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06 September 2016

Tuesday

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06 SEPTEMBER 2016



P2-M reward for bomber

President to discuss drug war with Obama

Deadly stroll for boy and mom

As bodies pile up, many are afraid to talk about Du30 war

President to discuss drug war with Obama

Deadly stroll for boy and mom

As bodies pile up, many are afraid to talk about Du30 war

Davao mayor sacks task force leader, city police director

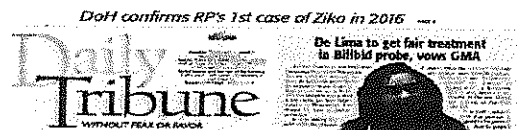
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State of lawlessness to last until drugs war won - Rodry

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The Manila Times

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What Duterte should tell Obama

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PH confirms 6th Zika virus case

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MANILA BULLETIN

Gov't facing the enemy

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(3) Speedboats Off Sulu Waters

**NAVAL INTERDICTION| PN conducts naval
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Marycel Necio
Batara

www.dwdd.com.ph

**DAP author launches book on Filipino
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RMA/PR-BERT
A. RAMIREZ/EDS

www.pna.gov.ph

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/PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 | TUESDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

LOW PRESSURE AREA
735 KM NORTHEAST OF ITBAYAT, BATANES
SOUTHWEST MONSOON
AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON
(September 5, 3:00 PM)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:44 AM	6:04 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
9:26 AM	9:25 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
SEP 7 5:03 PM	SEP 8 7:49 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
6:55 AM	12:45 PM
0.35 Meter	0.79 Meter

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

SEP 7		SEP 8		SEP 7		SEP 8		SEP 7		SEP 8	
METRO MANILA	26 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 29 °C	22 - 29 °C	TACLOBAN	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C			
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 35 °C	24 - 35 °C	LEGAZPI	26 - 33 °C	27 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 33 °C	23 - 31 °C			
LAOAG	23 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 34 °C	25 - 32 °C			
BAGUIO	15 - 24 °C	16 - 24 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 34 °C	24 - 34 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 30 °C			
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU	26 - 35 °C	25 - 34 °C						

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

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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Duterte may hire Gurkha warriors against Abu Sayyaf

By GENALYN D. KABILING

Determined to destroy the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), President Duterte is mulling to hire Gurkhas, the renowned group of fearless Nepalese fighters, to help government forces in

eliminating these "germs" in the country.

The President met with members of the Cabinet security cluster in Davao City late Saturday night and considered the option of recruiting the Gurkha warriors against the ASG members, according to Agriculture ► **18**

Duterte may hire...

Secretary Emmanuel Piñol.

Piñol was among the Cabinet members present in the closed-door security meeting held a day after the deadly night market explosion in Davao City. The Abu Sayyaf has reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack.

"If I have to hire the Gurkhas to help us fight the Abu Sayyaf, I am willing to do it," Piñol quoted the President during the meeting that lasted until 4 a.m. Sunday. "These people are like germs which must

be eliminated," Duterte added.

Gurkhas, known for their motto "Better to die than be a coward," have been part of the British Army for almost two centuries. They are widely considered as the most skilled and fiercest fighters in the world.

Piñol, in a Facebook post, said Duterte believes that there was "no other option" but use force against the Abu Sayyaf, which has been responsible for many atrocities in Mindanao.

"You started this. I wanted to

talk to you but you leave me with no choice," the President told the ASG terrorists.

In the same meeting, Piñol said the President has asked the public to prepare for reprisals from the Abu Sayyaf group.

"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.

President Duterte had earlier placed the country under state of lawlessness shortly after the Davao explosion. He has directed the military to help the police in suppressing terror and violence in the country.

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'Plenty' more to die in drug war

Many more will be killed before the end of the campaign against illegal drugs, President Duterte said yesterday of his war on drugs that has claimed about 2,400 lives since he took office two months ago.

Duterte will meet US President Barack Obama at a regional summit in Laos today,

and he has made it clear he will take no lecture on human rights from his American counterpart.

"Plenty will be killed until the last pusher is out of the streets. Until the (last) drug manufacturer is killed, we will continue," Duterte told reporters before leaving for Laos.

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'Plenty' more From Page 1

Police say about 900 of those killed died in police operations, and the rest were "deaths under investigation," a term human rights activists say is a euphemism for vigilante and extrajudicial killings.

Duterte, a former crime-busting mayor of southern Davao city, won the presidency in May promising to suppress crime and wipe out drugs and drug dealers.

While his campaign has won popular support, the killings have alarmed rights groups and brought expressions of concern from the United States, a former colonial

power and a close Philippine ally, and the United Nations.

"I am a president of a sovereign state and we have long ceased to be a colony," Duterte said when asked about his meeting with Obama.

"Who is he to confront me? As a matter of fact, America has one too many to answer for," he said. "Everybody has a terrible record of extrajudicial killings."

He earlier lambasted the United Nations after it criticized the surge in killings and he turned down a meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the summit

in Laos.

No US lapdog

Yesterday, the President criticized the US anew and demanded an apology for the slaughter of about 600,000 Moros during the American occupation in the country.

He said he was not a lapdog of the US when asked by reporters about his talking points on extrajudicial killings before leaving for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit.

"The Philippines is not a vassal state, we have long ceased as colony of the United States. I do not respond to anybody but to the people of the Republic of the Philippines," he said

He said he does not want to pick a quarrel with Obama but he should also look in his own backyard on human rights and summary killings.

The ASEAN summit marks the Philippine President's debut on the international stage.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said Duterte would push for a drug-free region and a binding code of conduct for South China Sea claimants.

Duterte arrived last night in Laos on a chartered Philippine Airlines flight. He and Obama are set to meet around 5 p.m. (Philippine time) today, a schedule released by Malacañang showed.

— Christina Mendez, Alexis Romero, Reuters

66 September 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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AFP: Abu Sayyaf evading troops

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday said government troops are still pursuing Abu Sayyaf bandits who killed 15 soldiers and wounded 10 others in a firefight in Patikul, Sulu on Monday last week amid a week of lull in fighting.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said the

120-man bandit group encountered by troops from the 35th and 21st Infantry Battalions in Barangay Maligay on August 29 has splintered into small groups.

The three clashes that day left 15 soldiers dead and 10 others wounded.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP's public affairs office, said the lull in clashes does not mean the group under Radullan

Sahiron has escaped.

"If they splintered into smaller groups, this will cost us time (to engage them again) but eventually, we will find them. Our objective now is to locate them (and engage them)," said Arevalo.

Arevalo said the Abu Sayyaf is evading troops.

"Apart from splintering into

See AFP > Page B6

AFP

smaller groups, they have deployed small groups to determine the location of our forces and then evade it," he said.

Tan said the splintering has made it more difficult for troops to re-engage the group but the soldiers have not lost track of the bandits.

"We are going after several sub-groups and different battalions are committed," he said.

"We are also shelling their (Abu Sayyaf) positions everyday," he also said.

Tan said the splintering of the group under Radullan Sahiron has forced pursuing troops to also split forces.

He said operations continue. "It's just that there are no engagements (for the past week)."

The Abu Sayyaf, whose main activity is kidnapping-for-ransom, operates mainly in Sulu and Basilan.

The military has intensified operations against the group as President Duterte wants it destroyed during his term.

Investigators are considering the possibility that the Abu Sayyaf is behind the bomb attack in Davao City last Friday, in retaliation to the military operations or to divert the attention of authorities. Police are also looking into the possibility that the group was paid by drug lords to conduct the bombing.

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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Police in Visayas tighten security ring

Police in the Visayas have begun to tighten security measures in the wake of the bombing in Davao City last week that killed 14 people and left scores wounded.

President Rodrigo Duterte has declared a state of lawless violence covering the entire country in the aftermath of the bombing and called on the Armed Forces of the Philippines to do law enforcement operations to help the police in suppressing lawless elements.

In Capiz, police were put on full alert and police presence was increased in crowded places such as churches and recreation areas.

Police officers were also assigned to guard vital installations and commercial areas such as malls, seaports, airports and terminals.

Police Provincial Director Samuel Nacion said in a radio interview that checkpoints have been set up and community intelligence gathering was intensified.

The Army's 3rd Infantry Division is also on full alert, 3ID Spokesperson Capt. Gizelle Lim said. Lim said that although the situation in Panay and Negros Islands remains normal, they have intensified the monitoring criminal groups who might possibly spread violence.

The Philippine Coast Guard in Capiz

kept a sharp watch on interisland ferries arriving at and leaving the Culasi, Roxas City, port.

In Bacolod City the police have been urged to review and update its security plans.

Mayor Evelio Leonardia said police must be well prepared, especially since Bacolod is celebrating its annual MassKara Festival next month.

Leonardia instructed Senior Superintendent Flynn Dongbo, the city police chief, to beef up security measures at the festival sites.

"If the incident in Davao City bears any lesson for everyone, it is that terrorism can strike anywhere, even the most security-conscious places," Leonardia said.

Three days after the Davao bombing, Muslim leaders in Cebu and in Central Visayas pledged to support the peace and order efforts of the police and military in the region.

Malo Manunggiring, regional director of the National Commission for Muslim Filipinos, on Monday joined other Muslim leaders in the region in a dialogue with the Police Regional Office (PRO) 7 and the AFP's Central Command (CentCom) on the security status of the region.

Manunggiring said the Muslim community will cooperate with authorities to thwart possible attacks in the region by immediately relaying to the police

intelligence information from their contacts in Mindanao.

Manunggiring also told reporters that the attack in Davao Friday night was not a mark of a true Muslim but a cowardly act of certain groups that want to sow terror.

PRO 7 director Chief Superintendent Noli G. Taliño said the police is

doing its best to thwart any attempt to disrupt the peace in the region.

The police is coordinating with barangay officials and other concerned government agencies in monitoring various areas in the region for suspicious activities.

In Cebu City, the police have begun setting up random checkpoints, Taliño

said.

CentCom commander Major Gen. Raul Del Rosario urged the public to remain calm after text messages and social media messages warned of terrorist attacks in Cebu.

Del Rosario said the messages have not been verified. (PIA, Mars W. Mosqueda Jr. and Carla N. Canet)

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500 more troops sent to Mindanao

LEGAZPI CITY (PNA) — Another battalion-size government contingent from the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was dispatched to the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) in Lanao del Sur on Saturday to help crush the terrorist groups in the area, said a top official of Solcom.

Lt. Gen. Ferdinand F. Quidilla, commanding General of Solcom based in Camp Guillermo Nakar in Lucena City, Quezon, in a press statement Monday, said the government forces, composed of 500 officers and soldiers, were sent to augment government troops fighting in Mindanao.

"Soldiers of the 49th Infantry Battalion (49th IB) of the Philippine Army, based in the village of Mahawan-hawan, Labo town in Camarines Norte, were transported by a C130 plane to Westmincom as the military offensive operations against the terrorist group in Mindanao continues," he said.

Quidilla said the 49th IB of the Ninth Infantry Division (9ID) with Lt.

Col. Arnel Bautista as its commanding officer will augment the First Infantry Division (1ID) in crushing the terrorist group in Lanao Del Sur, especially the "Maute terror group."

"On the late afternoon of August 27 members of the Maute group stormed the Lanao Del Sur provincial jail in Marawi City and freed all eight of their companions who were arrested in police operations last August 22," said Quidilla.

"During the 49th IB's send-off ceremony, families of the brave soldiers poured out tears as they were afraid and worried for the safety of their loved ones in Lanao Del Sur," said Quidilla.

He said the 49th IB soldiers will join their comrades from the 65th IB and 9th ID based in Pili town in Camarines Sur, who are already deployed in the area.

Quidilla said the 49th IB was the latest Army battalion from the Solcom area deployed to Westmincom since 2008.

Eight years ago, the 65th IB was deployed to Barangay Pawak in Saguiran, Lanao Del Sur at the height of increasing security concerns involving

the Moro National Liberation Front.

Seven years later, the 42nd IB was deployed to Barangay Usukan, Labason town in Zamboanga Del Norte.

