

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

02 August 2017

Wednesday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS
02 AUGUST 2017

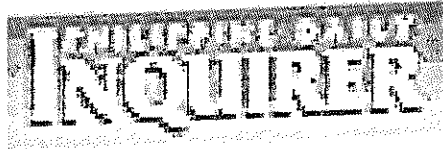
PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather	-	PDI p.A4
HEADLINE NEWS			
2-3	Ping: Payoffs at BOC reach P270M a day	Christine O Avendano	PDI p.A1
4-5	Duterte: Faeldon stays at Customs	Christina Mendez	The Phil Star p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
6	3 sa NPA nadakma sa Sarangani	Joseph Jubelag	Balita p.5
7	NPAs burn heavy equipment of construction firm in Negros	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B2
8	NPA attacks repulsed	Mario J Mallari	The Daily Tribune p.3
9	Army plans return of troops to Negros, Panay	Tara Yap	The Phil Star p.6
10	NPA on Guihulngan attack: We did it	Carla P Gomez	PDI p.A16
11	Photo: This is not Marawi	Marianne Bermudez	PDI p.A18
12	Photo: Strengthened security	Norman Cruz	Mla Standard p.A1
AFP RELATED NEWS			
13	Go Negosyo honors 101 fallen heroes of Marawi		Ngayon p.5
14	161 sundalo ng AFP binigyan ng Pagkilala	Boy Celario	Police Files p.8
15-16	AFP holds psychological drills for MARawi's young refugees	Rene Acosta	Business Mirror p.A3
17	Japan grants \$2-M aid for Marawi	Roy C Mabasa	The Phil Star p.1
18	80 wounded soldiers flown from Marawi to MM	Michael Punongbayan	The Phil Star p.11
19-20	Key Maute leaders still alive - sources	Moh Saaduddin	The Mla Times p.A2
21	Maute death toll now 502	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B1
22	Government troops kill 11 more IS-Inspired terrorists	Mario J Mallari	The Daily Tribune p.1
23	11 Maute patay sa bakbakan sa Marawi	Mark Obleada	Police Files p.2
24	Military sees more intense fighting	Jeffrey Maitem	PDI p.A4
25	Carpenter tell of 65 days of dodging bullets	Jeffrey Maitem	PDI p.A4
SPORTS			
26	Sta. Elena, Phl Army agawan sa huling semifinal slot	FCagape	PM p.11
EDITORIAL			
27	Marawi's hidden hostages	Rina Jimenez-David	PDI p.A13
28	Will ML2 break impasse in Marawi?	Macabangkit B Lanto	PDI p.A12
ONLINE NEWS			

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

29-30	In Guihulngan// AFP to redeploy troops		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
31	NPA member surrenders in AgusanSur; yields 4 firearms		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
32-33	Military engineers start building houses for Marawi evacuees		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
34-35	Death toll among local terrorists in MArawi passes 500 - military		www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

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

2 August 2017



Page: A4

www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 2, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY (As of 4:00 PM - August 1, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:40 AM	6:25 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
2:04 PM	1:03 AM
FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON
JUL 30 11:23 PM	AUG 6 2:11 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
2:19 PM 0.33 Meter	5:51 AM 0.97 Meter

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

METRO MANILA	TAGAYTAY	TACLOBAN
26-31°C 26-30°C	22-29°C 22-28°C	25-31°C 26-31°C
TUGUEGARAO	LEGAZPI	CAGAYAN DE ORO
25-36°C 25-35°C	27-31°C 26-31°C	24-32°C 24-33°C
LAOAG	PUERTO PRINCESA	METRO DAVAO
25-32°C 25-31°C	25-31°C 25-32°C	26-32°C 26-33°C
BAGUID	ILOILO/BACOLOD	ZAMBOANGA
16-21°C 16-21°C	26-32°C 26-31°C	24-32°C 24-33°C
SBMA/CLARK	METRO CEBU	
25-32°C 26-31°C	26-32°C 26-32°C	

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

WEEKDAYS
6AM, 8:30 PM & 9PM
WEEKENDS
6AM

02 August 2017



Page: A1

PING: PAYOFFS AT BOC REACH P270M A DAY

STORY BY CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO

Basing his estimate on information provided by brokers, Senator Lacson reckons customs officials and personnel receive a bribe of at least P27,000 for each of the 10,000 containers that they process every day.

AB

FROM A1

by Christine O. Avendaño
noavendano@INQ

Corrupt Bureau of Customs (BOC) officials and personnel get P270 million in payoffs daily through the “3 o’clock Friday habit,” Sen. Panfilo Lacson said on Tuesday, basing his estimate on customs brokers he had spoken with.

Lacson told reporters he asked Customs Commissioner Vicaror Faeldon on Monday during a Senate blue ribbon committee hearing about the 3 o’clock Friday gathering in which customs personnel shared the payoffs, but Faeldon did not reply.

The blue ribbon committee conducted a hearing on the 605 kilograms of “shabu” (crystal meth) worth P6.4 billion that the BOC seized in May in a Valenzuela City warehouse. The shipment had passed through the BOC without inspection.



Sen. Panfilo Lacson —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

Despite the seriousness of the allegations against Faeldon, the BOC chief continues to have President Duterte’s full trust and will stay in office, according to Finance Secretary

Carlos Dominguez.

P27,000 per container

Citing information from brokers, Lacson said the BOC officials and personnel were get-

ting on average P27,000 to P30,000 per container daily.

The payoffs amounted to P270 million a day because Faeldon has said 10,000 containers go through the BOC daily, Lacson said.

“If you multiply this (P270 million) by 365 days, that is P98.5 billion a year,” he said.

Lacson said brokers and not the Customs Risk Management Office (RMO) were the ones who encoded data in the BOC system whether a shipment should go to designated lanes.

BOC officials blamed RMO chief Larribert Hilario for not encoding properly in the system the shipment of EMT Trading, consignee of the shabu from Xiamen, allowing the shipment to leave the BOC without inspection.

Asked if he thought Faeldon and other BOC officials should resign over the handling of the P6.4-billion shabu raid in Valenzuela City in May, Lacson said such act was a “personal call.”

It was also up to the Presi-

dent if Faeldon would be fired, he added.

Faeldon in Malacañang

Mr. Duterte met with Faeldon in Malacañang on Tuesday afternoon, hours after the customs chief came under fire in the House of Representatives over the shabu shipment from China.

“The Chief Executive has expressed his full confidence in Commissioner Faeldon and told him to focus on serving the country,” Dominguez said in a statement.

The BOC is an agency under the Department of Finance.

Mr. Duterte also summoned Senate leaders to Malacañang to discuss the shabu smuggling scandal.

The meeting came a day after the Senate blue ribbon committee investigated the shabu shipment.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said Mr. Duterte called him, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and Senate Minority Leader Franklin

Drilon for the meeting.

Asked if he would support calls for Faeldon to resign, Sotto said it was a “necessary consequence” of the agency’s failure to stop the drug smuggling.

Enough to cover deficit

Lacson said the amount of payola, or lost government revenues, in two years could “wipe out” the budget deficit expected to hit P147 billion year.

Lacson asked Faeldon during the Senate hearing on Monday whether the “tara,” or pay-offs, at the BOC had increased because the duties for each container had dropped to P40,000 from P100,000.

Faeldon replied he was just enforcing the law that prohibited “benchmarking.”

Lacson said the controversy over the shabu haul was “not about Faeldon” but about “how the drugs were able to get out of Customs.” —WITH REPORTS FROM

LEILA B. SALAVERRIA AND JULLIANE LOVEDEJESUS INQ

2 August 2017



Page: 1

Duterte: Faeldon stays at Customs

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Summoned to Malacañang while being grilled by congressmen on the P6.4-billion shabu smuggling issue, Bureau of Customs (BOC) chief Nicanor Faeldon emerged two hours later from a meeting with President Duterte with his job intact.

