

*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

15 August 2017

Tuesday

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

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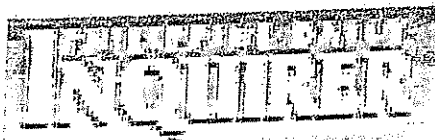
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Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

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**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 15, 2017 | TUESDAY**

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE  
AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON  
AND VISAYAS AND MINDANAO  
(As of 4:00 PM - August 14, 2017)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:42 AM	6:19 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
11:14 PM	12:07 PM
<b>FULL MOON</b>	<b>LAST QUARTER</b>
AUG 15 5:15 AM	AUG 20 2:30 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
10:19 AM	3:23 AM
0.42 Meter	0.88 Meter

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

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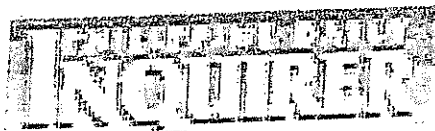
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	<b>TACLOBAN</b>
26 - 33 °C	23 - 29 °C	25 - 32 °C
26 - 32 °C	22 - 29 °C	24 - 31 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>
25 - 35 °C	26 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C
25 - 35 °C	27 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>
25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
25 - 32 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 33 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>
16 - 24 °C	26 - 32 °C	24 - 30 °C
16 - 24 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 30 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	
25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	
25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**11 AM & 5 PM**

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

**WEEKENDS**  
**6 AM**

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# PALACE SAYS BIRD FLU STRAIN NOT HARMFUL

STORY BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND KARL R. OCAMPO

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella, however, says the government is validating the information and taking all precautions, as its first concern is the safety of consumers. A2

## FROM A1

By Philip C. Tubeza  
and Karl R. Ocampo  
@Team\_Inquirer

The avian flu strain that hit poultry in Pampanga province is not harmful to humans, Malacañang said on Monday.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said it was up to Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol to decide on the request of Pampanga Gov. Lilia Pineda to lift the quarantine in San Luis town, where the virus struck, because it was affecting duck raisers.

"Our first concern is the safety of our consumers and citizens," Abella said in a press briefing.

"So far, there is no indication that this strain of avian flu is harmful to humans, but we will continue to validate this and take all precautions needed," he added.

Abella said the government's long-term concern was to sustain and support "our local poultry industry as it weathers this first-time crisis."

"We will work closely with them to eliminate this problem soonest and to restore our country's chicken exports to their premium position in international markets," he said.

Malacañang earlier said it was monitoring the quality and price of poultry products following a Department of Agriculture (DA) report of an outbreak of avian flu.

"We believe the DA has acted fast on the issue and has managed to isolate and contain the virus," Abella said.

## Prices fall

"Concerned government agencies are now looking at businesses that might take advantage of the situation and are monitoring the price of raw and processed chicken meat in the markets," he said.

"While we assure the public that there will be no price increase in chicken meat as there is only one area affected by the avian flu, we must see to it that



**BIRD FLU WATCH** In response to the bird flu outbreak in San Luis town in Pampanga, animal quarantine checkpoints like this one have been set up by government agencies. —ALEXIS CORPUZ

uncontaminated meat is sold in the markets," he added.

Market prices for chicken have decreased by P30-P40 to P90 per kilo from P125-P150 per kilo.

Piñol on Friday said around 200,000 fowl in San Luis had been affected by the outbreak. He said the chickens were not necessarily infected, only culled because they were within the 1-kilometer quarantine radius.

The virus was believed to have originated in San Luis' layer farms in April but was discovered only in August after government experts conducted tests, he said.

On Monday, the DA issued a new memorandum circular allowing the shipment of live domestic birds and products from Visayas and Mindanao to Luzon.

In a news conference, Piñol said the movement of all live domestic wild birds, including poultry meat, eggs, chicks and manure from Luzon to Visayas and Mindanao remained banned as a precaution.

"Inverse supply will be allowed. Visayas and Mindanao can supply Luzon provided this is outside the danger zone," he said.

As of Wednesday, 16,865 chickens had been culled, according to Arlene Vytiaco of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

More than 180,000 chickens are left to be culled, which will be paid for by the DA at P80 a piece. A total of P16 million will be allotted to compensate for the chickens.

