

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



TEAM ARMY
Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

08 August 2017

Tuesday

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

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

NEWS HEADLINES



08 AUGUST 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER **HOUSE AGREES TO POSTPONE VILLAGE POSES**

COMELEC CHIEF RECEIVED COMMISSIONS, SAYS WIFE

Patricia says her husband, Comelec Chair Andres Bautista, gave commissions for referees closer to Smartmatic to break ties. Presidential Duterte says he will not preempt any probe against Bautista.

WHY is technology growth finally happening in the country? PHILIE
How will Duterte and Laro promote the wisdom, joy of insurance? MOBILE
WHO is being considered to play ball in 'The Lion King' remake? DISNEYPHIL



DUETERTE THANKS US FOR AID TO PH

Islamic school hit by Marawi mortar **Venezuelan Army base attacked** **Nery named PH freshwater savior** **PH boxes clinch Asian Juniors girls**

The Manila Times

Wife exposes P1B in 'hidden wealth'

From quarters to expenses: 'She made 1 hour to reduce misery'

Asian quit on illegal binoculars trade in Cambodia **WHO pinches 8-year streak to 10-week stay at Customs**

Philippines' GDP to hit \$400 billion

ULTRAFASTO 6/5M TUESDAY, 01 AUGUST 2017 JACKPOT PRIZE: P 188,000,000.00

Broker names 8 officials in Customs payoffs



Bautista willing to quit, denies hidden wealth

Former Comelec Chair Andres Bautista says he is willing to resign from his position as a customs broker, but denies having hidden wealth.

Risky the investments!

BAUTISTA FACES PROBE OVER P1-B WEALTH



US, allies blast China

China's official branding rejections of BCS

Banker targets US, says


Banker targets US, says

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


8 August 2017



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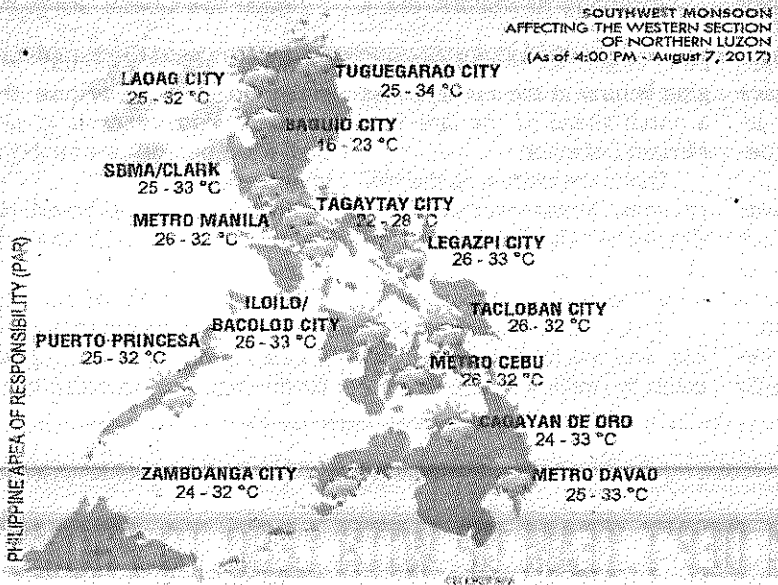


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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 8, 2017 | TUESDAY




PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING THE WESTERN SECTION OF NORTHERN LUZON (As of 4:00 PM - August 7, 2017)


SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:41 AM	6:22 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
6:48 PM	5:51 AM
FULL MOON AUG 8 2:11 AM	LAST QUARTER AUG 16 9:15 AM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 6:13 PM	HIGH TIDE 10:08 AM
<small>0.08 Meter 1.25 Meter</small>	
<small>Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms</small>	

METRO MANILA 26 - 33 °C 26 - 32 °C	TAGAYTAY 22 - 28 °C 22 - 28 °C	TACLOBAN 25 - 32 °C 25 - 33 °C
TUGUEGARAO 25 - 35 °C 25 - 35 °C	LEGAZPI 26 - 33 °C 27 - 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 32 °C 24 - 32 °C
LAOAG 25 - 32 °C 25 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 32 °C 25 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 33 °C 25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO 16 - 23 °C 16 - 23 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD 26 - 33 °C 26 - 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA 24 - 32 °C 25 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK 25 - 32 °C 25 - 33 °C	METRO CEBU 26 - 33 °C 26 - 33 °C	



MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM





SRGT RO. PADALA MDI

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

8 August 2017



Page: A1

COMELEC CHIEF RECEIVED COMMISSIONS, SAYS WIFE

STORY BY NIKKO DIZON

Patricia says her husband, Comelec Chair Andres Bautista, gets commissions for referring clients like Smartmatic to DivinaLaw. President Duterte says he will not preempt any probe against Bautista.

A2

FROM A1

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

Election chief Andres Bautista received commissions for referring companies, such as Smartmatic, Baseco and United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), to DivinaLaw, one of the country's fastest-growing law firms, his wife alleged in a sworn statement.

Patricia Paz "Tish" Bautista said she discovered several checks and commission sheets that purportedly came from lawyer Nilo T. Divina, managing partner of DivinaLaw.

Smartmatic is the company that provided the vote counting machines for the 2010, 2013 and 2016 elections in the country. Baseco and UCPB are among the companies sequestered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), which is tasked with recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies.

Bautista was chair of the PCGG from September 2010 until he was appointed head of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in May 2015.

Patricia submitted several pages of what appeared to be commission sheets with different amounts from 2015 to 2016 to the National Bureau of Investigation on Aug. 1.

One sheet showed "consultancy fees" from "Gebu Int'l School, Miascor, Baseco, Cocolife and Vazquez" totaling P1.224 million.

Other sheets showed figures from as little as P560 to P29,470 to as high as P95,663.

The Inquirer could not independently verify which among the figures stated were the actual commission that Bautista allegedly received.

In an interview with the Inquirer on Sunday afternoon, Bautista did not deny that he was "close" to Divina.

He said Divina was not only one of his lawyers but also the lawyer of his stepfather-in-law, Dr. Daniel Vazquez.

Son's godfather

Bautista confirmed what his wife said in her affidavit that Divina was a godfather to their eldest son.

Patricia described Divina as "one of Andy's best friends."

The Inquirer on Monday went to DivinaLaw office in Makati City to get the side of Divina but his personal secretary said he was out in a meeting.