In a statement released by Malacañang, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said Faeldon still enjoys the trust and confidence of the Chief Executive and thus is allowed to keep his job as Customs chief. Some lawmakers had demanded Faeldon's resignation.

"The President has met Bureau of Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon this afternoon. The Chief Executive has expressed his full confidence in Commissioner Faeldon and told him to focus on serving the country," Dominguez said.

Faeldon was called to Malacañang yesterday afternoon while he was attending a House of Representatives probe on the entry into the country from China of billions worth of shabu through the Port of Manila.

Turn to Page 7

When confronted by lawmakers during the hearing if he was ready to submit a resignation letter to the President, Faeldon said he would not resign as he is a soldier with a mission.

But he stressed the President could always fire him.

On Monday, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Meynard Guevara said the President did not intend to meddle in Congress' investigation of the drug smuggling issue.

Interviewed on the sidelines of the Senate probe on Monday, Faeldon said he had urged the President to conduct a probe on the entry of shabu from China through the Port of Manila.

He revealed having sent a letter to the President informing him of the need for the Palace to conduct its own investigation.

"So, maybe... It may be more prudent that such congressional investigation going on be conducted first," Guevarra said.

Duterte's summoning Faeldon was apparently triggered by revelations that supposed printing machines containing some 600 kilos of shabu went through BOC's green lane, reserved for least suspicious inbound shipments, in May. Security checks on red and yellow lanes are stricter. The drug shipment was eventually found in a warehouse in Valenzuela City.

The discovery prompted lawmakers to initiate investigations and called for the resignation of Faeldon, a former soldier.

Based on their testimonies at the House hearing yesterday, it appeared that Customs officials were not very familiar with the law and the rules on illegal drugs.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency regional director for Metro Manila Wilkins Villanueva told the House committee on dangerous drugs chaired by Rep. Robert Ace Barber that when Customs summoned them to the Valenzuela City warehouse where the illegal drugs were discovered on May 26, he was disappointed to find out that the "contraband was already spread all over the place."

"They did not wait for us. They tampered with the evidence. They even had selfies with it. That's not how you handle evidence. They bungled it."

He said he and PDEA director general Isidro Lapeña briefed congressmen behind closed doors on their version of what happened.

Villanueva suggested that they fix the errors committed by Customs agents "by conducting a controlled delivery so that we can apprehend all those involved, including possibly the end-users, and use the shabu shipment as evidence."

He said Customs intelligence chief Neil Estrella, who led the raid on the Valenzuela City warehouse, agreed to his proposal but Faeldon wanted the controlled delivery to involve only one metal cylinder containing about 100 kilos of shabu.

"We failed to convince the commissioner," Villanueva lamented.

He said the Customs commissioner spoke several times to a female companion who is a lawyer and who, he claimed, advised Faeldon to stand his ground.

Faeldon explained that he insisted on having the remaining four cylinders with 500 kilos of shabu to remain in the warehouse as evidence against its alleged owner, a certain Richard Tan.

"For me, the owner of the warehouse is the principal suspect, but they did not want to include him in the charges," he said.

When asked by Barbers if he has already filed charges against Tan, Faeldon said the case is still with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), to which they turned over the 500 kilos of illegal drugs.

The remaining 100 kilos is with the PDEA, he said.

Alvarez asked Faeldon "who is that imbecile lawyer you consulted."

The Customs chief responded that it was his fiancée who is a private citizen.

Congressmen chided him for listening to his girlfriend, instead of to PDEA officers.

Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas told Faeldon and his underlings that under the law, it is the PDEA that is the lead agency when it comes to anti-drug operations. It is also the PDEA that is the custodian of seized illegal drugs, he said.

Fariñas said the law provides for a strict "chain of custody of evidence that should not be broken" for a case to prosper.

He also said Customs could not just raid a warehouse if

suspects could be holding smuggled goods. "You have to go to court and get a search warrant," he added.

In calling for Faeldon's resignation, Barbers said the Customs chief has embarrassed Duterte by letting the P6.4-billion drug shipment get past the Manila port.

Support from employees

Meanwhile, the embattled Customs chief has reportedly turned to 3,000 BOC employees for support and has even asked them to post his image in their social media accounts.

He reportedly asked Customs employees to like his photograph with the message "If this is the price of reforming the bureau of custom, then it is all worth it."

Accompanying the photo was a message: "Please make this your profile picture as support for our fight against corruption. This is a protest to all the detractors of the reforms. Please share to all your friends. Thank you. *Tuloy lang po ang reporma sa bureau of Customs.*"

The BOC Public Information and Assistance Desk (PIAD) said the request was only sent out yesterday.

It clarified that Faeldon's appeal was not compulsory and that the employees were not required to comply with it.

Anderson clarified late yesterday afternoon that it was not Faeldon who made the request. "It is a form of peaceful initiative from his staff supporting the reforms in the bureau."

The message was only sent out to friends, family and supporters and they were not being forced to follow.

But a Customs employee said that there were emails

being sent to employees, even to those assigned in the provinces, telling them to comply with the Commissioner's request.

BOC Employees' Union president Remedios Princesa, assigned at the Port of Manila, said that she was not aware of any request from Faeldon.

- With Jess Diaz

2 August 2017



Page. 5

3 sa NPA nadakma sa Sarangani

GENERAL SANTOS CITY- Inaresto ng mga operatiba ng pulisya at militar nitong Lunes ang tatlong pinaghihinalaang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa Maasim, Sarangani.

Tinukoy ni Supt Romeo Galgo, regional police spokesperson, ang mga inaresto na sina Jojo Bulahing, alyas 'Bunso', Yasmin Atong, alyas Gab, at Raymond Damo, alyas Tata, na umano'y mga miyembro ng NPA Guerilla Front

73 na pagala-gala sa Sarangani at South Cotabato

Ayon kay Maasim Police chief Supt Caneso Golwingan, inaresto ng mga pulis at mga tauhan ng 27th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army ang mga suspek sa safehouse ng mga ito sa Barangay Kablacan, Maasim.

Inaresto si Bulahing sa bisa ng arrest warrant sa kasong pagpatay

Nakumpiska mula sa mga

suspek ang dalawang granada, isang radyo, isang solar panel, medicine kits at mga subersibong dokumento.

Tinitingnan din ng mga awtoridad ang posibleng kinalaman ng mga suspek sa panununogsamga pampasaherong bus, van at heavy equipment matapos umanong sumablay ang may-ari sa pagbabayad ng tax sa NPA.

Joseph Jubelag

2 August 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 32

NPAs burn heavy equipment of construction firm in Negros

NEW People's Army rebels on Sunday burned heavy equipment of a construction firm in Siaton town, Negros Oriental, hampering the construction of a farm-to-market road in the town, the military reported yesterday.

Extortion is seen as behind the burning of a backhoe and a payloader of the Medalla Construction Company, said Capt. Eduardo Precioso, spokesman of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division based in Capiz.

The communist rebels are known to burn equipment of construction, plantation, and bus firms that do not give in to their demand for "revolutionary tax," a euphemism for

extortion money.

Precioso said the construction company has been in the area for several years now, "supporting the construction of various farm-to-market road projects in the area that would cater to several barangays and thus help improve their economic well-being."

Precioso said several NPA rebels, on board three motorcycles, swooped down on Barangay Caticugan at around 1 a.m. last Sunday and torched the heavy equipment. They shouted "Mabuhay ang NPA (Long live the NPA)" before withdrawing, he also said citing accounts of witnesses. – *Victor Reyes*

2 August 2017



Page: 3

NPA attacks repulsed

By Mario J. Mallari

Government forces repulsed an attack launched by communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels against a police station in Agusan del Norte province on Monday.

Report showed that around 100 NPA rebels attacked Carmen Municipal Police Station (MPS) in Carmen town proper at around 10 a.m. Monday but were repulsed by combined police and Army troops.

The troops engaged the

attacking rebels in an hour of firefight after which the communists withdrew, bringing along several of their wounded comrades.

On the other hand, no casualty was reported on the government side.

