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Sunday

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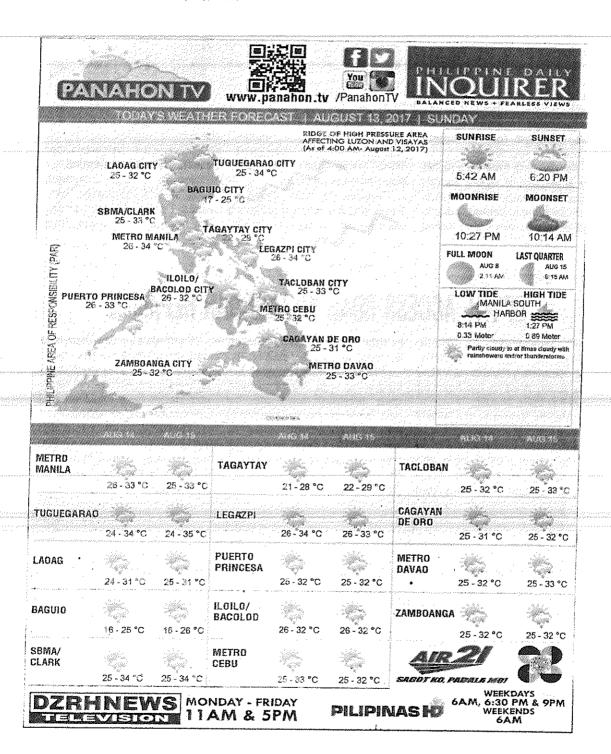
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TRUMP: US MILITARY 'LOCKED AND LOADED'

STORY BY REUTERS

The United States military was 'locked and loaded,' US President Donald Trump on Friday warned North Korea, which has accused him of driving the Korean peninsula to the brink of a nuclear war. But the Trump administration has also been engaging in back-channel diplomacy to resolve the crisis.

FROM A1

BEDMINSTER—US President Donald Trump issued a new threat to North Korea on Friday, saying the US military was "locked and loaded" as Pyongyang accused him of driving the Korean peninsula to the brink of nuclear war and world powers expressed alarm.

The Pentagon said the United States and South Korea would proceed as planned with a joint military exercise in 10 days, an action sure to further antagonize North Korea.

China, Russia and Germany voiced dismay at the war of words between Pyongyang and Washington.

Trump, who had pressed China to help rein in its ally North Korea, spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping by phone on Friday, with the two leaders reiterating their commitment to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, the White House said in a statement.

"President Trump and President Xi agreed North Korea must stop its provocative and escalatory behavior," the statement said.

Trump and Xi also agreed that the recent adoption of a United Nations Security Council resolution on North Korea was an important step toward achieving peace and stability on the peninsula, the statement said.

China's state media said Xi told Trump the North Korean nuclear issue required a peaceful resolution through talks and urged the "relevant side" to exercise restraint, avoiding words or action that raise tension.

'Very easy to understand'

Trump, vacationing at his Bedminster, New Jersey golf resort, again referred to North Korea's leader in his latest bellicose remarks. "Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely," he wrote on Twitter. "Hopefully Kim Jong Un will find another path!"

The term "locked and loaded," popularized in the 1949 war film "Sands of Iwo Jima" starring American actor John

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President Trump: Game of nuclear brinkmanship -AP

Wayne, refers to preparations for shooting a gun.

Asked later by reporters to explain the remark, Trump said: "Those words are very. very easy to understand."

Again referring to Kim, Trump added, "If he utters one threat or if he does anything with respect to Guam or any place else that's an American territory or an American ally, he will truly regret it and he will regret it fast."

In remarks to reporters after meeting with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, Trump said the situation with North Korea was "very dangerous and it will not continue."

Tougher sanctions

"We will see what happens. We think that lots of good things could happen and we could also have a bad solution." he said.

Trump said he thought US allies South Korea and Japan were "very happy" with how he was handling the confrontation.

The president, a billionaire and former reality television personality, sent his tweet after North Korean state news agency KCNA said in a statement that "Trump is driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of a nuclear war."

