possibly imposing martial law are manifestations of the President's "increasing Marcosian

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## No martial

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tendencies."

"We should be vigilant against these before it is too late," he said.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said suspension of the writ of habeas corpus means authorities can arrest and detain indefinitely anyone without a warrant.

The next step after the writ's suspension is martial law, he said.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald

dela Rosa has said the writ's suspension would make the job of the police in running after drug suspects easier.

On the other hand, critics said suspending the writ in connection with the anti-drug campaign is not necessary since most suspects are killed for allegedly resisting arrest and firing at policemen.

Party-list group Akbay-an urged Duterte "to stop abetting the sanitation of the Marcos history by glorifying

and honoring a murderous despot."

"Duterte can never simply reduce the Marcos burial to a question of legality - even as laws exist, such as the Marcos human rights victims' compensation law recognizing that Marcos is anything but a hero. "But this act of patronage for a family that contributed to the President's campaign kitty is only the latest in a growing list of actuations that point to a worrying and very costly tendency for an authoritarian bent," the group said.

The group vowed to fight the President's alleged authoritarian tendencies.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana assured the public that the current security situation does not yet warrant the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

Lorenzana gave the assurance amid speculations that the supposed rebellion in Lanao and the recovery of an improvised explosive device (IED) near the US embassy in Manila could be part of the administration's laying the groundwork for declaring

martial law.

"The President said something to that effect last week, but what I am seeing here in our efforts against the Maute group is just a normal military operation," Lorenzana said.

He said the discovery of an IED near the US embassy is not enough ground to justify the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

Should Malacañang ask for his opinion on the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, Lorenzana said he would advise the President not to do it

because everything is under control.

Lagman earlier said the fighting in Lanao and the recovery of an IED near the US embassy could be a smoke-screen for the government to justify the suspension of the writ.

Experts questioned the recovery of an IED near the US embassy, saying although the bomb was rigged, the phone attached to it as a triggering device cannot receive a call as the areas surrounding the embassy are jammed.

- With Jaime Laude

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## Duterte to Maute Group

# Stop attacks or face war

By GENALYN D. KABILING  
and FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

**P**resident Duterte yesterday warned the Maute terrorist group to stop its attacks or face a full-blown war from government forces.

"Dito sa Maute (In the case of Maute), I said I don't want to wage a war against Filipinos but I told them that they have to stop. Sana huwag na lang tayo umabot ng giyera (I hope it won't escalate into war) so I'm doing everything to prevent a war," the President said in a chance media interview in Lanao del Sur.

"Hindi ko naman sila tina-

►6

## Stop attacks or...

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takot. Sabi ko lang ayaw ko, ayaw kong makipag-giyera (I'm not threatening them. I'm only emphasizing that I don't want to engage in war) but do not force my hand into it," the commander-in-chief added.

The government's action plan against the Islamic State-linked group was discussed by the President with top military officials during a closed-door meeting at the 103rd Brigade Tactical Command post in Butig, Lanao del Sur. The President visited the province to check military operations against the Maute Group, which took over the town's old municipal hall Thursday last week.

### 61 Maute men slain

As a result of the government offensive, at least 61 Maute Group members have already been killed while 12 others were wounded. From the government side, at least 35 soldiers have been wounded.

For now, the President said military operations against the Maute Group will be sustained.

"They (the military) have to go on with the operations. What is there to stop? Wala naman nagpapakita ng (No one is showing) sincerity diyan (there) so the fight goes on," he said.

Duterte pushed through with the visit despite the attack on his advance party last Tuesday in Marawi City, wounding seven of his security aides and four soldiers.

The President was accompanied by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, and Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año.

They were met by AFP Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo dela Cruz; Maj. Gen. Gerry Barrientos Jr., commander of the 1st Infantry Division; and Col.

Rosseler Murillo, commander of the 103rd Infantry Brigade.

#### **Medals for wounded soldiers**

In Lanao del Sur, President Duterte also visited troops stationed at Lumbayanague.

From there, the President went straight to Cagayan de Oro City and pinned the Wounded Personnel Medals on the 11 victims of the Marawai City ambush.

Army Captain Joe Patrick Martinez, spokesman of the 4th Infantry Division, said President Duterte pinned the medals on Captain Reynaldo Zamora Jr., Staff Sergeant Renie Damaso, Sgt. Eric Ubalde, Corporal Joselito Gallentes, Private First Class Fernando Corpuz, all confined at the Polymedic Hospital; as well as S/Sgt. Eufrociho Payumo Jr., Sgt. Jesus Garcia, Cpl. Vincent Paniza, Cpl. Rodel Jenova, Cpl. Edward de Leon, and Pfc. James Gonzales, who are confined at the Camp Evangelista Station Hospital.

#### **Old municipal hall retaken**

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces of

the Philippines (AFP) said that it has already taken back the old municipal hall in Butig town from the Maute Group.

Marine Col. Edgard A. Arevalo, chief of the AFP Public Affairs Office, said soldiers were able to take back the old municipal hall from the bandits at about 9:20 a.m. yesterday.

An elated AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya said: "It was not without the cost of life and limb of the lawless terrorist Maute Group, and the sweat and blood of our soldiers. But it has to be so to ensure that our people will live peacefully knowing that their soldiers are there to protect them."

"In order to fully defeat the enemies of the state, however, we need the support and cooperation of our people. We exhort them to be vigilant and resist the influence of terrorists and lawless groups," he added.

Army Major Felimon Tan, the spokesman of the AFP's Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), said

that based on reports they have been receiving on field units on the ground, troops have already captured 85 to 90 percent of the Poblacion in Butig.

#### **Clearing operations**

Arevalo said that based on information from Col. Roselief Murillo, the commander of the 103rd Brigade which is leading the operation against the Maute Group, fighting has already stopped, with soldiers now conducting clearing operations and bandits withdrawing from the area.

"Fighting has already stopped according to Col. Murillo but there are still unexploded ordnance in the area such as IEDs (improvised explosive device)," Arevalo said.

"Let's just say that our task to recover or retake the municipality is 80 percent complete because we haven't fully cleared the area, there are still unexploded ordnance that we need to clear before we can say our mission is 100 percent complete," Arevalo said. (With a report from Camcer Ordonez Imam)



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# 3 Abus killed in Sulu clash with Scout Rangers

By NONGYE LACSON

**P**ATIKUL, Sulu — Three members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) were killed, while several others were wounded in a 25-minute encounter with soldiers of the 11th Scout Ranger Company at Capual Island in the town of Omar in this province.

Col. Jesus Manangquil, the newly installed commander of Joint Task Force Sulu, said the soldiers encountered about 30 ASG about 3:45 p.m. Monday and engaged them in a firefight for about 25 minutes that resulted in the death of the three ASG members, and

wounding of countless others.

According to Manangquil, the soldiers, as well as local residents, saw the bandit group carrying away the dead bodies of two more comrades. Government troops did not incur any casualty.

The soldiers also recovered three pump boats (two Junkung type double engine and one single engine wooden boat) one Garand rifle, ammunitions, a solar panel and motor vehicle battery, Improvised Explosive Device components.

The three pump boats were turned over to the Naval Task Group Sulu for proper disposition.

"The successful military operation

was a result of the cooperation of the people of Sulu in our campaign against the ASG and their evil deeds," Manangquil said.

"Our soldiers are motivated by a strong public and stakeholders' support and are determined to finish off the ASG and to recover all the hostages at the hands of the ASG," he added.

Manangquil vowed that they "will not stop until the scourge of the ASG will be finally put to a complete stop."

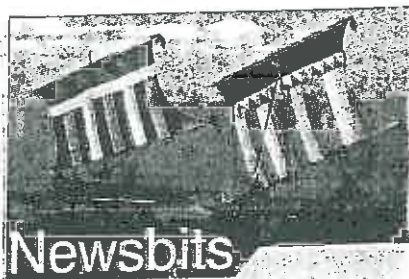
"We will prevail as we have a re-invigorated cooperation of the people of Sulu who are suffering due to the existence of these barbaric bandits," Manangquil underscored.

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MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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### • Gang leader slain

ZAMBOANGA CITY - An alleged leader of a notorious criminal group operating in Zamboanga peninsula was killed Saturday in a shootout with soldiers in the coastal village of East Mipulao, Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur. Col. Nixon M. Fortes, the 102nd Brigade Commander stationed in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, the suspect as Whoran Ambol, alias commander Bungi. The Ambol group has been tagged as one of the notorious lawless groups operating in Zamboanga peninsula. According to Fortes, Commander Bungi was killed in a shootout with soldiers of the 59th Infantry Battalion under 102nd Infantry (IGSOON) Brigade. The group of Bungi was reportedly spotted by soldiers while it was resting in a well-camouflaged mangrove area of the village of East Mipulao. (Nongy E. Lacson)

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### 2 NPAs yield

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - Two former members of New People's Army (NPA) received a total of P186,000 in financial support from the government's Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP). First Lieutenant Janelle A. Diaz, Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer of the 58th Infantry Battalion (58th IB) yesterday said. Aside from the money given in exchange for the firearms they surrendered, the former NPAs, who were not named for security reasons, also received immediate cash assistance of P15,000 each, the 58th CMO officer said. The financial support to the two former rebels were given by Col. Eric C. Vinoya, commanding officer of the 403rd Infantry Brigade; Lt. Col. Francis P. Carandang, commander of the 58th IB and some local officials (Mike U. Crismundo).