#### Loan assistance

The DA will also allocate P50 million for a loan assistance program for the poultry operators and owners while they are not allowed to continue production.

It told the public to eat poultry and poultry products "at your own risk," as the agency was still awaiting the result of the laboratory test of the flu virus sent to the Australian Animal Health Laboratory.

Although four laboratory tests done locally confirmed the H5 strain of the flu virus in San Luis, it would take two weeks to know whether the virus has an N7 component, which will make it transmissible to humans, Vytiaco said.

BAI disclosed that parallel testings were done by the regional animal diagnostic laboratory in Central Luzon, the animal diagnostic laboratory in BAI, the University of the Philippines Los Baños and San Miguel Corp.

Nonetheless, DA said there had been no report of any incident of animal-to-human transmissions since the outbreak. INQ

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# Gov't moves to prevent bird flu jump to humans

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON and DING CERVANTES

Three days after confirming an avian flu outbreak, government agencies are scrambling to keep the virus from spreading and especially from jumping to humans.

Apart from the ongoing culling of thousands of chickens and ducks and quarantine of an area in San Luis town in Pampanga where the outbreak was first reported, the government is launching a nationwide inspection of poultry farms.

he said.

The BAI is still waiting for the results of laboratory tests in Australia to determine whether the avian flu strain found in San Luis could affect humans. The results may be out within two weeks.

Dr. Arlene Vytiaco, head of

*Phil Eagle Center suspends operations. Story on Page 14.*

Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol said his department, through the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), has organized a biosecurity team to conduct the nationwide inspection.

"We will start as soon as possible. We will start with the farms surrounding San Luis,"

BAI animal disease and control division, told **The STAR** in Sto. Tomas, Pampanga that earlier findings of the Philippines' Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, that the bird flu in San Luis was not of the H5N1 strain that affects humans, were not conclusive.

**Turn to Page 14**

## Gov't moves From Page 1

Vytiaco said only the results from Australia could definitely confirm the findings.

She said workers tasked to gather fowl in the quarantine zone were thus required to wear masks and special vests.

"We have also assigned only one person from the municipal government to oversee the culling of fowl in the quarantine zone so that only he could be quarantined for 10 days," she said.

There are currently 11 checkpoints and over 90 quarantine officers in the vicinity of San Luis.

At Malacafang, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella assured the local poultry industry of continued support in the face of the avian flu crisis.

"Our long term concern is to sustain and support our local poultry industry as it weathers this first-time crisis," Abella said in a press briefing.

"We will work closely with them to eliminate this problem soon and to restore our country's chicken exports to their premium position in international markets," he added.

He also reminded the public that there is no indication that the avian flu strain now in the country is harmful to humans. "But we will continue to validate this and take all precaution needed," he pointed out.

The government, through the Department of Agriculture (DA), has also banned the movement or transport of birds, fowl or their byproducts from Luzon to the Visayas and

Mindanao.

Transport within Luzon is allowed but not within or from the seven-kilometer radius under quarantine in San Luis, Pampanga. Transport within Luzon would require shipping permit and veterinary health certificate.

Local government units, specifically those in Bataan, Misamis Oriental and Pampanga, have announced their own contingency measures.

But citing manpower constraints, the DA said it needs a few more days - possibly until Thursday - to finish culling more than 200,000 poultry heads as part of the government's precautionary measure to stem the spread of the first bird flu outbreak in the country.

Piñol said only 18,685 poultry heads - chicken, ducks, quail, pigeons and fighting roosters - in San Luis in Pampanga have been culled since Saturday.

The department had earlier targeted to finish culling the fowl yesterday or three days after it announced the bird flu outbreak.

"There was a bit of delay. We have to understand that it is our first time to experience this problem. A lot of people still do not understand what should be done and how this problem will be handled. There is fear even among the workers," Piñol said.

"Some of the workers attempted to run away even after getting immunized for

the culling process," he added.

Last Friday, the DA confirmed a bird flu outbreak that had killed close to 40,000 poultry heads and placed the province of Pampanga in a state of calamity.

Vytiaco emphasized that they had to readjust and allot five to six days to complete the culling process.

"We started Saturday afternoon with only one team and was able to cull 180 heads only. We had a full blast by Sunday with four teams covering four farms but still was not able to finish," she said.

