

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



Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

28 November 2016

Monday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

28 NOVEMBER 2016

HOUSE AGLOW FOR THE HOLIDAYS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

POLL RECOUNT A RACKET, SAYS TRUMP

CHURCH BELLS RING FOR END TO KILLINGS

Alloy churches ring bells every 9 p.m. to signal start of prayer for an end to drug slays

Dyoketo warns drug addicts to lock themselves up in their homes or else be killed

Students in a Basilan City school are making paper cranes containing prayers for peace

AFP flushes out Lanao terrorists

'Shabu' lab found in Catanduanes

Who deserves seized artworks?

Conflict of interest in Pi for Trump

5 fishermen missing off Panatag

10,000 names in foot-high narco file

Phi good at frustrating foreign investors - MAP

11 Maute terrorists killed in Lanao

Who deserves fortune in art seized from Marcoses?

De Lima expects fair, impartial probe

Rody unfazed by protests

House won't apologize for scrutinizing Leila-Ronnie affair

The Manila Times

Adopt: Pearl of the Orient as Philippine and national slogan

KERWIN BARES PAYOFFS TO LEVYTE POLICE OFFICIALS

'Bato' weeps over scalawags in PNP

SENIOR: MAY GOD FLOW LOVE FOR YOUR LOVELY

Tatad dares FVR, Enrile: Tell the truth about Martial Law

Trump softens on climate change threat to p4 Gintong

Duterte crosses the line with 'thugs' against ETC

10,000 names in foot-high narco file

Air strikes vs Maute: 11 killed

Rody: Keep debate on Duterte

Duterte may lose sympathy for long

TABLE OF CONTENTS

28 NOVEMBER 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A2-4
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	Church bells ring for an end to killings	Mar Arguelles	PDI p.A1
4	11 Maute terrorists killed in Lanao	Roel Pareño	The Phil Star p.1
ARMY NEWS			
5-6	11 Maute group members killed as troops press offensive in Lanao	Mario Mallari	The Daily Tribune p.1
7	11 Maute members killed in Lanao del Sur	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B2
8	Photo: Army soldiers of the 1 st Field Artillery Battalion	Ruchel Umel	PDI p.A20
9	Troops fire 105mm howitzer cannons	AFP	The Phil Star p.18
AFP RELATED NEWS			
10-11	11 terrorists killed in AFP strikes	Jerome Aning	PDI p.A20
12	Duterte hands off on screening of AFP Chief	Edith Regalado	The Phil Star p.15
13	Race on the next Armed Forces chief of staff post	Mario Mallari	The Daily Tribune p.3
14	Gov't to deal with Commander Bravo	Genalyn Kabling	Manila Bulletin p.2
15	Duterte explains delay in defeating Abu Sayyaf	Jocelyn Montemayor	Malaya p.B6
16	Duterte: Cold, neutral on FM burial issue	Jocelyn Montemayor	Malaya p.B2
17	2 abu men slain in Zambo clash	Roel Pareño	PhilStar p.A28
18	Blast hits Kudarat; 2 wounded Cops, soldiers raid shabu laboratory	John Uson Cet Dematera	The Phil Star p.A28
EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY			
19	The killing of our best and brightest	Joel Butuyan	PDI p.A17
20-21	The tragedy of Andres Bonifacio	Ramon Farolan	PDI p.A17
SPORTS			
22	Lady Troopers, Cargo Movers complete SLiga semis cast	-	The Phil Star p.20
ONLINE NEWS			
23-24	Troops fight to retake Lanao Sur town from	Julie Alipala	www.inquirer.net

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


	terrorists		
25-26	Monitoring team eyes to disrupt Isis influence		www.sunstar.com
27	Abu Sayyaf can use Duterte statement to claim 'legitimacy'--analyst		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
28	Army troops engage Maute Group in second Butig clash this year	Thom Andrade,	www.interkaksyon.com

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

28 November 2016


INQUIRER


Page: A2-4




PANAHON TV

www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV








PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 28, 2016 | MONDAY




TROPICAL STORM "MARCE"
LOCATED AT 320 KMS.
WEST OF IBA, ZAMBALES
(As of 5:00 AM - Nov. 27, 2016)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:04 AM	5:24 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
4:49 AM	4:42 PM
LAST QUARTER NOV 21 4:33 PM	NEW MOON NOV 28 8:18 PM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 4:21 AM 0.07 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 9:19 PM 0.97 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms


	NOV 28	NOV 30	NOV 28	NOV 30	NOV 28	NOV 30		
METRO MANILA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 30 °C	20 - 30 °C	TACLOBAN	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
TUGUEGARAO	23 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	LEGAZPI	24 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C
LADAG	24 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	14 - 21 °C	15 - 21 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C	METRO CEBU	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C			

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




AIR 21


SABOT KO, PADALA MO!



PILIPINAS HD



BEAM



83

1

26 November 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A1

Church bells ring for an end to killings

FROM A1

By Mar S. Arguelles
and Marlon Ramos
@Team_Inquirer

Bishop Joel Z. Baylon announced during Sunday Mass the ringing of church bells in Albay province every night at 9 p.m. as a signal to the faithful to pray for an end to extrajudicial killings in President Duterte's war on drugs.

The head of the Diocese of Legazpi announced his call for "Prayers at nine" in a letter to Mr. Duterte that was read in 45 churches throughout the province a day after the President repeated his vow to execute drug addicts, urging them to stay indoors or be silenced forever.

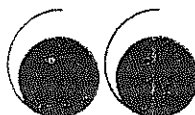
"We will ring the bells of our churches and chapels to call our people to prayer, to ask God to bless us all with his grace of mercy and compassion," Baylon said.

"Together, we can make a difference and significantly reduce this disorder in our midst," he added.

Baylon said the ringing of bells and offering of prayers would continue for as long as necessary.

"We are in full support of your desire to eradicate this drug problem," he told Presi-

It saddens us to see that the majority of the victims are the very same poor whose lives you promised to protect and alleviate from the shackles of abject poverty



Joel Z. Baylon
Bishop of the Diocese of Legazpi

dent Duterte in his letter, but he lamented the loss of 4,000 lives in the violence that had accompanied his campaign.

"It saddens us to see that the majority of the victims are the very same poor whose lives you promised to protect and alleviate from the shackles of abject poverty," he said.

'Harong Paglaom'

He said the diocese had started "Harong Paglaom" (House of Hope), a community-based rehabilitation program aimed at providing recovery coaching, spiritual guidance and life skills training to substance users, in collaboration with local government units,

particularly the barangays.

Speaking before judges, lawyers and fellow graduates from the San Beda College of Law on Saturday night, Mr. Duterte said:

"In the coming days, I will make it a must, that all of you who are into illegal drugs should not step out of your house ... I don't have (enough) jails. You just stay in your home and lock yourself up. If you go outside, son of a bitch, I will kill you if I see you outside."

Special rapporteur

The President's warning came amid the planned visit to the country of the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial exe-

cutions Agnes Callamard, who was invited by Malacañang to “see-for-herself” the conduct of the Duterte administration’s ruthless drug war.