Washington wants to stop Pyongyang from developing



ANTIMISSILE MISSILE A PAC-3 interceptor unit is deployed in the compound of a garrison of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force in Konan, Kochi prefecture, Japan, on Saturday. The Defense Ministry said the PAC-3 surface-to-air interceptors are being deployed at four locations—Hiroshima, Kochi, Shimane and Ehime -KYODO NEWS VIA AP

nuclear missiles that could hit the United States. North Korea sees its nuclear arsenal as protection against the United States and its partners in Asia.

Trump said he was considering additional sanctions on North Korea, adding these would be "very strong." He gave no details.

US officials have said new US steps that would target Chinese banks and firms doing business with Pyongyang are in the works, but these have appeared to be put on hold to give Beijing time to show it was serious about enforcing new UN sanctions.

Ineffective channel

Trump said he did not want to talk about diplomatic "back channels" with North Korea after US media reported that Joseph Yun, US envoy for North Korea policy, had engaged in diplomacy for several months with Pak Song-il, a senior diplomat at Pyongyang's UN mission.

But Daniel Russel, until April the top US diplomat for East Asia, said this so-called New York channel had been a relatively commonplace means of communication with North Korea over the years and it was not a forum for negotiation.

"It's never been a vehicle for negotiations," he said.

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged Pyongyang and Washington to sign up to a previously unveiled joint Russian-Chinese plan by which North Korea would freeze missile tests and the United States and South Korea would impose a moratorium on largescale military exercises. Neither the United States nor North Korea has embraced the plan.

Lavrov said the risks of a military conflict over North Korea's nuclear program are very high and Moscow is deeply worried by the threats from both sides.

"Unfortunately, the rhetoric in Washington and Pyongyang is now starting to go over the top," Lavrov said on live state television at a forum for Russian students. "We still hope and believe that common sense will prevail."

The annual US-South Korean military exercise, called Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, is expected to proceed as scheduled starting on Aug. 21, said Lt. Col. Christopher Logan, a Pentagon spokesperson.

Trump's latest comments were a continuation of days of

incendiary rhetoric, including his warning on Tuesday that the United States would unleash "fire and fury" on Pyongyang if it threatened the United States.

Amid the heated words. South Koreans are buying more ready-to-eat meals for emergency use.

'Let her speak for Germany'

Tension in the region rose when North Korea staged two nuclear bomb tests last year and increased further when it launched two intercontinental ballistic missile tests in July in defiance of world powers, prompting the United Nations to tighten sanctions on Pyongyang.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said there was no military solution, adding that "an escalation of the rhetoric is the wrong answer."

"I see the need for enduring work at the UN Security Council as well as tight cooperation between the countries involved, especially the US and China," she told reporters in Berlin.

Trump said hours later, "Let her speak for Germany."

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Palace calls for calm, vigilance amid bird flu

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Malacañang appealed yesterday to the people to exercise vigilance but remain calm following the outbreak of bird flu in San Luis, Pampanga.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement yesterday, "We ask our people to remain calm yet vigilant. Any person living or residing in affected areas or who had been exposed to dead chickens who becomes sick with flu or flu-like illness, such as fever and/or sore throat/cough, should immediately report to their local health center or nearest hospital for laboratory test."

The Palace said an intensified surveillance for flu-like syndromes is now enforced in Pampanga within a seven-kilometer radius of the affected farms.

Abella also appealed for calm and sobriety among the population.

"As of this time, there has been no report of bird-to-human contamination," Abella said a day after the Department of Agriculture announced plans to cull

400,000 chickens, quail and ducks after confirming the first outbreak of bird flu in the country.

"The Department of Health (DOH) assures our people that avian flu is transferred via respiratory routes. Properly cooked chicken meat and eggs remain safe to eat," he added.

According to Abella, the government has coordinated efforts to ensure that the situation is under control.

"We are closely monitoring the situation in Pampanga following the confirmation of avian flu outbreak yesterday by the Department of Agriculture (DA)," he said.

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OFFIC

Palace From Page 1

On Friday, DA reported the outbreak of bird flu in San Luis, Pampanga – the first in the Philippines – resulting in the burning of almost 40,000 chickens. Six poultry farms are affected in Barangays San Carlos and Santa Rita.