Piñol also said his department is allocating an initial P50 million for farmers in San Luis to help them cope with the effect of the culling of some 200,000 poultry heads.

He said the DA, through the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), is now preparing a loan assistance package for the affected farmers.

"The ACPC will provide P25,000 loan assistance under the SURE (survival and recovery) package to farmers faced with calamity situations," Piñol said.

"P5,000 of which will be a grant while the P20,000 will be a loan with no collateral and no interest payable in two years. They can use this once they start to rebuild their farms," he added.

"We have to factor in the period during which the farmers will not be able to make money. Farmers whose fowl will be culled will not be able to raise in the next 90 days," Piñol said.

He also raised the possibility of the department utilizing the quick response fund (QRF) to be downloaded through the



Department of Budget and Management.

The DA has a standby QRF of approximately P500 million to P1 billion that can be utilized during calamities and disasters.

"Once you declare that it is a disaster, you can access the QRF. We have already declared a disaster. We are looking at it already," Agriculture Undersecretary Ariel Cayanan said.

### Still lucky

"We are still lucky that the bird flu outbreak is not the type that will devastate the local poultry industry. It would have been a different story if the broilers were the ones affected," Piñol said.

"It is also a relief that none of the farm workers and owners within the declared ground zero have shown any indication that they have fallen ill," he added.

A majority of the affected birds are layered chickens, which produce table eggs. Nine commercial layer farms, four quail farms and four duck farms have been affected.

In San Luis, there are 116,000 layered chicken heads representing a minimal three percent of the total population in Pampanga. The province comprises 12 percent of national production.

In terms of broilers or chickens consumed as meat, San Luis produces 99,000 heads, or 18 percent of the whole Pampanga. The province takes up seven percent of the country's production.

The DA chief said he is ready to resign if the bird flu virus spreads outside Luzon.

The dreaded avian influenza virus had long spared the Phil-

ippines since resurfacing in Asia in 2003.

### Safe to eat

Assuaging public fears, Department of Health (DOH) Assistant Secretary Eric Tayag said poultry products infected with the avian flu virus are safe to eat if fully cooked.

Tayag gave the assurance in an interview with reporters at the House of Representatives where he attended a hearing on the DOH budget for next year.

"In other countries where there was bird flu, eating chicken did not cause illness. It's safe to eat chicken in our country because we cook chicken," Tayag said.

Following confirmation of the bird flu outbreak that placed the province of Pampanga in a state of calamity, the government placed a seven-kilometer radius around San Luis town under quarantine.

Santo Tomas Mayor Johnny Sambo met with poultry raisers yesterday morning to discuss the effects of the avian flu case on the local poultry industry.

Sambo said poultry owners were complaining about their products getting rejected even by regular customers or deliveries getting blocked in many provinces.

He emphasized his town is outside the seven-kilometer radius from the avian flu zone in San Luis.

The DA earlier barred the transport of live and frozen poultry even within the quarantine area. It also prohibited

the delivery of Luzon poultry products to the Visayas and Mindanao.

Vytiaco said the policy being implemented by the DA is in accordance with the Philippine Avian Influenza Protection Program developed at the height of the outbreak in 2005 of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Southeast Asia.

### Right information

As reports on avian flu in the country continue to worry poultry raisers and consumers, Vice President Leni Robredo said the government should continue to provide the people with accurate information to avoid panic as well as protect the livelihood of many Filipinos.

"I pity our constituents who are into this business. We must be clear in giving information because fears could not only affect health but livelihood as well," Robredo said over the weekend.

The Vice President said well informed people would not easily panic and would know how to deal with specific circumstances.

Bureau of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service director Neil Anthony Estrella said that they would verify information that the avian flu virus in Pampanga might have come from Peking duck from China smuggled to the Philippines through Subic. - With Delon Porcalla, Evelyn Macairan, Helen Flores, Paolo Romero, Alexis Romero, Cesar Ramirez, Gerry Lee Gorit, Ric Sapnu

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

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# Abu Sayyaf hostage rescued in Basilan

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

**Z**AMBOANGA CITY — A construction worker, who has been held by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) for a month, was rescued by government forces in Tapiantana, Basilan province at dawn yesterday morning.

Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Spokesman Army Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay identified the worker as Edmundo Ramos, also known Moy-moy.

