

Army Vision: By 2040, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

04 December 2016

Sunday

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

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

NEWS HEADLINES

04 DECEMBER 2016



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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04 DECEMBER 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1-2	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A8
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-4	Wife links CIDG Region 8 Director to husband's murder	Arlyn Dela Cruz	PDI p.A1
5	It's the right way'	Elena L. Aben & Agence France-Prese	Mla Bulletin p.1
ARMY NEWS			
6	Army shooters win 6 medals in Asean Rifle Meet	Anthony Vargas	Mla Times p.A7
7	Army shooter bags gold medal	Paul Gutierrez	Peoples Tonight p.8
8	Army shooters bag medals in Asean tilt	Zalda delos Reyes-Palanca	Peoples Journal p.13
9	Photo: An Armoured personnel carrier	AFP	Tempo p.4
10	Photo: Mountain Town Retaken	AFP	The Standard p.A3
AFP RELATED NEWS			
11	PMA honors outgoing AFP chief Visaya	Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca	Peoples Journal p.2
12	No truce breach, says AFP chief	Vincent Cabreza	PDI p.A11
13	AFP mulls deployment of troops in Butig to prevent attacks	Philippines News Agency	Mla Bulletin p.20
14	AFP mulls deployment of forces in Butig to thwart Maute attack	PNA	Daily Tribune p.3
15	AFP: Walang katibayan sa Maute -ISIS link		Police Files p.2
16	Southeast Asia faces ultra Jihadist threat	AFP	The Standard p.A3
17	DSWD extends aid to Maute victims		Tempo p.4
18	Reds to take up Marcos burial in next talks	Carla P Gomez	PDI p. A10
19	Gov't sincerity on plan to release political prisoners questioned	Rhodina Villanueva	PhilStar p.2
20	'Better to talk than kill all rebels'	Frinston Lim	PDI p.A12
SPORTS			
21	Army shooter captures gold		Peoples Journal p.14
22	Volleyball- Foton turns back Army in PSL		Mla Bulletin p.22
23	Photo: Members of RC Cola celebrate a point		Tempo p.15
ONLINE NEWS			
24-25	Duterte urged: Deploy soldiers to prevent Maute rebel clashes in Lanao town	John Unson	http://www.philstar.com/

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


26	AFP mulls deployment of forces to Butig to prevent Maute attack		http://www.philstar.com/
27	62 Maute members killed, 37 soldiers wounded--AFP		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
28-30	Unimplemented peace pacts will be "rallying point of extreme in Mindanao"	MindaNews	www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
31-34	The rise of Maute	Business Mirror	www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
35-36	CPP: Release all political prisoners or we resume war	Rappler	www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

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

64 December 2016


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER





Page: A8




PANAHON TV

www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV



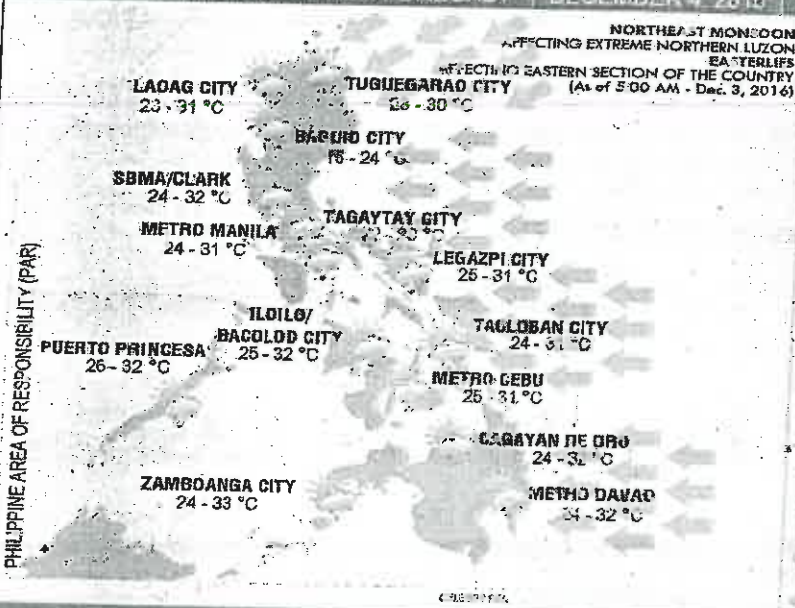







PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 4, 2016 | SUNDAY



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON

EASTERLIES AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY (As of 5:00 AM - Dec. 3, 2016)

City	Temp Range
LAOAG CITY	23 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY	28 - 30 °C
BAGUIO CITY	15 - 24 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 32 °C
METRO MANILA	24 - 31 °C
LEGAZPI CITY	25 - 31 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY	25 - 32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	26 - 32 °C
TACLOBAN CITY	24 - 31 °C
METRO CEBU	25 - 31 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 31 °C
METRO DAVAO	24 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY	24 - 33 °C

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:07 AM	5:25 PM

MOONRISE	MOONSET
9:40 AM	9:28 PM

NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
NOV 26 4:18 PM	DEC 7 5:03 PM

LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
8:25 AM -0.12 Meter	11:49 PM 1.06 Meter


Partly cloudy at times; cloudy with rainshowers

Partly cloudy to times; cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorm

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorm

Light rain

	DEC 3	DEC 4	DEC 5	DEC 6
METRO MANILA	24 - 32 °C	23 - 31 °C		
TUGUEGARAO	28 - 29 °C	23 - 29 °C		
LAOAG	24 - 31 °C	23 - 30 °C		
BAGUIO	15 - 25 °C	15 - 24 °C		
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C		
TAGAYTAY		22 - 30 °C	21 - 29 °C	
LEGAZPI		24 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C	
PUERTO PRINCESA		25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	
ILOILO/BACOLOD		25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	
METRO CEBU		24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	
TACLOBAN		25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	
CAGAYAN DE ORO		25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	
METRO DAVAO		24 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C	
ZAMBOANGA		24 - 33 °C	25 - 34 °C	




AIR 21

SCOUTING, PIRATES, NO!

Watch PanahonTV daily on Pilipinas HD at 9AM, 12NN, 3PM, 6PM & 9PM.

PILIPINAS HD



1

04 December 2016



Page: A1

WIFE LINKS CIDG REGION 8 DIRECTOR TO HUSBAND'S MURDER

Mylene Son vows to tell all—what her husband Police Chief Insp. Jesus “Jim” Son, told her—when she faces Senate probers on Monday

STORY BY ARLYN DELA CRUZ

EXCLUSIVE

On the night of Sept. 15, Police Chief Insp. Jesus “Jim” Son of Leyte told his wife Mylene that someone wanted him dead for failing to do a “project,” a hit on Albura, Leyte Mayor Rolando Espinosa. Mylene said Son had told her that Criminal Investigation Detection Group (CIDG) Region 8 chief Supt. Marvin Marcos had asked him to look for an asset who would be paid P500,000 to kill the mayor for having drawn up a list of government and police officials protecting the illegal drug trade of his

son, Kerwin Espinosa.

But a close relative and friend had warned Son that Espinosa was under the witness protection program and that he could wind up as the fall guy. Previously, there had been bad blood between Son and Marcos, Mylene said, because Marcos’ wife and Son’s father-in-law became rivals for the vice mayoral post in the town of Pastrana, Leyte, which the older man eventually won.

Now her husband was dead, ambushed a day after he expressed his fears to her and in a Facebook post, Mylene said. Shortly after, Mayor Es-

pinoza himself was dead, killed inside his cell in the police precinct in what Marcos said was a shootout.

Mylene said she had wanted to tell all weeks after her husband’s death, but she hesitated when she saw Marcos’ demeanor at the Senate hearing the CIDG chief had seemed so confident and arrogant he must have powerful connections, she said. This time around, she won’t back down, she said, vowing to tell everything she knows during the Senate hearing on illegal drugs on Monday.

A2

LAGOT KA

FROM A1

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Correspondent at Large

It was one of those conversations with her husband that Mylene Son would never forget.

On the night of Sept. 15 this year, Police Chief Insp. Jesus "Jim" Son told his wife: "*Baka hanggang ngayon o bukas na lang ang buhay ko* (My life might end today or tomorrow)."

Her husband was no stranger to death threats, Mylene said. Known as a tough police officer in Leyte, Son was not the type who would be shaken by any threat. But that night, Mylene said, he talked about being killed like he was so sure it would happen and that he knew who would do it.

"He told me who threatened him and that he also told his closest friend about it," Mylene recounted.


On Monday, Dec. 5, Mylene will face the Senate inquiry on invitation by the committee headed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson.



