

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



ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

27 February 2016

Saturday

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

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

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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AIR 21
SABAY SA PAGDALA NG

5:00 AM - 5:30 AM
Mondays to Sundays

SUNRISE 6:15 AM
SUNSET 6:03 PM
MOONRISE 9:39 PM
MOONSET 9:00 AM

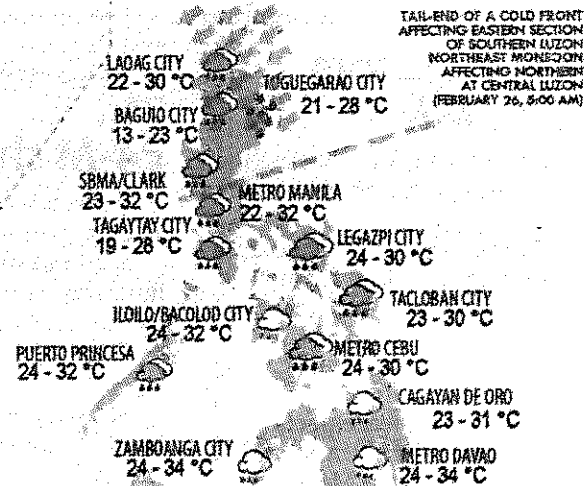
LOW TIDE 7:11 AM
HIGH TIDE 12:38 AM

MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
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7:10 AM MAR 2

Panahon TV

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST FEBRUARY 27, 2016 | SATURDAY



| EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST | FEB 28 SUN | FEB 29 MON | MAR 1 TUE | EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST | FEB 28 SUN | FEB 29 MON | MAR 1 TUE | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| METRO MANILA | 23 °C 32 °C | 23 °C 32 °C | 22 °C 32 °C | PUERTO PRINCESA | 24 °C 32 °C | 23 °C 32 °C | 24 °C 32 °C | Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers |
| TUGUEGARAO | 22 °C 29 °C | 22 °C 30 °C | 22 °C 30 °C | ILOILO/BACOLOD | 24 °C 32 °C | 24 °C 33 °C | 25 °C 33 °C | Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms |
| LAOAG | 21 °C 31 °C | 22 °C 31 °C | 22 °C 31 °C | METRO CEBU | 24 °C 30 °C | 25 °C 31 °C | 24 °C 31 °C | Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms |
| BAGUIO | 14 °C 23 °C | 14 °C 23 °C | 14 °C 24 °C | TACLOBAN | 23 °C 30 °C | 24 °C 31 °C | 24 °C 32 °C | Light rain |
| SBMA/CLARK | 23 °C 33 °C | 23 °C 33 °C | 24 °C 33 °C | CAGAYAN DE ORO | 23 °C 31 °C | 22 °C 32 °C | 22 °C 32 °C | |
| TAGAYTAY | 19 °C 29 °C | 19 °C 29 °C | 20 °C 29 °C | METRO DAVAO | 23 °C 32 °C | 24 °C 33 °C | 24 °C 33 °C | |
| LEGAZPI | 24 °C 29 °C | 25 °C 31 °C | 24 °C 30 °C | ZAMBOANGA | 24 °C 33 °C | 25 °C 33 °C | 25 °C 34 °C | |

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China accuses Phl of political provocation

WASHINGTON – China has accused the Philippines of “political provocation” in seeking international arbitration over territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Thursday the decision by Philippine leaders to lodge a case with a tribunal in The Hague was “irresponsible to the Filipino people and the future of the Philippines.”

China has refused to participate in the proceedings. A ruling is expected later this year, after the tribunal decided last October that it could hear the case.

The Philippines initiated arbitration in early 2013 after Beijing refused to withdraw

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China From Page 1

its ships from a disputed shoal under a US-brokered deal. It contends that China’s massive territorial claims in the strategic waters do not conform with the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and should be declared invalid. The Philippines also asserts that some Chinese-occupied reefs and shoals do not generate, or create a claim to, territorial waters.

