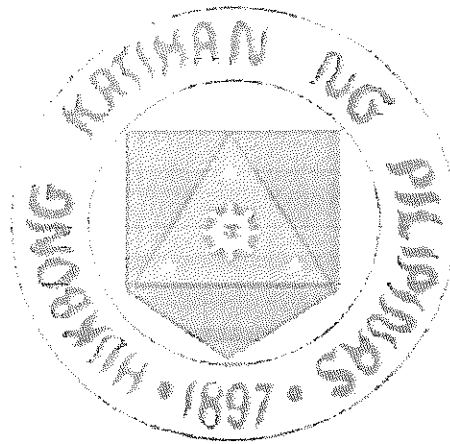


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**07 September 2016**

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**INQUIRER**



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Panelo says US misread hyperbole

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Manila 5 in protest after US embassy

Manila 5 in protest after US embassy

**The Manila Times**

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No longer the Agon's American Des

Obama scraps Duterte meeting

Growing tensions between PH, US seen



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Police, military must respect constitutional rights

Police, military must respect constitutional rights

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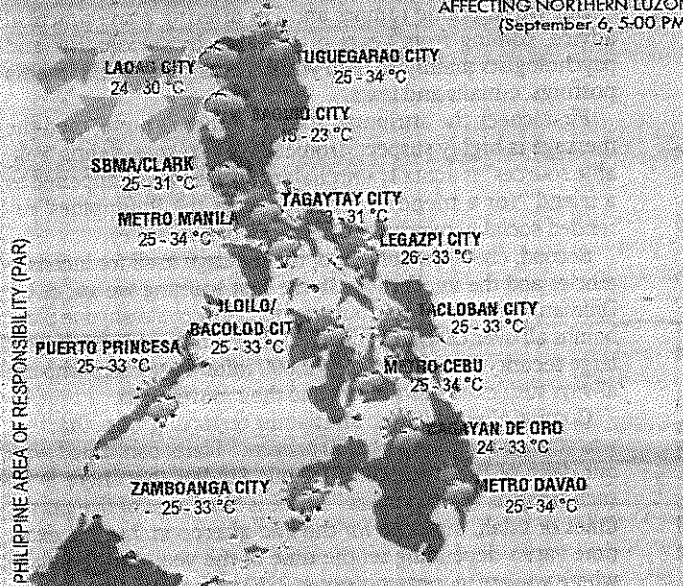
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**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**



**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 | WEDNESDAY**














**SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON (September 6, 5:00 PM)**






PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


<b>SUNRISE</b>  5:44 AM	<b>SUNSET</b>  6:03 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>  10:13 AM	<b>MOONSET</b>  10:06 PM
<b>NEW MOON</b> SEP 1 5:03 PM	<b>FIRST QUARTER</b> SEP 9 7:49 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 7:54 AM 0.35 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> 1:12 AM 0.84 Meter

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

<b>METRO MANILA</b>  26 - 33 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>  23 - 30 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>  26 - 33 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>  25 - 34 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>  25 - 33 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>  24 - 33 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>  25 - 32 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>  25 - 32 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>  25 - 32 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>  16 - 24 °C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>  25 - 33 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>  25 - 32 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>  25 - 32 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>  25 - 33 °C	

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**SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!**

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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
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# Duterte voices regrets for insult on Obama

## Panelo says US misread hyperbole

By Marlon Ramos

VIENTIANE—With the sleeves of his barong tagalog rolled up and hands in pant pockets, a contrite President Duterte debuted yesterday at the annual Asean summit overshadowed by his “putang ina” remark directed at US President Barack Obama.

Mr. Duterte’s “son of a bitch” remark prompted the White House to cancel his meeting with Obama on Tuesday.

Other male leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) were dressed in business suits at the National Convention

Center in the Laotian capital of Vientiane. Mr. Duterte rolled his sleeves down and buttoned them in the way the shirt is worn on formal occasions when Laotian President Bounnhang Vorachith gave a speech to open the summit.

In a statement earlier read by

**DUTERTE/A17**

From page A1

presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella, Mr. Duterte expressed "regret" for expletive-laden remarks he made on Monday before he departed Davao City for the summit.

"While the immediate cause was my strong comments to certain press questions that elicited concern and distress, we also regret it came across as a personal attack on the US President," the President said.

"Our primary intention is to chart an independent foreign policy while promoting closer ties with all nations, especially the United States with which we have had a long standing partnership," he said.

After Washington called off Tuesday's bilateral meeting between the two leaders, the Philippines issued two statements expressing regret.

"President Duterte explained that the press reports that President Obama would 'lecture' him on extrajudicial killings led to his strong comments, which in turn elicited concern," the Philippine government said in one statement.

"He (President Duterte) regrets that his remarks to the press have caused much contro-

versy," it added.

"He expressed his deep regard and affinity for President Obama and for the enduring partnership between our nations."

### 'Misreading'

The presidential chief legal counsel, Salvador Panelo, accused the US government of "misreading" Mr. Duterte's comments.

"Don't put meaning to that. That's just his style. It's just a hyperbole," Panelo told reporters. "It's just an expression. I don't think it was directed to President Obama."

In a separate statement, Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said Mr. Duterte wanted to reassure the United States that his administration "continues to value the alliance" between the two countries.

### Opening address

In his opening address, the Laotian president outlined "multifaceted security challenges" in many parts of the world—such as terrorism and extremism, natural disasters, climate change, migration crisis, trafficking in people, territorial disputes and armed conflicts.

"At the same time, although the global economy has gradual-

ly recovered, growth remains slow and fragile," he said. "There is a need for us to closely follow these developments and continue to enhance Asean cooperation and collaboration with the international community."

Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The summit will be followed by a series of other meetings on Wednesday and a summit on Thursday between leaders from Asean and other countries, including the United States, China, Russia, India, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Obama arrived in Vientiane on Monday night and will attend Thursday's summit.

Mr. Duterte also arrived on Monday night. But hours earlier, he dropped a diplomatic bombshell by saying he doesn't want Obama to ask him questions about extrajudicial killings that have occurred amid an ongoing crackdown on drug dealers in the Philippines. More than 2,000 people have been killed in the crackdown since he took office on June 30.

In his typical loose-tongued style, Mr. Duterte said: "I do not

have any master except the Filipino people, nobody but nobody. You must be respectful. Do not just throw questions. *Putang ina*, I will swear at you in that forum," he said, using the Tagalog phrase for "son of a bitch."

Yesterday, Mr. Duterte expressed regret over the remarks, but the damage was already done.

### DFA still hoping

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesperson, Assistant Secretary Charles Jose, said the Philippine delegation was still pushing for the bilateral meeting between Obama and Mr. Duterte.

"Schedules are tight, but there are still occasions for the two leaders to meet here in Laos during the Asean summit. We're working for that to happen," Jose said in a text message yesterday to the INQUIRER.

Mr. Duterte is also planning to ask China's premier at the Vientiane meetings whether China is trying to develop a disputed reef, Scarborough Shoal, off the Philippines' northwestern coast, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

The shoal is part of the larger dispute in the South China Sea between China and some Asean countries. An international ar-

arbitration panel recently ruled that China's expansive claims in the sea are illegal. Beijing has rejected the ruling as a sham.

Although Asean has the power of the ruling behind it, its summit is unlikely to mention it in its final declaration, a reflection of Beijing's diplomatic clout.

But according to a draft of the final statement Asean is scheduled to release on Thursday, the region's leaders will express strong concern about Beijing's construction of man-made islands in the South China Sea, which Southeast Asian countries fear could destabilize the region.

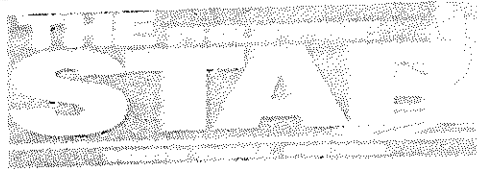
### **Chinese barges**

Mr. Duterte said last week that the Philippine Coast Guard had sighted Chinese barges at Scarborough, which he said could presage the transformation of the Chinese-held reef into another man-made island. One of the Chinese vessels had what appeared to be a crane, according to a Philippine official.

China sparked widespread alarm when it converted seven reefs in the Spratly Islands into islands that the United States says could be transformed into military bases. *With reports from AP and Estrella Torres in Manila*



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# Obama scraps meet with Rody

**VIENTIANE** - An expletive-laced tirade by President Duterte apparently proved too much for US President Barack Obama, who scrapped a bilateral meeting with the "colorful" Philippine leader that would have taken place here yesterday on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit.