Cheer Mae Ecarma, from the law office's corporate affairs, later told the Inquirer that Divina would not be issuing a statement. "We won't be making comments but we are preparing legal actions," she said.

Asked what the legal action was about, Ecarma declined to expound. "No further details," she said.

Told about the commission sheets found by his wife, Bautista said: "These are not public funds... It's not a commission but it's like a referral. This is private and does not involve government."

"It was an arrangement we had even before I joined [the] government but these are small amounts," the Comelec chair added.

Bautista told the Inquirer in a phone call on Monday that



WIFE'S FIND Patricia Paz Bautista says she found these bankbooks and passbooks in her husband's name. —LYN RILLON

the referral fees were paid "but never for companies where I will have potential conflict of interest," referring to his post as a government official.

He accused his wife of embellishing and fabricating the documents she claims to have against him.

"I question the genuineness of the documents. These are small amounts but they are reflected on my SALN (statement of assets, liabilities and net worth). And the taxes are paid for all of these," Bautista said.

The Comelec chief also said he would file cases against his wife this week.

Smartmatic

Among the individuals and companies included in the alleged commission sheets were Smartmatic, Baseco-Maligalig vs Bautista, Cebu International School, Miascor-Citadel Holdings-MR Holdings, CBRF Retainer and various projects, and CBRE Project Omaha.

One column in the commission sheets were labeled "Lawyers" but indicated only

initials. The most prominent were "NTD," which could refer to Divina himself and "ECE," which could stand for Estrella C. Elamparo, one of the law firm's senior partners.

Elamparo was the lawyer who questioned the eligibility of Sen. Grace Poe as a presidential candidate in the 2016 national elections.

Patricia, in her affidavit, said she was "highly suspicious" of the transactions that she saw on the commission sheets.

"It would, thus, appear that Andy secured the services of DivinaLaw, Nilo's law firm, in order to profit from his (Andy) position in the Comelec. Based on the documents I found, Nilo issued several checks in Andy's name and that of his family members, as Andy's commission for assisting the law firm's clients with the Comelec," she said.

"What made me highly suspicious is that Nilo's law firm has been handling, among others, government clients such as Baseco and UCPB, two government entities that Andy con-

stantly dealt with while he was the PCGG chair," she added.

Patricia said her impression was—based on the commission sheets she found and the checks—that her husband was getting "commission from Nilo, while he was/is in active government service."

"Surely, a private practitioner such as Nilo would not give commission or some form of incentive to Andy if it wasn't for any favor or service that he (Andy) had done for him (Nilo)."

"However, it appears that Andy would get some sort of commission from Nilo for the clients that his (Nilo's) law firm handled before the Comelec as well as other private people and institution," Patricia said.

Graft, laundering

Patricia said her husband could be liable for criminal violations under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

She mentioned that she was aware that her husband could be impeached for the violations.

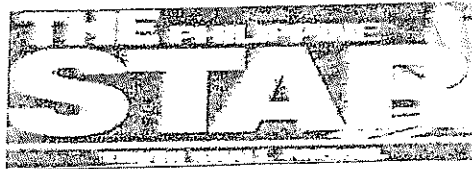
The Bautista couple are embroiled in a bitter marital dispute that has dragged on over the past four years.

The Comelec chair accused his wife of extortion, claiming that she wanted P620 million as settlement.

Bautista said he could not afford such a staggering amount, even if he has substantial savings from his work as a private citizen before he joined the government in 2010.

Patricia's camp vehemently denied that she had asked for the amount. —WITH A REPORT FROM ERIKA SAULER INQ

8 August 2017



Page: 1

Bautista willing to quit, denies hidden wealth

By PAOLO ROMERO and MARY GRACE PADIN

Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno yesterday maintained there are no pork barrel allocations in the proposed P3.767-trillion national budget for 2018.

"Look at the budget. Let's not talk about 'pork,'" Diokno told reporters at the Senate when asked about Sen. Panfilo Lacson's call for lawmakers to give up their pork barrel in the proposed budget so that the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act or the free college education law can be funded.

The budget chief noted that Lacson himself was not sure whether there were indeed pork barrel allocations in the proposed fiscal spending program

ties and colleges (SUCs) this year.

Lacson also said he heard that one congressman got P5 billion in pork barrel in the 2017 national budget and another got P6 billion.

He also said some senators apparently got some, too, at around P300 million, adding he and Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III waived theirs.

He vowed to ferret out pork barrel allocations during the budget deliberations in the Senate in the coming months.

Other senators were mum on Lacson's claims except Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who said he "already gave up (my pork barrel) last year."

Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino

Bautista From Page 1

(SALN)

"This is a sad episode for our family, especially our children. Her allegations are all lies and I categorically deny all of them. It was my hope that we could still fix our marital problems or at least address them in a civil and decent manner," he

added.

He said his wife had allowed "herself to be used to serve the political agenda of some opportunistic people."

"I am victim of betrayal here and it's like I was raped in my own home. It is now clear she is motivated by greed and that she will stop

at nothing to besmirch my reputation and that of my family for the purpose of financial gain, even to the extent of allowing herself to be used by certain people and groups to promote a political agenda designed to cast aspersions on me and the Comelec's work in the 2016 elections," he maintained.

According to Bautista, his wife wanted to divorce him

since 2013 because there was a third party involved on her part.

He, however, wanted to save their relationship because their children are still young.

Stolen documents

He accused his wife of stealing cash, gift checks, ATM cards and other financial documents belonging to him

and his family 10 months ago, "many of which her lawyers embellished, doctored or fabricated" and used to "extort and blackmail me."

Bautista charged that in June, his wife had tried to "extort" some P620 million from him as a settlement for their divorce.

"It is apparent that she and her long-time lover concocted this extortion plan with

guidance from ill-intentioned lawyers who thought they could threaten me into simply turning over hard-earned and legitimately acquired assets belonging to me and my family. They were wrong," he added.

Bautista also gave assurance that he is willing to face any investigative body that will look into his wife's allegations.

8 August 2017



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2 soldiers killed, 7 wounded in clash with NPA

By FRANCIS ELEVADO and CELSO AMO

Two soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded in a 30-minute firefight between communist guerrillas and government troops in Gubat, Sorsogon early yesterday morning, according to a ranking military official.