Wang blamed the Philippines for shutting the door to negotiations with China over their dispute and seeking arbitration without China’s consent.

He said China was prepared to negotiate “tomorrow.”

“We are neighbors just separated by a narrow body of water,” Wang told the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank. “We want to contribute to the Philippines’ economic development.”

Wang was in Washington this week for talks with his

counterpart, Secretary of State John Kerry. Differences over the South China Sea have strained US-China relations. The US accuses China of militarizing a key conduit for world trade. China says Washington and its allies are responsible for raising tensions.

China has conducted a massive program of land reclamation over the past two years in the South China Sea, where Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims.

Adm. Harry Harris Jr., commander of US forces in the Pacific, told Congress this week that China has constructed more than 3,000 acres (1,210 hectares) of artificial land there in little more than two years, compared with about 115 acres reclaimed by the other claimants in more than 45 years.

Wang said China has stopped reclaiming land but

other countries are continuing.

Wang also said China's military facilities on islands and reefs are needed for self-defense as other nations have already militarized surrounding shores. China also intends to build civilian infrastructure like weather stations and emergency harbors for ships in danger, he said, which would benefit the international community.

In Manila, the presidential palace refused yesterday to dignify the accusation of foreign minister Wang that the Philippines engaged in "political provocation" when it lodged an arbitration case before the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague.

"The Philippine government respects the independence of the processes of the tribunal; hence, we deem it inappropriate to engage other parties in argumentative discussion while we await the outcome of our petition before the tribunal," Presidential

Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said.

Meanwhile, reports from Canberra said Chinese officials were "seriously concerned" by an Australian strategic evaluation of the South China Sea and warned Australia against compromising the stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Australia announced a 20-year plan Thursday to bolster its naval strength with more submarines and warships as part of a military buildup it said was needed to maintain peace in the region.

The strategic document, the Defense White Paper, said Australia was "particularly concerned by the unprecedented pace and scale of China's land reclamation activities" in the South China Sea.

While not taking sides on competing territorial claims, Australia opposed "the use of artificial structures in the South China Sea for military

purposes" and the assertion of maritime rights not recognized by international law.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a press conference later Thursday that China was "seriously concerned about and dissatisfied with the White Paper's negative statement on issues concerning the South China Sea and the development of China's military strength."

Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Wu Qian appeared to warn Australia against following the United States' lead by sailing near one of the Beijing-controlled islands in the Paracel chain.

"We urge the Australian side to cherish the hard-won good momentum of development in bilateral relations and don't take part in or conduct any activities that may compromise the stability of the region," he said.

"The military alliance between Australia and the US

should get rid of the Cold War mentality," he added. Chinese officials use the phrase "Cold War mentality" to refer to thinking that harks back to an era when the world was less integrated.

Asked for comment about the document, the Chinese embassy on Friday referred the AP to the two officials' comments.

The document also said the United States will remain the pre-eminent global military power and will continue to be Australia's most important strategic partner over the next two decades.

A major conflict between the United States and China was unlikely, but friction between the two powers over the East China and South China Seas could raise tensions, it said.

"It will be important for regional stability that China provides reassurance to its neighbors by being more transparent about its defense policies," it said.

- AP, Aurea Calica

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'Congress' failure to pass BBL may fuel extremism'

The failure of Congress to pass the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) could attract the youth to extremism, the Third Party Monitoring Team (TPMT) warned yesterday.

TPMT chairman and spokesman Alistair MacDonald made the warning as he led the presentation of its third annual public report on the peace process.

"The TPMT remains confident that the prize of peace can be attained, since no administration can afford to ignore the costs of conflict in Mindanao – the human costs, the developmental costs, the security costs or the risk of worsening a climate conducive to the spread of violent extremism," MacDonald said.

He said the past year has been a difficult one for the peace process after the failure of Congress to pass the BBL because

of the killing of 44 policemen in Mamasapano, Maguindanao on Jan. 25.