Despite repeatedly issuing such threats, Mr. Duterte had vehemently denied ordering the execution of drug suspects and blamed the criminal syndicates of purging their own ranks.

He had locked horns with officials of the United States, European Union and the United Nations for such remarks, which his critics believed were a veiled sanction for the police to engage in extrajudicial killings.

The foul-mouthed former Davao City mayor had earned the adulation of his supporters by promising to eradicate the drug problem and criminality in the country within the first six months of his administration, a vow he had failed to keep as he asked for a six-month extension in carrying out his drug campaign.

Surveys show up to 86 percent of Filipinos support his antinarcotics campaign.

As in previous gatherings, the President spent much of his 50-minute speech giving litany regarding his administration’s campaign against illegal drugs and how difficult the task was.

“I will suppress drugs. I’m doing it and believe me, until the last pusher (is) out of the

streets and (the) last drug lord is exterminated, it will last until the last day of my term. I will not back down,” he said.

“While I don’t want to sound conceited, if I did not become President, the truth about our problem with illegal drugs, which is really a virulent issue and activity, will not come out,” he added.

Validated narcolist

The drug problem, Mr. Duterte said, was much more difficult to handle than terrorism. “I would rather deal with terrorism because.. it’s just violence for a moment,” he said.

The President said the validated list of policemen, mayors and other government officials involved in the illegal drug trade was about several inches thick.

Mr. Duterte had earlier identified former President Fidel Ramos, who also attended the event, as the source of his so-called “narcolist.”

He said the information given to him by Ramos, whom he described as his “No. 1 critic and No. 1 supporter,” prompted him to seek the presidency.

According to the President, he would present the list of public officials behind the narcotics business in the next meeting of the National Security Council. INQ

20 November 2016



Page: 1

11 Maute terrorists killed in Lanao

By ROEL PAREÑO
and CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

ZAMBOANGA CITY –

Troops killed 11 terrorists linked to the Islamic State (IS) and wounded five others during a military offensive to flush out a 200-strong Maute gang occupying parts of Butig town, Lanao del Sur.

Four soldiers were slightly wounded in the fighting.

Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan Jr. said the terrorists forced residents from other areas in Butig to flee their homes.

The Maute band reportedly raised an IS flag in an abandoned building near the town hall, he said.

Turn to Page 18

11 Maute From Page 1

Tan said the military was expecting the Maute to gain support.

"This is still part of the Maute group's agenda in courting support and encouraging similar minded individuals to support IS," Tan said.

"The AFP will continue to frustrate their sinister objective."

Tan said troops are continuing the offensive to prevent the situation from escalating or spilling to other areas.

Troops are conducting clearing operations in the vicinity of Barangay Bayabao, he added.

Col. Roseller Murillo, Army 103rd Brigade commander,

said troops continue to move in from different advance position to push back the terrorists.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, Armed Forces public affairs chief, said other members of the Maute band are now on the run from government troops.

"The military operations were in reaction to the Maute... what they did was they rushed to the place and occupied and took their positions, so because of that we were constrained into conducting operations to dislodge them," he said.

Media reports showed Military SF-260 trainer aircraft

were seen dropping 150-pound bombs over the town center, where Maute fighters have occupied the municipal hall, national high school and mosque.

The military estimated that from 200 terrorists on Saturday, around 300 men armed with grenade launchers are now occupying the town.

The terrorists come from different parts of Mindanao like Basilan and Maguindanao, most of them returnees to the Maute, the military said.

All roads in Butig have been closed to the public and residents have been evacuated to other municipalities, with the biggest number in Lumbayague, Lanao del Sur.

Arevalo said they are coordinating with the commanders

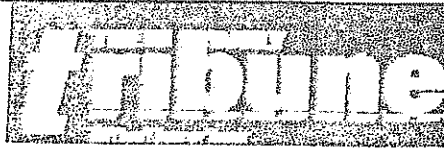
from the field for more information.

"We'll just ask the specific locations of the terrorists, but we're not quite inclined to mention this because they might know that we know their location, but they are in a portion of the municipality (of Butig)."

Arevalo said the military operation is going on, but he does not know if fighting has resumed.

"We have decimated them in terms of number but any singular attack of lobbing a grenade in a market place is already an act of terrorism," he said.

28 November 2016



Page: 1

11 Maute group members killed as troops press offensive in Lanao



Flushing Maute

Army troops fire their 105 mm howitzer cannons from their base near Butig town in Lanao del Sur yesterday toward positions of Maute terrorist group which staged a deadly bombing in Davao City. AFP

By Mario J. Mallari

Government troops yesterday fired artillery at positions held by an Islamic militant faction in southern Philippines as more soldiers were deployed against the group which staged a deadly bombing in President Rodrigo Duterte's home city.

The Army is trying to dislodge members of the Maute group from an abandoned town hall and other

positions they have occupied in Butig, a remote, mainly Muslim mountain town in Lanao del Sur.

Clashes broke out last Saturday between the members of Maute, who claims allegiance to the Islamic State group, and the Army.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, citing what he called "intelligence sources," said 11

Turn to page 3

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

11 Maute group members killed as troops press offensive in Lanao

From page 1

of the militants had been killed and five wounded.

The bodies of the slain fighters had not yet been recovered, he said, adding two soldiers were wounded.

Reporters in Butig said the military had obtained photographs of the Maute group flying the black IS flag over the occupied building.

They said they themselves were not close enough to verify this.

Another military spokesman, Col. Edgard Arevalo, said this action was expected.

"The group has reportedly raised the ISIS flag which was expected since they have long been professing allegiance to the foreign terror group," he admitted.

"This is still part of the Maute group's agenda in courting support and encouraging similar minded individuals to support ISIS," the military official added, referring to

another acronym for IS.

Arevalo said members of the Maute group occupied the abandoned portion of Butig municipality at around 9 a.m. Saturday—prompting some residents in the area to flee their homes.

"This prompted the immediate conduct of military operations focused on dislodging the lawless group. Two soldiers were slightly wounded while 11 members of Maute Group were killed and at least five wounded," he added.

Malacañang, for its part, said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will continue to frustrate the sinister objectives of the Maute group.

"The government will prevent the situation from escalating to other areas," presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said in a statement.

"The Maute group has long been professing allegiance to ISIS, so the reported raising of the ISIS flag does

not come as surprise. The group continues to court ISIS," he added.

According to Andanar, most of the civilians living in the areas occupied by the Maute Group have already left while for those who have chosen to remain, "the local government unit is looking after them."

Presidential adviser on the peace process Jesus Dureza said President Rodrigo Duterte is fully aware of the challenges on the ground, "hence he is taking bold steps to deal with them."

"The Maute situation is still a developing situation in Butig. It may be good for everyone to know that the ceasefire and ad hoc joint action group which are mechanisms of the Bangsamoro peace process are now operational to deal with the ground situation," he added.

Dureza said the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) forces are now helping the government security forces in handling the

developments.

"Even the provisions for the affected evacuees are being assisted by the MILF to support government's efforts to assist those adversely affected by the ongoing stand-off in the area. Other efforts by other sectors are ongoing as we speak," Dureza said.

The Maute group is one of several armed Islamist organizations in Mindanao which have pledged allegiance to Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria.