The DA is eyeing two possible sources of infections – the migratory birds from China that flock to the Candaba swamp in Pampanga and smuggled Peking ducks

In 1997, human infections with H5N1 virus were reported during an outbreak in poultry in Hong Kong and the disease has since spread to Europe and Africa until 2013.

Human infection with H7H9 was also documented in China in 2013

Abella said the DOH is assisting the DA for bird flu investigation and containment activities, which include flu vaccinations and protective equipment for poultry handlers and responders.

With the outbreak in Pampanga, the DOH has advised all medical workers to be on the look out for possible symptoms when attending to patients.

In a statement, the DOH said, "In the interim, all health providers should observe respiratory precautions when taking care of patients with flu or flu-like illness."

"A team of DOH epidemiologists has been dispatched to assist the DA in the outbreak investigation. The DOH has alerted hospitals in the affected areas to report similar cases," the agency said

The DOH said the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) has the capacity to confirm bird flu infections among humans and that they have adequate supply of anti-flu medication and commodities whenever regional health offices and hospital will require these.

The agency is coordinating with the DA and the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization (WHO) to prevent human infection.

According to Health Secretary Paulyn Ubial, people should properly and thoroughly cook chicken to ensure it is safe for human consumption.

Ubial advised the public to see a doctor if they have flu symptoms that last longer than three days or if they feel very weak.

She also cautioned against going near wild birds or to farms with fowl

Based on the WHO website, humans could be infected with avian and other zoonotic influenza viruses, such as avian influenza virus subtypes A(H5N1), A(H7N9) and A(H9N2) and swine influenza virus subtypes A(H1N1) and (H3N2).

The common initial symptoms for H5N1 and H7N9 are "high fever (greater than or equal to 38°C) and cough. The signs and symptoms of lower respiratory tract involvement including dyspnoea or difficulty breathing have been reported."

On the other hand, upper respiratory tract symptoms like sore throat or coryza are less common. Other symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, bleeding from the nose or gums, and chest pain have also been reported in the clinical course of some patients.

Complications of infection | al: 5285, 5295 include hypoxemia, multiple organ dysfunction and secondary bacterial and fungal infections.

For H5N1 virus intections in humans, the incubation period runs from two to five days and ranging up to 17 days. For H7N9 virus, incubation period ranges from one to 10 days, with an average of five days.

The website shows that 859 cases of bird flu in humans have been recorded in 16 countries, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Ouarantine checkpoints

The Provincial Veterinary Office of Pangasinan has set up over 200 quarantine checkpoints in strategic areas in the province to prevent the possible contamination of the local poultry industry by the avian flu outbreak in San Luis, Pampanga...

Eric Perez, provincial veterinarian, told The STAR that the quarantine checkpoints in Aloo in Umingan, Carmen in Rosales, Bakit-bakit in Rosales, Bayambang, Mangatarem, Infanta, San Fabian and Sison would monitor the transport of chickens to Pangasinan from Pampanga.

Perez could not immediately provide the number of poultry farms in Pangasinan, but he said millions of chickens are transported from the province and are brought to dressing plants in Bulacan and Pampanga every week.

He will coordinate with other concerned agencies for the intensified quarantine checkpoints and monitoring in Pangasinan.

- With Sheila Crisostomo, Eva Visperas

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Abu Sayyaf captives escape after fake ransom

Three men kidnapped by Islamist militants in Mindanao escaped while their captors prayed, dodging bullets as they ran, police said on Saturday after a ruse using fake ransom money failed.

The fate of a fourth man who ran off in a different direction was unclear.

The construction workers were taken to the police on Jolo island on Friday, four weeks after being abducted by the Abu Sayyaf group, which is holding more than a dozen other hostages including several foreigners in remote jungles.

Afternoon prayer

The gunmen had received an undetermined amount of cash for the hostages on Thursday, but refused to release them after realizing the money was fake, regional police chief Reuben Sindac told the French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP).

"While the abductors performed their afternoon prayer, the victims took advantage and [ran] but they were chased and fired upon," said Sindac, citing an official report.

The Abu Sayyaf, blamed for the worst terror attacks in the nation's history, is known to behead hostages unless ransom payments were made.