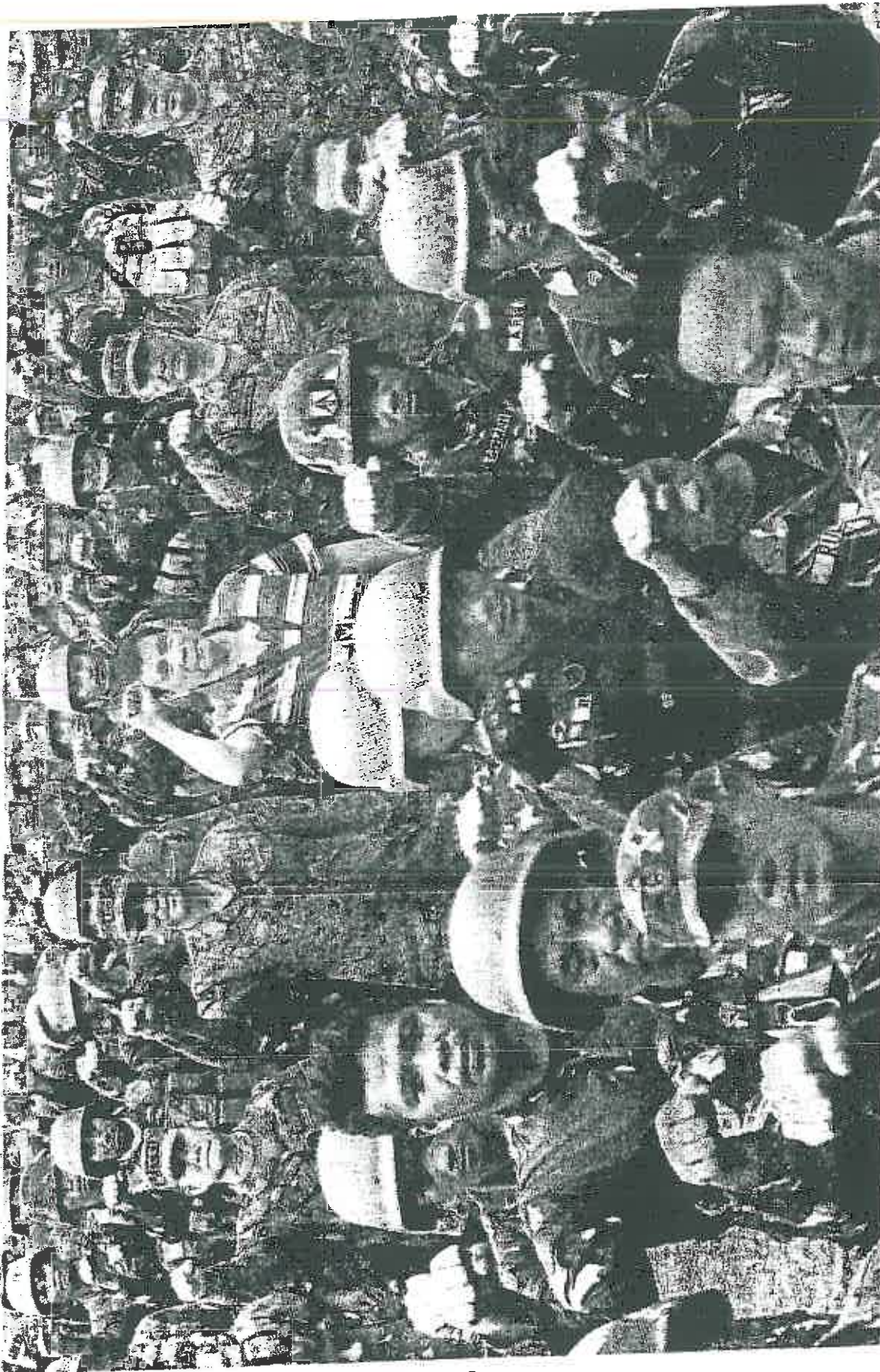
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# The Manila Times

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**ONE WITH THE TROOPS** President Rodrigo Duterte raises his clenched fist along with members of the Philippine Army's 103rd Brigade in Lumbayanague, Lanao del Sur on Wednesday. Duterte pushed through with the visit despite the blast that injured seven presidential guards and two others on Tuesday.

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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
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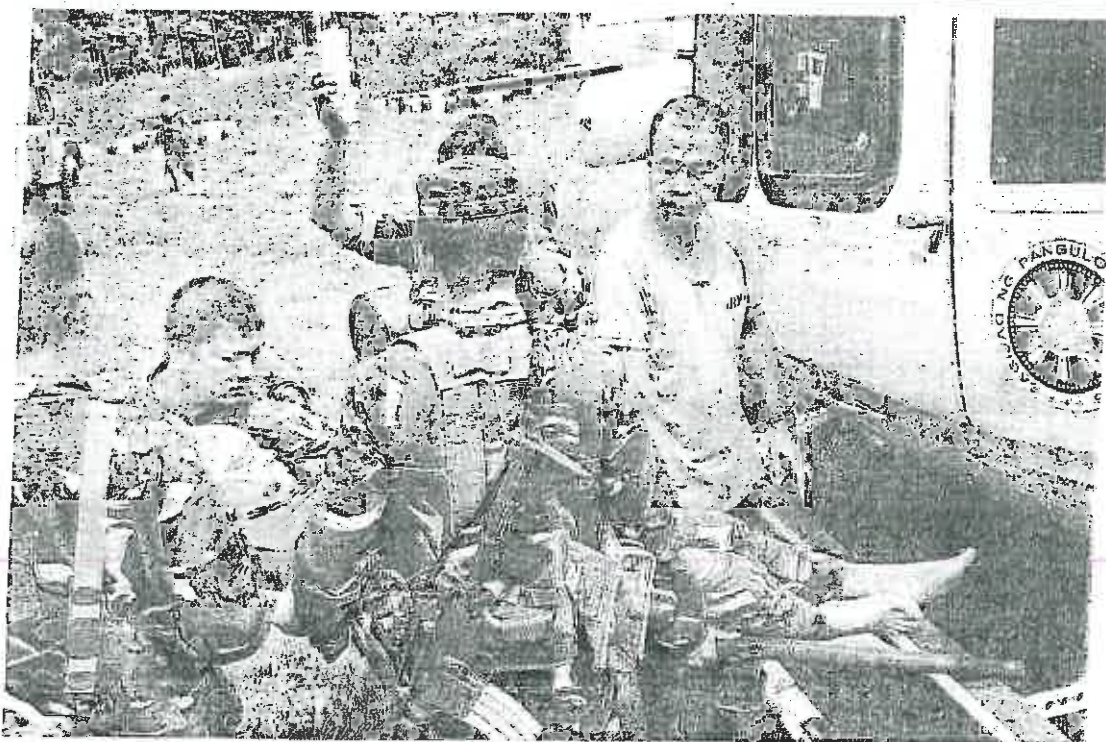
**CAMP VIP - President Duterte is surrounded by soldiers from the Army's 103rd Brigade during his visit Wednesday to their camp in Lumbayanague town, Lanao del Sur. While in the province, the President warned the Maute terror group to stop its attacks or face a full-blown war. Toto Lozano/Malacanang photo**

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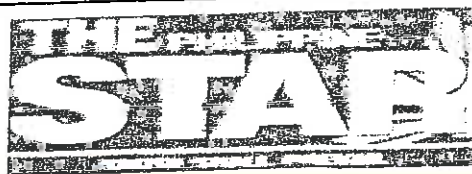
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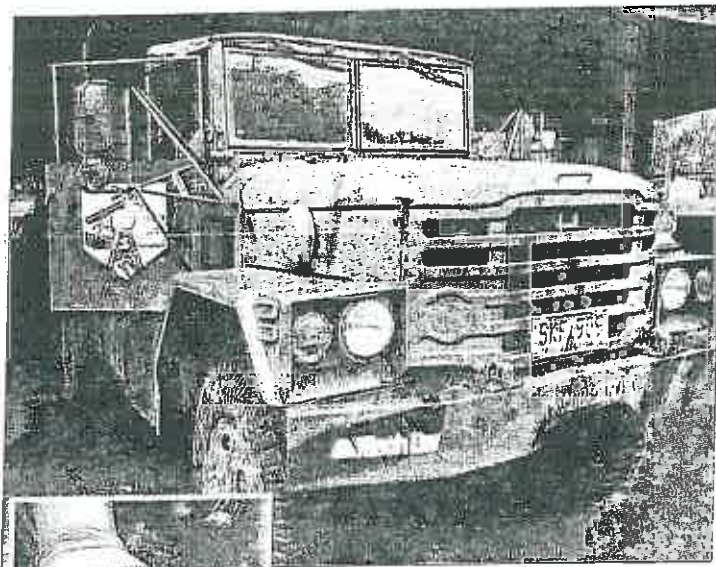
A member of the Presidential Security Group wounded in an explosion in Marawi City on Wednesday is evacuated to the headquarters of the 103rd Brigade in Lumbayabao, Lanao del Sur.



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Photos posted on Facebook by netizen Drieza Abanto Lininding show a military truck that he claimed was the one hit by a roadside blast in Marawi City on Tuesday, which left seven members of the Presidential Security Group wounded. Inset shows a piece of shrapnel reportedly recovered from the blast site.

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Officers want longer tenure for AFP chief

BY VICTOR REYES

A GROUP of junior officers wants President Duterte to do away with the "revolving door" policy in the designation of the AFP chief.

The officers said the successor of AFP chief Gen. Ricardo Visaya should have at least three remaining years in service so that he would have time to pursue long-term programs and reforms in the 125,000-strong military force.

"Change has come and since change has indeed come, now is the right time the way the President chooses the chief of staff. No more revolving door policy," the group said in a manifesto, referring to Duterte's battle cry.

Visaya had only five months in the service left when he was appointed by Duterte as AFP chief on July 1. Visaya, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983, is due to reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 on December 8 but will relinquish his post a day earlier.

Malacañang has not announced who Duterte's second AFP chief will be.

Rumored to be among the top contenders are three-star generals -- Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año, Eastern Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, and AFP vice chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda. All three

See OFFICERS > Page B6

### OFFICERS

are retiring late next year.

Año and Miranda belong to PMA Class 83 and Guerrero, Class 84.

Two-star generals are also among

rumored contenders. They would be under Class 85 and up.