In past fighting with troops, the group's members were seen carrying black IS flags and bandannas bearing the jihadists' insignia were found in their base, the military said.

Three members of the Maute group were arrested last month, accused of the September bombing that left 15 persons dead in Davao, Duterte's home town and Mindanao's largest city. **AFP and PNA**

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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

28 November 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B6

11 Maute members killed in Lanao del Sur

BY VICTOR REYES

ELEVEN members of the Maute criminal group were reported killed while five other members were injured in skirmishes at the old and abandoned Butig municipal building in Lanao del Sur, which started Saturday.

No enemy body was recovered. The casualty report was "based on our signal intelligence and other sources," Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office, said yesterday.

Four soldiers were also wounded in the fighting that broke out at 9:49 a.m. Saturday at the building which some 50

members of the criminal group occupied earlier that day.

Arevalo said the group occupied the building and took positions there on the belief that the military operations will focus on Butig town. The group also replaced a Philippine flag at the building with that of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

The Maute group, which has been linking itself to the ISIS, is blamed for atrocities in Mindanao, including the September 2 bombing in Davao City, which left 15 people dead and scores injured. It has about 200 to 300 members, including former members of the Moro Islamic

Liberation Front. It had been subject of major military operations, one of them last February that left 23 group members dead.

Arevalo said the military has to "dislodge" the group from the building because the occupation "has driven the people from other areas of the town to flee their homes."

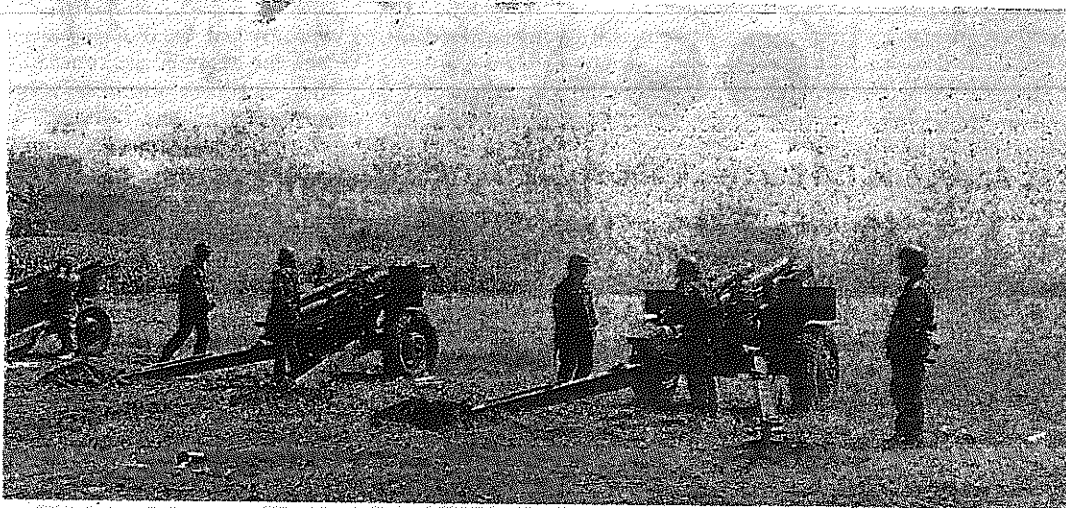
Padilla, on the raising of the ISIS flag, said the act was "expected since they have long been professing allegiance to the foreign terror group."

"This is still part of the Maute Group's agenda in courting support and encouraging similar minded individuals to support ISIS," he added.

28 November 2016

INQUIRER

Page: 120

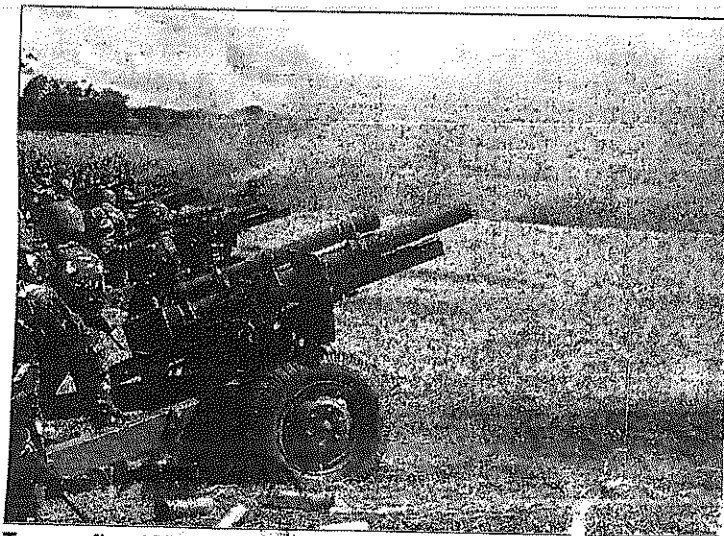


ARTILLERY FIRE Army soldiers of the 1st Field Artillery Battalion aim their howitzers at members of the Maute Group who have occupied the old and abandoned municipal hall of Butig, Lanao del Sur province. —RICHEL V. UMEL

28 November 2016



Page: 18



Troops fire 105mm howitzer cannons toward enemy positions from their base near Butig town in Lanao del Sur last Tuesday.

AFP

28 November 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A20

11 terrorists killed in AFP strikes

AFP flushes out Lanao terrorists

By Jerome Aning,
Julie Alipala
and Marlon Ramos
@Team_Inquirer

The Armed Forces of the Philippines yesterday said 11 members of the Islamic extremist Maute Group had been killed and five others wounded during military operations in Butig, Lanao del Sur province, that began on Saturday.

The military launched the offensive two days after 200-300 members of the group stormed the town center, occupied the old, abandoned municipal hall and even raised the flag of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (Isis) there.

"This prompted the immediate conduct of military operations focused on dislodging the lawless group. Two soldiers were slightly wounded while 11 members of the Maute Group were killed and at least five wounded," Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs office head, said in a statement. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Arevalo advised residents remaining in the vicinity of the building to leave their homes as the AFP expected the clashes to last for a week.

The military deployed planes to strike at the structures near the town hall, such as the public high school and the mosque that were also being occupied by the Maute Group fighters.

"The group has ... long been professing allegiance to the foreign terror group. This is still

part of [its] agenda in courting support and encouraging similar-minded individuals to support Isis," Arevalo said.

Propaganda activity

The AFP spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, echoed Arevalo's statements in a television interview.

"This is something that we see as an attempt of the Maute Group to attract attention, to attract recruits, to project a degree of force which is entirely a propaganda activity," Padilla said.

He said the military's strength in the area was "adequate" and the scene of the fighting was "well-secured."

The old town hall used to be the group's stronghold until it was recaptured by the military in February. The group's final

stronghold, Camp Darul Iman, a former Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) military camp in Butig, fell to the military in June.

The military believes that members of the Maute Group members were responsible for the bomb attack in the Davao City night market that left 15 dead in September partly in revenge for the June debacle.

The Maute Group, composed of former MILF fighters, is being led by brothers Omar and Abdullah Maute, who have pledged allegiance to Isis and aim to set up an similar Islamic state in Mindanao.