Sindac said a village official found three of the hostages near the Jolo town of Talipao early on Friday, one with a gunshot wound to the head that was not thought to be life-threatening.

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The official brought them to the police hours later.

The three told police their fourth colleague had run in another direction and it was unclear if he had escaped or been recaptured by the militants.

Government policy

Sindac said he did not know who paid the fake ransom money.

The Philippine government as a policy does not pay ransom, and the gunmen are known to negotiate directly with the victims' families or employers.

The militants beheaded two Canadian hostages last year and a German captive in February after ransom demands were not met.

Police said the militants also beheaded seven loggers on the southern island of Basilan last month, during which a Vietnamese hostage was also killed in a gun battle between his captors and security forces.

A Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf faction has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and joined up with militants who seized parts of the southern city of Marawi in May.

The militants have withstood a US-backed military offensive in Marawi that has claimed 725 lives and displaced nearly 400,000 people.

President Duterte has imposed martial law across the southern third of the Philippines, including Marawi, Basilan and Jolo, to quell the militant threat: —AFP

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Captives escape ASG after fake ransom is discovered

By AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

hree men kidnapped by Islamist militants in the southern Philippines escaped while their captors prayed, dodging bullets as they ran, police said Saturday after a ruse using fake ransom money failed.

The fate of a fourth man who ran off in a different direction was unclear

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President Rodrigo Duterte has imposed martial law in Mindanao, including Marawi, Basilan and Jolo, to quell the militant threat.

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NPA admits detonating IED by mistake

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City

Two persons were wounded after a
strong explosion, believed triggered
by the New People's Army (NPA), was
followed by volleys of gunfire in Barangay Sto. Niño in San Agustin, Surigao
del Sur, Thursday night, regional Army
spokesman Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez on Saturday said.

He said the two victims were identified as Philip Silva Medrano, 57, owner of a truck that was delivering water melon, and his assistant Joel Silvares, 42. They were immediately brought to Lianga District Hospital in Lianga

town for medical treatment.

Martinez said the ambush to the victims happened around 10:30 p.m. on Thursday.

According to the victims, they were traveling along the national highway on their truck to deliver the newly harvested water melons to Butuan City when a group of armed men, who were later identified as the NPA bandits in the area, detonated a landmine, Martinez said

"The explosion was immediately followed by volleys of gunfire coming from the said NPA bandits," the 4ID spokesperson said.

"Grabe ang among kahadlok sa nahitabong pag atake. Wala mi nasayod nganong gi-ambush mi sa mga rebeldeng NPA" (We were trembling after the attack. We had no idea why the NPAs ambushed us last night), Martinez said, quoting Medrano after they were brought to Lianga District Hospital in Surigao del Sur.

But the spokesperson of the NPA guerilla-Front Committee 19 operating in parts of Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur said that the improvised explosive device (IED) they planted had detonated by mistake.

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Pahina. ______

3 NPA rebs arestado

Nasakote ang tatlong rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) makaraang makumpiskahan ng mga armas, eksplosibo at mga bala ng pinagsanib na elemento ng pulisya at militar sa naganap na bakbakan sa Sitio Maubog, Barangay Alacalian, bayan ng Taytay, Palawan kamakalawa. Base sa ulat na nakarating sa Camp Crame, naitala ang bakbakan dakong alas-10:20 ng umaga habang nagsasagawa ng combat operation ang 1sh Maneuver Company ng Regional Public Safety Battalion sa pamumuno nina P/Insp. Michael Rivera at 1sh Lt. Mark Anthony Jordan ng Philippine Marines nang matunton ang kuta ng mga rebelde. Tumagal ng ilang minuto ang bakbakan bago nagsitakas ang mga rebelde bitbit ang mga sugatang kadre bago nasakote ang tatlong rebelde habang papatakas. Narekober naman sa clearing operations ang dalawang landmine, M16 rifle na may 10 magazine, portable generator set, mga bala, 6 cellular phone, laptop, 22 name cloth na may marking NPA, 30 name cloth na may Bienvenido Vallever Command, bandila ng komunista, mga subersibong dokumento at aklat ng kilusan gayundin ang iba pang mga eksplosibo. *Joy Cantos*