The officers said an AFP chief will need at least three years in the office so he can pursue long-term goals. He said AFP chiefs serving for several months aspire only for

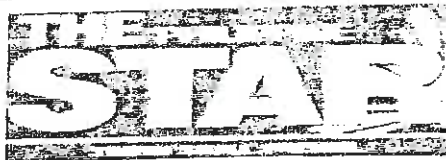
short-term programs.

They said there is need to have an AFP chief who will serve for a few years because of the peace process, referring to the ongoing peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front.

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## Junior AFP officers want end to 'revolving door'

By JAIME LAUDE

A group of junior and middle-grade military officers yesterday appealed to President Duterte to do away with the revolving door policy in selecting the next chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The group called on the President to designate a senior military officer with a three-year term left in the service

to succeed outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Ricardo Visaya to ensure continuity of plans and programs being implemented in the military.

Visaya is retiring next week and who the next AFP chief will be has yet to be announced by Malacañang.

"Change has come and since change has indeed come,

now is the right time to update the way the President chooses the chief of staff. No more revolving door policy. No more mistah-mistah accommodation," the group stated in a manifesto.

The group pointed out the position of the AFP chief is critical, especially if an administration is truly sincere about

reforms - not just reform in the AFP, but also reform of the whole country.

In truth, they stressed, the government needs the AFP as it serves as the backbone in implementing overall change around the country.

"If the AFP gives way, so does the democracy we enjoy today," the group said.

They cited several reasons it would be to the best interest of the country and people for the President to replace Visaya with an officer who still has three years left in the service.

They said that for several years now, senior officers occupied the AFP position only for months, giving them not enough time to map out long range plans and military strat-

egies or to complete those that have been laid on the table for implementation.

During the term of former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the revolving door policy was highlighted with the designation of 12 generals as AFP chiefs starting from the late Angelo Reyes in holdover capacity down to now retired Nestor Ochoa as acting chief.

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**Standard**

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# DND: All-out war vs Maute

## *Defense chief prods Duterte to 'finish' them*

By John Paolo Bencito

**D**EFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Wednesday urged President Rodrigo Duterte to wage an all-out offensive against the terrorist Maute group, after the Chief Executive hinted that he was open to talking peace with them.

"I will push for sustained and all-out operations against the Maute. They have been committing crimes with impunity," Lorenzana told Manila Standard. "We need to finish them."

Lorenzana warned that the Maute group's connection to the Islamic State was an imminent threat to the already fragile security situation in the country.

He said if the international coalition made headway in its military offensive in Iraq, the Islamic State could transfer to the Philippines.

Various militant groups in Mindanao, including the Maute group and the Abu Sayyaf, were reportedly courting the jihadist group for recognition as a 'wilayat' (province) in Southeast Asia. *Next page*

## DND...

From A1

Lorenzana said that their recent acts suggests that they have already established connections with the global terrorist organization, contrary to their earlier position last August that they weren't much of a threat.

"They've always said they support IS, and they fly their flag. With those indications, you can come to the conclusion that maybe that connection is already there," Lorenzana said in Filipino.

On Wednesday, Duterte warned the Maute group, saying that they should not force him to declare war against them.

"Do not force me because I might be provoked to do something drastic," Duterte said in his speech before troops at the Tactical Command Post in Lumbayanague, Lanao del Sur, some five kilometers away from the war zone in Butig town.

"When the time comes that it's going to be a war against terrorism and drugs, I will tell you now that I can be harsh... as harsh I can ever be," he added.

In an interview with reporters at Camp Evangelista Station Hospital in Cagayan de Oro City, Duterte said the Maute group should stop waging war on the government.

"For the Maute, I said I do not want to declare war against Filipinos, but I told them that they have to stop. I hope we will not reach that point that we have to go to war. So I am doing everything to prevent war," Duterte said.

"I don't want to go to war, but do not force my hand into it," he added.

Duterte said that he hoped to have a "middle ground" with the Maute group, whom he cited

in previous speeches were provoked by "Moro nationalism."

"It's very easy to start a war. But how to stop it and to heal the wounds, it would be hard. I wish we could have a middle ground," Duterte said.

The President said he tried sending feelers to the Maute group but to no avail.

"I have long opened [communication lines with them]. This problem cannot be resolved through sheer courage alone. But there is always a time when I have to protect everybody," Duterte said.

Despite threats to his security, the President pushed through with his visit to Lanao del Sur Wednesday, when he landed at the Tactical Command Post in Lumbayanague, a mere five kilometers from the war zone in Butig.

Nine soldiers, including members of his security group were injured Tuesday with two in critical condition on Tuesday after an improvised bomb exploded near a presidential convoy in Marawi City.

On Tuesday, Duterte suggested he could "befriend" the Maute group to avoid conflict.

He also urged them to abandon their "losing cause" and talk with the government.

"How could you be a Maranao? You're a Tausug... and you take orders from outside just to fight for what? Won't this end?" he said.

It has long been against official policy to negotiate with terrorist groups. The Maute group was behind the Davao City night market bomb attack that killed 15 people in September.

On November 24, the group occupied the abandoned town hall of Butig in Lanao del Sur and reportedly raised the black flag of IS. The Army has sent elite troops to flush out the group.

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# 'Marawi blast meant to destroy peace plan'

By Macon R. Araneta

PRESIDENTIAL son and Davao City Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte said Wednesday that the attack on government forces in Marawi was a message to President Rodrigo Duterte, as part of efforts to destroy peace efforts in Mindanao.

"The message of the attack was clear and it targeted my father and his administration. It was meant to terrorize the government and the Filipino people," the vice mayor said in a statement.

The younger Duterte said the

attack was "meant to undermine Duterte's peace efforts and his development agenda in Mindanao and the entire country."

"The enemies of peace and meaningful change are out on a rampage now that the Duterte administration's peace and development efforts are rapidly gaining momentum in Mindanao and many other parts of the country. There are groups who are not happy about what's happening now," the presidential son said.

The vice mayor urged the public to help the government in its fight against terrorism. *Next page*

## 'Marawi...'

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"We have to be at all times vigilant because there are still people and groups who are out to destabilize our government and terrorize the Filipino people," he added.

Nine soldiers were injured Tuesday with two in critical condition after an improvised explosive device exploded next to a presidential convoy in Marawi City.

The convoy, composed of personnel from the Presidential Security Group, state television PTV and local troop escorts, was supposed to do advance work ahead of President Duterte's visit to Bufig, Lanao del Sur. They were hit by unidentified gunmen in Barangay Emie Punod in Marawi City at 10:30 a.m.

Despite threats to his security, the President pushed through with his visit Wednesday.

Malacañang meanwhile, slammed conspiracy rumors that attack against the PSG personnel was staged by the government.

Posts on social media claimed that residents of Marawi saw the fleeing PSG convoy shooting at houses along the highway, add-

ing that only the military did the firing.

"That remains to be a conspiracy theory. So we ask our users to always verify the news that they receive in social media," Communications Assistant Secretary Kris Ablan said.

"The government will not sacrifice the lives of our soldiers for the conspiracy theory that some citizens have been thinking about," he added.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III on Wednesday urged the military to bring justice to the perpetrators of the attack.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman, said seven personnel of the Presidential Security Group and two security escorts from the military were wounded in an ambush on Tuesday morning in Sitio Maalupay, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

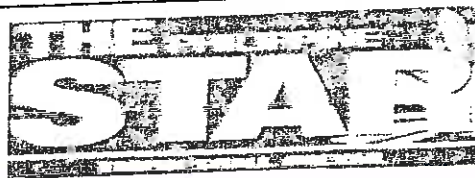
"We cannot tolerate such brazen terrorist attacks against our uniformed personnel. It's time for the AFP to show them the consequences of such brutality," Pimentel said.

Padilla said that the ambush was carried out with the use of an improvised explosive device against a convoy of PSG and military personnel.

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## PSG ambush fake?

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY - The military yesterday denied it orchestrated last Tuesday's ambush on the presidential security team in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), branded as rumors the reports

that there was no ambush on the advance team of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) and it was made to appear that the militant Maute group was behind the attack.

"What would it benefit our soldiers to do that kind of scenario? We will not hurt

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### PSG

From Page 1

our nine soldiers to do such drama and that's ridiculous," Tan said.

Nine soldiers, including seven PSG members, were wounded when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off, hitting the advance convoy of President Duterte in Marawi City last Tuesday.

Tan said the roadside IED attack was being investigated to determine the type of explosive used and which group was responsible.

Tan added no local officials in Marawi came out to deny that there was a bombing attempt.

There were reports circulating on the internet that the attack on the PSG was staged to justify the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus or a prelude to the declaration of martial law.

A netizen in Marawi disputed the ambush reports. In his Facebook account, Drieza Abato Lininding claimed the explosion came from an accidental firing of an M203 grenade launcher from one of the troops in the convoy.

The netizen posted photos of the Army truck which appeared intact and undamaged, although it supposedly bore the brunt of the IED explosion and gunfire from the attackers.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla also disputed the claims that the

attack in Marawi was staged.

Col. Generoso Ponyo, the Army's 103rd deputy brigade commander, said there is an ongoing disinformation to mislead the public on what really happened.

"They are afraid the incident could cause President Duterte to declare martial law. I talked with some sultans and ulamas and elders here... and that's what they have told me," Ponyo said.

Corporal Vincent Paniza, one of the PSG operatives wounded in the attack, said what happened was an ambush. He said the attack was sudden and swift, although he did not identify the supposed attackers.

"It was so sudden. Something exploded behind us, we don't know what it was," he said.

There were also gunshots heard, but Paniza said he was not able to fire back, only his fellow soldiers.

Private First Class James Gonzales said their convoy came from Iligan City en route to Marawi.

Gonzales said he was in the lead vehicle and when it negotiated the steep part of the road, they heard something go off.

