

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

05 September 2016

Monday

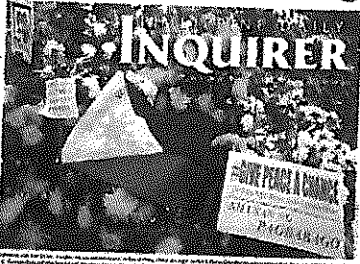
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

NEWS HEADLINES

05 SEPTEMBER 2016

3 eyed in Davao bombing

Bato says attack tied to war vs Abu Sayyaf



Pope Francis hails St. Teresa a model of mercy

Vigilance on lawless state urged



Indian activist frees outcasts from scavenging

More Chinese boats spotted near PH shoal



The Manila Times

Trusted since 1899

High time to end Abu Sayyaf scourge

It is not only the Abu Sayyaf group that has been responsible for the deaths of thousands of people in the Philippines, but also the government's failure to protect its citizens. The group has been active in the southern part of the country, particularly in the Mindanao region, where it has been responsible for the deaths of many innocent people. The government has been accused of failing to take adequate measures to protect its citizens from the group's activities. It is high time for the government to take action to end the Abu Sayyaf scourge and protect its citizens.



PUBLIC URGED TO CARRY ON WITH NORMAL LIFE

We need to prepare, not panic - Palace

MANILA, Sept. 5 (AP) - President Duterte urged the public to carry on with normal life despite the recent bombing in Davao City. He said the government is working to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice. The public is urged to remain calm and continue with their daily activities. The government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of its citizens.

Lawless violence 'legal and factual'

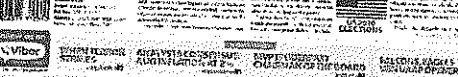


Magnitude 6 earthquake hits Agusan del Sur

Pope declares Mother Teresa a saint

4 PERSONS HUNTED OVER DAVAO BLAST

Trump courts black voters in visit to Detroit church



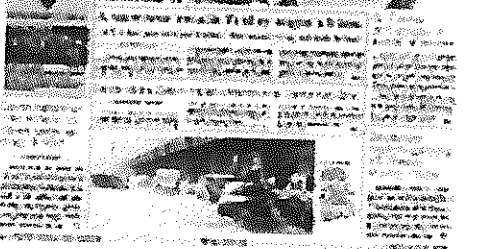
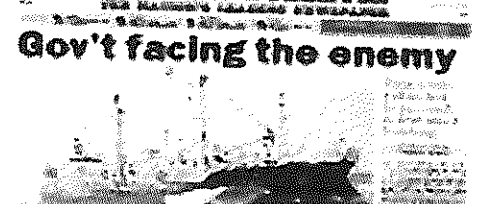
'Wipe out the ASG'

Duterte vows til for tot, calls on nation to brace for reprisals

Lawlessness plan preceded blast



Gov't facing the enemy



Second-guessing Rody on 'lawless' declaration

Duterte's declaration of a 'lawless state' in Davao City has been met with mixed reactions. Some people support the declaration, while others are skeptical. The declaration has been seen as a bold move by Duterte to assert his authority in the region. However, some people are concerned that the declaration may lead to further violence and instability. The declaration has also been seen as a challenge to the rule of law in the Philippines.

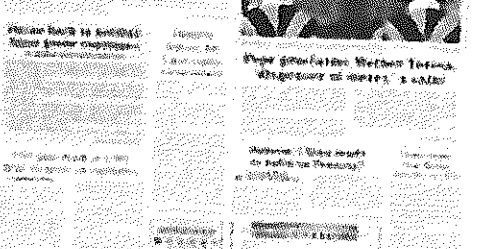


TABLE OF CONTENTS

05 SEPTEMBER 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A16
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	3 eyed in Davao bombing	Leila B Salaverria	PDI p.A1
4-6	'Prepare for Abu reprisal'	Edith Ragalado	PhilStar p.1
7-8	Vigilance on lawless state urge	Inquirer Staff	PDI p.A1
9	De Lima to Rody: Don't wag the dog	Paolo Romero	The Phil Star p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
10-11	Manhunt on suspects; mercenaries eyed on vs Abus	Mario Mallari	The Daily Tribune p.1
12	Police, military beef Western Visayas security	Tara Yap	Manila Bulletin p.13
13	3ID on red alert after Davao blast	-	www.dwdd.com.ph
14-16	Bicol soldiers join war on terror	Juan Escandor	www.inquirer.net
17	Gunmen kill 4 farmers in planting inside Army camp in Ecija	Tonette Orejas	www.inquirer.net
18	PHOTO: Guard Moment	Keith Bacongco	Manila Bulletin p.14
AFP RELATED NEWS			
19	'State of lawlessness eyed even before Davao blast'	Christina Mendez	PhilStar p.6
20	Largest MNLF faction wants harsh punishment for bombers	John Unson	The Phil Star p.8
21	ASG tagged 'biggest traitor of Islam'	Ali Macabalang	Manila Bulletin p.14
22	Muslin house leaders back Marcos' burial at Libingan	Charissa Luci	Manila Bulletin p.4
23-24	US blamed for Davao blast	Ted Tuvera	The Daily Tribune p.1
25	AFP takes part in Fund-raiser for Out-of-School Youth	-	www.dwdd.com.ph
26	China asked to explain boats near disputed sea	Fernan MArasigan	The Manila Times p.A2
COMMENTARY			
27	Davao tragedy	-	PDI p.A14

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

28-29	A challenge to Dirty Rody	Ana Pamintuan	The Phil Star p.13
30-31	Libingan ng Bayan	Roca 2016	Manila Bulletin p.10
32	Mayor Rody, DU30 & Digong (2)	Flor Merceme	Manila Bulletin p.11
33	MNLF peace proposals	Erik Espina	Manila Bulletin p.11
34	I won't be a dictator – DU30; warns cops, barangay chief, ABus	Fred Lobo	Manila Bulletin p.12

ONLINE NEWS


35-36	Ejercito: Duterte should declare all-out war vs Abu Sayyaf	Kristine Sabillo	www.inquirer.net
37-38	Malacañang calls on Filipinos to act against faceless enemy	Kristine Sabillo	www.inquirer.net
399	Remains of police officer abducted by NPA exhumed	Williamor Magbanua	www.inquirer.net

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


05 September 2016

INQUIRER


Page: 116



PANAHON TV
www.panahon.tv

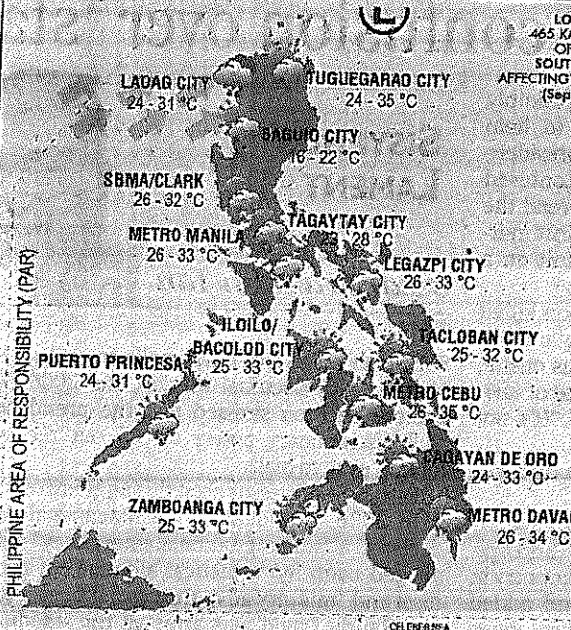


Facebook
PanahonTV







PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER





























TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 5, 2016 | MONDAY





LOW PRESSURE AREA:
465 KM EAST-NORTHEAST
OF ITABAYAT, BATANES
SOUTHWEST MONSOON
AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON
(September 3, 5:00 AM)


SUNRISE  6:44 AM	SUNSET  6:05 PM
MOONRISE  8:39 AM	MOONSET  8:45 PM
NEW MOON SEP 1 5:03 PM	FIRST QUARTER SEP 9 7:40 PM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 6:00 AM 0.36 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 12:28 PM 0.89 Meter

Partly cloudy to all times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms
Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

	SEP 6	SEP 7	SEP 6	SEP 7	SEP 6	SEP 7		
METRO MANILA	 26 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C	TAGAYTAY	 22 - 28 °C	 23 - 28 °C	TACLOBAN	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 33 °C
TUGUEGARAO	 25 - 34 °C	 24 - 34 °C	LEGAZPI	 26 - 33 °C	 25 - 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	 23 - 32 °C	 23 - 32 °C
LAOAG	 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	 25 - 31 °C	 25 - 30 °C	METRO DAVAO	 25 - 33 °C	 26 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	 15 - 22 °C	 16 - 23 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	 24 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	 24 - 32 °C	 25 - 33 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU	 25 - 35 °C	 25 - 34 °C			

Watch PANAHON.TV everyday at 5:00 AM on PTV (Channel 4).


SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

05 September 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A1

3 eyed in Davao bombing

Bato says attack tied to war vs Abu Sayyaf

By Leila B. Salaverria;
Allan Nawal
and Karlos Manlupig,
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Police investigators fanned out yesterday in search of three persons of interest in Friday night's bombing of the Davao City night market that left 14 people dead and 68 wounded.

Two women and a man, described by witnesses to be in his 40s and with medium build, hurriedly left after having a massage session at the market, according to the police.

Witnesses claimed that the man had left a backpack under the massage bed, and when workers tried to call his attention to his bag, he did not look back and continued to walk away. A few seconds later, the explosion took place, they said.

A police checkpoint was set up on the road between the airport and downtown, otherwise the city appeared calm. The downtown area, normally bustling on Sundays, appeared deserted.

No visible stepped-up security was in place at the airport terminal building, Residents said

3 PERSONS/A18

From page A1

checkpoints had been set up along highways leading in and out of the city.

Continuing investigations

Investigators are questioning eight witnesses as well as claims that the Abu Sayyaf was responsible for the carnage, Philippine National Police Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa told reporters.

"We take it at face value, but then again we have to validate," Dela Rosa said of the claim by a spokesperson of the bandit group that was the object of a widespread military operation on Jolo following the ambush-killing of 15 soldiers last week.

Several Army battalions have

been thrown in the Jolo campaign to free at least 16 foreign and five Filipino hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf.

President Duterte, who was in Zamboanga City to condole with the families of the soldiers and visit the wounded before he flew to Davao City on Wednesday night, called off his two-day trip to Brunei beginning yesterday to meet with Cabinet and security officials.

The meeting began late Saturday and ended early yesterday morning.

According to Dela Rosa, the attack on Davao was a diversionary tactic by the Abu Sayyaf to draw the attention of security forces away from the military offensive against them in Sulu and Basilan.

Asked if he also thought the

situation was drug-related, he said this had not been established, and added that the closest explanation was the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

Mr. Duterte on Saturday declared a "state of lawless violence" to allow the Armed Forces of the Philippines to join police forces in securing the nation against the scourge of drugs and criminality and Abu Sayyaf banditry.

Dela Rosa also said it was possible that other cities could be targeted as well. "They were able to do it here in Davao, why not in other cities?" he said.

As for the three persons of interest, the sketches of the two women and the man were being drawn by artists, he said.