Lt. Col. Randy Espino, 31st Infantry Battalion commander, said elements from his battalion, particularly one section of the Alpha Company of the Philippine Army led by 2Lt. Lee Tremedal, were conducting combat patrol when they encountered an undetermined number of New People's Army (NPA) rebels at around 5:30 a.m. in the town's Barangay Casili.

"The rebels used an improvised explosive killing two of our troops while seven were also wounded," Espino confirmed, adding that the firefight lasted for about 30 minutes after which the enemy withdrew in different directions.

"We were conducting a combat operation against NPA rebels who were planning to launch a tactical offensive against government troops and soft targets in Sorsogon," he explained.

Espino said the identities of the slain soldiers were withheld pending notification of their families.

"The loss of our two heroes is an inspiration for the troops to continue their mandate of serving the people and securing the province of Sorsogon against communist terrorists," he added.

Abra clash

Meanwhile, government troops and communist rebels clashed anew also early yesterday morning in the remote town of Boliney in Abra.

A platoon of the Philippine Army's 24th Infantry Battalion based in Abra was on combat security operations when fired upon by about 20 NPA rebels allegedly under the Kilusang Larangang Gerilya North Abra led by a certain "Ka Payas" in Sitio

Krupliw, Barangay Danac East

The exchange of gunfire lasted for 30 minutes, according to Army Capt. Jefferson Somera of the 5th Infantry Division's Public Affairs Office.

While no troopers were killed or wounded, Somera said that overpowered rebels withdrew with their killed and wounded comrades.

Lt. Col. Dominic Baluga dismissed any huge influence of the rebel movement in Abra, saying there are no more than 20 around the province who are "armed bandits, extortionists and terrorists."

In the first week of July, soldiers recovered three M16A1 rifles, an M203 grenade launcher, two more M14 rifles, four assault rifles and a grenade launcher from communist guerrillas in a brief firefight in Boliney.

Soldiers were on security patrol to verify tips from villagers of roaming rebels when fired upon by rebels in remote Barangay Kilong-olao.

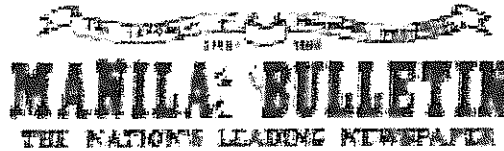
A wounded female rebel, reportedly a niece of the wife of Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, was captured by the soldiers.

Another wounded 17-year-old female guerrilla from Abra was rescued by policemen from a village in the same town after the skirmishes.

At least 15 backpacks with personal belongings, rebel documents, two handheld radio units, eight cellphones, assorted medical paraphernalia, binoculars and different types of ammunition and magazines for M16 and M14 rifles were also seized from the rebels who fled when they were outmaneuvered by government forces.

– With Artemio Dumlaog, Gilbert Bayoran, Eva Visperas

8 August 2017



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2 soldiers die battling NPAs in Sorsogon

By **RUEL SALDICO**
and **NINO N. LUCES**

CAMP ANGELES, Camarines Sur/
CAMP OLA, Albay — Two soldiers were
killed and seven other members of the
government security force wounded
in the explosion of landmines as they
battled New People's Army (NPA) rebels
in Gubat, Sorsogon yesterday morning.

Lieutenant Colonel Randy Espino,
commanding officer of the army's 31st
Infantry Battalion (31IB), said the 30-
minute encounter broke out past 5 a.m.
Monday in Barangay Casili in Gubat.

Troopers from one section of Alpha
Company of the 31IB, led by 2nd Lieu-
tenant Lee O. Tremedial, had engaged
the rebels in a gunbattle when land-
mines suddenly exploded, killing and
injuring several soldiers.

Senior Inspector Malu Calubaquib,
Police Regional Office 5 (PRO5) spokes-
person, said the identities of the casu-
alties have been withheld pending the
notification of their next of kin.

Espino said the brave soldiers will
serve as an inspiration for security
forces battling the threats posed by
guerrillas involved in illegal activities
like extortion in the area.

8 August 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B2

2 soldiers dead in clash with NPA in Sorsogon

TWO government soldiers were killed while seven others were injured in a firefight with New People's Army rebels in Gubat town in Sorsogon yesterday.

The NPA first detonated improvised bombs on members of the 31st Infantry Battalion at around 5:30 a.m. before engaging them in a firefight that lasted about 30 minutes, said Capt. Randy Ilunar, public affairs officer of the Army's 9th Infantry Division.

Ilunar said the soldiers were sent to Barangay Casili in Gubat after NPA rebels were "monitored planning to launch tactical offensives against government troops and

soft targets in Sorsogon."

He declined to name the slain soldiers, pending the notification of their families. The military was determining if the rebel group suffered casualties in the firefight.

President Duterte terminated peace negotiations with the communist National Democratic Front of the Philippines last month after a series of NPA attacks on military forces.

One of the attacks targeted members of the Presidential Security Group in North Cotabato, who were on an administrative movement. Five PSG men were wounded in the incident. – *Victor Reyes*

8 August 2017

Balita

Page. 5

ANG PANUNGUINANG PAKAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BARNA ₱8.00

4 sa MILF todas, 5 pa sugatan sa BIFF ambush

Patay ang apat na pinaghihinalaang miyembro ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) habang umabot sa limang katao ang sugatan matapos na salakayin ng mga hinihinalang kasapi ng Bangsamoro Islamic Liberation Front (BIFF) sa Maguindanao.

Ayon kay Chief Supt. Reuben Theodore Sindac, director ng

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) regional police, nagsimula ang pag-atake nang pasabugan ng bomba ng BIFF ang grupo ng MILF habang tumatawid sa Barangay Andavit ng bayan ng Datu Salibo, nitong Linggo ng umaga.

Nagsimula ang bakbakan ng dalawang grupo nang gumanti ng putok ang mga armadong MILF.

Ayon naman kay Chief Insp. Tara Leah Cuyco, ARMM regional police information officer, ang mga umatake ay miyembro ng ISIS-inspired BIFF.

Una nang napaulat na kaalyansa ang BIFF ng Maute Group, na kaalyado naman ng Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Aaron B. Recuenco

8 August 2017



Pahina. 7

5 MILF utas sa roadside bomb

NORTH COTABATO

Limang miyembro ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ang namatay makaraang sumabog ang landmines na itinanim ng mga rebeldeng Bangsa-moro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa Barangay Andavit, Datu Salibo, Maguindanao kahapon.

