

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



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

01 August 2017

Tuesday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST AUGUST 2017 TUESDAY

LAOAG CITY 24 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY 26 - 34 °C
BAGUIO CITY 16 - 29 °C
SBMA/CLARK 27 - 30 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 25 - 30 °C
METRO MANILA 27 - 31 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 26 - 32 °C
ILOILO/ BACOLOD CITY 26 - 33 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 25 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 33 °C
METRO CEBU 26 - 33 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORD 24 - 34 °C
ZAMBUANGA CITY 24 - 33 °C
METRO DAVAO 26 - 33 °C

SUNRISE 5:39 AM
SUNSET 6:25 PM

MOONRISE 1:14 PM
MOONSET 12:21 AM

FIRST QUARTER AUG 24 11:25 PM
FULL MOON AUG 3 2:11 AM

LOW TIDE 12:45 PM
HIGH TIDE 5:57 AM

MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
0.43 Meters
0.90 Meters

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and thunderstorms

Direct share with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

City	Forecast 1	Forecast 2	Forecast 3	Forecast 4	Forecast 5	Forecast 6
METRO MANILA	26 - 32 °C	26 - 30 °C	25 - 29 °C	22 - 28 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 30 °C	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
LAOAG	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	16 - 22 °C	17 - 22 °C	26 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C	31 - 34 °C	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 29 °C	25 - 28 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

PILIPINAS 11

AIR 21
SAGIT VAL, PALERNA HD

TV 11

WEEKDAYS
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM
WEEKENDS
6AM

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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SOLONS RAISE QUESTIONS ON OZAMIZ DRUG SLAYS

FROM A1

By **Jocelyn R. Uy**
@mj_uyINQ

Two senators on Monday raised this question as they expressed willingness to conduct an investigation into the police raids in Ozamiz City on Sunday that killed Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. and 14 others, drawing parallels with the death of Albuera Mayor Rolando Espinosa Sr. in November last year.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon wondered why the search warrants against the Parojinogs, as in the case of Espinosa, were "served in darkness."

"Both are tagged as drug lords. Too much of a coincidence?" he said.

television interview.

The senator said the police had a lot of explaining to do. "The police cannot just say that 'we were met by a volley of fire and everyone is killed and nobody is killed on our side,'" he said.

"I won't be surprised if one of my colleagues will file a reso-

"The Senate has been doing a lot of investigations because a lot of things are happening. I don't like it but it is made necessary by what is happening," Drilon told reporters.

"Generally, a search warrant should be served in the daytime. While it may also be served anytime of the night, the issuing judge must so expressly specify in the search warrant," Drilon said, referring to Section 9, Rule 126 of the Rules of Court.

This is also the general rule under the Philippine National Police manual, Sen. Francis Escudero said.

"In fact, there is a separate provision on searches and seizures alone in the Constitution to put a premium on how important this issue or this thing is," Escudero said in a

lution to investigate what happened and given that both cases in the Albuera mayor and the Ozamiz mayor, they were both suspected of having drug links," Escudero said.

"But that often by itself doesn't merit a death warrant. Search warrant, maybe yes. Ar-

rest warrant, maybe yes but not a death warrant," the senator added.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said: "I don't see the need to investigate unless there is a development later and there are signs that [Mayor Parojinog and the others] were summarily executed, which as of now we don't see."

The PNP chief, Director General Ronald dela Rosa, scoffed at remarks that search warrants should indicate a time.

"Every time is a legal time to serve a search warrant. There is nothing in the search warrant that says you serve it at a particular time, like during office hours," Dela Rosa said, defending the raid that he said was carried out "to gain maximum advantage."

"We have to be able to dictate the tempo of the opera-

tion," he said.

Although he called the Parojinogs "big fishes" in the war on drugs, Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano said Sunday's raid could have "long-term implications on our democracy way beyond the term of President Duterte."

"While it may look like a success on the surface like the thousands killed [in] the war on drugs, its impact [on] due process of law, human rights and professionalism of the PNP cannot be underestimated," Alejano said.

"I strongly support the elimination of illicit drugs in the country as much as I strongly advocate for the strengthening of our democratic institutions and democratic processes in the country," he said. —WITH REPORTS

FROM NIKKO DIZON AND VINCE F. NONATO INQ

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Reds launch attacks in Negros

By GILBERT BAYORAN

BACOLOD CITY – Suspected New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas launched fresh attacks on Sunday, burning construction equipment in Siaton, Negros Oriental.

The rebels, on three motorcycles, torched equipment owned by the Medalla Construction parked near the Siaton River in Barangay Katikugan, according to Maj. Gen. Jon Aying, chief of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

Aying said the rebels, armed with rifles, shouted "Mabuhayang NPA (Long live the NPA)" and fired shots in the air as they were fleeing the area.

Troopers of the Regional Public Safety Battalion assisted the Army in pursuing the guerrillas.

Authorities recovered bullet shells for different firearms and a container with gasoline.

The attack occurred more than a week after another group of insurgents ambushed and killed six police officers and a civilian in Guhulngan City, also in Negros Oriental.

Among those killed was the city police chief, who was responding along with his men to a call for help from a city councilor.

Aying denounced the continued atrocities committed by the NPA in Negros Island Region.

In a visit to the province recently, President Duterte ordered security forces to be more aggressive in running after the communist rebels, who continued with their offensives against government forces despite the ongoing peace talks.

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7 loggers beheaded by Sayyaf captors

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Government security forces have recovered the decapitated bodies and severed heads of the seven loggers kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan last week.

The decomposing bodies of Nestor Divinagracia, 50, and his son Ily, 25, were recovered at Campo Barn, Barangay Switch Yakal in Lantawan at around 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Chief Inspector John Cundo, Maluso police chief, and 2nd Lt. Tactay Panlaque of the 14th Special Forces Company led police and military personnel in search and rescue operations for the victims.

Senior Superintendent Nixon Muksan, Basilan police director, said soldiers belonging to the 15th Special Forces Battalion found the five other captives at about 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Divinagracia and his son were initially taken by the

bandits from their house in Barangay Lower Mahayahay, Maluso on July 20.

While fleeing, the kidnapers seized along the way Bertolacastesantos, 48; Hernando Sally, 53; Renato Casiple Jr., 36; Rene Sanson, 28, and Mamerto Falcasantos, 55.

Muksan said the victims were identified by their family members through their clothes.

"It's an unfortunate incident. The military did its best to rescue the victims," said Col. Juvymax Uy, Joint Task Force Basilan.

Uy said the beheadings were a desperate move of the Abu Sayyaf, noting that many

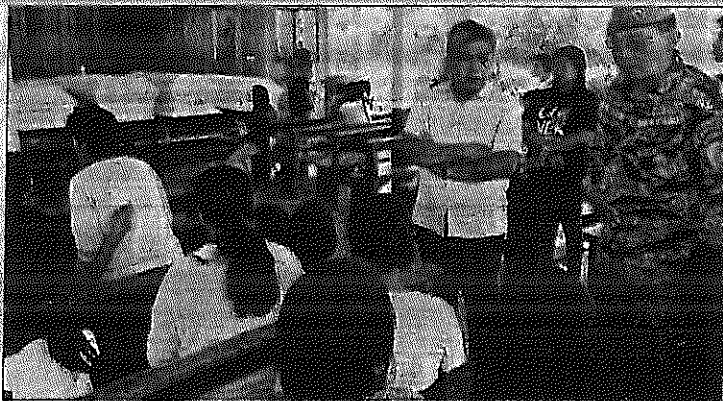
of their followers had surrendered or had been neutralized.

Several hostages, mostly foreigners, have been beheaded for failing to pay ransom.

The bandits are still holding five construction workers whom they seized at a public school in Patikul, Sulu last month. Sixteen other foreign-

ers and eight Filipinos remain in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Mujiv Hataman appealed to residents of Basilan to help authorities end the Abu Sayyaf problem in the province. "This should not divide us. Let us stand united to end this problem," he said.



Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Mujiv Hataman condoles with the families of the seven loggers beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf in Isabela, Basilan yesterday in this photo provided by dxNo Radyo Comunidad.

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Army builds model houses for Marawi relocation

By JOHN UNSON

LANAO DEL SUR – Army engineers started yesterday the construction of model houses of temporary shelters for displaced residents of Marawi City.

Lt Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. of the Western Mindanao Command told **The STAR** that personnel of the 54th Engineer Brigade are building two model houses in Barangay Sagongsongan in Marawi.

Engineers from the Department of Public Works and Highways Region 10 led by Abdulracman Paunte are assisting the military in building model houses for the soon to be returning evacuees.

The model house is a steel structure with a 26-square-meter floor area that could accommodate at least two to three small families.

The other model is a 4x6-meter building made of lumber with an elevated floor and galvanized roofing.

"We are expecting these model houses to be fully constructed a week from now," Galvez said Saturday.

The shelter project for evacuees, whose houses were either burned or destroyed as a consequence of the hostilities between Maute terrorists and the military, is part of Malacañang's post-conflict rehabilitation program for Marawi City.

Marawi is the capital of Lanao del Sur, a component province of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The 11-hectare relocation area for the evacuees in Barangay Sagongsongan will be divided into five housing sites, according to Galvez.

Task Force Bangon Marawi spokesman Kristoffer James Purisima said the government would soon construct the "transitional shelters" for thousands of evacuees.

"Again, what will be provided to the IDPs (internally displaced persons) are not tents, but transitional shelters," he said at the regular Mindanao Hour in Malacañang yesterday.

Purisima, also a deputy secretary at the Office of Civil Defense, said there are 104,000 displaced families or 467,000 persons.

The task force is conducting Rapid Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (RDANA) and Post Conflict Needs Assessment to determine the exact needs for the rebuilding of Marawi City. The assessment and analysis report will be ready within the week.

The rehabilitation of war-torn Marawi will start as soon as the fighting ends.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Bangon Marawi is now on its post-disaster assessment stage with Undersecretary Cesar Yano as the person in charge.

He said local government units, departments and local officials like governors, mayors and sultanates are being organized as "they will also have a say on the rehabilitation."

"Our priority is to bring back the infrastructure, the roads, the bridges. And then clearing the area and bringing back evacuees whose homes were not destroyed," Lorenzana said yesterday.

As for those whose houses were destroyed, particularly in the central business district of Marawi City, he said temporary housing will be built until evacuees can return to their homes after repair or rebuilding for those beyond repair.

Health Secretary Paulyn Ubial vowed to improve the healthcare system of Marawi City once the fighting ends.

"There are many health impacts of

this armed conflict and we hope it will be over soon so that we can start rebuilding Marawi build back better. We are laying down the rehabilitation plan for Marawi," she noted during a forum.

Ubial said over 30,000 residents are staying in evacuation centers while some 400,000 others are staying in the houses of relatives.

She assured the people that there is no outbreak of disease in the 87 evacuation centers set up for the evacuees.

The conflict had resulted in various health impacts that include the displacement of people, deaths, diseases, injuries, disabilities, damage to health facilities, interruption of health services and depletion of health resources.

– With Christina Mendez, Michael Punongbayan, Sheila Crisostomo

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MANILA BULLETIN
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Rebel killed in Bukidnon clash with SAF men

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – An alleged New People's Army (NPA) rebel was killed, while some war materials were seized by government forces in a fierce gun battle in Sitio Gape, Barangay Bukang Liwayway, Kibawe, Bukidnon province, a sketchy report reaching here on Monday said.

An initial report received here said elements of the First Special Action Forces (1st SAF) were conducting security patrol in Gape area when they were engaged at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday by an undetermined number of Communist guerillas.

The encounter lasted for more than 20 minutes, regional Army spokesperson Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez told The Manila Bulletin on Monday.

He said the rebels disengaged from the gun battle and fled to the nearby forested border of Bukidnon with Agusan and Davao region, after sensing they were outgunned and outnumbered.

The body of an unidentified insurgent was left behind by his retreating comrades.

Troops recovered four rifle grenades, landmines, a bolt assembly of an M16 Armalite rifle, other bomb-making materials, food, assorted medicines and several anti-government documents, he said.

"Our operating troops also found traces of blood along the bandits' withdrawal route, which indicated that several other rebels were wounded during the gunbattle," Martinez.

As of press time, combat troops of the 1st SAF and other combat maneuvering troops from the 403rd Infantry Brigade were still pursuing to the fleeing rebels in Gape area, he said.

The rebels were believed members of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-NPA North-Central Mindanao

Regional Committee, he added.

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Army probes attack on quarry site

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY — The Army is investigating if the New People's Army (NPA) is behind the burning of heavy equipment at a quarry site in Siaton, Negros Oriental, last Sunday.

"We are still verifying if it was perpetrated by the NPA," said Capt. Eduardo A. Precioso Jr., spokesman of the army's 3rd Infantry Division.

Police said a backhoe and a payload were doused with gasoline and set on fire by armed men on motorcycles. The armed men also fired several shots.

"That was based on the police report. But we don't have confirmation from the army's side," Precioso told The Manila Bulletin in a phone interview Monday.

He said the armed men shouted "Mabuhay ang NPA! (Long live the NPA)" before leaving the quarry site.

"That statement is usually associated with the NPA. But we can't be sure for now," he said.

The incident came more than a week after six policemen, including a police chief, were killed in an ambush in Guihulngan City.

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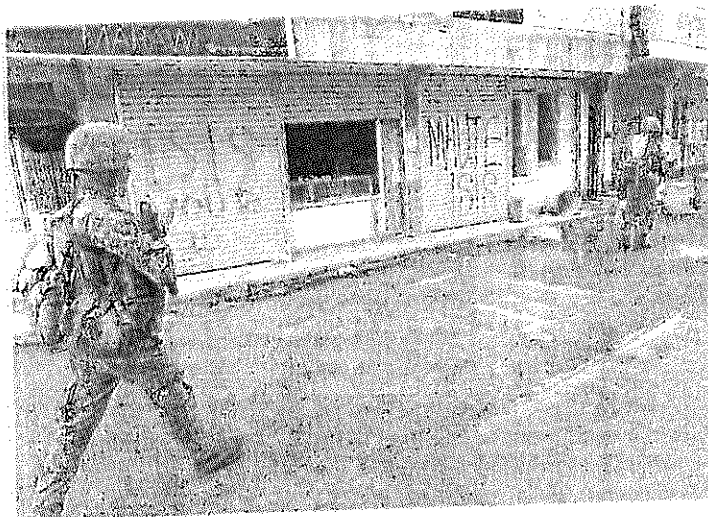
**NPA arms
cache raided**

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Security forces seized over the weekend an arms cache reportedly owned by New People's Army rebels in a remote village in Malita, Davao Occidental. Lt. Col. Marion Angcao of the 73rd Infantry Battalion said an NPA member, who had earlier surrendered to the military, led soldiers to a rebel hideout in Barangay Pangaleon, Malita where the high-powered firearms were recovered. The recovered firearms included an M-16 ArmaLite rifle, two carbine rifles, an M-203 grenade launcher, and a Springfield Garand rifle. (Joseph Jubelag)