Police Chief Insp. Jesus Son



Supt. Marvin Marcos


**'He told me who
threatened
him and that he
also told
his closest friend
about it'**

Mylene Son
Wife of Insp. Jesus "Jim" Son

flag-raising ceremony to help a neighbor who had been robbed.

"He left past 6 and I texted him saying I'll wait for him at the Snack Haus so we could go home together," Mylene said. But until 9 that morning, there was no response to her message. At past 9, Son texted back "*Pauwi na ako* (on my way home)" and she had responded, "OK. Love u." It was the last communication between husband and wife.

By 10, Mylene got suspicious when some friends checked on her. Was she at the Snack Haus? Was she with her husband? they

3

"*Sasabihin ko ang lahat ng kato-
tohanang nalalaman ko (I will
tell all that I know),*" she said.

Son told Mylene about a di-
rect threat from Supt. Marvin
Marcos, Region 8's chief of
Criminal Investigation and De-
tection Group (CIDG).

"*Mainit daw sa kanya si
Supt. Marcos kasi hindi niya gi-
nawa ang inuutos sa kanya na
'project.' Gusto daw tignan kung
hanggang suan talaga ang
tapang ng asawa ko (He said
Marcos was mad because he did
not do the project assigned to
him. My husband said Marcos
wanted to see how far he'd go in
defying him),*" Mylene said.

Son and Marcos were not on
speaking terms because in a pre-
vious local election, Marcos' wife,
Marites, had ran against
Edgar Empillo Sr., Son's father-
in-law, for the vice mayoral post
in Pastrana town, Leyte. Son's
father-in-law won, while Mar-
cos' wife placed third in the race.

Making amends

Then sometime in August,
Marcos started talking to Son
again, Mylene said, adding that
her husband thought it was be-
cause the CIDG head wanted to
make amends for his previous
hostility.

Son did not realize that
Marcos was trying to lure him
into doing a very sensitive "pro-
ject," Mylene said.

The "project" targeted
someone who had identified
key personalities involved in
the proliferation of illegal drugs
in Eastern Visayas, as well as
government and police officials
who had received protection
money for the illegal drugs
trade of Kerwin Espinosa.

Mylene said her husband
told her the "project" was a hit
on Albura, Leyte Mayor Rolan-
do Espinosa. "Marcos asked my
husband if he has an asset who
could kill Espinosa for a

P500,000 fee. Son said he'd look
for one; he felt pressured to do
it. Then a close relative and
friend advised my husband not
to do it because Mayor Espinosa
was under the witness protec-
tion program. He just might be-
come a fall guy," Mylene re-
called her husband telling her.

On the night of Sept. 15, Son
on his joint Facebook account
with his wife, posted this mes-
sage, "*Pulis sa pulis ... putangina
mo!!! offer ka nga, naka witness
protection program naman
tapos double cross mo kami ...
ala ka bayag ... subukin mo ako
hamunin nang harapan ... I'm
sure may mamamatay sa atin!!!
Wag mo ako traidurin!!! Di kita
uurungan! (Cop versus cop ...
son of a whore! You made an of-
fer on [a guy under] the witness
protection program then you
dare double cross us. You have
no balls. Why don't you fight
me face to face? I'm sure one of
us will die. Don't double cross
me! I will not back down).*"

Ambushed

The message was ad-
dressed to Marcos, according
to Mylene. At that time, Mayor
Espinosa was still in the cus-
tody of Albura Police Chief in-
spector Jovie Espenido.

The following day, Son was
ambushed by unidentified as-
sailants along the national
highway of Barangay Pilit, Sta.
Fe in Leyte province. Initial in-
vestigation reports said the am-
bush was work-related because
Son was a former intelligence
officer of Leyte's Anti-Drugs
Group and had received recog-
nition and commendations for
several antidrug operations.

"That morning, he was so
happy. He woke me and said,
it's Friday, I'll be attending the
flag-raising ceremony," Mylene
recalled. Her husband also
promised to go home after the

wanted to know. "My friends
knew that no matter how diffi-
cult it was for me, I would al-
ways go with my husband
wherever he might be assigned.
I want someone to converse
with," Mylene said, not knowing
that her friends already knew
about her husband's ambush
when they called her.

On Nov. 5, Mayor Espinosa
was killed by a CIDG team led
by Marcos inside a subprovin-
cial jail in Leyte.

Powerful backers?

Weeks after that, Mylene
sought the Inquirer for help,
fearing that Marcos would go
after her and her children next.
She wanted to talk as early as
three weeks ago but became
hesitant when she saw Marcos'
demeanor during the Senate
inquiry led by Lacson.

"*Ang lukas ng loob niya,
parang may ipinagmamalaki.
Paano ko magsasalita laban sa
taong ganun kalakas ang loob
na parang nakasandal sa pader?*
(He sounded so sure, so confi-
dent like he has powerful back-
ers. How can you talk against
someone who has such strong
connections?)"

Recently, Philippine Na-
tional Police Director General
Ronald dela Rosa revealed that
someone higher than him had
asked that Marcos be reinstat-
ed as CIDG Region 8 Director.

Soon after, as speculation
grew about Dela Rosa's com-
padre who had interceded for
Marcos, President Duterte
himself admitted that it was
him, through Secretary Bong
Go, who had ordered Marcos'
reinstatement.

He needed the CIDG head
back in his post, the President
said, because he was still con-
ducting an investigation on
Marcos and was trying to piece
together his connections in the
illegal drugs trade. INQ

04 December 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

It's 'the right way'



Trump approves of Duterte-style drug war

By ELENA L. ABEN and AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

United States President-elect Donald Trump told President Rodrigo Duterte that Manila was conducting its deadly drug war "the right way," the Philippine leader said yesterday, in stark contrast to the criticism he received from outgoing US President Barack Obama.

Duterte called Trump late Friday evening (Manila time) to congratulate him on his election victory ▶7

It's 'the right way'

◀1

with Trump, in turn, wishing him "success" in his controversial anti-crime crackdown, in which some 4,800 people have been killed since June, according to Duterte.

"He (Trump) was quite sensitive also to our worry about drugs. And he wishes me well... in my campaign (against illegal drugs) and he said that... we are doing it as a sovereign nation, the right way," Duterte said in a statement yesterday.

Duterte, 71, launched an unprecedented war on drugs that drew a wave of global criticism with Obama urging the leader in September to conduct his campaign "the right way" following concerns over alleged extrajudicial killings.

Duterte's call to the business tycoon-turned-president happened at 10:30 p.m. and lasted over seven minutes.

Trump's office released a brief statement following the conversation, saying Duterte had congratulated Trump and the two agreed to work together closely.

In October Duterte announced a "separation" from the United States and had called for the withdrawal of American troops from his country, putting into question Manila's 70-year-old alliance with Washington.

But on Saturday, Duterte said he "could sense a good rapport" with an "animated" Trump.

Video released by Duterte's office showed the Philippine leader laughing as he chatted on the phone, later saying Trump would be "a good president for the United States of America."

Duterte said the president-elect invited him to visit New York and Washington D.C. and he returned the favor by asking Trump to attend a regional summit that the Philippines is set to host next year.

"If I'm around, he (Trump) wants to be notified of my presence," Duterte said.

The president's statement was far from his previous anti-American rhetoric, wherein at one point, during a state visit to China, he even announced "it's time to say goodbye" to the US.

"I will not go to America anymore. I will just be insulted there," he also said back in October.

Special Assistant to the President Christopher "Bong" Go earlier described Duterte's call to Trump as "very engaging and animated conversation."

"Nagkakaintindihan 'yun dalawa (The two understand each other)," said Go.

04 December 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A7

Nation in brief

ARMY SHOOTERS WIN 6 MEDALS IN ASEAN RIFLE MEET

MEMBERS of the Philippine Army (PA) shooting team bagged a total of six medals – two gold, one silver and three bronze – on Friday at the ASEAN Rifle Meet being held in Capas, Tarlac, a Philippine Army official said on Saturday. Army Captain Alberto Caber, chief of the Public Affairs Office (PAO) and Training and Doctrine Command of the Philippine Army, said the ASEAN Rifles Meet was held at the AARM grandstand last December 2m Camp O'Donnell in Capas. Winners were Sergeants Rodney Rizano and Benito Sumalag with gold medal in rifle and pistol categories. Sgt. Angelo Bonaguz with bronze and silver medals for Carbine category matches, while Staff Sgt. Mar Uoan and Private First Class Maria Liza Calubing received bronze medals for the rifle and pistol (female) categories. The 26th AARM Task Force Commander Brigadier General Hermingildo Francisco Aquino said in the same statement that the Philippine Army shooting team's performance this year is far better compared to last AARM held in Thailand. The annual competition was participated by 10 ASEAN countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, Brunei, Laos, Singapore, Vietnam, and Myanmar – that will end on December 7, 2016.