It was a spectacular fallout between the US and the Philippines, longtime allies that have seen relations plunge under a barrage of insults from Duterte since he came to office on June 30.

"Clearly, he's a colorful guy" with "colorful statements," Obama said, reacting to Duterte's latest diatribe, during a

news conference Monday night after the Group of 20 summit in China. Hours later, US officials announced that the meeting, which highly placed sources said Manila had requested, had been scrapped.

It is rare for the US president to cancel bilateral meetings. One such case was when Obama scrapped a summit with

Russian President Vladimir Putin in August 2013. This was after Moscow granted temporary asylum to National Security Agency whistle-blower Edward Snowden when China let him leave Hong Kong instead of extraditing him to the US as requested by Washington.

Turn to Page 10

## Obama

From Page 1

In Hangzhou after the G-20 meeting, Obama told a press conference that he had asked his staffers to speak with their Philippine counterparts and to assess whether meeting with Duterte would be productive.

Duterte made a "rookie" mistake by announcing beforehand that if Obama lectured him on the issue of drug-related extrajudicial killings in the Philippines, the situation could turn ugly, said former State Department spokesman PJ Crowley.

By telegraphing his intention in a vulgar language, Duterte ensured Obama would cancel a meeting with him in Laos, Crowley said in an interview with *BBC World News America* on Monday.

Obama flew to Laos on Monday for the ASEAN summit after attending the G20 meeting in Hang-

zhou.

Duterte's war on crime has claimed more than 2,400 lives in just over two months.

"You must be respectful. Do not just throw questions and statements. Son of a whore, I will curse you in that forum," Duterte told reporters when asked about his message for Obama.

Duterte, who has quickly earned a global reputation for his acid tongue, then used typically colorful language to describe their planned meeting if rights issues came up.

"We will be wallowing in the mud like pigs if you do that to me," he said. Duterte had previously also branded US Ambassador Philip Goldberg as a "gay" whom he disliked. The statement also included "son of a whore." Duterte had earlier sought to taint the reputation of

Pope Francis' mother in similar fashion.

US officials said instead of meeting with Duterte, Obama would meet with South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

Before the cancellation of the meeting was announced, Obama said "the Filipino people are some of our closest friends and allies and the Philippines is a treaty ally of ours. But I always want to make sure that if I'm having a meeting that it's actually productive and we're getting something done."

Since taking office in June, Duterte has sanctioned the killing of drug dealers to wipe out the drug menace in the Philippines and more than 2,400 people, most of them suspected drug dealers, have been reported killed.

He has also previously cursed or insulted UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and senior UN officials.

Duterte was elected to office in a landslide this year

5295

after pledging to kill 100,000 people in an unprecedented war on crime.

When faced with criticisms over an apparent spate of extrajudicial killings in his crime war by the UN, he responded with what has become familiar abuse.

“Maybe we’ll just have to decide to separate from the United Nations. If you are that disrespectful, son of a whore, then I will just leave you,” he said last month.

### **Crucial time**

The setback in US-Philippine relations comes at a crucial time in the region, with China seeking to cement control over the contested South China Sea.

The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have competing claims to the strategically vital waters, but have watched China expand its presence by building artificial islands in key locations.

An international tribu-

nal ruled in July that China’s claims to the waters – through which \$5 trillion in global shipping trade passes – had no legal basis.

The verdict was widely seen as a sweeping victory for the Philippines, which filed the suit under the previous administration of president Benigno Aquino III. But China has vowed to ignore the ruling.

And Duterte has sought to heat relations with China rather than inflame them by pressing the tribunal’s ruling.

Under Aquino, the Philippines had forged closer military ties with the US to deal with the China threat. But Duterte has cast doubt on that strategy.

Obama’s aides had previously said he wanted to discuss the South China Sea issue with Duterte in Laos.

Nevertheless, the South China Sea issue is expected to once again be discussed at the three days of meet-

ings hosted by ASEAN, which will be attended by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

The gathering will see the 10 ASEAN members meet by themselves, then with leaders from the US, Japan, South Korea and China.

Other leaders to come for an East Asia summit on Thursday include those from Australia, India and New Zealand.

Laos is the final Asian visit of Obama’s eight-year presidency, during which he has sought to refocus American military, political and economic resources on the region.

It is also the first visit by a sitting US president to Laos, which the US secretly carpet-bombed for nearly a decade in the Vietnam War, killing tens of thousands of people.

Obama is expected to announce today greater help in clearing the bombs. – Jose Katigbak (STAR Washington bureau), AFP

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## Soldiers, Abus clash anew in Sulu

By JAIME LAUDE

Fighting flared up anew between government forces and the Abu Sayyaf in Patikul, Sulu yesterday morning.

Western Mindanao (Wescom) spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan Jr. said the clashes began at 8:20 a.m. in Barangay Danag between the troops of the Army's 45th Infantry Battalion and a group of Abu Sayyaf led by sub-leader Jamiri Jaong.

"As of press time, armed confrontation is ongoing with no casualty reported on the government while undetermined on the Abu Sayyaf bandits," Tan said.

After establishing attack positions, the troops assaulted the Abu Sayyaf lair with artillery support from Navy ships conducting a naval blockade around the islands.

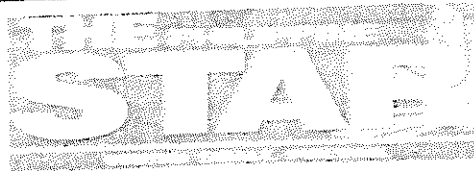
The military has intensified its operations to track down and neutralize the bandits.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has deployed more than 8,000 troops in Sulu in line with President Duterte's order for the military to finish the bandits down to the last man.

Under a new concept of operations, each Army and Marine battalion in the province has been given specific orders to devote their respective efforts on every Abu Sayyaf commander and its sub-leaders.



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## Military offers help in farmers' slay probe

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija - The commanding general of the Army's 7th Infantry Division (ID) has vowed to help the Philippine National Police (PNP) in investigating the killing of four farmers at Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija on Saturday.

"We categorically deny that the military is involved. We

condemn the killings and we are one with the PNP in unearthing the truth behind the attack," Maj. Gen. Angelito de Leon, 7th ID chief, said yesterday.

Initial reports showed the farmers were building nipa huts when they were fired at. The fatalities were identified as Gaudencio Bagalay, Eligio

Barbado, Baby Mercado, and Violeta Mercado.

De Leon said the 7th ID immediately responded after receiving a call from the Palayan City police.

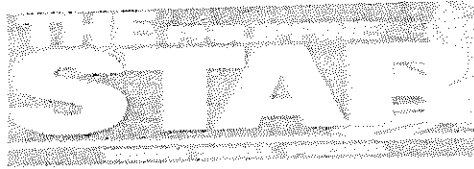
Chief Superintendent Aaron Aquino, Central Luzon police acting director, said he instructed Senior Superintendent Manuel Cornel,

Nueva Ecija police director, to conduct a thorough investigation.

A report quoting Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas president Joseph Canlas said a security agency identified with a local politician and a police official was alleged to be behind the attack.

-Manny Galvez, Ric Sapnu

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### Army instructor killed in grenade blast

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – A military instructor was killed while nine of his students were wounded when a grenade accidentally exploded at a training facility in this city.

Sgt. Pablo Balansag of the Army Reserve Command was holding a fragmentation grenade and demonstrating it to the trainees when it exploded, said Superintendent Romeo Galgo, Jr., Soccsksargen police information officer.

Responding police investigators withheld the identities of the wounded pending notification of their families.

– John Unson, Jaime Laude

07 September 2016

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## 1 killed, 9 hurt in blast at GenSan Army camp

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY (PNA)** - An Army instructor was killed, while nine trainees were wounded when a grenade accidentally exploded during a simulation exercise at an Army training facility here on Monday afternoon.

Supt. Romeo Galgo Jr., public information officer of the Police Regional Office (PRO)-12, said Tuesday the grenade went off at around 4 p.m. inside the 12th Regional Community Defense Group Army Reserve Command (RCDG-ARESCOM) camp at Asinan in Barangay Buayan here.

He said the Army trainees, who were composed of active personnel and reservists, were having a simulation session as part their explosive ordnance reconnaissance training when the grenade exploded.

"It was an accidental explosion. There was no foul play involved," he told PNA, citing results of their initial investigation.

He identified the fatality as Technical Sergeant Pableo Balansag, an instructor of the 12th RCDG-ARESCOM.