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**Manda
Standard**

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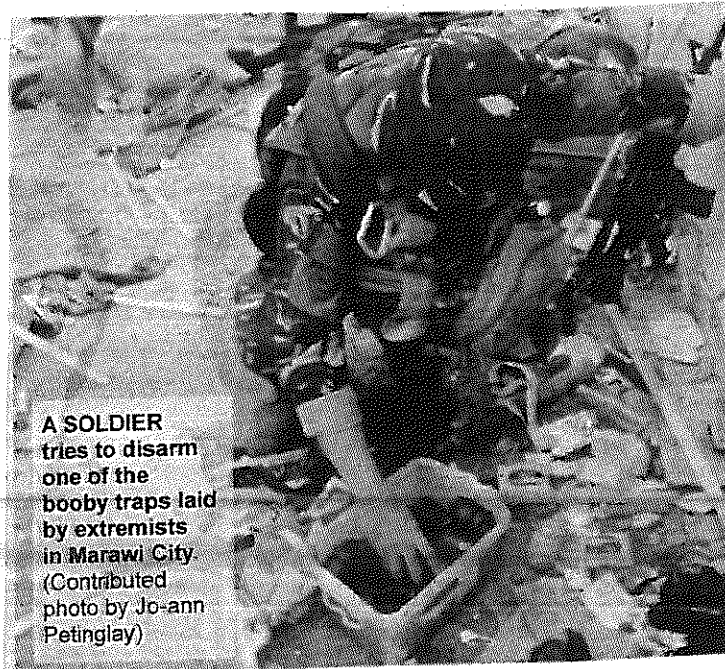
AT THE READY. Marine troops Monday walk past a graffiti scrawled on shopfronts during one of their daily patrols along a deserted street in the battle frontlines of Marawi City in Lanao del Sur. On July 22, Congress voted to extend President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao until yearend. AFP

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A SOLDIER
tries to disarm
one of the
booby traps laid
by extremists
in Marawi City.
(Contributed
photo by Jo-ann
Petinglay)

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Abu Sayyaf kills 5, beheads 2 in Basilan

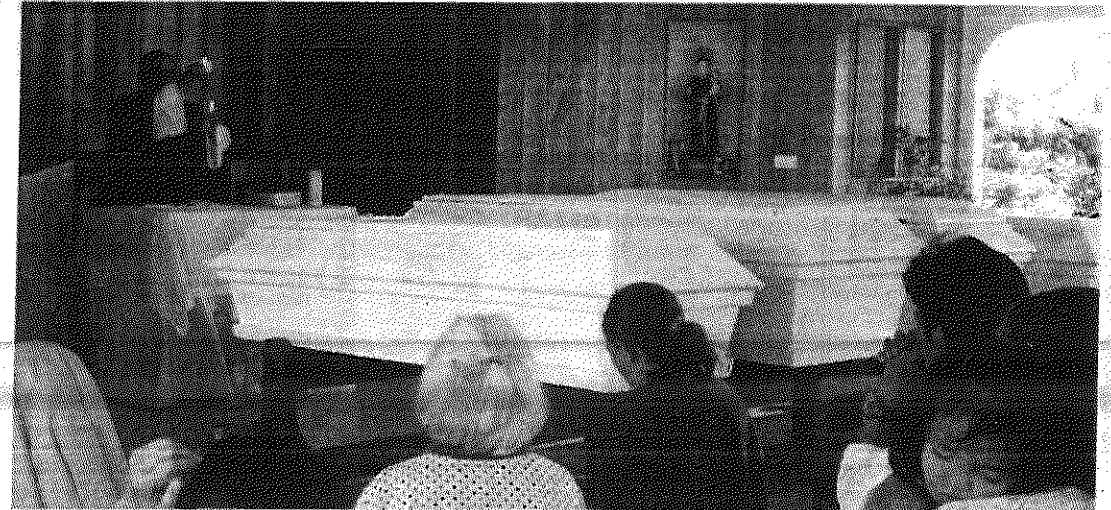
LANTAWAN, BASILAN— Families of farmers and militiamen beheaded by suspected members of Abu Sayyaf are demanding justice just as the number of bodies recovered separately in the province of Basilan, believed to be Sayyaf victims, had risen to seven.

“They treated my brothers like animals,” said Lucia Constanca of her brother Renato Casiple, 36, and half-brother Rene Sanson, 29.

“They cut their heads, they chopped their bodies,” Constanca said. The headless remains of Casiple and Sanson were found in the town of Maluso in Basilan on Saturday.

They were among five bodies recovered in Maluso believed to have been killed by the Abu Sayyaf.

Col. Andrew Bacala, commander of 4th Special Forces Battalion, said the victims were



Father Pascual Benitez, parish priest in Matarling, says Mass for the victims who lie in state at the San Antonio Chapel at Switch Yakal. —JULIE S. ALIPALA

farm workers and militiamen who had been actively supporting the government's antiterrorism campaign in Basilan.

The five bodies found in Maluso on Saturday were re-

covered more than a kilometer from where local businessman Dodong Divinagracia and his son, Ily, were found dead on Friday.

The Divinagracias were kid-

napped by Abu Sayyaf members in Maluso on July 20.

The kidnapers took the five other men a few hours after taking the father and son. —JULIE S.

ALIPALA INQ

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Military retakes key bridge in Marawi

Government forces have captured a key bridge leading to the main position of Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi City but will not use it to launch a major assault and instead press efforts to rescue civilian hostages, the military said on Monday.

Troops gained control last week of Mapandi bridge, which leads to Marawi's commercial center, where just 40 to 60 remaining terrorists from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups are believed to be holding 80 to 100 civilian hostages, mostly in a large mosque, according to Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We now have access to ground zero," Padilla said at a news conference in Malacanang, referring to the bridge over Marawi's Agus River.

Main objective

The bridge can now be used to rapidly transport troops and combat supplies to the war zone, but Padilla said the military's main objective was "to rescue the hostages."

President Duterte has ordered troops to ensure the safety of the hostages and not launch a massive assault that can endanger the captives even if that prolongs the terrorist siege of Marawi, which has already dragged for more than two months.

A total of 650 people have died in the fighting—491 terrorists, 14 soldiers and police, and 45 civilians—since the terrorists stormed Marawi on May 23 to establish an enclave of the Middle East-based Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Southeast Asia.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana expressed fears on



HUNTING FOR TERRORISTS Soldiers hunt for terrorists in a liberated area in Marawi City. —ARMY PHOTO

Monday that the terrorists, who have been using their hostages as human shields, may force some of the captives to serve as suicide bombers.

"That's one of the fears of our soldiers—[the terrorists] may let loose the civilians but force them to carry bombs," Lorenzana said.

Padilla said the terrorists were holed up in buildings in two villages within a square-kilometer pocket of the city center.

500 buildings

There are around 500 buildings in the area that troops have to clear of booby traps and unexploded ordnance, further slowing down the campaign to retake the city from the terrorists, Padilla said.

The terrorists have left so many improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance, slowing down the clearing operation, he added.

Padilla said troops were risking their lives in clearing the buildings but the job had to be done to prevent loss of life

and limb from explosions when residents returned to the city after the crisis.

More than 104,000 families, or 467,000 people, have fled their homes to avoid getting trapped in the fighting. They are staying in government-run shelters in Iligan City and surrounding areas.

Padilla said Marawi residents remained barred from returning to the city.

Only residents of villages outside the city have been allowed to return to their homes, he said.

Stray bullets

"Some Marawi residents tried to return to the city, but we had an incident where a returning resident was hit by a stray bullet. Good thing the resident did not die," Padilla said.

The return of faculty and students to Mindanao State University has also been delayed, as the school remains vulnerable to stray bullets, he said. —REPORTS FROM AP AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA INQ

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Tent city plan dropped

DAVAO CITY—A military-led multiagency team formed to help Marawi City rise after the attempt by terrorists to set up an Islamic State (IS) province there is dropping plans to put up a tent city and instead build sturdier structures for residents who lost homes.

An initial batch of 5,000 families have been tagged as beneficiaries.

The decision by Task Force Bangon Marawi came after local officials expressed hesitation to support the tent city proposal.

Marawi Mayor Majul Gandamra earlier said providing the displaced with semipermanent structures would give them not only a more decent shelter but also give them privacy.

"It will also make them comfortable because it will be a house," Gandamra said.

Tents, he said, "would always remind them that they are evacuees."

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, Joint Task Force Marawi spokesperson, said the Army's 54th Engineering Brigade, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Northern Mindanao and Marawi City Engineers' Office had started building two model temporary shelters.

Templates

Petinglay said the model houses would serve as templates for the structures that would be built in Sagonsongan, a village in Marawi tagged as a relocation site.