The presidential adviser on the peace process, Jesus Dureza, said in a statement yesterday that MILF troops were coordinating with government forces in Butig. He said the

The Armed Forces has reinforced its ground troops with air power to flush out members of the Islamic extremist Maute Group now holed up in the old and abandoned municipal hall of Butig, Lanao del Sur province, where they hoisted the flag of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. At least 11 terrorists have been killed and two soldiers have been wounded. —STORY BY JEROME ANING, JULIE ALIPALA AND MARLON RAMOS

A20

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

MILF was assisting evacuees.

Gun battles

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City, said gun battles were continuing on Sunday.

Reinforcements were sent on Saturday "and more deployments are happening," Tan said.

On Saturday, Tan said Maute guerrillas fired at soldiers conducting clearing operations following an air raid on suspected hideouts of the group.

He said the town had been deserted, adding the residents had fled after getting information of the attack.

On Saturday night, President Duterte raised the possibility of negotiating with the

Abu Sayyaf and the Maute Group.

"The Isis is really dangerous. That is why you have to use your head. Do not drive them to despair because that is precisely what happened in Africa," the President told the gathering of the San Beda College of Law Alumni Association in Taguig City on Saturday.

Ramos strategy

Without elaborating, Mr. Duterte said he believed in the strategy of then President Fidel Ramos in dealing with the Moro "rebellion."

Said the President: "What will we do? We will just have to wait. We will just have to talk and talk. What we will pass on to the next generation is a talking administration."

Quoting Ramos, the President said "there can never be a real fight" in Mindanao.

"You just have to talk," he said. "I was asked pointblank questions by the media in Zamboanga. They said, 'Mr. President, this is the sixth time you visited the wounded and dead soldiers. When will you end the Abu Sayyaf?' I said, 'What do you want?' I mean I could do it. I could burn Jolo now. I could bomb the place."

"And in the mountains, I will order carpet bombings and I would tell the military after the operation, 'I don't want to see a single person standing.' Do you want me to do that? And if I kill children and innocent people and all, can we survive as a nation?" he lamented.

INQ

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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

28 November 2016



Page: 15

Duterte hands off on screening of AFP chief

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte said he is keeping his hands off the screening of the next chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

AFP chief Gen. Ricardo Visaya is retiring on Dec. 8. The AFP has its board of generals

that goes over the selection process.

"I leave it to the AFP board of generals, they have to go through the process," Duterte told reporters over the weekend.

Duterte said he would let Visaya and Defense Secretary

By EDITH REGALADO

Delfin Lorenzana go over the selection process, but the President stressed that the next AFP chief must not be tainted with corruption.

But being the commander-in-

provided he is appointed by the President who trusts him.

"The position of chief of staff of AFP is a position of trust and confidence. Whoever he will choose must have his

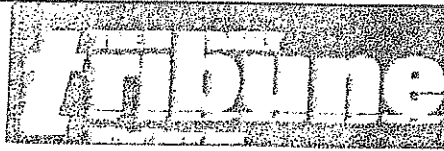
chief, the President still has the prerogative to choose.

Under the law, even an officer with a rank of a full colonel could also become chief of staff

trust and confidence," a ranking military official said.

The source also told The STAR that all three-star generals are contenders to become the next AFP chief.

28 November 2016



Page: 3

Race on for next Armed Forces chief of staff post

The race for the next chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is on with the upcoming retirement of AFP chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya on December 7 or a day before his mandatory retirement.

Informed military sources said a change of command ceremony was tentatively scheduled at Camp Aguinaldo on December 7 with the commander in chief President Duterte invited as guest of honor.

Initial plans showed the ceremony will coincide with the celebration of AFP Day which traditionally happens every December 21.

Visaya is reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56 on December 8—only five months after assuming the AFP top post last July 1.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, however, would not know if the AFP Board of Generals (BoG) has already convened to come up with a short list to be submitted to the President, through the Department of National Defense.

"We still have no information if (the BoG) convened for CSAFP's (Visaya's) replacement," Padilla said.

Padilla, however, stressed that all three star generals are "technically qualified" to assume the AFP top post.

By Mario J. Mallari

Sources said among the top contenders to succeed Visaya are AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda; Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano and Lt. Gen. Ray Leonardo Guerrero, commander of Eastern Mindanao Command.

Miranda and Ano are mistahs of Visaya from the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983 while Guerrero belonged to PMA Class of 1984 which may work against him as some of his mistahs, particularly those in the Philippine National Police, were identified with the Liberal Party.

Considered as the "dark horse" is Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, chief of the Army's 10th Infantry Division. He is a member of the PMA Class of 1985.

If the President sticks to its preference to seniority, as he stressed in choosing Visaya last July, Miranda and Ano have the advantage against the other contenders.

In fact, Miranda served as acting AFP chief from April to June this year—replacing another member of the PMA Class of 1983 Gen. Hernando Iriberry. Former President Aquino opted to observe the election ban on appointments and named Miranda as acting chief.

Upon his assumption of the presidency, Duterte, stressing his preference for seniority, named Visaya as AFP chief.

On the other hand, Ano is credited for the neutralization of eight suspects in the Davao City bombers last September that killed 15 people and wounded about 70 others.

Meanwhile, Padilla said as chief of staff, Visaya worked for the neutralization of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group in compliance with the order of Duterte to destroy the bandits responsible for the kidnapping for ransom of local and foreign victims in southern Philippines.

"The CSAFP (Visaya) worked on pursuing the ASG campaign, counter-terrorism, and followed through on peace and development initiatives among others. He spearheaded the AFP during the start of the new administration following a very stable transition," Padilla said.

During Visaya's incumbency, there were mass surrender of Abu Sayyaf terrorists which, he claimed, was an indication the government was winning the peace in southern Philippines.

Visaya actually wanted to defeat the Abu Sayyaf before he retires but recently admitted the military needs more time to finally destroy the bandit group.

29 November 2016

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 2

Gov't to deal with Commander Bravo

By GENALYN D. KABILING

The Duterte administration is considering operations against a belligerent Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) commander after establishing his own "government" in Mindanao.

The President laid down some abuses committed by MILF Commander Bravo and warned he might order the security forces to "get rid" of him "one of these days."

"At this point in time, I have to deal with the rebellion that is getting worse," the President said during the San Beda College of Law alumni homecoming in Taguig City last Saturday night.

"He's popular to you, 'tong si Bravo. Mayroon na siya doong gobyerno sa Mindanao and most of (his) constituents really are also Moros [He's popular to you. He has his own government in Mindanao and most of his constituents really are also Moros]," he added.

Duterte said Bravo, whose real name is Abdullah Macapaar, has apprehended suspected criminals and prosecuted them in Shari'ah courts. The MILF commander, how-

ever, supposedly takes money from arrested offenders in exchange for giving them lighter sentences.

"Pag nagkasala ka doon kulong ka, hulihin ka niyan pag ano ka, drug pusher ka. Bayad ka lang sa kanya, siya ang mag sintensiya [If you commit a crime, you'll be sent to jail. He will arrest you if you are a drug pusher. You just have to pay him and he will give you the sentence]," Duterte said.