Experts were also working to reconstruct the improvised ex-

plosive device that was used in the attack, presumably a mortar round, he said.

Dela Rosa called on the public to remain vigilant and be very alert of their surroundings and immediately report suspicious persons and packages they see.

"We will assure the public that if we could forgo sleep, we will not go to sleep to provide you security," he said.

He ordered police to maximize their visibility in public places, especially with the re-opening of the Roxas night market on Saturday.

Dela Rosa issued the directive to make sure its personnel were not just sitting in patrol cars.

"They should make use of their time well. They must be aggressive and check out suspi-

cious people, so that we would have a better chance of catching [criminals]," he said.

He sought to allay concerns that the President's declaration of state of lawlessness could curtail human rights.

'Just relax'

"You can tell human rights advocates, just relax. The intention of the declaration of the state of lawless violence is not designed to impinge on human rights of the people," he said.

It is not martial law, he stressed. "It just means that the military would increase its presence to quell lawless violence that we observe happening," he said.

Dela Rosa said that the descriptions of the three persons of interest were being matched with

those in the police gallery of known terrorists.

Police also found similarities in the explosive that went off at the night market and the home-made bomb that exploded at Ecoland bus terminal in the city on Valentine's Day in 2005, killing a 12-year-old boy. That device was made of mortar shell fitted with a remote detonator.

"The explosive is closely similar to the signature IED (improvised explosive device) of Abdul Manap Mentang," Dela Rosa said on Saturday. It was even possible that Mentang was involved in the latest blast, he added.

Mentang, a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), was the main suspect in the Ecoland attack. He remains at large to this day.

September 2016



Page: A1

'Prepare for Abu reprisals'

3 hunted for bombing; Rody warns nation of sacrifices

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY—As the government tightens the noose on the Abu Sayyaf, reprisals can be expected from the terrorist group, and the nation must be prepared to make sacrifices, President Duterte warned yesterday.

Authorities said the Abu Sayyaf most likely carried out last Friday's bomb attack in this city in response to a military offensive launched against the bandits since last week.

Duterte stressed he wanted to end the Abu Sayyaf threat, but warned of consequences.

"I am calling on the nation to prepare for reprisals. There will be sacrifices to be made, but we have to address this problem once and for all," he said.

Duterte said last Friday's bomb attack served as the proverbial last straw.

At least 15 people were killed and another 70 were wounded in the explosion. Sixteen of the injured are in critical condition.

Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said Duterte believed the Abu Sayyaf was behind the blast.

"The Office of the President texted and confirmed that it was an Abu Sayyaf retaliation. On the part of the city government, we are working on that — that — that it is an Abu Sayyaf retaliation," the President's

Turn to Page 16

daughter Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the Abu Sayyaf had struck back after suffering heavy casualties on its stronghold in Jolo.

"We have predicted this and warned our troops accordingly but the enemy is also adept at using the democratic space granted by our constitution to move around freely and unimpeded to sow terror," Lorenzana said in a statement.

Duterte, who was in Davao City at the time of the attack but not near the market where the explosion occurred, told reporters before dawn Saturday that it was an act of terrorism, as he announced extra powers for the military, placing the entire country under a "state of lawlessness."

Andanar stressed that since the government is in a war against illegal drugs and terrorism in Sulu and Basilan, the "terrorists will always find a way to retaliate."

"It is what they do – to terrorize people. And for us, the citizens, (we have) to ensure that we are not cowed by the terrorists, we continue with what we do because if

we stop what we're doing it would appear that the terrorists won," Andanar said.

"We are facing a faceless enemy, and the best way is to get our acts together as a government and as one people...so, this is the fight of everyone. This is not just a fight of government. This is the fight of the entire country," he added.

Persons of interest

Downplaying the possibility that illegal drug syndicates are behind the Davao bombing, Andanar said it is only about 15 percent probable.

"We cannot deny the fact that we also have enemies in the drug lords. And we cannot deny that these drug lords are also well funded, and they have their own nefarious interest to protect. So, it's part of the menu of suspects that we have. But in the scale of one to 100 percent, we're looking at about 15 percent (that drug personalities) may be responsible for the bombings, about 80 percent could be attributed to terrorists and bandits and only five percent for other groups," he said.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said investigators are looking into three "persons of interests" – two women and a man – who might give a clue as to who carried out the bombing attack.

He said witnesses have identified the three who could have left the improvised explosive device or triggered the explosion.

Dela Rosa added the IED was made out of a mortar round, adding that it was specifically made to kill the huge crowd milling at the night market during weekends.

Dela Rosa though refused to give further details but said they are cross-matching the descriptions of the three persons of interest to known terrorists.

One of them could be Manap Mentang, the primary suspect in the Valentine's Day bombing in Davao City in 2005, who is still at large, he said.

Dela Rosa however did not say if Mentang is an Abu Sayyaf member.

The attack came as security forces were on alert amid an ongoing military offensive against Abu Sayyaf in Sulu, which intensified last week after the militants beheaded a kidnapped villager.

The Abu Sayyaf threatened to launch an unspecified attack after the military said 30 of the gunmen were killed in the weeklong offensive.

The Abu Sayyaf had claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was meant to knock sense into the President's head when he vowed to crush the militant group.

Duterte became well known for bringing relative peace and order to Davao with hardline security policies, while also brokering deals with local Muslim and communist rebels.

In recent weeks, Duterte pursued peace talks with the



Residents place flowers at a makeshift memorial at the site of the explosion in Davao City yesterday.

Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the two main Muslim rebel groups, which each has thousands of armed followers. Their leaders have said they want to broker a lasting peace.

However the Abu Sayyaf, a much smaller and hardline group infamous for kidnapping foreigners to extract ransoms, has rejected Duterte's peace overtures.

In response, Duterte deployed thousands of troops onto the small and remote island of Jolo to destroy the bandit group.

Duterte said he was left with no choice.

"You (Abu Sayyaf) started this. I wanted to talk to you but you leave me with no choice," Duterte said during a meeting with security officials at the Matina Enclaves Residences in Davao City late Saturday.

"There's no other option. These people are like germs which must be eliminated," he said.

Duterte stressed his resolve to run down the Abu Sayyaf even if it means calling for outside help.

"If I have to hire the Gurkhas to help us fight the Abu Sayyaf, I am willing to do it," Duterte said, referring to the elite Nepalese soldiers serving in the British Army.

State of violence

Immediately following last Friday's bomb attack, Duterte declared a state of lawlessness and violence, calling on the military to help the police in maintaining peace and order in the country.

Duterte, who inspected the scene of the bomb attack at a night market in downtown Davao City, said his declaration did not amount to an imposition of martial law.

He said it would allow troops to be deployed in urban centers to back up the police in setting up checkpoints and increasing patrols.

Andanar said the draft of the proclamation was finalized late Saturday but is yet to be signed by the President.

Andanar stressed that even with the declaration, civil rights are not curtailed.

He said the proclamation simply calls on the military to help the police in enforcing the law and maintaining peace and order in the country.

Chief presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo said the declaration of a state of lawlessness is not a precursor of martial law and does not entail the suspension of civil rights.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II also said the declaration is only a precautionary measure to allow the President to protect the citizenry.

Aguirre added the DOJ is conducting a parallel investigation to pinpoint the persons who should be charged in the attack.

Lawyer Romulo Macalintal said the proclamation is constitutional.

Macalintal said the Supreme Court in 2006 ruled that "whenever it becomes necessary," the President may call on the Armed Forces to "prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion."

Andanar said the Cabinet members have not received further directives from Duterte since the intention to declare a state of lawlessness was announced.

"It is understood that we in the Cabinet, we just move on and work hard...it is apparent that terrorism and terrorist acts will happen and they happen during the most unsuspecting times. So we just really have to be careful," he said.

Lawmakers expressed support for Duterte's declaration but wanted him to spell out the details of his actions.

Senators wanted Duterte to convene the National Security Council (NSC) and the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) to involve lawmak-

ers in addressing the nation's pressing problems.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said Duterte's declaration must be respected as he has extensive access to intelligence information.

"Let's all just help him (Duterte) anyway that's just a declaration to put notice the Armed Forces and the entire nation that he'll start using the military to put an end to lawless violence that what it means," Pimentel said.

He said Congress will continue to have its oversight functions and anyone can report possible abuse.

Senate Minority Leader Ralph Recto said the President should convene the NSC.

"If he (Duterte) is looking for a template in shaping policy, then his expert handling of the NSC provides the best example," he said.

Recto said the NSC allows for a multi-partisan discussion of the issues.

"Everybody wants to help. This is not the time to point fingers but to offer a helping hand," he said.

Recto said another "productive sounding board" is to convene the LEDAC, which had served three presidents as a forum to discuss cures to the nation's ills.

The House of Representatives, for its part, issued a resolution condemning the Davao City attack.

Vice President Leni Robredo visited the victims of the blast and went to condole with the families of the 15 fatalities.

Robredo condemned the bomb attack urging the people to unite against terrorism.

"In this difficult time, we must not allow violence and fear to divide our nation. Rather, let us all come together in fighting against the scourge of terrorism," Robredo said.

– With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Giovanni Nilles, Paolo Romero, Edu Punay, Delon Porcalla, Mayen Jaymalin, Ben Serano, Jennifer Rendon, Helen Flores, AFP

05 September 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A1

Vigilance on lawless state urged

By Inquirer Staff

WHILE deferring to President Duterte in placing the country under a "state of lawless violence," Sen. Leila de Lima yesterday called for public vigilance to protect civil rights with the military poised to join the police in law enforcement in the wake of the deadly bomb attack in Davao City on Friday night.

"While it is for the President to decide what powers are needed to respond to the current situation, it is also for the people to be vigilant that the government response to the crisis does not result in the restriction of their civil liberties and political rights," said De Lima, who has been accused by Mr.

VIGILANCE/A12

From page A1

Duterte of protecting drug lords when she was justice secretary under former President Benigno Aquino III.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said Mr. Duterte's move in the wake of the bombing that left 14 people dead and scores wounded was "alarming" yet "legally unnecessary" since the President could call out the military even without such declaration.

"What has been happening unabated and with impunity are the extrajudicial killings perpetrated by police authorities and their civilian cohorts," Lagman said. "State violence begets violence by nonstate actors."

Hours after the bombing, Mr. Duterte announced he was declaring a "state of lawless violence" in the country to combat the drug menace, runaway criminality and the Abu Sayyaf banditry.

Not martial law

The President said this did not mean he was resorting to martial law and stressed that the writ of habeas corpus remained and that there would be no curfew.

He explained that the declaration would simply allow the military to join the Philippine National Police in securing the nation "in accordance with my specifications."

Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar, speaking on state-run Radyo ng Bayan, yesterday acknowledged concerns over the Presi-

dent's declaration and said that Malacañang had completed drafting the proclamation which would be released soon.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines was included to better ensure the security of the country," Andanar said.

"We have to accept the fact that our government is on serious war against illegal drugs and serious war against terrorism in Sulu in Basilan, and these terrorists will always find a way to retaliate," Andanar said. "We are facing a faceless enemy, and the best way is to get our act together as government and as one people," he added.

Earlier, presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the declaration was based on a constitutional provision, which states: "The President shall be the Commander in Chief of all Armed Forces of the Philippines and whenever it becomes necessary, he may call out such armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion."