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The Manula Times

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2 SURIGAO SUR FARMERS **WOUNDED IN NPA AMBUSH**

CAMP EVANGELISTA, Cagayan De Oro City: Two farmers on their way to deliver newly harvested watermelons were wounded when armed men believed to be New People's Army (NPA) members detonated an improvised explosive device followed by a volley of gunfire along the highway in Surigao Del Sur. Capt. Joe Patrick Martinez, spokesman of the Army's 4th Infantry Division (41D), identified the victims as Philip Silva Medriano, 57, and his assistant Joel Silyares, 42. They were brought to Lianga District Hospital for treatment of gunshot wounds. Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, Jr. the 4ID commander described the attack on the innocent civilians as condemnable and a gross violation of international human rights law, "The attack on the innocent civilians was an act of terror which totally disregarded the safety of innocent people," Madrigal said.

CRIS DIAZ

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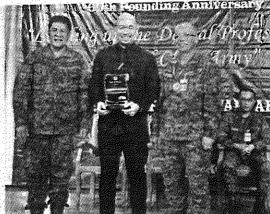
SM FOUNDATION HONORED BY PA ARMY DENTAL SERVICE

THE Philippine Army Dental Service honored SM Foundation with a Plaque of Appreciation for the support the Foundation extended to the Philippine Army Dental Service with a renovation and refurbishing of the First Scout Ranger Regiment Dental Unit Building at Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan.

The renovated FSRR dental unit building forms part of the dispensary which used to be the barracks of the scout rangers. SM Executive Director for Health and Medical Programs Connie Angeles said the Foundation continues to refurbish and renovate health facilities in military camps in the country and establishes FTS Wellness Centers in these facilities to show support to our men in uniform.

The First Scout Ranger Regiment is the Philippine Army's elite force that specializes in anti-guerrilla warfare.

The awarding ceremony was held at the Ricarte



Hall of the PA Officers Club House at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City during the 60th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Army Den-

tal Service. The award was received by Albert Uy, SM Foundation's Project Manager for Health and Medical Programs.

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4 HOSTAGES NG MAUTE NA-RESCUE; MGA BIHAG NA BABAE BUNTIS NA, PARI TAGA-GAWA NG BOMBA!

MARAWI CITY - Apat na hostages ng teroristang Maute ang nakatakas at na-rescue ng Philippine Navy kahapon.

Ayon sa hostages, nagawa nilang makatakas sa kalagitnaan ng gabi habang ang kanilang mga bantay ay natutulog at lumangoy sila sa Lanao Lake ng halos isang kilometro hanggang sa makita sila ng nagpapatrolyang Navy.

Sabi ng hostages, hawak sila ng grupo ng Maute ng higit dalawang buwan sa loob ng Bato Mosque. Ginawa raw silang tagaluto ng pagkain ng mga terorista at iba pang hostages.

"'Yung ibang Maute maganda trato sa amin, pero karamihan ginawa kaming hayop," sabi ng isang hostages.

Sinabi ng hostages na si Fr. Chito Suganob ay buhay pa at ginawang tagakuha ng explosive powder mula sa firecrakers para gawing improvised explosive devices (IFDs)

sive devices (IEDs).
"'Yung Picollo, pinatanggalan sa kanya ng pulbura. Sabi niya, 'masaya na ako kapag tumama ang bomba sa Masjid

(mosque)," sabi ng isang na-rescue na hostage.

Nasa 50 hostages, 20 sa mga ito ay babae, pa ang nasa kamay ng grupong Maute, sabi ng mga narescue.

Ilan daw sa mga bihag na babae ay naririnig nilang umiiyak at nalaman nilang ang iba ay nabuntis, na maaring ginahasa ng mga terorista.

Nasa 20 Maute pa aniya ang nagtatago sa mosque at karamihan sa mga ito ay may sugat narin.