The injured trainees were identified as Tech. Sergeant Rolando Camoro, Staff Sgt. Norjan Salik, Corporals Jonard Barlizo and Michael Camus, Privates First Class Ramon Baylon and Basser Lumanga, Privates Francisco Martinez and Jovito Besana, and a certain Soriano.

Col. Faisal Nawang, 12th RCDG-ARESCOM group commander, explained that the explosion was "purely accidental."

He said the exercise was supposed to be a simulation and they were later surprised to see blood on the hands of Balansag after the explosion.

"We're still shocked and can't believe that it actually happened," he said.

Galgo said the PRO-12 has sent a team to the Army training camp to further investigate the incident.

He said Army officials and personnel of the 12th RCDG-ARESCOM are now cooperating with an ongoing investigation being conducted by the military.

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## The Manila Times

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### Demo bomb kills trainor

**COTABATO CITY:** A Philippine Army instructor died while nine trainees were wounded when a fragmentation grenade accidentally exploded during a grenade handling demonstration at the Army Reserve Command in Barangay Asinan, Buayan town in General Santos City on Monday.

Supt. Romeo Galgo Jr, Police Regional Office 12, said Technical Sergeant Pableo Balansag, was holding

a grenade in front of trainees when the grenade accidentally exploded causing his death.

The wounded were identified as T/ Sgts. Rolando Camoro and Soriano; Staff Sgt. Norjan Salik; Corporals Jonard Barlizo and Michael Camus; Privates First Class Ramon Baylon and Basser Lumanga; and Privates Francisco Martinez and Jovito Besana.

**JULMUNIRI JANNARAL**

### ARMY HUNTS DOWN BIFF IN MAGUINDANAO BOMBING

**DATU SAUDI, Maguindanao:** The military here launched a manhunt for outlawed Moro rebels suspected of setting up an improvised roadside bomb on Tuesday morning that injured a soldier. Colonel Felicisimo Budiongan, 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade commander, said the soldiers were conducting foot patrol and road security monitoring going to Datu Piang town from Datu Saudi Ampatuan when the explosive went off at 9:30 a.m. in Barangay Lower Salbu. The blast site was a few meters away from the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade headquarters. Budiongan said the improvised explosive device, believed planted on Monday night, has the "signature" of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and was similar to bombs used by the outlaws in the past. Abu Misri Mama, BIFF spokesman, denied that his group was behind the attack.

**PNA**

07 September 2016



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**BLAST  
AFTERMATH**  
Security is  
extremely tight in  
Davao City following  
the blast that left 14  
people dead and at  
least 67 wounded.  
KARLOS MANILLIG  
/INQUIRER MINDANAO





07 September 2016

## INQUIRER

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### DOJ: Road rage killer used Army expertise

By Vince F. Nonato

SAYING he apparently used his military training to commit murder, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has approved the filing of criminal charges against Vhon Martin Tanto, the motorist who admitted killing a biker in a road rage incident in Quiapo, Manila, on July 25.

In a resolution dated Aug. 18, the DOJ found probable cause to indict Tanto for murder and serious physical injury. The second charge is in relation to the case of a teenager who was hit by a stray bullet.

Tanto faces trial for fatally shooting Mark Vincent Garalde four times in the head, body and upper extremity, and "involuntarily injuring" student Rosell Bonifac.

The DOJ resolution cited Tanto's extrajudicial admission during inquest proceedings and media interviews. It also cited the evidence presented by



TANTO

the Manila police, including the account of eyewitness Bryan Yu and closed-circuit television camera footage of the incident.

Surrendering to the police five days after the incident, Tanto told the media that Garalde was the first to show rudeness and aggression but, after they exchanged blows, the latter offered a handshake. But when Tanto rejected this gesture, Garalde

threatened to smash the windows of his car, causing the motorist to just "snap" and reach for the pistol he was keeping in his car.

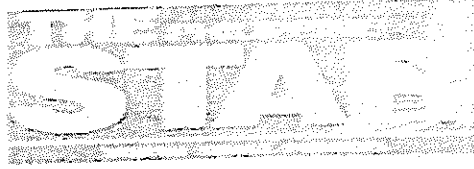
Citing the element of treachery, the DOJ noted that Garalde, an e-games outlet employee, was shot while he was back on his bike and about to leave the scene.

The resolution also said that being trained in handling firearms, Tanto "took advantage of his superior strength and expertise" in shooting victim Garalde. Tanto, a Quiapo resident, was a reservist Army private whose unit is based in Caloocan City.

Tanto's lawyer, Trixie Cruz-Angeles, said they would no longer file a counter-affidavit to refute the allegations.

The resolution was written by Assistant State Prosecutors Jeannette Dacpano and Robert Ong Jr., and was approved by Prosecutor General Claro Arellano.

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# DOJ OKs murder raps vs road rage killer

By EDU PUNAY

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has approved the criminal indictment of Vhon Martin Tanto, the Philippine Army reservist who shot dead a cyclist and wounded a student in Manila in a fit of road rage last July.

In an eight-page resolution released yesterday, the DOJ found probable cause in the murder and serious physical injury charges filed against Tanto by the families of slain victim Mark Vincent Garalde and 18-year-old Rossel Bondoc.

Prosecutor General Claro Arellano, chief of the DOJ's prosecutorial arm, said the cases would be filed against Tanto before the Manila City regional trial court within this week.

Investigating Assistant State Prosecutors Jeannette Dacpano and Robert Ong Jr. cited Tanto's admission to the crimes charged as basis for their findings and recommendation for indicting him for violation of Article 248 (murder) and Article 263 (serious physical injury) of the Revised Penal Code.

"Based on the admission made by ... Tanto, which contains details that only the person who committed the crime could have possibly known, it is pristine clear that he was the one who intentionally shot vic-

tim Garalde and involuntarily injured victim Bondoc," read the resolution.

Apart from Tanto's confession, the prosecutors also gave weight to the testimony of witness Bryan Yu, who said he saw Tanto shooting Garalde four times at close range after their fistfight, and a closed-circuit television recording of the incident that was submitted by the barangay where the incident took place.

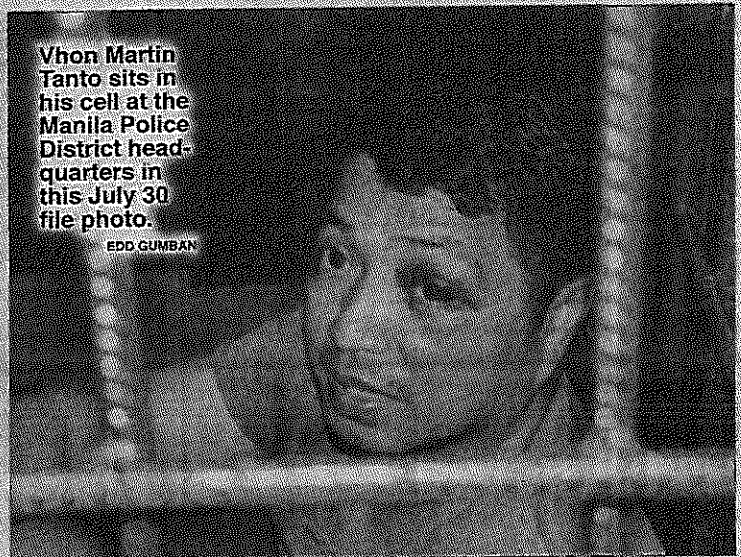
## Elements present

They stressed that murder's key element of treachery was present in the case since Garalde had turned his back on Tanto and was moving away from the scene when the latter shot him.

The prosecutors said Garalde "was not afforded any chance to defend himself when he was shot four times."

They said the "execution of the crime was directly and specifically for ensured by respondent without risk to himself from the defense that the victim might make."

Another element of murder



Vhon Martin Tanto sits in his cell at the Manila Police District headquarters in this July 30 file photo.

EDD GUMBAN

present in the case was the use of superior strength by the respondent, the prosecutors explained. They said Tanto took advantage of his having a gun and expertise in shooting in killing Garalde.

Lastly, prosecutors cited Tanto's attempt to hide from authorities after the incident.

"Flight, in jurisprudence, has always been strong indication of guilt," they added.

As for Bondoc's case, the prosecutors downgraded the charge from frustrated murder to serious physical injury, explaining that there was no intention to kill her and that she was merely hit by a stray

bullet from Tanto's firearm.

In an earlier interview, Tanto claimed he had no intention of killing Garalde and claimed that he only lost his temper because of the cyclist's arrogance during their altercation.