The AFP spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the public should expect an intensified visibility of military and police personnel. There has been no significant troop movements so far, he said, except in Davao.

Not to worry

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former national police chief, yesterday sought to ease concerns over the President's action.

"There is nothing to worry about the President's declara-

tion of state of lawlessness. Nevertheless, to avoid confusion, especially among our law enforcement officers and the public as well, very clear guidelines must be issued by concerned authorities as soon as possible,” Lacson said when asked to comment on the President's declaration.

Lacson called on the President to acquire high-technology equipment, particularly intelligence-gathering tools, to boost law enforcement capability.

He said this should be part of preparations for amendments of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, which seeks to include drug-related crimes among exemptions to the bar on eavesdropping.

'Intelligence nightmare'

“Terroristic acts are always an intelligence nightmare to state authorities. The Davao blast underscores the need to enhance our signal (electronic data transmission) intelligence capability, in anticipation of our impending amendment to the Anti-Wiretapping Law expanding the list of covered offenses to be exempt,” Lacson told the INQUIRER in a text message.

“I would urge the President to start investing on the necessary technical equipment that could save the lives of innocent civilians who are the natural targets of terrorists to accomplish their objective of sowing fear and creating maximum impact,” he said.

He called Friday's attack a “sarcastic challenge” to the President, theorizing that “it could only be perpetrated by a

group that do not acknowledge the fear factor instilled by the Duterte administration or maybe one that is being severely damaged or hurt by the ongoing no nonsense offensive operations by the government.”

Not unusual

Senate Minority Leader Ralph Recto urged the President to immediately call for a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) after his trip to Laos “so that other leaders of the nation could help him develop policies and programs that would crush the resurgent Abu Sayyaf.”

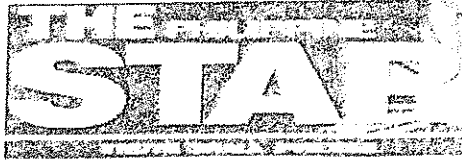
Recto, who was invited to the first NSC meeting that gathered four former Presidents in Malacañang on July 27, said “there is a need for a multipartisan discussion on the best way forward in these troubled times.”

“If he is looking for a template in shaping policy, then his expert handling of the NSC provides the best example,” Recto said.

Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza urged the public to stop “over-analyzing” the President's declaration of a national state of lawlessness.

“It's not unusual for a Chief Executive to show extra muscle and call out the troops amid attempts by the enemies of the state to sow bedlam,” Atienza said, pointing out French President Francois Hollande did the same after the Paris bomb attacks last November. *With reports from Tarra Quismundo, Leila B. Salaverria, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, and Jaymee T. Gamil*

05 September 2016



Page: 1

De Lima to Rody: Don't wag the dog

By PAOLO ROMERO

It was a "war crime," but the deadly attack on the Davao City night market late Friday should not be used by President Duterte to "wag the dog," Sen. Leila de Lima warned yesterday.

The attack occurred amid Duterte's all-out war against the Abu Sayyaf and illegal drugs that has resulted in extrajudicial killings.

The Abu Sayyaf claimed
Turn to Page 8

responsibility for the bombing as military troops continued its offensives against the bandits, who were still holding kidnap victims. The police and the military said they were still awaiting the results of the investigation into the incident.

De Lima said the Friday night attack, which prompted the President to declare a state of lawlessness or lawless violence, must not be used to create a scenario to justify suppressing civil liberties and the political opposition.

Instead, the senator said Duterte might as well use his declaration to put an end to the summary executions along with terrorism.

De Lima, who is leading a Senate inquiry into the drug-related extrajudicial killings, said Duterte himself cited the summary executions in the past two months and now the terrorist attack in Davao as indications the country was in a state of lawlessness.

"Indeed, the summary executions that have been a regular daily fare in the past two months, at the rate of 36 per day, constitute none other than lawless violence," she said.

"If this declaration can stop the street killings, together with the terrorist attacks, then so much the better. All killings must stop, whether perpetrated by terrorist groups hiding in the jungle or unknown assailants roaming our streets," she added.

To fend off criticisms, the President maintains the government does not sanction or tolerate extralegal killings in the course of his war against drugs.

Duterte has also accused De Lima of benefiting from drug money through her driver-bodyguard and alleged lover, Ronnie Dayan, while she was still justice secretary exercising supervision over the New Bilibid Prison.

The senator called out PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa and "a well-known ideologue" of the Duterte administration, whom she did not identify, for apparently raising scenarios that the incident was an act of "narco-terrorism, or worse, as having been funded by the political opposition without any verification or validation."

Local policemen who swept the blast sites recovered several metal fragments in the area indicating that an improvised explosive device fashioned from a mortar round was used in the attack.

"We fervently hope that this tendency among some prominent officials and close advisers of the President is an isolated perspective, and does not represent a consensus in Malacañang to use each and every terrorist attack on our people, whether on the civilian population or the military and our security forces, as an opportunity to wag the dog," she said.

De Lima was apparently referring to the 1997 movie "Wag the Dog" starring Robert de Niro and Dustin Hoffman, where the US president created a war scenario to cover up for a sex scandal.

"This is not the time to use a terrorist attack of a rebel extremist group to loosely and recklessly paint a picture of a conspiracy against the state among drug lords, the terrorists and the legitimate political opposition," she said.

The government must be clear on who the enemies of the state are and calibrate its response in accordance with the threat to national security that they represent, she said.

According to De Lima, the declaration of state of lawlessness is allowed under the Constitution that simply means the President is authorized to call out the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to help its civilian counterpart, the Philippine National Police (PNP), in suppressing the lawless violence.

The authority does not give either the AFP or PNP additional powers beyond what is allowed under the Constitution, she pointed out.

De Lima asked the people to be vigilant so the government response to the crisis would not result in the restriction of their civil liberties and political rights.

She described the bombing not only a terrorist act, "but a violation of international humanitarian law as a war crime consisting of an attack on a civilian population, specifically if perpetrated by a terrorist rebel group like the Abu Sayyaf."

"Those responsible for this bombing are not only terrorists, they are also war criminals," the senator said.

05 September 2016



Page: 1

Manhunt on for suspects; mercenaries eyed vs Abus

By Mario J. Mallari and Ted Tuvera

Security forces have launched a manhunt for three suspects, without identifying their group affiliation, to the deadly blast at a night market in Davao City last Friday which killed 14 people while more than 70 others were wounded.

Senior Supt. Dionardo Carlos, spokesman of the Philippine National Police (PNP), said initial investigation of

the blast lead investigators to three persons of interest -two females and one male."

However, as of press time yesterday, Carlos said that police have not made any arrest.

The terrorist ASG initially admitted responsibility over the attack only to retract it later and point to its supposed ally Daulat Ul Islamiya as behind the "sympathy attack" apparently meant to

ease pressure against the ASG in Sulu where intensified military operations have been continuing.

A fuming President Duterte, meanwhile, said that he might employ mercenary groups to pulverize the ASG.

In a closed-door meeting with members of the Cabinet and police and military officials yesterday morning in Davao City, Duterte admitted that he is quite desperate in his options to crush the

terrorist group that is suspected for causing the deadly blast in a night market in home-city.

"If I have to hire the Gurkhas to help us fight the Abu Sayyaf, I am willing to do it," the President, as quoted by Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol, said.

"There's no other option. (The Abu Sayyaf) people are like germs which must be eliminated," Duterte stressed.

Turn to page 3

Councils meeting for actions relating to the declaration of Duterte.

The Army's 3rd Infantry Division, which has jurisdiction over Western and Central Visayas, said it will fully implement the intent of the President.

"For the next few days, expect the presence of military personnel deployed in identified places," said 3rd ID commander Major Gen. Harold Cabreros, but he dismissed fears that it will reflect a negative notion of a martial law.

Cabreros assured nothing should be worried about because they will act within the bounds of the law.

"The President himself said there's no such thing as martial law and we will abide with that. We will instead tighten and maximize security within the area through increased security patrols in the known entry and exit points of the islands, vital installations, public places and occasional conduct of checkpoints with the joint effort with PNP counterparts to ensure safety of the people," he said.

Piñol, who was at the Cabinet meeting, described the President as "obviously hurting from the terror attack which left 14 people dead, including a young child, and over 60 others wounded". The meeting with national security officials and several cabinet members started at 11 p.m. and ended at 4 a.m.

Duterte, however, in putting the entire nation under the state of lawlessness warned the public of potential retaliation from the terrorists, adding that losing lives will definitely be inevitable.

"I am calling on the nation to prepare for reprisals. There will be sacrifices to be made but we have to address this problem once and for all," the President said.

Last week, the government has deployed 7,500 state troopers in Sulu which was followed by series of offensives that caused 15 casualties from the state's side and more than 30 from the bandits.

Gurkhas are Nepalese fighters hired by the British military who are known for their exceptional combat skills.

Davao City is the hometown of Duterte, who had recently ordered an offensive against the Abu Sayyaf.

He has said that the explosion was in retaliation for the military operation against the group in their stronghold in the southern island of Jolo.

However Chief Inspector Andrea De la Cerna, spokeswoman of a task force investigating the explosion, said they were not ruling out other motives for the attack.

"We have copies of the CCTV (closed-circuit television), we have eight possible witnesses but we have named no one (as suspects)," she told AFP.

She said the three "persons of interest" being sought were not yet considered suspects, but would not give further details.

Duterte believes the attack was "80 percent" likely an act of terrorism, his spokesman, Martin Andanar told reporters.

"Latest information is that persons of interest are being hunted down," PNP's Carlos added.

According to Carlos, the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), Police Regional Office-11 (PRO-11) and the Explosive and Ordnance Disposal (EOD) are leading the investigation.

PNP Director General Ronald dela Rosa said that they have at least eight witnesses on the powerful blast that hit the night market on Roxas street Friday night.

Dela Rosa said the PNP is working very closely with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) which will be tapped for police operations through Duterte's proclamation of a state of lawless violence.

Dela Rosa said that while the bombing was only confined in Davao City, the declaration was made to ensure that even other groups will not take advantage of the situation.

"Based on historical data and experience, some quarters, including criminal elements and threat groups, may take advantage of the situation to foment chaos, fear and instability as means to promote their own interests," he said.

"The PNP, in cooperation with the AFP, will not allow this incident in Davao City to escalate and spill into other key cities of Mindanao," dela Rosa added.

Aside from the stronger presence of soldiers in places of public convergence as ordered by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in the aftermath of the bombing, the military will also conduct and even increase its checkpoint activities in strategic areas around the country.

"Intensify their efforts in securing the people and do better," said Lorenzana.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs chief, echoed Lorenzana's statements saying military troops will be seen hand in hand with police along checkpoints.

"We ask our people to bear with us as we dutifully but courteously conduct our checkpoints and increase our presence in some areas," said Arevalo.

"Soldiers are there to ensure that public will be safe and that no criminals or terrorists lurk in our streets and perpetrate another vicious act," he added.

More military presence
Arevalo said that military commanders to coordinate with the PNP and officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government for the Regional Peace and Order

President Duterte and Malacañang talking heads repeatedly rejected the thought of invoking emergency powers or martial law, saying that the situation is still under control since the local government units (LGUs) in the province are still supportive of the government's purge against the Abu Sayyaf.