ANTHONY VARGAS

6

04 December 2016



Page. 8

Army shooter bags gold medal

THE shooting team of the Philippine Army further improves its performance in the ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet 2016, bagging another gold medal, one silver and three bronze medals.

Sgt. Benito Sumalag added another gold for the team in the pistol competition category on Friday, after the gold medal in the rifle competition won earlier by Sgt. Rodney Rizano.

Sgt. Angelo Bonaguara received his bronze and silver medals for the Carbine category Matches 1 & 2 while Staff Sgt. Mar Udan and Pfc. Maria Liza Calubing received bronze medals for the rifle and pistol (female) categories.

26th AARM Task Force

Commander, BGen. Herminigildo Francisco Aquino, also commander of the Training and Doctrine Command (Tradoc) of the Philippines Army, said the shooting team's performance this year is far better compared to last AARM held last year in Thailand.

This year, the Philippine Army, thru the Tradoc based in Camp O' Donnell, is host to the annual event participated in by the armed forces of all the 10 members comprising the ASEAN.

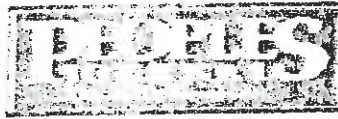
The friendly competition aimed at fostering friendship and cooperation among the ASEAN members, formally opened last Nov. 28 and would last until Dec.

7.

Paul Gutierrez

7

04 December 2016



Page. 13

Army shooters bag medals in ASEAN tilt

THE Philippine Army won two gold, one silver and three bronze medals in the on-going ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM) 2016 at the AARM grandstand in Camp O'Donnell in Capas, Tarlac.

Captain Alberto C. Caber, Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief of Training and Doctrine Command of the Philippine Army, said Sgt. Rodney Ryzano and Sgt. Benito Sumalag earned two gold medals in rifle and pistol categories while Sgt. Angelo Bonagua received two bronze and silver medals for the Carbine category Matches 1 & 2 while Staff Sgt. Mar Ugan and Plt. Maria Liza Carabing received bronze medals for the rifle and pistol (female) categories.

According to 26th AARM Task Force Commander Brig. Gen. Nicenungko Francisco Aquino the Philippine Army shooting team's performance this year is far better compared to last AARM held in Thailand.

Some 10 ASEAN countries joined this year's shooting competition including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, Brunei, Laos, Singapore, Vietnam, and Myanmar, that will end on Dec. 7. **Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca**

7

04 December 2016



Page. 4



AN armoured personnel carrier is seen near damaged structures as Philippine military troops retake and occupy the old Butig town hall in Butig, Lanao del Sur in Mindanao island. The extremist Maute group recently occupied part of the remote mountain town of Butig in the troubled southern Philippines island of Mindanao, prompting the military to launch an offensive. (AFP)

9

04 December 2016

The
Standard
PHILIPPINE NEWSPAPER

Page: A3



MOUNTAIN TOWN RETAKEN. An Armored Personnel Carrier stops rolling near damaged structures as Philippine military troops retake and occupy the old town hall of Butig town in Lanao del Sur on Friday. The extremist Maute group recently occupied part of the remote mountain town in troubled Mindanao, prompting the military to launch an offensive. **AFP**

10

64 December 2016



Page. 2

PMA honors outgoing AFP chief Visaya

By Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca

THE Philippine Military Academy (PMA) yesterday paid tribute to outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Ricardo R. Visaya at Fort Gregorio Del Pilar, Baguio City.

In a Testimonial Parade and Review held at the PMA Academy, the officers, soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen of the

PMA including the Cadel Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines led by PMA Supt. Major General Donato San Juan II bid goodbye to the Chief of Staff.

AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said during the ceremony the Chief of Staff was given full honors in a manner every alumnus of the academy would wish.

To be tendered a Testimonial Parade and Review by PMA—which the

outgoing Chief of Staff, General Visaya deems the cradle of his youth—is a fitting salute to a son who has given more than half of his life in the service of country and people,” Arevalo said.

Prior to his appointment to the highest military post, General Visaya held several key positions in the AFP.

He was the Commander of two prestigious Brigades—the 104th Brigade in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Lanao Provinces

and Basilan, and 901st Brigade in the Bicol Region.

The Chief of staff was also designated as Commander of the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City.

Before becoming AFP Chief of Staff on July 1, 2016, General Visaya was the 28th Commander of the Southern Luzon Command.

In his speech, General Visaya expressed his gratitude to the entire PMA where his career as public

servant started.

“This is where it all started. This is where we all realized our dreams to serve our nation through the noble profession of arms,” Visaya said.

“The PMA is where we were honed to be the best that we can be, to live the honorable way, and to be leaders of courage, integrity and loyalty,” Visaya added.

Looking back, General

Visaya said his strong desire to be part of change drove him to finish what he started in PMA and his entire military career.

He also reminded the cadets particularly the graduating PMA SALAKNIB Class of 2017 to be military professionals called to serve God, country and people.

“We must act and conduct ourselves with the highest level of excellence

and competence expected of us. Just do your job to the best of your ability and you will be surprised that what you will receive is actually more than what you aimed for,” he said.

General Visaya reaches the retirement age of 56 on Thursday after 37 years of military service.

He is a member of PMA “Matikas” Class of 1983 that produced three AFP Chiefs of Staff.

CA December 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: 411

No truce breach, says AFP chief

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—The military did not violate the ceasefire imposed unilaterally in August by President Duterte, contrary to claims of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), according to retiring Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Gen. Ricardo Visaya.

Visaya said government soldiers have been undertaking civic operations in outskirt communities, a noncombative task of the military.

Luis Jalandoni, senior adviser to the NDFP peace panel, said the communist rebels have compiled evidence of supposed military breaches of the ceasefire.

During a Nov. 25 peace forum at the Baguio City Hall, Jalandoni said the violations involved troop movements into territories where the presence



Visaya

of the New People's Army had been detected as well as in schools and villages occupied by indigenous peoples.

He said their complaint would be submitted formally as the government and the communist rebels try to hammer out a joint ceasefire declaration before the year ends.

But on Saturday here, Visaya

said that "so far the ceasefire is being done with no violations recorded."

"The visits made by the soldiers in the different communities are not military operations. We are undertaking civil-military operations—nontraditional operations [in remote villages]," said Visaya, who was honored with a testimonial parade by Philippine Military Academy (PMA) cadets here.

"We have to ensure their security," he said. "Communities in the very outskirts of the country are inaccessible to peace officers and when there are crimes, village leaders and mayors tend to call for military assistance," he said.

Visaya was appointed AFP chief by Mr. Duterte in July, barely five months before his mandatory retirement on Dec. 8 when

he turns 56. He is a member of the PMA Matikas Class of 1983.

He did not give a speech at the Borromeo field here, preferring to speak privately with the cadets at the mess hall.

But Visaya told reporters here that his successor would inherit Mr. Duterte's marching orders to crack down on the Abu Sayyaf and Maute groups.

"Right now, we have occupied Butid [town in Lanao del Sur from the Maute group] and 61 rebels were killed," Visaya said. "We have significantly reduced the strength of the Abu Sayyaf, but *kailangang ituloy ito* (our efforts should be sustained)."

He said he would not know who would succeed him but noted that "all 11 three-star generals are candidates to become AFP chief of staff." —VINCENT CABREZA INQ

04 December 2016



Page: 20

AFP mulls deployment of troops in Butig to prevent attacks

By PHILIPPINES NEWS AGENCY

The military is mulling the deployment of troops or police units to strategic areas in Butig municipality to prevent the Maute Group and other lawless elements from harassing its residents, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

"Again there are measures that can be employed to secure their safety and security, and these include the deployment of forces (either police or military) to maintain peace and secure the town's outskirts," Padilla said when asked how the government would protect the Lanao del Sur town after it was attacked by the Maute Group last Nov. 26, for

the second time. The first was in February.

While Butig town officials and residents are open to the establishment of a military camp in their locality, Padilla said, the proposal is still being considered by ranking AFP leaders and no decision has been made.

An estimated 62 members of the terrorist group have been killed while 37 troopers have been wounded in the military operation against the lawless band.

Butig town has been cleared of all Maute Group elements Wednesday but military units are still clearing the area of improvised explosive devices and other traps laid by the bandits, before they start allowing civilians to return.