"May mga putol ang paa putol ang kamay, may tama ng sniper," sabi ng isang na-rescue na hostage

Nakita rin daw nila ng dalawang beses ang isa sa mga lider ng Maute na si Omar Maute, pero hindi nila nakita ang lider ng Abu Sayyaf na si Isnilon Hapilon sa kanilang pinagtataguan, sa basement

Ayon sa mga naligtas na hostages, kinakapos na sa pagkain ang mga Maute dahil nasunog na ang mga pinagkukunan ng mga ito Pero marami pa raw itong bigas, de latang sardinas at tuna.

Hindi raw nila alam kung saan nanggagaling ang mga suplay na pagkain gayung hindi sila pinapayagan na umalis sa ginawang kusina sa loob ng mosque

Sa ulat kahapon, mayroon umanong 10 Maute members ang nakapasok sa Marawi para tulungan ang kanilang kasamahan sa conflict zone laban sa tropa ng pamahalaan.

Nasa 50-70 Maute pa umano ang natitira na nakikipaglaban sa mga sundalo.

Simula nang sumiklab ang kaguluhan noong Mayor 23, nasa 552 Maute na ang napatay, habang 128 ang sa pamahalaan.

Mahigit 200,000 residente naman ang ngayo'y nasa iba't ibang evacuation centers sa karatig lungsod ng Marawi.

Ayon sa AFP, hindi na tatagal ang labanang ito na papasok na sa tatlong buwan.

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Pahina, 3

AFP naghahanda na sa NoKor missile threa

Mahigpit na nagmo-monitor nga- ng bansa na makiisa at iwasan na yon ang Office of Civil Defense (OCD) ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) patungkol sa sitwasyon sa North Korea

Sa harap ito ng banta ng North Korea na maglunsad ng missile attack sa Guam Ayon kay Civil Defense Deputy Administrator for Administration Kristoffer James Purisima, nakikipagugnayan na sila sa mga ahensya ng gobyerno para sa paglalatag ng naaangkop na contingency plans.

Pinaghahandaan na rin aniya ang mga alerto at babala para sa impormasyon at proteksyon ng mga sibilyan at mapaghandaan ang ano mang mangyayari

Sinabi naman ni Detense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na itinuturing nilang usaping civil defense at hindi makapag-ingat ang mga kababayan isyung militar ang usapin sa North

Umaapela rin ang kalihim sa lahat

gumawa ng ano mang hakbang na makapagpapatindi ng tensyon hindi lamang sa Korean Peninsula kundi maging sa Asya Pasipiko.

'Sa ating mga kababayan, huwag po tayong mangamba. Ang palagi naming sinasabi ay maging alerto lang po tayo at ipagbigay-alam sa mga kinauukulan kung may mapansin kayong hindi karaniwan sa inyong Jugar," ani Lorenzana.

Samantala, agad na maglalabas ng "no-sail-zone" advisories ang OCD sakaling magpaputok na ng nuclear missiles ang North Korea sa Guam o iba pang lugar,

Base sa abiso ng OCD, bagama't walang anumang banta na idamay ang Pilipinas, mahalaga umanong sa posibleng pagbagsak na mga debris sa loob ng teritoryo ng Pilipinas. (JG Tumbado)

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Pahina. ____ 6

4 bihag ng Maute nakatakas, nasagip ng Navy

terror group sa Marawi City ang kanilang mga bantay at nailigtas ng mga vy kahapon.

Ayon sa mga bihag, sinamantala nila na natutulog ang mga bandido para makatakas saka lumangoy sa Lanao Lake Chito Suganob na matang tinatayang isang kilometro bago sila namataan ng mga nagpapatrolyang sundalo.

Mahigit dalawang buwan na bihag sa loob ng

Natakasan umano ng nagsilbi umanong mga pulbura. Sabi niya, 'ma- ang iba umano sa kanila hostage.

"'Yung ibang Maute tauhan ng Philippine Na- maganda trato sa amin, pero karamihan ginawa kaming hayop," ayon sa isa sa mga bihag.

Sinabi rin ng apat na nananatiling buhay si Fr. pulbura mula sa mga paputok para magamit sa paggawa ng mga improvised explosive device.

"'Yung picollo, pi-

apat na bihag na Maute tagaluto para sa bandi- saya na ako kapag tuma- ay nagpapagamot ng mga dong grupo at iba pang ma ang bomba sa Masjid (mosque)," kwento pa

Tinatayang limampung indibidwal, kabilang ang dalawampung babae, ang nananatiling hostage ng Maute group.