Last month, on Aug. 15, the 74th IB, the former battalion of Quidilla, was deployed to Barangay Bohe Paho in Ungkaya Pukan town in Basilan to support the AFP's pursuit mission against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

"The 91st and 93rd Division Reconnaissance Companies (Co.) and Bravo Co. of the 9th IB, which are under the operational control of the 902nd Infantry Brigade, have been tasked to occupy the vacated area of operation of the said battalion in Camarines Norte," according to Maj. Virgilio Perez Jr., chief public information officer of Solcom.

On Sunday, Malacanang appealed to the Filipino people to help the government fight "faceless" terrorists following last Friday's deadly bombing that rocked peaceful Davao City.

"We are facing a faceless enemy, and the best way is to get our act together as government and as one people," Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Secretary Martin Anda-

nar said in state-run Radyo ng Bayan interview.

He said terrorists always want to fight "with the opponent blinded" similar to last Friday night when a bomb exploded in a Davao City night market, killing 14 people and injuring over 60 others.

"This is the fight of everyone. This is not just a fight of government. This is the fight of the entire 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 and Basilan and these terrorist will always find a way to retaliate," he added.

Last Saturday, President Rodrigo R. Duterte put the entire country in a state of lawlessness "until I decide it is safe for every one again."

The declaration of state of lawlessness that was rooted in the Philippine Constitution is to allow the Philippine National Police and AFP to set up massive checkpoints not only in Davao City but in the other major cities, including Metro Manila.

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INQUIRER

Page: Ale

Land conflict seen in slay of 4 in Army camp

By Armand Galang
Inquirer Central Luzon

GABALDON, Nueva Ecija—Eva, a 43-year-old farmer, was helping put up temporary huts on Saturday when she heard successive gunshots on a farm inside the Fort Magsaysay military reservation in Barangay San Isidro in Laur town, Nueva Ecija province.

Eva said she saw people running, so she leaped into a swamp and hid there until the firing ended.

The shots were fired by five men who killed farmers Elejo Barbado, Emerencia dela Rosa, Violeta Mercado and Gaudencio Bagalay as they tilled the fields on portions of a 3,100-

hectare land covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in 1992.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) on Monday sent an investigator to help in the police probe, said Romeo Cordero, the provincial agrarian reform officer.

Investigators are looking at land dispute as a likely motive for the attack, said Senior Insp. Romualdo Lopez, acting town police chief.

The Department of National Defense transferred the property to the DAR through a deed of transfer benefiting farmers displaced by Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions, as prescribed by a 1992 executive order issued by then President Corazon Aquino.

The farmers killed on Saturday were among 21 residents of Barangay Bagting in Gabaldon town who cultivated lands at Sitio Minalkat in Barangay San Isidro in Laur, hoping to become CARP beneficiaries, said Eva, who returned to this town on Sunday along with the other farmers.

Tomas Guevarra, leader of the Alyansa ng mga Magsasakang Nagkakaisa 3100 (Almana 3100), said his group invited the victims' families and other farmers, whose houses were hit by recent landslides in Gabaldon, to become beneficiaries of the 3,100 hectares reserved for CARP.

But the attack forced the farmers to leave the village, Eva said.

Bagalay, 58, Dela Rosa, 58,

and her sister, Mercado, 57, ran toward the nipa huts but the attackers pursued and shot them, Eva said.

Bagalay's wife, Angelita, 53, said they started looking for a new home because their house in Gabaldon stands on a lot that started to erode following rains dumped by Typhoons "Lando" and "Nona" in 2015.

Barbado, 53, was a bus driver who had volunteered to help build the huts for a neighbor. He tried to flee with a boy when he heard the shots but he was hit, witnesses said. The boy was wounded.

Another farmer, Angelita Milan, was hit in the left leg.

Barbado's daughter, Evangelina, 21, said, "My father just

wanted to help. He had dreams so he wanted us to finish school."

On Monday, Cordero said a DAR screening committee completed deliberations on the applications for certificates of land ownership award for one of the lots. He said 329 applicants were eligible for DAR land patents.

The Fort Magsaysay military reservation spans 73,000 ha, based on Presidential Proclamation Order No. 237 that was issued in 1956 by then President Ramon Magsaysay. It serves as headquarters of the 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army.

With reports from Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

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The Manila Times

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Army condemns killing of 4 farmers

PALAYAN City, Nueva Ecija: The Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division condemned the killing of four farmers within Fort Magsaysay camp here on Saturday, disputing the reported involvement of soldiers.

The victims were identified as Baby Mercado, Violeta Mercado, Eligio Barbado and Gaudencio Bagalay – all members of the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid na Nagkakaisa (ALMANA), an affiliate of Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid ng Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) in Nueva Ecija.

Major General Angelito de Leon, commander of the 7th Infantry Division, said the crime scene is no longer part of the Fort Magsaysay Military Reservation since it has been turned over to the Department of Agrarian Reform by virtue of Executive Order (EO) 448.

EO 448 amended EO 407, entitled "Accelerating the Acquisition and Distribution of Agricultural lands, pasture lands, fishponds, agro-forestry lands and other lands of public domain suitable for agriculture."

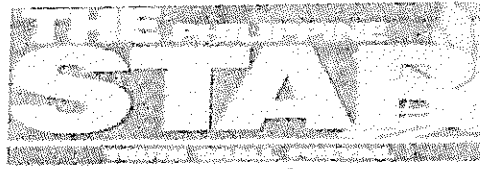
Laur town chief of police, Senior Insp. Romualdo Lopez, told *The Manila Times* that they are considering landgrabbing as the motive in the killing.

The AMGL on Saturday said a helicopter dropped the attackers near Sitio Minalkot in Barangay San Isidro, Laur and indiscriminately fired upon the farmers working in an idle part of the 3,100-hectare disputed land inside Fort Magsaysay.

Seriously wounded in the massacre was Angelita Milan. "We condemn in the strongest terms this apparent massacre of farmers. This latest assault adds to the long list of rights abuses committed by landlord politicians against the peasantry who are struggling for genuine land reform and asserting their right to the lands," Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chairman Joseph Canlas said.

CELSO M. CAJUCOM

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Davao City police chief, task force head axed

DAVAO CITY - Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio has replaced the chiefs of the city police and the Army-led Task Force Davao in the wake of last Friday's bombing of the Roxas night market that killed 15 people and wounded 70 others. "I have talked to the higher officials of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and

By EDITH REGALADO
Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). I told them I want new people and new ideas and improvements for Davao City," Duterte-Carpio yesterday said after announcing the relief of Task Force Davao chief Col. Henry Robinson and city police director Senior Supt. Michael John Dubria.

She refused to name Robinson's replacement, noting the AFP has yet to take up the matter.

The mayor said she is waiting for the shortlist from PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa for Dubria's replacement.

"I discussed it on Saturday

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Davao

From Page 1

night with Director Dela Rosa. I gave him a name, but he refused to appoint that person to be the city police director. He gave me a name, but I also refused that person. Our compromise was he would come up with a shortlist in two to three days," she added.

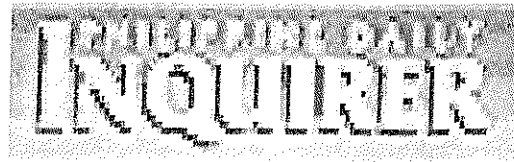
Duterte-Carpio also announced that she appointed

a new director for the city's public safety and security command center.

"He is retired Gen. Benito de Leon. He would assume the post today," she said.

De Leon, a graduate of Philippine Military Academy Class 1982, will replace Gen. Francisco Jose Villaroman, a retired PNP official.

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Davao mayor sacks task force leader, city police director

By Karlos Manlupig and Germelina Lacorte
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Get the suspect alive.

This was the challenge Mayor Sara Duterte gave authorities as she offered a P2-million reward to anyone who could give information that would lead to the arrest of the person behind Friday night's bombing here that left 14 people dead and at least 67 wounded.

Speaking after visiting the wake of one of the victims—her former nurse—and attending her first flag ceremony at City Hall, Duterte announced the cash reward that she said was raised over the weekend, half put up by the private sector.

The daughter of President Duterte said P1 million would be given to any individual who could provide information on the whereabouts of the perpetrator and another P1 million if the person would be delivered to authorities "handcuffed and alive."

"I would like to emphasize that—we need him alive,"

Duterte said. "We want to talk to him and find out who ordered the bombing and why it was carried out. We want to know who his cohorts are, their group, and their other terror plans."

The mayor also announced the relief of Col. Henry Robinson Jr., Task Force Davao commander since May, and Senior Supt. Michael John Dubria, who took over as the city police director in June. No replacements have been announced.

"It's not about their qualifications, it's about me," Duterte said. "I took what happened personally, there will be a

P2-M REWARD/A11

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strained relationship between us if they continue to stay in their posts," said Duterte, who apologized for lapses that allowed the bombing.

In a news conference at Camp Olivas in Pampanga province yesterday, Director General Ronald dela Rosa declined to discuss action against Robinson and Dubria.

He said the matter would be dealt with by the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Intel breakdown

Dela Rosa confirmed that there had been a breakdown of intelligence that led to Friday's

bombing in Davao.

"I don't want to point fingers, but maybe, to be honest about it, security might have been a bit relaxed because the city had not suffered bombings recently," Dela Rosa said.

He did not give details, but he pleaded, "Please don't blame them. Don't malign them."

The Philippine Army chief, Maj. Gen. Eduardo Año, told reporters that Robinson was being relieved under the principle of "command responsibility."

Año said a list of replacements had been submitted to Mayor Duterte.

Dela Rosa said investigators were looking at four suspects: a man who allegedly put the bomb under a chair, two wom-

en and a second man who was heard asking in Bisaya, "What did you accept the package?"

Abus, drug lords

A supposed alliance between the Abu Sayyaf and drug lords was "a theory at this point," Dela Rosa said. "There's a possibility, but there are no strong evidence to support it."

Asked if the police had authenticated reports posted on Facebook that four bombers had reached Metro Manila, the PNP chief said: "We are addressing this information... We are not dismissing this."

Police authorities said the Davao blast was caused by a mortar round that was remotely detonated by a cell phone.



TIGHT SECURITY Security forces are scattered all over Davao City as the threat of another terrorist attack remains high following the Sept. 2 blast that left 14 people dead. JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Shrapnel have been recovered from some of the wounded.

The device was reported to

be similar to those used previously in bomb attacks in Mindanao by Moro insurgents.

Abu Misri Mama, spokesperson of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, denied suggestions that his group was involved.

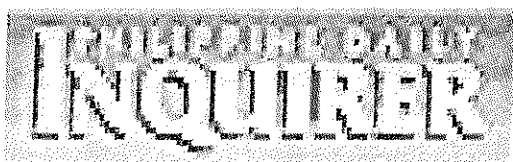
"We do not see Mr. Duterte and the civilians as our enemies," he told the INQUIRER by phone.

While deferring to PNP investigators, Año did not rule out the possibility that the bombing was carried out by Islamic State (IS) terrorists.

"While there is no IS in the Philippines, there are local terrorist groups all wanting to be recognized as part of the IS," he said.

With reports from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila

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MILF, MNLF urged to help fight Abus

INSTEAD of using mercenaries to finally eradicate the Abu Sayyaf, an opposition lawmaker has called on the Moro National Liberation Front and Moro Islamic Liberation Front to show "goodwill" and help the government in its campaign against the terror group.

Ifugao Rep. Teddy Baguilat yesterday urged both the MNLF and MILF to help the government forces by providing accurate intelligence.

"More than a military response to the Abu Sayyaf, especially in combating threats of terrorism, [what the government needs] is reliable and prompt intelligence," Baguilat told the INQUIRER in an interview in Quezon City yesterday.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has deployed more than 9,000 soldiers to Sulu to pursue and finish off the Abu Sayyaf.

On Sunday, Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol said in a Facebook post that President Duterte was open to hiring hatchet men or mercenaries to annihilate the terror group, which had just killed 15 soldiers.

On Saturday, the group at first claimed responsibility for the Davao City bombing the night before that killed 14 persons and wounded 67 but later retracted it.