Report said that Carmen MPS anticipated the NPA attack, prompting police officials to seek assistance from the Army's 23rd Infantry Battalion (IB).

The NPA attackers are believed to be members of the Guerrilla Front 4B, Northern

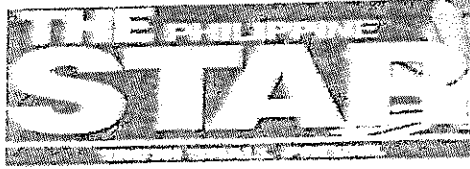
Mindanao Regional Committee.

Meanwhile, in Negros Oriental, NPA rebels on Sunday burned down millions worth of heavy equipment owned by a private company in Siaton.

The military said two heavy equipment owned by Medalla Construction Company were set ablaze by the NPAs in Barangay Caticugan, Siaton at around 1 a.m.

The construction company is engaged in the construction of farm-to-market roads in the area for several years now.

2 August 2017



Page: 6

Army plans return of troops to Negros, Panay

By **TARA YAP**

ILOILO CITY — The Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) is eyeing the return of its two battalions currently assigned in war-torn Marawi City to Negros and Panay Islands.

The statement was made by Maj. Jon Aying, 3ID commander, following attacks staged by the New People's Army (NPA) against government forces.

The 11th Infantry Battalion (11 IB) originally based in Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental province and 82nd Infantry Battalion (82 IB) originally based in Miag-ao town, Iloilo province are currently in Marawi.

Aying said it may be approximately a month for government forces to be able to neutralize the ISIS-inspired Maute terrorist group.

"It will be better if they can come back soonest," Aying told The Manila

Bulletin Tuesday

Aying said that the NPA took advantage of the ongoing war in Mindanao to step up atrocities against both the government and civilians in both Negros and Panay.

Most notably, six cops were killed by the NPA in Guihulngan City last July 21.

The NPA also raided the police station in Maasin town, Iloilo province last June 18.

Aying assured that four army battalions still oversee Negros: The 62nd Infantry Battalion (62 IB), the 79th Infantry Battalion (79 IB) and the two Negros Island Geographic Battalions.

In Panay, the 61st Infantry Battalion (61 IB) oversees Aklan, Antique, Capiz, and Iloilo provinces.

Aying reiterated the call to local communities to help the army in intelligence gathering and report any suspicious activities.

2 August 2017



Page: 116

RETALIATION FOR ALLEGED ABUSE

NPA ON GUIHULNGAN ATTACK: WE DID IT

By Carla P. Gomez
@carlagomez INQ

BACOLOD CITY—The communist New People's Army (NPA) owned up to the ambush that killed six policemen and a civilian in Guihulngan City in Negros Oriental province on July 21.

In a statement released almost two weeks after the ambush, JB Regalado, spokesperson for the NPA's Leonardo Panaligan Command, said the attack stemmed from the people's demand for justice on supposed abuses committed by the police and Guihulngan Councilor Edison dela Rita.

A group of NPA rebels first attacked Dela Rita while he was heading to his farm in the village of Magsaysay in the morning of July 21. His security aide, Michael Jambalos, was killed while the councilor and his driver were wounded in that attack.

Supt Arnel Arpon, Guihulngan police chief, led a team to the area after Dela Rita sought their help.

NPA rebels, however, ambushed the policemen, killing Arpon and five others, and wound-

ing three of their colleagues.

Regalado accused the Guihulngan police of conducting illegal arrests, torture and killings in the area. He said policemen were also tapped as guns-for-hire and as protectors of drug lords, among others.

The NPA, in the statement, belied claims that the rebels committed human rights violation by staging the ambush, saying the policemen were legitimate targets.

Among the policemen killed in the attack were Senior Police Officer 2 Mecasio Tabilon, SPO1 Jesael Ancheta, SPO2 Chavic Agosto, PO2 Alfredo Dunque and PO2 Alvin Bulandres. Wounded were PO3 Jordan Balderas, PO2 Jorie Maribao and SPO4 Jerome Delara.

The rebels also seized 17 firearms and bullets from the slain policemen. Among these were nine assault rifles, eight pistols and more than 1,000 rounds of bullets.

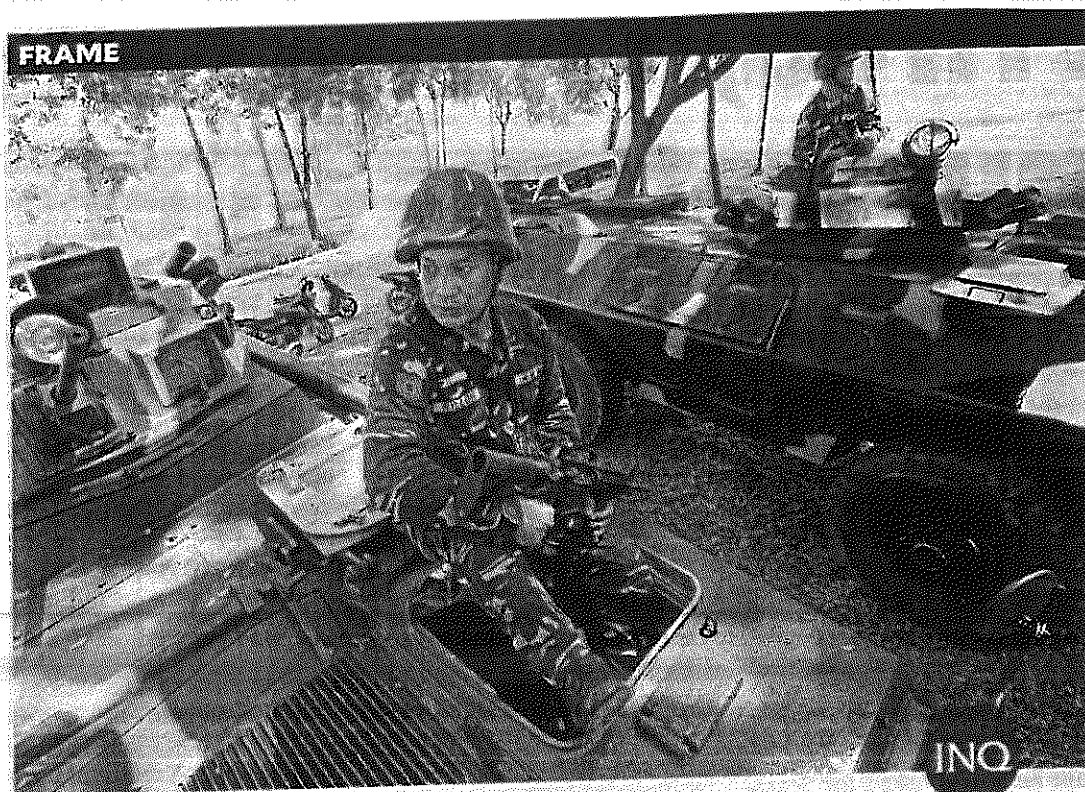
President Duterte scrapped the peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines following the Guihulngan ambush. INQ

10

2 August 2017

PHILIPPINE ARMY INQUIRER

Page: A18



THIS IS NOT MARAW! These APCs (armored personnel carriers) are part of the Philippine Army deployment at the CCP complex in Pasay City to safeguard the 50th Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting from Aug. 2 to 8. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

VISIT SITE FOR MORE
PHOTO ESSAYS
frame.inquirer.net

2 August 2017

**Manila
Standard**

Page: A1



STRENGTHENED SECURITY. Army troops take their positions Tuesday atop a Simba Light Vehicle, designed as a light armored vehicle for low-profile internal security roles, following heightened security at the bayside Cultural Center of the Philippines complex where the week-long 2017 Asean Meeting will be held starting Wednesday. **Norman Cruz**

2 August 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 5

GO NEGOSYO HONORS 101 FALLEN HEROES OF MARAWI

Go Negosyo hosted the Salamat Magiging na Mandirigma which honored 101 soldiers and policemen who have laid down their lives in service of our country. The families of the fallen heroes also received financial assistance from the Go Negosyo Kapatid for Marawi program.