The MILF commander also engages in dubious money lending scheme where he pockets half of the profits, according to Duterte. "Mag-utang ka. Bayad ka sa kanya P10,000. Sabihin niya doon sa libro niya, sa treasurer na 'yung P5,000 kanya [If you borrow money, you will pay him P10,000. He would write on his book, or tell his treasurer that he would pocket P5,000]," he added.

Duterte admitted that the government's action plan in addressing the Bravo situation was among the topics discussed with some senior government officials in Davao last weekend.

"Sabi ko, I will decide. Maghanap ako ng Maranao, isip-isip ko si Dabs Mamao, ayan o, yung Presidential adviser for - siguro I'll give you what, siguro mga 20 days to get rid of Bravo," he said, referring to Presidential Adviser on the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) affairs Abdullah Mamao.

"But one of these days, I said I'll be forced to ask the security forces of the - unahin mo na 'yan," Duterte added.

Despite his complaints about Bravo, the President has nothing against the MILF leadership following its strong support for the government's campaign against illegal drugs. He said the MILF has actually cooperated by not standing in the way of anti-drug operations.

"In fairness to the Moro leaders, Murad and all, (they) hate drugs," Duterte said.

"Pagka ang mission ng pulis doon pati army pumapasok sa territory and it's a drug mission, the MILF hindi makialam so that is really something we should appreciate," he added.

14

24 November 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B6

Duterte explains delay in defeating Abu Sayyaf

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR
AND VICTOR REYES

PRESIDENT Duterte defended the delay in eradicating the Abu Sayyaf, saying he can easily order an all-out offensive against the bandit group if there are no civilians in their areas of operation in Sulu and Basilan.

Last August, Duterte said he wants the Abu Sayyaf crushed within his terms as president.

"I could do it, I could burn Jolo now, I could bomb the place. And in the mountains, mag-carpet bombing ako... And if I kill children and innocent people and all, can we survive as a nation?" he said Saturday night at the San Beda College of Law alumni homecoming, during which he also ordered concerned authorities to "get rid of Bravo" in 20 days.

The President did not give details about "Bravo." Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza declined to comment if "Bravo" is Abdullah Macapaar, a commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front who is also known as "Commander Bravo."

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office, said he is not aware of any order coming from higher authorities

for the military to get rid of Macapaar who is blamed for recent abuses in Lanao del Sur.

Bravo is the commander of the Northeastern Mindanao Command of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, the MILF's military wing.

A security official who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed Arevalo's statement that there is no order for the military to go after Bravo.

"None yet, the government is trying to preserve the peace process," he said. The government and MILF are still working on the implementation of the peace agreement signed in March 2014.

The source said government peace negotiators are coordinating with the MILF leadership to deal with Bravo.

"We are waiting for their categorical statement. If they cannot deal with him, normal law enforcement operations may be conducted to get Bravo," the source said.

Macapaar was reported to have returned to his village in Munai town, Lanao del Norte last February, supposedly to condole with the family of a relative who passed away. With him were about 30 bodyguards

and 70 relatives.

Last month, the source said, Bravo ordered the killing by firing squad of three men, supposedly involved in illegal drugs and rape, in Lanao del Sur. He said Bravo's group claimed to be implementing the Shariah, or the Islamic law based on the Koran.

Last week, Bravo ordered the "arrest" of six people, including a woman, in Balindong town.

"Allegedly they are involved in drugs," the source said. "But this is due to rido (clan war). The atrocity of Bravo was made on the guise of implementing the shariah law," he said.

Dureza said Bravo "is a key player in our peace engagements in the Lanao area and I trust he will be the last one to squander the strategic gains we have together attained for sustainable peace in the Bangsamoro."

"I am also confident the MILF leadership under (chairman) Murad Ibrahim will be able to deal with these contingencies," he said.

The President said Bravo is popular and known especially among the Bangsamoro, has a "government" in Mindanao, and implements his own laws which he supposedly bases on the shariah.

28 November 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 32

Duterte: Cold, neutral on FM burial issue

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte late Saturday night said his agreement with the burial of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos Sr. at the Libingan ng mga Bayani was based on the laws and with "cold neutrality."

Duterte defended his stand on the issue again in his speech at the San Beda College of Law Alumni Homecoming.

He said as a trained lawyer and prosecutor, he learned to look at the law clearly and with cold neutrality.

He said the law clearly stated that a soldier and a president, like Marcos, may be buried at the heroes' cemetery. He said the law did not specify that the soldier or president should be good.

"Tayong lawyers, we are trained to just look at the law and if it is clear. If it does not admit of any equivocal answer, don't. Eh nakalagay doon e, President, soldier. Whether true or not, that's not my business to dig into the yeast. Whether or not he became good or bad or worst along the

years, that is not for me to decide. Abogado man tayo dito lahat and he was a soldier. If you say that he was a coward and did not receive the valor rightly so, then that's not my problem," he said.

"We were trained with cold neutrality. I was a prosecutor. So along the --- being, you know, extra power is really to conduct preliminary investigation aside from being a trial fiscal. Ganoon. So kung ano'ng nakalagay doon, 'yun na iyon. And there is a, several jurisprudence --- you should not allow compassion and sentiment and whatever to taint your judgment," he added.

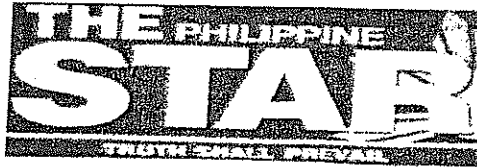
Duterte said he already looked into the issue before he assumed the presidency, recalling that it was even one of the questions during a presidential debate.

The President reiterated that his stand was based on the law, and not his friendship with the Marcos family.

He said his mother was even a staunch Marcos detractor and led protests against the former president.

16

26 November 2016



Page: 128

2 Abu men slain in Zambo clash

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Two suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits tagged in the kidnapping of a businesswoman were killed while their alleged leader was wounded in a firefight with police and the military in Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay on Friday afternoon.

Although wounded, Roger Tiguan, alias Kalas, managed to escape along with four companions, according to Police Regional Office 9 acting spokesman Superintendent Rogelio Alabata.

Authorities have yet to identify the two bandits, who were declared dead on arrival

at a hospital.

The local police and the Army's 6th Special Forces Battalion set up a checkpoint in Barangay Batungan to apprehend Tiguan's convoy.

The suspects, who sensed they were the target of the operation, fired at the soldiers and police officers, triggering a firefight.

Tiguan is wanted for kidnapping businesswoman Martina Yee in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte.

In September, Yee was brought to Sulu by her captors, who abandoned her after she fainted in Indanan town.

28 November 2016



Page: A28

Blast hits Kudarat; 2 wounded

SULTANKUDARAT—Two persons were wounded when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off near a church in Esperanza town here yesterday morning.

John Renan Escanillan, 30, and Loren Erazo, 26, suffered minor wounds and were declared out of danger, according to Senior Superintendent Raul Supiter, provincial police director.

Supiter said an unidenti-

fied man placed the IED behind a vehicle parked near the church.

The blast caused panic among people attending mass at the Our Lady of Hope Church and nearby areas.