"There's no other option, these people are like germs that must be eliminated," Piñol quoted the President as saying.

Jovic Yee

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Rody: State of nat'l emergency indefinite

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

It's not martial law, but the country is under an indefinite "state of national emergency on account of lawless violence."

President Duterte issued the proclamation following the deadly bombing at the Davao City night market that killed 15 people and wounded 70 others.

Malacañang said yesterday the declaration does not need Congress' concurrence, and assured the public that the suppression of lawlessness will be carried out with consideration to due process and respect for basic civil rights.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea said the President signed the one-and-one-fourth-page Proclamation Order before he flew to Laos late yesterday afternoon for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit.

The order is still unnumbered and must be initialed by Medialdea. It will be made public today.

"It's more about the fight against terrorism," Medialdea said of the essence of the proclamation titled "Proclaiming a State of National Emergency on Account of Lawless Violence."

"There is no limitation under our Constitution, this is not martial law which has a 60-day limitation," the executive secretary said from Davao City in a phone-patch interview with reporters.

Medialdea heads a caretaker committee for the duration of the President's trip. From Laos, Duterte will fly to Indonesia for a two-day working visit.

Medialdea said the President's proclamation was prompted by the beheadings of Abu Sayyaf hostages and the Davao bombing.

The raid on the Marawi jail that freed

Turn to Page 14

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Rody From Page 1

Members of the Maute terrorist group, which operates in Lanao del Sur and has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, was also cited among the reasons for the declaration.

Kristian Ablan, assistant secretary for policy and legislative affairs, said the President does not need to notify Congress about his declaration.

"The Constitution is clear that there's only a report if a suspension of the writ is made or if there is a declaration of martial law, that is not the situation today," Ablan said.

Under Article 7, Section 18 of the Constitution, the President shall be the commander-in-chief of all the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and whenever it becomes necessary, he may call out such armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion.

The Constitution also stipulates that "in case of invasion or rebellion, when the public safety requires it, he may, for a period not exceeding sixty days, suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or place the Philippines or any part thereof under martial law."

The President shall be mandated to report to Congress only if he intends to declare martial law and suspend the writ of habeas corpus in the process, chief legal adviser Salvador Panelo said in earlier interviews.

Ablan said he is leaving it up to the legal team of the Office of the President to answer any questions regarding the legality of the proclamation.

"Before flying off to Laos to attend the ASEAN summit, the President signed a proclamation declaring a state of lawless violence," Ablan said in an interview in Malacañang.

"It commands the AFP and the PNP to undertake measures permitted by the Constitution and laws, to - number one, suppress all forms of lawless violence in Mindanao, and number two, to prevent lawless violence from escalating elsewhere with due regard to fundamental and civil political rights," he said. "(It) shall remain in force until lifted or withdrawn by the President." He stressed.

He pointed out the coverage of the proclamation is nationwide. "But there are levels," he emphasized. "There is suppression of lawless violence in Mindanao, and then there is just... (to) prevent lawless violence from escalating elsewhere, meaning to say it includes NCR, the Visayas and other parts," he said.

While the proclamation technically took effect yesterday, the President's invoking his powers to intensify the war on terror following the Davao blast has been in effect since

Saturday

He also squelched fears the proclamation can be a prelude to martial law.

Despite greater police visibility, Ablan said the rights of the Filipino citizens under the Constitution remain protected.

"There is no loss of civil or political liberties, so there is no suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, there is no declaration of martial law, it's simply a call to the military and the police to help out," he added.

Rights assured

There will be no violation of human rights in the enforcement of the President's proclamation, said Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa.

"Rest assured that the declaration of the President of state of lawlessness, rest assured that being your chief of the PNP we will implement the declaration of the President without violating human rights and the rule of law," Dela Rosa said in a press briefing.

Dela Rosa asked the public not to be afraid of the declaration, as it is not a prelude to martial law. He lamented that some people were making prejudgments.

"The country is in pain. We are grieving, we are in pain and still these people are making insinuations there will be martial law. The people are becoming more afraid, we have to unite and fight this terror," Dela Rosa said.

The people, he added, should set aside divisiveness and politicking and unite against terrorism and criminality.

"Let's not think we're being led to martial law. No, the President will not do that. Never," he said.

Business undeterred

For the business community, there is nothing wrong with the President's declaration of a state of lawlessness.

"It's a devil if you do, devil if you don't situation. If you don't declare that emergency problem the people will blame him for not (doing so)," Management Association of the Philippines president Perry Pe said in an interview yesterday.

"That's in the Constitution and he has that prerogative and he has that power. He has some information which we don't have. He campaigned on peace and order, that he will solve or try to solve criminality within six months, and he's doing exactly that," Pe added.

Declaring a state of lawlessness, Pe said, is Duterte's style of handling a situation like the Davao bomb attack Friday night. He also brushed aside concerns that a state of lawless-

ness is a prelude to martial law.

"I don't think so. He's got too many Cabinet members whom I think are - and he himself - very knowledgeable about the legal parameters of what declarations such as that would constitute. I think he declared it first just to get the police out," he said.

After the Davao bombing, Pe said the business community has remained undeterred and is still bullish on prospects for Mindanao.

"Mindanao will be shaken a bit but at large, I don't think it will be a problem, business-wise. A little setback on tourism but by and large, it will be business as usual. We've got to give it to the people of Mindanao to make it business as usual because if they cower in fear you're giving in to terrorist initiatives," he said.

"Businessmen like opportunity and they see opportunity whether in good times or in bad times. That is what makes a very good businessperson," Pe added.

He stressed the Davao incident alone should not affect the country's attractiveness as an investment destination and that there are bigger problems confronting the country's investment climate aside from peace and order.

"First of all they cannot invest easily here because of the lack of ease of doing business, there's the economic restrictions, then there's infrastructure problems. So investors, if ever they don't invest, it's not because of one, not because of peace and order or whatever, it's a confluence of events and we've got so much of those things right now," he said.

Matter of trust

Former president and now Panipanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo also voiced support for Duterte's declaration of a state of lawlessness, saying he is in the best position to crush any threat to the nation's

security.

Arroyo, deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, said the chamber is supportive of Duterte's declaration made in the wake of the bombing of the Davao City night market.

She said she believes government security forces will not commit abuses while the declaration is in effect. She recalled that she made similar declarations covering Mindanao when she was president and there were no reported violations of human rights.

She said the threat from Abu Sayyaf as well as from drug syndicates "is national so it's just right that we should trust the President."

"I did not experience their being abusive and I don't think they will be abusive now. In any case, President Duterte is a much stronger leader than I am. So if I can handle them, he can handle them even better," Arroyo told reporters.

"You know, when I used to have those problems in Mindanao, I would ask (then) Mayor Duterte to handle them for me. And he handled them very well in his time for me. So I'm sure he'll handle just as well, if not better, for himself," she said.

Arroyo maintained that when she was president, she relied on the judgment of security officials on whether such a declaration is needed.

"We are also sure that the military will pursue the Abu Sayyaf until this band of murderers is neutralized. We are also confident that the government will continue to pursue the anti-illegal drug and anti-crime campaign along with the offensive operations against the Abu Sayyaf group, until the bandits are wiped out," Arroyo said. She also extended her sympathy to the families of the victims.

- With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Richmond Mercurio, Paolo Romero

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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So it's now state of nat'l emergency in effect

By Leila B. Salaverria

IT WAS neither a "state of lawlessness" nor a "state of lawless violence" as earlier announced, but a "state of national emergency on account of lawless violence."

Before flying to Laos, President Duterte yesterday signed the proclamation of a state of national emergency on account of lawless violence, which calls on the military and the police to suppress and prevent lawless violence, according to Malacañang.

The one-page proclamation does not suspend any of the people's rights. It took effect on Monday after the signing and remains in force until lifted by the President.

Malacañang has not released the hard copy of the signed resolution, but Assistant Communications Secretary Christian

SO IT'S/A12

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Ablan disclosed its salient points to the media.

The proclamation commands the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to undertake measures permitted by the Constitution and laws in order to suppress all forms of lawless violence in

Mindanao and to prevent lawless violence from spreading and escalating elsewhere.

The military and the police should perform these tasks "with due regard to fundamental and civil political rights," Ablan said.

"There is no loss of civil or political liberties so there is no suspension of the writ of habeas

corpus. There is no declaration of martial law. It's simply a call to the military and the police to help out," he told reporters.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea said the basis of the proclamation was terrorism, citing the escape of prisoners, the beheadings of hostages and the Davao City night market blast on Friday that killed 14 people.

"It's more of terrorism, the fight against terrorism," Medialdea said in a phone patch interview with reporters.

No time limit

Medialdea also said there was no time limit for the proclamation. "This is not martial law that has a 60-day limitation."

Ablan noted that while the

coverage of the proclamation was countrywide, there were levels.

Security forces would stop or "suppress" lawless violence in Mindanao, but for the rest of the country, they would prevent these from taking place, he said.

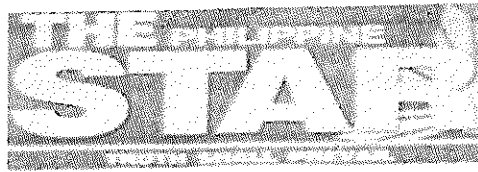
He also sought to assuage fears that the public may have

about the issuance and the expected increased police or military presence on the streets.

"The public should not be worried. This is just a stepped up campaign of the police and the military to ensure the safety of the general public," Ablan said.

"This is just the government in action," he added.

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Shooting Straight

By BOBIT S. AVILA

Terror attacks exposes the Filipino crabs!

The bombing of Davao City's night market last Friday night has revealed the reality in the Philippines that we know today... that thanks to our ugly political system, we only produced Filipinos with a serious crab mentality. Remember the old story about Filipino crabs? To refresh your memories, let me retell this story once again. In a beach off the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco... there was a man who was getting crabs into his basket. Then a passerby notice that the lid in his basket was not closed and told the man catching crabs that his catch might escape. He then told the passerby, "No those crabs won't be leaving my basket, you see I'm catching Filipino crabs. When one gets near the top... everyone pulls him down back to the bottom of the basket!"



When news of the bombing in Davao City was splashed in the social media networks... there were two types of reaction coming from two types of Filipinos. One group prayed for solidarity for the nation and for Davao in particular, giving their all out support for Davaoenos in these crucial times. But another group declared... "Kala namin, safe ang Davao! Hindi pala?" If you checked the names of these people, they are mostly supporters of the previous regime... who have tasted a good life for six years under the Presidency of Pres. Aquino... but are still bitter that Pres. Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte and not Mar Roxas won the 2016 Presidential elections.

Naturally, people, especially supporters of Pres. Duterte bombarded those groups saying that when France was hit by terrorist attacks... they showed their support for France even changing the colors of their Facebook page to the tri-colors of the French flag. But

when Davao is bombed... they cannot find it in their hearts to rally behind the people of Davao and our nation during this terrorist threats. What a shame! By now, we should act as a Filipino nation... not followers of Pres. Duterte or the former President.

So when Pres. Duterte declared that we are in a State of Lawlessness... these yellow bloodied anti-Duterte people comes out of the woodwork to warn us about the specter of Martial Law as the next episode in this political game. Come now, wasn't this threat of the return to Martial Law tagged against then Mayor Duterte during the Presidential campaign? Clearly the election campaign fever has not left the supporters of the yellow regime! Why can't you people move on, huh?

That we are in a state of war against the drug lords or pushers of illegal drugs is a reality that you already know by now. But the more serious war is what our soldiers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are fighting today in the hinterlands of Basilan and Sulu Province against the Abu Sayyaf who have made a mockery out of laws and our security forces for nearly two decades now. Since their creation in 1991, they have only pillaged towns, committed murder, kidnapping with ransom and rape and in April 1995, they attacked and burned the town of Ipil in Zamboanga Sibugay. Their objective is not ideological... but plain and simple banditry to gain millions in ransom money from their captives and they bask on the publicity that the media gives their group.