President Rodrigo Duterte empathized with the families in the message he delivered stating that it pains him that these soldiers had to die for peace in Marawi upon his orders. "I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to the families of our troops who perished fighting for the liberation of Marawi. I know that no amount could equal the precious lives of your loved ones."

President Duterte also thanked all the big brothers, "Si Joey, he's an active organizer at iyong mga kaibigan niyang negosyante, marami pong salamat sa inyong lahat and we will remember you."

Go Negosyo Founder and Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Mr. Joey Concepcion in his opening message shared that the intent of the event is to show the unwavering commitment of the private sector to inclusivity and peace and its genuine gratitude to the heroes through helping their families get through these tragic times. "What your sons have done for this country is truly admirable. They are heroes of this country, and all those grieving here truly understand how much this pains you. Today, we celebrate the heroic deeds they have done for this country."

Ms. Ginggay Hontiveros-Malvar, Go Negosyo's Program Head for Sulu and Marawi efforts, regularly coordinates the assistance and aid given by Kapatids to support the soldiers in Marawi.

Kapatid for Marawi

Since the onset of the Marawi conflict, the Go Negosyo Kapatid network has pooled together its resources and efforts in order to bring support and relief to the soldiers in Marawi. The community has been able to send out more than 5000 care packages which included food, water and personal care items to the displaced Maranaos and to the troops on the ground.

The Kapatids have also gone the extra mile by providing travel and accommodations to the families who will be traveling to Manila for the Event.

Beyond this event, the Kapatid community has promised ongoing assistance for the soldiers and their families. The Department of Trade & Industry and The Department of Agriculture have both expressed their intention of assisting the families through providing mentorship programs which will help the families maximize and properly utilize their funds.

2 August 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 8

161 sundalo ng AFP binigyan ng Pagkilala

BILANG pagkilala sa kabayanan ng mga sundalong nasugatan sa pagtatanggol sa bayan aabot sa 161 miyembro ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ang binigyan ng financial na tulong at iba pang suporta ng isang samaha sa V. Luna Medical Center sa Quezon City kamakailan.

Aabot sa 133 sugatan sundalo na nakipaglaban sa Maute terrorist group sa Marawi City ang binigyan ng tulong pinansyal at 28 pang sundalo ng pamahalaan na nakipalaban naman sa mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) kamakailan ang kasamang binigyan pagkilala.

Kasalukuyan ngayong ginagamot ang mga sugatang sundalo sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Medical Center sa V. Luna Quezon City.

Ayon kay Colonel Patrick De Leon Camp commander ng AFP Medical Center natuturwa siya sa sobra sobrang suporta na iba't ibang grupo para sa mga sugatan sundalo na isinusuong ang kanilang buhay para ipagtanggol ang ating bayan at mamamayan.

Sa isang simpleng okasyon kamakailan ng isang grupo ng mga motorcycle group na Club 200 na itinayo ni Col. Patrick De Leon noong 1994 ay nagbigay ng tulong financial at iba pang assistance sa mga sugatan mga sundalo bilang pagkilala sa kanilang kabayanan. Ayon sa grupo ng mga businessman at miyembro ng Club 200 motorcycle group na si Garry Domingo at Julius Avenido ang kampanya ng kanilang grupo para mapataas ang moral ng ating mga sundalong nasugatan ay upang mahikayat din ang iba pang miyembro ng ating lipunan na suportahan an pating mga kasundaluhan.

Kabilang sa mga sugatang sundalo na binigyan ng pagkilala ng naturang grupo ay sina Private first class Silverio Cabido, 29 na naputulan ng kanyang kanan braso matapos tamaan ng bala ng M-16 mula sa snipers sa kanilang pakikipaglaban sa rebeldeng NPA nitong nakalipas na Hunyo 29, 2017 sa Surigao del Norte. **(Boy Celario)**

2 August 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. A3

AFP holds psychosocial drills for Marawi's young refugees

THE military and social-service workers jointly administered on Monday psychosocial exercises to at least 71 children whose families were among those displaced by the conflict in Marawi City.

Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command Spokesman Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay said the series of activities for the young refugees, aged from 3 to 12, was held at the Lanao del Sur provincial social hall.

A combination of fun games, artwork, socialization and entertainment was conducted to address the stress experienced by the children affected by the conflict in the city.

Petinglay said the children were temporarily sheltered at the Lanao del Sur capitol evacuation center.

Combined personnel of the Joint Task Groups Ranao and Tabang were among those who mingled and played with the children.

"Despite the language gap, beneficiaries were noticed genuinely laughing and enjoying the series of activities and the interactions," Col. Tom Sedano of the Joint Task Group Tabang said.

"Most of the instructions were done through sign language so that the kids will be able to understand the mechanics of the activity. The ultimate goal is for them to enjoy and to have fun," he added.

Petinglay said a 7-year-old boy claimed he was happy when he was asked how he felt about the activity.

The psychosocial activities were administered to help the children refugees in evacuation centers cope up with their current situation and divert their attention from the stressful environment to a fun and enjoyable situation even for a short period of time.

"We want to take part in the initiatives of the government and concerned stakeholders in assuring the protection and welfare of the civilians who are caught in the crossfire," said Brig. Gen. Ramiro Rey, commander of the Joint Task Group Ranao.

"Programs that benefit the evacuees are currently being implemented, manifesting the sincerity of the government and the military in liberating the besieged city," he added.

ML justification

THE human-rights watchdog Karapatan, meanwhile, has scored the Duterte administration for rounding up Marawi evacuees and tagging them as members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in order “to justify continued martial law [ML] in Mindanao.”

Karapatan, Kalnaw Mindanao, Gabriela and other national and local organizations joined the Second National Interfaith Humanitarian Mission among Marawi evacuees from July 27 to 29.

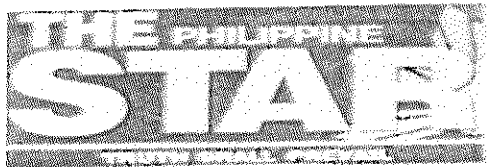
Aside from conducting psychosocial intervention programs, medical missions and relief distribution, the team also documented human-rights violations under the context of martial law’s implementation.

“Information gathered during the mission indicate a worrisome trend wherein State forces start rounding up evacuees in evacuation centers to wrongfully present them as ISIS members,” Karapatan Secretary-General Cristina Palabay said.

“This is martial law’s new phase—the phase of manufacturing enemies to justify the extension of martial law. The level of repression is further heightened as military elements are seen loitering around in evacuation centers, becoming defensive and even aggressive when the word ‘justice’ is so much as spoken by either the mission team or the evacuees,” Palabay said.

“We seriously question information about the numbers presented by the military, and about the real security situation in Marawi. The Duterte administration cannot forever hide behind the veil of ‘national security’, especially with the evacuees’ own perceptions that civilian casualties are far worse, the numbers sanitized and recalibrated to appease public discontent. The growing number of illegal arrests and other forms of human-rights violations inflicted against those already displaced by the conflict are proof of State terror. Such brazen abuses ought to be condemned, stopped, and their instigators brought to justice,” she said. *Rene Acosta with Marvyn N. Benaning*

2 August 2017



Page: 1

Japan grants \$2-M aid for Marawi

By **ROY C. MABASA**

The Japanese government has decided to extend humanitarian aid amounting to \$2 million (roughly ₱100 million) to support relief operations of the Duterte administration for families displaced by the siege of Marawi.

The grant aid will be given through

the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said Yoji Konno of the Economic Section of the Japanese Embassy in Manila.

The amount is the largest humanitarian aid provided by a foreign country, so far, as a response to the Marawi crisis. ▶4

Konno said Japan extended the humanitarian grant to support the affected population in Marawi in consideration of the strong bilateral ties between the two countries which

were re-affirmed by Japanese Prime Minister Abe and President Duterte on a number of occasions.

Of the total amount, \$1.2 million (about ₱60 million) was allocated to

the WFP to be used to provide meals for the affected population and school meals for children in the affected areas.