Ramos was rescued by elements of the Joint Task Force Basilan, through the Naval Task Group Basilan, Naval Task Force 61, and Naval Intelligence and Security Group-Western Mindanao, in Tapiantana, Basilan province at around 1 a.m. Monday.

He was immediately brought to

Camp Navarro General Hospital in Calarian here for a medical check-up.

Ramos joined three co-workers Jason Pon Vailoces, Joel De Mesa Adanza, and Filemon Francisco Guerrero, Jr who were able to escape from their captors last August 11 in Sulu.

The four were abducted by the ASG last July 15 as they were working at a construction site at the Provincial Sports Complex in Barangay Bangkal in Sulu.

"All means are exhausted by our ground troops to bring about the defeat of the Abu Sayyaf and facilitate the rescue of their hostages. We are relentlessly doing the combat operations on the ground to drive the bandits out of their bailiwicks," Lt Gen Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., Commander AFP-WestMinCom said.

Meanwhile, the military also re-

ported that an ASG leader, who had a string of criminal charges in Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, was killed in an encounter in open seas with elements of Joint Task Force Sulu at dawn Sunday.

Petinglay identified the slain ASG leader as Salvador Mukhtadil, alias Badong.

Petinglay said that elements of the Joint Task Force Sulu, aboard navy vessels, engaged in a heavy gun fight with the group of Badong, in Silangkan, Parang, Sulu at 1:10am, Sunday that resulted in his death.

Petinglay said Badong was a member of the Mukhtadil brothers-gang which were usually tapped by the ASG in the execution of high profile and cross-border kidnappings.

Mukhtadil was also involved in the abductions of Yahong Lim in Sempornah, Sabah; Evelyn Chang of Tawan, Sabah; and Mayor Gemma Adana of

Naga, Zamboanga Sibugay.

"Badong is well-experienced in operating speedboats utilized by the Abu Sayyaf as getaway vehicles in executing kidnapping ploy," said Brig Gen Cirilito Sobejana, Commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu.

"His death rendered high seas kidnappings, particularly in Tawi-Tawi and Sabah, suppressed," added Brigadier General Sobejana.

The remains of Mukhtadil were brought to the Kuta Heneral Teodulfo Bautista Trauma Hospital in Busbus, Jolo, Sulu, according to Sobejana.

Badong was a sub-leader operating in Sabah, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga City, and Zamboanga Sibugay.

"His neutralization was a result of the maximized intelligence operations of our troops and the cooperation and support of the local leaders and folks," Galvez said.

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# Construction worker escapes Sayyaf captors

By ROEL PAREÑO

**ZAMBOANGA CITY – The remaining construction worker kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf bandits last month escaped and was recovered yesterday.**

Edmundo Ramos, alias Moymoy, was recovered by operatives of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao on Tapiantana island in Basilan at around 1 a.m., said Rear Admiral Rene Medina, NFWM commander.

Medina said Ramos was presented to Col. Juvymax Uy, commander of Joint Task Force Basilan. Ramos was also presented to Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco-Salazar before he was reunited with his daughter at the city hall.

Ramos said one of the bandits helped him escape

at around 7 p.m. on Sunday. He said he walked for several hours until he reached a coastal village, where a resident helped him board a motorized boat to go to Tapiantana.

The Abu Sayyaf took the construction workers, all residents of this city, from their barracks at the Kaupang Elementary School in Patikul, Sulu on July 15. Three workers escaped on Thursday after the bandits threatened to behead them if their families would not pay P3 million. The kidnappers contacted the wives of two of the workers.

## Fake ransom

Ramos confirmed that their captors received an undetermined amount of cash, but refused to release them after they found out that most of the paper bills were fake. He said he was not aware who sent the supposed ransom.

"The bandits were angry. They brought us to a mountain. It was raining at the time. We were moving slowly. My colleagues decided to escape. I wanted to escape with them, but I was under tight guard," Ramos said.

He said he also heard the bandits talking about their other hostages. Sixteen foreigners and eight Filipinos remain in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobajana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said operations to rescue the remaining hostages and neutralize the bandits continue.

## Indian trader seized in Laguna

Meanwhile, in Laguna, unidentified men seized an Indian man who owns a lending firm in Barangay San Antonio, Biñan on Sunday morning.