"The past year has been a difficult one, with the tragic events at Mamasapano casting a dark shadow over the peace process throughout the year, and with Congress being unable to complete its deliberations on the BBL," MacDonald said.

MacDonald stressed the failure of Congress to complete its deliberation and non-passage of the BBL dealt a major blow to the peace process.

"Nevertheless, the failure of this Congress to complete its deliberations on the BBL has meant that confidence in the peace process among the wider Moro community has taken a knock, and that this setback, with its attendant frustration, could increase the risk that

some young people may become more attracted to violent extremism – against which risk the most effective vaccination in a successful conclusion to the peace process," he said.

MacDonald stressed the need to sustain public confidence in the peace process.

The TPMT was formally established in 2013 as part of the peace process between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"There has, however, been significant progress in a number of areas, including for example the successful completion of the first ceremonial stage of decommissioning on June 16, or the completion of the work of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission," MacDonald said.

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

MacDonald also noted there has been an upswelling of both domestic and international support for the peace process.

"And most importantly, both parties have remained fully engaged in the process," MacDonald said, citing the meeting of both panels in Kuala Lumpur last month.

MacDonald said it is essential to build a path forward so that the next administration can hit the ground running and to work to sustain public confidence in the peace process during this period of transition.

MacDonald said the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) will remain as the cornerstone of peace.

"It will be the responsibility

of the next administration and the next Congress to bring this process to a successful conclusion," he said.

MacDonald reiterated that ending the decades-long conflict cannot be accomplished overnight.

He said the Mamasapano incident has also impacted negatively on public and political attitudes toward the peace process and significantly delayed and colored the congressional deliberations on the BBL.

"In that climate, this Congress was not able to complete its work on the BBL, so the torch of peace will have to be taken up by the next administration and Congress," he said.

MacDonald said substitute bills produced by the House and Senate committees were in a number of respects non-

compliant with the CAB.

"This is an issue which will need to be taken up by the next Congress, when it carries forward its responsibility of legislating for the implementation of the CAB," he said.

While Congress failed to pass the BBL, MacDonald said there has been significant progress in a number of areas during the past 12 months.

This includes the first ceremonial stage of decommissioning of rebel weapons and forces on June 16, underlining the MILF's determination to fully comply with its commitments under the CAB.

He said that there were also significant if less visible developments in other aspects of normalization, in preparing support for former combatants and their communities.

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Japan to provide Phil with war- fighting gear

Japan and the Philippines are to sign an agreement as early as next week to promote technological cooperation, a move that would allow Tokyo to transfer some war-fighting equipment to Manila.

The two governments have been holding working-level talks on the matter since a broad agreement was reached at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in November last year, NHK reported.

The deal is the first of its kind between two Asian countries, although Japan has a similar standing agreement with the US, Australia, Britain and France.

Manila has shown an interest in adopting training aircraft used by Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force, with an eye toward surveillance and patrol activities in the South China Sea as the Philippines continues to be locked with China in a sovereignty dispute over several islands.

Observers say the Japanese government is apparently aiming at keeping China in check after the latter reclaimed a disputed island, built an airstrip and installed radar systems and surface-to-air missiles.

In late November, Manila and Tokyo broadly agreed on a pact for the transfer of defense

equipment and technology, a move likely spurred – at least in part – by mutual concern over Beijing's massive land-reclamation projects.

Once inked, the pact would allow Tokyo to send Self-Defense Forces equipment to the Philippines.

Despite being one of the most vocal opponents of Beijing's territorial claims in the South China Sea, Manila is considered ill equipped to challenge China's moves and has looked both to Tokyo and Washington in an effort to alleviate this shortcoming.

Japan has already agreed to supply the Philippines with a low-interest loan to purchase a fleet of 10 patrol vessels and has reportedly received requests from President Aquino for larger coast guard patrol vessels and PC-3 submarine-hunting planes.