"There was an explosion on the side of the road, and after that, they fired at us. We returned fire," he said.

Gonzales said the soldier

beside him was also wounded but they didn't see who shot at them, as he also confirmed that it was an IED that exploded.

Capt. Joe Patrick Martinez, spokesman for the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said six of the wounded were brought to Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City early yesterday.

"They were well taken care of by our attending physician," he said.

He said the soldiers sustained shrapnel wounds, indicating that they came from an explosion.

Martinez said some of the soldiers had gunshot wounds and were airlifted from Marawi to a private hospital in Cagayan de Oro City.

Martinez said the 4ID is extending medical and augmentation support since the site of the clashes and incident happened outside its area of responsibility.

Local authorities, on the other hand, appealed for sobriety.

Chief Supt. Agripino Javier, police director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said critics should wait for the outcome of the final report by investigators on the incident.

"We just have to give probers enough time to determine what really happened. In the meantime we should avoid spreading stories that can only fuel uncertain and undue doubts," ARMM Gov. Mujiv Hataman said. — Jaime Laude, Gerry Lee-Gorit, John Unson

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# AFP, police tag Maute explosion in Marawi

BY VICTOR REYES  
and RAYMOND AFRICA

THE military and the police yesterday pointed to the Maute group as behind the explosion last Tuesday in Marawi City, which hit a convoy carrying President Duterte's advance party.

They also said the attack was meant to divert the military's focus from operations against the group in Butig town in Lanao del Norte.

However, they differed on what hit the convoy which was carrying members of the Presidential Security Group.

The military said it was an improvised explosive bomb (IED) left on the roadside

but the police said it was rifle grenade fired by Maute group members apparently on ambush position at a highway.

The explosion wounded seven PSG personnel and two soldiers from the 65th Infantry Division, who were in the convoy along with members of Radio Televisyon Malacañang and local troop escorts preparing for Duterte's visit Wednesday.

Maute members are being pursued by the military in Lanao del Sur after around 70 of them occupied the old and abandoned municipal hall in Barangay Bayabac, Butig town last Saturday.

Yesterday, government forces gained control of the building. At least 61 Maute criminals have been killed in the five-day

military operation to dislodge them from the building. Operations are ongoing to clear the area of unexploded bombs.

Senior Supt. Agustin Tello, chief of the Lanao del Sur Police Provincial Office, said three to five members of the Maute group hid among the houses along the highway and fired a grenade launcher as soon as the military convoy passed.

He said the rifle grenade, which was "shoulder-fired," hit the side of one of the Army trucks.

He said there is "no evidence" to support the presence of an IED.

"It was fired, parang shoulder fired, kaya

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## AFP

na strike yung gilid ng sasakyan. Isang explosion lang ang nangyari. Yan ang theory namin kasi sa side tumama, hindi sa ilalim," Tello said.

"Parang hit and run. baka yun ginawa nila. Mga three or five lang sila. May mga bahay doon so hindi basta maka-exchange of fire, kasi baka may tamaan na civilians," he also said.

But he said there is no evidence the Maute knew there were PSG men in the trucks. He said the Maute members would hit any military truck they see.

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## Rody to Maute: Don't force me to declare war

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said the Maute group, which is affiliating itself with terrorist group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), should stop what it is doing.

He told the group not to force him to wage a war against it.

He also backtracked on a statement that the Maute is already connected with the ISIS.

The Maute is tagged in the bombing of a market in Davao City last September. The attack killed 15 persons and injured scores. Last Saturday, the group occupied an abandoned municipal building in Butig town, Lanao del Sur, raised an ISIS flag, and engaged troops in firefights until yesterday when government forces regained control of the building.

Last Tuesday in Marawi City, an explosion hit a convoy carrying Duterte's advance party, injuring seven members of the Presidential Security Group and two soldiers from the 65th Infantry Division. The military and the police said the Maute was behind the attack.

Years ago, the Maute declared its allegiance to the ISIS. The military has been saying its activities are meant to get the ISIS's attention.

Duterte last Monday said he received information from the intelligence community that the Maute is now connected with ISIS.

Yesterday in a chance interview in Butig, Duterte said he is uncertain about the supposed connection.

"I don't know if they are just inspired or they are actually being orchestrated now. Pero whatever it is, it's not good," Duterte said when asked if there is really a direct link between the Maute and Isis.

Duterte said it would be dan-

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## RODY

gerous if the ISIS would have a connection with any group in the Philippines, warning anew that some groups are using religion to convince Filipinos to recruit members and join their cause.

"That is the dangerous, the contamination is very dangerous. That's why we have to watch for that very closely. Dito siguro medyo talagang mag-istriktong tayo. Because you know we allow religion, freedom of religion, but do not use it as a tool for terrorism," he said.

He said the time will come when he would also order a war against terrorism, similar to his war against illegal drugs.

The President said illegal drugs and terrorism are among the problems that he is trying to solve.

Duterte, during a visit to the 103rd Brigade's tactical command post in Butig, appealed to the Muslim community, especially the Maranaos and Tausugs, to help him end the armed conflict in the Mindanao area. He said it would be a difficult decision for him to order a war against any Filipino, especially the Moro.

In an interview in Cagayan de Oro City after a command briefing with the 4th Infantry Division and a visit to the wounded PSG men and soldiers, Duterte said he is concerned about the continued activities of the Maute group.

"I'd like to inform the Moro people that I hate to wage a war against them. Alam mo hindi madali. It's very easy to start a war, but how to stop it and to heal the wounds, mahirapan iyan, mahirapan iyan," he said.

Communications Assistant Secretary Kris Ablan said there is no effort to formally engage the Maute group in a peace negotiation but the President is considering this option, even after Duterte announced that the group is affiliated with the ISIS.

"Suffice to know that there is no written statement that the government will coordinate or mediate or negotiate with this group. There is no written policy on that. It was just an expression made by the President the other day. Again, the expression was made because the President wants to exhaust all means on how to achieve peace and order in the country. But again, there is no written policy on that effect," he said referring to a statement of Duterte that he might consider befriending the Maute.

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## INQUIRER

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# Duterte to Maute: Surrender or face wrath

LUMBAYANAGUE, LANA O DEL SUR—President Duterte on Wednesday warned the Maute group to give up peacefully, or face a "harsher" military response as he rallied the troops engaged in week-long clashes that have left dozens of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-linked gunmen dead.

The President said his trip was not aimed at waging war against the Moro people in general, even as the military was pounding on the Maute group, which has laid siege to parts of the remote town of Butig, in Lanao del Sur province.

The Maute group has been blamed for the September bombing that left 15 dead in President Duterte's hometown of Davao City, and for a purported bomb attempt near the US Embassy in Manila this week. The President

has linked the group to ISIS militants waging war elsewhere in the world.

"For those who fight the government, don't wait for the hands of the clock to reach the 25th hour and the bells will toll. I can be harsh so I could command obedience as I can, and I am not afraid," Mr. Duterte said in a speech before troops here.

If the Maute group continued to resist, then he would be "harsh," President Duterte warned.

"As harsh I can ever be," Mr. Duterte warned.

On the other hand, he said he didn't want "a war against my fellow countrymen" because it would be difficult to stop the conflict.

"You know I love you. Please help. I hope we will have a middle

ground," he said, apparently addressing the Moro people.

President Duterte said the only way to end the hostilities was to talk peacefully and thresh out problems.

"This problem cannot be solved by bravery but there is always a time to protect everybody," he said.

### Deadly siege

The President flew here to talk with ground commanders and soldiers as the military continued to battle Maute group members, who had taken parts of Butig since Thursday last week.

Maj. Felimon Tan, the spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City, said the military had already recovered 85 to 90 percent of the areas occupied by the local terror group.

Tan did not specify which areas had already been cleared following days of intense bombardment using air and ground assets, but added that 61 Maute group members had died since Thursday. He said 12 other gang members had been wounded while the military suffered 35 injuries as of Wednesday.

After visiting the troops, Duterte flew to Cagayan de



Oro City, where he visited soldiers wounded in the Butig clashes and members of the Presidential Security Group who were injured in Tuesday's explosion during a reported ambush in Marawi City.

#### **Hope**

The President also pinned medals to those wounded in the Butig clashes.

In a brief talk with reporters, Duterte said he was alarmed at the Marawi incident, even as he held out hope that the rebels would be flushed out soon and a total war averted.

"I'm not trying to scare them but do not force my hand to do it," he said.

He said the military was prepared to dig in for the long haul, contradicting a statement made

earlier this week by a presidential aide who said he was "mulling the idea" of sitting down with the Maute group.

"They have to go on with the operation," the President said. What is there to stop? Nobody is showing their sincerity there. So the fight goes on," he stressed. —REPORTS FROM RICHEL UMEL, JIGGER JERUSALEM, JULIE ALIPALA AND MARLON RAMOS - INQ

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# Moro youth group doubts ambush, seeks probe

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A youth group called on Wednesday for an investigation into an explosion that wounded nine government forces, including members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG), saying it believed that what happened was an "accidental" firing rather than an attack.

Drieza Lininding, vice chair of the group Bangsamoro National Movement for Peace and Development based in Lanao del Sur, said he asked residents around the area where the incident purportedly happened, but everyone denied that an ambush took place.

"We went house to house to investigate, but the residents denied that an ambush took place," Lininding said in a post on Facebook.

## No fragments, damaged car

"I asked them (residents) if they (saw) any fragment or damaged car, they all say none and no one was wounded. Some suspect(ed) that the pictures of wounded soldiers allegedly in that ambush being airlifted, came from Butig, where the fighting between (the) AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and Maute Group (Dawlah Islamiyah) (has been) taking place,"

Lininding said.

He said that residents had told him a convoy of military trucks passed by, with one soldier apparently firing accidentally his M203 grenade launcher.

"The convoy following them thought they were being ambushed so they fired upon an abandoned area with trees. Some of the civilian houses were hit (but) luckily no civilian was hurt," he said.