Witnesses said Sateh Kumar Sohal was taken at gunpoint and forced to board a white van that sped toward Sta. Rosa City.

The kidnappers have yet to contact the family of the victim. – With Michael Punongbayan, Ed Amoroso

15 August 2017

# THE DAILY Tribune

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## Remaining hostage escapes from ASG

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** – Government forces have safely recovered the remaining Zamboangueno construction worker seized by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu, a top military official said yesterday.

Recovered by Navy forces was Edmundo "Moymoy" Ramos, a resident of Barangay Tumaga, this city.

Rear Adm. Rene Medina, Naval Forces Western Mindanao (NFWM) commander, said Ramos was recovered around 1 a.m. Monday at the vicinity of Tapiantana Island in the municipality of Tabuan Lasa, Basilan province.

Ramos said he was taken to Tapiantana Island by a "concerned civilian" whom he sought help after his escape on Sunday from the custody of the ASG.

Ramos said he immediately revealed that he just escaped from captivity when the Navy personnel intercepted them Monday upon disembarking from a motorized banca in Tapiantana Island.

Medina said Ramos was recovered by Joint Task Force Basilan through Naval Task Group Basilan, Naval Task Force 61, and Naval Intelligence Security Group Western Mindanao (NISGWM).

He said the injured Ramos was immediately taken to the hospital at Adm. Espaldon Naval Base that houses the NFWM headquarters.

Ramos was among the five Zamboangueno construction workers the ASG has kidnapped while they were asleep in their barracks at the Provincial Sports Complex on July 15 in Patikul, Sulu.

One of the five identified as Jenly Miranda escaped hours after they were seized.

Miranda jumped into a cliff while they were being taken to an Abu Sayyaf camp in Patikul town.

The other three, namely, Jason Vailoces, Joel Adanza, and Filemon Guerrero Jr. have escaped in the after of Thursday, August 10, and were safely recovered around 9 a.m. Friday, August 11, in Barangay Kagay, Talipao, Sulu. **PNA**

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## Abus using child warriors to behead hostages – Lorenzana

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The Abu Sayyaf group is using child warriors to behead hostages, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday.

Lorenzana and Sen. Richard Gordon also confirmed the recruitment of child warriors by the Maute group, Abu Sayyaf and other lawless elements in Mindanao as they warned that this is a violation of International Humanitarian Law.

"We see some teenagers

who are already holding guns and being used by Maute and other lawless elements in Mindanao. *Kasama na ang mga* Abu Sayyaf group (This includes the Abu Sayyaf) in Basilan and Sulu," Lorenzana told reporters at the International Humanitarian Law Day celebration at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"They are really using children. In fact, those who are beheading their victims are just teenagers," he said in Filipino.

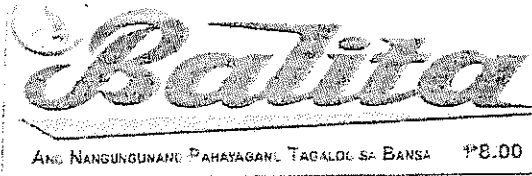
According to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on

the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, armed groups should not, under any circumstance, recruit or use in hostilities anyone under the age of 18.

The conditions of these children's detention and sharing facilities with adults also violate the government's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the Philippines ratified in 1990.

Gordon said children should not be recruited.

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## 25 patay sa bakbakang MILF-BIFF

**CAMP SIONGCO,** Maguindanao - Iniulat kahapon ng 6th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army na nasa 25 katao na ang nasasawi sa bakbakan ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), na sympathizer din ng Islamic State, at ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Ayon kay Army Colonel Gerry Besana, commander ng 6th Infantry Division Civil Military Operations, 20 sa mga nasawi ay galing sa pinagsamang puwersa ng BIFF at Jamaatul Mujajideen Wal Ansar, na pinamumunyan ni Kumander Esmail Abdulmalik, alyas "Abu Torayme".

Lima naman mula sa 108th Base Command ng MILF ang napatay at 10 ang sugatan, tatio sa mga ito ay

kritikal

Nagsimula umano ang kaguluhan nitong Agosto 7 sa mga barangay ng Tee at Andavit sa Datu Salibo, Maguindanao, nang tangkain ng BIFF na pasukin ang kuta ng MILF sa Bgy. Tee.