04 December 2016



Page: 2

AFP mulls deployment of forces in Butig to thwart Maute attack

The military is mulling the deployment of troops or police units in strategic areas of Butig municipality in Lanao del Sur to prevent the Maute Group and other lawless elements from harassing its residents, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

"Again there are measures that can be employed to secure their safety and security, and these include the deployment of forces (either police or military) to maintain peace and secure the town's outskirts,"

Padilla said when asked how the government would protect the Lanao del Sur town after it was attacked by the Maute Group last November 26 for the second time. The first was in February.

While Butig town officials and residents are open to the establishment of a military camp in their locality, Padilla said, the proposal is still being considered by ranking AFP leaders and no decision has been made.

As of this posting, an estimated 62 members of the terrorist group

have been killed while 37 troopers have been wounded in the military operation against the lawless band.

Butig town has been cleared of all Maute Group elements Wednesday but military units are still clearing the area of improvised explosive devices and other traps laid by the bandits, before they start allowing civilians to return.

Last Friday, the military dismissed the claims that the Maute Group has link to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"We believe that Maute Group

has no link to MILF. There might be some who joined other groups whether BIFF (Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters) or Maute," Padilla said in a press briefing in Maiacatang.

The government is talking peace with the MILF as well as the Moro National Liberation Front of Nur Misuari.

Padilla said there also no confirmation if the Maute Group has direct connection with the international terrorist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria or ISIS. **PNA**

14

64 December 2016

POLICE FILES

Page. 2

AFP: Walang katibayan sa Maute-ISIS link

NANINIWALA ang AFP na walang koneksyon o link ang local terrorist na Maute group sa Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) bilang organisasyon.

Sinabi ni AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, maaaring may ilang miyembro na hindi naniniwala sa isinusulong ng MILF leadership kaya sumanib sa Maute o sa BIFF.

Ayon kay Padilla, kung mayroon mang MILF sa Maute, maaring dahil kadugo o kaanak sa teroristang grupo at sa personal na dahilan.

Samantala, iginigiit ng Maute na konektado at kinikilala silang kasama na ng ISIS, hindi pa naman ito ganap na kumpirmado.

Kailangan daw ng matibay na patunay na ang isang teroristang grupo ay may direktang ugnayan sa mas malaking grupo.

"So addressing your ques-

tion one at time, kung may link ba po sila sa MILF, o iba't ibang grupo. Ang amin pong paniniwala ay wala po. So maaaring may ilang miyembro na hindi po naniniwala sa isinusulong ng kanilang liderato sa MILF. At 'yung iilan po na 'yun ay maaring sumanib sa puwersa ng ibang grupo, maging BIFF o Maute. Pero itong sa Maute group, paniniwala namin ay hindi po. Kung meron man iilan lang 'yan dahil sa rason na sila ay kamag-anak o kadugo," ani Padilla. "Yung sa pangalawa naman, sa koneksyon sa Deash o ISIS. Patuloy po nating ipinapaliwanag na kinakailangan may mariin na basehan bago nating sabihin may direktang ugnayan ang isang teroristang grupo sa isang mas malaking grupo. Pero bago ko sagutin 'yan, kailangan ko lang ho maipaliwanag 'yung konteksto ng grupong ito."

15

04 December 2016

The
Standard
PHILIPPINE NEWSPAPER

Page: A3

SOUTHEAST ASIA FACES ULTRA JIHADIST THREAT

SINGAPORE—Southeast Asia faces a growing risk of extremist violence from Islamic State group supporters as the jihadist group seeks new pastures after setbacks in the Middle East, Singapore's home minister said Friday.

While IS is rapidly losing territory in Iraq and Syria, this may increase the risk of revenge attacks in Southeast Asia—and certain pockets of the region are receptive to radical Islamic ideology.

"The threat, if anything, I think has increased

compared to last year and earlier this year," K. Shanmugam told reporters.

Parts of Southeast Asia have long struggled with Islamic militancy and hundreds of radicals from the region have flocked to join IS.

Southeast Asians fighting for the jihadists have formed their own unit in the Middle East, called Katibah Nusantara, and are believed to be in regular contact with militants back home.

In the strife-torn southern Philippines, which has long battled a Muslim insurgency, a handful of Islamic extremist groups have sworn allegiance to IS.

There has been an upsurge of violence and attempted attacks in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, over the past year due to the growing influence of IS.

Even wealthy Singapore has detained several radicalized members of its local

Muslim minority.

"There is an increased likelihood that the Islamic State will declare an official wilaya, or province, in Southeast Asia in 2017," Otso Iho of defense analysts IHS Janes said Wednesday.

This would "most likely" happen in the southern Philippines, he added.

The region suffered its first IS attack in January this year when extremists launched a deadly suicide bombing and gun assault in Jakarta.

Minister Shanmugam said one key challenge for Singapore, an immigrant society of 5.5 million people, would be maintaining social cohesion in the aftermath of an attack.

Pointing to successful attacks in neighboring Malaysia and Indonesia, Shanmugam said it was a matter of when—not if—an attack would hit Singapore.

"We will guard our borders but the risk is quite significant," he said. **AFP**

04 December 2016



Page. 4

DSWD extends aid to Maute victims

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) continues to provide relief assistance to families in Butig, Lanao del Sur displaced by armed conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Maute Group, a local terror group which has pledged alliance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

According to the latest report by the DSWD Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC), a total of 2,894 families or 14,470 persons have been displaced in eight barangays in Butig since the clash between

government troops and the Maute Group started on November 26.

Of this number, 627 families or 3,135 individuals are currently taking refuge in four evacuation centers located in Butig proper and at Barangays Bayabao and Madrasah Raya Timbab, while 2,035 families or 10,175 persons are staying with their relatives and friends.

DSWD Secretary Judy Taguiwalo said that to ensure prompt delivery of aid to the affected families, the DSWD-Field Office (FO) XII has activated its operations center in Marawi City with the prepositioning of 500 bags of rice amounting to ₱625,000 to

be given to the evacuees.

Today, 02 December 2016, DSWD-FO XII is set to provide 10 kilos of rice to each of the affected families.

Also, DSWD-FO XII staff met with local officials of Marawi City about the participation of the villagers in the repacking of relief goods.

"It is important to ensure that families caught in the crossfire are still able to meet their basic needs especially for food. They were forced to abandon their regular sources of livelihood, and they now face a situation full of uncertainty," said Taguiwalo.

17

LA December 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A1C

Reds to take up Marcos burial in next talks

By Carla P. Gomez
@carlagomezINQ

BACOLOD CITY—National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) adviser Luis Jalandoni on Saturday said the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani violated an agreement on human rights and the NDFP would raise this in the next round of formal negotiations.

The NDFP strongly opposed the burial of Marcos that portrayed him as a hero and model, Jalandoni said during a peace

forum in Bacolod City.

He said the human rights agreement between the government and the NDFP says that both parties support the inherent and inalienable right of the people to fight tyranny and oppression just as they did in the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship.

He said any move that allows the return of the Marcoses to power, led by the dictator's namesake, former Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, must be condemned by the Filipino people.

"The Filipino people will be very strong in their resistance

to such an attempt by the Marcos family and also by supporters and anyone in the (previous) regime," he said.

The appropriate moves to take regarding Marcos' remains would be tackled during the talks.

In the war on drugs, the NDFP has taken the position that human rights should be respected and ordinary drug users and small time pushers, who actually need rehabilitation, should be given due process, Jalandoni said.

He said the indemnification, reparation and recognition of the rights of the victims of mar-

tial law under Marcos are also included in the human rights agreement and there are various ways of doing this.

Jalandoni and his wife, Coni Ledesma, who is part of the NDFP peace panel, are in the country for meetings with the other panel members and the Norwegian facilitator ahead of the third round of talks with government negotiators in Rome next month.

"We have confidence the peace talks will move forward but it will depend a lot on the mass organizations and campaign in support of the people

to achieve genuine land reform and national industrialization, as well as the protection of the environment," he said.

The NDFP is also pushing for national independence and sovereignty. It is seeking the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with the United States in order for the country to exercise an independent foreign policy, he said.

Jalandoni said an independent foreign policy should also be upheld in relations with other countries like China and Russia.

"It's good to have foreign relations with other countries like China and Russia, but we must make sure that we assert and protect our own independence and sovereignty and relationships have to be equal and beneficial to both sides," he said.