The altercation started when Tanto's car was nearly hit by Garalde's bicycle along Vergara street, a few meters away from P. Casal street where the fistfight and shooting took place on July 25.

Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Rueda-Acosta represented the families of Garalde and Bondoc in filing the charges before the DOJ.



## Army intensifies security operations in populated areas

From the Philippine Information Agency (Sep 6): Army intensifies security operations in populated areas

With the declaration of the State of National Emergency on account of Lawless Violence, the Philippine Army is intensifying its security operations in populated areas.

Having jurisdictions over Southern Mindanao, 10th Infantry Division commanding general, Major General Rafael Valencia appealed to the public to endure any inconvenience brought by their intensified military operations.

"I would like to request our *Kababayan* (fellowmen) to bear with us as we intensify our checkpoints and security operations in populated areas," MGen Valencia said.

The State of National Emergency was signed President Rodrigo Duterte following the Davao night market bombing on September 2.

MGen Valencia also urged the public not to disseminate hoax bomb threats.

"Actually, ang daming nagkalat na text messages di lang dito sa atin, pati na rin sa Manila, Negros at iba pa," MGen Valencia said.

He said that if a person receives a text message containing bomb threat, the person should "not disseminate it if not validated" through local police or military.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/2871473145136/army-intensifies-security-operations-in-populated-areas>

## Help maintain the peace, says Phl Army

From the Philippine Information Agency (Sep 6): Help maintain the peace, says Phl Army

The Philippine Army is proud to say it has won the peace in Luzon but the challenge is how to keep and maintain it.

Major Gen. Angelito De Leon, commander of the 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army based in Fort Magsaysay, Palayan City, said the Philippine Army will continue its mandate to secure and protect communities but it needs the help of everyone.

"We have won the peace. The challenge now is keeping that peace," De Leon said during the 28th founding anniversary of the 702nd Infantry (Defender) Brigade under the 7ID, held at Camp Tito Abat in Manaoag town on September 1.

De Leon said the army is in a state of change and is persevering its efforts through the Army Transformation Roadmap where the organization, structure, capabilities and even the individuals are upgraded.

"Our aim is not only to reform the unit but more so, to reform the individual soldier," De Leon said adding that upgrading the equipment, weapons and vehicles will be of no use if the individual soldier is not improved.

Commander Milfredo Melegrito of the 702nd Infantry (Defender) Brigade echoed the same sentiment saying "security is a shared responsibility."

"To the Defender troopers, let us continue our journey of service guided by this year's theme, 'your defender in peace and partner in development'," Melegrito said.

Melegrito said part of the anniversary celebration is the awarding and recognition of stakeholders to thank them for their support.

Pre-anniversary activities included a bloodletting drive in partnership with the Region I Medical Center where 11,000 cubic centimeters of blood was collected and a tree planting activity in partnership with the Philippine Dental Association where 107 coconut seedlings and assorted fruit bearing trees were planted.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/411472797488/help-maintain-the-peace-says-phl-army>

## **Valorian troopers back anti-drug campaign**

From the Philippine Information Agency (Sep 6): Valorian troopers back anti-drug campaign

The 36th Infantry "Valor" Battalion (36IB), Philippine Army based in Barangay Dayoan, Tago town, this province vows all-out support to President Rodrigo Duterte's call "to suppress crime and fight against illegal drug trade" thru the implementation of Project Double Barrel.

Accordingly, 36IB commanding officer Lt. Col Randolph Rojas himself led several group discussions and fora on drug related issues to some identified communities and secondary schools under his area of responsibility.

Civil Military Operations (CMO) officer Capt. Al Pueblos said they have been supporting the police force in implementing such program in their area.

Part of the activities they have conducted are: the establishment of the Joint AFP-PNP check points, operation TokHang, and anti-illegal drugs campaign in different schools.

As revealed by police provincial director PSSupt Romaldo Bayting, three were already killed in separate anti-illegal drugs operation in the province since July 1 this year.

Meanwhile, Pueblos said that the 36IB troopers underwent a random drug test but all tested negative for illegal drugs use.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/1741473136665/valorian-troopers-back-anti-drug-campaign>

## **News Feature: Army, PIA lead construction of fences for Butuan GAD Day Care Center**

From the Philippine Information Agency (Sep 6): News Feature: Army, PIA lead construction of fences for Butuan GAD Day Care Center

Nothing is more gratifying for teachers who want their pupils safe and sound while in the class, now that the Gender and Development (GAD) Day Care Center here will have its center fenced with concrete blocks constructed by the personnel of the 4th Civil Military Operations (CMO) "Kasaligan" Battalion of the Philippine Army, together with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Caraga.

Fe Labitad, supervising teacher of GAD Day Care Center, was overjoyed to see that the Philippine Army and the PIA personnel are looking after their concerns despite their busy schedule while responding to their main mandates and responsibilities in their respective offices.

"We find it necessary to have our day care center fenced to ensure the safety of the school children. And we were just so blessed to have PIA as our neighbor agency because director Abner Caga was the one who initiated the effort that our center will be one of the beneficiaries of the program and services of the Philippine Army. In fact, the 4th CMO Battalion has chosen our center in their 'Adopt a Day Care Center' Program," expressed Labitad.

Labitad recalled that their first building was situated inside the city hall compound. "When our first building was burned down along with other nearby offices few years back, the city government has relocated us here in our new location. This is actually formerly occupied by the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs, but since they transferred to their new building just few meters away from here, we have learned to love our new place," she explained.

The good teacher, who at the same time is a mother, also expressed concern over the series of school trespasses and thefts in the area. "We have been robbed twice and the perpetrators got our important equipment and school supplies. We were perturbed and disturbed by these incidents and so we really need to secure everything that we have inside our school, and fencing the area is our urgent concern. We truly appreciate the coordination and efforts of the CMO Battalion and the PIA to make this possible," shared Labitad.

Also, Lieutenant Colonel Rey Pasco, commanding officer of 4th CMO Battalion highlighted that they are willing to help the teachers and preschoolers in their need of safety and security by providing them manpower and other available resources.

"We, in the Philippine Army will never hesitate to extend help to those who need our services. We will always look for ways on how we can touch other peoples lives and inspire them," articulated Pasco.

Meanwhile, PIA Caraga regional director Abner Caga also conveyed his warm thanks to 4th CMO Battalion for their immediate response and support to the agency and its partners.

"May this effort serves best to our teachers, parents and children of GAD Day Care Center," Caga underscored.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/2041473140059/news-feature-army-pia-lead-construction-of-fences-for-butuan-gad-day-care-center>

## **72 NPA rebels have surrendered in Isabela since July**

From the Philippine News Agency (Sep 6): 72 NPA rebels have surrendered in Isabela since July

At least 72 members of the New People's Army (NPA) have surrendered to the government under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) since July.

With the ongoing peace talks between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines, more rebels are expected to surrender in the future, said Sgt. Clifford Soriano of the 5th Infantry Division (5ID), of the Philippine Army's Civil Military Operations Battalion.

Soriano said the rebel returnees have been provided financial assistance to start a new life.

The 5ID, Philippine Army has been calling on rebels to surrender to authorities under the government's integration program.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=920469>

## Army hunts down BIFF for setting off bomb that hurt soldier in Maguindanao

From the Philippine News Agency (Sep 6): Army hunts down BIFF for setting off bomb that hurt soldier in Maguindanao

DATU SAUDI, Maguindanao -- Military here has launched a manhunt against a band of outlawed Moro rebels who it suspected of setting up an improvised roadside bomb Tuesday morning that injured a soldier.

"Manhunt is going on against the bandits," Colonel Felicisimo Budiongan, commander of 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade.

Budiongan said the soldiers were conducting foot patrol and road security along the road leading to Datu Piang town from Datu Saudi Ampatuan when the explosive went off at 9:30 a.m. in Barangay Lower Salbu.

He said the blast site was a few meters away from the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigadeheadquarters.

According to Budiongan, the still to be determined make of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was believed planted last night.

But he added it has the "signature" of the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF). Budiongan added the explosive was similar to the bombs used by the BIFF in the past.

Following the blast, soldiers continued their clearing operations to ensure no explosives are left by suspected lawless elements. More checkpoints along the highway have been put up.

Military and police forces are placed on heightened alert following the declaration of President Duterte of state of lawlessness in the aftermath of Davao City bombing.