As of now, the kidnap-for-ransom bandits holds as captive some foreigners and Filipinos alike. No updates about them are disclosed yet.

Meanwhile, Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Governor Mujiv Hataman condemned the Abu Sayyaf's terrorist activity, saying that it does not compliment their Islamic faith.

"Their activities are purely betrayal of the values and principles we hold dear as a peace-loving people. Islam does not condone the spilling of blood," Hataman said in a statement on Saturday.

As for Catholic missionary Fr. Eliseo Mercado, an expert in Moro affairs, said that the media should refrain from giving the terrorists the chance to voice out their statements.

"Give the Abu Sayyaf and all terrorist a complete silence! Never give them any platform or any mileage. But report their activities to the authorities for proper actions," Mercado said.

Recto wants NSC convened
Senate Minority Leader Ralph Recto urged Duterte to reconvene the National Security Council (NSC) to address terror threats following the bombing incident in Davao City.

"Everyone wants to help. This is not the time to point fingers but to offer a helping hand," the senator said. **AFP, Angie M. Rosales**

05 September 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 13

Police, military beef up Western Visayas security

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY – The Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are strengthening security measures in Western Visayas following the deadly bombing in Davao City Friday.

The Police Regional Office (PRO-6) and the Army's 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) have beefed up its presence in region a day after President Rodrigo Duterte placed the country under a state of lawlessness.

"We have instituted security

measures in tourist destinations, malls, parks, academic institutions, public markets, and transport hubs," said Senior Superintendent Gilbert Gorero, PRO-6 spokesperson.

Major General Harold Cabrereros, 3ID commander, said the military is backing the police in conducting security patrols in Panay Island.

Captain Gizelle Lim, 3ID spokesperson, added that more soldiers have been deployed in highly populated areas of Negros and Siquijor Islands, which are also under its jurisdiction.

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

www.dwdg.com.ph

3ID on red alert after Davao blast



Iloilo City– The 3rd Infantry Division, covering the Western and Central Visayas, is on heightened alert in compliance to Pres. Rodrigo Duterte's call for the state of lawless violence following the explosion in a popular night market in Davao City.

The blast left at least 14 persons dead and 67 others hurt prompting the DOJ Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre to create a Task Force to investigate the incident.

President Duterte declared "State of Lawlessness" and calls the military to step in and work in coordination with the PNP and other law enforcement agencies effecting the red alert status to all AFP units yesterday, Sep. 3.

As for Gen. Harold N. Cabreros, 3ID Commander, the troops are prepared to undertake any task that will be downloaded from higher headquarters.

He added that for the next few days, expect the presence of military personnel deployed in identified places but he dismissed the rumors that it will reflect a negative notion of a martial law.

Under the 1987 Constitution, it allows the President to call on armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence where it differs with martial law. As Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said it is a different case from the existence of invasion or rebellion, when such conditions happen and when public safety requires it, can he suspend the writ of habeas corpus or declare martial law.

Cabreros clarified there is nothing to worry about because they will still act within the bounds of the law. He said "The President himself said there's no such thing as martial law and we will abide with that. We will instead tighten and maximize security within the area through increased security patrols in the known entry and exit points of the islands, vital installations, public places and occasional conduct of checkpoints with the joint effort with PNP counterparts to ensure safety of the people."

"In this time of crisis, our primordial concern is the security and protection of the people," he expressed. He however urge the active participation of the people to be more vigilant and alert to help the security forces thwart and deny the occurrence of similar terrorist attacks. He further encourage the public to cooperate and be patient in the exercise of security measures particularly during checkpoints. He also emphasized that security is not the sole responsibility of the military and police force but moreso a concern of everyone. ###

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

13

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

www.inquirer.net

Bicol soldiers join war on terror

By Juan Escandor Jr. Mar S. Arguelles

@inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Southern Luzon

12:15 AM September 4th, 2016



A SOLDIER prepares to hug his child at a military camp in Pili, Camarines Sur province, prior to boarding a C-130 plane that would take them to Lanao del Sur to join the fight against terrorist groups in the wake of an order by President Duterte for a full scale war on the Abu Sayyaf and other terror groups in Mindanao. JUAN ESCANDOR JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—Heeding an order from President Duterte to launch a full-scale war on terror groups operating in Mindanao, an Army battalion left here on Saturday to join a massive military operation against members of the Abu Sayyaf and Maute group, which are being held responsible for a series of kidnappings and terror attacks in parts of Mindanao.

Maj. Gen. Manolito Orense, former head of the Army's 9th Infantry Division and now commanding officer of the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom), would be in Butig, Lanao del Sur province, where the Maute group operates.

He said the Maute group had been a longtime security problem in the Lanao del Sur area. Members of the group have pledged loyalty to the international terrorist group Islamic State (IS).

The Philippine National Police in Bicol was placed on full alert on Saturday in response to the President's declaration of a state of lawlessness in the country following the bombing in a Davao City night market that killed at least 10 people and wounded scores of others.

Senior Insp. Ma. Luisa Calubaquib, regional PNP spokesperson, said the highest state of alert has been declared in the region, which would put the entire regional police force on 24-hour duty.

The nationwide full alert declaration by Malacañang required all police regional directors, provincial police directors, including hundreds of chiefs of police, to closely supervise and step up security measures in airports, seaports, bus and public utility terminals, malls and public places.

The Maute group had been tagged in a daring raid on the Lanao del Sur provincial jail to spring members of the group that had been detained there. A total of 23 inmates were sprung from the jail during the raid on Aug. 27.

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

16

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

While Abu Sayyaf had issued a denial of involvement in the Davao bombing, authorities are closely looking at the group that is also involved in a spate of kidnappings and beheadings.

Orense said the 49th Infantry Battalion would reinforce the 101st Brigade in providing security in the Lanao area after the raid on the provincial jail in Lanao del Sur.

Orense said the 49th IB was selected for its record in combat, discipline and teamwork. But he admitted that the situation in Mindanao is different from that in Bicol.

Lt. Gen. Ferdinand Quidilla, commanding officer of the 9th ID, called on the people of Southern Luzon to join the condemnation of the terror attack in Davao City.

"We solicit also the support of the local peace and order councils for our quest to have a safe and secure community," he said.

Calubaquib, quoting a directive from the PNP central office, said all regional and provincial, city, town police units were directed to fortify all police stations, detachments and camps against possible terror attacks.

They were also directed to set up checkpoints and deploy police patrols in public places and areas where people converge. Patrols were also ordered in sites of vital infrastructure installations such as power and communication lines.

Police checkpoints would be set up in all major road networks in the six provinces of Bicol.

While conducting checkpoints, police were ordered to exercise extreme caution and told to coordinate with the military and other agencies.

Earlier, the National Bureau of Investigations here issued a warning to the public to be cautious in going to malls following unconfirmed reports about a possible attack by suicide bombers from Mindanao who are out to sow terror in Legazpi City.

The NBI later lifted the alarm status after it found the report to be a hoax.

The Joint Police Security Coordinating Council (JPSCC) would hold simulation and communication exercises for effective coordinated security measures soon.

Quidilla said the full alert status would not have an impact on the ceasefire with the New People's Army.

"The AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) shall continue to perform its mandate of protecting the people and the communities through the conduct of security operations focused on the neutralization of threats to national security such as the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) and other terrorist groups, and the protection of communities," Quidilla said.

Quidilla said soldiers would also ensure "the security of government facilities, military camps, development and economic infrastructures and flagship projects against any armed attacks or sabotage."

He said the military would continue to support law enforcement operations to ensure peace and order in communities in the entire region.

The battalion of soldiers was given departure honors.

Josephine Clamonte, wife of Sgt. Jimmy Clamonte, was holding back her tears during the sendoff ceremony for the 49th IB. She said she was worried because it is the first time her husband is deployed in Mindanao.

"I am used to having my husband deployed somewhere else. But this is different because it is in Mindanao," Josephine said.

Clamonte's two sons wept as they embraced their father to say goodbye.

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

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

But for Cpl. Michael Babul, the deployment to Mindanac is a blessing in disguise because his family is in nearby Iligan City. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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

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

www.inquirer.net

Gunmen kill 4 farmers planting inside Army camp in Ecija

By Tonette Orejas

@inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Central Luzon

10:01 PM September 4th, 2016



Fort Magsaysay camp in Nueva Ecija (INQUIRER FILE PHOTO)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — Gunmen shot dead four farmers tilling fields on a disputed land inside the Philippine Army's Fort Magsaysay camp in Nueva Ecija province on Saturday (Sept. 3), the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) said.

The armed men killed Gaudencio Bagalay, Baby Mercado, Violeta Mercado and Eligio Barbado who were planting on portions of a 3,100-hectare land ordered covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in 1992, said Joseph Canlas, KMP chair.

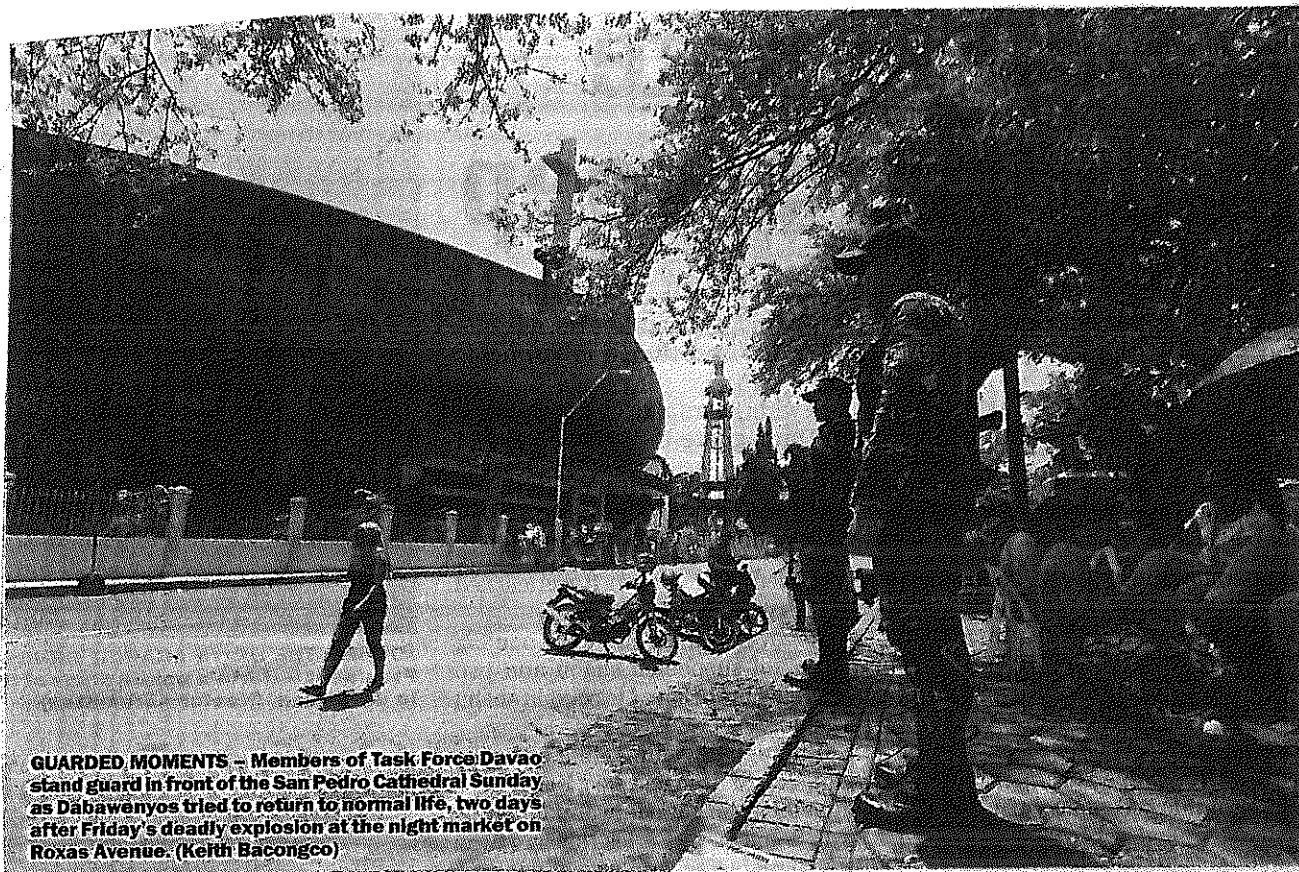
Another farmer, Angelita Milan, was wounded. **SFM**