The Abu Sayyaf has been tagged as a terrorist group by the United Nations (UN), including the United States, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and Canada. Their most famous captives were Martin and Gracia Burnham, a missionary couple whom they abducted in a daring raid in May 2001 Dos Palmas Resort. Martin Burnham was killed during an attempt to free his fellow captives by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

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

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Only last June 2016, I saw the video that they uploaded via Facebook when they beheaded their Canadian captive Robert Hall and John Ridsdel which Marites Flor, the girlfriend of Robert Hall tearfully recounted to then President elect Rodrigo Duterte. I'm sure that it was then that Pres. Duterte resolved that the only way to solve the problem of the Abu Sayyaf is to eradicate them. Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Soc Villegas in "Prayerful Communion with the victims said, *"We pray for peace for the dead victims. We pray for healing for the wounded. We pray for strength for the bereaved families. We pray for the restoration of brotherhood and harmony for Davao and for the nation,"* he said.

The CBCP head also called for peace rather than vengeance. *Let not vengeance be our response but peace! Christ our peace, restore our peace."*

Frankly speaking, I don't know what Bishop Villegas meant when he said, *"Let not vengeance be our response but peace!"* Time and time again, the Abu Sayyaf told the government that it doesn't want peace and continued with their terrorist ways and I dare say that it is the sacred duty of our government to eradicate this terror group and keep the nation safe from them.

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

6 September 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Terrorist attacks

SUDDENLY, we have joined the countries that have been hit by terrorist attacks. In November last year, Paris, France, was attacked by armed men identified with the Islamic State who killed a total of 130. Last March, attacks in Brussels, Belgium, killed 30. In July, a gun and suicide bomb rampage at the Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul, Turkey, killed 45. This was closely followed by an attack on a restaurant in Dhaka, Bangladesh, that killed 20 foreigners. The next day, a suicide car bomb exploded in a crowded shopping area in Baghdad, Iraq, killing 213.

Last Friday, a bomb exploded at a night market in Davao City, killing 14 and wounding 70 others. We have had gunbattles with greater casualties before, but this is the first time, an attack was made on civilians, far from any police or military operation. They were ordinary Davao folk, along with some visitors, busy shopping and generally enjoying themselves in a night market.

It was a typical terrorist operation. Terrorists do not target a specific person, such as a head of state or military leader. They target common ordinary people in common ordinary places where people least expect violence. If it can happen to innocent victims going about their common ordinary ways, it can happen to anyone in the country. The entire country thus feels threatened and when that happens, normal life comes to a stop.

Terrorists aim for the highest possible death toll. Thus they often strike at busy airports, at public markets and malls, at mass celebrations, at concerts, at nightspots, wherever people gather. So it was in Davao last Friday. It is for this reason, that until we get to the bottom of this, many people will avoid going to mass gatherings for a while.

The immediate suspicion has fallen on the Abu Sayyaf, an outlaw group in Mindanao which has beheaded many of its captives who failed to pay demanded ransom. President Duterte last month ordered all-out military operations to destroy the Abu Sayyaf, following its latest atrocity, the beheading of an 18-year-old youth whose family had failed to pay P1-million ransom.

But there are other leads. The police are also looking at the possible involvement of disgruntled vendors, following the recent awarding of stalls at the night market. And there is the drugs angle. In the last several weeks, the anti-drugs campaign of the Duterte administration has upended the entire world of the powerful drug market in the country, with hundreds already killed, thousands arrested, and tens of thousands surrendering to the authorities. This angle cannot be ignored and it will gain credence if bomb attacks will follow in other parts of the country, not just in Mindanao where the Abu Sayyaf operates.

In the face of all this, President Duterte has called for calm and assured that the military and the police are moving to avert any further attacks. He has declared a "state of lawless violence" where the armed forces are called to help the police maintain the rule of law and prevent any lawless violence.

We are confident that the President and the government have everything well in hand. But they will need the support and assistance of the people, who must be alert to happenings in their surroundings, such as a mysterious box being left in bus station seat, suspicious-looking characters, or an overheard conversation or any other information hinting of possible attack. Together, we should all be able to meet this challenge to our peace and order and our democratic way of life.

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The Manila Times

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Bringing it home

WOULD have talked about the Internet of Things or IoT and its role in building Smart Cities but events have led us to a more reflective state traveling back to Manila from a four-day stay in the garden state of Singapore. It has always been the case that when one travels to Singapore, one can actually dream of what can be, the Smart Nation. A nation of 5 million residents in a small patch of land, where 2 million foreigners work. Singapore is modern, efficient and disciplined, yet multi-cultural and innovative. Every time one visits Singapore, visitors are amazed because there is always something new. But when you hear bad news about your country as you wait for your flight home, you think of the future and what can be.

The bombing that took place in Davao City last Friday, 3 September, was the 8th since 19 April 1981. What made it different this time around was a Davaeno is president. Such senseless killing of 14 and injuring of 71 individuals clearly brought the act home. And it is "in Davao that one hurts Digong," as one aptly stated. And hurt it did on a crowded night market by the way of a cellphone-triggered improvised explosive device (IED), said to be a signature contraption by bandits called Abu Sayyaf. A mortar round was used in making the IED. The Abu Sayyaf initially claimed responsibility for the blast, but retracted its statement hours later "to say that an ally group, Daulat Ul Islamiya, was behind the attack."

What is the significance of Davao, apart from being the home of PRRD? Davao City is a highly urbanized city in Mindanao. Per the 2015 census, it had a population of 1,632,991 people, making it the third-most-populous city in the Philippines and the most populous in Mindanao. It is the center of Metro Davao, the third most populous metropolitan area in the Philippines. With a total land area of 2,444 square kilometers, the city is the largest in the country in terms of land area. The city serves as the main trade, commerce, and industry hub of Mindanao and the regional center of Davao Region.



ZILCH

MA. LOURDES
TIQUIA

Davao is Duterte country. Davao is the symbol of a Duterte leadership. It is the sum total of Duterte's public career, as prosecutor, mayor and legislator. It's the laboratory of what can be by a leader, whose North Star appears to be people-centric, frontline focused, ensuring a caring government that attends to the needs of the people. But Davao is much, much more to Digong. It is home and once home is attacked, one drives the stick to the heart, making it excruciatingly painful. And this is where a lot of people failed to see things clearly. When innocent lives are sacrificed to send a strong message to a leader, one wonders if the perpetrators do not know Duterte personally. The lion will roar and in the jungle, he pounds as one hides behind shaking trees. Would those who planned the blast

be totally oblivious of the fact that sending the message to his home could not shake the man? Scare the mayor-daughter? Or bring down Davaenos? Who frequents a public market on a Friday night? Once you bring the war to the home of a

Duterte, you test fate.

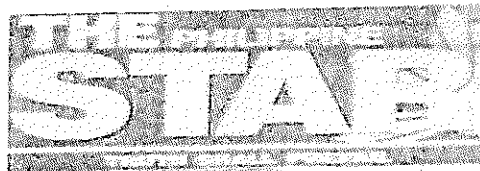
The declaration of a state of lawlessness is nothing new, as others would like to insist that it is a step toward the declaration of martial law. In 2003, former PGMA issued General Order No. 3, covering Regions 11 and 12 after twin bombings struck Davao, killing at least 38 people and wounding 200 others. It ordered the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces to "suppress acts of terrorism and lawlessness in Southern and Central Mindanao and to carry out actions and measures to implement the order with due regard to the constitutional rights of every individual." The bombings also prompted the establishment of the Army-led Task Force Davao to ensure security of the residents.

Bringing the war home only strengthens Davaenos. Bringing it to Duterte's turf is an affront to a President offering the negotiating table to all. Launching the attack and killing ordinary people, people closest to the heart of Duterte, is an outright declaration of war. Killing Filipinos bring it further to the heart of every Filipino who loves this country. Those who planned and executed this heinous crime practically reconsolidated support to Duterte and distanced themselves from the power grab scenarios being cooked by others.

As methamphetamine or shabu when inhaled causes delirious effects and fries the brain well done, same is true with power. Power is exhilarating. When played to the max, it distorts your sense of purpose. So, is removing PRRD this early to the betterment of the nation? Is making the VP a pawn to a power grab ensures a much better future where institutions take root, grow and mature? Would removing a duly elected President be the solution that the country needs at this time? Since when has our democracy been defined by "mere plurality and that 60 percent did not vote for him." If that is the logic being bantered around, the same is true with the VP, right? So, when do we say campaigns are over and governance is the order of the day?

Yet bringing home the war allowed Davaenos to teach us a thing or two in crisis: there was no finger pointing, their local government worked for them, clockwork, they mourned collectively, in silence weeping but steadfast to rise and soar just like the vaunted Filipino eagle. Mindanao has taught us a lot. Davao has shown us the way. We are made better by its examples, unlike others who relish an overzealous power play. "Every man builds his word in his own image. He has the power to choose, but no power to escape the necessity of choice."

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Postscript

By FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

Xi ready to lose Duterte in Laos?

THE DIPLOMATIC mettle of President Rodrigo Duterte will be tested this week in Vientiane, Laos, in getting a positive response from China President Xi Jinping to his plea that Filipinos be allowed to fish again in their traditional fishing ground grabbed by the Chinese.

The minimum expectation is an assurance that China will stop barring Filipinos from Panatag (Scarborough, Huangyan) shoal where they have been casting their nets for generations. The area is 120 nautical miles west of Zambales and 530 nm east of Hainan, the nearest China land mass.

If China remains inflexible on this single issue of sharing Panatag equitably with its rightful beneficiaries, the entire effort of building firm and friendly ties between China and the Philippines will lose its meaning.

After a standoff in mid-2012, Philippine vessels left Panatag in good faith under a mutual-pullout agreement brokered by the United States - but China reneged on it. Chinese patrol craft and fishing boats stayed, and its coast guard has since controlled the area.

Duterte has humbled himself by publicly begging China to share Panatag with Filipinos whose friendship he affirmed. Elaborating, he cited the somewhat irrelevant fact that he, like many Filipinos, has Chinese blood.

But instead of a positive response, the President received intelligence reports that Beijing has moved in barges, indicating that China is preparing to reclaim and convert the shoal into an islet as it has done in several other disputed maritime areas.

Hong Kong media have reported of China's alleged plans to build an airstrip on Panatag after its development, and to set up missiles on the artificial island. These reports have not been confirmed independently, but Beijing has not denied them either.

• How to catch the ears of Xi and Obama?

VIENTIANE is Duterte's first summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. He will accept there the Philippine chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017, its 50th founding year, during which Manila will host some 40 major meetings.



Debuting on the world stage with the terrorist bombing in his home city of Davao in the background, Duterte has to catch the ear of Xi above the din of the ASEAN summit and the power talk of the Big Boys pushing their respective agenda.

If China's leader Xi defers making a clear commitment on Panatag, or if he interposes too many pre-conditions for substantive talks, it may be time for Duterte to reassess his seeming partiality to Beijing's overtures and show some spine.

Duterte seems to be holding out for such items as rail-road lines, other infrastructure and joint investments. But such long-gestation projects will be overshadowed by the administration's failure to quickly restore the normalcy of the lives of Filipino families displaced from Panatag.

His meeting with US President Barack Obama is being watched as the latter is expected to express concern over the summary killings that have marked his anti-drugs drive. Duterte is touchy on the subject of human rights and extrajudicial killings.

But it helps Manila's cause that Obama raised before Xi on the eve of the G20 summit in Hangzhou the need to abide by the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague striking down China's claim over much of the South China Sea and infringing on the rights of the Philippines based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Obama stressed the US's "unwavering commitment to the security of its treaty allies," and reaffirmed its working "with all countries in the region to uphold the principles of international law, unimpeded lawful commerce, and freedom of navigation and over-flight."

China has rejected the UNCLOS ruling and accused the US of fomenting trouble in the areas where its territorial claims overlap those of the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. China also has a quarrel with Japan over the Senkaku islands.

• Questions raised on 'state of lawlessness'

AS HE LEFT for Vientiane, Duterte kicked up a storm with his declaring a "state of lawlessness" in the aftermath of the Friday night terror bombing that left at least 15 dead in Davao.