"The models are expected to be done after a week of work," she said.

Abdulracman Paunte, resident engineer of the DPWH in Northern Mindanao, said the

first model being built would be made of steel and wood and have 26 square meters of floor area. The temporary shelters, he said, could accommodate three families each.

Each unit would take at least eight days, Paunte said.

The relocation site in Sagonsongan could accommodate at least 1,000 units.

The shelter site would have communal kitchens, toilets and laundry areas. Power and water supply are being installed, Paunte said.

A unit would require four workers who could earn up to P15,000.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Western Mindanao Command chief, said bringing normalcy to the lives of Marawi residents was a top priority of the military.

The military, he said, would deploy mostly female soldiers for the rehabilitation phase in Marawi.

"Your soldiers will risk their lives not only to make sure that Marawi City would be free from terrorists, but also to speed up

Lt. Col. Jonjie Juguilon of the 547th Engineering Battalion said that while the model houses were being built, Army engineers were conducting ground works in the area.

Paid work

Mike Gulem, field engineer of the Marawi City government, said the completion of the entire site was expected by September or October.

Evacuees were tapped for the work to give them a source of income.

rehabilitation, so that shelters would be ready at the soonest possible time," Galvez added.

The military said it was in the final stages of finishing off members of Maute Group, a homegrown terror organization that had sworn allegiance to IS and tried to establish an IS province in Marawi, a predominantly Muslim city.

Authorities said only two villages and parts of a third village were still being occupied by Maute gunmen. —ALLAN

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MNLF: No recruitment in Basilan, Sulu

The Moro National Liberation Front has denied claims that it is recruiting new members in Basilan and Sulu to undergo training at an MNLF camp in Lanao del Sur.

Emmanuel Fontanilla, MNLF spokesman, said MNLF guerrillas are confined to their camps, adding that

their movement is coordinated with the military to avoid misencounters.

At least 60 alleged MNLF recruits were recently intercepted at a military checkpoint near Marawi, 33 in Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur and 27 in Guiwan, Zamboanga City. The MNLF has

said it has no links with the groups.

Upon interrogation, the men claimed they would undergo basic military training at Camp Jabal Nur prior to their integration into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"These arrests should

allay the fears of our people of the likelihood that rebellion in Marawi will spill over to their places, because the military and police are doing their level best to contain it," said Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief.

– Perseus Echeminada

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Maute fighters in Marawi down to 40 – Lorenzana

By **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

The military is fighting some 30 to 40 remaining members of the Maute terror group in Marawi City, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday.

"I think there are 30 to 40 left but these are the good fighters. In fact, we are still sustaining

casualties. Our latest three days ago was one killed and about nine wounded," he told reporters in an interview in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

However, since these are the better fighters, government troops still have to be careful in dealing with the enemy.

On Sunday, Lorenzana disclosed that five soldiers were

wounded in the fighting in Marawi.

Lorenzana said military forces are continuously clearing the areas still occupied by the Maute group, going house to house and room to room.

He said the operations are tough, noting that government troops believe the enemy is still holding at least 30 hostages

who are being used as human shields.

"We are not sure if they will use civilians for suicide bombing, we don't know. That's what our soldiers are concerned about, that they might release civilians but with bombs on them," he added.

So far, the Marawi siege that forced President Duterte to declare martial law in Mindanao has claimed the lives of 114 soldiers and policemen and 45 civilians, while 491 terrorists have been killed with 584 firearms recovered.

Military spokesman Brig Gen Restituto Padilla said soldiers also captured a key bridge leading to the main position of Islamic State group-linked Maute terrorists.

Government forces are now in control of Ma-

pandi Bridge, which leads to Marawi's interior business district where about 40 remaining militants are believed to be holding 80 to 100 hostages, mostly in a large mosque, Padilla said. But a major assault wasn't imminent, he said.

"We now have direct access to ground zero," Padilla said at a news conference in Manila, referring to the bridge over Marawi's Agus River that can now be used to transport troops and combat supplies. "Our main objective is to rescue the hostages."

President Duterte has ordered troops to ensure the safety of the hostages and not launch a massive assault that could endanger the captives even if that prolongs the militant siege, which has already dragged on for more than two months.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) also banned the loading and unloading of passengers in private seaports in Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (Zambasulta) that might be used by supporters of the

Maute group.

PCG spokesman Commander Armand Balilo yesterday said that Coast Guard Southeastern Mindanao District commander Captain Ronie Gil Gavan issued the directive that took effect last Sunday.

Ships and boats have to use the public seaports operated by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to load or unload their passengers.

"Passenger ships are no longer allowed by the District Commander Captain Gavan to load and unload passengers at the private ports in the entire area of Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. We have already notified the ships that they are not allowed to dock in these private ports," said Balilo.

"Sometimes you cannot be too certain with the private ports, if you have their full operation in enforcing security or if they are profit-oriented. We can never be entirely certain," he added.

– With Evelyn Macairan, AP

9 August 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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7 Basilan loggers beheaded; ARMM police point to Abu Sayyaf

Seven local loggers were killed and beheaded by men believed to be Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, Chief Superintendent

Reuben Theodore Sindac, director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) regional police, ►4

said on Monday

The decomposing bodies of the seven victims were found by personnel of the Maluso Police Station on Sunday in Barangay Switch Yakal in Lantawan town.

They were identified as Nestor Venegracia, 50, his son Ily, 25, residents of Barangay Lower Mahayahay in Maluso town; Berto Lacastesantos, 48; Hernando Sally, 53; Renato Casiple, Jr. 36; Rene Samson, 28; and Mamerto Falcasantos, 55.

Sindac said the two Venegracias were kidnapped on July 20 by unidentified gunmen who burned down their houses and motorcycles.

As the gunmen were dragging the two towards the mountainous area of Lanatawan, they took five other loggers.

The headless bodies of the Venegracias were found at around 4 p.m. Sunday. The bodies of the five other victims

were found nearby. The seven bodies were identified by their relative by the clothes they wore, Sindac said.

Two of the suspects, according to Sindac, were identified as Pasil Bayali and Otho Dobol.

Chief Inspector Tara Leah Cuyco, ARMM regional police information officer, said investigation disclosed that the kidnapping of the seven loggers and their beheading was carried out by the Abu Sayyaf.

The two suspects were said to be connected with Furuji Indama whose rubber plantation had been destroyed by chainsaw operators. Indama is believed to be a commander of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and is tagged as responsible in several other beheadings in the past.

Cuyco said Indama believed that the seven loggers were responsible for the destruction of his plantation. (Aaron B. Recuenco)

01 August 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Maute use of hostages as 'suicide bombers' feared

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD
and GENALYN D. KABILING

Security forces continue to tighten the noose on Maute fighters who, according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana have been reduced to about 30 or 40 fighters holed in two barangays in Marawi City. But though only a handful, Lorenzana cautioned against underestimating the group say- ▶4

ing those holding their ground against government troops in the battle zone are "good fighters." In fact, Lorenzana said the government is still taking in casualties.

Reports from the field also place the number of civilian hostages being used as human shield at 30.

During the Flag Raising ceremony at the GHQ Canopy, Camp Agumaldo in Quezon City Monday morning, the Defense chief aired the concern of soldiers in Marawi about the possibility that the militants might use their civilian hostages as "suicide bombers" out of desperation.

Lorenzana said, "what our troops fear (is) that they might order the civilians with bombs... to get near the troops and detonate themselves."

Lorenzana stressed that ongoing mopping operations – house-to-house and room-to-room clearing is very difficult and dangerous.

Troops are doing these tasks very carefully in order to avoid the militants' practice of using hostages as shields to avoid causing needless casualties to civilians.

As of Sunday night, about 491 Maute fighters have been killed in 68 days of fighting while the government lost 114 soldiers. At least 45 civilians were killed.

Security forces have recovered about 584 high-powered firearms while 1,723 civilians were rescued.