## Civilian accounts

Lininding said that based on civilian accounts, no military truck was damaged and that none of those in the

convoy was injured.

"We urge a thorough investigation of this incident," Lininding said, as he called on the police, independent peace monitors and the Red Cross to also interfere because civilian homes were hit in the gunfire.

## Part of a larger scenario

"Our fear is that this is part of a larger scenario to declare martial law in the Lanao area," he said. "Some reports, I was told, are insinuating that the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) was behind the attack."

He also asked the member of the

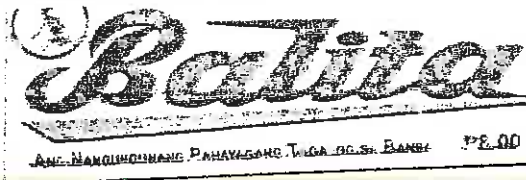
state-owned broadcasting firm to show the pictures and actual footage of the scene to determine whether a real ambush occurred.

"Let's get the facts straight and stop manipulating information," he said. "I hope the embedded media, who have seen the alleged ambush, will show the pictures."

The incident occurred just a day before President Duterte was to visit the area. It also came as troops were engaged in clashes with the Maute group, blamed for a September blast that left 15 dead in Davao City. —JIGGER JERUSALEM,

RICHEL UMEL AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ

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## AFP: Kinubkob ng Maute Group nabawi na

Nina FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD at GENALYN D. KABILING

Inihayag ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na nabawi na nito kahapon ng umaga ang lumang gusali ng munisipyo sa Butig, Lanao del Sur na kinubkob ng Maute terror group noong nakaraang linggo.

Kasabay nito, iniulat ng militar na nasa 61 miyembro na ng Maute Group ang napatay, habang 12 iba pa ang nasugatan sa sagupaan sa militar.

Sinabi rin ng AFP na 35 sundalo rin ang nasugatan sa bakbakan.

Ayon kay Army Major Felimon Tan, tagapagsalita ng Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) ng AFP, batay sa mga report na natanggap nila, nasa 85-90 porsiyento na ng Poblacion sa Butig ang nabawi ng militar.

**'HUWAG UMABOT SA GIYERA'**

Samantala, natuloy kahapon ang pagbisita Pangulong Duterte sa 103rd Brigade ng Army na nakikipaglaban sa Maute.

Matapos ang pakikipagpulong sa mga security official, kasama sina

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, at Army Chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año, nagbiyahe ang Presidente patungong Cagayan de Oro City upang kumustahin at gawaran ng medalya ang mga sundalong nasugatan sa labanan sa Butig.

Nagbabala ang Pangulo sa Maute Group na kung hindi nito titigilan ang mga pag-atake at pambobomba ay mahaharap ito sa matinding digmaan sa puwersa ng gobyerno.

"Dito sa Maute, I said I don't want to wage a war against Filipinos but I told them that they have to stop. Sana huwag na lang tayo umabot ng giyera, so I'm doing everything to prevent a war," anang Pangulo.

Maute Group ang suspek sa pambobomba sa Davao City noong Setyembre 2, gayundin sa pag-iwan ng bomba malapit sa US Embassy nitong Lunes, at pananambang sa mga sundalo at operatiba ng Presidential Security Group (PSG) nitong Martes.



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## Butig hall retaken 61 terrorists killed, 12 hurt

**GOVERNMENT forces have recovered from the Maute local terrorist group the old municipal building of Butig in Lanao del Sur.**

"Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff General Ricardo Visaya expressed his elation that our troops have successfully retaken the old municipal hall of Butig," Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs office chief said.

AFP Western Command spokesperson Major Filemon Tan, meanwhile, said troops have been able to take back 85 percent to 90 percent of the Poblacion of Butig occupied by the Maute Group in the past six days.

Reports said the military has been able to recover a Madrasah or Arabic school and a national high school.

Tan said at least 61 members of the Maute Group had been killed and 12 more wounded in the ongoing operations.

On the part of soldiers, 35 have been wounded.

Also yesterday, the Palace dismissed rumors spreading online that Tues-

day's explosion in Marawi City that injured seven members of the Presidential Security Group was a ploy for President Rodrigo Duterte to suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

In a press briefing, Presidential Communications Office Assistant Secretary Kris Ablan brushed aside the rumors and urged citizens to double check information they see on social media.

"The government will not sacrifice the lives of our soldiers, you know, for the conspiracy theory that some citizens have been thinking about," he said.

Ablan also assured the public that there will be no suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, which gives a person the right to contest before the court his or her arrest and detention, following the Marawi City blast and the discovery of an improvised bomb near the US Embassy last Monday.

But Ablan stressed that the suspension of the writ remains to be a presidential decision.

**Efren Montano/Zaida Delos-Reyes Palanca**

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# Two 'persons of interest' in custody over failed Manila bomb attempt

By ARRON B. RECUENCO

Police now have in their custody two "persons of interest" in connection with the foiled bomb attempt near the United States (US) embassy on Roxas

Boulevard early Monday morning.

One of those arrested was a 34-year-old Muslim convert who was nabbed in Barangay Bagumbayan in Bulacan, Bulacan yesterday, a day after a computerized facial composite of the male

suspect who reportedly left an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) inside a trash bin along Roxas Boulevard was released. The IED was discovered by a street sweeper.

Sources said the second

## Two 'persons... 1

suspect was arrested in Caloocan City.

A mobile phone was attached to an 81-millimeter mortar with a blasting cap and a nine-volt battery which is similar to the improvised bomb used in the Davao City night market bombing incident last September 2 that killed 14 persons and injured more than 60 others. Authorities pointed to the Maute group as behind the Davao blast.

"As of now, we cannot pinpoint yet if they are indeed the ones who left the bomb along Roxas Boulevard," Chief Supt. Oscar Albayalde, director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said of the two suspects under custodial investigation of the Manila Police District (MPD).

The arrests came after intense intelligence build-up based on the information relayed by various sources, including the intelligence community.

Albayalde said they have yet to establish if those arrested have direct links with the Maute Group, a terror group based in Lanao province which is currently the subject of a military operation in Mindanao.

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## Duterte warns Maute: 'Do not force my hand into war'

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday said he does not wish to wage war with terrorists in Mindanao, but warned the Maute terrorist group "not to force my hand into it."

Duterte made the warning as the military said it had retaken 90 percent of the

town of Butig in Lanao del Sur that was overrun by the Maute Group and killed 21 more gunmen, on the sixth day of a military offensive.

Duterte went to Lanao del Sur for a military briefing and then to Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City,

where he visited members of his advance party who were wounded by a bomb attack on Tuesday in Marawi City. Maute supporters were allegedly behind the blast.

*"Ayaw ko makipag-giyera [I do not want war] but do not force my hand*

into it," the President told reporters in a chance interview.

"With the Maute, I said I do not want to wage a war against Filipinos but I told them that they have to stop. I hope we do not come to the point of war. So I



am doing everything to prevent a war," he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Asked what were his instructions during the command briefing with the military fighting the Maute group, Duterte said: "They have to go on with the operations."

The President said it seemed the Maute group was not interested in talking peace with the government.

"*Wala naman nagpapakita ng sincerity diyan* [No one is showing sincerity there] so the fight goes on," Duterte said.

On Tuesday, the President said he wanted to befriend the Maute group

to end the violence in the area.

But in Cagayan de Oro on Wednesday, Duterte said he was not yet ready to talk to the group.

"I am not ready to talk to Maute group, *pero ang masasabi ko, araw ko ng away*," he said.

## Recaptured

Government troops retook the old municipal building of Butig and killed 21 more Maute Group members in one of the fiercest firefights since the extremists occupied the area over the weekend, a military official said.

The recapture of the abandoned municipal hall at 9:20 a.m. Wednesday, where the Maute hoisted a flag of Islamic State (IS) on Friday, came as Duterte visited the troops at an Army tactical command post in Lumbayanague some 10 kilometers away from Butig.

Maj. Felimon Tan, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command, said that besides the old municipal hall, security forces took control of 85 to 90 percent of areas earlier occupied by Maute.

Combat operations continued as troops pursued the extremist group, which the military said had

committed criminal acts not only in Lanao del Sur but also in Maguindanao and portions of Cotabato.

The group had been blamed for the September 2 Davao City night market bombing that killed 15 people and wounded 70 others.

"Aggressive military operations continue to date against the LTG (local terrorist group) with government troops now securing much of the municipality of Butig. Troops are currently completing the necessary clearing operations in the outskirts of the area," said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman.

The death of 21 Maute fighters

brought to 61 the number of terrorists killed since the government launched an offensive against the extremist group, which security officials say are linked to the IS.

Twelve Maute members were also reportedly wounded. On the government side, at least 35 soldiers were injured.

Padilla said the figure included the seven members of the Presidential Security Group and two other soldiers whose convoy was bombed by suspected terrorists in Marawi City on Tuesday.

The presidential guards were Duterte's advance party for his scheduled visit

to the Army's 103rd Brigade

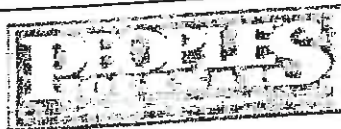
On Wednesday, security officials said government troops also clashed with Abu Sayyaf members, killing one of them on Capual Island off the southern Sulu town of Omar in the restive Muslim autonomous region.

Soldiers recovered the body of the slain rebel, three motorboats, an automatic rifle and an improvised explosive following the Tuesday fighting between members of the 11th Scout Rangers and the notorious group also tied to the IS.

There were no reports of casualties on the military side.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE,  
FERNAN MARASIGAN AND  
AL JACINTO

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# MAUTE TERRORISTS DEATH TOLL: 61 Troopers recover 90% of Butig, Lanao del Sur

By Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca  
and Efrén Montano

THE death toll from the Maute terror group climbed to 61 as government forces recovered areas occupied by the enemy in a series of military operations since Friday in Butig, Lanao del Sur.