The questions raised pertained mostly to the effects on civil liberties of the issuance as did the Marcos declaration of martial law in 1972. Not a few people asked if this was a preview of creeping martial law Duterte-style - to which Malacañang said "No!"

But why only now? There has been lawless violence in the Philippines long before Duterte noticed it.

Even without his declaration of a state of lawless violence, Duterte as Commander-in-Chief can order the armed forces and the police - which are under him - to move to suppress acts of violence or lawlessness, and set up checkpoints.

Malacañang was quick to point out that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus and the rights guaranteed under the Constitution are intact

So what is the difference? It seems that Duterte's declaration merely confirmed what the people already know – that the country is in a lawless situation or condition.

What added to the alarm was his **"inviting the AFP and the PNP to run the country in accordance with my specifications"**! What does that mean?

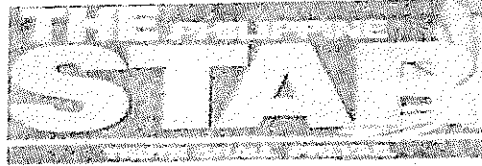
Lawyer Romy Macalintal explained that the President's declaration is within his power as Commander-in-Chief under Section 18, Article VII, giving him authority to "call out such armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion."

He recalled that in 2006 the power of then President Gloria Arroyo to issue Proclamation No. 1017 declaring a State of National Emergency was assailed before the Supreme Court. The tribunal ruled that "the only criterion for the exercise of the President's 'calling-out power' is that 'whenever it becomes necessary,' the President may call the armed forces to 'prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion'."

The SC sustained Arroyo's issuance of the proclamation since "owing to her Office's vast intelligence network, she is in the best position to determine the actual condition of the country."

★
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First Person

By ALEX MAGNO

Lawlessness

Declaring a condition of "lawless violence" seems an exercise in stating the obvious.

We have a historically weak state that allowed a variety of armed insurgent groups to fester for too long, along with bandit gangs that persist with impunity. We have dozens of "private armed groups" who lord over controlled localities. The estimate of loose firearms runs into the hundreds of thousands.



Immediately after that bomb went off at Davao City, President Rodrigo Duterte mumbled something about declaring a state of lawlessness throughout the country, quickly differentiating this with the imposition of martial rule. But he did call on the military and the police to "run" the country.

The presidential utterance caused what denizens of the social media called a "state of confusion."

First there was confusion about scope. One Duterte official said it was limited to Mindanao. The Palace eventually declared it was going to be nationwide.

Second, there was confusion over what this means operationally. Surely, the Duterte officials assured, this does not include curtailment of any civil right. The writ of habeas corpus is not impaired.

Until the Monday after, no official document has been released regarding the declaration of a state of lawless violence. It remains, until an official document is produced, an utterance from the President during a moment of distress.

His hometown, his bastion so to speak, has just been attacked by enemies of the State. The bandits believed responsible for this attack were clearly mocking the President, projecting the illusion of power they do not really possess.

Duterte was surely saddened by this event and piqued above all. Declaring a state of lawless violence appears a reflex action as he viewed the site of the senseless violence committed.

Many rightly compare this declaration with his pronouncement last month, declaring all appointive posts vacant. The first to comply with the pronouncement were his own appointees, until it was clarified later on that the President was referring to the remnant appointees of the previous administration.

It was a pronouncement with minimal effect. Most of the key posts were filled up with Duterte appointees. The bulk of posts waiting to be filled up by the new administration were in GOCCs, where the law specifies they remain in their post until replaced.

No official document followed that pronouncement. After all, all appointees serve at the pleasure of the President.

The pronouncement of a state of lawless violence could be redundant. The Constitution arms the Chief Executive with the power to call out the armed forces when lawless violence, invasion or rebellion pertains.

No presidential proclamation or executive order is required to ask the armed forces to assist the police in maintaining public order. For years, the military has been assisting the police in fighting both insurgent groups and common criminals.

Dozens of soldiers were killed in the past few years attempting to serve arrest warrants on bandits. Military intelligence units were responsible for the capture of nearly all the top CPP-NPA leaders recently released to participate in the Oslo peace talks.

We have taken it as a matter of course that the military participates in the maintenance of public order. It does not need to be called out to perform police duties. Insurgency is a police matter technically, but it has been the preoccupation of our military since independence.

We do not have the equivalent of the internal security acts that strengthen the hand of regimes in neighboring countries such as Singapore and Malaysia. Those internal security acts allow agents of the state to detain suspects indefinitely for a specified number of probable offenses.

In order to have equivalent powers, our government needs to suspend the writ of habeas corpus for a specified list of probable offenses. That is not what the declaration of a state of lawlessness aspires for.

In sum, President Duterte's pronouncement in the wee hours of Saturday morning has little legal value. All it has is counter-propaganda value.

The bombing, after all, was intended as an act of propaganda. There is no strategic value in attacking soft targets and vulnerable civilians. It was an act undertaken by desperate groups to create the illusion of power. They want to instill fear among the populace, make communities feel vulnerable and unprotected.

By declaring a state of lawless violence, the state attempts to counter the propaganda intent of the enemy. It seeks to assure its citizens that government is capable of protecting communities and extinguishing the threat to public order and safety.

By declaring a state of lawless violence, the Duterte government sets the premise for greater visibility of our security forces. Searches at the schools, the malls and the bus terminals will be intensified. Army units could be ordered to set up checkpoints everywhere, supporting our chronically undermanned national police.

Always, the war against terrorist groups is as much a propaganda battle as it is a genuine security concern. Government must constantly possess the upper hand – on both counts.

When an official document finally emanates from the Palace concerning the President's pronouncement, it will likely contain guidelines for military and police operations in the conduct of security operations. Those guidelines will likely put emphasis on protocols to guard against abuse and to avert the possibility that higher police visibility could itself become the source of fear among citizens.

The war against drug syndicates already created a charged atmosphere. The parallel war against the terror groups should not aggravate that.



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Editorial

The parameters of 'state of lawlessness'

GIVEN time to reflect soberly and calmly, the government should take a deep breath and proceed to write a clear and precise presidential proclamation that will tell the nation that "a state of lawlessness" exists throughout the country.

President Duterte was so fast on the draw, he proclaimed "a state of lawlessness" before the text of a formal proclamation could be issued. He acted so swiftly, Palace communicators were left gasping and issued conflicting statements.

The President, who was in Davao City at the time of the blast, initially sought to make the declaration cover only Davao City, but then expanded it to cover the entire Mindanao, before finally deciding to cover the entire country – all within a few hours after the attack.

Consequently, the public was in confusion as to how precisely to interpret the President's move to invoke his power to call out the nation's armed forces to stop lawless violence.

As provided by the Constitution, the President is given full discretion and wide latitude in the exercise of this power.

Based on the Constitution, a "state of lawlessness" is the first extra power that the President can use, followed by suspending the writ of habeas corpus, which allows the state to arrest and jail anyone without trial, followed by a declaration of a state of emergency, and finally by a declaration of Martial Law. All these extra powers are calibrated to deal with different levels of threat to the nation. The last time a state of lawlessness was declared in the country was by former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo back in 2003, following a bombing attack also in Davao City whose city mayor then was Rodrigo Duterte.

In a briefing at the site where the explosion happened, the President said: "I am declaring a state of lawless violence in this country."

"It's not Martial Law but I am inviting now the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP], the military and the police to run the country in accordance with my specifications."

"Any punitive action that will be taken by the security forces will be in a bid to stop terrorism. I am including drugs because of the many killings unfairly attributed to the police."

Malacañang, through Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella, said that President Duterte's declaration is under the bounds of the law, citing Article VII Section 18 of the Constitution, 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."

Most legal experts do not see anything unnatural in the Commander-in-Chief's declaration of a state of lawlessness.

San Beda College-Graduate School of Law Dean Fr. Ranzilio Aquino said that President Duterte was only stressing a need for nationwide vigilance and for security forces to double the urgency of carrying out tasks.

Senate minority leader Ralph Recto emphasized that to set the parameters of the presidential proclamation, the President must formalize it.

"The President must explain and elaborate in writing his verbal statement placing the whole country under a state of lawlessness," Recto said.

"A written order will prescribe the specifics and the limits of such declaration, and would result in the clearer enumeration of the activities permitted and prohibited, if any, during the period," he said.

He is right. A written proclamation will guide the military and police authorities on the strict parameters they must follow in issuing and implementing orders.

Philippine National Police Chief Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa said "the incident is confined only within Davao City."

"Let me emphasize that this is not a crisis situation— we are too far from such point of being unable to help ourselves." Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana instructed the AFP to increase their presence in major cities throughout the country.

"I have directed all commands of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to be on high alert especially in urban centers for possible other terroristic act attempts," Lorenzana said.

All these actions are in accord with the situation that must be faced. They show the requisite decisiveness that should characterize government response.

Absent the confusion of some Palace officials, the nation is assured that it has a government that is in full charge and knows exactly what to do.

ONLINE NEWS

06 SEPTEMBER 2016

www.pna.gov.ph

10th ID gets 86 brand-new trucks, ambulances

MANILA, Sept. 5 (PNA) -- The Compostela Valley-based 10th Infantry Division has formally received and commissioned into service 82 brand-new KM-450 1 ¼ ton troop carrier trucks and four KM-451 ambulances Monday.

This was confirmed by 10th Infantry Division public affairs office chief Capt. Rhyen Batchar in a message to the PNA.

Send-off ceremonies took place at Camp Manuel T. Yan, Barangay Tuboran, Mawab, Compostela Valley.

He added that each battalion of the 10th Infantry Division will be given four KM-450 trucks each while its brigades will get three KM-450 and one KM-451 ambulance.

The vehicles started arriving by August, with the 10th Infantry Division's vehicle complement being completed by September 2.

Batchar said the new trucks will greatly boost their mobility and disaster response capabilities. (PNA)
BNB/PFN

www.pna.gov.ph

Army repositions troops in Region 12, nearby areas

By Allen Sam V. Estabillo

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Sept. 5 (PNA) -- More Army troopers will be deployed in the coming days in key cities in Region 12 and the neighboring areas in line with the declaration of the state of lawless violence by President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

Brig. Gen. Ronald Villanueva, commanding officer of the Army's 1002nd Brigade, said Monday they are currently repositioning their units and personnel to facilitate their immediate deployment to the urban areas.

He said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) national headquarters ordered over the weekend the redeployment of troops based in the hinterland areas to key cities and municipalities.

Such order was based on the President's declaration of the state of lawless violence, which mainly "calls out for the AFP to complement and supplement the Philippine National Police on law enforcement matters," he said.

President Duterte issued the declaration following the deadly bomb attack at a night market in Davao City late Friday night that left 15 people dead and more than 60 others injured.

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The Army's 1002nd Brigade, which is based in Malungon town in Sarangani, has operational jurisdiction over portions of the provinces of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and North Cotabato in Region 12, and Davao del Sur and Davao Occidental in Region 11.

It also covers the cities of General Santos, Koronadal, Kidapawan and Digos.

Villanueva said their deployment and "security hardening" activities will be mainly focused on the four cities.

"We are mainly assigning additional troops to these areas to assist local police units and personnel in conducting law enforcement operations," he said.

Aside from the redeployment of troops, the Army official said they have also strengthened their intelligence operations in the area.

He said they specifically gathering information on the possible movements of terror groups and other armed elements.

"We are looking at persons of interest and organizations, their activities and locations," he said.

Villanueva appealed to local residents to be more vigilant and immediately report to authorities "suspicious new faces and abnormal movements of people."

He admitted that the terror threats being faced by the area after the bomb attack in Davao City are quite "serious."

"We're bracing for the worst and taking all necessary measures to avert or counter them," he added. (PNA)
FPV/AVE

www.pna.gov.ph

PA appeals for public vigilance after Davao explosion

ILOILO CITY, Sept. 5 (PNA) -- The public is encouraged to be more vigilant while their support is enjoined in helping government security forces prevent the occurrence of incidents similar to the Davao bombing last week.