The IED, detonated from a distance with the use of a mobile phone, was packed with nails and metal fragments.

“Investigators are still trying to identify the bombers,” Supiter said.

— John Unson

Cops, soldiers raid shabu laboratory

By CET DEMATERA

LEGAZPI CITY—Police and the military raided a warehouse turned into a shabu laboratory and arrested its caretaker in a remote village in Catanduanes on Saturday.

The raiding team seized equipment, chemicals and a truck from the 400-square-meter property in Barangay Palta located at the boundary of Virac and San Andres towns.

Bicol police director Chief Superintendent Melvin Ramon Buenafe said the caretaker, whose name was not imme-

diately available, was placed under investigation.

Authorities launched a manhunt for Paulo Uy and Jason Uy, the alleged tenants of the warehouse owned by Angelica Balmadrid.

The raiding team had a hard time entering the warehouse as its doors and windows were made of steel.

Buenafe said closed-circuit television cameras were installed inside and outside the property located in the middle of a coconut plantation.

28 November 2016

INQUIRER

Page: 17

The killing of our best and brightest

We have mediocre leaders because the best and brightest members of the generation that now holds the reins of power in our country were killed during the Marcos dictatorship. There's a vacuum of nationalistic and inspirational leaders because their ranks were decimated during the martial law period."

These words of lamentation were said by Dr. Ruth Callanta, founder and president of the Center for Community Transformation (CCT), a nonprofit organization with an outstanding international reputation because of its microfinance and livelihood programs for the poor.

Callanta spoke with torment and anguish when I met her last week, because of events that distressed her memory of the past and her concern about the present.

Her memory of the past hounded her when the Supreme Court issued its decision allowing the burial of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos' remains in the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Callanta was part of the young generation when Marcos declared martial law, the same generation that now walks the corridors of power in government. She had friends who were killed, and she herself was imprisoned during the dark years of the Marcos dictatorship.

Her concern about the present troubles her immensely. In a span of one week, she attended five separate wakes for victims of the Duterte administration's campaign against illegal drugs dubbed "Operation Tokhang."

Callanta's CCT is a Christian faith-based organization that cares for the poor in Metro Manila and a number of provinces through feeding programs, halfway houses, and



FLEA MARKET OF IDEAS

JOEL RUIZ BUTUYAN

livelihood training. The five victims were urban poor residents who were availing themselves of CCT programs in their struggle to transform and improve their lives.

Callanta rattled off some of the many names that her generation could have offered as great leaders of this country in these current times: Lorena Barros, Edgar Jopson, Voltaire Garcia, Joey Calderon, Letty Pascual, Bobby de la Paz, and Raquel Edralin Tiglao. Some of these fallen heroes were either killed or made to endure suffering and eventually died during the dictatorship.

Because the cream of the crop of Callanta's generation sacrificed their lives during martial law, the leaders who emerged from that generation were the sycophants of the Marcoses. These are leaders who thrived as bootlickers of the dictator, amassing great personal wealth at the expense of a national economy that was run to the ground. They utilized their wealth to capture political power, and then used the powers of

government to amass even more wealth. Survey and investigate the list of the political dynasties that blight our country, and they will be seen to have been spawned mostly during the Marcos dictatorship.

The kind of politics allowed to thrive and the type of leaders permitted to flourish during the dictatorship were responsible for our culture's steep fall into the abyss of wanton corruption. We have not been able to crawl out of that abyss to this day.

The type of politics and the breed of corrupt leaders that flourished during martial law sidelined and rendered inconsequential the surviving leaders who have genuine love of country, while others were coopted and swallowed by a political system that was high on corruption.

The generations that came into their own after the country was freed from the dictatorship carry the task of removing the dictator's legacy of a corrupted political system and preventing the ominous return to power of his heirs.

The burial of the dictator's remains in the Libingan ng mga Bayani signals the brazen attempt of the Marcoses to return to the glory days of their political power. In the many protest rallies that followed the burial, young people came in droves and showed impassioned indignation at the shameless move to erase the sacrifices of the exemplary members of a generation that showed heroic love of country.

It warms the heart to feel hope that the martyrdom of the best and brightest of a storied generation may not be in vain.

Comments to fleamarketofideas@gmail.com

28 November 2016

THE PHILIPPINE
INQUIRER

Page: A17

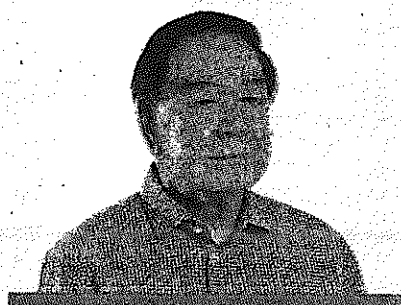
The tragedy of Andres Bonifacio

In the Philippines, there are only three national holidays in honor of specific Filipino heroes: Aug. 21 marks the assassination of Ninoy Aquino at the Manila International Airport in 1983, Nov. 30 commemorates the birth of Andres Bonifacio in Tondo, Manila, in 1863, and Dec. 30 commemorates the execution of Jose Rizal at the Luneta in 1896.

President Manuel Luis Quezon's birthday on Aug. 19 is celebrated as a special nonworking day in Quezon City and the provinces of Quezon and Aurora.

Quezon succumbed to tuberculosis in the United States. The three others were killed by fellow Filipinos.

Rizal was shot by a firing squad consisting of Filipino soldiers. Behind them were Spanish soldiers who were prepared to shoot the squad if anything went wrong.



REVEILLE

RAMON J. FAROLAN

In my generation's history classes, we were introduced to Andres Bonifacio as the "Great Plebeian," much as Emilio Jacinto was the "Brains of the Katipunan," and Apolinario Mabini as the "Sublime Paralytic." Historian Ambeth Ocampo finds the title "difficult," and for good cause. He says that Bonifacio may have had humble beginnings, but he had some education, enough to be hired by British and German trading firms in Manila; he was literate and upwardly mobile, having married a lady of means, Gregoria de Jesus, and was a Mason. Since Masons were not considered poor or uneducated, that would put him closer to the middle class.

Along with Ladislao Diwa and Teodoro Plata, Bonifacio founded the "Kataas-taasan, Kagalang-galangan na Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan" (KKK) or Katipunan for short, a secret society with the goal of "separation" from Spain unless reforms were instituted. They were aware that the fight for freedom at some point would turn bloody. Jose Rizal would tell them in Dapitan that "a revolution without arms should never be started against an armed nation."

On March 22, 1897, as "Supremo" of the Katipunan, Bonifacio presided over a convention in Tejeros, Cavite, to elect officials of a revolutionary government. Here he was humiliated when Emilio Aguinaldo, a man Bonifacio had earlier inducted into the Katipunan, was elected president. Mariano Trias was chosen vice president, and Artemio Ricarte, captain general of the proposed Filipino Army.

Bonifacio was elected director of the interior. But even this was questioned by Daniel Tirona, one of the delegates, citing Bonifacio's lack of academic and professional qualifications for the post. This was too much for Bonifacio. He drew his revolver but was disarmed by Ricarte as Tirona fled the hall.