Sick

Meanwhile, at least 25 soldiers got sick of dengue, typhoid and diarrhea in the month of July alone while fighting the Maute terrorists because of the poor environmental condition in the battle-zone.

Captain Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) and Joint Task Force Marawi said the troops "got sick of dengue due to the presence of mosquitoes as the entire city has not been cleaned, as there are no people. Some with diarrhea due to dirty water, the water source. In every firefight, sometimes our troops drink dirty water.

So before residents can return, we need to fumigate the place."

The presence of dead bodies of humans and animals in their midst also contributed to the problem, she added.

Petinglay said most of those who got sick have already been treated and have gone back to the battlefield.

"What we are trying to emphasize is may ganun na nangyayari and we want to prevent the spread of epidemics," Petinglay said.

Unsafe

Task Force Bangon Marawi has started post-disaster assessment towards the rehabilitation of Marawi.

"Undersecretary (retired Gen. Cesar) Yano is already there. He is the one in charge to organize the government agencies, the departments, the local officials, the governor, mayor and LGUs," Lorenzana said.

"They will also have a say in the rehabilitation. Their priority is to bring back infrastructure, the roads, and clear the area of debris. Once cleared, we will allow the evacuees to return to their homes if these were not destroyed. Then we will also start with stores, that's why the DTI will have rolling stores so that the evacuees will be able to buy supplies," he added.

Lorenzana said those whose houses were located in the Central Business District (CBD) will temporarily stay in the temporary housing units.

"After the firefight, we will start the rehabilitation immediately. The engineering equipment is already there, they are ready. Even the DPWH is ready for the rehabilitation," Lorenzana assured.

However, as the troops continue to clear the area of explosives and other traps by the rebels, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. strongly advised displaced residents against returning to their houses.

Please do not return to your houses yet due to the huge risk or danger you will face," Padilla said in a Palace news conference.

"The current operation inside

Marawi is ongoing and the focus is particularly in areas where quite a number of unexploded ordnance and IEDs (improvised explosive devices) are still present,” he added.

Outside residents only

Apart from explosives, Padilla raised the danger of sniper fire and stray bullets may hit innocent civilians who insist on returning to their homes.

He noted that they received initial reports that a resident who tried to go home was hit by a stray bullet and fortunately survived. He said the incident highlights the persistent security risks in the battle zone.

Padilla said the government troops want to ensure Marawi City is safe and secure to avoid the loss of more lives and limbs.

While the military used to clear 50 to 100 buildings a day, the operations have slowed down since the area is littered with unexploded ordnance.

“Unfortunately as we get into the main battle area, the complexity of clearing operations becomes all the more compounded primarily because of many more unexploded ordnance,” he said.

“We appeal for more patience because we are also hastening the cleaning efforts,” he added.

For now, Padilla explained only residents outside Marawi city are allowed to go back their respective residences.

“We would like to set the record straight that current plans to allow the return of residents to their places of residence applies to IDPs who are residents outside the city of Marawi. In particular, these municipalities within Lake Lanao and not IDPs from Marawi City itself,” he said.

He said the residents of municipalities within Lake Lanao and outside of Marawi City can return to their homes by passing through alternate routes – the Saguiaran-Piagapo road and Malabang to Lanao del Sur road.

Displaced families from Marawi City who want to stay with their relatives living near Lake Lanao may do so, according to Padilla. He assured that they would continue to receive relief assistance from government upon registration with local authorities. (With a report from PNA)

01 August 2017

The Manila Times

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NPA 'abductions' send schools in panic

BY JAIME G. AQUINO

SAN NICOLAS, Pangasinan: Local government and public school officials here appealed to the public to stop circulating unverified news about the alleged abduction of some students in various schools by heavily armed men believed to be members of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

"The fake news reports are very alarming to us and some of the parents refused to send their children to school for fear that

they will be kidnapped by the NPA rebels," some teachers told *The Manila Times* in an exclusive interview on Monday.

The principal of Talongapoi Elementary School in Santa Maria town where government troops and NPA rebels clashed on Friday belied reports about the abduction of their students, contrary to the reports circulated on social media and aired by Metro Manila-based radio stations.

Maxima Bandiola, San Nicolas school district supervisor said the fake news reports were still carried by social media as of Monday but this did not lead to suspension of classes in elementary schools here.

In an emergency meeting on Monday, Bandiola urged school principals to inform parents not to be afraid of sending their children to school because there are no NPA abductions in San Nicolas.

Bandiola said classes are proceeding normally in various schools in mountainous areas – Kulangew Elementary School, Bangar Elementary School, Sapinit Elementary School, Pastoran Elementary School and Puyao Elementary School.

"I hope it will be published in the national newspapers that there

is no truth to the news circulating on social media so that [Education] Secretary Leonor Briones will not be worried about us," Donato Balderas, Pangasinan 2 schools Division superintendent said.

Santa Maria *barangay* (village) chairman Rodolfo Mengua said this was the first time since his childhood that a gunfight happened between soldiers and rebels in their locality.

He, however, NPA rebels who are apparently based in Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, have been sighted by residents since 2015.

"People from our village who live in the mountains have confirmed seeing armed rebels in their area but they [rebels] have not disturbed the peace," Mengua said.

Mengua also belied reports that Santa Maria is now infested with NPA rebels, calling them a fabrication, considering that no NPA campsite has been found in their village.

A checkpoint along the provincial road going to San Nicolas has been removed upon orders of the police provincial director, Senior Supt. Ronald Oliver-Lee.

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7 loggers beheaded by Sayyaf

By Francisco Tuyay

ABU Sayyaf bandits beheaded their seven victims whose bodies were found on the outskirts of Maluso town in Basilan on Sunday afternoon, an official said Monday.

In a statement, Chief Supt. Reuben Theodore Sindac, regional director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the decomposing bodies of the seven victims were recovered separately in Basilan's forested areas.

Sindac identified the victims as Nestor de Venagracia and his son Ely, both residents of Lower Mahayahay village in Maluso town; Berto Lacastesantos, 48, Hermando Sally, 53, Renato Casiple, Jr., 36 and Rene Sanson, 28, all residents of Campo Barn in Switch Yakal, Lantawan; and Mamerto Falcasantos, 55, of

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Santo Niño in Matarling village in Lantawan town.

All seven were said to be loggers who were kidnapped in separate occasions on July 20

Sindac said the bodies of the victims were turned over to their respective families while their case was still being investigated

In February this year and in November last year, the Abu Sayyaf beheaded German national Jurgen Kantner and Canadians Robert Hall and John Ridsdel after their families failed to pay ransom.

The bandits are still holding dozens of kidnapped Asians and Europeans while the military continues to look for them.

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Marawi still danger zone for evacuees, AFP warns

By John Paolo Bencito

THE residents of Marawi City have not yet been cleared to return to their war-ravaged homes, the military said Monday even “transitional shelters” are being planned for them instead of the “tent cities” as earlier planned. Military spokesman Restituto

Padilla said those allowed to return to their homes were the residents of the municipalities outside Marawi or those within the vicinity of Lake Lanao.

“We would like to correct recent news regarding the return of IDPs [internally displaced people] to their areas, and we would

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Marawi...

From A1

like to set the record straight that current plans to allow the return of residents to their places of residence applies to IDPs who are residents outside the City of Marawi,” Padilla told reporters in Malacñang.

He made his statement even as Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Monday the number of Maute group members left in Marawi City was down to 30 to 40 fighters as government forces continued to track them down.

“They are just a handful. I think they are down to only 30 to 40 fighters but don’t discount them as these are good fighters and we are still taking casualties,” Lorenzana said.

“In fact, we had one killed and nine wounded some three days ago and yesterday. Clearing operations are still ongoing.”

The displaced residents of Marawi City who may want to stay with their relatives in the municipalities along Lake Lanao could do so, Padilla said.

But he said they must register with the municipality for accounting purposes and distribu-

tion of relief goods.

The three-month siege in Marawi has displaced, more than 104,000 families who now live in more than 70 evacuation centers all over Marawi.