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

September 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

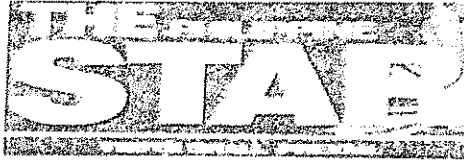
Page: 14



GUARDED MOMENTS – Members of Task Force Davao stand guard in front of the San Pedro Cathedral Sunday as Dabawenyos tried to return to normal life, two days after Friday's deadly explosion at the night market on Roxas Avenue. (Keith Bacongco)

14

05 September 2016



Page: 6

'State of lawlessness eyed even before Davao blast'

Malacañang was preparing to declare a state of lawlessness even before the blast in Davao City that killed 15 people and

injured over 60 last Friday, an official said yesterday.

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Presidential legal adviser Salvador Panelo said two drafts of the proclamation

were prepared for President Duterte. One was from him and the other from Executive

Secretary Salvador Medialdea. These drafts are still being "fine-tuned" for Duterte's approval.

"It was not the trigger," Panelo said, referring to the Davao bombing. "In fact, we have been preparing the draft to provide justifications. The President has been looking at the magnitude of the (peace and order) problem. If he can resolve the problems without (declaring a state of lawlessness), he would not do it."

"But when there were bombings, so there was a need to declare it at once. The threat is huge," he added.

Panelo also noted that under the Constitution, the President is mandated to call out the Armed Forces to augment the Philippine National Police (PNP) to suppress violence.

"Because of the obtaining conditions, the problem is getting bigger, we need the help of the Armed Forces because the PNP can't do it alone," he said.

Panelo cited the Abu Sayyaf, terrorism, criminality and the drug menace as factors that prompted the President to declare the state of lawlessness.

"So don't be surprised if we will implement many checkpoints, because criminals and terrorists use vehicles to move around," he said.

Curfew may also be implemented to ensure safety of the youth, but it will still depend on the recommendation of security forces, he added.

Panelo called on the public to understand that the "little inconvenience" should not be construed as curtailing the rights of the people.

"Our problems and threats are nationwide. Terrorism is not only in Davao and Mindanao. The threats are not only in Davao but also in key cities nationwide. So why localize the declaration?" he said.

When Duterte declared a state of lawless violence last Saturday, he quickly said that it was not a declaration of martial law and that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus is not suspended.

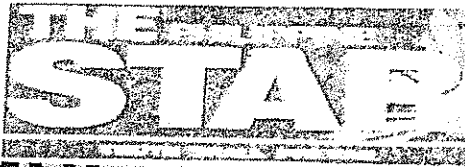
Beware of martial law

Last month, Duterte appeared to have tested the waters on the possible declaration of martial law when publicly lambasted Supreme Court Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno for objecting to the President's call for prosecutors and judges allegedly linked to drug trade to submit themselves to investigation.

Duterte asked Sereno rhetorically, "Would you prefer that I declare martial law?"

Many quarters, including Senate President pro-tempore Franklin Drilon, warned the Palace against implementing martial rule.

05 September 2016



Page: 6

Largest MNLF faction wants harsh punishment for bombers

COTABATO CITY – The largest of three factions in the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) yesterday recommended the severest punishment possible for the culprits in the

Davao City bombing.

Former Cotabato City mayor Muslimin Sema, chairman of the biggest and most politically active

By **JOHN UNSON**

group in the MNLF, condemned the attack, branding its perpetrators as “non-humans” who deserve the heaviest penalty Malacañang can impose.

On Saturday, the Moro Islamic Liberation

Front (MILF) also denounced the bombing, urging President Duterte to exhaust his powers in putting those responsible behind bars.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF’s vice chair for political affairs, said they were saddened by the incident, something they never expected to happen in Davao City, homeland of the iron-fisted Duterte.

Fifteen people died while scores were wounded in the deadly bomb attack at a popular night market in the city Friday night.

70

September 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

ASG tagged 'biggest traitor of Islam'

By ALI G. MACABALANG

COTABATO CITY – Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Governor Mujiv Hataman yesterday lashed at the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) as the "biggest traitor of Islam" for perpetrating a deadly bomb attack in Davao City Friday night that killed 14 people and wounded more than 60 others.

Hataman assailed the bandit group as the "biggest traitor of Islam" for proving once again its "betrayal of the values and principles we (Muslims) hold dear as a peace-loving people."

"We are no strangers to such incidents, and we know the fear and sorrow that come with these tragedies," said the ARMM governor, whose home-province of Basilan has been under extensive military operations due to the ASG's unabated atrocities that include kidnappings and beheading of victims.

"Islam does not condone the spilling of blood. The murder of innocent people has no place in Islam. Acts of terrorism are not and will never be the way toward unity and progress. We are one with Davao City in this time of grief. In the fight for peace, we will not falter," Hataman pointed out.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) leadership on Saturday also condemned the Davao City blast, offering support to any government campaign in hunting down suspects in the deadly attack.

casualties in Davao City. I firmly condemn this terrorist act in the strongest terms," Kishida told Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay.

"I would like to pray for the deceased, and express my heartfelt sympathy to the (victims) and their families.

I would like to express my strong solidarity to the Philippine Government and people. In this time of difficulties, Japan stands with the Philippines. Japan will continue to closely cooperate with the Philippines in tackling terrorism," Kishida said.

Meanwhile, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida also condemned the recent blast and renewed his government's support to Philippine authorities in fighting terrorism.

"I am deeply shocked to learn that a bombing incident caused numerous

September 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 4

Muslim House leaders back Marcos' burial at Libingan

By **CHARISSA M. LUCI**

Muslim House of Representatives leaders are supportive of the Duterte administration's move to allow the burial of the remains of the late former President Ferdinand E. Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) in Taguig City.

Deputy Speaker and Maguindanao Rep. Bai Sandra Sema and Lanao del Norte Rep. Abudullah Dimaporo declared their full support to President Duterte's decision to bury the remains of Marcos at the LNMB, nine days before the expiry of the 20-day status quo ante order by the Supreme Court (SC) stopping the government preparations for the burial.

"I fully support the President on his decision to bury the remains of former President Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. He (Duterte) is our leader and that's his prerogative. Let history judge this and finally put closure on the matter," Sema said.

She noted that under Islamic faith, they believe that "a burying place does not determine whether a dead person will go to hell or heaven and all are accountable during judgment day."

"It all depends on what actions we have done while we were alive. Are we a bad or good person? That's the basis on whether we are going to get the blessings or receive punishment after death," Sema explained.

Dimaporo said the Chief Executive was correct when he set the burial of the late dictator at the LNMB.

"As the people's representative, our President can speak for us, and our incumbent President has spoken for us that Marcos be buried at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani," he said.

He said the ball is now in the hands of the Supreme Court and appealed to concerned parties to let "the Supreme Court decide on the legality of the issue."

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) has submitted to the High Court documents purportedly showing that Marcos was a soldier, war hero and a Medal of Valor recipient to affirm its planned hero's burial for the late dictator at the LNMB.

22

05 September 2016



Page: 1

US blamed for Davao blast

By Ted Tuvera

Left-wing groups have accused the United States of causing the deadly blast in President Rodrigo Duterte's home town of Davao City on Friday night.

Tagging Washington as "terrorists," a Mindanao-based spokesman for the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said Duterte's irreverence toward the country's major foreign ally is an inevitable cause of suspicion to detonate subliminal attacks against the President.

"The bombing was carried out and masterminded by no other than the world's greatest terrorist: the US imperialist hegemony,"

Siegfried Red, CPP Southern Mindanao Regional Committee spokesman, said in an emailed statement to reporters.

"The US is threatened by the Duterte government's positive gestures toward the country's anti-imperialist revolutionary forces and Duterte's consistent pronouncements against US intervention in Philippine affairs," the communist spokesman stressed.

'Conspiracy'

Even the legal leftist movement based in Manila also tagged Washington's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for sponsoring terror group Abu Sayyaf that has first claimed responsibility for the alleged bombing that killed 14 persons and injuring at least 60 others.

Turn to page 2

23

From page 1

Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) chairman Elmer Labog argued that the US did such a conspiracy in a bid to convince Duterte to allow the presence of US troops in the Philippines – a situation with which the Commander-in-Chief has been openly hesitant.

"We have every reason to believe that the Davao bombing was an act of terror orchestrated by the US government using its long time terrorist bogey Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) to create havoc and unrest in the country to justify the increased deployment and presence of US troops in the country, especially in Mindanao," Labog said.

"It is no secret that the ASG has been created, funded, trained and operated by the CIA and the (Armed Forces of the Philippines) to justify US intervention and violations of our sovereignty under the guise of the war on terror," he added.

Militant youth group Anakbayan even fueled the Left's accusations against the US government, citing the case of Michael Meiring, believed to be a CIA agent who carried explosives that accidentally exploded inside the Evergreen Hotel in Davao City in 2002.

A New York Times (NYT) report published last May said Duterte traced his dislike of the US with what had happened in the Meiring case.

Meiring, even before being probed by the local police, managed to get out of the Philippines allegedly due to the intervention of Washington's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents.

Also, a report by Atlanta-based CNN's Asia bureau in 2011 quoted then Davao City Vice Mayor Rodrigo Duterte explaining his falling out

of the US since the Meiring incident.

The news article said Duterte revealed that then US ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone flew to the city early morning and met with him to express their concern on the Meiring incident.

"It was early in the morning when Ricciardone flew here and met with me in a hotel here (Davao City). He assured me then that they will conduct an investigation regarding the Meiring incident. Yet since then, the US government failed to fully explain to me how it came to violate our sovereign right to prosecute Meiring who committed a crime here in our city," Duterte said in 2011.

Following the May 2002 explosion in the Davao City hotel, where Meiring was staying for five years at the time, two Abu Sayyaf-owned bombings occurred in Duterte's turf in 2003, hitting a portion of the Davao International Airport and the Sasa wharf. The explosions prompted then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to declare a state of lawlessness in Mindanao.

In 2011, Duterte openly suspected America's hand in the bombing.