A day after, on March 23, Bonifacio and 45 followers issued a document known as "Acta de Tejeros," declaring the elections illegal on the grounds that the ballots had been prepared by "one sole person" and "issued to unqualified persons in order to secure a majority." As far as Bonifacio was concerned, the results of the Tejeros Convention were null and void.

For Aguinaldo, the Katipunan ceased to exist after the elections.

However, it has been written that without Andres Bonifacio, the Philippine Revolution would not have taken place. Historian Renato Constantino notes that "the defeat of Bonifacio at Tejeros was the defeat of the Revolution."

In the end, Aguinaldo ordered Bonifacio's arrest and trial on various charges of treason. A day before his arrest, three of Aguinaldo's men—Col. Agapito Bonzon, Jose Pawa, and Felipe Topacio—led a detachment to his hideaway in Limbon, Cavite. A gunfight ensued, resulting in the death of Ciriaco Bonifacio and the wounding of the supremo in the throat and left arm. The weakened supremo was laid in a hammock while other Katipuneros were rounded up and all taken to Indang. There are reports that Bonzon molested Bonifacio's wife, Gregoria de Jesus or Aling Oriang.

Bonifacio was tried before a military court in Maragondon, with the verdict a foregone conclusion. He was found guilty of plotting to overthrow the revolutionary government. He and his brother Procopio were sentenced "to be shot in an open place, up to five shots for each..."

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

In an interview with a Spanish correspondent in 1897 after the signing of the Pact of Biak na Bato, Aguinaldo had this to say of Bonifacio: "It is quite true that the Katipunan instilled in us another desire—that of independence—but that desire was unattainable... it served as the banner of Andres Bonifacio, a cruel man whom I ordered shot and with his death the Katipunan disappeared.... He had little power with our people since no one cared for him." Interestingly Ocampo writes, "If no one cared for Bonifacio, why did they execute him?"

A different view has been expressed by Gen. Artemio Ricarte: "Thus ended the life of the man who, scorning dangers, had established the KKK ng mga Anak ng Bayan; the man who had taught the Filipino people the true way to shake off the Spanish yoke; the man from whose mouth and whenever he spoke with the officials of the forces always came the following expressions: Commit no acts that will cast a stain upon your name. Fear history, for in it, none of your acts will be hidden!"

Ocampo puts it best in a paper presented at the Third European Philippine Studies Conference in France in April 1997: "If you take the time to look back and reflect on our history—not just 1896—you will discover that it reveals more questions than answers. The tragedy of Bonifacio only goes to show that textbooks and national holidays tend to oversimplify history." He also adds, "No matter how hard we try to forget, how skillfully we sanitize history, the fact is Bonifacio's death forces us to admit the painful reality that even in the 'glorious' revolution... Filipinos were fighting fellow Filipinos. Filipinos were murdering fellow Filipinos."

In preparing this column, I relied heavily on the books of Sylvia Mendez Ventura, "Supremo: The Story of Andres Bonifacio" and Ambeth Ocampo, "Bones of Contention: The Bonifacio Lectures."—RJF

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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

14 November 2016



Page: 76

Lady Troopers, Cargo Movers complete SLiga semis cast

RC Cola-Army back to the semis.

Polina Liutikova registered 10 hits while Ria Meneses and Darlene Ramdin tallied nine markers apiece for the Lifesavers, who were relegated to the battle for fifth place against Cignal.

In the nightcap, F2 Logistics took it slow before going for the kill in the fourth set to smother Cignal, 25-17, 25-16, 22-25, 25-10, and formally complete the semifinal cast.

The Cargo Movers will face second seed Petron.

Semifinal matches are set this Saturday

at the Ibalong Centrum for Recreation in Legazpi City.

Sydney Kemper had 18 points while Hayley Spelman finished with 17 markers for the Cargo Movers, who collapsed in the third set but bounced back with a 13-2 lead in the deciding set en route to a huge 22-6 advantage.

"We lost focus on the third set. Fortunately, the girls came back strong on the fourth," said F2 Logistics coach Ramil de Jesus, who is looking to come up with a fitting followup to their title conquest in the All-Filipino Conference.

RC Cola-Army weathered a spirited Generika fightback and hacked out a 25-20, 25-19, 25-19 victory in the playoffs last night to advance to the semifinal round of the Asics Philippine Superliga (PSL) Grand Prix presented by PLDT Home Ultera at the Philsports Arena in Pasig.

Import Hailie Ripley stepped up in the clutch and bailed the Lady Troopers out of trouble with her crucial hits as RC Cola-Army arranged a sudden death duel with top seed Foton in the semis.

RC Cola-Army assistant coach Rico

de Guzman, who subbed for head coach Kungfu Reyes, admitted that they paid special attention on the development of Ripley and Holst.

"We don't have problem on offense. Our problem is the footwork of our imports as well as our blocking and reception. So, we focused on those areas," said De Guzman, who guided the Lady Troopers to three straight titles in the league's inaugural season.

Ripley delivered a kill for the match point followed by a running attack off a set up by Sarah Jane Gonzales to formally send

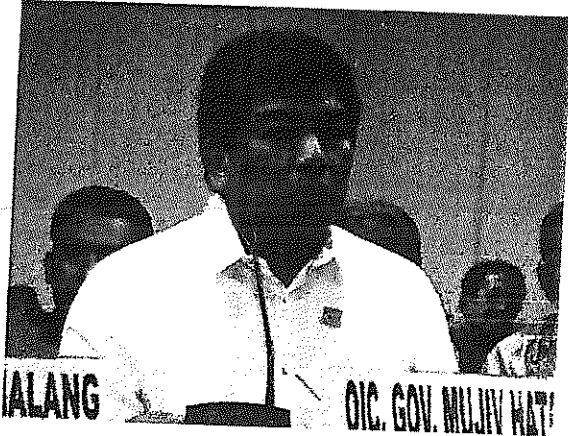
ONLINE NEWS 28 NOVEMBER 2016

www.inquirer.net

Troops fight to retake Lanao Sur town from terrorists

By: Julie Alipala - @inquirerdotnet

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 06:06 AM November 27, 2016



ARMM Gov. Mujiv Hataman. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Soldiers on Saturday battled members of the Maute group to try and retake Butig, Lanao del Sur, where the Islamic State-inspired militants had been occupying an old town hall and other buildings and houses since late last week.

"Troops have been deployed in the area and more deployments are happening," said Major Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson for the military's Western Mindanao Command.

Gov. Mujiv Hataman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao told the Inquirer he still had no clear picture of the situation in Butig. He said that based on a report he received, the gunmen were not occupying the new hall.

In Manila, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said two soldiers had been wounded in the fighting since Thursday.

Tan said about 50 Maute gunmen clashed with soldiers conducting a clearing operation in one part of Barangay Poblacion following an aerial bombing.

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

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

No civilian was caught in the crossfire as the town, which has a population of about 16,000, was practically deserted. Residents received information of an impending attack by the Maute group and fled a day before the gunmen stormed the town, Tan said.

It was the second time this year that the Maute group had occupied Butig, a 6th class agricultural town, which lies at the foot of Mt. Makaturing.