Ang bilang ng napatay ay base sa ulat ng GPH-MILF ceasefire monitoring units sa Maguindanao.

Nagsilikas na ang mga sibilyan at inaayudahan na ng mga local disaster officer mula sa Datu Salibo, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, at Datu Piang.

Hiwalay namang umapela ang dalawang paksiyon ng BIFF, ang Karialan at Abdulhaman Bungos, sa magkabilang panig na itigil na ang bakbakan.

**PNA**

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## 5 MILF men killed in clashes with BIFF in Maguindanao

**BY VICTOR REYES**

FIVE members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were reported killed and four others injured in two weeks of skirmishes with members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Maguindanao.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokes-

man of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said the Islamic State-inspired BIFF also suffered casualties, citing accounts of civilians in the community, but gave no figures.

The on-and-off fighting between the two sides broke out on August 2 in Shariff Saydona Mustapha town and spread to

Datu Salibo town.

The MILF men involved are from the 118th and 105th base commands, led by Abdul Karim Sinumagad and Hadjie Ali Omar while the BIFF men are under Ismael Abdul Malik alias Abu Toraype.

Encinas said the MILF is fight-

.....  
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### 5 MILF

ing the BIFF because of atrocities the latter has been committing in Central Mindanao, and as part of a peace pact with government under which the MILF will help in the

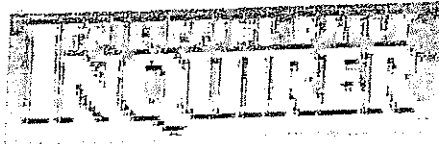
fight against terrorism.

The MILF signed a peace accord with government in March 2014. Efforts are ongoing for the enactment of a proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law that will establish a new political entity in Mindanao, as part of the peace pact.

The BIFF is composed of around 200 to 300 men, mostly former MILF rebels. The BIFF was established in 2010, by former MILF commander Ameril Umbra Kato. It later pledged allegiance to the IS.

Encinas said the Armed Forces has deployed soldiers to support the MILF in certain areas but the government troops have yet to engage in actual firefight.

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#### SEPARATISTS VS EXTREMISTS

## 25 DEAD AS MILF FORCES CLASH WITH MEMBERS OF THE BIFF

COTABATO CITY—At least 20 members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) have been killed in the weeklong fighting with Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) forces in Maguindanao.

Col. Gerry Besana, 6th Civil Military Operations chief of the 6th Infantry Division, said at least 15 other members of the BIFF that had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) were wounded in the fighting.

He said the MILF suffered five fatalities in the fighting that erupted Aug. 7 in Barangay Tee and Andavit, both in Datu Salibo town.

At least 10 other MILF members were wounded when an improvised bomb was set off by the

BIFF in Barangay Tee. They were brought to Camp Siongco military hospital for treatment.

The Army based the casualty report on the GPH-MILF ceasefire monitoring units in Maguindanao.

Besana said the fighting erupted when the BIFF men tried to enter an MILF-controlled area in neighboring Datu Saydona town last week. The Army has been providing artillery support to the MILF against the IS-inspired group.

As fighting rages, civilians fled to safer grounds. They are being attended to by local disaster offices in the affected towns of Datu Salibo, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, and Datu Piang. —EDWIN

O. FERNANDEZ - INQ



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## NPA on Rody's war: We killed 12 cops, soldiers

By **GILBERT BAYORAN**

**BACOLOD CITY** – New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Central Negros claimed that the recent operations against government forces are the answer to the "all-out war" policy of President Duterte.

JB Regalado, in a statement posted on the NPA's Leonardo Panaligan Command website, said that 12 policemen and military personnel were killed in month-long military operations in Negros Oriental.

Regalado cited the ambush conducted by guerrillas in Guihulngan City where six policemen and a civilian were killed while 17 firearms, more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition and four cellular phones were seized by the rebels.

He justified the ambush of

policemen, stressing that they are legitimate targets of the NPA.

They also claimed responsibility for the killing of former Army Sgt. Ronnie Montejo in Canlaon City also in Negros Oriental last June 20.

On June 30, the rebels claimed to have killed four soldiers in Barangay Binubuhan, Guihulngan City, in an encounter with members of the Army's 79th Infantry Battalion.