Sinabi ni Lt. Col. Gerry Besana ng Army's 6th Civil Military Operations Battalion na ang limang MILF members na napatay ay mga tauhan ni Com-

mander Asrap

Si Asrap ay isa sa mga MILF commander na kabilang sa Task Force Itihad na tumutulong sa mga pulis at sundalo sa pagtugis at pagsugpo sa BIFF sa nasabing lalawigan.

Una ng nakipagbakbakan ang grupo ng MILF laban sa tropa ni BIFF Commander Esmael Abdulmalik sa bayan ng Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

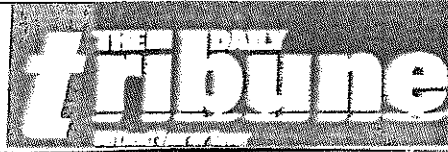
Si Abdulmalik ay sinasabing sinanay sa paggawang bomba ng Malaysian

terrorist na si Zulkifli bin Hir aliyas Marwan.

Matagal nang tinutugis ng mga awtoridad ang grupo ni Abdulmalik na nagbibitbit ng ISIS flag, nangre-recruit ng mga kabataan at pinagnanakawan ang mga residente sa mga bayan ng Datu Saudi, Shariff Saidona, Salibo, Mamasapano at sa bayan ng Datu Piang.

Nabatid na anim na iba pa ang isinugod sa pagamutan matapos masugatan sa pagsabog
Rhoderick Beñez

8 August 2017



Page: 3

AFP chief cancels deployment of more troops in Marawi City

As clearing operations in war-torn Marawi City are set to wind down soon, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has suspended the deployment of another battalion as reinforcement to units still engaged in fighting Maute group terrorists.

For reasons of operational security, AFP public information office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo declined to say where the battalion is based, but added the officers and enlisted personnel of the unit were "disappointed" with AFP chief-of-staff Eduardo Año's decision to

cancel deployment of more troops.

"The chief-of-staff desisted on bringing this Army battalion due to the (recent positive developments) ongoing there," Arevalo said.

A battalion's strength is estimated to be around 300 to 500 officers and enlisted personnel.

Arevalo said the battalion's deployment was finalized some two weeks ago and that officers and personnel have packed their equipment, waiting for orders to go Marawi City, only to be informed that Año had canceled the order as there are sufficient troops in the

area.

Earlier, ranking military and defense officials said the remaining Maute group fighters, estimated at around 40 to 60, are now pocketed in two barangays measuring less than a square kilometers.

Clearing operations are slowed down by the Maute Group's penchant of using improvised explosive devices, snipers and booby traps.

As of 7 p.m. of August 6, the number of Maute Group terrorists killed has reached the 528 mark while number of government troops

slain in the ongoing operations is now at 122 along with 45 civilians executed. Recovered firearms are placed at 603 and rescued civilians at 1,728.

Fighting in Marawi City started on May 28 when government troops botched an attempt to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader and ISIS "emir" in Southeast Asia Isnilon Hapilon.

Ex-cop allegedly in Maute ranks, AWOL since 2014

The still unnamed police officer from Rizal, who allegedly joined the ranks of Maute Group remnants now being neutralized in Marawi City

by government forces, has been AWOL (absent without leave) from the PNP since 2014 and already dropped from the rolls.

This was clarified by PNP head Director General Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa in a press briefing Monday in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

The ex-cop's identity is still being verified after government forces recovered an ID card in one of the Maute Group strongholds earlier in the fighting.

"We would like to make that clear, Number 1, he is no longer a policeman. (As early as) 2014, he

went AWOL and his name was dropped from the rolls, and we have no idea on his whereabouts. (And regarding the recovered ID card), it could have been given or taken by someone else. At any rate, our investigation is still ongoing to validate this," Dela Rosa said in Filipino.

He added that the PNP cannot ascertain on whether the former police officer is indeed in Marawi City fighting for the Maute Group terrorists unless the latter is captured or killed in the battlefield.

PNA

8 August 2017



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Troops got wrong Maute brods—AFP

TWO Maute brothers, identified as terrorist leaders in the now known Marawi siege, and supposed Islamic state emir Isnilon Hapilon were likely still alive, contrary to earlier reports, the military said Monday.

The two men supposedly killed by recent state offensives were not Omar and Abdullah Maute, but possibly their younger siblings who were not initially identified as among the terrorists, said Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla. *Next page*

Troops...

From A1

Omar and Abdullah, Padilla said, were likely still in Marawi, along with Hapilon, the supposed Islamic State emir in Southeast Asia.

President Rodrigo Duterte previously offered a P10-million reward for the “neutralization” of Hapilon and P5 million each for the Maute brothers.

Thousands of state troops are struggling to quell the siege the three terror leaders launched on May 23, which prompted Duterte to place Mindanao under martial rule.

The battle for Marawi, which entered its 77th day on Monday, has left at least 690 individuals dead, Padilla said.

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For reasons of operational security, AFP public information office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo declined to say where the battalion was based.

But he added the officers and enlisted personnel of the unit were “disappointed” with AFP chief-of-staff Eduardo Año’s decision to cancel deployment of more troops.

“The Chief-of-Staff desisted on [sic] bringing this Army battalion due to the [recent positive developments] ongoing there,” Arevalo said.

A battalion’s strength is estimated to be around 300 to 500 officers and enlisted personnel.

Arevalo said the battalion’s deployment was finalized two weeks ago and that officers and personnel had packed their equipment, waiting for orders to go Marawi City, only to be informed that Año had canceled the order as there were sufficient troops in the area.

Earlier, ranking military and defense officials said the remaining Maute Group fighters, estimated at around 40 to 60,

were now pocketed in two barangays measuring less than a square kilometers.

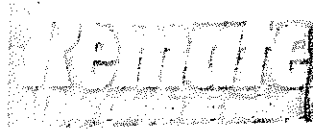
Clearing operations have been slowed down by the Maute Group’s penchant in using improvised explosive devices, snipers and booby traps.

As of 7 p.m. of Aug. 6, the number of Maute Group terrorists killed has reached the 528 mark while number of government troops slain in the ongoing operations is now at 122 along with 45 civilians executed.

Recovered firearms are placed at 603 and rescued civilians at 1,728.