Media reports have also said that Japan hopes to donate three used Beechcraft TC-90 King Air aircraft, which it uses to train military pilots and can be fitted with basic surface and

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Japan From Page 1

air surveillance radar.

These moves have been in lockstep with Washing-

ton, which has also scaled up its assistance to Manila as part of its so-called rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region.

Experts say Japan hopes that by providing aircraft,

ships and other gear, it can help beef up the Philippines' maritime surveillance abilities as a way to check China's growing territorial ambitions in both the South and East China seas.

- NHK, UPI

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3 soldiers, 42 militants killed in Lanao Sur clashes

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Three soldiers and 42 militants have been killed as security forces continued their offensive against militants in Butig, Lanao del Sur.

"Our troops seized the stronghold of the terrorists yesterday. Sadly, three were killed and 11 wounded in action," Maj. Felimon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, said, referring to government troops.

The military operations started on Saturday after the

militants attacked an Army detachment in Barangay Bayabao that left two soldiers dead and six others wounded. The clashes spilled over to Barangay Poktan and displaced several villagers.

Tan said brothers Omar, Abdullah and Maide Maute led the group of militants believed to have links with Jemaah Islamiyah, the regional terror cell affiliated with al-Qaeda.

Citing intelligence reports, Tan said Omar was among those killed while Abdullah

By ROEL PAREÑO

and Maide were wounded.

Tan said armored personnel carriers were utilized during the operations.

Troops recovered a home-made Barrett .50-caliber sniper rifle and two M16s at the scene.

Not us – MILF

In a statement released by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) spokesman Von Al Haq said they received reports that

the militants had identified themselves as members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

"We are very sad about the attacks in Lanao del Sur. We do not have anything to do with that. We make sure not to destroy our ceasefire agreement with the government," Al Haq said.

Al Haq said they put up an evacuation center in Barangay Sandab for civilians caught in the crossfire.

"There are facilities. There are schools and other houses where the evacuees could seek tempo-

rary shelter," Carlos Sol Jr., head of the government Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities Secretariat, said of the evacuation center.

Sol said the MILF also repositioned its forces to prevent a misencounter with government forces.

In a separate statement, MILF commander Abdullah Macapaar urged the joint ceasefire committee to conduct an investigation into the attacks.

– With Alexis Romero, Jose Rodel Clapano

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Soldier slain in Sorsogon encounter

CAMARINES NORTE – A member of the Army's 31st Infantry Brigade was killed in an encounter with New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas in Gubat, Sorsogon on Wednesday afternoon.

Pfc. Rey Diesta died at the scene from multiple gunshot wounds, said Chief Inspector Gerry Cariño, Gubat police chief.

Cariño said the soldiers were patrolling Barangay Bentuco when the communist rebels fired at them around 1 p.m.

An M16 rifle, two improvised bombs, two mobile phones and a backpack were recovered at the scene.

In Bukidnon, an NPA commander identified as Nardo Manlologpis was killed in an encounter with soldiers on Tuesday.

Authorities said the encounter occurred in Barangay Kaglangan in San Fernando town around 10:30 a.m.

– Francis Elevado, Alexis Romero

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Troops seize terror camp, kill 42

By Jaymee T. Gamil

AFTER five days of fighting in Butig town, Lanao del Sur province, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) killed 42 Islamist rebels and seized control of a stronghold of a Moro rebel group linked to the international terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI).

"The troops have already seized yesterday before dusk the stronghold of the terrorists," AFP Western Mindanao command spokesperson Maj. Filemon Tan yesterday told the me-

dia in a text message, referring to an armed group led by brothers Omar and Abdullah Maute.

"We are still pursuing the rebels, using armored assets," Tan said.

Three soldiers were killed and 11 wounded when the forces seized the bastion of an affiliate of JI, a Southeast Asian network of Islamist militants, in Lanao del Sur.