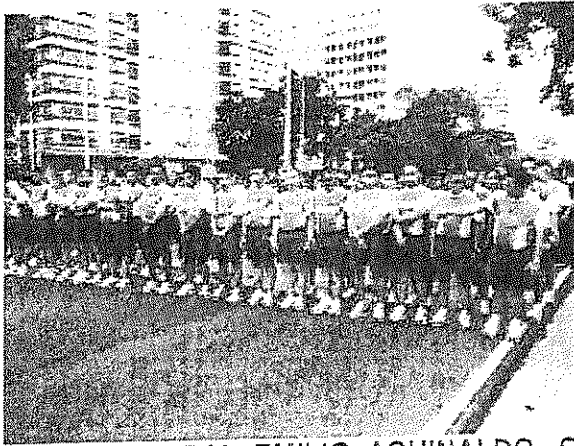
"When a bomb exploded at the airport and followed by another explosion at the wharf several months after the hotel explosion that injured Meiring, that was when I started suspecting that the US could have had a hand in the explosions. My suspicion was fueled when a military officer declared in public that the CIA has connections with known terror groups here," Duterte said.

Sought for comments, Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar refused to comment on the matter.

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

www.dwdd.com.ph

AFP takes part in Fund-raiser for Out-of-School Youth



CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City – Once again the Armed Forces of the Philippines extended its support to the Alay-Lakad Foundation incorporated (ALFI) on the 44th annual Alay Lakad, September 4, in a simple gesture to help out-of-school youths in the country.

This year's Alay Lakad carried the theme, "Alay-Lakad – May Pag-asa ang Kabataan." The activity was chaired by four civic clubs known for their outstanding contributions in community services nationwide namely: Rotary International, Lions Club International, Kiwanis International and Junior Chamber International Philippines.

Different Walk Groups (W/G), led by the Junior Chamber International, approached from various staging areas within the National Capital Region (NCR) and merged together in front of Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, Manila at 8:00 this morning.

Each Walk Group was escorted by personnel from the AFP and PNP to ensure the safety of the participants.

The GHQ AFP Headquarters, Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force and the Philippine Navy contributed a total amount of Php 280,000.00 for the fund-raising activity. The 250 – strong AFP contingents was led by BGen Rhoderick M. Parayno Commander of the Civil Relations Service, AFP.

The AFP is unwavering in its support for the continuous protection of the Filipino youth that plays a significant role in Nation building.

"Our participation in the Alay Lakad was a simple manifestation of our commitment to assist government agencies and non-government organizations in nation building programs," General Visaya said.

"We hope that by this simple gesture of walking side by side we will be able to inspire the youth to become more productive and relevant members of the community," General Visaya added.

05 September 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A2

China asked to explain boats near disputed shoal

BY FERNAN MARASIGAN

THE PHILIPPINES has asked China to explain the increased presence of Chinese vessels near the disputed Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal in the South China Sea, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Sunday, expressing "grave concern."

Lorenzana said the Philippine Air Force had confirmed reports on the presence of several Chinese barges at Panatag Shoal in the disputed West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

The Air Force on Saturday took photos of the Chinese vessels in the disputed waterways, he said.

"There were four Coast Guard ships, one guarding the entrance to the shoal, and six other ships colored blue in varying configurations," said the Cabinet official.

Four of the vessels looked like barges and two appeared like troop ships.

"No dredging work has been seen. However, the presence of so many ships, other than Coast Guard, in the area is cause for grave concern," Lorenzana said.

"The [Department of Foreign Affairs] already has called the attention of the Chinese ambassador and demanded an explanation," he added.

Panatag Shoal, which is located just 230 kilometers from the island of Luzon, has long been a bone of contention between Manila and Beijing.

Lorenzana said that earlier this year, the Chinese tried to bring in dredging barges in an apparent attempt to turn Panatag into an artificial island but were dissuaded by the United States.

"If they try to construct anything in Scarborough it will have far-reaching adverse effect on the security situation," he added.

The Chinese Embassy in Manila could not be reached for

comment.

On Friday in Davao del Norte, President Rodrigo Duterte warned Beijing its military buildup in the disputed waters could disrupt trade and become a potential "flashpoint."

China appears to be building new structures in the disputed Panatag Shoal, also called Bajo de Masinloc, the President revealed.

"I read the report that the Coast Guard made little trips near them and there are a lot of barges. What is the purpose of a barge? ... I think they are starting at Bajo de Masinloc and this would be another ruckus there," he said.

Duterte has said he intends to ask Beijing—possibly at a regional summit in Laos this week—if they are building up the shoal despite an international court ruling rejecting most of China's claims in the resource-rich area.

A UN-backed tribunal ruled in July that China's claims to almost all of the strategic sea had no legal basis and its construction of artificial islands in disputed waters was illegal.

The United States has warned

of "actions" if Beijing extends its military expansion to the Scarborough Shoal.

China has sought to assert its claims in the South China Sea by building a network of artificial islands capable of supporting military operations.

Its massive land reclamation has prompted criticism from the US and claimant countries, with Washington warning it endangers freedom of navigation in international waters.

Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have claims to the sea, through which over \$5 trillion in annual trade passes.

Panatag Shoal, a rich fishing ground within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone and 650 kilometers away from the nearest major Chinese landmass, is a particular flashpoint.

China took control of the shoal in 2012 after a stand-off with the Philippine Navy.

Duterte, who took office in June, had earlier vowed to mend ties with China after his predecessor Benigno Aquino 3rd angered Beijing by filing the arbitration case in 2013.

WITH AFP

05 September 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A14

Davao tragedy

WE MUST not lose sight of the central, crucial, fact: 14 persons died and 67 others were wounded in the Davao explosion late Friday night. All of the victims were innocents, out to enjoy the city's popular night market. In the wake of inevitable speculation and confusion, it is important that we focus on the plight of the victims, and support the city's immediate and valiant efforts to bury the dead with dignity, ease the pain of the survivors, and pursue justice.

EDITORIAL

Much still remains to be determined, but initial findings show that a mortar round filled with shrapnel may have been the explosive device behind the blast. This rules out one of the early hypotheses, that an LPG tank had exploded; it also confirms the suspicions of many that the Sept. 2 explosion was an act of terrorism.

If it is true that the Abu Sayyaf bandit group or its allies were in fact responsible for the explosion, then the choice of target was a deliberate challenge to President Duterte. Davao City is the President's hometown, where he served as mayor for more than two decades, and where his daughter is serving her second term as mayor. It is where the President tries to spend as much time as possible, and where in fact he was spending the weekend.

The Abu Sayyaf gang had at first claimed responsibility, and then later pointed to another, allied, group. These claims need to be verified, but there is no lack of excuse for the terrorists to target Davao. The Armed Forces of the Philippines has deployed several thousand troops to Sulu in a massive offensive against the Abu Sayyaf; it is the largest such operation in over a decade, and while it has not yet cut off the head of the terrorist group, it is succeeding in restricting the group's scope of operations. It was inevitable that the terrorists would strike outside of their usual territory, at least as an attempt at distraction, or as a strategy to prove that the military offensive had not undermined its capacity to foment terror.

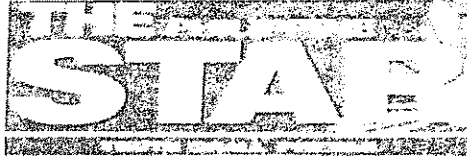
The Philippine National Police, to be sure, has not given up on the possibility that "disgruntled vendors" at the night market were behind the explosion. But the Abu Sayyaf has proven before that it can send its agents into Davao and its environs. Just last year, Abu Sayyaf terrorists kidnapped a party of four in Samal Island, just off Davao City. It is unlikely that government investigators will discard historical and recent proof that the Abu Sayyaf has reached into Davao.

Unfortunately, the decision of the President to declare a "state of lawlessness" in the wake of the Davao explosion has been attended by a lack of coordination on the part of Palace officials. The result has been unnecessary, and unnerving, confusion.

There should be no dispute that it is well within the commander-in-chief powers of the president to call out the Armed Forces to conduct law enforcement operations. This is squarely within the graduated scheme of powers contemplated by Article VII, Section 18. To be sure, the Constitution uses the phrase "lawless violence," while both President Duterte and his advisers continue to use "lawlessness" to describe the condition that allows the exercise of the calling-out power. But the jurisprudence on this power clearly holds that the actual declaration of such a condition of lawless violence is actually unnecessary; the President can order the Armed Forces to help the police, and that is that.

But the sequence of events last Saturday created confusion rather than the clarity the President needs to rally the country behind him. The scope of the declaration of the state of lawlessness was at first nationwide, then limited to Mindanao, then widened to the entire country again; the defense department was reported to have suggested that the scope be limited to those areas in Sulu and Basilan where the Abu Sayyaf is massed; the current status is nationwide yet again. Various spokespersons for the Duterte administration were also heard from, and they did not speak in one voice. We trust that, from today onward, the administration will clarify the use of the President's calling-out power by speaking in unison. Too many voices help drown the central, crucial, fact: This is a tragedy, and we must prevent it from happening again. One way to ensure that is to look after the victims and their families, and to pursue justice with the full force of the law.

September 2016



Page: 13

Sketches

By ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

A challenge to Dirty Rody

Sunset at the seawall of the SM Mall of Asia last Saturday was an SRO event. That's sitting, not standing room only, since the MOA management does not allow standing on the concrete seawall. Groups of foreigners clicked away with phone cameras, enjoying the famous Manila Bay sunset on a day with clear skies and no rain.

Although the MOA was packed, I didn't detect any unusually tighter security measures on the first day of the nationwide "state of lawlessness" declared by Malacañang. Driving home in the evening, I ran into the usual heavy Saturday traffic but no police checkpoints.

Perhaps everyone was still (as the joke of the day went) in a state of confusion over what a state of lawlessness meant exactly, so people just went on with business as usual.

In fact, going on with business as usual is the ideal response to a terrorist attack. It's the best way to thumb one's nose at those who seek to sow fear and disrupt normal life. It's the strongest message that society refuses to be terrorized.

Of course, realistically, it is prudent to tighten security after an attack, especially one staged by a group that clearly has no compunctions about taking human life.

Tightening security inevitably involves certain restrictions on personal liberties or changes in daily routines.

The Abu Sayyaf, which claimed responsibility for the bombing in Davao City, has already scored a post-attack victory by forcing President Duterte to scrap his visit to Brunei. The cancellation was unfortunate but necessary; the commander-in-chief needed to personally coordinate the state's response and show quickly that the government was in firm control, aside from serving as mourner-in-chief.



So far, the groups in this country that in recent years have shown this kind of vile disregard for the lives of innocent civilians are the Abu Sayyaf, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, its supposed splinter group the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, their mother group the Moro National Liberation Front and their foreign ally Jemaah Islamiyah. The MILF is now discussing peace with the government while the largest faction of the MNLF yesterday condemned the Davao attack.

More than condemnation, it would be a great confidence-building gesture for both the MILF and another MNLF faction led by Nur Misuari to help the Duterte administration not only to get the Davao bombers but also to deliver on his promise to "crush" the Abu Sayyaf.

The Islamic separatists and extremists in Mindanao have close ties, linked by blood, marriage, tribal alliances or friendship. They have turf wars and other differences and violence can erupt among them, but their networks make it possible for them to pinpoint those responsible for specific operations.