Inihayag ng mga nakaligtas, na ginagahasa sang manguha ng mga umano ng mga terorista ang ilang babae na bihag at posibleng nabuntis na ang iba sa mga ito

Aabot anila sa 20 mi-Bato Mosque ang apat na natanggalan sa kanya ng nagtatago sa mosque at

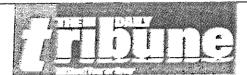
sugat.

"May mga putol ang paa, putol ang kamay. may tama ng sniper," ayon sa isang dating bihag.

Sinabi pa ng apat na dalawang beses nilang nakita si Omar Maute pero wala si Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon

Marami rin umanong imbak na pagkain ang Maute na karamihan ay bigas, sardinas at tuna ngunit hindi nila batid kung saan yembro ng Maute ang nagmumula ang suplay.. (JG Tumbado)

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Coca-Cola Phils. powers Pinoy troops in Marawi with beverage supply

Every day, countless Filipino soldiers display gallantry, courage and true heroism in the name of but to our country.

The Coca-Cola System in the Philippines takes this time to nonor and salute all Filipino troops stationed in various parts of Mindanao – the men and women who have dedicated their lives to reclaim and ensure peace for our fellow Filipinos.

Coca-Cola Philippines, bottling partner Coca-Cola FEMSA Philippines, and Coca-Cola Philippines Foundation, have committed to support the Armed Forces of the Philippines by providing supplies of beverage products that will contribute to their well-being during their time

of service.

The troops deployed in Marawi City will be given priority. A steady supply of beverages, which includes sports drink brand Powerade, Coca-Cola and bottled water Wilkins Pure will be provided daily. Aside from being a beverage, bottled water is also used in the battlefield to clean and treat wounded soldiers.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr., division commander of the 4th Infantry Division in Northern Mindanao, said the support given by companies like Goca-Cola and private individuals boosts the morale of the soldiers. While combat is the expertise of the troops, going to war and putting their lives on the line is the least

of the things that they hope for

The Coca-Cola System in the Philippines will also be extending additional support through the implementation

of various sustainability programs for the Filipino troops and their families. A memorandum of agreement will be signed between the parties to formalize the support for our uniformed personnel.

Coca-Cola started the delivery of beverage products to Camp Evangelista as a symbol of their support for military troops in the area. Coca-Cola was welcomed by Madrigal; Adel Tamano, Coca-Cola Philippines VP for Public Affairs and Communications and Romnin Diaz, Coca-Cola FEMSA Philippines External Communications and Sustainability Area Manager.



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Consequences of martial law

he 1987 Constitution defanged martial law (ML) to prevent a repetition of the abuses perpetrated during the regime of Ferdinand Marcos. Nonetheless, the Charter does not define ML; neither does it directly state what powers are granted and what constitutional rights, if any, are restricted by ML.

Warrantless arrests. This apparent lack may have led Justice Marvic M.V.F. Leonen to hold in Lagman vs Medialdea (July 14, 2017) that Proclamation 216 (the ML edict) is unconstitutional for, among other reasons, failing to specify what new powers the President would wield and what civil liberties would be curtailed.

On the other hand, robust are the opinions, which while not defining ML foursquare, dealt on what Justice Antonio T. Carpio calls the "consequences" of the defanged ML.

First, ML facilitates the speedy apprehension of suspected rebels because, after ML is validly proclaimed, the commission of rebellion as a continuing crime in Mindanao becomes a fact that an arresting officer need not prove to make warrantiess arrests (Umil vs Ramos, July 9, 1990). The arrest of persons involved in rebellion is thus synonymous with a valid warrantless arrest of a person committing a crime in the presence of the arresting officer.

Moreover, the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus allows the detention of arrested rebellion suspects for a period of three days, or 72 hours. Normally, under the Rules of Court, they can be detained for only 36 hours. Thereafter, the suspects must either be released or charged in court (to continue detaining them).