The group, which has declared allegiance to the Islamic State, attacked the town in February.

At least 20 gunmen and three Army soldiers were killed then. The military reported 11 soldiers were also wounded and more than 1,500 people were displaced in the ensuing clashes.

The group struck the town again in March, seizing six sawmill workers and beheading two they suspected were military agents.

That attack was followed by a major military operation against the group, killing dozens of its members.

In June, another round of military operations led to the fall of Camp Darul Iman, the group's main camp in Butig.

Troops recovered IS flags, banners, armbands and t-shirts, as well as DVDs containing Islamic State instructional videos, confirming the group's extremist orientation and desire for recognition by the IS, the military said.

The military, however, said there is no evidence of direct ties between the IS and the Maute group.

The military later captured eight alleged members. But in August, their comrades— some armed with AK-47 rifles—stormed the Lanao provincial jail and freed them.

The group was also blamed for the Sept. 2 Davao City night market bombing that killed 15 people and wounded 67 others. Three alleged Maute group members linked to the bombing have been arrested. —WITH REPORTS FROM AFP, AP/*rga*

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

www.sunstar.com

Monitoring team eyes to disrupt Isis influence

From Sun Star-Davao (Nov 26): **Monitoring team eyes to disrupt Isis influence**



DAVAO. The International Monitoring Team (IMT) composed of soldiers and police from Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia as well as civilian conflict resolution and rehabilitation experts from Norway, Japan and the European Union, with the media from Davao City and Manila.

The Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT) in Mindanao has intensified its proactive measures to disrupt terrorist group, Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (Isis) and its supporters, from radicalizing Filipinos in some parts of the region.

The IMT, composed of soldiers and police from the Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia, and civilian conflict resolution and rehabilitation experts from Norway, Japan and the European Union, has been helping the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) enforce the interim ceasefire since 2003.

IMT-Mindanao head mission Major General Datuk Wira Zamrose Bin Mohd Zain said the reports on Isis and/or its supporters coming to Mindanao and influencing the younger generations, especially those in the unregistered schools have been increasing.

"There were rumors (reports gathered by the armed forces and the police) that the Isis is trying to come in and influence the people here, especially the young ones. Sometimes rumors become reality, so, we immediately act on it for the people to avoid them," Zain said.

Zain said the IMT has taken proactive measures and went around its areas of responsibility, particularly the conflict-affected areas, to educate the people about the Isis and its purpose. He added that they also advised local governments to take care of the unregistered and religious schools.

"If there is a religious teacher coming from nowhere, we advised the people here to ask his background and where he came from, what is his purpose and what is he teaching -- whether it is Islamic purpose or Islamic extreme, and report it to us and to the government authorities," Zain 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.

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier said that there were white people believed to be Arabs had entered in some areas of Mindanao for indoctrination. He added that the process of the indoctrination aimed at radicalizing Filipinos in Mindanao that may force the country to confront Isis problems in the future.

The mission of the Malaysian forces in Mindanao through the IMT is significant. The deployment of the IMT in Mindanao is authorized under the provision of the United Nations Charter which allows peace settlement manage under a regional arrangement and upon invitation of the host government.

Malaysian peacekeepers form as a major contingent in the IMT along with the other members. The IMT plays a critical role in supporting the Philippine government and the MILF's ongoing peace negotiations and in continuing the momentum for the resolution of the conflict in Mindanao.

"The focus is development. In fact, we do not want the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police (AFP-PNP) to get involved with the rido (family feud) cases. The IMT is doing its best to manage the situation," Zain said.

A part of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Armm) is covered by the ceasefire monitoring mission of the IMT, Zain said, adding that it is a development that the AFP-PNP and the MILF are now working together while the negotiation is ongoing.

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

Abu Sayyaf can use Duterte statement to claim 'legitimacy'--analyst

From ABS-CBN (Nov 27): Abu Sayyaf can use Duterte statement to claim 'legitimacy'--analyst

President Rodrigo Duterte's pronouncement of possible talks with militant group Abu Sayyaf may be used by rebels to claim legitimacy as a group, a political analyst said Saturday.

"The Abu Sayyaf can claim that legitimacy but the reality on the ground is stronger, meaning, these are people who have kidnapped and created a peace and order problem," Casiple said.

Earlier this year, the President said he had lost his respect for the rebel group since they began beheading people in front of the camera.

But in a change of tide last Friday, Duterte said he can begin talks with the Abu Sayyaf since using force will not solve the peace problem in Mindanao.

Casiple said the President, in stating his openness to talks, means that he is really trying to have a peaceful ending to all the problems in that part of the country.

Unlike the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Casiple said the Abu Sayyaf has not made any political demands as a group and has only demanded ransom for its kidnappings.

"The present Abu Sayyaf is nowhere near that level of political demands. The best that you could say now is the Abu Sayyaf is trying to claim to be part of the caliphate that the ISIS group in the Middle East or in Syria is trying to establish, but that's neither here nor there..."

"There's never been a public statement or a program or a document that they have come out with except some photographs and there's nothing during the kidnappings that they have political demands."

Aside from getting the cooperation of the MNLF in solving the peace problem, Casiple said local tribes in the area can also be used to handle the peace problem since they have natural relations with the rebels but are neither affiliated with any group.

"This is basically a tribal area, Tausugs and many of these clans that are there are involved in neither Abu Sayyaf nor have relations with the MNLF so there are natural relations you can use to handle the problem," he said.

Abu Sayyaf which means "bearer of the sword," is holding at least 22 captives, most of them foreigners, and are demanding huge ransoms for the captives' release.

www.interkaksyon.com

Army troops engage Maute Group in second Butig clash this year

By: Thom Andrade, InterAksyon | Agence France-Presse

November 27, 2016 1:10 AM

The online news portal of TV5

MANILA - Reports reaching Manila indicated that government troops on Saturday cornered elements of the Islamist Maute terrorist group in their second clash this year at the town of Butig, Lanao del Sur.

Once described by the military as a small-time extortion gang, the group had launched an attack on a remote army outpost in Butig in February, triggering a week of fighting that the military said left six soldiers and 12 militants dead.

This time the militants were cornered by security forces at an abandoned building, according to Major Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman of the Western Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City, with no death, so far, reported since sporadic firefights broke out between soldiers and the Maute fighters, who were believed to number as many as 100.

The Maute Group was been tagged as behind the deadly bombing at Davao City's Night Market business enclave.

Residents of Butig, which has a population of 17,000, fled after the Islamic State-linked militants holed themselves up in an abandoned government building, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told Agence France-Presse.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines has launched an operation to chase after the Maute leaders," Padilla said, adding that artillery and military aircraft were aiding ground-based security forces.

The Maute Group is one of several armed Islamist organizations in Mindanao, which have pledged allegiance to Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria.

The stand-off in Butig follows the arrest of three members of the group last month, accused of the September bombing that left 15 people dead in Davao, President Rodrigo Duterte's hometown and Mindanao's largest city.

Government forces have surrounded the Maute gunmen to block a possible spillover of the fighting to other areas.

Security forces captured a Maute training camp in the town in June after a 10-day gun battle that left four soldiers and dozens of militants dead, according to an army account.