Meanwhile, the chief of the Foreign Police of the European Union on Monday said threats had gone “global” and Southeast Asia and Europe were facing common threats of terrorism and cybercrime, urging relevant countries for security cooperation to ensure critical infrastructure “resistant” to cyber-attacks, extremisms and terrorism. **With PNA and Sara Fabunan**

8 August 2017



Pahina. 3

Maute brothers buhay pa

INAMIN ng **Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)** ang malaking posibilidad na buhay pa rin at mahigpit na nagtatago ang magkapatid na lider ng Maute terror group sa Marawi City.

Taliwas sa mga napaulat na napatay na sina Omar at Abdullah Maute, sinabi ni Brig. General Restituto Padilla na buhay pa ang dalawa.

Sinabi ni Padilla na posibleng ibang mga nakababatang kapatid na Maute ang napaslang sa sagupaan.

Idinagdag pa ng heneral na kasama pa rin ng Maute brothers ang tinutugis na lider ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) na si Isnilon Hapilon.

"Iyon pong ating mga nahuhang balita noong araw, na maaaring may 1 o 2 sa mag-

kapalid ang nasawi, may indikasyon po na siguro iyong 2 sigurong mas bata -- hindi po si Abdullah at Omar ang maaaring nasawi," ani Padilla.

"Itong 2 mas matanda, si Abdullah at si Omar, ay nandyan pa po. Ganoon din po sa

aming paniniwala si Hapilon," dagdag nito.

Samantala, sinabi ng AFP na hindi na hihigit sa isang square kilometer sa Marawi City ang pinangyayarihan ng paghahabol sa mga terorista.

JEFF GALLOS

8 August 2017

INQUIRER

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Islamic school hit by mortar

AFP says 'retaliatory fire' from terrorists in Marawi hit civilian targets in Matanao town

MARAWI CITY—At least six mortar rounds fired from the war zone here landed on two villages in the town of Matanao, Lanao del Sur province on Sunday, with one exploding at an Islamic school filled with students attending weekend classes.

The military quickly disowned the mortar firings, pointing fingers at Maute, the homegrown terror group that tried to establish an Islamic State (IS) province in this predominantly Muslim city.

While no one was wounded in the mortar blasts, residents and children were sent to panic.

Early morning bombing

Nasser Dimapinto, an employee at the Islamic school in the village of Ragaya, told reporters that at least 480 students were in their classrooms when a mortar hit and exploded on the school building's wall around 7 a.m. on Sunday.

The blast sent students scampering for safety. Many were crying out of fear.

"Some stumbled on the floor while others fainted," Dimapinto said.

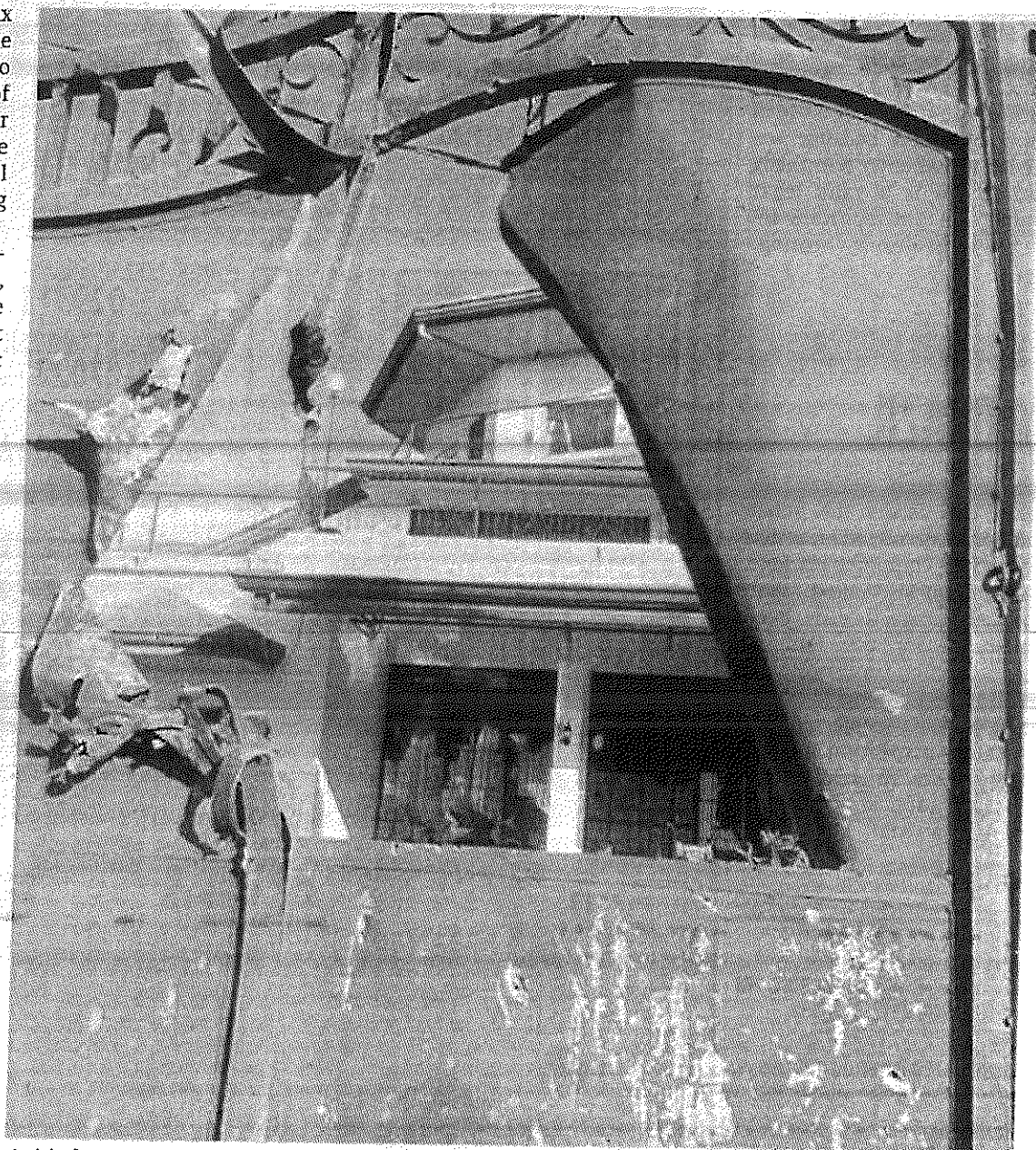
In the same village, Norodin Sapaluden said he was opening the gate of the house he was guarding when a mortar exploded.