But officials of the 303rd Infantry Brigade dismissed the rebel claims as mere propaganda and a product of their fertile imagination.

The killing of the six policemen in Guihulngan City prompted President Duterte to order intensified operations against the NPA in Negros Island.

15 August 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Armed Forces to enhance training on urban warfare

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces yesterday said it is going to enhance its urban warfare training for soldiers, a move prompted by the continuing conflict with the terrorist Maute Group in Marawi City.

In a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said soldiers have training on urban warfare and close-quarter battle but the conflict in Marawi City, which started on

May 23, is a "different level" of urban warfare.

"The buildings are reinforced, the structures are dense compared to what we are trained for," he said.

Arevalo said a review and subsequent change in the military urban warfare training is one of the lessons learned from the Marawi fighting, which is now confined to an area of less than a square kilometer.

The fighting has so far killed 562 Maute men, 128 soldiers and

policemen, and 45 civilians. Some 50 Maute men remain in a portion of the city, particularly in about 400 structures that are subject of the military's clearing operations.

Arevalo said the urban terrain is among factors preventing the military from accomplishing its mission of clearing Marawi of Maute men, together with the enemy's practice of using hostages as human shields and of not observing

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### ARMED

les of engagement.

"Their mindset is their willingness to die with their belief. They believe that if they will die fighting or what they think is a cause, they will be going to heaven. So this is a entirely different battlefield, an entirely different kind of enemy together," said Arevalo.

"Told the military also engaged in urban warfare during the siege of Zamboanga City staged by rogue members of the Moro National Liberation Front in September 2013, Arevalo said the Marawi conflict is different as the MNLF members are not radicals, they are not violent extremists."

The Zamboanga siege lasted for about three weeks. It resulted in the death of at least 200 MNLF fighters, 20 soldiers and policemen, and 12 civilians. Almost 200 civilian hostages were rescued.

Fifty-eight suspected Maute members nabbed in Zamboanga City and Zamboanga Sibugay last month insisted they were misled by their recruiters, during the preliminary investigation of the rebellion charges against them before the Department of Justice.

Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong said the suspects in their respective counter-affidavits told the prosecution panel they were recruited to join the MNLF and were told that after undergoing training, they will be integrated into the Armed Forces.

The suspects were first presented to Ong's panel on July 28 after being flown from Zamboanga to Manila.

One of the respondents, Nur Supian who was tagged as the recruiter, failed to submit a counter-affidavit. Ong gave him until Friday to submit one.

Thirty-two of the suspects were apprehended at a checkpoint in Ipil

town, Zamboanga Sibugay while the rest were arrested in a house in Zamboanga City, where military and police uniforms and combat boots were found.

The military said that upon interrogation, the suspects claimed they are MNLF members going to attend training at Camp Jabal Nur in Lanao del Sur, prior to integration into the military. The MNLF has denied any connection with them.

A physician being linked to the Maute also underwent preliminary investigation at the DOJ for kidnapping and murder.

Russel Langi Salic is facing the charges based on the complaints of six persons abducted by the Maute while they were working at a sawmill in Butig, Lanao del Sur in April last year.

The complainants said Salic was with the group who abducted them, and they saw him cleaning a weapon inside one of the rooms where they were held before they were able to escape.

Salic is set to file his counter-affidavit on August 23. He is detained at the NBI detention facility in Manila. – *With Ashzel Hachero*

15 August 2017

BusinessMirror

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## War in Marawi nearing end as Maute down to 40 fighters—Padilla

BY ELIJAH FELICE F. ROSALES  
@alyasjah

**T**HE Maute Group is not only losing ground, but also warm bodies, as it is now down to its last 40 fighters, the military said on Monday.

However, there was no progress yet in regaining the last two barangays that remain to be pockets of resistance for the Islamist extremists. Armed Forces Spokesman Restituto F. Padilla Jr. said these areas are still the hardest to recapture due to ground complexities.

“There are days that we are able to clear only a few facilities or installations or buildings because these are [towering, big] buildings. So, while we are infiltrating the commercial business district, we anticipate slower operations due to the buildings,” he said.

On one hand, Padilla said the military made a significant advancement in its past operations, depleting the Maute Group to its last 40 fighters, maybe even 20.