AFP-Western Mindanao Command spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan Jr. said troopers were able to take back 85 percent to 90 percent of Bgy. Poblacion in Butig town occupied by the Maute Group in the past six days.

"Mga 85 to 90% na ng Poblacion ay nakuha na natin," Tan said.

He said, as of press time, 35 soldiers were wounded while 61 members of the Maute group were killed and 12 terrorists wounded.

Government forces also recovered from the

terror group the old municipal building of Butig.

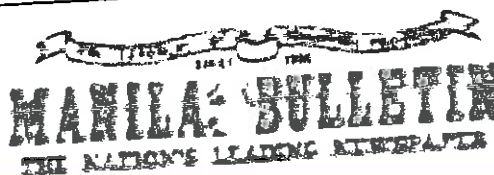
AFP Public Affairs Office chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo said the Chief of Staff expressed elation to the successful recovery of the old Butig town hall. "AFP Chief of Staff General Ricardo Visaya expresses his elation that our troops have successfully retaken the old municipal hall of Butig," Arevalo said.

Reports said the military also recovered a Madrasah or Arabic school and a national high school. Arevalo said soldiers have sacrificed their lives to assure that people will live peacefully in the province.

He said to defeat the enemies of the state, the AFP needs the support and cooperation of the people.

"We exhort them to be vigilant and resist the influence of terrorists and lawless groups," Arevalo said.

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## New fighter jets from S. Korea arrive today

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The arrival today of two FA-50PH fighter jets from South Korea is expected to beef up the air capability of the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina, Air Force chief, said the Korean made FA-50PH Aircraft with Tail Numbers 003 and 004

will arrive at the Haribon Hangar, Air Force City, Clark Air Base, Mabalacat City, Pampanga, at 10 a.m. today.

He said the second batch of FA-50PH F/SA/LIFTA from Korea will be brought into the country by the pilots from the Korean Aerospace Industries, Ltd. (KAI).

The first batch of super- ▶ 7

## New fighter... ◀ 1

sonic jets arrived in the country on November 28, 2015 while the remaining batch will be flown in by September next year.

This is part of the PAF's purchase from Korea Aerospace Industries of 12 fighter jets worth ₱18.9 billion.

The PAF said the FA-50PH has a top speed of Mach 1.5 or one and a half times the speed of sound and is capable to be fitted with air-to-air missiles.

The missiles include the AIM-9 "Sidewinder" air-to-air and heat-seeking missiles.

Fallorina said the arrival of the two new aircrafts will boost the territorial defense of the country.

"There are two aircrafts coming over on December 1, the third and fourth one. This will surely boost the territorial defense of the country," Fallorina said during the 77th Department of National Defense (DND) anniversary at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Tuesday.

Fallorina, a helicopter pilot, said he personally tested the aircraft by sitting at the backseat of the fighter jet.

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MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## First mega rehab center ready to accept patients

By FRANCO G. REGALA

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija  
- The first of the country's four mega drug treatment centers is ready to ac-

cept its first patients.

The 60,000-square-meter Mega Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (DATRC) here was inaugurated by President

►7

Duterte last Tuesday. Once fully operational, it can accommodate as many as 10,000 patients. For now, it can treat 2,500 patients.

Health Secretary Paulyn Jean Rosell Ubial said the first batch of patients "will come from 'overcrowded' facilities in Central Luzon and nearby areas."

They must be screened before they could be treated at the center. Ubial made it clear that the rehabilitation will be voluntary.

"Those who want to enter here will pass through the social worker. Those who can pay should pay and those who are assessed indigent, there is nothing to pay. It is just like our hospital where a social worker will assess the patient," Ubial said.

A dependent must surrender first to barangay officials "and then the doctor will assess them if they can be community-based or residential. If residential, they will be brought here to undergo the program for six to 12 months depending on the situation of the patients," she added.

The DOH said 37 individuals have initially applied for the government's rehab program and it intends to start with 100 patients before the year ends.

Ubial said the center's medical staff includes social workers who will assist patients in need of financial help for long-term treatment.

The LGUs have beefed up the center's manpower requirements by placing more than a thousand medical practitioners at its supervision, including 800 new employees who underwent rigid training.

The President expressed gratitude to Chinese philanthropist Huang Rulun and other local partners for the establishment of the large drug rehabilitation facility inside Fort Magsaysay, saying it was a concrete display of how real friends treat each other.

Huang, an overseas Chinese in the Philippines, donated ₱1.4 billion to build two drug rehabilitation centers in support of Duterte's campaign against the illegal drug trade.

Under Duterte's anti-drug campaign "Oplan Tokhang," around 800,000 drug users have already surrendered.

The government plans to build this year four huge drug rehab centers, two in Luzon, and one each in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Duterte is considering tapping a portion of the ₱5-billion funds remitted by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor) to build a massive drug rehabilitation center in the Visayas.

◀1

"Let us say next year, and if I can get hold of ₱1.5 (billion), maybe I will also build another one, this time somewhere in the Visayas," the President said.

There are only 44 public and private rehab centers in the country than can serve about 10,000 in-patients. Most of the facilities are privately owned.

Rep. Rosanua Vergara, Nueva Ecija's third congressional district and wife of Cabanatuan City Mayor Julius Cesar Vergara, said the establishment of the rehab center in this military reservation shows President Duterte delivers on his promises.

"It only proves to me that he's a man who walks the talk. Sinabi niya, gagawin niya (what he said, he will do it)," Vergara said.

She hoped that the opening of the mega rehab centers will stop the extrajudicial killings that have come under severe criticism. (With reports from Genalyn D. Kabilang and PNA)

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# INQUIRER

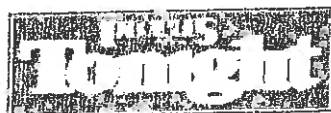
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President Duterte and top brass of the military give the Duterte fist along with soldiers in Lumbayague, Lanao del Sur. —RICHEL V. UMEL

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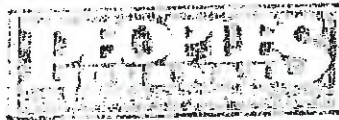


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MARINES honour guards stand in attention during the wreath laying ceremony in celebration of the 153 birth anniversary of national hero Andres Bonifacio at the Bonifacio Shrine in Manila. (Ali Vicoy)

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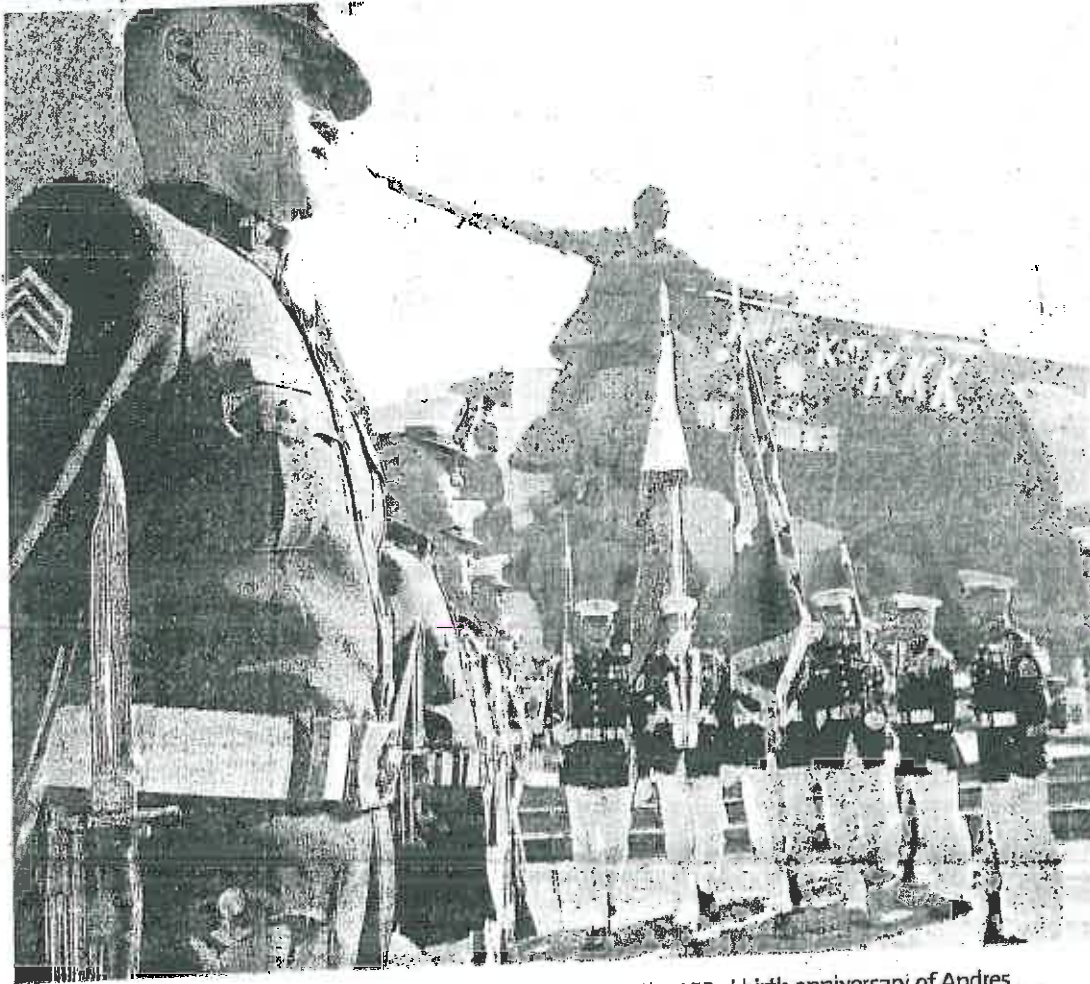
**'SUPREMO' -** Honor guards lay wreaths at the foot of the Bonifacio Monument in Monumento, Caloocan City, to mark the 153rd birth anniversary of National Hero Andres Bonifacio, acknowledged as the Father of the Philippine Revolution. (Federico Cruz)

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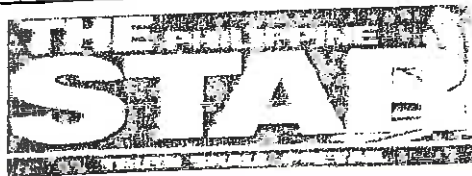


**IN HIS HONOR.** Philippine Marines carry the tricolors during the 153rd birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio, considered the 'Father of the Philippine Revolution' and known as the founder and leader of the independence movement against Spain, the *Katipunan*, in solemn rites Wednesday at his monument near the Manila City Hall. Lino Santos

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## First Person

By ALEX MAGNO

### Extortion

The ceasefire arrangement between the Philippine government and the CPP-NPA does not, of course, explicitly include a cessation in extortion. This is what distresses many small and medium enterprises in areas where the communist rebels are able to use their armed clout to force the collection of what they euphemistically call "revolutionary taxation."