The 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) of the Philippine Army in a press statement Monday made the call as its commander General Harold N. Cabreros also stressed that tightened security within its areas of jurisdiction will be observed following the declaration of the state of lawlessness in the country over the weekend.

"We will 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.

He stressed that their troops are prepared to undertake any task that will be downloaded from higher headquarters.

He further encouraged the public to cooperate and be patient in the exercise of security measures, particularly during checkpoints.

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He also emphasized that security is not the sole responsibility of the military and police force but a concern of everyone.

Cabreros added that they will still act within the bounds of the law.

The division that covers Western and Central Visayas has been on heightened alert following the Davao incident last week. (PNA)

FPV/PGLENA/CBF

www.pna.gov.ph

Despite Davao City blast, AFP remains committed to eliminate ASG bandits

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, Sept. 5 (PNA) — Despite the bloody bombing attack in Davao City which claimed the lives of 14 innocent civilians and wounded 71 others last Sept. 2, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) remains committed to eliminating the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) threat in Sulu.

AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo on Monday stressed this as he downplayed reports claiming that the terroristic attack diverted the military in its mission to eliminate the bandit group.

"No the AFP is still focused, the operation is still ongoing, we will not be distracted by the explosion. We have sufficient units to manage that particular issue," he added.

In the same vein, Arevalo said the bombing also demonstrated the strong coordination between the government, the populace and local community as the latter became more aware of the need to maintain vigilance in their respective areas to prevent similar attacks from taking place in the future.

Earlier, the ASG claimed responsibility for the attack and said it was in retaliation for the ongoing military offensive in Sulu. (PNA)

RMA/PFN

www.pna.gov.ph

Focused military operations continue as Abu Sayyaf splinters into smaller groups

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, Sept. 5 (PNA) — Focused military operations are still ongoing in Patikul, Sulu as part of efforts to crush the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), Western Mindanao Command (WMC) spokesperson Maj. Filemon Tan told PNA Monday.

The lack of encounters with the terrorist group does not mean that the ASG and its sub-groups have eluded the military, Tan said.

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"Actually, we are pursuing many ASG sub-groups and each battalion is committed to tracking down a specific bandit group," he said in Filipino.

ASG sub-groups are known to be commanded by Radullan Sahiron and Alhabsy Misaya.

Tan noted that their task is getting difficult as the ASG is now splintering into smaller groups, making the bandits more mobile and difficult to detect.

"Despite this, we are still able to track them and we are using different maneuvers to detect and engage them," he said.

Shelling of suspected ASG positions have been ongoing for the past few days.

Some 15 troopers were killed and 12 others were wounded after military units clashed with ASG bandits, headed by Radullan Sahiron in Sitio Kan Jalul, Barangay Maligay, Patikul, Sulu last August 29.

A total of 30 terrorists have reportedly been killed and 11 have been wounded in the series of clashes with government forces.

President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the military to destroy the rebel group after they beheaded 18-year-old Patrick Jhames Almodavar last Aug. 25 for his family's failure to pay their PHP1 million ransom demand. (PNA) CVL/PFN

www.inquirer.net

BIFF sees Abu 'diversionary attack' in Davao bombing

By: Charlie C. Señase

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Inquirer Mindanao

12:36 PM September 5th, 2016



BIFF spokesperson Abu Misri Mama is shown in this undated photo carrying an assault rifle.

INQUIRER FILE

COTABATO CITY, Philippines – The bombing of the Davao City night market on Friday could have been meant to divert the Duterte government's ongoing military operations in Sulu against the Abu Sayyaf, an official of an Islamic rebel group said on Monday.

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"The terror group (Abu Sayyaf) has its back against the wall and had to divert attention from Sulu to Davao," said Abu Misri Mama, spokesperson of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), a breakaway faction of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Mama said the deployment of additional soldiers and military hardware to Sulu to finish off the Abu Sayyaf could be the reason for the bomb attack.

Abu Sayyaf members have been tagged in the series of kidnap-for-ransom and extortion activities in Mindanao victimizing local and foreign victims.

Denying any BIFF involvement in the bombing that killed 14 people and wounded 67 others, Mama said they had nothing against the government's war on illegal drugs and terrorism.

Mama said the BIFF was sympathizing with the families of the blast victims, some of whom were from Maguindanao and other parts of Central Mindanao.

"We sympathize with you, hoping that the perpetrators are identified and punished," he said./rga

www.rappler.com

Tuguegarao native heads Davao public safety center

A retired Army general is Mayor Sara Duterte's choice to head Davao City's public safety command center

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Published 5:09 PM, September 05, 2016



NEW COMMAND CENTER BOSS. Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio talks with retired army general Benito de Leon (right), the new chief of the Public Safety and Security Command Center chief, on Monday, Sept 5, 2016. Photo by JFP Dalumpines/Rappler

DAVAO CITY, Philippines – A retired Army general who for years dealt with the Moro conflict in Mindanao now heads a civilian office tasked to ensure the safety of this city, days after a tragic blast that claimed the lives of at least 14.

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Benito de Leon, who retired from the Philippine Army this year, is the new chief of Davao City's Public Safety and Security Command Center (PSSCC), Mayor Sara Duterte announced during the flag-raising ceremony at the city hall on Monday, September 5.

"*Gikan siya sa AFP* (He's from the AFP, Armed Forces of the Philippines), so let us welcome him to the civilian side. Let us give him a warm welcome in the local government unit of Davao," Duterte, daughter of President Rodrigo Duterte, said.

The PSSCC, created in 2012, is a division under the Office of the City Mayor. The command center was made to "provide protection, security, safety and risk management to the people of Davao City," according to the city's official website.

It has a wide-ranging array of responsibilities: crime, terrorism, security, traffic, health and social services, emergency services, and disaster risk reduction.

De Leon takes command amid efforts to identify and capture those behind the bombing.

At least 14 died and 70 were injured because of the blast. President Duterte subsequently placed the entire country under a "state of lawlessness."

De Leon, who was handpicked by Mayor Duterte herself, replaced Emmanuel Jaldon.

"I will assess the concerns that need priorities and urgent actions [and] I will take off from there," said De Leon.

Military experience

A graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1981, De Leon spent time in the Davao region as former chief of staff of the Army's 10th infantry division.

He once headed the 58th Infantry Battalion based in Lanao del Sur. In 2000, De Leon was given the honorary title of "Sultan a Romapunut" (leader of peace). He also once headed Task Force GenSan, which is based in General Santos City.

Before retiring in March 2016, De Leon was the AFP's Inspector General. In 2015, he led a fact-finding committee that cleared Army soldiers from liability in a January 2015 clash that claimed the lives of more than 60 people, including 44 elite cops in Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

His PMA mistahs (classmates) include former and current high-ranking officials in government – among them, former PNP chief Alan Purisima, interim PNP chief Leonardo Espina, former AFP chief Gregorio Catapang Jr., former AFP chief turned Cabinet Undersecretary Emmanuel Bautista, and former Defense undersecretary Natalio Ecarna.

But De Leon's military career is not without its share of controversies. In 2012, he faced a plunder complaint for allegedly misusing military funds. A year later, the Ombudsman cleared De Leon of this complaint. –

Rappler.com

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Westmincom: No ISIS-linked group behind Davao blast

RJ Rosalado, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 05 2016 08:00 PM



Bodies lie on the ground while police investigators inspect the area of a market where an explosion happened in Davao City on Friday. *Lean Daval Jr, Reuters*

ZAMBOANGA - The Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) denied the allegations of an Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) spokesman that a bigger terrorist organization allied with the ISIS was behind the deadly explosion in Davao City which left 14 persons dead and more than 60 others wounded.

Westmincom spokesperson Major Filemon Tan said there has been no validated information that the international terror group ISIS has recognized the ASG or other local terror groups in the country as their allies.

He added that the ASG used the opportunity to link their group to ISIS following the Davao blast to project themselves as a united and strong terror group in the country.

Tan, likewise, denied the statement made by ASG spokesperson Abu Rami that several local Islamic militant groups have united to form the core of a regional Islamic caliphate allegedly linked to ISIS.

Abu Rami, in a statement released over the weekend, said the Islamic State-linked group, of which ASG is a member, was behind the Davao explosion.

He added that aside from the ASG, there are several other local groups who have been actively supporting the newly formed Islamic militant group.

"As I told you, that is not an Abu Sayyaf Group, Islamic group, Junudul Kirafa group, the IS group. Islamic State group, 'yun ang responsible sa bombing. Pero hindi na tayo magsasabi na Abu Sayyaf 'yun, o ano 'yun, Amarakattul Ansar, Silafah, kasi marami na ang napapaloob sa Junundul Silafah, 'yung Soldier of Allah," Abu Rami said.

(As I told you, that is not an Abu Sayyaf Group, Islamic group, Junudul Kirafa group, the IS group. Islamic State group, they are responsible for the bombing. But I will not say that it is Abu Sayyaf, or Amarakattul Ansar, Silafah, because there are many groups that are part of Junundul Silafah, or Soldier of Allah.)

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According to Tan, there has been progress in the police investigation on the Davao blast, and the public must wait for the final result of the investigation to establish the group or persons behind the attack.

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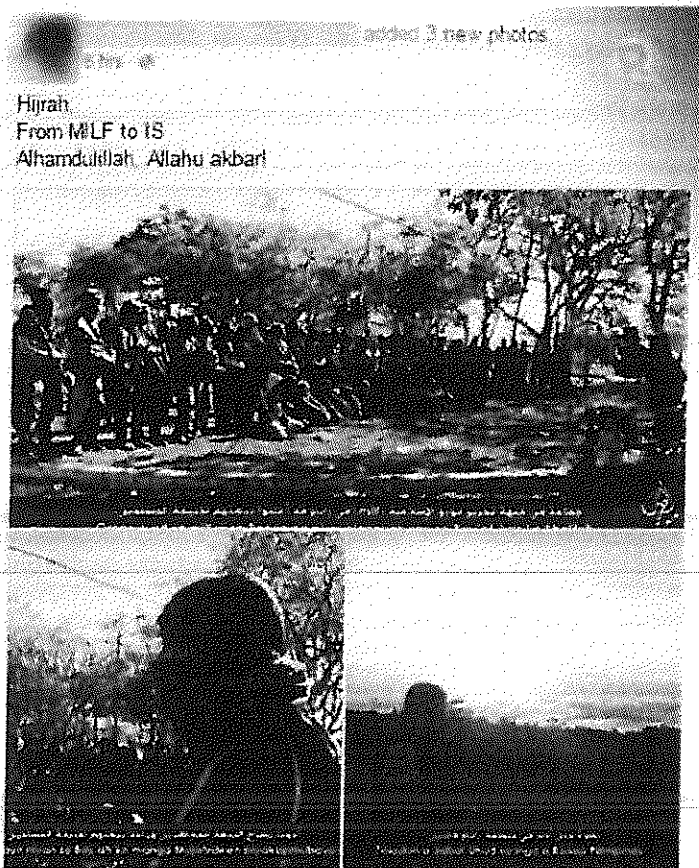
Who's behind the Davao bombing?

In 2016, the Abu Sayyaf's senior ideological leader pledged allegiance to ISIS, and videos and statements about PH are spread by ISIS central propaganda groups

Maria A. Ressa

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Published 4:22 PM, September 05, 2016



Although the government declared a state of lawlessness, authorities have released little concrete information about the explosion that killed at least 14 people in Davao City's night market Friday, September 2, 2016.

On Saturday morning, September 3, radio station DZMM said the Abu Sayyaf claimed responsibility for the blast in an interview with a self-proclaimed spokesman for Al Harakatul Al Islamiyah, the formal name used by the Abu Sayyaf.

By the afternoon, however, allegedly that same man, Muammar Askali, alias Abu Ramie, told the *Inquirer* that it was carried out by an ally he called Daulat Ul Islamiya.

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"They are doing this to sympathise (with) our group, and we are sending a message to President Rodrigo Duterte that all the Daulat throughout the country is not afraid of him," said Askali.