Abu Misri Mama, BIFF spokesperson, denied his group was behind the attack.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=920564>

## Isabela-based 5th ID also on heightened alert

From the Philippine News Agency (Sep 6): Isabela-based 5th ID also on heightened alert

The Isabela-based 5th Infantry Division has placed all its units on heightened alert in support of President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of "state of lawlessness" following Friday's Davao night market bombing that killed 14 and wounded scores of others.

The 5th Infantry Division covers all of Region 2 and the Cordilleras.

"The focus of the heightened alert is to intensify information collection and conduct measure in coordination with Philippine National Police (PNP) to preempt the occurrence of bombing incident." unit commander Brig. Gen. Paul Atal said in a statement Tuesday.

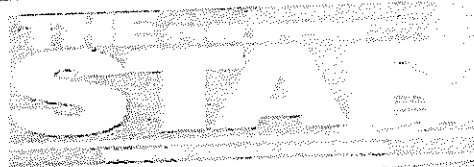
In spite of the intensified alert, the 5th Infantry Division commander urged the public to remain calm since the situation in Northern Luzon is very stable.

Atal assures the public that they are closely working with PNP counterparts to ensure peace and order in the communities.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=920445>



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# Rody to Davao bombers: I will eat you alive

By ALEXIS ROMERO

VIENTIANE - I will eat you alive.

This was the warning of President Duterte to those behind the bombing in Davao City last Friday that left 15 people dead and at least 70 others wounded.

"You know, I can eat people.

I can rip open your body. Give me vinegar and salt and I will eat you. That's true. If you really anger me and I reach my limits, I can eat people," Duterte told members of the Filipino community here on Monday night.

"As I say in Bisaya, *walay sukd sa balos* (no amount of compensation). Go stage bombings as you wish. When time comes, I will eat you in front of other people. I will devour you and if I have to erase you, I'll do it. Not even a single coconut (tree) will grow there," he added.

Duterte suspects that the bombing in Davao City was a retaliation of the Abu Sayyaf bandits who are being pursued relentlessly by government forces.

The Abu Sayyaf has owned up to the bombing and warned of more attacks if the military

does not stop its offensives.

"We are being slapped almost everyday. They would hold hostage tourists and ask for money. If they fail to give money, the victims will be sent to another group, raise the ransom demand and kill the hostages," the President said.

"As a (leader of a) country, a sovereign state, I cannot simply allow that," he said.

Duterte said he shares the grief of the families of the fatalities of the blast.

"But that will not stop us because I cannot go to them

and say, 'please stop and I am on bended knees.' I carry the burden of a country, a sovereign state and at all costs, I must uphold the dignity and the integrity of our country," he said.

Duterte said Davao City, where he served as mayor

for more than two decades, is really peaceful except for occasional terrorist activity.

"There are no criminals, hold-up men, drug pushers, they are almost wiped out. It will just take a little time before I obliterate them," he said.

Duterte vowed to pun-

ish the perpetrators of the bombing, which happened just three days before he left for Laos to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit.

"They will pay. Time will come and I will crush them. I will get back at them," he said.

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## I will eat Abus alive –Duterte

By Marlon Ramos

VIENTIANE—I will eat you alive. Just bring me vinegar and salt.

President Duterte issued this warning to the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group, which he previously regarded as “not criminals,” but a group of Moros “driven to desperation” because of the government’s “failed promises.”

Addressing the gathering of the Filipino community here on Monday night, Mr. Duterte vowed to exact vengeance on the Abu Sayyaf for the killing of 14 people and the wounding of 67 in an explosion that ripped through a popular night market

I WILL/A18

## I will eat Abus alive, says President

From page A1

in his hometown of Davao City last week.

“Let me state my case. They will pay .... Well, give me time. There will be a time when I will really crush all of them. You watch me. Anyway, you know how I operate,” the President said in a speech at Feungfar Convention Center.

Mr. Duterte issued the warning as the Philippine military said more than 10 battalions would be pursuing about a thousand fighters and supporters of the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu. Each battalion has about 400 soldiers.

The President, who flew here to attend the 28th and 29th summits of the Association of South-east Asian Nations, his first foreign travel since he took office on June 30, also promised to end the Moro and communist rebellions before his term ends in 2022.

### Beyond redemption

Defending his tough stance against criminality, he said lawless elements like terrorists were already “beyond redemption.”

“If I have to face them, you know I can eat humans. I will really open up your body. Just give me vinegar and salt, and I will eat you,” the President said, drawing laughter from his audience, including some children.

“That’s true. If you annoy me to the fullest .... I will eat you alive. Raw,” he said.

Speaking to the Abu Sayyaf, he said: “Go ahead. Set off bombs. Time will come when I will eat you in front of the people. I will devour you and if I have to, erase you.”

He also sought the understanding of the Filipinos based here as he defended his ruthless take-no-prisoner strategy against the narcotics trade, which has led to the killings of some 2,000 drug suspects and elicited international condemnation.

try," Mr. Duterte said.

In Zamboanga City, Major Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said five more battalions would be deployed to Sulu soon.

He confirmed the arrival of three battalions—63rd, 16th and 69th Infantry Battalions from the Visayas, Luzon and Davao, respectively.

Tan said two brigades, with four or five battalions each, were already in Sulu.

"These fresh deployment of three battalions is not part of the five battalions that President Rodrigo Duterte earlier committed," he said in an interview.

Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo dela Cruz, chief of the Western Mindanao Command, said the Abu Sayyaf armed bandits numbered roughly 250, "but they can reach about a thousand considering their affiliations (with other armed groups) by affinity and by blood."

Tan said each battalion was assigned to a particular threat group and a particular municipality. "Different battalions in different towns can conduct operation simultaneously," he said.

### For next generation

"If I relent, if I stop, if I renege on these commitments, I would have compromised the next generation of the Filipino," he said.

After hurling invectives at US President Barack Obama, Mr. Duterte turned his ire on the Abu Sayyaf, the al-Qaida-linked terror group that has denied involvement in the Davao blast.

He said: "I am very sad. I share the grief (of the families) of those who died. They were the collateral (damage). But that will not stop us because I cannot go to them and say, 'Please stop and I am on bended knees.'"

"I carry the burden of a country, a sovereign state and at all costs, I must uphold the dignity and the integrity of our coun-

### Primary targets

The primary targets in the military operation are Radullan Sahiron alias Commander Putol, Alhabshi Misaya, Muammar Askali alias Abu Ramie, and the subgroup leaders of factions of the Abu Sayyaf.

Tan said after the Aug. 29 encounter in Patikul town where 15 soldiers were killed, the bandits had reportedly splintered into smaller groups and blended with civilians in the communities.

"We intensify our intelligence network," Tan said.

Raden Ikbala, the convenor of Bassakao, (Bangsamoro against Kidnapping and other Crimes) appealed to government troops to make sure they were hitting the bandits and not homes, farms and civilians.

Ikbala, in his Facebook post, said the soldiers "must walk toward the Abu Sayyaf, walk to make sure genuine Abu Sayyaf will be killed."

"So that no human life will be wasted, no fruits will be destroyed (because it's the fruit season in Sulu now and fruits are the main source of living of our people)," he added.

Tan said the soldiers would try to minimize collateral damage. "But if there will be those affected by this war, I believe there is a greater good after the war. We consider damage, but it should not hinder the operations to achieve better or greater good in the future," he added. *With a report from Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao, in Zamboanga City*

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# You will pay, Duterte warns Abu Sayyaf

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte vowed that the perpetrators of the deadly bomb attack in Davao City late Friday night will pay for their crime.

"They will pay. How many lives were lost? Fifteen. Well, give me time. I will crush you all," the President said in a speech before the Filipino community in Vientiane, Laos. He was obviously referring to the Abu Sayyaf Group.

"You watch me. You have seen

how I operate. I am not bragging," he added.

Saying that the bandits "are beyond redemption," Duterte vowed that he will not allow the group's lawlessness to continue.

"I am very sad. I share the grief of those who died... But that will

not stop us because I cannot go to them and say, 'Please stop' on bended knee. I cannot simply allow that. This bombing has been going on ever since," the President said.

"I will crush that rebellion. I will cut the root [of the problem up]. They are the ones who started it. I am not bragging. And let it be known to them that I will take revenge. I will not allow them to do that. I will do to them what they do to others," he added.

Duterte said he will eat Abu Sayyaf rebels.

"You know I can eat humans. I will really open up your body. Just give me vinegar and salt, and I will eat you," he said.

"That's true. If you annoy me to the fullest... I will eat you alive," the President added.

The President placed the country under a state of lawless violence shortly after the Davao attack.

He explained that his declaration will allow troops to be deployed in urban centers to back up the police in setting up checkpoints and increasing patrols.