The remaining amount was allocated to UNICEF to be used to provide support in the areas of water, sanitation, and hygiene.

2 August 2017



Page: 11

80 wounded soldiers flown from Marawi to MM

The Philippine Air Force (PAF), in the biggest air evacuation in its history, moved around 80 wounded soldiers out of war-torn Marawi City last week, an official said yesterday.

The 220th Airlift Wing said it used a C-130 aircraft, outfitted to accommodate patients, from Laguindingan Airport in Cagayan de Oro City to Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

"This is the only way we can assist our troops and assure them that we are ready all the time to provide the airlift support they need," said Major Meritto Jay Quijano, the C-130 pilot-in-command.

The PAF said aside from giving wounded troopers better medical attention in specialized treatment facilities in Manila, the evacuation helped decongest the Camp Evangelista Station Hospital in Cagayan de Oro City.

It attributed the improvement in aero-medical evacuation to the air crew, including flight surgeons and nurses, flight planners and the loadmasters, who outfitted the aircraft.

Flying the aircraft, the PAF added, needed thorough planning as the crew would need to avoid turbulence, ensure a smooth flight and

minimize rapid movements in the cargo compartment that lead to more injuries for the soldiers.

Meanwhile, the Metro Manila Mayors' Spouses Foundation Inc. yesterday turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development 495 packs containing food, hygiene kits and sleeping mats for Marawi residents staying in evacuation centers.

Over 300,000 were reportedly displaced by the conflict, with many staying in their relatives and friends, and areas outside Marawi City.
– Michael Punongbayan,
Janvic Mateo

2 August 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A2

Key Maute leaders still alive – sources

MARAWI CITY: Key leaders of the Maute group, including Abdullah Maute, are still alive more than two months into fighting with government forces since the IS-linked terrorists attacked the city, sources told *The Manila Times*.

Contrary to earlier reports, Abdullah Maute remains alive and unhurt from the fighting, the Times sources said, citing their conversations with the group on July 28.

"They said that he (Abdullah) was not on the battleground during the time, but he's expected to come back and fight [again]," one of the sources said.

Another source said other top Maute leaders also survived the fighting but were wounded in the months-long military offensives. "They have received medical treatment and are now back fighting," he said.

"One of them was wounded twice when hit by bomb debris, but he was fully treated outside the battle zone," the source said.

The military is still investigating reports from escaped hostages that Abdullah had been killed, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said.

"We do trust the narratives of our escapees from inside. But then we need verifiable proof before we can come up with a categorical statement," Padilla said.

Aside from Abdullah Maute, other identified leaders of the group linked to the Islamic State (IS) are his brothers Omar and Madie, Isnilon Hapilon, Isnadie Ibrahim, Humam Abdulnajib, Malaysian national Mahmud Ahmad, Abu Yaman al-Yamani, and Abu Hafs and his twin Abu Akmad.

Most were seen in a video, along with two unidentified individuals, prior to the Maute's May 23 attack on Marawi City that forced President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law over Mindanao.

Local and international intelligence units had identified the plotters in the video except for Abdulnajib and a few others.

These plotters figured in the founding of the Khilafah Islamiyah Movement (KIM) and its intelligence unit Ghuraba, which means "strangers" or "foreigners," in 2006 in Cagayan de Oro City.

The KIM last year formed IS Lanao, also known as the Maute group, led by Abdullah. It recruited more than 100 "disgruntled" members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has disowned them.

Hapilon's Abu Sayyaf and other allied groups supported the IS in 2014.

Abdulnajib and Hapilon, together with their men, were featured in the IS-run magazine Rumiya released in June.

Hapilon, together with Abdullah's brother Omar, had fled the battle zones, according to reports.

'Slower by the day'

On Tuesday, the military admitted that operations against the Maute troops were becoming more difficult and "getting slower everyday."

The Maute fighters continue to plant improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in certain places to delay military operations, said Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesperson for the AFP's Western Mindanao Command.

"We have been recovering plenty of booby traps from the areas. If these exploded, our troops would have to hold back," she said.

Petinglay said about 50 to 70 Maute terrorists remained inside the battle zone, hiding along with civilian hostages in places such as mosques.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said only 30 to 40 terrorists were holed up in Marawi. But Petinglay said figures given by the Defense chief were only estimates.

More than 500 Maute terrorists have been killed since the fighting began, the military claims, and a total of 592 firearms have been recovered from their lairs.

"We are getting nearer. Places that need to get cleared are getting fewer, but at a slow pace," Petinglay said.

**MOH SAADUDDIN AND
DEMPSEY REYES**

2 August 2017

Malaya
The Nation's Newsbase

Page: 81

Maute death toll now 502

BY VICTOR REYES

ELEVEN more members of the terrorist Maute Group were killed in skirmishes with government forces on Monday, bringing to 502 the enemy's death toll in the continuing armed conflict in Marawi City.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokeswoman of the military's AFP Western Mindanao Command and Joint Task Force Marawi, yesterday

said the feat means troops are moving closer to ridding the city of terrorists, based on the lower number of Maute men remaining in the city and of buildings they are occupying.

Aside from the 11 new fatalities, troops also cleared four structures occupied by the Maute last Monday.

Petinglay said about 50 to 70 Maute men remain in the city, occupying some of the 500 structures

that are still subject to clearing operations, Petinglay said. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Monday said there are some 30 to 40 Maute remnants.

The number of slain government troops remained at 114 and 45 for civilians.

Petinglay said the Maute members continue to put up resistance against advancing troops but the

See MAUTE > Page B3

MAUTE

resistance is not as strong as it was during the initial stage of the conflict which started on May 23.

She said the Maute planted improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as part of their resistance. "They've laid a lot of booby traps."

She said the IEDs are delaying the conclusion of the military campaign.

"If a bomb explodes, this forces our troops to hold the line. They have to check if there are other IEDs that should be recovered by our EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) before they move forward," she said.

As to the defeat of the enemy, Petinglay said: "It's getting closer but we cannot say when because we are facing new challenges each day... Their area continues to get smaller."

"We cleared only a few structures (four) yesterday. There are

more or less 500 buildings, structures still left for clearing. There are days when we are able to clear only five, sometimes 10. That actually depends on the enemy resistance, on the IEDs we see," she said.

In Lanao del Sur Monday, police and military operatives arrested two suspected Maute members during a raid on their lair in Barangay Pantar in Lumbatan town.

Reports from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Police Regional Office identified the two as Sailanie Asral Mamaorong, 37, and Mama Batara aka Mamaorong, 71, both residents of Barangay Pantar.

Seized from them were an improvised Barret sniper rifle with a defaced serial number and an M203 rifle grenade.

The two were brought to the CIDG-ARMM while the firearms and ammunition were brought to the Lanao del Sur police office. –
With Raymond Africa

2 August 2017



Page: 1

Government troops kill 11 more IS-inspired terrorists

By Mario J. Mallari and Ted Tuvera

Eleven more Islamic State-inspired terrorists were killed Monday as government troops continued to advance in the ongoing clearing operations in Marawi City.

In its latest update, the military said a total of 502 terrorists had been killed since May 23 when the siege started.

According to Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokeswoman for Joint Task Force Marawi, 11 terrorists were killed during

Monday's military operations in the main battle area in downtown Marawi.

She said the enemies were killed not in a single encounter but throughout clearing operations on Monday.

A total of 592 firearms, mostly high-powered, were recovered.

On the other hand, government fatalities remained at 114.

"Rest assured that we are nearing (the end of the siege)...each day, their area is getting smaller but it's really slow," said Petinglay.

Turn to page 2

from page 1

"They continue to lay IEDs (improvised explosive devices)...there are a lot of booby traps being recovered...so before moving forward, our EOD (Explosive and Ordnance Disposal) teams need to clear buildings by building, structure by structure," added Petinglay.

She said there are about 500 more buildings to be cleared.

Based on latest estimate, Petinglay said that around 70 terrorists are still putting up resistance in downtown

Marawi City.