"While we develop fruitful relations with China we have to make sure that we do not give up our sovereign rights to the areas that really belongs to the Philippines in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea," he added. INQ

December 2016



Page: 2

Gov't sincerity on plan to release political prisoners questioned

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Families of political prisoners are questioning the sincerity of the government to fulfill its commitment to release their loved ones from prison.

"Is the (government) sincere in fulfilling its commitment to release family members from prison?" asked Amado Cadano, father of political prisoner Guiller Cadano and spokesman of the political prisoners' relatives.

Cadano criticized the "snail-paced action" of the government's peace panel on its commitment to release all political

prisoners, in line with peace talks with the left's political group, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

"This delay, which is tantamount to neglect, has unfortunately resulted in the death of ailing and elderly political prisoner Bernabe Ocasla," said Cadano.

Last Nov. 28, Ocasla, 66, died of a heart attack at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center. He was among the 130 sickly of the total 401 political prisoners.

"We are pained by the continuing incarceration of our children, partners or sisters and brothers because of their defense of people's rights and their work for genuine social change. There is no pain greater than that felt by the family of Ocasla upon his death while imprisoned," Cadano said.

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza and members of the government peace panel have made various pronouncements on the release of political prisoners.

Cadano said families of political prisoners have yet to see concrete action from the government on this.

"Are they really serious? Are they really sincere? Because our imprisoned and suffering relatives are serious in their advocacies for reform," said Gloria Almonte, wife of ailing political prisoner Dionisio Almonte. "The only remedy to correct the injustice done to them is to immediately release them."

Dionisio is considered one of the seriously ill prisoners. He is detained at the Special Intensive Care Area-1 and awaiting the court's permission to be confined at a hospital for his severe diabetes and slip disc.

According to the group Hustisya, as of Oct. 31, 401 political prisoners were awaiting release.

"With the untimely death of Ocasla, the number comes down to 400," Cadano said. "There is no absolving of the government in Ocasla's death, no excuse for them to delay his release, which indirectly caused his death."

NPA's power couple

Meanwhile, President Duterte has ordered New People's Army (NPA)'s power couple, Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, to be flown to Davao so they could thresh out issues on the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

"Have to talk to them," Duterte said, as the government shouldered the couple's airfare and billeting expenses.

"That's the problem of the nation. But we are okay," the President told a group of policemen, who just graduated from a defensive motorcycle-riding course in Davao City last night.

The President has acknowledged the Tiamzon couple and NDF leader Luis Jalandoni's vast influence among their comrades, while stressing his aim to ensure the success of the government's peace talks with the Reds.

Duterte said CPP-NPA founding leader Jose Maria Sison had lost his influence over the leftist group.

The government has an ongoing peace negotiation with the Left in Oslo, Norway. Both sides have declared their respective ceasefires to pursue the talks.

December 2016



Page: 412

'Better to talk than kill all rebels'

DAVAO CITY—President Duterte said he would rather talk with all insurgent groups rather than wipe them out despite the growing threat of terror attacks he expects in the coming years.

"I'm talking to everybody. I don't want trouble," he said on Friday as he addressed members of the uniformed services who had completed a proficiency course on motorcycle-riding in Davao City.

"Even if you kill all those rebels, it would amount to nothing. This has been going on for so many years," said the 71-year old President. "We cannot wage war against our own people and you cannot build a government over the bones of soldiers and rebels."

He said this was why he was also talking with the Communist Party of the Philippines, which has been fighting the government for 47 years in one of the world's longest running insurgencies.

Mr. Duterte said taking a peaceful approach by talking with rebels remains "the best solution" to the Moro insurgency, adding that he hoped the military would not be "offended" by this approach.

He said he had discussed this matter with Murad Ebrahim, leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"But I have a problem here with Moro rebels. I hope to talk to them eventually," the President said of other Moro armed groups.

The President warned that terror attacks "will come."

"Be prepared," he said, a day after the Philippine National Police announced that the entire country had been placed under terror alert 3, a warning that an attack could occur "within a short period of time."

The announcement followed the arrest of two men suspected of planting an improvised bomb near the US embassy in Manila on Nov. 28. The explosive was similar to the one set off by suspected members of the Maute terror group in Davao City on Sept. 2, killing 15 people.

Authorities said the alleged bombing attempt could have been intended to ease pressure

on the Islamic State inspired extremists being battered by a major military offensive in Butig, Lanao del Sur.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, earlier said the military would be willing to hold talks with the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups "for as long as they have the desire to change their lives." He said this condition was non-negotiable.

"Our only request is that we must not allow this at the expense of justice because those who have pending warrants or who were already sentenced in court must answer for the crimes they have committed," Padilla said. —FRINSTON LIM INQ

December 2016



Page. 14

Army shooter captures gold

PHILIPPINE Army kept its fine form, winning one gold, one silver and three bronze medals yesterday in the ASEAN Armies Rifle meet in Tarlac.

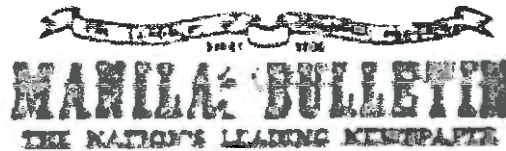
Sgt. Benito Sumalag added another gold for Team PH by winning in the pistol competition category on Friday, giving the host nation its second victory. Sgt. Rodney Rizano prevailed in the rifle category a few days ago.

Sgt. Angelo Bonagua won his bronze and silver medals in the Carbine category Matches 1 & 2 while Staff Sgt. Mar Udan and Pfc. Maria Liza Calubing received bronze medals for the rifle and pistol (female) categories.

26th AARM Task Force Commander, BGen. Herminigildo Francisco Aquino, also commander of the Training and Doctrine Command (Tradoc) of the Philippine Army, said the team's performance this year is far better compared to last AARM held last year in Thailand.

21

04 December 2016



Page: 22

VOLLEYBALL

Foton turns back Army in PSL

LEGAZPI CITY — Foton battled its way back from a huge deficit to escape with a nail-biting 23-25, 23-25, 25-22, 25-15, 15-7 victory over RC Cola-Army in the semifinals of the Asics Philippine Superliga Grand Prix Saturday at the Ibalong Centrum for Recreation.

The Tornadoes shrugged off a rusty start before Ariel Usher buckled down to business and spearheaded the Tornadoes back to the finals of this prestigious club tourney bankrolled by Senoh, Mikasa, Mueller and Grand Sport with TV5 as official broadcast partner.

Usher, the blonde bomber from Portland, delivered the crucial hits, including the booming attack from the right flank that put an exclamation mark on this marathon battle that lasted for two hours and 37 minutes.

The Tornadoes would face the winner of the other semifinal pairing between F2 Logistics and Petron in a best-of-three finals affair when the league sponsored by Focus Athletics, KLab Cy-scorpions, Foton, Petron and F2 Logistics resumed on Thursday at the FilOil

Flying V Center in San Juan.

Usher exploded in the third and fourth sets as she erupted for 15 kills, five blocks and two aces for a total of 22 points for the Tornadoes, who started the game on the wrong foot that allowed the Lady Troopers to seize control and gain an early momentum.

Jaja Santiago finished with 14 points while Lindsay Stalzer had 14 hits, much to the delight of Foton coach Moro Branslav who earlier tagged this semifinal showdown as the “real battle” among four of the best club teams in the country today.

“I’m happy for my team that they finished strong for us to enter in the finals,” said the Serbian coach, who is looking to steer the Tornadoes back to the AVC Asian Women’s Club Championship that would be held in Kazakhstan next year.

“RC Cola-Army is such a difficult team to beat. They always play good when they know they’re in a big battle. I have high respect for this team.

True enough, what was tipped to be a cakewalk for the topseed Tornadoes

turned into a full-blown war as the Lady Troopers showed up prepared and ready to pull off an earthshaking upset.

RC Cola-Army took control of the first two sets before threatening as it knotted the count at 18 in the third set. But Usher responded with three straight kills as Foton gained the set point, 24-21, to stretch the match into another set.

It was an all-Foton show from there as RC Cola-Army ran out of gas for a 15-25 setback in the fourth set. The Lady Troopers regrouped and tried to mount a rally in the deciding set with a 5-8 deficit, but Santiago and Usher waxed hot anew to seal the victory.

Although RC Cola-Army finished with more attacks, 56-53, Foton still had more blocks, 11-6, and more aces, 10-7, while committing less turnovers, 25-37.

Import Kierra Holst nailed 24 of her 26 points off kills while Jovelyn Gonzaga and Honey Royse Tubino submitted 18 and 15 markers, respectively, for the Lady Troopers, who will vie for the bronze medal against the loser in the F2 Logistics-Petron encounter.