Transitional shelters and not tent cities will be built for residents affected by the ongoing siege.

Padilla said a resident who returned to Marawi was hurt after being hit by a stray bullet.

Office of Civil Defense Assistant Secretary Kristoffer James Purisima said they had yet to build shelters since government agencies like the National Housing Authority must first decide where those should be built.

He said his office was coordinating with the displaced residents of Marawi and asking them whether they preferred to live in tents or in transitional shelters.

But Padilla said the priority was still the clearing of Marawi City and other affected localities of unexploded ordnance before the government could start a full-blown recovery and rehabilitation.

Some 40 to 60 terrorists are believed to be holding 80 to 100 hostages, Padilla said.

With PNA

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Palace backs 3 leftist Cabinet members

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Malacañang reiterated yesterday support for three leftist Cabinet secretaries despite President Duterte's decision to pursue the government's offensive against the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Senior deputy executive secretary Menardo Guevarra said there is no reason to relieve Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo, Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III from their posts.

"As far as the Office of the President is concerned, we see no reason why the three so-called leftist members of the Cabinet will have to be removed," he said, rebutting the call of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV for the Chief Executive to remove the three left-leaning officials from the Cabinet.

Trillanes said it is incumbent for the President to fire the three officials after he ordered the military to go after the New People's Army (NPA).

Guevarra defended the three officials, adding that they continue to have the President's trust and confidence.

Rody meets cop freed by NPA

As this developed, Duterte met Police Officer 1 Alfredo Basabica Jr. to check his condition shortly after he was released by NPA rebels last week.

Malacañang said Basabica was presented to the President at the Tactical Operations Group (TOG)-11 Headquarters in Davao City last Sunday.

Basabica was released by the rebels last July 28, a day before his supposed wedding to his fiancée Princess Kaye Dacoycoy.

He is a member of the 2nd Platoon of the Davao Oriental Provincial Public Safety Command in Aliwagwag PPSC Patrol Base in Cateel, Davao Oriental.

NPA rebels captured the policeman while he was on board a passenger bus and on his way home along Kilometer 26 in Barangay Panansalan, Compostela town, Compostela Valley province last July 11.

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HOTSPOT

What revolution?



By TONYO CRUZ

RODRIGO Duterte used to say he's the Philippines' first leftist president and that he's a socialist.

Duterte endeared himself to voters and later to many citizens for speaking about "bold reforms." He spoke about forming a government of national unity, adopting an independent foreign policy, fighting the oligarchy, implementing free land distribution, stopping Endo and contractualization, reforming the tax system, having one single national minimum wage, and addressing the historic grievances of the Bangsamoro.

At other times, he broached the idea of the New People's Army, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front joining the Armed Forces of the Philippines in concerted actions.

Taken together, these are revolutionary ideas that could bring radical reforms beneficial to the majority. No wonder, his supporters proclaimed a coming Duterte revolution.

But the revolution has not come. Between 30 June 2016 and now, nothing revolutionary has happened under Duterte.

Even the most loyal and most devoted Duterte supporter can only give us a list of "consuelo de bobo" or token reforms, or would only manage to recite the standard refrains of apologists: "It's been only one year," "give him a chance," "look at the bright side," and so on.

In the past few days, President Duterte has completely shed his previous claims of being a leftist and socialist. He has ordered the Philippine National Police, the chief implementor of the brutal anti-drug war, to "wipe out the NPA." He said he wants to bomb schools of Lumad. He also shut the door to the peace negotiations.

From claiming to be a leftist and socialist, Duterte is now at war with leftists and socialists.

Duterte has embraced a triad of warmongers and anti-communist defense officials who preach martial law and counterinsurgency war. This triad represents the past that we seek to change — the idea that a military solution, even a most brutal war, would end the so-called communist insurgency — the mindset since the time of Marcos.

Duterte has been obedient to this trio, and we have lots of proof that he obeys. He reneged on his promise to release all political prisoners. He has

insisted on a ceasefire, while showing a disinterest in forging agreements on socio-economic and political reforms. He has imposed and extended martial law in Mindanao. Like a marionette, he now spews the standard military lines against the communists.

If there's a part of the state bureaucracy that needs to be reformed, it is the military and police. Incompetence is their least offense. People have a long list of their offenses and crimes. But under Duterte, they just instantly became new. No reforms needed.

For all his bravado, Duterte has not fought the oligarchy. Instead, Duterte has clinged to the oligarchy and gave the oligarchs starring roles in his economic team.

Consider this: Duterte's labor department not only has refused to stop contractualization. It could only offer workers a beggarly ₱16 minimum-wage increase. (Labor has rejected the "limos.")

Consider this too: The oligarchs are "fine" with Duterte's tax reform package. They are fine with it because it is the poor and the middle class who would bear the burden of expanded excise taxes and other new impositions. What's so radical or bold in a tax reform that pampers the rich and crucifies the majority?

Our parents and grandparents should be having an endless déjà vu since 2016, starting with Bongbong Marcos' candidacy and Duterte's decision to honor the dictator with a hero's burial.

Like Marcos, Duterte promised a revolution. Like Marcos, he could only deliver a new martial law against revolutionaries. There's no revolution against the oligarchs and the corrupt — who remain in power and who sustain him in power.

Duterte thinks he can terrorize the NPAs with martial law, Marcosian terror and “street thug” talk. He forgets that Marcos became the NPA's biggest recruiter and arms supplier. The Reds outlasted Marcos and subsequent regimes.

Today, Duterte's fall from grace as a self-styled revolutionary is nearly complete. In his post-SONA press conference, he had no second thoughts saying Lumad schools should be bombed.

Bombing schools is cowardly. And history teaches us that cowards have been known to abandon and betray the revolution.

*Follow me on Twitter @
tonyocruz*

0 | August 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 4



Ubusin na raw ang NPA

WALANG tigil ang bangayan nina Pres. Rodrigo Duterte at CPP chairman Jose Maria Sison. Ayon kay Sison, si Duterte raw ang numero unong drug addict dahil sa kanyang pag-abuso sa gamot na Fentanyl, na si Duterte mismo ang umamin na nag-enjoy siya nang sinobrahan niya ang pag-inom nito.

Ang Fentanyl ay malakas na gamot pantaban sa pananakit. Uminom si Duterte ng Fentanyl dahil sa dinadaling na sakit sanhi ng pagkaaksidente sa motorsiklo. May okasyon na hindi raw sinunod ang tamang pag-inom ng gamot, at tila "nasa cloud nine" ang pakiramdam.

Pero hindi tumigil si Sison. Ayon sa kanya, ginawang

mga personal na "death squads" ni Duterte ang mga pulis sa pamamagitan ng panunuhol ng pera at promosyon. Habang napapatay ang libu-libong mahihirap na adik o tulak-droga, may mga "pinalampas" na lang daw si Duterte tulad nila Peter Lim at mga heneral na unang sinangkot sa droga. Mga mahihirap lang daw ang kaya ni Duterte dahil hindi kayang labanan ang kanyang kapangyarihan. Kaya nagpapatuloy umano ang "rebolusyon" ng NPA dahil sa mga katulad ni Duterte.

Habang isinusulat ko ang kolum na ito, lumabas ang balita na napatay si Ozamiz City Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. asawa nito at 13 iba pa ng mga tauhan ng CIDG, dahil nanlaban umano ang security nito habang nagsisilbi ng search warrant.

Hinamon naman ni Duterte si Sison na bumalik na ng Pilipinas at dito siya labanan. Nasa Netherlands si Sison at doon nanirahan mula 1987. Tinawag ding mga mangingikil at kriminal ang NPA, at nagkukunwari lang na may ideolohiyang ipinaglalaman. May utos si Duterte na ubusin na ang NPA kapag natapos na ang krisis sa Marawi. Wala pang makapagsasabi kung kailan iyan. Higit dalawa't kalahating buwan na ang labanan sa Marawi, at wala na ngang inilalabas na deadline ang gobyerno.