So who could be behind the explosion? To answer this question, let's look at the facts we know and provide some context.

Islamic Community

First, the name Daulat Ul Islamiyah is a slight variation of Jemaah Islamiyah, which literally means "Islamic Community." From the late 90s to 2005, Jemaah Islamiyah acted like al-Qaeda's arm in Southeast Asia, gaining global notoriety with the Bali bombings in 2002, which killed more than 200 people.

The Abu Sayyaf was part of Jemaah Islamiyah and carried out a spate of bombings in the Philippines, including Southeast Asia's worst maritime terrorist attack in 2004. It was blacklisted as a terrorist organization by numerous countries, including the Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and the US for bombings, kidnappings and beheadings.

During its heyday, authorities said the Abu Sayyaf had up to 1,200 members which after more than a decade's presence of US troops, went down to as low as 240. Filipino officials say they estimate about 400 members today.

President Rodrigo Duterte ordered this crackdown after the beheading of a Filipino too poor to pay ransom. That follows 2 high-profile beheadings of Canadians held for ransom.

According to Rappler's sources, there are about 8,000 troops chasing the Abu Sayyaf today in Jolo, Sulu – or about 20 soldiers for every Abu Sayyaf member, but the ground war is never this easy in this complicated terrain.

Abu Sayyaf and ISIS

It's important to recognize that the most senior ideological leader of the Abu Sayyaf, Isnilon Hapilon, has pledged allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State or ISIS. At least 4 other groups in the Philippines have done the same and named Hapilon as their emir, one of the final steps for ISIS to declare a wilayat or province.

Initial intelligence reports confirmed Sunday by the police said the explosion was caused by an IED, an improvised explosive device made from a mortar round.

The Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf tend to use ammonium nitrate for its explosives. A mortar round IED is closer to the signature bombs of two Abu Sayyaf allies who have pledged allegiance to ISIS: Ansar al-Khalifa, also known as AKP or Ansar Khalifa Philippines, based in southern Mindanao; and the Maute group in central Mindanao, also known as Daulah Islamiyah.

Both these groups evolved significantly since the time they worked with Jemaah Islamiyah.

AKP and Indonesia

AKP is headed by Mohammad Jafar Maguid, more commonly known as Commander Tokboy, allegedly a former commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) 105th Base Command.

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

Tokboy was trained by key JI leaders, including Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, better known as Marwan, the high profile target of the Mamasapano tragedy that derailed the peace talks.

AKP under Tokboy has a direct link to Indonesian groups, especially MIT, Mujihidin Indonesia Timur, led by an Indonesian who trained in the Philippines, Santoso.

Indonesian intelligence sources said they were investigating the flow of explosive materials from the Philippines to Indonesia after the January 14, 2016 Jakarta bombings.

In July, 2016, Indonesian forces killed Santoso, dubbed the "symbolic heart" of the Indonesian jihadi movement. Some warned that his comrades may join the Abu Sayyaf.

AKP pledged allegiance to ISIS in a YouTube video in 2015, and is largely believed by experts to be one of the groups behind another video threatening the November, 2015 APEC Summit in Manila and later globally distributed by ISIS propaganda sites.

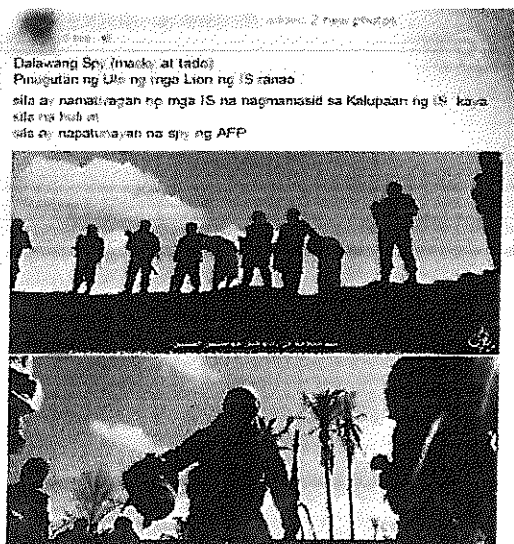
ISIS claims Maute jail break

The Maute group, which also calls itself Daulah Islamiyah, has carried out bombings and kidnappings. It carries the black flag and insignia of ISIS, and has been very active this year.

From February 20 to March 1, 2016, the group, which pledged allegiance to ISIS, attacked a military camp and established 3 major strongholds, essentially displacing nearly 30,000 people until troops regained control of the town of Butig in Lanao del Sur. During that time, the group beheaded a soldier. It took 10 days for the military to regain control.

On April 21, 2016, a Facebook account posted two photos showing the Maute group beheading two of six sawmill workers kidnapped from Butig. They released four of the hostages six days after their kidnapping, but chose to behead the two because they were allegedly military informants.

The two beheaded were forced to wear orange jumpsuits, much like ISIS public executions. The post says, "Two spies beheaded by the Lions of IS ranao."



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Finally, just last week on August 29, an ISIS propaganda arm, the Amaq news agency, claimed that ISIS was behind a prison raid at the Lanao del Sur jail in Marawi.

"Fighters from Islamic State stormed a prison in Marawi City in Philippines on Saturday, south of the country, and were able to free thirty prisoners and seizing weapons," wrote Amaq news agency.

"Thirty fighters carried out the attack and were able to release 30 detainees, including fighters from the Islamic State and their wives. The fighters of the attack and all the detainees, who were freed, arrived to safe places without injuries," it stated.

Those arrested were caught with homemade mortars, which they told interrogators, were to be used in bombing missions in Iligan and Cagayan de Oro.

In its report, the BBC said no shots were fired during the prison break, and that a military source said "the men had been allowed to escape."

A military report obtained by Rappler states, "recruits of the Maute group were largely drawn from the MILF ranks, particularly disgruntled factions prompted by the failures in the Bangsamoro Basic Law or close associates and blood relatives."

Evolving landscape

These are only some of the possible groups behind the Davao bombing.

What happened to the terrorist networks in the Philippines is exactly what happened to al-Qaeda globally: authorities gouged out their top and middle rank leadership, but the ideology and cells continued to burrow and evolve.

Jemaah Islamiyah was an umbrella group that hijacked homegrown networks. Although the MILF turned away from global terrorism in 2005, other groups like the Abu Sayyaf, the Rajah Solaiman Movement, continued to push a terrorist agenda.

There are still other groups like the al-Khobar, another MILF extremist splinter group that turned to criminal activities like bus bombings in 2011.

What has happened to them today?

A clear evolution is the clarion call of the Islamic State, which has its own Southeast Asian battallion in Syria called Khatibah Nusantara.

Part of the problem is that the strategy of the Aquino administration largely centered on denial. This is despite the June, 2016 call of a Malaysian jihadist in Syria, Mohd Rafi Udin, for ISIS followers to go to the Philippines, making it "the nucleus" in Southeast Asia.

This month, President Rodrigo Duterte became the first Filipino official to publicly acknowledge the threat of ISIS.

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Finding those behind the Davao bombing will give us a further idea of how terrorist networks have evolved. –
Rappler.com

www.dwdd.com.ph

AFP downgrades alert status in Metro Manila from red to blue

Marycel Necio Batara September 5, 2016 0 Comment #KATROPA, AFP, BlueAlert

MANILA — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) announced that alert status for Metro Manila has been downgraded to "blue" Sunday evening.

This was disclosed by AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo but he did not give the exact reasons for the downgrade.

"I was (not) told of the reason (of the downgrade). I surmise this follows from the directive that area commanders may downgrade or upgrade the alert status depending on their assessment on the prevailing situation on the ground," he added.

The AFP's Joint Task Force-National Capital Region, the Davao City-based Eastern Mindanao Command and Zamboanga City-headquartered Western Mindanao Command were the only military units placed in "red alert" in the weekend in wake of President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of a "state of lawlessness" after the Sept. 2 bombing of Davao City which killed 14 people and wounded 71 others.

"Red alert" requires 100 percent availability of all troops and equipment while "blue alert" only calls for 50 percent.

The Abu Sayyaf Group, a terrorist organization, has claimed responsibility for the attack. Military units in Sulu have been pressuring the brigands heavily since Aug. 26.

www.inquirer.net

PNP, AFP, Muslim leaders vow to prevent terror in Central Visayas

By: Ador Vincent Mayol

@inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Visayas

03:28 PM September 5th, 2016

Chief Supt. Noli Taliño, director of the Central Visayas Regional Police Office (PRO-7). (CDN FILE PHOTO/ JUNJIE MENDOZA)

CEBU CITY — In attaining peace, collaboration is key.

With this in mind, Chief Supt. Noli Taliño, director of the Police Regional Office in Central Visayas (PRO-7), and Major General Raul del Rosario, commander of the Armed Forces' Central Command, met with Muslim leaders in Cebu, on Tuesday, hoping to strengthen ties.

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Some 30 local Muslim leaders went to the San Nicolas Proper Barangay Hall in Cebu City and vowed to support the government in maintaining peace and order in the community.

"Lahat tayo ay Pilipino. Iisang lahi ang pinangalingan natin. Walang Muslim o Kristiyano. Lahat tayo ang magkapareho. Magkapareha ang kulay ng ating dugo. Kaya, dapat tulong-tulong tayo sa ating inaasam na kapayapaan," said Taliño while addressing the crowd gathered outside the barangay hall. (All of us are Filipinos. We belong to the same race. There's is neither Muslim nor Christian. We are equal. The same blood runs through our veins. And so, we should help each other attain the peace we all want).

Taliño, a former chief of the Special Action Force, said President Rodrigo Duterte has taken significant steps to eliminate illegal drugs, crimes, and corruption but that momentum has been threatened by a terrorist group.

"Masakit yong nangyari sa Davao City. Kung mawawala sana ang ganitong mga bagay, napakaganda sana ng ating kominidad. (The bomb attack in Davao was painful. If events like this vanish, we would have a better community)," he said.

Taliño said the support shown by the Muslim community in Cebu made him very happy.

"This really is a big help," he said.

Malo Manunggiring, director of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos in Central Visayas, said the Muslim community in the region has been very supportive of law enforcers and the local government units for several years.

"What we do now is only to enhance what has already been achieved," he told reporters.

"We understand each other. You accept us as your neighbors and we also compensate the respect you give us," he added.

Manunggiring promised to monitor Muslims in the region so as to avert any terror attacks.

"We should police our ranks. We do it not just verbally but also in practice. Let us help our authorities and our President (Rodrigo Duterte)," he said.

Manunggiring condemned the bomb attack in a night market in Davao City last Friday that killed at least 15 people and wounded about 60 individuals.

"That is unIslamic. That has no place in Islam or in any other religion," he said.

Major General Del Rosario said the Central Command has augmented the police force in the region to ensure the safety of the public.

"We have jointly intensified security in the seaports, airports, and other points of entry. The threats are always there. Even President Duterte's own city, which was well secured, fell prey to bombing," he said.

"Terrorists can strike anywhere. We have to be alert," he added.

Both the PRO-7 and the Central Command have been placed under full alert status following the explosion in Davao City last Friday.

Taliño has ordered numerous checkpoints and sent additional troops on the field to ensure the safety of the public.

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Last Saturday, President Duterte declared "a state of lawlessness" or "a state of lawless violence" to counter terrorism and strengthen the campaign against illegal drug trade.

Hours after the attack, Interior Secretary Mike Sueno said the Abu Sayyaf group claimed responsibility for the explosion in Davao City.

However, the terrorist group denied owning the attack. Muammar Askali alias Abu Ramie, the self-styled spokesperson of the Al Harakatul Al Islamiya, the Abu Sayyaf's official name, pointed to an ally as that behind the deadly explosion.