Reports said that there are about 80 hostages still being held by the terrorists.

Breakaway Reds joining IS inspired Muslims

Authorities meanwhile are said to be tracking down a communist breakaway group that could be coalescing with fundamentalist Muslims ahead of the country's hosting of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) foreign ministers' meeting this week.

National Capital Region Police

Office (NCRPO) Director Oscar Albayalde, in a Palace briefing yesterday, said that while they are making sure that no unwanted incident within Metro Manila should happen, they are monitoring the presence of the Islamic converts who allegedly include elements of the notorious Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB).

The ABB is a renegade urban hit squad of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

"As of this time, so far we have not received any threat, although

we are monitoring all these critical areas. We are monitoring some groups who are actually present here in Metro Manila, who are Balik Islam (Islam converts) and other former members of the ABB, who suspectedly got converted to Islam," Albayalde told reporters.

"There are just a few people that we are monitoring, continuously being monitored by our intelligence operatives, both from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police," he added.

2 August 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 2

11 Maute patay sa bakbakan sa Marawi

LABING-isang miyembro ng teroristang Maute ang nasawi sa patuloy na milulunsad na operasyong militar sa ika-71 araw na bakbakan sa Marawi City. Ayon kay Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesperson ng Western Mindanao Command, umabot na sa 502 mga terorista ang napatay habang 114 sundalo at pulis ang nasawi.

Nasa 45 na sibilyan ang kumpirmadong nasawi at inaasahan na tataas pa ang bilang nito habang palapit ng palapit ang mga sundalo sa pinagkukutaan o taguan ng teroristang grupo habang nasa 1,724 naman ang na-rescue o nasagip at 592 mga baril naman ang narekober.

Sinabi ni Petinglay na posibleng tumagal pa umano ang isinasagawang clearing operation ng mga sundalo dahil nasa 500 mga building at structure ang kailangan nila ma-clear upang matiyak na ligtas na ito sa mga hinanin na mga improvised explosive devices (IED) ng mga teroristang grupo.

Idinagdag ni Petinglay na depende parin ito sa patuloy na paglaban ng mga natitirang mga terorista at dami at klase ng IED na iniwan o inilagay sa isang building.

Tumanggi namang magbigay ng deadline si Petinglay kung kailan tuluyang matatapos ang nagaganap na kaguluhan sa Marawi City dahil araw-araw ay nagbabago ang sitwasyon at taktika ng teroristang grupo.

Inihayag din ni Petinglay na maliit na area na lang ang ginagalawan ng may 50 hanggang 70 terorista.

(Mark Obicada)

2 August 2017



Page: A4

Military sees more intense fighting

MARAWI CITY—The military said it was expecting the battle here to be more bloody as Maute gunmen and their allies were now moving inside a limited area.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, commander of the Western Mindanao Command, said that with the gunmen now confined to only a few square kilometers to move around, the situation had become more tense—at least for the enemies.

“Their strongholds are one by one falling to us,” Galvez said.

But he said as the area being held by the Maute gunmen di-

minished, their defense positions had become compact as well.

“So we expected more bloody operations in the sense that it’s now a very intense and close firefight,” Galvez said.

Earlier, military ground commanders had said the Maute gunmen and their allies now appeared to be suicidal and did not mind if they got killed while attacking military positions.

Galvez agreed, saying that on July 21, Maute terrorists went closer to the position of government troops to lob a grenade.

At least 9 soldiers were

killed in that attack.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, the spokesperson of Task Force Marawi, said the Maute group had also rigged some houses with improvised explosive devices to exact more casualties on the government—which so far has incurred 114 deaths.

Fortunately, Petinglay said Army bomb experts had detonated those planted in areas recently seized from the Maute control.

Petinglay, meanwhile, said the military was still validating reports about the death of another militant leader during an

airstrike conducted last week.

“We are checking and trying to verify if it’s Abdullah Maute,” she said.

Abdullah was the more prominent Maute leader remaining inside the main battle area after Abu Sayyaf leader Isnlon Hapilon managed to sneak out in June.

Another Maute, Omar, was supposedly killed in a firefight with soldiers, also in June.

Galvez said the number of militants inside the main battle area had drastically dropped to just between 60-70. —JEFFREY

MAITEM INQ

2 August 2017



Page: A4

ESCAPE FROM MAUTE

CARPENTER TELLS OF 65 DAYS OF DODGING BULLETS

By **Jeffrey Maitem**
@inqmindanao

MARAWI CITY—For 65 days, Dodong did everything to dodge wayward bullets coming from either Maute gunmen or soldiers.

But one day, while hiding on the roof of a house from the terrorists that had rampaged through the lakeside city, a bomb fell so close to him that he was hit by shrapnel.

The injury wasn't serious, but the 41-year-old native of Cagayan de Oro City suffered from soft-tissue infection that he tried to bear as the days went by.

Dodong, a father of four who came to the city to work as a carpenter only to be trapped in the fighting, said he had to endure the gun battle and the airstrikes until he escaped.

"I was so scared I prayed to God to keep me safe. Whenever the military bombed the enemy position, it was as if my ears would explode too," he said.

The carpenter was among hundreds of civilians who were trapped in the city when fighting erupted between government forces and the Islamic State-inspired militants on May 23.

While many fled, he was told by his employer to stay behind, lest he be killed by the Maute gunmen if they saw him. And so he did.

From the rooftop of his employer's house, where he hid, he once saw about 100 young fighters, aged about 19 and younger, on the streets below.

"I can see them from my location. They burned the houses. I saw very young fighters with guns," the carpenter, who

asked to be identified only as Dodong, said in Filipino.

While on the roof, surviving on food left behind by his employer, a bomb exploded nearby.

Dodong said he felt a stinging pain in his left leg. He found out later that he was hit by a splinter.

But the fear of the Maute gunmen was more intense than the pain of his wound.

Dodong decided to stay in the house even if bombs were exploding around him. As days passed, the number of the gunmen dwindled. Even then, Dodong said he had not dared to go out of hiding.

"I can't get out because a lot of them are just within the vicinity," he said.

But on July 28, he heard the gunmen talking about burning the house he was hiding in. That's when he decided to escape.

"I remember it was late afternoon. They were firing their guns at me while I was running away from the house," he recounted.

Dodong said he tried very hard to avoid being hit, and just kept running.

It was about 7 p.m. when Dodong reached the Bangolo Bridge, according to 1Lt. Ace Guintibano of the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion.

"I felt relieved when I saw the soldiers," he said.

Dr. Samsia Dimapinto said the carpenter was in stable condition and might be allowed to go home soon.

Dodong said he wanted to go home to Cagayan de Oro City as soon as possible to be reunited with his family. INQ

2 August 2017



Pahina. 11

Sta. Elena, Phl Army agawan sa huling semifinal slot

Pag-aagawan ngayon ng Sta. Elena Wrecking Balls at Philippine Army Troopers sa kanilang knockout playoff ang pang-apat at huling semifinal slot sa 2017 Premier Volleyball League Open Conference sa FilOil Flying V Center sa San Juan City. Tangan ang parehong 4-3 win-loss kartada magtatagpo ang Wrecking Balls at Army Troopers sa nag-usang laro ngayong alas-10 ng umaga at ang mananalo ay haharap sa top seed na Mega Builders sa best-of-three semifinal round na magsisimula sa Sabado. Nagtapos sa parehong 6-1 card ang Mega Builders at Cignal HD ngunit nakuha ng Volley Bolts ang No. 1 spot bunga ng winner-over-the-other rule. Tinalo ng Mega Builders ang HD Spikers, 26-24, 26-24, 15-17 sa elimination

round noong Hulyo 19. Bilang No. 2 seed, makakalaban din ng Cignal HD ang No. 3 seed na Philippine Air Force Jet Spikers (5-2) sa isa pang semis match sa ala-una ng hapon sa Sabado rin. Pagkatapos ng single-round elimination, tumapos lamang sa ika-anim na puwesto ang Instituto Estetico Manila Volley Masters sa 2-5 card at pangpito ang Gamboa Coffee Mix sa 1-6 record habang hindi nakatikim ng panalo ang Cafe Lupe sa pitong laro (0-7).