The Maute group, estimated to have around 80 to 100 members, attacked a military detachment in Butig on Feb. 20, leading to intermittent clashes

with the military in the area and the consequent evacuation of thousands of residents.

Tan earlier told reporters that based on intelligence reports, Omar Maute himself was among those killed in the fire-fight and military air strikes on Wednesday.

Tan said the army was shelling rebel positions with 105-mm howitzers yesterday, while air force planes dropped bombs and helicopters fired rockets near the town of Butig, a base of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

With a report from Reuters

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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42 terrorists slain

Government troops capture group's Lanao del Sur stronghold

By ELENA L. ABEN

Government security forces have killed at least 42 members of a Jema'ah Islamiyah (JI)-affiliated local terror group and captured their stronghold

during six days of fighting in Butig, Lanao del Sur, the military said yesterday.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-Wesmincom), said three soldiers were

also killed and 11 wounded in clashes that started Saturday last week.

"Nakuha na ng tropa ang stronghold ng mga terrorista kahapon bago magdilim (Our troops were able to seize a stronghold of the terrorists before dusk on Thursday)," said Tan.

"Sadly, we have three soldiers killed in action (KIA) and 11 wounded in action (WIA), while intelligence reports show that more or less 42 were killed from the enemy," he added.

The troops also seized two M16 rifles, two RPGs

►6

42 terrorists slain...

◀1

(rocket-propelled grenades), and one homemade caliber .50 rifle, according to the Wesmincom spokesman.

Tan said the army was shelling rebel positions with 105-mm howitzers yesterday, while air force planes dropped bombs and helicopters fired rockets near the town of Butig, a base of the country's largest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

But the MILF stayed away from the skirmishes and helped about 8,000 people displaced from their homes when the fighting began on Feb. 20, the military said.

The Philippines signed a peace

deal with the MILF in March 2014, ending 45 years of conflict that killed more than 120,000 people, displaced 2 million and stunted growth in the poor but resource-rich south.

Army and police officials believe some Muslim rebel factions, including the small but violent Abu Sayyaf group, have pledged allegiance to Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, but say they have found no evidence to support this.

The fighting broke out late Saturday night last week when Muslim rebels led by the Maute brothers attacked a detachment of the Army 51st Infantry Battalion in Barangay Bayabao, Butig town. (With a report from Reuters)

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The Manila Times

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VICE MAYOR REFUSES TO STEP DOWN

Tension grips Lanao Sur town hall

BY AL JACINTO CORRESPONDENT

LANAO DEL SUR: Tension ran high in Balabagan town here after the vice mayor refused to step down as acting mayor despite an order from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) for the incumbent to resume office.

Mayor Edna Ogka-Benito said supporters of Vice Mayor Quirino Sampiano—many of them armed with steel pipes and sticks—have blocked the municipal building and prevented her and government officials from reporting to work.

The police also failed to serve the DILG order to Sampiano after the protesters who overwhelmed them posted themselves within and around the municipal hall.

Benito was ordered suspended by the Ombudsman on December 28 last year following a complaint lodged by Nasser Disalungan, president of the Association of

Barangay Chairmen (ABC) for simple misconduct.

Disalungan claimed Benito withheld his salary but the mayor alleged that the village chairman was not reporting to office.

On Feb. 2 the Court of Appeals 22nd Division issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) allowing Benito back to work pending final resolution of the complaint filed by Disalungan.

DILG Secretary in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Anwar Malang, confirmed the TRO and also issued an order for Sampiano to step down and allow Benito to serve her term.



STANDING GROUND Supporters of Balabagan Vice Mayor Quirino Sampiano armed with steel pipes and sticks stand outside the municipal hall preventing the group of Mayor Edna Ogka-Benito (inset) from holding office. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Billy Ogka, Benito's aide, said local DILG director McMillan Lucman was also threatened by Sampiano's supporters and warned him to stay away from the town hall.

The mayor has urged the na-

tional government and authorities to immediately resolve the problem as it has already affected the delivery of basic services to the people of Balabagan.