Kailangan ding banggitin na limang dekada na ang rebolusyon ng NPA, at wala pang administrasyon ang naging

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

K KA LANG?... Mula pahina 4

matagumpay sa pagsugpo nito. Bagama't bumaba na nang husto ang bilang nila, nakakagawa pa nang pag-salakay sa gobyerno. Kai-

lan lang ay napatay nila ang anim na pulis sa Negros Oriental. Kung ito na ang kanilang katapusan, hindi pa rin masasabi

ONLINE NEWS

01 AUGUST 2017

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

DoJ sets hearing on suspected Maute members

From Business World (Jul 31): DoJ sets hearing on suspected Maute members

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice (DoJ) in Manila has taken the lead in the case filed against 58 suspected members of the Maute terrorist group and an alleged lone recruiter.

State prosecutors, led by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter L. Ong, headed the inquest proceedings of the 59, who were flown in from Zamboanga del Sur, at the main office of the DoJ last Friday.

Among the 59 facing rebellion complaints is Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) member Nur Supian, who was identified by the 58 as their recruiter.

The DoJ said the preliminary investigation hearing will continue on Aug. 14, 2:00 p.m. The suspects are expected to file their counter-affidavit or their defense on the next hearing.

Justice Undersecretary Erickson H. Balmes, in a message, said the arrested "claimed that they were MNLF/MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) but MNLF/MILF denied them."

The MNLF and the MILF have committed to the peace process and both were represented in the Bangsamoro Transition Commission that drafted the latest proposal for a new Bangsamoro political and geographic entity.

All the 59 suspects are currently detained at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

Once the case reaches court trial, it will be handled by the Taguig Regional Trial Court as ordered by the Supreme Court.

<http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Nation&title=doj-sets-hearing-on-suspected-maute-members&id=149039>

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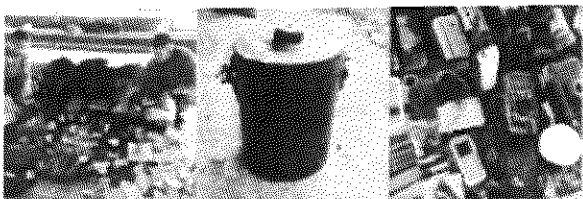
FOILED | AFP thwarted another NPA terror attempt in Palawan

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on July 31, 2017 at 12:06 PM

BATARAZA, Palawan (DWDD) – The 24th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team – 4 (MBLT-4), led by 1Lt Joe Luis Asperin PN(M) spoils another terror attempt by the Communist terrorists when they recovered 1 fully assembled improvised explosive device (IED) and other war materials last July 28, 2017 at Sitio Kambingan, Barangay Malihud, Bataraza.

This terrorist group is slowly breaking into pieces as the community is fed up with their deceptive and evil activities in the area.

"There is no stopping now... You messed up with the wrong MARINES!" **WESCOM / MCAG**



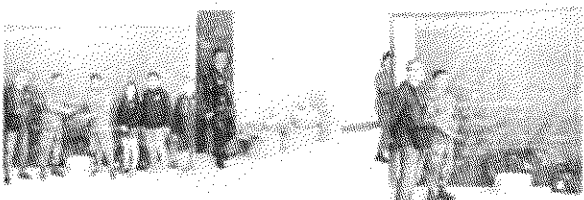
www.dwdd.com.ph

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | AFP-KIG Soldiers Receives Donations

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on July 31, 2017 at 1:55 AM

PALAWAN (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines – Western Command (WESCOM) would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Support Our Filipino Troops CEBU-SOFT for their kind donation intended for the soldiers of AFP Kalayaan Island Group (KIG) Detachments.

May you be blessed a hundred-fold. Matamang Salamat po! **WESCOM / MCAG**



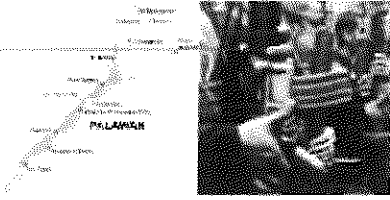
[#OnePalawanParaSaKapayapaan](#) [#OneWESCOM](#) [#TeamWESCOM](#)

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FIREFIGHT | PH Marines engages NPAs in Southern Palawan anew

By Alvin Santiago | July 21, 2014 | 11:00 AM



PALAWAN (DWDD) – Philippine Marine forces engaged the terrorist New People’s Army near the border of Rizal and Bataraza Town in southern Palawan.

According to Lt. Col. Danilo Facundo, commanding officer of the Marine Battalion Landing Team – 4, the latest encounter occurred at the boundary of Barangay Malihud in Bataraza and Barangay Culasian in Rizal, which was the third of similar skirmishes between the two forces since the government launched “focused military operations” to run after the insurgents.

Based on reports, the marines, led by 1Lt. Giovanni Bangoy, engaged the terrorist group which fled the area carrying with them their wounded companions. Recovered from the encounter site were a homemade shotguns and a mobile phone.

The first encounter between military forces and the NPA occurred on July 21 at Sitio Kambingan, Malihud. The second followed on July 23, also in the same barangay but in the area of Sitio Ilyan. **WESCOM / MCAG**

#OnePalawanKontraTerorismo #OneWESCOMparasaKapayapaan #PalawanAyawsaNPA

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

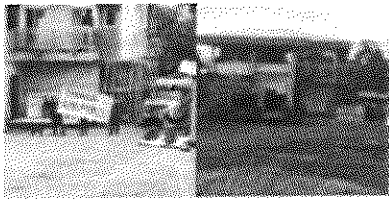
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UNITED FORCE | The Simple Joys of A Huey Pilot

Written by [Alvin Santiago](#) on July 11, 2017 at 10:28 AM

MANILA (DWDD) – “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.” -Mother Teresa-

With the current crisis with the Maute Group in Marawi City, Lanao Del Sur, the armed forces are united in reclaiming its freedom. With the increasing number of wounded personnel and demand for mission essentials, the “Mighty Huey” of the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing has been very reliable.



The Hueys are used to transport wounded personnel in order to receive immediate first aid and save their lives. Supplies are also delivered to the frontlines in the shortest possible time to increase the overall success of the mission.

Our ground troops, the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police who are at the forefront of the battlefield, risk their lives to reclaim the City of Marawi. But despite the current challenges they face, the ground troops never failed to boost the morale of their comrades from the Philippine Air Force.

In their own little way, they flashed a sign saying “THANK U AIRFORCE” – a simple gesture of showing their gratitude to the Huey pilots for saving their lives. This only demonstrates how Huey pilots perform a critical role in serving the country and its people.

The gesture of appreciation may be simple but it gave a very inspiring warmth in our hearts and motivated us to work harder. Our responsibilities as Tactical Heli-lifters play a vital role in every crisis that our country faces and will face in the future. Every soldier that we save means one less fatherless homes, one less crying mother, and one less widowed wife.

With that in mind we, the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing, will be your dependable unit ready to perform our task anytime, anywhere. **Courtesy of 205th THW / Photos courtesy of 1Lt Rolando R Jacutin PAF and 1Lt Michael Vincent F Perandos PAF / MCAG**

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LIBRENG SERBISYO | TOG 3, DEPED Joins the Launching Ceremony of Adopt a School Program

Written by: Alvin Santiago on July 25, 2017 at 3:05:42

CAPAS, Tarlac (DWDD) – The Tactical Operations Group 3 (TOG3), together with Department of Education-Tarlac and other stakeholders joined the launching ceremony of adopt a school program sponsored by Dra. Germiline Guiao, which benefited Manlapig Elementary School in Capas, Tarlac on July 25, 2017.

The launching ceremony aims to extend the “libreng serbisyo” by the stakeholders and to introduce the TOG-3 to its neighboring barangays.

The launching ceremony was attended by the TOG 3 Commander, Lt Col Perfecto R Magalong Jr PAF (GSC) and participated by the men and women of the Group through manpower services, assistance, display of PAF booths, and presentation of promotional video.