Ito na rin ang tsansang makaganti ng Army Troopers sa Wrecking Balls na tumalo sa kanila 25-15, 22-25, 25-21, 25-23 sa elimination phase noong Hulyo 16 kung saan umiskor si Isaah Arda ng 16 puntos at 15 naman mula kay Berlin Paglinawan habang siyam naman kay Joven Carnagariakan at tig-pitong puntos bawat isa sina Jethro Orian at Israel Encina.

Si Berlin Paglinawan ng Sta. Elena ang nangunguna sa scoring sa kanyang kabuwang 111 puntos kabilang ang 107 atake habang si Isaah Arda ng Army ang No. 2 sa blocking.

Sa women's division, maghaharap ang top seed Creamline (7-0) at no. 4 BaliPure (4-3) sa unang best-of-three semis match habang ang no. 2 Pocari Sweat (5-2) at no. 3 Air Force Lady Jet Spikers (5-2) ay magtatagpo sa ikalawang semis match simula sa Sabado sa parehong venue. (FCagape):

2 August 2017



Page: A13

Marawi's hidden hostages

Perhaps it's good news that Marawi has fallen off the front pages of the major newspapers. By the typical measure of newsworthiness, it could mean that the siege of that city has ceased to become a major concern, a subject of intense public scrutiny.

Indeed, reports from the military paint a guardedly optimistic scenario, claiming that only 30-40 "good fighters" of the Maute Group or their sympathizers remain in the city. Certainly a big "bragging right" is the capture, or re-capture, of Mampandi Bridge, a landmark structure that leads to Marawi's commercial center where the remaining terrorists are said to be holed up.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told the media that the main objective of the military right now is not to attack the positions still held by the Mautes, but rather to "rescue the hostages" they still have. After which, it is presumed, government forces would then launch a "massive assault."

Even as the country faces this most delicate situation, evacuees and internally displaced people, especially children, continue to face dire threats to their health and lives, unwitting and unrecognized hostages.

Timely then is the announcement by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the government of Japan which has given a grant of \$800,000 to the UN agency. The money, it was pointed out, is meant to respond to the heightened risks of diarrhea outbreaks and other health hazards among the displaced children, families and host communities in Marawi and surrounding areas.



AT LARGE

RINA JIMENEZ-DAVID

The donation from Japan should scale up response to the massive and still growing need of over 200,000 children to vital health services, including access to clean water, immunization and nutrition.

"Unicef thanks the government of Japan for the generous support that will enable us to scale up response to the displaced and affected population," said Unicef representative Lotta Sylwander. "Access to immunization, nutrition, safe drinking water and clean sanitation is a fundamental human right of children and families we serve. Impeded access of these life-saving services poses significant public health threats and adversely affects the livelihoods and safety of women and children that further exacerbates humanitarian crisis and displacement," Sylwander added.

The armed conflict in Marawi has resulted in 359,680 people displaced, with many of them living in host communities or across the 75 evacuation centers. Over 200,000 chil-

dren have been displaced. Many of those living in host-communities are affected by scarcity of household resources, including food and school supplies, in one of the poorest areas in the country.

According to Unicef, the Marawi crisis which is now into its third month, is still far from resolved. There is no expectation that families will be able to return to their homes soon. Needs have been reported across all humanitarian sectors, but poor sanitation and hygiene is a key concern in heavily congested evacuation centers and host communities with the largest numbers of displaced families.

Unicef response in the Water and Sanitation sector so far includes distribution of 1,751 hygiene kits and 2,166 water kits, and hygiene promotion sessions in four areas of Lanao del Norte: Pantao Ragat, Pantar and Balo-i and Iligan City; and Saguiaran in Lanao del Sur. Unicef also provided water storage bladders, jerry cans and water purification tablets to ensure adequate clean water for drinking and general household use to ease sanitation conditions in evacuation centers.

The UN agency-supported Water and Sanitation response has so far benefited nearly 25,000 people. Health response has reached a few thousand children with micronutrient and Vitamin A supplements along with 3,000 pregnant and lactating women with iron-folic acid tablets. At least 20 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition and 79 children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition were identified and managed. Unicef promoted breastfeeding for hundreds of young children by providing breastfeeding kits and sensitization programs for caregivers.

2 August 2017



Page: A12

Will ML2 break impasse in Marawi?

COMMENTARY

MACABANGKIT B LANTO

the Constitution. It is now well established that on issues that call for a joint session of Congress, the Senate cannot be subsumed by the numerically bigger House. And we expect the observance of *stare decisis*, or the doctrine of precedent, when the more important issue of charter change passes through such a gauntlet.

In the aftermath of this show of support for the President, residents of Marawi asked: Will martial law 2 accelerate the liberation of our city from the clutches of the jihadists? A growing number of cynics say it will not change the equation and impasse. The President lately cautioned government troops against rushing its attack on the extremists as it will endanger the life of hundreds of hostages. Residents pleaded for a stop to the carpet bombing reminiscent of the destruction in Aleppo and Mosul. They suggested instead “one big push,” a blitzkrieg or sealing of all possible exits to box the extremists in and paralyze their supply of food, water and ammo.

Will ML2 provide additional protection to the military—“secured” houses amid reports that these “friendly” forces were looting whatever were left by the marauding jihadists? This is the residents’ overwhelming concern and fear given the military’s stern ban on the entry of civilians,

homeowners included, into the conflict zone, even in areas claimed by the Army as liberated. It is no wonder that residents defied authorities and planned a “march to Marawi” to coincide with the President’s State of the Nation Address on July 24, which was scuttled after a last-minute meeting with Defense Secretary cum diplomat Delfin Lorenzana.

Will ML2 ease the agony of the evacuees, or aggravate their miserable condition?

These are questions that beg for answers in the light of the number of variables. ML2 will in fact exacerbate the evacuees’ pitiful condition because of the delay in the construction of the “tent city” and allied problems. We can only hope that the extension of martial power will not make its implementers eager-beavers and overstretch the meaning of martial law at the expense of human rights.

ML2 gave the President an additional burden. He got what he asked for: an extension of the plenary and almost unbridled martial power to back him in addressing the impasse in Marawi and the exponential increase of converts to extremism among Moro Muslims. If he fails, history will judge him severely.

Macabangkit B. Lanto (amb_mac_lanto@yahoo.com), UP Law 1967, was a Fulbright Fellow in New York University for his postgraduate studies. He has served the government as congressman, ambassador, and undersecretary, among other positions.

ONLINE NEWS

02 AUGUST 2017

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

IN GUIHULNGAN//AFP to redeploy troops

The commander of the Central Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines has announced that troops will soon be deployed to Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental, following the July 21 ambush in the area that left six policemen and a civilian dead.

CentCom commander, Maj. Gen. Oscar Lactao, said the redeployment of troops to the area will be considered soon, likely after the normalization of the situation in Marawi City. The 11th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army based in Guihulngan City was pulled out months back due to the conflict in Mindanao.

Lactao described the recent Guihulngan ambush as a retaliatory attack by the New People's Army terrorists because of their losses in an encounter with government troops in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental earlier.

It was just unfortunate that the communist terrorists took advantage of the policemen who were just responding to a call for police assistance in Barangay Magsaysay, Guihulngan, he told reporters in Dumaguete Saturday.

President Rodrigo Duterte visited Guihulngan Thursday to condole with the families of the slain police personnel, and award medals to the killed and wounded policemen. He also announced additional battalions to beef up the military.

He reiterated that he is no longer open to peace talks with the NPA, and challenged Jose Marie Sison, the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, to come back to the Philippines and fight alongside the NPA, the armed wing of the CPP.

On Saturday, Lactao witnessed the inter-agency capability demonstration exercise against attacks by terrorists at the seas off Dumaguete City.