She also asked her supporters and the police to exercise maxi-

mum tolerance to avoid direct confrontation with Sampiano's group. Residents have volunteered to protect Benito, who was temporarily holding office in her residence.

Municipal officials were also reporting for office at Benito's

house because they were under threat by Sampiano's supporters.

There was no immediate statement from Sampiano on the allegations. He is running against Benito, who is seeking re-election, in the May polls under the Liberal Party.

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Reds attack Albay military detachment; 1 wounded

By Mario J. Mallari

Communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels yesterday harassed a military detachment in Albay, wounding an Army man.

Col. Perfecto Peñaredondo, commander of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, said that more or less five NPA rebels positioned themselves about 300 meters from the Army detachment in Barangay San Ramon, Daraga and fired at the military position.

"Sporadic enemy gunfire lasted about one minute that resulted to one of our soldiers slightly wounded," Peñaredondo said.

Peñaredondo identified the wounded soldier as Sgt. Lorenzo Hernan.

"Combat first aid was immediately applied to Hernan before he was rushed to Bicol Regional Teaching and Training

Hospital for further treatment," he said.

Peñaredondo said that said pursuit operations are still ongoing against the communist attackers.

According to Peñaredondo, the detachment is a newly established camp of the 22nd Infantry Battalion (Cafgu). They just moved in to Barangay San Ramon, Daraga, Albay last Feb. 12, 2016.

"The area was previously classified as an NPA influenced barangay, however, AFP Bayanihan Team efforts there last year were successful in clearing it from NPA influence, thus, the establishment of the new camp," Peñaredondo said.

In this light, Southern Luzon Command chief Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya ordered all subordinate commanders to ensure that areas cleared from NPA influence should never be recovered by the insurgents.

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THE DAILY
tribune
Without Fear or Favor

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Thousands flee deadly clash in Mindanao

By Mario J. Mallari

At least six people have been killed and more than 20,000 displaced during a week of fighting between Islamic militants and security forces in Mindanao, authorities said yesterday.

Three soldiers and three militants were confirmed killed in the clashes, which involved followers of a slain Indonesian leader of a Southeast Asian militant group, the military said.

"There was attack and counter-attack, sniping and counter-sniping, and artillery fire," military spokesman Col. Noel Detoyato said, describing the fighting that began on Saturday with an attack on a military post.

On Thursday night, government security forces overran a terrorist encampment in Lanao del Sur after week-long bombardment and ground assaults that resulted in more than 50 people killed.

Detoyato said that the Army's 103rd Brigade, led by Col. Roseller Murillo, are still conducting clearing operations in Barangay Bayabao, Butig town.

"Our troops captured the terrorist lair. They are now clearing the area for possible explosives," Detoyato said.

According to Detoyato, around 30 terrorists were killed during Thursday's clashes in Barangay Bayabao but only three bodies were recovered from the site.

Also recovered on Thursday night were two rocket-propelled grenades, two M16 rifles and a homemade caliber .50 rifle.

More or less 20 terrorists were also reported killed during initial stages of the conflict which started last Saturday when the rebels attacked a military detachment.

Among the terrorist killed were the leader

of the terrorist group Omar Maute and Indonesian Mohammad Muktar.

Maute is a Jordan-trained Filipino jihadist. He is married to an Indonesian he met in Jordan during training.

On the other hand, six government troops were killed while more than a dozen others were wounded during the week-long skirmishes.

The military deployed OV-10 bomber planes to conduct periodic bomb runs at the enemy positions while MG520 attack helicopters provided close air support to advancing ground troops.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the military's Western Mindanao Command, said that operations are continuing against the "foreign and local terrorist organization" pinned down in Butig.

"We have continuing operations. We have ground troops advancing, supported by armored assets," Tan said.

Efforts to secure a peace deal with the largest rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), recently collapsed after congress failed to pass a law that would have created an autonomous Muslim region in Mindanao.