Army Vision: By 2025, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride

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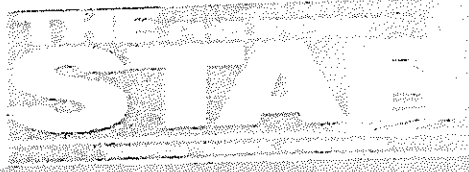


**DEADLY ENCOUNTER** This photo taken on August 27, 2016 shows soldiers standing guard aboard a vehicle loaded with bodies of Abu Sayyaf members killed during an encounter in Patikul town, as they transport them to their camp in Jolo, Sulu. AFP PHOTO

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

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## Duterte mulled martial law after Davao blast – Palace

President Duterte considered declaring martial law right after the bombing in Davao City, but decided to declare a state of emergency due to lawless violence instead, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea admitted yesterday.

Medialdea also signed and issued an order allowing the military and police to invoke warrantless arrest and seizures in certain situations under the state of emergency.

Medialdea bared that the President thought of declaring martial law right after the

Davao bombing, but he later agreed on declaring a state of emergency due to lawless violence to prevent the violence in Davao from spilling to other parts of the country.

Medialdea downplayed insinuations that the President is keen on declaring martial law. He maintained that the military would just augment the police force during operations, which would be an extra effort to prevent terrorist activities.

"That's unfounded. As a matter of fact, within the day we will issue guidelines for

the military how to do it. This is not martial law and it is not going to be martial law," he added.

Medialdea noted that the President gave strict directives to avoid deployment of military tanks on the streets to avoid giving undue alarm to the public.

"The President does not want to see such. He wanted to make sure that the problem will be addressed in a very civilized manner," he added.

### **Warrantless arrests, seizures allowed**

But even without declar-

ing martial law, the Palace identified situations when the police and the military can invoke warrantless arrests and seizures during the state of emergency.

In a three-page memorandum order issued by Medialdea, the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) were tasked to "coordinate with the immediate deployment of the additional forces of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to suppress lawless violence and acts of terror in Mindanao."

While the order stated that "no civil or political rights are suspended during the existence of a state of lawless violence," it said warrantless arrests may be effected under the following circumstances:

- When the person to be arrested has committed, is actually committing, is attempting to commit an offense in front of arresting officers;
- When an offense has just been committed and the arresting officer has personal knowledge of facts indicating that the person to be arrested committed the offense;
- When the person to be arrested is a prisoner who has escaped from a penal estab-

lishment where he is serving final judgment or temporarily confined while his case is pending; and

- When the person arrested, or to be arrested, has voluntarily waived his right against warrantless arrest.

The order also detailed "existing rules and jurisprudence" which shall be "strictly observed" while effecting warrantless searches and seizures. These are:

- When the person to be searched has consented to the search and voluntarily waived his right against warrantless searches and seizures;
- As an incident to a lawful

**Turn to Page 3**

## Duterte

**From Page 2**

arrest and the search is contemporaneous to the arrest and within a permissible area of search;

- Search of vessels and aircraft for violation of immigration and customs laws;

- Search of automobiles at borders or "constructive" borders for violation of immigration or smuggling laws; where the objects and effects to be seized are in plain view;

- Stop-and-frisk situations; and

- Search arising from exigent and emergency circumstances.

"In case of police/military checkpoints, inspection shall be upon request to roll down vehicle windows, search for things in plain view," the order added. "No further intrusive actions shall be taken such as the demanding the opening of trunks or lids or asking persons on board to step out, unless the subject individual consents or agrees thereto."

In stop-and-frisk situations, search shall be limited to light patting on the outer garments of the subject individual to detect the possession of weapons or similar effects. - **With Helen Flores, Delon Porcalla**



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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Police, military must respect constitutional rights under state of emergency or face charges – Palace

By GENALYN D. MABILING

The police and military must respect the constitutional rights of persons under a state of national emergency or else risk facing charges, Malacañang

warned yesterday.

The Palace issued the warning as it gave the green light to the deployment of additional troops in public places, intensified intelligence gathering and swift investigation of persons involved

in lawless violence under a new memorandum order.

"At all times, the constitutional rights of every individual shall be respected and given due regard by the AFP and the PNP in the implementation ►6

## Police, military must ...

◀1

of this memorandum order. No civil or political rights are suspended during the existing state of lawless violence," the memorandum order signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea stated.

"Any AFP/PNP personnel found violating any of the foregoing constitutional rights shall be held administratively and civilly/criminally liable," it added.

The memorandum order, released to the media on Tuesday night, provided the guidelines for the AFP and PNP in implementing measures to suppress and prevent lawless violence.

Under the MO released to the media Tuesday night, the police and military have been authorized to carry out warrantless arrests and searches in certain conditions under a state of national emergency declared by President Duterte.

"No warrantless arrests shall be effected unless the situation falls under any of the following circumstances, among others: When the person to be arrested has committed, is actually committing, or is attempting to commit an offense in the presence of an arresting officer," the memorandum order read.

A person may also be arrested without warrant "when the offense has just been committed and the arresting officer has personal knowledge of facts indicating that the person to be arrested has committed the offense."

Warrantless arrest may also be allowed "when the person to be arrested is a prisoner who has escaped from penal establishment or place where he is serving final judgment or temporarily confined while his case is pending.

Another circumstance allowing warrantless arrest is "when the person arrested, or to be arrested, has voluntarily waived his right against warrantless

arrests."

The latest guidelines, released by the Palace Tuesday night, sought to ensure the civil liberties of Filipinos are not violated while the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) move to address security threats.

"To ensure respect for and protection of the fundamental civil and political rights of our citizens, there is also a need to define and delimit the measures that the AFP and PNP can undertake during the state of lawless violence," the order read.

The same memorandum order asserted that existing rules and jurisprudence must be strictly observed in effecting warrantless searches and seizures in several instances.

Authorities can search without a warrant when the person to be searched has consented to the search or waived his right against warrantless search.

Warrantless search is also allowed "as an incident to a lawful arrest, and the search is contemporaneous to the arrest and within a permissible area of search."

Other instances for warrantless search and seizure are the search of vessels and aircraft for violation of immigration and customs laws; search of vehicles at borders for violation of immigration or smuggling laws; where the objects and effects to be seized are in plain view, stop-and-frisk situations; and search arising from exigent and emergency circumstances.

In police/military checkpoints, the Palace said the inspection would be limited to requesting the motorist to roll down the vehicle windows, search for things in plain view, and presentation of identification and vehicle registration papers.

"No further intrusive actions shall

be taken, such as demanding the opening of trunks or lids or asking the person on board to step out, unless the subject individual consents or agrees," the order read.

In stop-and-frisk situations, the search will be limited to light patting on the outer garments of the person to detect the possession of weapons or similar effects.

In the same order, the Department of National Defense and the Department of the Interior and Local Government have been directed to coordinate the "immediate deployment of additional forces of the AFP and the PNP to suppress lawless violence and acts of terror in Mindanao and present such violence from spreading and escalating elsewhere in the country."

The order said "to the extent possible," policemen and soldiers would also be deployed on major streets and thoroughfares as well as near crowded places such as malls and train stations. Such deployment aims to increase troop and military visibility for deterrence and quick-response purposes without causing undue alarm to the public.

The military and police have also been ordered to intensify local and transnational intelligence operations against persons or groups suspected of or responsible for committing or conspiring to commit lawless violence in the country. They may also draw on budgetary funds for such purpose.

The Department of Justice has also been asked to closely coordinate with the law enforcement agencies "for the prompt investigation and prosecution of all individuals or groups apprehended for committing or conspiring to commit acts of lawless violence."

The Palace also encouraged local government units to give their support and cooperation to ensure the effective implementation of the latest memorandum order.

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## Top teachers, soldiers, cops honored

The Senate yesterday adopted three resolutions honoring the country's top teachers, military personnel and police officers who were given recognition by a private institution for their selfless dedication to service and commitment to excellence.

These are Sen. Cynthia Villar's Senate Resolutions No. 101, which is a consolidated version of resolution nos. 106 and 121 filed by Senators Panfilo Lacson and Nancy Binay, congratulating the awardees of the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. (MBFI) search for Outstanding Filipinos.

The search for the Country's Outstanding Police Officers in Service (COPS) is an annual program undertaken by the MBFI, Rotary Club of New Manila East, and PSBank that gives recognition to the men and women in the Philippine National Police (PNP) who have excelled in protecting and serving the people

by exemplifying professionalism, competence, dedication, and integrity.