In his message, Lactao said that while the military has the firepower and information when they engage the enemy, what is most important is to have a leadership that can make things happen in a certain local government unit.

He lauded the leadership of Negros Oriental Gov. Roel Degamo, who for a span of four to five months, was able to mobilize line agencies in the campaign against terrorism, which he

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

believes is a manifestation of a good, professional, and efficient leader.

Lactao stressed that no matter how good the army or the police, it will not be able to squarely confront the challenges of security if the leader in that area is not cooperative.

He pointed out that the initial response will really come from the community.

It is not just a right but an obligation on the part of the citizenry to assist government to secure our society because there could be no development without security, Lactao said.

Also present during the simulation exercise was Negros Island Region police director, Chief Supt. Edmund Gonzales, who confirmed the directives from higher headquarters for the army and the police to be always vigilant and proactive.

To do this, Gonzales said they need to have a very good intelligence build up in areas frequented by the rebels.

He added that the best armament against terrorism is intelligence to prevent and preempt plans of the enemy, rather than reactive.

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

NPA member surrenders in Agusan Sur; yields 4 firearms

A member of the New People's Army (NPA) voluntarily surrendered to the Army's 401st Brigade in Barangay Awa, Prosperidad, this province at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 28, 2017, bringing with him four high-powered firearms.

Rey Betos Valiente aka Carding, 39 years old, a member of Squad 1, Pulang Bagani Command (PBC) - 4, Southern Mindanao Regional Committee of the NPA, turned himself in after sending surrender feelers through a relative. He turned-over an AR18, an M1 Carbine, and two US M1 Garand rifles to the 401st Brigade.

The negotiation of his surrender was made successful through the joint efforts of 23rd Infantry Battalion, Agusan del Norte Police Provincial Office and 401st Brigade.

Valiente's decision to abandon the armed struggle was due to the hardship he experienced. "Dili na nako makaya ang kalisod sa bukid, nagsige lang mi dagan ug walay pagkaon aron makalikay sa walay undang nga operasyon sa kasundalohan (I can no longer withstand the hardship in the mountains. We are always kept on the run, out of food evading the relentless operations of the military)," he said.

"Dako akong pasalamat sa higayon nga gihatag sa kasundalohan aron makauban nako ang akong pamilya sa hapsay nga pamuyo ug malipayon ko nga gitrato ko nila isip usa ka igsuon (I am very thankful to the Army for giving me a chance to live with my family peacefully, and I'm happy they treated me as a brother)," added Valiente.

Col. Andres Centino, 401st Brigade Commander, has directed the facilitation of the release of benefits due to Valiente.

"We are now facilitating the immediate release of his benefits under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP). It is best for him to live in peace with his family and be counted as a productive citizen so that he can also inspire remaining NPA members to abandon the revolutionary movement and avail of the integration program," he underscored. (401st Brigade, Phil. Army/PIA-Agusan del Sur)

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Military engineers start building houses for Marawi evacuees

The military, in partnership with key government agencies, has started the construction of temporary houses for the thousands of displaced families in Marawi City as part of the early recovery and rehabilitation process. This developed even as fighting has continued in the "battle zone" in the area.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief, on Monday said they are gradually shifting gear to help in the rehabilitation by pouring in more troops who will undertake rehabilitation works.

"Your soldiers are willing to risk their lives not only to make sure that Marawi City be free from terrorists, but also to speed up rehabilitation, so that shelters will be ready the soonest possible time," Galvez said.

"Just as your AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) was employed as an instrument to quell the rebellion of the Maute-ISIS Group that caused the destruction of Marawi, you will also find your soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines at the forefront of the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi. The AFP shall be the catalyst to the massive efforts to revive the city of Marawi," he added.

The Army's 54th Engineer Brigade, Department of Public Works and Highways-10 (DPWH-10) and the Marawi City Engineer's Office have started over the weekend the construction of two model houses before the construction of 5,000 temporary shelters for the Marawi evacuees.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, Task Force Marawi spokesperson, on Monday said the ground works of the relocation site started a week ago.

DPWH-10 resident engineer Abdulracman Paunte said the models are expected to be done after a week of work.

"There are two models of houses to be constructed. First is the steel house which is has 26 square meters floor area with a dimension of 4 x 7.7 meters and the other one is the wooden house which is made of lumber and plywood, with the dimension of 4 x 6 meters," Paunte said.

"The steel house model is pre-fabricated and can accommodate three families per building. Construction time will run up to eight days," he added.

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

The 11-hectare relocation site is located in Barangay Sagongsongan, Marawi City and is divided into five areas.

One-thousands units of houses will be built in each area.

Paunte said each area has communal kitchens, comfort rooms and washing areas. The electrical lines and water pipes are already being installed by the Lanao Del Sur Electric Company and the Local Water Utilities Administration.

Lt. Col. Jonjie Juguilon of the 547th Engineering Battalion, said they will not only construct the temporary shelters but also to secure civilian workers who are in the site the entire week.

"We are here to provide all necessary needs and support we can give before, during and after the construction of the shelters," he said.

Juguilon said they conducted a consultation with the local government officials and evacuees to determine the designs of the houses.

To have a sense of ownership, Gulem said they are commissioning the evacuees as construction workers and laborers.

"Four workers will be paid PhP15,000 to construct a single-detached house," he said.

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Death toll among local terrorists in Marawi passes 500 – military

The death toll among terrorists fighting in Marawi City breached 500 on Monday, July 31, after the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) reported killing 11 in separate operations during the day.

The latest military report shows that at least 502 local terrorists, 114 government forces, and 45 civilians have been killed in the conflict that has dragged on for more than two months.

The government admitted that they initially underestimated the strength of the enemy to less than a hundred fighters. Residents who escaped spoke of up to 700 terrorists inside the battle zone.

Also on Monday, two alleged members of the Maute Group were arrested in a joint operation by soldiers and cops in the nearby town of Pantar. They were identified as 71-year-old Mama Batara and 37-year-old Sailanie Asral.

An improvised rifle and an M203 grenade launcher were reportedly recovered from their home. The suspects are now under the custody of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

The war against terrorists who pledged allegiance to international group Islamic State (ISIS) erupted on May 23 when a military raid against ISIS emir Isnilon Hapilon forced them to prematurely carry out an attack that was supposedly set for the first day of Ramadan, May 26.

The terrorists planned to seize Marawi City and raise the ISIS black flag at the city hall and the provincial capitol, according to the military. A recovered video of Hapilon and the Maute brothers also showed them planning the attack. (READ: Terror in Mindanao: The Mautes of Marawi)

The war continues to rage in the city's commercial district Banggolo and adjacent barangays Raya Madaya and Marinaut. Some of the neighboring areas also remain isolated.

Troops last week regained control of one of 3 critical bridges in the battle zone – Mapandi Bridge – giving troops direct access to the area.

"The entry of our troops, equipment, logistics will be expedited all the more because you don't

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

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

have to go around anymore... We now have direct access to ground zero," said AFP spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla in a briefing at Malacañang Palace on Monday.

Some 300 civilians including about a hundred hostages remain trapped in the battle zone, according to military estimates. At least 1,724 civilians have been rescued.

The crisis has also displaced almost 400,000 people in the province of Lanao del Sur.

Nearly all of Marawi City's about 200,000 residents evacuated, along with residents of adjacent towns who feared that the violence could spill over to their areas or basic goods would not be able to reach them.

The AFP said on Monday that it is already safe for residents of towns around Marawi City to go back home.

Residents of Marawi City, however, are not yet allowed to return even to so-called "safe areas" or villages outside the battle zone. (READ: Snipers and IEDs: Deadly combination in Marawi war zone)

The AFP said stray bullets continue to be a problem in these areas, which are also being cleared of improvised explosive devices, dead bodies, and disease-causing viruses.

Rehabilitation efforts have begun even as the clashes continue. Military engineers are now constructing model houses that will serve as template for up to 5,000 temporary shelters for residents who lost their homes. (READ: Groundwork begins for Marawi relocation site)

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