The collapse of the previous peace process in 2008 led hardline MILF commanders to launch attacks on Christian villages in Mindanao, which killed more than 400 people and displaced 600,000.

This week's fighting took place in a region bordering a stronghold of a powerful MILF commander.

But military officials said MILF did not take part in this week's clashes.

They said the group involved in the clashes was led by followers of Indonesian Ustadz Sanusi, a member of the Jemaah Islamiyah who was killed in the southern Philippines in 2012.

With AFP

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Pahina. 2

61 TERORISTA NAPATAY SA LANAO DEL SUR

Umaabot na umano sa 61 terorista ang napapatay ng militar sa limang araw na pambobomba sa kuta ng mga ito sa Butig, Lanao del Sur.

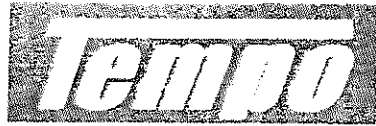
Kinumpirma ni Col. Roseller Murillo, Commander ng Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade sa buong araw ng Huwebes hanggang alas-5:00 ng hapon ay nadagdagan ng 41 terorista ang napaslang.

Sinabi ng opisyal na noong Lunes ay unang napatay ang nasa 20 terorista sa pagpapatuloy ng air at ground strike operations ng sumunod na araw ay napatay naman sina Omar Maute, lider ng FLTO at ang kasamahan nitong si Mohammad Muktar na isang Indonesian.

Sa beripikasyon, na si Maute ay isang Jordan-trained jihadist na kasal sa isang Indonesian na nakilala nito sa pagsasanay sa terorismo tulad ng pambobomba.

Ang pambobomba ng tropang gobyerno gamit ang dalawang OV 10 bomber plane habang ang dalawang MG 520 attack helicopter ay nagkaloob naman ng close air support sa ground troops ng Philippine Army na gumamit ng howitzer at artillery fires sa kuta ng mga kalaban ay nag-umpisa nitong Lunes sa Brgy. Bayabao, Butig ng lalawigan. - *Joy Cantos, Rhoderick Beñez*

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Army sarge sugatan sa NPA attack

CAMP G. NAKAR, Lucena City – Isang Army sergeant ang sugatan matapos na paulanan ng bala ng limang New People's Army (NPA) rebels ang isang military detachment sa Barangay San Ramon, Daraga, Albay, kahapon ng umaga.

Ayon kay Colonel Perfecto Peñaredondo, chief ng Army 2nd Infantry Battalion sa Albay, nasa layong 300 metro ang mga rebelde nang atakihin nila ang Army detachment.

Ang sugatang sundalo na si Sgt. Lorenzo Hernan ay kaagad na nabigyan ng first aid bago itinakbo sa Bicol Regional Teaching and Training Hospital, ayon kay Penaredondo.

Patuloy pang tinutugis ng militar ang mga rebelding umatake sa detachment.

Ayon pa Army official, ang detachment ay bago pa lamang inakupahan ng 22nd Infantry Battalion. **(Danny Estacio)**

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Pahina. 2

Lider ng ISIS utas sa engkwentro

KINUMPIRMA ng militar na kanilang napatay ang isa sa mga tumatayong lider ng tinaguriang foreign and local terrorist organization (FLTTO) na si Omar Maute na napuruhan matapos tambangan ang reinforcement ng gov't forces sa bayan ng Balindong.

Sinabi ni AFP Western Mindanao Command spokesperson Maj. Felimon Tan na posibleng tuluyan nang babagsak ang armadong grupo dahil sa pagkasawi ni Maute.

Bagamat itinanggi ni Tan na kasapi ng anomang international terrorist group si Maute, taliwas sa lumalabas na ulat na konektado ito sa Jamaah Islamiyah na unang itina-yo ni Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden sa South East Asia.

Batay sa huling ulat ng 103rd Brigade Philippine Army,

walo na ang patay at pito ang sugatan, kung saan limang mula sa panig ng militante at tatlo sa militar.