'Retaliatory fire'

In the village of Matampay, another mortar exploded, prompting residents to flee to the town hall.

"Women were crying and the children were terrified," resident Jamirah Macabalang said.

Three other mortars failed to explode.



Aside from an Islamic school, this house in Matanao town was also hit by mortar fire that punched a hole on its gate. The stray mortar round was fired by terrorists still holed up in Marawi, according to the military. —DRIES ABATO LININDONG

Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, Joint Task Force Marawi spokesperson, said the mortar rounds came from "retaliatory fire" from terrorists.

"None of our indirect fire weapons were employed this morning. None that could possibly reach the area of impact," Petinglay said.

"Our units are still investigating as to where particularly the enemy fire came from," she added.

The military resumed

bombing runs in the city targeting Maute positions.

Using Philippine Air Force FA-50 jets, government forces launched airstrikes shortly before 8 a.m. on Sunday as the campaign to finish off Maute gunmen continued for two months now.

But Petinglay said the military suffered three more casualties, raising the death toll on the government side to 122.

Two of the latest fatalities were victims of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on Sunday, Petinglay said. The third military casualty died of a heart attack, she added.

80 captives

“The fighting is concentrated now on a one-square kilometer area,” Petinglay said, adding that at least 50 terrorists were still holed up in the city.

She said the military was clearing parts of two villages, conscious of the continued captivity of at least 80 hostages, including Catholic priest Teresito “Chito” Suganob, vicar general of Marawi.

According to Petinglay, soldiers have killed at least 528 terrorists and recovered 603 firearms.

At least 45 civilians were killed by the terrorists while 1,724 were rescued.

Clashes flared up on May 23 when government forces tried to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, a top Abu Sayyaf leader and acknowledged IS head in Mindanao.

The arresting team, however, was met by a large group of terrorists, including some foreigners, as Maute and Abu Sayyaf joined forces in Marawi.

—JEFFREY MAITEM INQ

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MANILA BULLETIN
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Stray bomb hits houses outside Marawi war zone

By ALI G. MACABALANG

MARAWI CITY – A Philippine Air Force (PAF) attack aircraft pounding positions of remaining jihadist militants here dropped a bomb on a cluster of civilian houses about 13 kilometers from the military-declared “war zone” in this war-torn city, a civil society group disclosed yesterday.

There was no casualty reported in the incident that occurred before 7 a.m. Sunday in a village bordering this city and adjacent Marantao town in Lanao del Sur, said Drieza Abato Lininding of the Bangsamoro Youth for peace and development.

One of “several bombs” shattered parts of civilian residences including those owned by Aisah Baicon Cayongcat of the United Nations-World Food Program, and Ariel Amerol, a regional official of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front-Bangsamoro Development Agency (Ranaw Region), Lininding said.

“Residents were shocked and traumatized (because the bombs landed outside the war zone) only a few meters away from AFP detachments and checkpoints,” Lininding said, questioning the military’s “rules of engagement.”

Defense and military officials declared last week that fighting was now confined to just two-and-a-half barangays in this city where militants numbering between 50 and 70 remained holed out.

But Sunday’s bombing areas were located around 13 kilometers away from such war zone, according to residents.

The Manila Bulletin tried but failed to get the reaction of military officials on the reported accidental bombing.

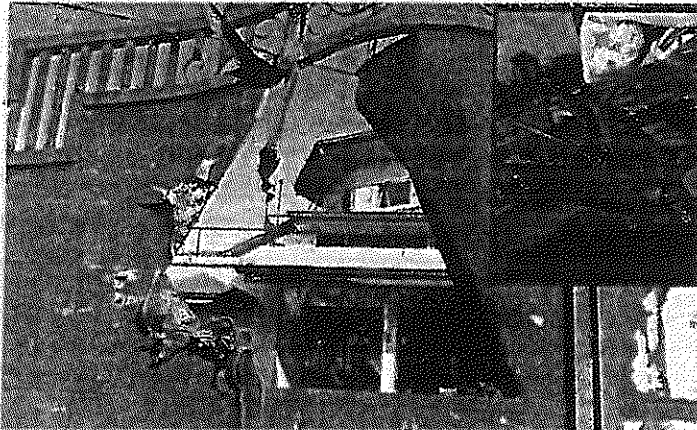
Meanwhile, Lininding and other displaced Maranao residents yesterday expressed hope the President will soon be able to address the plight of close to

300,000 evacuees.

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The Manila Times

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OFF TARGET

The recovered propeller of an unidentified bomb [inset] found at the border of Marawi City and Marantao town that hit several houses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bomb targetting Maute hits civilian houses outside Marawi

COTABATO CITY: Civilian houses located outside the Marawi city war zone were hit by a bomb over the weekend amid continuous military air strikes and artillery bombardments on the lairs of the Islamic State's (IS) local counterparts in the city, civil society groups reported.

No one was reported hurt in the explosions but residents were "shocked and traumatized" to learn about it because the bombs landed outside the war zone "only a few hundred meters away from AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] detachments and checkpoints" Drieza Abato Lininding of Bangsamoro Youth for Peace and Development said.

Among those hit by the bomb were houses owned by Aisah Baicon Cayongcat of the United Nations-World Food Program and Ariel Amerol, a regional official of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front-Bangsamoro Development Agency (Ranaw Region), Lininding added.

The military refused to comment on the reported explosion even as they declined to identify the type of bomb that was recovered by civilians from one of the houses that was hit.

Residents recovered a piece of ordnance – a bomb propeller with six sharp fins – raising the suspicion that the explosive was made either out of 81 mm or 120mm mortars. They were also not discounting the possibility that the bomb could have been dropped by a jet fighter because the recovered material was not common in Philippine arsenals.

Drieza uploaded photos of the recovered bomb and the damaged houses.

The military has been battling members of the Maute terrorist group in Marawi City since May. They said the remaining terrorists are now holed up in two villages within a square kilometer of each other in the eastern part of the city.

But Sunday's bombing happened in a non-affected area located on the border of Marawi City and Marantao town which is around 10 kilometers away from the war zone.

Authorities also did not release results of the investigation of the burnt houses in the "cleared areas" in the city.