COPS awardees include Police Chief Inspector Ryan Manongdo, Police Superintendent Jemuel Siason, Police Senior Superintendent Susan Jalla; Police Superintendent Mario Rariza, Jr., Police Officer 2 Fatima Peñones Lanuza, Police Officer 3 Nida Gregas, Senior Police Officer 1 Mhay Rubio, Senior Police Officer 2 Jeffrey Ojao, Senior Police Officer 3 Hamidhan Tebbeng, and Senior Police Officer 3 Ezrael Lantingan.

MBFI's Search for Outstanding Teachers (SOT) has honored 346 outstanding teachers in the country for the last 32 years. The winners of this year's SOT are Winona Diola of Muntinlupa City; Rujealyn Cancino of Lingayen, Pangasinan; Josephine Chonie Obseñares of Butuan City,

of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro; Dr. Roy Basa of Bacolod City, Negros Occidental; Nelson Agoyaoy of Caloocan City, Ma. Regalee Olarte of Muntinlupa City; Dr. Katherine Faith Bustos of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, Dr. Ermelea Cao of Quezon City, and Mark Anthony Torres of Iligan City.

The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) are Lieutenant Colonel Eliglen Villaflo, Technical Sergeants Danilo Ramos and Bernardo Tacbas from the Philippine Army; Lieutenant Wilfredo Manalang, Jr., Staff Sergeant Albert Eleazar, and Intelligence Specialist Chief Fernando Parcon from the Philippine Navy; Lieutenant Colonel Oliver Bañaria, Master Sergeant Abel Idusma, Technical Sergeant Andersen Avellana from the Philippine Air Force and Colonel Jocelyn Turla from the Technical Administrative Services.

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## Military joins PNP at checkpoints

By MARLON PURIFICACION

**MILITARY personnel will join policemen in manning checkpoints in the streets of Metro Manila following the declaration of President Duterte of national emergency on account of lawless violence in Mindanao.**

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director Chief Supt. Oscar Albayalde at the same time

called on the public to remain calm when military personnel join policemen at checkpoints.

More than 100 personnel from the military will join the police forces at checkpoints in Metro Manila to prevent similar attacks like in Davao which led to the death of 14 and 61 injured.

Albayalde has ordered all district directors to set up checkpoints in all vital installations, malls, churches, MRTs and LRTs and

all places of convergence following the Davao City bombing last Friday night.

"Hindi dapat mag-alala. Huwag mag-panic, the PNP is on top of the situation. However, we need to be vigilant," said Albayalde as he maintained that peace and order is their priority.

He also warned prank callers in 911, the nationwide emergency response number, as the PNP can track them down with the help of the telecommunication companies.

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## MNLF, MILF prodded to help in terrorism fight

**By Jester P. Manalastas**

OPPOSITION leader Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. has urged both the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to help government gather intelligence and information on groups that sow terrorism in the country.

Baguilat made the call following the deadly explosion in Davao City last Friday night.

There are unconfirmed reports of threats of possible terror attacks in public places such as malls and parks not just in Mindanao but also in Metro Manila.

Baguilat said he supported the Duterte administration's quick and strong response to the cowardly act that left innocent civilians dead and wounded.

"We should all get behind the administration's strong action against terrorism. Now is the time for unity against these atrocities," Baguilat said.

To help prevent more attacks, Baguilat stressed, the MNLF and MILF can provide intelligence on possible threats outside Mindanao.

"In the fight versus extremism, we are all on the same side. Everybody should get involved in keeping our country safe," the solon said.

"If there are indeed suicide bombers or threats in

Metro Manila, what is needed more than military response is precise and prompt intelligence, which the MNLF and MILF can perhaps provide," he added.

Baguilat was one of the legislators in the 16th Congress who vigorously supported the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law.

"I still believe in the cause of peace and development in Muslim Mindanao, a cause that I share with the President. I therefore appeal to these two groups for help in providing any intelligence that they may have. We are in this cause of keeping the country safe together," he said.



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### Sugatang ASG fighter, pumanaw

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Namatay na sa isang ospital sa Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte ang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) na nasugatan sa bakbakan sa militar sa Patikul, Sulu, habang muli namang sumiklab ang labanan ng magkabilang panig kahapon ng umaga.

Ayon sa military report, dinala ng mga hindi nakilalang lalaki ang miyembro ng ASG sa Siocon Municipal Hospital sa Siocon nitong Lunes ng gabi, ngunit binawian din ito ng buhay kahapon ng umaga.

Kasabay nito, sinabi kahapon ni Maj. Filemon Tan, Jr., tagapagsalita ng Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) na dakong 8:20 ng umaga kahapon nang muling sumiklab ang bakbakan ng 44th Infantry Battalion sa ASG, na pinamunuan ng sub-leader na si Jamiri Jaong Jawhari, sa Barangay Danag, Patikul. **Nonoy E. Lacson**

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**ANSWER TO 'LAWLESSNESS' —** Regional Public Safety Battalion (RPSB)-Region 1 operatives in full-battle gear patrol the streets of Barangay 2, Dagupan City, yesterday. A platoon-sized force from the Philippine Army has also been deployed in the streets to augment police patrollers ensuring peace and order amid President Duterte's declaration of a nationwide 'state of lawlessness,' following Friday's terrorist bombing in Davao City. (Jojo



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The Manila Times

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## Can DU30 fight illegal drugs, Abu Sayyaf and all those 'SOBs' at once?

OUR "state of lawless violence" has long preceded President Duterte's formal declaration of its existence. The drug menace and the killings intended to solve it, the hostage-takings and the beheading of hostages who cannot afford to pay their kidnappers, the sporadic random explosions of violence, and the unpunished crimes on the streets more than amply demonstrate it. It was not necessary for the President to declare its existence, or



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how he is going to deal with it. He only has to do what needs to be done.

➤ Tatad **A5**

### State of emergency, nothing else

On the eve of his departure for the Asean summit in Laos on Monday, DU30 clarified that the country is not in a state of lawlessness or lawless violence, but rather in a "state of emergency because of lawless violence." After a couple of initial misses, the government lawyers finally got it. That's more like it.

Under the Constitution, "the President shall be 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. In case of invasion or rebellion, when the public safety requires it, he may, for a period not exceeding 60 days, suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or place the Philippines or any part thereof under Martial Law."

All that PDU30 has to do is to call out whatever armed forces he needs to prevent or suppress lawless violence. Until the bombing, he had used the national police to go after drug suspects, and this has produced mixed results. Now, if he is convinced the Abu Sayyaf Group is the source of lawless violence, he will have to call on the Armed Forces to deal effectively with it. No formal declaration is needed. He will need such declaration only if he decides to suspend the privilege of the writ or proclaim Martial Law, neither of which he wants to do, and the basis for which does not quite exist.

To proclaim Martial Law or suspend the writ, a rebellion or an invasion must first exist, and public safety must require it. Although two ongoing rebellions—one by the CPP/NPA/NDF and another by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)—could justify one course of action or the other, these armed-insurgencies have been neutered by the ongoing peace talks, the first in Oslo with the CPP/NPA/NDF, the second in Kuala Lumpur with the MILF. They can no longer be invoked to justify an extraordinary response.

## Undefined powers

Malacañang says the proclamation of national emergency does not need the concurrence of Congress. The nation, however, needs to know what exactly DU30 wants to do under this proclamation. Article VI, Section 23 (2) of the Constitution provides that, "In times of war or other national emergency, the Congress may, by law, authorize the President, for a limited period and subject to such restrictions as it may prescribe, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy."

tional policy."

Is DU30 asking Congress for anything in particular? There is no word on that, but it doesn't seem to be the most pressing question now. The more relevant question is this: Can the DU30 government wage an effective campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, while holding peace talks and trying to maintain a ceasefire with the CPP/NPA/NDF and the MILF? Can it do so while trying to eliminate all the drug pushers and users in a war that has been tainted with extrajudicial killings?

Is there no danger that while the MILF is trying to make peace with the government, some of its members could start migrating to the ASG, in the same manner that some members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) started migrating to the MILF as soon as a peace agreement between the government and the MNLF appeared imminent during the Ramos administration?

Is there no danger that Moros, turned off by police excesses in the current anti-narcotics campaign, could turn to the ASG as the only way of identifying themselves with the opposition?