For sure President Rody, who is part Muslim, knows this. He should lean on those professing to want peace in Mindanao to help him bring the Davao bombers to justice and, for the long term, to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf.

Several of his predecessors had also vowed to "crush" the Abu Sayyaf. Under previous administrations, the group lost its founding brothers the Janjananis and its top commanders were killed. Like most terrorist cells, however, the Abu Sayyaf is a multi-headed monster and, by most accounts, still has at least two old-timers leading the group.

Being a former local government executive, President Rody should also harbor suspicions that certain local officials are protecting the Abu Sayyaf, which continues to earn millions of dollars from its kidnapping activities. As the President himself disclosed last week in a moment of pique, \$50 million was paid in ransom for a Norwegian birdwatcher, and still the Abu Sayyaf refused to release the hostage. That kind of money rivals profits from large-scale drug trafficking.

* * *

76

Abu Sayyaf and rogue MNLF members are holed out in Jolo, the capital and main island of Sulu. During visits to the island I asked security officers how hard it was to flush out armed groups from such a small area. They told me that the jungle is dense – Jolo is one area where the forest cover has been preserved, the better to conceal lawless enclaves. The security officers also pointed out that the mountainous terrain is dotted with small caves where hostages and their captors can be safe from artillery and aerial bombardment.

As for a naval blockade, at least three former Armed Forces chiefs have told me, on condition that I would never name them even after their deaths, that the AFP lacked the capability for it, even for such a small area.

And a blockade can't work anyway if local officials themselves are in cahoots with the lawless elements.

Even mass murderers who decapitate captives and lop off the breasts of nuns have human needs. They can't keep living in caves or makeshift huts; they need some construction materials for sturdier shelter. They can't subsist forever on *camote* or sweet potatoes. They can't move around with livestock in tow, especially noisy goats and chickens clucking and crowing, without being detected. They need candles, matches, medicine, clothing and presumably toothpaste and soap. They need rice; they probably want spices and instant coffee.

I mention the coffee because an Islamic militant, in a radio interview last year by satellite phone, was asked where he was. He said he was relaxing in "Starbook." Wow, what was he drinking at Starbucks, the interviewer wanted to know. The quick reply: "3-in-1!"

The cheekiness would be amusing if only we didn't know how vicious the militants could be.

How hard is it to detect and follow the supply routes to neutralize terrorists? Impossibly hard, for those looking the other way or getting a share from those millions of dollars in ransom.

We're waiting for the administration to define exactly what a state of lawlessness would entail.

It's not martial law and no civil rights would be suspended, Palace officials have assured the public.

Security sources have indicated to me that it involves, among other things, an even more brutal crackdown on certain communities from Mindanao to Metro Manila.

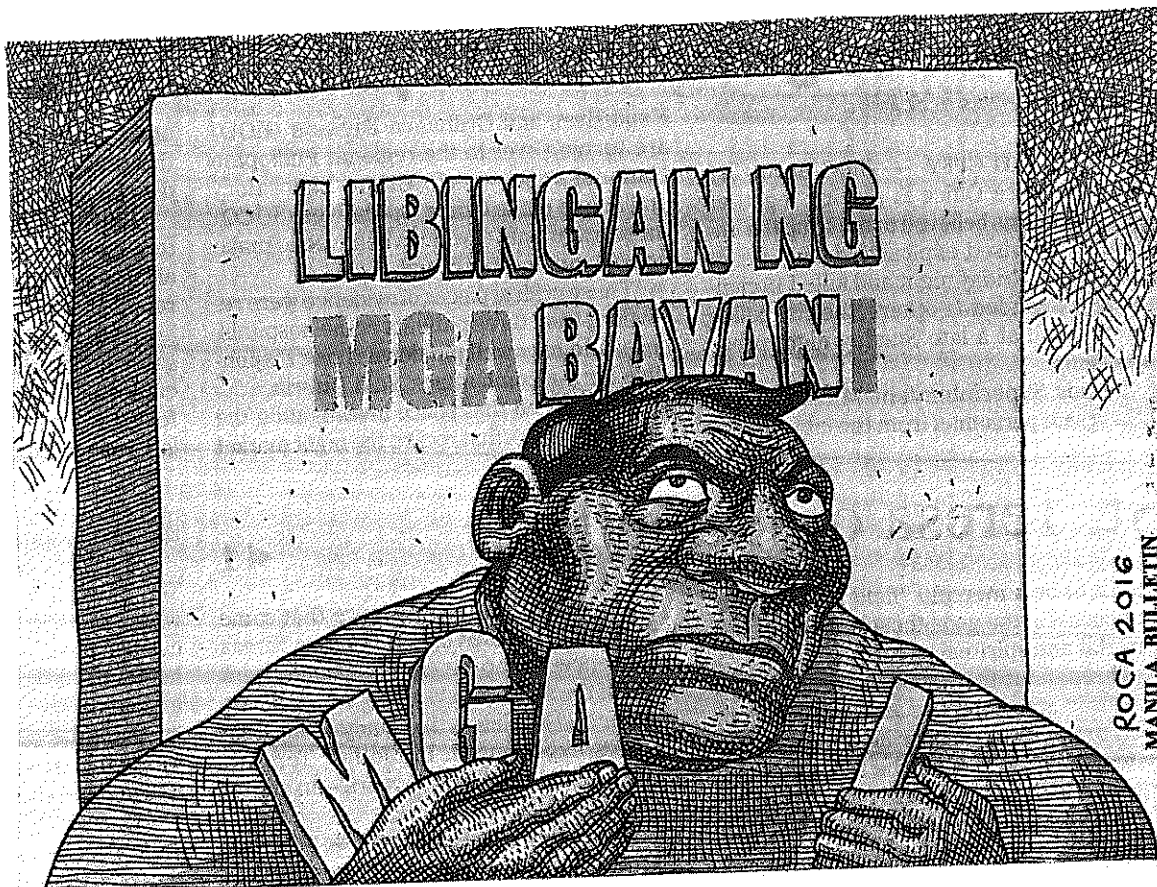
The attack in Davao, launched while the President was at home in his city, was a direct, resounding slap on Dirty Rody. Perhaps his response will put an end to business as usual in the land of the Abu Sayyaf.



05 September 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16



Libingan ng Bayan

AT the start of the Supreme Court's hearing of oral arguments on the issue of whether to allow the burial of the remains of former President Ferdinand E. Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro remarked: "I think it is the name that creates controversy." She was referring to the name of the cemetery "Libingan ng mga Bayani."

For 23 years now, the embalmed body of former President Marcos has been on display in a refrigerated crypt in Batac, Ilocos Sur. After the People Power Revolution in 1986, President Marcos and his family went into exile in Hawaii. After his death, the body was brought home in 1993.

The Marcos family sought to have the former President's remains interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, but a succession of administrations – Corazon C. Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos, Joseph E. Estrada, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, and Benigno S. Aquino III – opted to keep the remains in Batac in deference to various sectors who had suffered from martial law.

Thus, the remains stayed at a mausoleum in Batac, where they lay like the remains of Lenin in Moscow and Mao Tse-tung in Beijing, an object of pilgrimage by Marcos loyalists. Until President Duterte included a Marcos burial at the Libingan among his campaign promises. A few weeks after his election last May, he gave his official approval and the Marcos family prepared for the burial on the former President's birth anniversary on September 11. But protests were held at the Luneta and petitions were filed with the Supreme Court.

At the start of the court hearings last

Wednesday, many legal issues were raised in the petitions, including possible violation of the Constitution's Declaration of Policy that the state "values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights" (Article II, Section 11) and calling on all educational institutions to "foster appreciation for the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country" (Article IV, Section 3.2).

This latter provision ties in with the claim of protesters that burying Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani – Cemetery of Heroes – would go against the constitutional call for appreciation of the role of national heroes.

It is this matter of appreciation for the role of national heroes that seems to be at the center of the current dispute. As Justice De Castro remarked: Marcos' burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani is being opposed on the argument that he cannot be classified as a hero – a bayani.

President Duterte, as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, has all the right to allow his burial at the Libingan, which is under the administration of the Department of National Defense. There is a law, RA 289, that says former presidents of the country, may be buried there. Three of the country's presidents are now there – Elpidio Quirino, Carlos P. Garcia, and Diosdado Macapagal.

It is the name "Libingan ng mga Bayani" that is at the heart of the controversy. If this Armed Forces cemetery had a different name – perhaps "Libingan ng Bayan" – we might not have all these protests and the Supreme Court would have a clearer road to a just and legal decision.

05 September 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 11

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Mayor Rody, Du30 & Digong (2)



By **FLORO MERCENE**

IN a recent interview in Davao City, Duterte criticized the UN for its failure to stop the carnage in the Middle East.

"Maybe we'll just have to decide to separate from the United Nations. If you're that rude, son of a bitch, we'll just leave you," Duterte told reporters in Davao, where he first built a reputation for his tough crime-busting style while serving as the southern city's longtime mayor.

"Why would the United Nations be so easy to be swayed into interfering in the affairs of this republic?" he asked. "There are about just 1,000 dead and there are a lot of people — innocent women, children, young

women, young men, and old women — being killed elsewhere in the world," he said in a midnight news conference in Davao City.

Because of the President's remarks about the UN, a former top diplomat to the world body warned the Philippines risks "global isolation."

Lauro Baja, who served as Philippine permanent representative in the UN under former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, said pulling out of the UN would be difficult and entails serious implications.

"We stand to lose many benefits, aside from being isolated in the community of nations," Baja said on a news website.

"The implications of a UN with-

drawal are too serious to even consider."

Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay took the cudgels for his boss and, in a news conference, said the Philippines is not leaving the UN "despite our frustrations with this agency"

The media calls President Duterte a "political loose cannon," for his seemingly irresponsible outbursts, coming from a lawyer and prosecutor for two decades.

In his speech before Army troops in Camp General Edilberto Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City earlier this month, an irate President Duterte lambasted Chief Justice Maria Lourdes A. Sereno for ordering Executive Secretary Salvador C.

MediaIdea to submit formal complaint affidavits against the four judges that the President linked to the drugs trade within

seven days and furnish the judges with a copy of the complaint.

(To be continued)

September 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 11

METRO CORNER

MNLF peace proposals

By **ERIK ESPINA**

REPRESENTATIVES of the Moro National Liberation Front expressed alarm over reports of a Malaysian Embassy official in Mindanao making the rounds to push for the dropping of the Philippines of the Sabah territory.

Dr. Abdurahaman Amin, chief MNLF permanent liaison to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation with General Habib Nikabulin, MNLF political emissary and a loyal follower of the Sultanate of Sulu and North Borneo, exposed (Republika 8 p.m. Tuesdays Destiny Cable, Channel 8, Sky Cable Channel 213) the active participation of Malaysian influence in the peace process in tandem with the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front). Both representatives of the MNLF revealed they were in possession of a document. As a sine qua non to achieving peace in Southern Mindanao with the present administration, the Sabah territory of the Philippines (long decided in a July, 2011, en banc decision by the Supreme Court is main staple by the party in interest – Malaysia – who, most “curiously,” is able to remain third party facilitator despite calls by sober voices and national security observers for its replacement by a neutral country – Indonesia or Thailand, which happens to also be confronted by a liberation front from suspected Malaysian backed rebels.