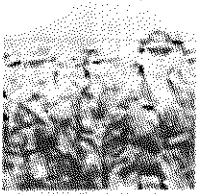
The conduct of the activity has greatly contributed the teachers and students of Manlapig Elementary School. Apart from that, they have learned that the Philippine Air Force is an organization that truly advocates absolute peace and sustainable development. **PAF PAO / MCAG**



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ARTICLE 179 | Philippine Army statement on unauthorized wearing of military uniform

Photo by [Alvin Santiago](#) | [View on Facebook](#)



FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD) – The military uniform is a symbol of authority that must be used properly and with dignity. The unauthorized wearing by civilians impacts negatively on the image of the Philippine Army and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, apart from security implications. Lawless elements have often worn military uniforms to carry out atrocious activities or impersonating as soldiers for other criminal purposes. We call on all civilian citizens to desist from unauthorized wearing of any military uniform. Under the law, offenders can be prosecuted for violation of Article 179 of the Revised Penal Code (Illegal Use of Uniforms or Insignia), which penalizes any person who shall publicly and improperly make use of insignias, uniforms or any dress pertaining to an office not held by that person or to a class of persons of which he or she is not a member. Offenders can also be prosecuted for violation of Republic Act 493, for the crime of wearing, using, manufacturing and selling of insignias, decorations, medals, badges, patches and identification cards prescribed for the Armed Forces of the Philippines by persons not in the service. We highly encourage the public to report cases of violations of RA 493 and Article 179 of the RPC to proper authorities. We must instill pride in the service and in the uniform and accord it due respect. **OACPA / PFC Christopher Ian Camacho / MCAG**

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DONNING OF RANKS | Young Cannoneers Promoted and Awarded

Written by Alvin Santiago on July 31, 2017 at 4:25 AM

CAMP SIONGCO AWANG, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao (DWDD) – The 6th Field Artillery (Deadly Accurate) Battalion (6FAB), Army Artillery Regiment (AAR), recognized its soldiers, whose promotion was finally approved by its higher unit, in a simple ceremony at its headquarters in Camp Siongco, Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

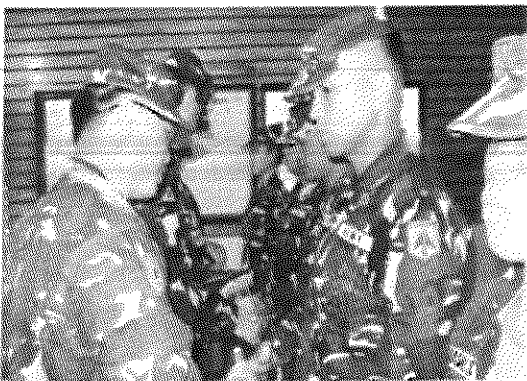
Five Enlisted Personnel with the ranks of Privates were promoted to the next higher rank of Private First Class namely Kayce M Abuan, Ronelo A Zarsuelo, Jonirick M Sultan, Jess Mar S Diasnes and Regio Nhel R Allado. The donning of their ranks was facilitated by LTCOL Edgar Rosete Delos Reyes, the Assistant Chief of Staff of Personnel, G1 of the 6th Infantry Division (6ID), Philippine Army.

Meanwhile, the highlight of the ceremony was the awarding of the Bronze Cross Medals among the promoted young Cannoneers, PFCs Abuan and Sultan, who have distinguished themselves for acts of heroism and risked their lives in the actual Fire Support Mission in support to the Law Enforcement Operations (LEO) of the 6ID last May 2017 in the areas of Salvu, Pagatin, Mamasapano and Shariff Aguak, all of Maguindanao.

In his message, LTC Delos Reyes said, "The over-all success of the 6ID's LEO was because of 6FAB's significant contribution as our supporting unit and this is a manifestation of your fervent commitment to transform into a well-responsive artillery unit which is founded on good governance and most especially, performance excellence".

LTCOL Francis Anthony M Coronel, Commander of 6FAB, likewise recognized his Officers and Senior NCOs for closely supervising their subordinates, "The accomplishments of our young blood cannoneers today was the result of your constant mentoring and coaching to them. May all of you continue to support each other and become better versions of yourselves each day."

A total of six Officers and 43 other Enlisted Personnel from 6FAB were already awarded with Bronze Cross Medals by 6ID. **6DPAO / PFC Jose Vionel F Mariano / MCAG**



LTC Egdar Rosete Delos Reyes (INF) GSC PA, Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1 donned the ranks of the newly promoted Privates First Class of 6FAB

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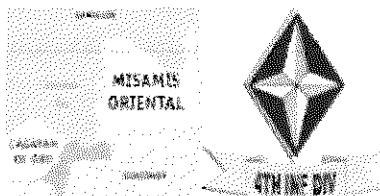


Newly Promoted Private First Class Kayce M Abuan, 6FAB designated Gender and Development NCO, received her first Bronze Cross Medal from 6ID for acts of heroism and risked of life. The recognition followed after their successful Fire Support Operation last May 2017 which was considered as her first Baptism of Fire.

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AW ENFORCEMENT | 4ID MLSAG Confiscated 16 Assorted Firearms in CDO Operation

By Alvin Santiago, 4ID Martial Law Special Action Group



CAMP EVANGELISTA, Patag, Cagayan de Oro City (DWDD) – By virtue of the

two search warrants that were issued by the RTC 10 Branch 43, the 4th Infantry Division Martial Law Special Action Group or 4ID MLSAG composed of personnel from the 4ID, PDEA 10, CIDG 10, PRO 10, and RIC 10 simultaneously launched law enforcement operations in Barangays Pagatpat and Bonbon, both of Cagayan de Oro City which resulted to the successful confiscation of sixteen assorted firearms (3 long and 13 short) and the arrest of one suspect early today, 27 July 2017.

In Barangay Pagatpat, the operation was launched to search the house of a certain Jalaludin Bacaraman Lao. Lao is allegedly linked to gun smuggling in Northern Mindanao. Unfortunately, only Lao's wife was present during the operation. The team recovered one (1) M4 5.56mm rifle, two (2) cal.45 pistols, one (1) cal.38 pistol, and assorted ammunitions.

It can be recalled that last month, June 29, more or less 8000 ammunitions were intercepted by 4ID MLSAG in a garage of a cargo forwarding office in Brgy Camaman-an, CDOC. According to the witnesses, the items were supposed to be delivered to Marawi City and Lao has a direct involvement on the said transaction.

"Aside from addressing the threat situation, one of the major concerns of the 4ID MLSAG is to stop the proliferation of illegal firearms, ammunitions, and other contrabands in the area. That is why together with the PNP, PDEA, and other Government forces, we are relentless and very deliberate in our action to intercept and to stop any kind of illegal transactions that are aiding the enemy of the state." Said by Col Adonis Ariel G Orio, 4ID Martial Law Command Center Spokesperson

In Brgy Bonbon, another operation was also launched to implement the search warrant to the residence of a certain Jabar Tago Y Dura and Jameiodeng Tago Y Dura for allegedly possessing illegal firearms. The team recovered the following items: one (1) M4 5.56mm rifle, one (1) AK47 rifle, two (2) cal.40 pistol, five (5) cal.45 pistol, three (3) 9mm pistol, and assorted ammunitions. Said information was tipped-off by a concerned civilian in the area. During the operation, only Jameiodeng and his relatives were present in the compound. He (Jameiodeng) provided documents to justify the legality of the confiscated firearms but all of these will be subject for further verification by the CIDG 10.

MGen Benjamin R Madrigal Jr., 4ID Commander said, "I would like to congratulate our government forces for the very swift execution of these two separate law enforcement operations. We have once again proven our competence in ensuring the safety and security of our people in Cagayan de Oro City."

"To all people who engage themselves in smuggling and any kind of criminality and illegal activities, stop or else you shall face the full force of the law. People are now more aware of your illegal transactions and it is just a matter of time that the long arm of the law will finally catch up with you." **4DPAO / MCAG**