04 December 2016



Page. 15



MEMBERS of the RC Cola team celebrate a point against Foton during PSL action yesterday.

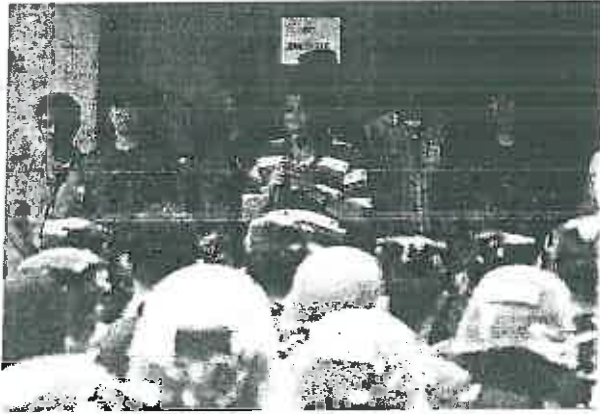
23

ONLINE NEWS
04 DECEMBER 2016

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

Duterte urged: Deploy soldiers to prevent Maute rebel clashes in Lanao town

By John Unson



President Rodrigo Duterte talks to military personnel during his visit to the 103rd Brigade in Lumbayanague town, Lanao del Sur on November 30, 2016. Facebook/PCO

COTABATO CITY, Philippines -- The Dawlah Islamiya in Butig, Lanao del Sur is just a ragtag militant gang but enjoys the support of local Islamic schools providing fanatical students to help fight government forces. Local officials in Butig on Saturday urged President Rodrigo Duterte to assign a battalion of soldiers in the municipality to prevent Dawlah Islamiya militants, also known as the Maute terror group, from coming back to plunder villages.

Members of the Butig municipal peace and order council on Saturday told The STAR more than half of the group's only about 200 members are jobless men from nearby towns and students of an Islamic school in Marawi City.

Lanao del Sur Vice Gov. Mamintal Adiong Jr., a senior member of the provincial peace and order council, told reporters, at the sideline of Thursday's local government summit of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in Davao City, that the school is now being monitored by local authorities.

Other local executives from Lanao del Sur who attended the summit said they want the Department of Education-ARMM to look into the activities of the Islamic school, whose name they asked not to publish yet pending the outcome of a full-dressed probe on its alleged links with the Dawlah Islamiya.

"There are also three other smaller Islamic schools rumored to have links with this group which is espousing violence. Nowhere in the Qur'an can we find a single verse espousing violence as a means of furthering a cause or in seeking redress," said a mayor.

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

Maranaw mayors confirmed that the suspicious school in Marawi City first sent students to Butig to help the Dawlah Islamiya fight Army units that flushed them out of the municipality during the campaign period that preceded the May 9, 2016 elections.

"Certain students of the school were reportedly absent from classes during the latest incursion of the group in populated areas in Butig," said a local official present in the ARMM local government summit, held at the SMX Convention Center in Davao City.

Duterte was keynote speaker in the gathering, which culminated Thursday afternoon.

Mayors are worried of more clandestine attacks soon by militants on Maranaw peasant communities to avenge the deaths of 22 Dawlah Islamiya gunmen soldiers killed in a spate of encounters there last week that displaced 2,715 Maranaw families.

The military had announced that more than 50 Dawlah Islamiya members were killed in firefights in Butig from November 23 to 25. Local executives confirmed that the group only had 22 fatalities, nine of them adolescents. Now in his second term as ARMM's regional vice governor, Lucman, who hails from Bayang town in Lanao del Sur, said there is a need for an immediate deployment of a battalion of soldiers in Butig to deter attacks by the Dawlah Islamiya.

"An Army battalion that would stay there and not leave after the ongoing anti-Maute operations," Lucman said. Evacuees provided with food by the ARMM government through a team led by Lucman, concurrent regional social welfare secretary, shared saddening stories on how militants forced them last week to leave at gunpoint and looted their houses.

The evacuees said the militants also took away their farm animals as they fled to elude responding soldiers. "It is just a very small group. Most of its members are not residents of Butig but are from nearby towns in Lanao del Sur," said Abdul Pansar, the municipal planning and development coordinator of Butig.

The Dawlah Islamiya, founded by relatives Omar and Abdullah Maute, boasts of its allegiance to the Independent State of Iraq and Syria and has also been using the black ISIS flag as its revolutionary banner. The founders of the group had studied Islamic theology in Syria, Jordan and in secular schools in the United Arab Emirates, according to incumbent public officials in Lanao del Sur.

Last week's hostilities in Butig erupted when Dawlah Islamiya gunmen showed force in the center of the municipality and hoisted the ISIS flag on strategic spots there as if taunting local authorities.

"Maybe they were only after of media mileage. They all ran away after a series of encounters with soldiers that came to clear from their occupation the areas they occupied for about two days," said a provincial official. Mayors in Maguindanao's adjoining Matanog, Buldon and Barira towns that are all located near the forested border of the province with Lanao del Sur said they are apprehensive of a possible retreat of the Dawlah Islamiya militants in Butig to their municipalities.

Buldon Mayor Abolais Manalao has recommended an urgent meeting of the municipal peace and order councils in the three Maguindanao towns to discuss how to prevent the possible influx of extremists from Butig. Butig is so close to the border of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao, where there is a much bigger militant group, the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, also known for its allegiance to ISIS.

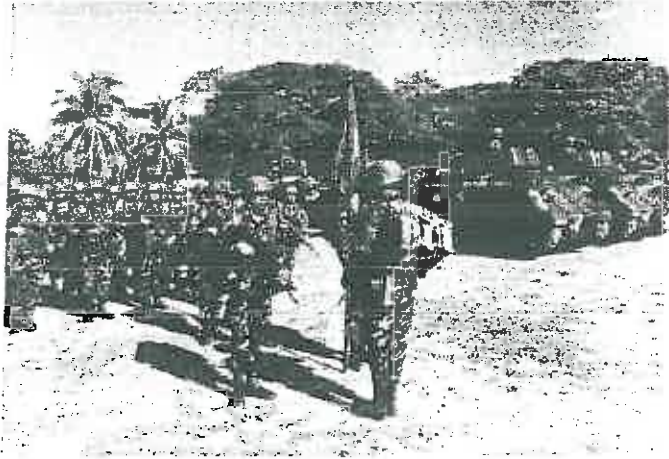
"We have to involve the moderate Muslim religious leaders in our towns in addressing this issue," Manalao said in Filipino.

Butig Mayor Dimnatang Pansar said he is optimistic Malacañang will deploy soon a battalion of soldiers in their municipality to help the local police curb the activities of the Dawlah Islamiya. There are only 20 policemen in Butig, some of them armed only with 9 millimeter pistols.

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

AFP mulls deployment of forces to Butig to prevent Maute attack

(philstar.com) | Updated December 3, 2016 - 2:08pm



The military units are still clearing the area of improvised explosive devices and other traps laid by the bandits. Philstar.com/File photo

MANILA, Philippines (Philippines News Agency) - The military is mulling the deployment of troops or police units to strategic areas of Butig municipality to prevent the Maute Group and other lawless elements from harassing its residents. Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

"Again there are measures that can be employed to secure their safety and security, and these include the deployment of forces (either police or military) to maintain peace and secure the town's outskirts," Padilla said when asked how the government would protect the Lanao del Sur town after it was attacked by the Maute Group last November 26 for the second time. The first was in February.

While Butig town officials and residents are open to the establishment of a military camp in their locality, Padilla said the proposal is still being considered by ranking AFP leaders and no decision has been made.

As of this posting, an estimated 62 members of the terrorist group have been killed while 37 troopers have been wounded in the military operation against the lawless band.

Butig town has been cleared of all Maute Group elements Wednesday but military units are still clearing the area of improvised explosive devices and other traps laid by the bandits, before they start allowing civilians to return.

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

62 Maute members killed, 37 soldiers wounded -- AFP

Philippine News Agency

The number of Maute Group members killed in the ongoing military operations in Butig, Lanao del Sur has reached 62, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman B/Gen. Restituto Padilla said on Friday.