In a phone call to the Philippine Daily Inquirer last Saturday, Askali said the group behind the blast was Daulat UI Islamiya. **SFM**

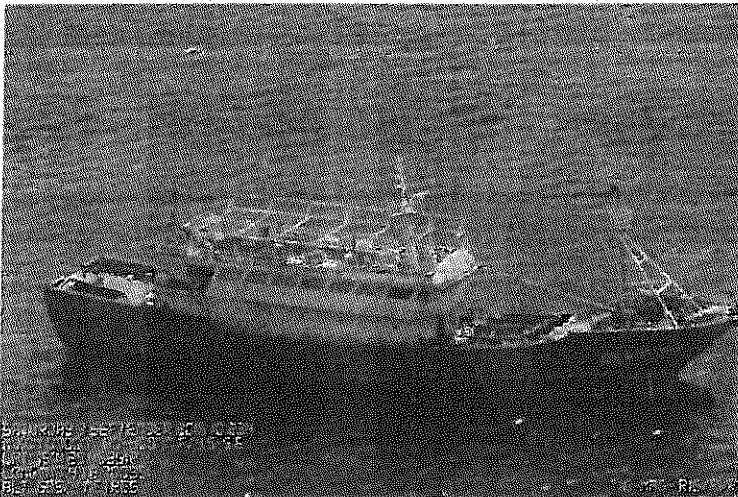
www.rappler.com

China to PH: Do not 'hype up' maritime dispute

Beijing also says the situation in the South China Sea 'has not changed,' in response to Manila's statement that it spotted several vessels near the Scarborough Shoal Agence France-Presse

@afp

Published 8:20 PM, September 05, 2016



CONTESTED WATERS. A Chinese vessel is shown near the Scarborough Shoal in this surveillance photo by the Philippine Department of National Defense. Photo posted by Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol on Facebook

BEIJING, China – China on Monday, September 5, denied it had begun building an artificial island at a South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) flashpoint and cautioned the Philippines not to "hype up" their maritime dispute.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Friday, September 2, he had received an "unsettling" intelligence report showing China had sent barges to the contested Scarborough Shoal and had appeared to begin construction in the area for the first time.

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

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On Sunday, September 4, Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said a Philippine Air Force plane saw 4 Chinese Coast Guard ships, two barge-like vessels, and two suspected troop ships near the shoal on Saturday, September 3.

"The Chinese side has maintained the patrol by Coast Guard vessels in relevant waters and there have also been some fishing boats for fishing operations in the relevant waters and the situation have always been like that, and has not changed," said Hua Chunying, a Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman.

Hua, at a regular briefing Monday, cautioned the Philippines not to "hype up" the situation.

The shoal, which is just 230 kilometers (650 miles) from the main Philippine island of Luzon, has long been a bone of contention.

China took control of it in 2012 after a standoff with the Philippine Navy.

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

China has sought to bolster its claims 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

The United States has warned of "actions" if Beijing extends its military expansion to Scarborough Shoal.

Apart from the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan also have partial claims to the sea, through which over \$5 trillion in annual trade passes. – **Rappler.com**

www.pna.gov.ph

Chinese ships spotted in PAF overflight of Scarborough Shoal -- DND chief

MANILA, Sept. 4 (PNA) – An overflight by the Philippine Air Force (PAF) Saturday revealed that there are at least 10 Chinese ships near Scarborough Shoal (also known as Bajo De Masinloc) which lies 123 miles west of Subic Bay, Zambales.

This was revealed by Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana who said that four of the ships look like Chinese Coast Guard ships, with the other four looking like barges and remaining two appearing to be like troop ships.

He added that a PAF aircraft flew over Scarborough Shoal and took photographs of these ships Saturday.

Earlier, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte expressed concerns over reports that Chinese barges are still coming in Scarborough Shoal, adding that this could indicate new construction activity in the area.

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"No dredging work have been seen. However, the presence of so many ships, other than Coast Guard, in the area is cause for grave concern. The Department of Foreign Affairs already has called the attention of the Chinese Ambassador and demanded explanation," Lorenzana added.

The DND chief also said the agency has no idea on whether the presence of Chinese barges in Scarborough Shoal are "precursor of future dredging operations".

"We don't know yet if those barges are precursors of future dredging operations but let us not forget that early this year they actually tried to bring dredging barges but were dissuaded by the US. If they try to construct anything in Scarborough (Shoal) it will have far reaching adverse effect on the security situation in the West Philippine Sea," he added.

China gained control of Scarborough Shoal after a tense stand-off with Philippine Navy units in 2012.

Its maritime law enforcement units have been consistently driving away Filipinos they happen to spot in the area.

Last July 12, the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration invalidated China's claim over its "historic rights" to the West Philippine Sea and also pointed out that its 'Nine-Dash-Line' claim has no legal basis.

(PNA)

BNB/PFN

www.bomboradyo.com

Defense dept. kinumpirma ang panibagong aktibidad ng China sa West Phi Sea

By Bombo Analy SoberanoPosted in Latest NewsMonday, 05 September 2016 01:04

Kinumpirma ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ang inihayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte noong Biyernes patungkol sa panibagong aktibidad ng China sa Scarborough Shoal sa West Philippine Sea.

Ayon Kay Lorenzana, nagsagawa ng overflight ang Philippine Air Force sa naturang lugar at nakakuha ng litrato ng mga barko ng China sa bisinidad ng Scarborough Shoal.

Iniulat ni Lorenzana na mayroong apat na Chinese Coast Guard ships at ang isa nito ay nakabantay sa pasukan ng lagoon ng isla.

Mayroon pa aniyang nakitang anim na ibang Chinese vessels sa bisinidad kung saan ang apat dito ay mukhang mga barges habang ang dalawa ay tila troop carriers.

Sinabi ng Defense secretary na bagama't mukhang walang dredging na isinasagawa ang mga barko, ang malaking bilang ng mga barko ng China sa pinag-aagawang teritoryo ay nakababahala.

Dagdag pa ni Lorenzana na ang Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) ay humingi na ng pagpapaliwanag sa Chinese ambassador ukol sa nasabing isyu.

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www.pna.gov.ph

DND looking for PHP1.5-M worth of propellant powder

MANILA, Sept. 5 (PNA) --- The Department of National Defense-Government Arsenal is in the market for PHP1.5 million worth of propellant powder.

Winning bidders are required to deliver the items, which amounts to 1,000 pounds, within 30 calendar days.

Propellant powder is used to fill the interior of an ammunition cartridge or the chamber of a gun or cannon, leading to the expulsion of a bullet or shell.

Pre-bid conference is on Sept. 12, 10:00 a.m. at the Government Arsenal Metro Manila Liaison Office, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. (PNA)

BNB/PFN

www.dwdd.com.ph

INTERCEPTED | JTF Sulu in Custody of Three (3) Speedboats Off Sulu Waters

Alvin Santiago September 5, 2016 0 Comment breaking, Headlines



CAMP NAVARRO, Calarian, Zamboanga City (DWDD) – In connection with the intensified military operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), troops of the Joint Task Force Sulu under Brigadier General Arnel B. Dela Vega intercepted Monday (August 29) three speedboats with expired registration and permit to operate.

The said speedboats were intercepted off the sea waters near Maimbung Bay, Sulu where navy ships are conducting barrier negations patrol to prevent Abu Sayyaf members from using coastal and high seas as escape and reinforcement routes.

Two of the speedboats, M/B LINGISAN and M/B FUMANCHO, are rigged with two (2) 200-horsepower outboard motors, while M/B EMPEROR has three (3) 200-horsepower outboard motors that can speed up above 30 miles per hour.

The apprehension was a result of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the AFP-PNP and other government agencies, to include DOTR, DILG, DND, ARMM, BFAR, MARINA, OTS, PCG, and PPA, deputizing the AFP in the enforcement of regulations on the use of high-speed watercraft, at three gross tonnage and below, confiscating unregistered sea crafts, intensifying security in local ports, and dismantling illegally constructed ports in order to mitigate the movement of terrorists and criminal groups and to conduct acts inimical to national security.

After profiling and documentation, the crew members of the speedboats were brought to the Municipal Office of Maimbung, Sulu for proper disposition, while the boats are in the custody of the ATG pending presentation of registration documents and be subjected to further validation with different intelligence agencies to confirm whether they are utilized in kidnapping foreign nationals on board seacrafts in the tri-border areas of Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines. **PIO EASTMINCOM / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com.ph

NAVAL INTERDICTION| PN conducts naval blockage to cut food supplies to ASG in Sulu

Marycel Necio Batara September 5, 2016 0 Comment #KATROPA, NavalBlockage

Manila – In a statement from the Armed Forces of the Philippine (AFP) Spokesperson Brig. Gen Restituto Padilla, he said that the Philippine Navy is currently conducting a Naval Blockage in order to trim down the supplies of food and even reinforcements of armaments from Abu Sayaf sympathizers.

Brig. Gen. Padilla recognizes the large network of supporters of the kidnap-for-ransom group that further fuels their operations despite the drastic decrease in their numbers. He said that the most conservative figure is 481 ASG in Sulu and in Tawi-Tawi.

Currently, no new encounter has been reported between the military troops deployed and ASG.

What the spokesperson is confident about is the stronger forces on the end of AFP. He stated that around 7,000 military men are deployed across Sulu. Finally, he held that the act of naval blockage can also prevent Abu Sayyaf from going out of the island.

www.pna.gov.ph

DAP author launches book on Filipino soldiers in Vietnam War

MANILA, Sept 5 (PNA) – Ben Cal, a veteran journalist who has served as one of the Development Academy of the Philippines' chroniclers over the years, recently launched a book honoring the heroic deeds of Filipino soldiers who served in the Vietnam War in the '60s.

Entitled "Warriors for Peace: The Saga of the Filipino Soldiers in the Vietnam War," the book is the latest by Cal after his successful "Victory at Bessang Pass" three years before. It chronicles the success of the Philippine Civic Action Group, or PHILCAG contingents made up of Filipino soldiers who risked life and limb to perform civic action for the Vietnamese at the height of the Vietnam War.

Such contingents were made up of soldiers who later became luminaries, including Gen. Fidel V. Ramos who subsequently became Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff and the 12th President of the Philippines, as well as fellow former Chiefs of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa, Gen. Lisandro Abadia, the late Gen. Arturo Enrile, Gen. Clemente Mariano, and Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ermita, who stood for Ramos himself as guest of honor at the launch held at the AFP Museum at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

'Most remarkable moment'

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

Ermita highlighted the effect his stint with the PHILCAG gave him when he said, "My two-year stint in Vietnam with the mission to extend humanitarian aid was the most remarkable moment in my 35 years in the military. I thank the Lord for giving us the opportunity to serve the people who needed our service the most during those times of conflict."

True enough, the Filipino soldiers' role, which included building roads and bridges as well as providing services to both civilians and soldiers alike, did not escape the eyes of those who were involved in the nearly-20-year war. These included the Allied nations and the Vietnamese people themselves, among whom were the fearsome Viet Cong who were given equal treatment by PHILCAG doctors and nurses conducting medical missions.

The Filipino soldiers were so admired by the Vietnamese that they were called "Philuatan" everywhere they went, which means they were No. 1.

'Philuatan'

"When we arrived there Vietnamese started calling us Philuatan. It turns out that a Filipino contingent had been there ahead of us, composed of three doctors and three nurses who operated a very small hospital. We carried that label until now among (the) Vietnamese," recalled Ermita, who was actually part of the first PHILCAG contingent.

Cal, who conceived the book over breakfast with Gen. Jose Magno and Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, the current Philippine Veterans Affairs Office administrator, has been involved in several projects with the DAP, including the first two versions of its Almanac. He also wrote for the upcoming Compendium to be produced by the Academy. A native of Obando, Bulacan, the 70-year-old Cal is also known as the historian of Ramos and started his journalistic career with the Bohol Chronicle in 1963.

Cal then became associate editor of Guidelines Magazine before transferring to the Philippines News Agency as a reporter, a senior reporter, news editor, and, finally, as managing editor from 2004 to 2011, when he retired as a full-time journalist. His career had seen him cover the 1986 EDSA Revolution that toppled the regime of then-President Ferdinand Marcos as well as seven of the nine coup attempts waged against his successor, Corazon Aquino. Cal often found himself in the middle of the fighting between government forces and rebels but came out of those battles unscathed. (PNA)

RMA/PR-BERT A. RAMIREZ/EDS