The local communist insurgents have few friends abroad to ensure a reliable inflow of financial support. What they need to finance protest actions, keep their guerrillas fed and see to the upkeep of their cadres must be raised from local sources. The only reliable way to achieve that is to keep enterprises, especially in the rural areas, convincingly under the gun.

The systematic extortion from rural enterprises is, imaginably, a continuing calamity. So many small and medium enterprises have gone bankrupt, shedding jobs that might have benefitted the rural poor. Some of the large enterprises with assets exposed in the countryside, are said to be pragmatically paying the communists a regular monthly dole to keep their businesses unperturbed.

Among the most vulnerable to NPA extortion activities are bus companies whose units ply isolated roads in guerrilla-controlled areas.

Last week, a unit of Yellow Bus Lines (YBL) was burned down on the outskirts of Kiamba in Saranggani province. According to Kiamba police chief Senior Inspector Ruben Lambago, the armed men ordered the passengers to disembark before setting the bus on fire. They then fled to the nearby forest.

Before that incident, on Nov. 14, armed men claiming to be NPA members burned another YBL bus in Tupi, South Cotabato. The guerrillas declared they were undertaking the action because of the failure of the transport company to pay revolutionary taxes.

Shortly after this incident, guerrillas torched heavy equipment in government road-building projects in Alegria and San Jose in Alabel, Saranggani. The contractor, apparently, failed to respond positively to the NPA tax collectors.

According to Lt. Col. Raymond Dante Lachica, commander of the Army's 3rd Infantry Battalion tasked with maintaining order in the Davao City area, the NPA continues its extortion activities in the Calinan and Toril districts. Small businesses are sometimes required to pay P50,000 in "revolutionary taxes" each month.

Businesses in Mindanao are losing hundreds of millions annually to these extortion activities both in "taxes" as well as the loss of capital goods to arson. They are asking the government negotiating panel for help.

The GRP negotiating panel is due to sign a bilateral ceasefire agreement with the CPP-NPA on Dec. 10. There might not be enough time to include a cessation of extortion activities in the provisions of that agreement. Besides, the CPP has not formally acknowledged these activities.

It is probably a big task for government to demand cessation of extortion from the rebels. Without the millions raised through these extortion activities, the insurgents will have no means to keep their insurrection going.

That leaves the small businesses in the NPA-influenced areas as vulnerable to rebel extortion activities as they always have been. Whatever gains might be claimed in the course of the negotiations means nothing on the ground. Those who collect "taxes" by the barrel of a gun will continue their oppressive ways. The entrepreneurs, at whom the gun is pointed, will still suffer the consequences.

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#### **Inter-chamber**

It is a good sign the leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate sat down for a friendly dinner late last week to figure a way out of a looming crisis.

Some of the congressmen are understandably upset at Sen. Leila de Lima. She obstructed the House inquiry on drug trade at the National Penitentiary by advising for former driver-lover Ronnie Dayan to hide rather than give testimony. That was demonstrated by text messages and de Lima's admission eventually.

At the time de Lima advised Dayan, the former Justice Secretary was sitting senator. Congressmen have since issued a show-cause order on their Senate colleague and threatened to have her arrested if she ignored it.

The unrepentant de Lima, who refuses to recognize the proceedings at the House, has said she will ignore the order. That can only work to make the House leadership look like jackasses. The show-cause order will not be worth the paper it is printed on. The contempt of a co-equal chamber is magnified.

If de Lima is arrested on contempt charges by the House, this will precipitate an inter-chamber crisis. A senator arrested by angry colleagues in the House is unprecedented. But then, such show of contempt by de Lima towards the House investigation is itself unprecedented.

From the start, de Lima maintained the House investigation was nothing more than political "persecution." That will not win her congeniality points among the congressmen.

The congressmen know what they want to do: detain de Lima for contempt as a matter of honor for their chamber. It is for the Senate leadership to find a creative way out of this.

From the little that has been reported, it appears the Senate will have to take the matter of indiscretion by one of its members a little more seriously. A Senate ethics panel will be convened to inquire into de Lima's behavior and pass judgment on it.

Such a panel may decide to censure de Lima, suspend her or even unseat her based on their findings. But it certainly cannot let de Lima's misbehavior pass – or else the congressmen will carry out their threat to arrest her.

The Senate's respectability as an institution is on the line. De Lima could not be weightier than the whole chamber.

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9 December 2016

**NGAYON**  
Pahina 4

Pahina. 4



### Editorial

## **Durugin na habang maliit pa**

**N**ASA 300 lamang umano ang mga miyembro ng Maute group na naglulunga sa isang bayan sa Lanao del Sur. Halos magkakamag-anak daw ang miyembro ng mga Ito. Maliit lang na grupo kaya madali itong mapupulbos ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Kapag hindi napulbos ng military sa isinasagawang operasyon, magbibigay ito ng sakit ng ulo sa pamahalaan. Kaya walang dapat gawin ang AFP kundi seryosohin ang pagbomba sa grupong Ito. Wala silang dapat itira sapagkat magbubuo uli Ito ng panibagong grupo. Walang pinagkaiba ang Maute group sa mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf na nagsimula lang sa maliit na bilang pero nakapagpalaki ng miyembro mula nang kumita sa pangngidnap. Hinayaan kasi ng mga nakaraang Presidente.

Ang Maute group ay binubuo ng mga dating miyembro ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) na pinamumunuan ng magkapatid na sina Omar at Abdullah Maute. Nagsimula silang maghasik ng lagim noong nakaraang Pebrero. Ipinakikita ng grupo ang watawat ng ISIS na sinasabing nakipag-alligiance na sila rito. Nagsasagawa sila ng mga pambobomba.

Ang pambobomba sa Davao City public market noong Setyembre 15 na ikinamatay ng 15 tao at ikinasugat ng 69 ay kagagawan ng Maute group. Ang natagpuang bomba sa basurahan malapit sa US Embassy sa Roxas Blvd. noong Lunes ay kagagawan ng Maute group. Kinikilala na ang lalaking nag-iwan ng bomba.

Utos ni President Rodrigo Duterte na wasakin ang Maute group. Walang tigil ang pagpapadala ng tropa sa Butig, Lanao del Sur para ganap nang maubos ang teroristang grupo. Marami nang pinalikas sa mga residente. Sa pinakahuling report, mahigit 40 miyembro ng Maute na ang napapatay.

Huwag nang tigilan ang pagsalakay sa grupong Ito ng terorista. Habang maaga pa, wasakin na. Kapag nagtagal pa ang mga Ito, panibagong problema na naman ng pamahalaan. Lipulin na ang mga Ito. Now na.

ONLINE NEWS  
01 DECEMBER 2016

<http://www.philstar.com/>

## Duterte warns Maute militants: Don't force me into war

By Alexis Romero



*President Rodrigo Duterte talks to police and army officials during the inauguration of the mega Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center at Fort Ramon Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija on Nov. 29, 2016. PPD/King Rodriguez*

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte issued warning to the Maute group, which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, who occupied parts of Butig, Lanao del Sur last weekend to establish a caliphate.

"With regard to the Maute (group), I said I do not want to wage a war against Filipinos but I told them that they have to stop," Duterte said in a chance interview at the Camp Evangelista Station Hospital in Cagayan de Oro City.

"I am not threatening them. I just said I do not want a war but do not force my hand to do it," he added.

Duterte, who confirmed on Monday that the Maute group "has connected" with international terror network ISIS, said he could be "harsh" when dealing with terrorists.

"I cannot be forever traveling here every month to talk and then when I turn my back, there would be clashes again," he said in a speech delivered before Army troops.

"When the time comes, its' going to be a war against terrorism and drugs and I will tell you now, I will be harsh...as harsh I can ever be."

Duterte said he is doing everything to prevent a war but maintained that the military's operations against the local terrorists would continue.

"I am not declaring a unilateral ceasefire," the president said.

"They (military) have to go on with the operations. What is there to stop? No one is showing sincerity so the fight goes on," he added.

Despite the ongoing violence and rebellion in Mindanao, Duterte is confident that the Philippine republic would survive. He said though that he is not yet ready to talk to the Maute group.

Last Monday, Duterte said he would "befriend" members of the Maute group to avoid trouble. It remains unclear though whether the president issued a serious policy pronouncement.

Presidential Communications Assistant Secretary Kristian Ablan said the president is "trying to exhaust all means in order to attain peace and order."

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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.



Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

When the president expressed that opinion, he merely wanted to express his desire to exhaust all legal ways and proper ways into achieving peace and order," Ablan said in a press briefing in Malacafang yesterday. But with regard to the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and probably the National Security Council, I am not in a position to give a statement whether they are serious --- whether the statement was going to follow through," he added.