"The number continue to rise in favor of government. The final number that we got as an update was 62 killed on the part of the local terrorist group," Padilla said in a press briefing in Malacanang. Padilla said there are also 15 terrorist group members wounded in the firefight that started almost a week ago when the Maute Group occupied a portion of the Butig town. From the government side, Padilla said about 37 troops have been wounded, including those who were hurt during the roadside improvised explosive device (IED) bombing, that rocked a passing convoy of President Rodrigo Duterte's advance party in Marawi City last Tuesday. "The area will continuously be secured until we guarantee that this local terrorists will be unable to return to the area," Padilla said. Padilla said the build-up area that were tentatively occupied by the Maute Group had all been cleared. "What remains for us is to clear the outskirts and the operation is ongoing. The center itself is well-secured," he said. The military, he added, is now preparing for the return of the local residents to their home and "resume their normal lives." Meanwhile, Padilla denied accusations from a youth group that the ambush of the President's advance party was set up by the military. "I'd like to state that whatever news that came out viral in social media coming from a certain alleged youth group is nothing but propaganda," Padilla said. "The incident did and actually happened and was not something that was contrived or made up by the Armed Forces. Our men were hurt in a roadside bombing," he added. Padilla admitted that military committed lapses in securing the area, allowing the terrorist group to dump a piece of bag containing the IED in the area where they know the convoy will be passing. "The convoy was an easy target because it was marked vehicle and they were moving in broad daylight," he explained. Seven members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) and two of the troops escorting the convoy were hurt in the IED explosion.

President Duterte visited the injured government troops in a hospital in Cagayan de Oro last Wednesday

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Unimplemented peace pacts will be “rallying point of extremists in Mindanao”

MindaNews

A continued failure in implementing the peace agreements between government and the Bangsamoro revolutionary fronts will be the rallying point of extremists in Mindanao,” leaders of the Moro fronts said at the end of the two-day Kusog Mindanaw conference on federalism Wednesday.

“We, the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) and MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front),... we will become irrelevant if our peace agreements will not be implemented and in fact that is the issue, the rallying point of the extremists in Mindanao. They're saying, 'look at the MNLF and the MILF, their agreements have never been implemented. So there's no point talking with this government who has violated peace agreements since time immemorial,’” said lawyer Randolph Parcasio of the MNLF under founding chair Nur Misuari.



Members of the panel discuss updates on the peace process in Kusog Mindanaw's conference on federalism. Randolph Parcasio (right, holding microphone) of the MNLF-Misuari faction beside MILF peace implementing chair Mohagher Iqbal and Assistant Secretary Dickson Hermoso. MindaNews photo by Carolyn O. Arguillas

“Implement the peace agreements so that you will have MNLF and MILF who are now cooperating with government, to continue their being relevant,” he said.

Mohagher Iqbal, chair of the peace implementing panel of the MILF, said extremism “is part of human nature” and that even in schools, there are classmates who express extremist view. But violent extremism, he said, must be addressed.

He explained that “until and unless the historic injustices committed against the Moro people (are addressed), I think the extremist groups, the violent extremist groups would still multiply because they have so much reason to fight the government.”

But if the historical injustices are addressed “by the passage of a good (Bangsamoro) law, then the MNLF, the MILF can be partners of government and we have both the moral and the legal authority to do it,” he said. “Please do not force my hand”

At least five groups have been reported to be engaging in violent extremism, even linking up with the ISIS

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

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

(Islamic State of Iraq and Syria): the Abu Sayyaf in the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi; the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Maguindanao and parts of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat; the Ansar al-Khilafah Philippines in Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato; the Khilafah Islamiyah Movement in Lanao del Sur, allegedly founded by the Maute Group; and the Rajah Solaiman Movement.



President Rodrigo Duterte in Butig, Lanao del Sur on 30 November 2016. MindaNews photo by FROILAN GALLARDO

In Butig, Lanao del Sur on Wednesday, Duterte warned the Maute Group: "Ayaw kong makipag-away sa inyo. Ayaw kong makipagpatayan but please do not force my hand kasi may limit ho naman ang problema na ito." He said he cannot be travelling to Lanao del Sur every month to talk and when he leaves, the killings will resume.

"There has to be a timeline. It could be forever. It could be during my term. It could be beyond my term. But there is certain limit. And when that limit comes, I'll have to deal with you harshly," he said.

At the 3rd ARMM LGU Summit here on Thursday, Duterte said he was willing to give members of the Maute Group plane tickets to the Middle East or give them five goats, for example, so they would stop disturbing the villages. He said it would be foolhardy for a group of 50 to fight the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Global context

Assistant Secretary Dickson Hermoso of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) said the public should not only look into the domestic scene but the global context to understand "why our young people now are into radicalism."

Hermoso, a retired Army colonel who once served in the ceasefire committee of the government peace panel, acknowledged the frustration over the historical injustices in the country, especially the Bangsamoro whose struggle has not been addressed by the political settlement, but said those who have been lured into violent extremism were driven to it not just by the local situation but also by the global events.

"What is happening in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya inspired them also... That is now the new danger that we are facing. That is why the vertical conflict (with the Bangsamoro fronts with whom government has signed peace agreements), to me, is done already. What we have are these new emerging groups. The youngblood, most of them are from the ranks of the mujahideens or the revolutionaries in the past," Hermoso said. But he quickly added that it is not only the Philippines that is facing the problem of violent extremism but also other countries in the region.

Addressing violent extremism

Hermoso said addressing violent extremism means going back to the basics. "Let us reorient their values... everybody can help ... reshape the values, especially (because) they are very vulnerable."

"Yes, they are influenced by what is happening now, but they are also influenced by what is happening outside because of the alleged persecution of the Muslims," Hermoso added.

Parcasio said the MNLF is against extremism, specially a perverted interpretation of the Koran," he said,

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

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

adding the MNLF is fighting the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu.

He recalled that while serving as ARMM Executive Secretary in 1997, MNLF commanders in Jolo wanted to join the soldiers in fighting the Abu Sayyaf but the military commander "did not agree because he told us there is only one armed forces." He said the MNLF instead offered the military intelligence reports on the whereabouts of the terrorist group.

Iqbal said the MILF is "trying our best to reach out not directly to the so-called extremist leaders but to their relatives and followers" and noted that they have been "quite successful," claiming "one of the BIFF is inclined to the MILF."

The BIFF broke away from the MILF in March 2010, shortly after Ustadz Amirul Umra Kato resigned as commander of the 105th Base Command of the MILF's Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces. Kato died in April 2015.

Iqbal said their approach to the relatives and followers of the extremist group is dialogue.

"So mainly our approach to the extremist group, not to their leaders, is dialogue, dialogue. We try to explain to them that their view or their concept about Islam is not the way to interpret it," he said.

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

The rise of Maute Group

From the Business Mirror (Dec 2)



PRESIDENT Duterte was correct, after all, in his prognosis on the state of peace and order in Mindanao, which partly became his basis in framing the anticriminality campaign as his administration's major thrust.



Robinson Ninal/Malacañang Palace Presidential Communications Operations Office Presidential Photographers Division via AP

In Photo: President Duterte visits the site of an explosion that killed more than a dozen people and wounded several others at a night market in Davao City, his hometown, on September 3, 2016.

However, the Commander in Chief may not meet his forecast of ending the problem of terrorism in the region by this month, given the results of the operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), which he had fully entrusted to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya with an accompanying explicit order of finishing the group "to the last man".

Visaya is retiring on December 8 and yet, not only the campaign against the ASG in the provinces of Sulu and Basilan, which is being undertaken by 18 battalions of soldiers and six companies of militiamen, is still to reach its full operational tempo. The terrorism problem has even widened.

Ironical or not, the assumption into power of the Duterte administration has also opened a new front in the campaign against terrorism, courtesy of the Lanao del Sur-based Maute Group, which corresponds to the President's war against criminality.

In the league of ASG

When Duterte declared criminality as his administration's focus, the previously unheralded Maute Group raced to meet this declaration by mutating into a full-blown terrorist group-cum-Moro jihadist that is in the league of the ASG in less than five months—more potent and bolder, in fact.

31
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

From July this year, when Duterte mobilized the whole apparatus of the government in the campaign against crime, the terrorist group, which the military initially considered as being aligned with the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah but confined in Lanao del Sur, has steadily built its reputation as a terror group that the government will contend with even in the years to come.

The group has built its memberships from the rosters of young radicalized Moros and even hardened fighters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, whose stronghold area in Lanao del Sur was the same area that it has also initially operated on.

Again, the Commander in Chief was correct in his reading when he prioritized the problem of terrorism in Mindanao, something that he coyly dismissed just so he can send home American Special Forces still present in Western Mindanao for counter-terrorism operations. He may even be considered a soothsayer in the case of the Maute Group.

While the Lanao-based terror group, led by seven Maute siblings, two of whom have already been killed in previous operations by the military, is still to duplicate the kidnapping activities of the ASG that put it on the map, it has already been on a par with the original terror group in terms of bombing credentials and record of violent confrontations with the government.