Samantala, inilikas na rin ang may 10,000 residente na apektado ng patuloy na labanan ng militar at umano'y Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) local loyalists mula sa dalawang bayan ng Lanao del Sur, iniulat kahapon.

Ayon kay Lanao del Sur Gov. Mamintal "Bombit" Adiong Jr., natutok sila sa pagbibigay ng relief assistance sa mga apektadong residente na naka-house sa magkaibang evacuation centers sa Butig at Balindong.

Tiniyak na rin ng lahat ng munisipalidad na sakop ng Lanao na walang residente ang tatamaan ng ligaw na bala o sinoman sa mga ito ang malipit sa engkuwentro.

MARY ANNE SAPICO

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Marcelino vows to tell all

Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino has vowed to divulge the real reason for his presence in the apartment where 64 kilos of shabu was seized last month.

During the preliminary investigation hearing at the Department of Justice (DOJ) yesterday, Marcelino asked investigating Senior Deputy Prosecutor Theodore Villanueva to hold a final clarificatory hearing on the drug charges against him.

He asked that the hearing be held in executive session or behind closed doors, hinting that he would divulge "sensitive information."

The detained former Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency official specifically requested the presence of acting DOJ Secretary Emmanuel Caparas, Prosecutor General Claro

By EDU PUNAY

Arellano, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) director Virgilio Mendez and Intelligence Service Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) chief Arnold Quiapo during the hearing.

Villanueva verified with a representative from the Philippine Navy Marcelino's claim that he may be charged for divulging confidential information.

The prosecutor then agreed to hold the clarificatory hearing on March 7, wherein Marcelino would be required to submit his rejoinder to the charges before the case is submitted for resolution.

Marcelino and his Chinese companion, Yan Yi Shuo, are facing charges of conspiracy in manufacture and possession of illegal drugs under Republic Act

9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002).

Marcelino had denied the charges and insisted in his counter-affidavit that he was in the storage facility where shabu with an estimated street value of P250 million was seized for a covert operation as a member of ISAFP.

In an earlier hearing, he submitted a certification from Intelligence and Security Group of the Philippine Army showing Marcelino is sharing intelligence information on the alleged involvement of Army personnel in the illegal drug trade from September to December last year.

He has also submitted an official letter from the NBI confirming his contribution to the NBI's anti-drug operations via his intelligence work.

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ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA ₱8.00

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2 Abu Sayyaf member, natiklo sa drug den

ZAMBOANGA CITY
- Dalawang hinihinalang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group ang inaresto nitong Huwebes ng umaga, habang isa namang nagbebenta ng ilegal na droga ang napatay sa engkuwentro sa isang liblib na sitio sa Barangay Busbus sa Jolo, Sulu.

Kinilala ni Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado, commander ng Joint Task Group Sulu, ang mga nadakip na hinihinalang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf na sina Al-Aziz Hadjiru

Binang, 24; at Annuar Dalawis Hamid, alyas "Totoh", 25, kapwa tagasunod ni Alden Bagade, sub-leader ng Abu Sayyaf na nakabase sa Indanan, Sulu.

Samantala, hindi pa natutukoy ang pagkakakilanlan ng napatay na hinihinalang drug pusher. Pansamantalang inilagak ang kanyang bangkay sa police headquarters sa Jolo, ayon kay Arrojado.

Sinabi ni Arrojado na nagsimula ang sagupaan dakong 10:30

ng umaga nitong Huwebes, matapos na salakayin ng mga pulis ang isang drug den.

Nasa loob ng sinasabing drug den sina Binang at Hamid.

Ayon kay Arrojado, narekober ng militar mula sa drug den ang isang K-G9 pistol, isang samurai sword o katana, at drug paraphernalia.

Nasa kostudiya na ng pulisya ang dalawang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf, ayon kay Arrojado.

Nonoy E. Lacson