When reminded that Duterte himself confirmed the connection between the Maute group and ISIS terrorists, Ablan replied: "We'll leave it to the President and to his National Security Council to move on with regard to dealing with this particular group."

Suffice to know that there is no written statement that the government will coordinate or mediate or negotiate with this group. There is no written policy on that. It was just an expression made by the President the other day," he added.

Duterte was at the 103rd Infantry Brigade headquarters in Butig yesterday for a command conference on the operations against the Maute militants.

He also visited the wounded members of his advanced party at the 4th Infantry Division hospital and polyclinic hospital both in Cagayan de Oro.

The wounded soldiers were among the nine persons hurt in an ambush in Marawi City in Lanao del Sur last Tuesday.

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

[tp://dwdd.com.ph/](http://dwdd.com.ph/)

## TALK TO MEN | PRRD Meets Troops in Butig, Lanao Del Sur

Hosted by Alvin Santiago

103rd Brigade TCP, Butig, Lanao Del Norte (DWDD) – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte visits Troops at the forefront of Fight in Butig, Lanao Del Sur 2016.

PRRD along with a few advisers visited troops of the 103rd Infantry Brigade who are at the forefront of the fight against members of a local terrorist group (LTG) known locally as the Maute Group.



The Maute group late last week laid siege and sowed terror in the municipality of Butig as troops advanced to accost their leaders and members who have committed criminal acts in the areas of Lanao, Maguindanao and portions of Cotabato.

The group is also behind the recent Davao Night Market bombing last September.

The President was accompanied by the Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenza, the Vice Chief of Staff AFP Lt Gen Glorioso Miranda, and the Commanding General, Philippine Army Lt Gen Eduardo Ano.

They were met by Commander Western Mindanao Command, LTG Mayoralgo de la Cruz, MGen Barrientos, Commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Col Rosseler Murillo, Commander, 103rd Infantry Brigade.

Following a closed door briefing and meeting with security officials, PRRD met the troops and local officials. He encouraged the troops to persevere and do their work with the guarantee of his all out support. He also mentioned that as the President of the Republic, he has in mind the welfare of all the people and the entire nation and very much wants peace to reign all over the land but not at the expense of peace loving citizens. RTVM / MCAG

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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

## By John Unson



Al-Haq said the MILF central leadership has deployed non-resident commanders to Datu Saudi to help defuse the brewing tension between relatives of Sindatok and the families of his killers.

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

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# VICTORY | AFP Retakes Butig from Maute Terror Group

Posted by Alvin Santiago on November 30, 2016 at 7:41 PM



**BUTIG, Lanao Del Sur (DWDD)** – Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Ricardo Visaya expresses his elation that our troops have successfully retaken the old municipal hall of Butig from the Maute terror group.

According to AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Col Edgard Arevalo, the success was not without the cost of life and limb of the lawless group, and the sweat and blood of our soldiers, but it has to be so to ensure that our people will live peacefully knowing that their soldiers are there to protect them.

Arevalo added that in order to fully defeat the enemies of the state, they need the support and cooperation of our countrymen and exhort them to be vigilant and resist the influence of terrorists and other lawless groups."

In a report by AFP Western Mindanao Command (WESMINCOM) spokesman Major Filemon Tan Jr., President Rodrigo R Duterte visited troops in a Tactical Command Post in Lumbayanague.

As of the latest, 85% to 90% of the poblacion has been retaken, while clearing operations are still ongoing. The government has sustained 35 Wounded in Action (WIA) while the Maute terror group sustained 61 members killed and 12 wounded. AES / ALS / MCAG

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## Duterte visits troops, urges them to press on vs Maute Group

By: Thom Andrade, InterAksyon.com



MANILA - Despite the roadside bombing that injured seven members of his advance security team, President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday visited government troops engaged in bloody clashes with the local terrorist group Maute Group, which occupied a small town in Lanao del Sur.

Military spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said Duterte had a closed-door meeting with security and local officials, and government forces involved in the campaign against the Maute Group. The local terrorist group earlier occupied - and has since been expelled from - the municipal hall of Butig town.

"He [President Duterte] encouraged the troops to persevere and do their work with the guarantee of his all-out support," Padilla said in a statement.

The President also told soldiers during his visit that he [Duterte] always has in mind the welfare of the entire nation and that he sincerely wants peace to reign in the country.

"He [President Duterte] wants peace to reign all over the land, but not at the expense of peace-loving citizens," Padilla said.

The President was accompanied during his visit by officials led by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. They were met by Lt. General Mayoralgo dela Cruz, the commander of the military's Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom).

They were also met by Major General Barrientos, the commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division and Colonel Rosseler Murillo, the commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade.

Padilla said that after the visit, Duterte flew to Cagayan De Oro to visit and award troops who are recuperating from wounds sustained during the almost week-long military offensive in Butig.

"He [President Duterte] was also expected to visit members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) who were hurt yesterday during an unfortunate roadside bombing while enroute to the area of 103BDE," Padilla added.

The AFP spokesman added that to date government troops have reported the death of 61 members of the Maute Group and the wounding of 12 others. On the AFP side, 35 soldiers were reported wounded.

### AFP chief elated by Butig's retaking

Earlier on Wednesday, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines thanked government troops who have successfully retaken the old municipal hall of Butig town in Lanao del Sur.

AFP Chief of Staff General Ricardo Visaya expressed his elation that the government troops have successfully retaken the building, an incident that triggered the resumption of offensives against the terror group.

"It was not without the cost of life and limb of the lawless terrorist Maute Group, and the sweat and blood of our soldiers. But it has to be so to ensure that our people will live peacefully knowing that their soldiers are there to protect them," AFP Chief Information Officer, Colonel Edgard Arevalo, told defense reporters.

Arevalo added that, "In order to fully defeat the enemies of the state however, we need the support and cooperation of our people. We exhort them to be vigilant and resist the influence of terrorists and lawless groups."

Meanwhile, Major Filemon Tan, spokesman of the AFP's Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) said in a phone-patch interview that about 90 percent of the poblacion in Butig town has been retaken by soldiers.

The operations in Butig town are still ongoing.

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<http://bomboradyo.com/>

## Mahigit 60 na ang patay sa Maute group - AFP

By Bombo Dennis Jamito

Umakyat na sa mahigit 60 miyembro ng teroristang Maute group ang naitalang patay sa nagpapatuloy na military operation sa Butig, Lanao del Sur.

Ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, posible pang madagdagan ang nasabing bilang dahil tuloy-tuloy pa ang sagupaan militar at ng naturang grupo.

May naitala ring 12 sugatan sa mga ito, habang 35 naman mula sa mga sundalo.

Una nang sinabi ni Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Col. Edgard Arevalo na malapitan na ang labanan ng magkabilang kampo kaya ang iba sa mga bandido ay umatras na sa labas ng naturang bayan.

<http://bomboradyo.com/>

## 11 sugatang PSG at AFP escorts sa CdeO, binisita ni Duterte

By Bombo Cagayan de Oro

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY - Nakarating na sa Kampo Evangelista sa Barangay Patag, siyudad ng Cagayan de Oro, si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kaninang alas-2:00 ng hapon.

Hindi na nagpaunlak ng press interview ang pangulo at agad nitong binisita ang anim na sugatang miyembro ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) escorts at Presidential Security Group (PSG) sa station hospital ng nasabing kampo.

Nagtagal lamang ng limang minuto ang pagdalaw ng presidente sa kampo bago dumiretso sa Polymedic Medical Plaze ng Brgy. Kauswagan upang makita ang lima pang sugatang kasapi ng PSG.

Ayon kay 4th ID spokesperson Captain Joe Patrick Martinez, babayaran ng lokal na pamahalaan ng lungsod ang medical expenses ng mga sugatang gwardiya ng pangulo na naka-confine sa pribadong ospital.

Kabilang sa mga naka-confine sa Polymedic Medical Plaza ay sina:

1. Capt. Reynaldo Zamora Jr.
2. Cpl. Josefite Gallentes
3. Sgt. Eric Ubaldo
4. PFC Fernando Corpuz
5. Ssg Renie Damazo

Habang nasa Camp Evangelista Station Hospital naman sina:

1. Cpl. Vicente Paniza
2. PFC James Gonzales
3. Sgt. Jesus Garcia
4. Cpl. Rodel Genova
5. Cpl. Edward de Leon
6. SSg. Eufrociho Payumo Jr.

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<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

# LOCAL INTEGRATION | CLIP of DILG Awards Former Rebels in Misamis Oriental

Posted by Alvin Santiago



**CLAVERIA, MISAMIS ORIENTAL (DWDD)** – Two (2) former members of New People's Army (NPA) who surrendered to 58th Infantry Battalion received a total of ₱166,000.00 Fire Arm Cost Remuneration from the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) of the Province of Misamis Oriental on 28 November 2016 at Provincial Training Center, Cagayan de Oro City.

In a simple awarding ceremony, Hon. Gerardo Sabal III, Board Member, Misamis Oriental handed the checks to the former rebels assisted and witnessed by Provincial Director Edward P Bagwani of DILG, Mrs Emelia P Andea, Head of PSWDO, COL ERIC C VINOYA INF (GSC) PA, Commander of 403rd Bde and LTC FRANCIS P CARANDANG INF (GSC) PA, Commanding Officer, 58IB .

Aside from the Cost Remuneration of their Fire Arms the awardees also received their immediate cash assistance worth ₱15,000.00 each last 28 July 2016 at Office of the DILG Misamis Oriental, Cagayan De Oro City.

The DILG Director Bagwani said the implementation of CLIP in partnership with the local government units (LGUs), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), PNP, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and civil society organizations (CSOs) demonstrates the commitment of the government to pursue lasting peace and development amid the stalled peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). CLIP is being spearheaded by the DILG as part of the government's peace and development efforts across the country.

The rebels laying down of firearms and becoming part of a peaceful society will have corresponding to aid in bringing back to their normal lives. CMO 58IB, 4ID / MCAG

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