While the ASG, which has been in operation since the early-1990s, has mostly committed its bombings in Mindanao, the Maute Group ushered its first publicly known bombing right in the hometown of Duterte in Davao City in September, killing 14 people and wounding at least 70 others.

Before the bombing, Duterte was even advocating for stronger and tougher measures in dealing with crime, especially in the region, even mobilizing the military for the job in support of the Philippine National Police, which again showed his analytical gift in the area of law and order.

The Davao City bombing gave the President the reason to push for one of his extreme measures by putting the entire country under state of emergency "on account of lawless violence," a condition that Filipinos never before experienced in relation to the fight against crime.

On Monday a bomb was recovered near the US Embassy in Manila, which the National Police chief, Director General Ronald M. dela Rosa, attributed to the Maute Group, judging from the similarity of the bomb with the one used by the group in Davao City.

It is also the terror posed by the Maute Group, lumped together with the notoriety of the ASG, why Duterte wanted to up his anti-criminality measures by toying with the idea of suspending the writ of habeas corpus.

However, Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana, a former soldier himself and who has "soothingly" contradicted some of the President's security pronouncements in the past, does not buy yet the timing of his Commander in Chief's wishes, dismissing the ongoing campaign against the Maute Group as normal military operations.

"As I see it, the operations against Maute is just normal military operations against lawless elements, and the bomb that was seen there [US Embassy] is not enough to suspend the writ of habeas corpus," Lorenzana said during the anniversary of the Department of National Defense on Tuesday.

"I would advise not to do that yet, because it is still under control. All that is happening is still controllable," he added.

Lorenzana, however, agreed with the pronouncements of Duterte that the Maute Group already has direct links with Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

32

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

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

"The direct link maybe is already there, but formally, for them to be considered as their men here, part of their caliphate here, we could not still confirm it," he said.

The Maute was just among the three groups after the ASG and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters that have pledged their allegiance to the ISIS, which is already on the retreat in Syria and Iraq where it established its operations.

Attempt to bomb the capital

Bold and brazen as it is, the Maute Group has been attempting to penetrate Metro Manila with its signature of bombings, and this was confirmed in October by no less than the Army commander, Lt. Gen. Eduardo M. Año.

It was the Army, in coordination with the National Police, which bagged in Cotabato City the suspects behind the Davao City bombing, confirming that the powerful blast was indeed a handiwork of the Lanao-based group.

According to Año, the Maute Group has planned to carry out bombings in Metro Manila as early as May, targeting areas where a lot of people regularly converge.

Año said among target of bombings were the branches of a popular department store, but this was prevented "by the intelligence community along with the other hatched bombings."

A part of the government's effort was the arrest of the group of Michael Abrera in May.

"Had those group not been arrested in May, they were supposed to have carried out big bombings of malls in Metro Manila..." Año said.

The bombings were still part of the grand plan of the Maute Group to get the recognition of the Daesh.

Año added that based on their debriefing of the arrested Davao City bombing suspects, the Maute Group had also planned to conduct bombings in other parts of Mindanao through its cells, but all of these plans were averted by government actions.

The beginning

THE Maute Group was unknown until the early part of this year when it started to commit criminal activities in Butig town, where it established its camp.

The MILF, particularly its 102nd Base Command, operates in that area of Lanao del Sur.

Back then, the terror group was simply called by the military as a Maute Group—named after its leaders—although it has categorized it later as "foreign-aligned local terrorist group" that is confined in a barangay of Butig.

While it is aligned with the Jemaah Islamiyah, military officials, however, initially dismissed its links with the Daesh.

Before that, however, some groups were already monitored meeting in other parts of Mindanao, where the black flag of the Daesh was being displayed.

As it turned out, they were already cells of the Maute Group, as also confirmed by Año. At that time, Año was not yet the Army commander.

Later, the Maute Group called itself as Dawla Islamiya or the Islamic State of Lanao.

33

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

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

In February government forces attacked the group's camp in Barangay Bayabao in Butig after it attacked a military detachment, also in the same barangay, that left three soldiers dead and six others wounded.

At that time, Armed Forces Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the group has only about 40 members and he could not even name the group, although he said that its members were members of the MILF's 102nd Base Command.

Reports from the Armed Forces Western Command, however, pegged the group's membership at 100.

The operation lasted for a week, after which the military claimed to have decimated the group and even killed Omar and Matti, two of the seven Maute brothers. Another brother was killed in another encounter.

However, in May the Armed Forces was again forced to initiate an offensive against the group after it regrouped and established a temporary camp in Barangay Ragayan, also in Butig.

The operation, the military claimed, resulted in the death of at least 54 terrorists, including an Indonesian jihadist identified as Mohammad Muktar.

But in April the Maute Group raided Purok 4, Barangay Sandab in Butig and kidnapped six sawmill operators, four of whom they released a week later. The two others were beheaded on suspicions they were military spies.

In August the group raided the Lanao provincial jail in Marawi City and freed eight of their detained colleagues, including three women, in a daring rescue operation.

Twenty other prisoners also bolted out from the facility during the attack that was carried out by at least 50 members of the group and led by Abdullah, the eldest of the Maute brothers.

Raid of Butig


ON Thursday last week, the Maute Group, which was supposed to have been weakened by the successive military operations, put up its "greatest show" yet by raiding Butig, wherein it even occupied its old municipal hall building and raised the Daesh flag.

The group also displayed the same flag in some of the houses that were abandoned by families who were fearful of the attackers.

The occupation of Butig created a humanitarian crisis, as the military struggled to regain the town from the control of the terrorists.

After almost a week or by Wednesday, the Armed Forces Western Command spokesman, Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., said more than 80 percent of the town has been cleared of Maute fighters. The town hall was also retaken around 9:20 a.m. on the same day, according to Armed Forces Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo.

Arevalo said the operation in the town may take a little more time, as the military has to conduct clearing operations even for homemade bombs that were planted by the terrorists.


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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

CPP: Release all political prisoners or we resume war

Rappler (Dec 2)

The rebels scoff at the Duterte administration's planned release of 40-50 political prisoners, saying the commitment was to free all 432



ROADBLOCK? A file photo of both sides at the resumption of the peace talks between the government and the NDF in August 2016 in Oslo. Photo courtesy of OPAPP

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Friday, December 2, gave the Duterte administration until January next year to fulfill its promise to release all 432 political prisoners or risk rebel attacks. Reacting to Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III's announcement of a plan to 50 political prisoners by the end of December, the CPP reminded the government of the "expectation" it raised in August, when both sides reopened formal talks in Oslo. The CPP is represented by its political arm, the National Democratic Front (NDF), in the peace process.

"The planned release of a mere 40-50 political prisoners is an unacceptable token," the CPP said in a statement.

According to the party, the release of all 432 political prisoners should have happened on the last week of October. This didn't happen, the CPP said, adding that even the release on humanitarian grounds was "being delayed."

The guerrillas cited the death last Monday, November 28, of peasant activist Bernie Ocasla from Eastern Visayas.

"Justice demands that all 432 remaining political prisoners be released immediately," the CPP said. "Every additional second that political prisoners remain incarcerated add to the grave injustices which they have been made to suffer throughout the years in jail."

On Friday, President Rodrigo Duterte granted pardon to 4 convicted rebels, all consultants of the NDF. Bello said this moves the peace process forward.

35

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

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

Ceasefire at risk

The guerrillas said they were "extending their patience and giving the Duterte regime up to the month of January to comply with its obligation to release all political prisoners."

Otherwise, the rebels said they will have no reason to sign a bilateral ceasefire agreement with the government. Worse, this could end the current interim ceasefire that the guerrillas had agreed to implement as a sign of good faith in the process, the CPP said.

This is the strongest statement that the rebels have issued so far in relation to the peace process.

Both parties have been hopeful that the talks would result in a bilateral ceasefire agreement before the end of the year. The first round of talks in August even tackled the prospect of granting amnesty to all political prisoners.

The Duterte government has so far released at least 20 political prisoners, including alleged New People's Army chief Benito Tiamzon, so they could participate in the talks.

But the release of the rest is taking "way too long," the party said. "Worse, surveillance, harassments and arrests against activists persist."

The communists are allied with the Duterte administration, with Leftist leaders associated with them getting key Cabinet positions.

The political alliance, however, has put the rebels in a difficult situation in the face of extrajudicial killings allegedly perpetrated by the police and Duterte's stand favoring the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The CPP is behind the longest running insurgency in Asia – 40 years. It's been involved in peace talks with all Philippine governments, post-Marcos, but the current one is the closest it has come to a possible peace deal.



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