MOH SAADUDDIN

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Anakpawis accuses AFP of red-baiting

BY VICTOR REYES

THE party-list group Anakpawis yesterday accused the Armed Forces of red-baiting, which the military promptly denied.

The accusation followed the capture of a bomber of the New People's Army, identified as Ruel Calolot, during a raid on an NPA camp in Bukidnon last week. Calolot had an Anakpawis ID, according to the military.

Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao said in a phone interview: "What we want to emphasize here is the red-baiting of the AFP. They have been doing this for a long time already."

He said Anakpawis is not associated with the NPA.

Casilao said Calolot joined Anakpawis in 2009, and membership in the group is good for only three years but renewable. He said Calolot did not renew his membership.

"If he decided later to join the NPA, that's his own choice. Anakpawis has no control over that," Casilao said.

Casilao also claimed some soldiers and policemen have joined Anakpawis. "I just cannot give you the names because they will just be scolded by their leaders," he said.

Capt. Joe Patrick Martinez,

spokesman of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said Calolot who introduced himself as an Anakpawis member after his arrest, and showed an Anakpawis ID, with control number 09-186511 signed by then Anakpawis president now Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano.

"It's not red-baiting. He was arrested and showed us the (Anakpawis) ID... He answered a direct question (during interview). He said 'yes, I am a member'... That did not come from us," said Martinez.

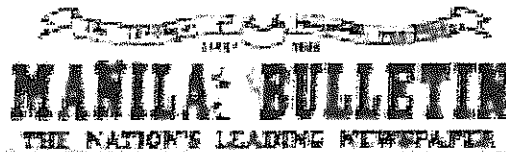
"We just said we recovered an Anakpawis ID from him and he claimed to be a member of Anakpawis. There is no red-baiting there," said Martinez.

On Anakpawis denying Calolot is an active member, Martinez said: "If they are denying it, so what, who cares? ... What we after is the case of illegal possession of explosives and firearms against him," said Martinez.

"He is still an NPA member, facing charges of illegal possession of explosives and firearms," he added.

Calolot and his younger brother, Ramil who is also an NPA member, were apprehended following a raid of a NPA bomb-making and training facility in Barangay Kiburiao in Quezon town on Wednesday last week.

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Page: 2

AFP opens 2 Mindanao text hotlines

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

The military has encouraged residents of Mindanao to report any security concerns, including cases of abuse committed by government forces, through a text hotline for appropriate action.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Restituto Padilla Jr said they have established two mobile hotlines wherein the public can send their concerns and complaints in Mindanao, which is currently under martial law.

According to Padilla, Globe subscribers can report information or forward complaints via SMS to 26563 while Smart users can send a report to 7444-1678.

“Para sa Mindanao po, naglagay po kami ng AFP Text Hotline. Ito pong AFP Text Hotline, sa Smart at sa Globe, ay maaari niyong gamitin para makapagpaabot po kayo sa ating Armed Forces na mga maaaring pinangangambahan niyo na nariyan sa lugar niyo. Mga armadong tao, grupo na nais niyong tugunan kaagad,” [For Mindanao, we have established the AFP Text Hotline.

You can send to the Armed Forces any concerns in your community to the AFP text hotline powered by Smart and Globe,” he said in a Palace press briefing.

“Or kung may nang-aabuso po na sundalo sa inyong barangay na gusto niyong maaksyunan kaagad, pwede niyo rin pong ipadala dito sa text hotline na ito para matugunan natin [You can also report any abuse of soldiers in your barangays via text hotline for immediate action],” he added.

Padilla recognized that the military needs the cooperation of the public in

addressing security threats.

He admitted the country has limited number of security forces to cover the entire population.

He said the combined 125,000-strong Armed Forces and 175,000-strong Philippine National Police is not even 10 percent of the country's population.

“If each and every citizen in every barangay is a partner for increasing our security posture in the concept of shared responsibility and security that we are pushing always, wouldn't it be a better place for us?” he said.

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Pahina. 4

AFP, humiling ng tuloy na suporta

PATULOY na hinihikayat ni AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. ang sambayanang Filipino, lalo na ang mga taga-Mindanao na makipagtulungan sa security sector at manatiling bigilante, alerto at proactive sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng impormasyon at kahit na anomang potential assistance na maaaring makapagpataas o makakapagpaigting sa security posture ng kani-kanilang mga komunidad.

Sa kasalukuyang sitwasyon aniya ng Marawi ay sinabi ni BGen. Padilla na nananatili silang nakatutok sa natitirang problematic area, na aniya'y less than one square kilometer sa puso ng commercial business district.

"Our forces are all in place and are doing their best to fulfill their mandate of liberating Marawi at the soonest time possible," ani BGen. Padilla.

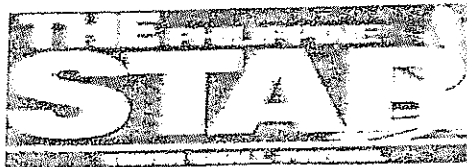
Ang Joint Task Group Lanao ay tumutulong umano sa maraming residente sa paligid ng Lake Marawi para sa kanilang pagbabalik sa kani-kanilang mga lugar dahil ang mga lugar aniya ng mga ito ay nananatiling "unscathed" o hindi ng nagdaang bakkakan sa Marawi.

Ang tanging hiling lamang aniya nila sa mga residente ng Marawi ay maging pasensyoso dahil sa oras na maging clear na ang lahat ay kagyat na idedeklarang ligtas ang nasabing mga lugar.

"The information that has been coming out lately about areas that have had some series of explosions — these are not series of explosions by the way but isolated cases. And we'd like to clarify that because of the hundreds of unexploded ordnance in the area, we believe that these could have been among those that have been in the area for quite some time," anito.

KRIS JOSE

8 August 2017



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Gov't starts needs assessment for Marawi evacuees

By ALEXIS ROMERO

The government will start assessing the needs of residents displaced by the Marawi siege today as security forces continue to flush out the remaining terrorists in the city.

Civil defense deputy administrator Kristoffer Purisima said a post-conflict needs assessment (PCNA) team – composed of about 200 people from the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other national and local government units, including members of academe and civil society – would be deployed to determine the needs of affected communities.

“A national government agency shall lead the assessment of each sector namely infrastructure, the productive sector, social and cross-cultural sectors,” Purisima said in a press briefing yesterday in Malacañang.