Dr. Amin and Gen. Nikabulin reiterated the position of MNLF Chair Nur Misuari regarding its allegiance to the Sultanate and the requirement



for Sabah's recovery by the Philippine republic. They reminded Peace Process Adviser Secretary Jesus Dureza that the MNLF is recognized by the OIC and its 57 member-states and all subsidiary institutions such as the Islamic Development Bank as “permanent political observer.” The MILF is only a splinter group. The GRP signed an International Agreement with the MNLF and the OIC on Sept 2, 1996, in Malacañang. MNLF forces are found not only in Sulu but also in Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Palawan, Zamboanga Peninsula, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao, and the rest of Central and Northern Mindanao. “While MILF cannot be found in Sulu, Basilan etc.,” Dr. Amin emphasized.

Some points that require immediate attention were the following: 1) the lifting of the “warrant of arrest” vs. Chairman Nur Misuari via a state prosecutor similar to the MILF after the bombing of the Davao Airport during PGMA's watch; 2) The BBL be not pursued as a copy of the failed-BBL of P-Noy; 3) Membership in the Bangsamoro Transition Commission must be truly inclusive – meaning fair to both MILF and MNLF. Each must be given 9 representatives, 1 each for the Sulu sultanate, ARMM, and lumads – or 21 members in all. The facilitators shall be the OIC with the secretary of the OPAPP with the venue shifting from Jeddah Saudi Arabia to the Philippines; 4) Two Bangsamoro Federal States one for the land locked Filipino Muslims and island/sea faring Fil-Muslims. 5) Sabah as Philippine territory.

85 September 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 12

PURCHASING

I won't be a dictator – DU30; warns cops, barangay chiefs, Abus



By **FRED LOBO**

PRESIDENT Duterte has brushed aside fears that he might become a "dictator."

"I have no plans of becoming a dictator... I will just do my duty," the "Punisher" assured.

Duterte vowed a continued war against drugs and crimes, offering a bounty for the arrest of erring "ninja" cops and barangay captains protecting drug syndicates in various parts of the country.

Anti-drug war enters Phase II. Get those "ninja cops and erring barangay chiefs," he ordered.

Likewise, Duterte has launched an all-out war against the Abu Sayaff group in Jolo by ordering the fielding of 2,500 troops in the enemy's lair.

An eye for an eye vs criminals and extremists, the Punisher ordered.

"I have no plans of becoming a dictator. I am a lawyer. My mother was a Yellow Friday leader," he pointed out.

Translation: DU30 won't violate the law. Digong won't displease Mamu.

"I am just doing my duty or else I will compromise the next generation," Duterte explained.

Call of duty: not gyrations of trouble, Digong heart says.

In a speech at the National Heroes Day observance, the President declared that dirty law enforcers, especially "ninja cops" who resell confiscated shabu, will now be first on his target list.

"Harsh" and relentless war vs illegal drugs to continue under Phase II, DU30 vowed.

"I might be inclined to place a reward on their head – the members of the ninja or members of the police who are then protecting the drug syndicates in this country," the President said during the memorial for fallen heroes at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City.

"I'm placing per head ₱2 million and you might want to, ipagbili na ninyo ang mga kaibigan ninyo," he advised.

Meanwhile, the PNP confirmed that the war vs illegal drugs continues and that suspected Iloilo drug lord Melvin Odicta (alias Dragon) and his wife were shot to death by two gunmen at the Caticlan Jetty Port.

"Odicta was really being hunted. Sa Iloilo, siya ang No. 1. Inabot siya talaga ng malas," Duterte said.

Interior Secretary Mike Sueno added that some 1,000 barangay chairmen in various part of the country have also

been tagged as "protectors" of illegal drugs business in their localities.

Barangay leaders turned drug criminals and opportunists? Que barbaridad!

The President pledged to "finish" the drug problem within his term, admitting it has become a threat to national security.

The "drug crisis" has infected "every nook and corner of this country involving generals, mayors, governors, barangay captains and so many ninjas" or policemen "who are into it," Duterte lamented.

"I will fight criminality and drugs, most of the criminal acts are really on the account of the drug menace, so I will not relent. The campaign will be continuous and I will, as I have said in the campaign rallies all over the country, I will be harsh as I can ever be," Duterte said.

"I will finish this problem of corruption, drugs, and crime and I hope (it will be) at the end of my term," he vowed.

Taking full legal responsibility for his intensified campaign against drugs together with the police and the military, DU30 ordered: "Destroy the drug apparatus in the country."

Yes to a continued "war" vs illegal drugs. Yes to more reforms!

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

ONLINE NEWS 05 SEPTEMBER 2016

www.inquirer.net

Ejercito: Duterte should declare all-out war vs Abu Sayyaf

By Kristine Angeli Sabillo

@KSabillo110

08:07 PM September 4th, 2016



BLAST SITE President Duterte visits the night market on Roxas Avenue in Davao City where 14 people were killed and 68 others injured after an explosion tore through what Davaoeños call their happy place. Malacañang photo

Senator JV Ejercito on Sunday said he supports President Rodrigo Duterte's strong stance against the bandit group Abu Sayyaf.

"Kung kayang tapusin na tapusin na yan kasi hindi naman titigil yan eh. Kung kinakaliangan mag-all out war, mag-all out war na," he told Radyo Inquirer 990AM.

"We cannot afford another bombing," he said as he explained his agreement with Duterte's decision to declare a state of lawlessness in the country.

"Precautionary measure itong ginawa nya," he said, adding that the declaration allows the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to be alert and work together.

He said the "state of lawlessness" would probably last for a couple of weeks or months until the enemy is neutralized or if there are no other attacks.

Ejercito said it is better to be careful than be blamed if something happens again.

Some groups raised fears that Duterte would declare martial law as the government battles both terrorists and drug lords.

But Ejercito pointed out that Duterte made it clear that the "state of lawlessness" is different from declaring martial law.

The senator, who is temporarily suspended from office due to a graft case, said the President's situation reminded him of his own predicament as San Juan mayor.

He said he ordered the purchase of high-powered rifles to address the almost daily incidents of bank robberies and holdups.

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

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

READ: DA Ejercito suspended from Senate

"Kaya ako naman umaksoy, nag-armas kami. Sun nga lang naging subject itong aming kasal. Pero kung ikaw ay leader, you have to adapt to the situation," he said.

The senator also recalled the time when his father, former President and now Manila Mayor Joseph 'Erap' Estrada, declared an all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"Even the MILF is on the run already. Kung hindi lang naudiot ang termino n. Pangulong Estrada siguro tapos na ang problema ng iyan," he said.

However, Ejercito said the main problem is still the prevalence of poverty in Mindanao.

He said the government should focus on defeating the enemy and concentrate resources to address hunger and poverty in the region. He said it is easier for the rebel groups to recruit people who are hungry and disgruntled. */rga*

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

www.inquirer.net

Malacañang calls on Filipinos to act against 'faceless enemy'

By: Kristine Angeli Sabillo

3/15/2016 10:10 AM

INQUIRER.net

05:51 PM September 4th, 2016

Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar (INQUIRER FILE PHOTO)

"Do not be afraid, but be alert." That is Malacañang's advice to Filipinos after a blast left 14 people dead in Davao City.

Communications Secretary Martin Andanar, in an interview with Radyo ng Bayan, said the public should "continue with (their) lives" while helping authorities with reports of suspicious activities.

"We are facing a faceless enemy, and the best way is to get our act together as government and as one people," he said.

Andanar said the fight against terrorists is everyone's fight. "This is the fight of the entire country."

After the explosion in the night market on Friday evening, there were reports of a transmission tower bombed in North Cotabato and the Polomolok vice mayor's house damaged by a hand grenade explosion in South Cotabato.

READ: Two blasts hit Mindanao after Davao City bombing — reports

"With what happened ay it is apparent that terrorism and terrorist acts will happen and they happen during the most unsuspecting times. So we just really have to be careful," the secretary said.

Asked if the Davao City attack had anything to do with President Rodrigo Duterte's war against drugs, Andanar said, "We cannot deny the fact that we also have enemies (among) the drug lords. And we cannot deny it that these drug lords are also well funded, and they have their own nefarious interest to protect."

He said drug lords are usually "part of the menu of suspects" that they have but in the case of the Davao City bombing, Duterte believes that there is higher probability that terrorists are behind it.

The Abu Sayyaf earlier said that an allied group was behind the bombing.

"We have to accept the fact that our government is on (a) serious war against illegal drugs and serious war against terrorism in Sulu, in Basilan, and these terrorists will always find a way to retaliate," Andanar said.

The secretary said that Filipinos should "not be cowed by the terrorists."

"We continue with what we do because if we stop what we're doing, it's like the terrorists won already," he said.

"Huwag po tayong magpasakop, huwag po tayong magpatalo sa mga terorista, at tayo po ay makipagtulungan sa ating awtoridad," he said.

(Let us not submit to them, let us not yield to the terrorists, and let's help the authorities.)

Andanar said people should coordinate with village officials and local government units, as well as the police and military.

"Let's watch each other's back. And kung mayroon kayong makitang mga suspicious acts, mga acts na hindi normal ay isumbong ho natin agad sa security guard, sa awtoridad para mapanatili po natin ang kaayusan ng ating paligid at ng ating bansa, seguridad," he said.

(If you see suspicious acts, acts that are not normal, report to security guards, to authorities so that we can maintain the order in our surroundings and the security of our country.)

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

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

State of lawlessness

Hours after the Davao City attack, Duterte declared a "state of lawlessness."

READ: Duterte declares 'state of lawlessness'

Amid requests from media to release the official document on the order to clarify its coverage and parameters, Andanar said it has already been drafted.

"I think it was already finalized last night 'no pero ilalabas po natin within the day or tomorrow morning," he said during the interview.

He said he has also not yet received any report on the final investigation on the Davao bombing.

Andanar explained that the proclamation on the state of lawlessness would give the military authority to help the Philippine National Police.

"At kaya isinasama iyong Armed Forces of the Philippines para mas lalong masiguro ang seguridad ng ating bansa (That's why we included the Armed For

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

38

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

www.inquirer.net

Remains of police officer abducted by NPA exhumed

By William A. Magbanua

@inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Mindanao

05:43 PM September 4th, 2016

KIDAPAWAN CITY – The remains of a police officer who was abducted by New People's Army guerrillas in Makilala, North Cotabato in June were exhumed in Barangay Sto. Niño here on Saturday.

Relatives of the police officer, along with members of the police's Scene of the Crime Operatives (Soco), exhumed the remains of Police Officer 1 Romeo Solana after the NPA confirmed the location of his grave, said Vice Mayor Bernardo Piñol Jr.

It was not known when and why Solana was killed in captivity.

"I am not at liberty to divulge the details of the killing," Piñol said.

Marjorie, the police officer's wife, said she was stunned to learn of his death because the NPA had pledged to send her husband home alive.

"We waited for so long to be reunited, we didn't expect that he was already dead," Marjorie said.

Solana, a police intelligence officer, left their home in Barangay Malasila in Makilala town on June 1 for duty at the North Cotabato Public Safety Coy headquarters in Barangay Amas here. But the NPA abducted him on his way to work. *JE/rga*

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