WITH DUE RESPECT

ARTEMIO V PANGANIBAN

Detaining them beyond these periods (of 36 or 72 hours) without charging them in court will make the authorities liable for the crime of arbitrary detention (or illegal detention if the prolonged detention is caused by private individuals).

Restriction of some rights. Second, with an ML proclamation or suspension of the privilege, the constitutional rights to privacy of communication, to travel and to liberty of abode may be restricted on the ground of public safety, provided Congress passes a law specifically authorizing such restriction. (Art. III, Sec. 3-1, Constitution)

Example: Republic Act No. 4200, the Anti-Wiretapping Act, allows peace officers, upon court authorization in cases involving rebellion, to tap and record conversations. Similarly, RA 10173, the Data Privacy Act of 2012, permits the collection and use of personal information, even without the consent of the data subject, to respond to a national emergency like rebellion.

Also, RA 8239, the Philippine Passports Act of 1996, authorizes the cancellation of passports for cause after due hearing in the interest of national security or public safety.

Emergency powers and military courts. Third, David vs Arroyo (May 3, 2006), citing Art. VI, Sec. 23 of the Constitution, held that during national emergencies, including rebellion, the Congress may, by law, authorize the President to exercise emergency powers to carry out a declared national policy provided that "such powers shall cease upon the next adjournment of Congress."

Example: RA 6826 delegated emergency powers to President Corazon Aquino in 1989 on account of "a rebellion committed by certain elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines." Among the emergency powers granted her was the takeover of privately owned public utilities or businesses affected with public interest.

Fourth, a declaration of ML may "authorize the conferment of jurisdiction on military courts...where civil courts are not able to function." However, Congress still needs to pass a law prescribing and apportioning the jurisdiction of the various courts. The Constitution empowered Congress, not the President, to fix the jurisdiction of courts.

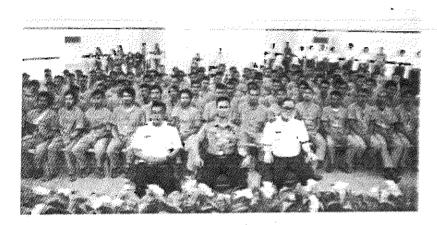
In sum, the proclamation of ML may trigger constitutional provisions granting additional powers to the President or restricting constitutional rights, provided there are implementing laws specifically authorizing such powers or restricting such rights (with the possible exception of the first item which does not require an implementing law).

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

ONLINE NEWS

www.pna.gov.ph

107 wounded Army troopers get medals



A total of 107 troopers who were wounded while fighting Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City and other areas in Mindanao, were decorated for their gallantry during a short ceremony at the Army General Hospital in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City last August 10.

In a statement issued Friday, Philippine Army spokesperson, Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson, said the soldiers were presented the Army's Wounded Personnel Medal during the ceremony that was led by Army Support Command head, Maj. Gen. Elmer Pabale.

Tiongson said that through the medal, the Army recognizes the bravery, professionalism, and heroism of the soldiers, who continue to be a source of national pride.

"The Army also extended its gratitude to all its personnel in Marawi City and all over the country who continue to risk their lives to achieve just and lasting peace and stability for the country," he said.

As of this posting, the number of fatalities in the Marawi crisis has been placed at 552 Maute terrorists, 128 government troops, and 45 civilians. Some 1,728 civilians have been rescued from the clutches of the enemy and about 610 weapons have been seized from the terrorists. (PNA)

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PCMC @ 37 | NOLCOM Troops joins in Bloodletting and other services

Posted by Alvin Santiago

QUEZON CITY (DWDD) – Officer and Personnel of the AFP Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) joined the 37th Anniversary of Philippine Children Medical Center Quezon City. NOLCOM PIO / MCAG



www.dwdd.com

TURN OVER CEREMONY | 1303rd Dental Dispensary

Alvin Sentiaco

CAMP GEN SEVILLIANO AQUINO, Tarlac City (DWDD) – Full military honors was given to BGen Edwin Leo T Torrelavega, Commander, AFP Health Service.

The CASH and 1303" Dental Dispensary's Turn-Over Ceremony to the Health Service Command followed at Cordillera Hall, Camp Servilliano Aquino, San Miguel, Tarlac City. **NOLCOM PIO / MCAG**