## Will ASG be the next organized rebel force?

In other words, is there no danger that, from a small band of about 200 outlaws, specializing in banditry, piracy, and kidnapping for ransom, the Abu Sayyaf could finally evolve into the next jihadist rebel force, with links to ISIS? How can DU30 make sure this does not happen? Although the ASG has the lowest reputation among the armed groups in Mindanao, it seems to have attracted some perverse following in the Middle East, where rich Islamist patrons reportedly pay a generous sum for every beheading in Sulu and Basilan which the murderous group is able to document and share with them.

There seems to be some misplaced Arab pride in what the Abu Sayyaf is doing. I saw this 16 years ago in the Middle East, when talking to an Arab couple a few days after the April 23, 2000 kidnapping of 21 hostages by six Abu Sayyaf bandits in the Malaysia diving island resort of Sipadan. The kidnapping naturally made gruesome world headlines. But in Jordan, where I was leading the Philippine delegation to the 103rd Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference that year, I saw how proudly this Arab man and woman identified themselves with the barbaric hostage-takers.

With my wife Penny and former Senator Nikki Coseteng, we were touring the

"lost city" of Petra, one of the world's most beautiful archaeological sites, in the southwestern desert of Jordan. There we found tombs and temples carved into the red, white and pink sandstone cliffs by a proud ancient civilization. We were examining the interior of a temple which appears in an Indiana Jones movie, and Nikki, who was an excellent photographer, was taking pictures.

"We are Abu Sayyaf," said the man.

The couple watched us from nearby. Then the man said, "Where are you from?"

I answered very casually, "Philippines."

With wide-eyed excitement and a triumphant voice, he said, "Philippines! Ah, Abu Sayyaf! I am Abu Sayyaf! We are Abu Sayyaf!" He appeared to relish the sound of the word, which I assumed he clearly understood to mean, "Protector of the Sword." I thought that the bandits at home were being regarded as heroes in that part of the world.

I was disturbed, but pretended not to hear, with our English-speaking Arab guide, who did not say a word, we made haste to end our tour and drove back to Amman.

### Encircling the Abu

From the last several months of the Aquino administration to the present, 10 or so military battalions were said to have been dispatched to Sulu to neutralize the bandits. They had been successfully encircled, we were told, and the only way out for them was the Sulu sea, which had no chance of parting for them like the Red Sea did for God's chosen people under Moses.

But before the sword could drop, the ASG decided to "punish" the "Punisher" and move the eye of the storm not only to the President's own hometown but also dangerously close to Marco Polo hotel where he usually holds court in the evenings. The bomb attack on Friday rewrote the theme and trend of the first 60 days of the President's six years.

In its report on the bombing, the *Sydney Morning Herald* said, "the deadly bomb that ripped through the hometown of President Duterte late on Friday is the first violent challenge to his 'shock and awe' style rule that has exposed deep fissures in Philippine society and tossed a political hand grenade into Asian politics."

### Turning anger into sympathy and back again

Perhaps the more accurate report is that the act of terror swept away much of the antagonism and anger that had piled

up since the war on drugs began and replaced it with expressions of sympathy for the families of the victims and solidarity with the people and government of the Philippines.

This was precisely what we heard from the European Union, France, Japan, the US and Britain, where so much criticism about extrajudicial killings in the war on drugs had been heard before the bombing. This was what we expected DU30 to hear from the dignitaries he would be meeting in Vientiane this week on the sidelines of the Asean summit. St. Paul's Letter to the Romans is instructive, there is good in everything—*omnia in bonum*.

This tragedy is good for the soul. Adversity, suffering, pain are great teachers. DU30 will come out of it a much better man, a much better leader. It will teach him to speak more the language of humanity rather than the language of power. This was my original hope until DU30, in a pre-departure interview, reportedly called Obama, without any provocation, the "son of a whore." Sympathy may have reverted to disdain all over again.

### Proposed Obama-DU30 meeting dims

From Hangzhou, where Obama was attending the G20 summit, the US President cast doubts on his proposed meeting with DU30 in Vientiane. He called DU30 a "colorful guy" but indicated misgivings about the value of any meeting with the former mayor of Davao, who seems to talk more than he should each time he faces the camera and the microphone.

DU30's war on drugs is not a simple problem. His fight against the ASG and possibly ISIS is infinitely less simple. He will need to work with the international community and the nation's closest allies in many areas where his government, or any other government for that matter, cannot do things alone. He does not have to bow and scrape before Obama, Xi Jinping or Putin, but he does not have to abuse anyone verbally either. Especially since we are not at war with any of them, and we need friends more than enemies, in fighting our own domestic wars and solving our own petty troubles.

**Erratum:** In my column on Tuesday, the name of Thomas Becket appears twice in one sentence, first as Archbishop of Canterbury martyred in 1170 under Henry II and then as Lord Chancellor England martyred in 1535 under Henry VIII. St. Thomas More was the Lord Chancellor.

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**Editorial EDITORIAL Editorial**

## **MNLF, MILF at gobyerno, joint forces vs. Abu Sayyaf!**

**S**A tagal na ng giyera natin laban sa Abu Sayyaf, marami na ang napipikon dahil hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa rin ito matapus-tapos at tuloy pa rin ang mga bandidong ito sa pamemeste sa bayan.

At parang nang-iinis pa talaga at sinusubukan ang galing at tapang ng bagong administrasyon.

Na hindi rin naman nagpapatalo at nagpahayag ng utos sa mga militar na pulbusin na ang mga Sayyaf.

Mukhang handa na ngang gawin ng pamahalaan ang lahat mapatigil lang ang kanilang masamang gawain.

Sa katunayan, isang mambabatas na ang humimok sa MNLF at MILF na tulungan na ang gobyerno sa kampanya nito laban sa Abu Sayyaf.

Sabagay, kaysa nga naman kumuha tayo o humingi ng tulong sa mga sundalong foreigner, bakit hindi na lamang hingin ang tulong ng MILF at MNLF na sigurado namang batak at bihasa sa pakikipaglaban?

Isa pa, mas alam nito kung paano aatake dahil malamang na kabisado nila ang pasikut-sikot at maaaring mga kuta ng kalaban.

Tutal, gumugulong na rin ang peace talks at pare-pareho naman nating gusto ng kapayapaan, bakit ba hindi na lamang tayo magtulungan sa pagpuksa sa malaking sagabal nang sa ganu'n makamit na natin ang tunay na kapayapaan?



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**BASKETBALL**

# AFP blasts Senate in UNTV Cup

Before a massive crowd at the Mall of Asian Arena, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) launched its title-retention bid in grand fashion by downing Senate, 85-71, in the opening of the 5th UNTV Cup held recently.

Boyett Bautista, last season's Finals MVP, sparked a vicious second quarter run to rip the game wide open and set the tone for the team's runaway win in the annual tournament for the country's public servants.

The former Letran star tallied 16 points – most of them came in the second quarter that saw them take a 48-30 halftime advantage.

Though the Defenders made a spurt in the third – thanks to effort of Sen. Joel Villanueva – their bid eventually fizzled as the Cavaliers made a gallant stand to repel their comeback.

UNTV president and CEO Daniel S. Razon was elated with the huge attendance, saying it was a testament of the league's growing popularity mainly due to its public service, especially to the less privileged members of the society.

In the last four years, UNTV has already doled out ₱20 million worth of cash and donation to the chosen charitable institutions of winning teams.

A total of 13 teams are taking part in the event with the champion getting ₱4 million which it will be donated to its chosen charity. The members of the team will get a share from the additional ₱500,000 prize.



## ONLINE NEWS

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### In wake of Davao bombing, AFP tells public: Don't spread rumors

From the Philippine News Agency (Sep 6): In wake of Davao bombing, AFP tells public: Don't spread rumors

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has urged the public to not spread rumors in wake of the bombing attack in Davao City which killed 14 and wounded scores of others last Sept. 2.

"(Our) appeal to them is do not be an instrument of rumor mongering, do not be a tool in spreading speculations, do not be a party to the distribution of news that do not have actual basis. Instead once you (receive information on alleged bombing or terror attacks), please forward it immediately to our security forces and allow us to validate it, so we can take appropriate actions and prevent it," AFP public affairs officer chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

Text messages earlier circulated claim that four women sympathizers of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) are now roaming in Metro Manila and planning to target malls and other areas filled with people.

Arevalo also downplayed reports claiming that the terrorist attack diverted the military in its mission to eliminate the ASG.

"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.

The bombing demonstrated strong coordination between the government and the community as the public became more vigilant to prevent similar attacks.

Earlier, the ASG claimed responsibility for the attack and said its action is in retaliation to the ongoing military offensive in Sulu.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=920461>