He said the team is expected to come up with a recovery strategy, which would become the basis for mobilizing resources. Other methods for assessment would be conducted once the team secures clearance from the military.

Purisima could not give estimates on the amount of damage to infrastructure, noting that government forces are still clashing with Islamic extremists.

He also could not say when the assessment would be completed as this would largely depend on the ground situation.

“We would like to give a comprehen-

sive picture. It's hard to release piecemeal updates when it comes to comprehensive rehabilitation and recovery plan. We still do not know our target because we have not seen the entire picture,” the civil defense official said.

A total of 528 terrorists from the Maute group, 122 government troopers and 45 civilians have died since fighting erupted in Marawi City last May 23.

The successive attacks by Islamic State-inspired terrorists prompted President Duterte to place the entire island of Mindanao under martial law.

The military said the problematic area in Marawi has been reduced to less than one square kilometer within the heart of the commercial business district.

Yesterday, the Philippine Air Force sent two FA-50 jets to attack enemy positions that were rigged with improvised explosive devices (IED) and clear more areas of threats.

“This fight, once it ends in Marawi, is only an indication that we have to strengthen and increase our security postures for any possible threats that may still emanate in the future, similar to what the President has been saying about terror threats that may be looming in the horizon,” Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said. – With Cecilia Suerte Felipe, Roel Pareño, Rainier Allan Ronda

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EDITORIAL

More troops, please

WHEN you have a population of more than 100 million, 20,000 additional state security forces seem negligible.

And considering that they are guarding and protecting more than 7 000 islands, the troop buildup would look even more insignificant.

This is considering terror attacks and other violent acts of Islamic extremists and communist rebels, not to mention external threats from aggressive nations and international terror organizations.

But we yield to the wisdom and better judgment of the Commander-in-Chief on the matter.

Thus, President Duterte has asked lawmakers to approve the recruiting of 20,000 more soldiers to tackle increased security threats following a bloody urban siege in the south, his spokesman said Sunday.

Almost 700 people have been killed, according to the official count, in over two months of fighting in Marawi City against Islamist militants who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

The militants, waving the black IS flag, have occupied parts of Marawi since May 23, prompting Duterte to declare martial law in the entire Mindanao.

"The request of the president for additional 20,000 troops is part of our intensified security posture to guard areas in the country where there are continuing security threats," spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

"The deployment of troops to Marawi and other points in Mindanao needs to be rebalanced to ensure maximum effectiveness," he added.

The Armed Forces numbers about 125,000 and faces numerous threats including the IS-inspired militants in Mindanao, communist guerrillas scattered all over the archipelago and territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea.

The AFP is among the region's most poorly-equipped, with only a dozen jet fighters and a fleet composed mainly of second-hand ships.

So many troops have been deployed to Marawi that other parts of the country have expressed concern that they are unprotected.

In a trip to Marawi last week, Duterte asked Congress for the funding for 20,000 additional troops but did not specify how much he needed.

Military spokesman Colonel Edgard Arevalo said Sunday the defeat of the fighters in Marawi was coming soon but he would not give specifics.

"We are closer there now than before. We can say that we are really at the culminating part of our operations in Marawi," he said.

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

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P95-Million equipment acquisition for military moves forward after Duterte warning

The Department of National Defense (DND) announced that after the opening of bidding for the Hyperbaric Chamber Project on August 3, Medicare Supplies submission was declared as the lowest calculated bid. This is after the mandatory, non-discretionary pass-or-fail evaluation of all bidders.

Approved budget for contract (ABC) for the said project is PHP 94,250,000.00 coming from the Office of the President.

"The Notice of Award will be given to the lowest calculated bidder if it passes the post-qualification process," DND said.

Meanwhile, the joint venture of Variance Trading Corporation was declared second lowest calculated bidder.

DND said two other bidder, MRL Cybertec Corporation and Deutsche Motorgerate, Inc., were declared ineligible to bid for the project for failure to meet the eligibility requirements.

"We hope to give our wounded soldier-heroes the best medical care by upgrading our military hospitals and facilities nationwide, beginning with the AFP Medical Center. Nais ng Pangulo na tiyakin ang kagalingan at kalusugan ng ating mga sundalo bilang pagkilala sa kanilang kagitingan at sakripisyo para sa bayan," said DND Spokesperson Director Arsenio R. Andolong.

Hyperbaric Chamber helps hasten the recovery of wounded soldiers.

While the Bids and Awards Committee will strictly adhere to RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations in the spirit of transparency, accountability, and fairness, we are also duty bound to ensure expediency because this project will benefit not only the soldiers, but their families as well. We also have to abide by the President's directive to put more premium on quality rather than cost," DND Assistant Secretary for Financial Management Josue Gaverza said.

President Rodrigo Duterte in early July said he wants medical equipment for soldiers be procured in 60 days after being delayed.

"I was only about two months President. I visited the AFP hospital. Napakaraming kulang. And would you believe it, itong gobyerno na 'to. ewan ko noon pa 'to." Duterte said.

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

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

"I bought you a baric. high-pressure thing, lalo na kung wounded ka, hindi na masyado — for three days, you are not extricated and there is gangrene. Kung maipasok ka lang doon sa makina na 'yun, it can arrest the infection. mahabol, instead of maputol." he said.

DND added that aside from the hyperbaric chamber, the AFP Medical Center is also acquiring a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Machine and a Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, and Extracorporeal Shockwave Lithotripsy (ESWL) Machine, all of which had been bid out already.

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Duterte: AFP needs 20,000 more troops due to greater threats

Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella says the President wants more troops deployed in Marawi and other areas in Mindanao

President Rodrigo Duterte has asked lawmakers to approve the recruiting of 20,000 more soldiers to tackle increased security threats following a bloody urban siege in the south, his spokesman said on Sunday, August 6.

Almost 700 people have been killed, according to the official count, in over two months of fighting in the southern city of Marawi against Islamist militants who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (ISIS) group.

The militants, waving the black ISIS flag, have occupied parts of Marawi since May 23, prompting Duterte to declare martial law in the entire southern region of Mindanao.

"The request of the president for additional 20,000 troops is part of our intensified security posture to guard areas in the country where there are continuing security threats," spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

"The deployment of troops to Marawi and other points in Mindanao needs to be rebalanced to ensure maximum effectiveness," he added.

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