“Their number is between 20 to 40, so the force is getting smaller,” the military’s spokesman said. In spite of this, government troops are still up in arms as the terrorists’ “capacity to inflict harm is still there because they still have arms and adequate ammunition”, Padilla added.

The conflict in Marawi City has left 735 dead, of which 45 were civilians reportedly killed by terror-

ists and 128 were soldiers killed in action. Martial law continues to be in place in the whole of Mindanao, probably until December 31, due to Congress’s approval of extending military rule on the island.

The end of the conflict in Marawi City, however, will not necessarily lead to the lifting of martial law, Padilla said, as Islamist extremists “have groups in other portions of Lanao, Maguindanao and in Sulu” “It does not mean to say that just because we have been able to address the security issue in Marawi, there is going to be a preemptive lifting of martial law,” Padilla said.

“We still have a lot of homework to do. We still have a lot of areas to address, and that is why we still need it [martial law in Mindanao],” the military’s spokesman added.

Asked if there is a change in the military’s target, Padilla said martial law is aimed at addressing all the security issues in Mindanao. “If one is having a violent activity, it may spill over to other parts if we don’t control it,” Padilla said.

In his visit to Marawi City, President Duterte told government troops to prepare for war against communist rebels after they have quelled the extremist threat. “Don’t be too complacent because there is a strong resurgence, [as] the NPA [New People’s Army] is coming back again. After this, we will reorient and target the NPA,” the President said.

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## More Marawi buildings cleared

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday said that government troops continue to gain more ground in its quest to clear Marawi City of Daesh-inspired Maute terrorists after 38 more buildings were cleared in Day 83 of the operations.

According to the AFP's Joint Task Force Marawi, from 10 buildings cleared as of Saturday, an additional 38 buildings were cleared as fighting was reportedly intense in the main business district of the city.

At least 11 IEDs (improvised explosive devices) have also been recovered.

Joint Task Force Marawi and Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) spokeswoman Captan Jo-Ann D. Petinglay, said at least 400 structures in a one square km area is still yet to be cleared of

Maute terrorists.

Petinglay said at an average, troops are able to clear at least 15 structures a day.

"In the past few days soldiers were only able to clear two buildings, it depends on the structure. For example if its a six-story building, it takes about one or two days before this can be cleared. The structure is much higher and has more IEDs. We also think about the presence of the hostages, that's the challenging part," Petinglay said.

Despite more buildings are getting cleared, Petinglay said troops have yet to get closer or reach the main group.

Meanwhile, Petinglay said the remaining terrorists holed up in Marawi could be between 30 to 50 while the remaining hostages could be around 40, of which 20 are women. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

15 August 2017



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## Desperate move, Palace says on Maute plan to use hostages as suicide bombers

By Ted Tuvera

Malacañang yesterday said the reported plan of the Islamic State (IS)-affiliated terrorists in Malawi City to use their civilian hostages as “suicide bombers” is an act of desperation.

“We have been receiving accounts from hostages who were able to escape from the Maute rebels in Marawi that the enemies would be using hostages as suicide bombers once they are cornered by government troops,” presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella told a press conference.

“We strongly denounce these desperate actions which apparently are carefully calculated to create a violent reaction from the general populace in order to create tension between ethnic groups, which the terrorist groups expect to work in favor of their cause,” he said.

The Palace official stressed that while government forces continue to carry out their mission to crush the state enemies, the safety of hostages is still the main

consideration in the conduct of any operation against the terrorists.

“We assure our people that government forces will continue to abide by the rules of engagement to ensure the safety of hostages particularly women and children in our drive to clear Marawi of all armed elements,” Abella said.

“No less than the Commander-in-Chief has given this primordial consideration and guidance to our troops,” he added.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen.

Restituto Padilla, for his part, said the enemy forces have been degraded significantly but hunting them down remains a challenge.

“Based on our ground commander’s estimate, they are now less than 40. So they’re between 20 and 40. So the force is getting smaller,” the military official told reporters in Malacañang.

“Their capacity to inflict harm by the way is still there because they still have arms, they still have adequate ammunition

Turn to page 3



**From page 1**

and they still continue to hold hostages. So that's the compounding factor," he added.

But the dwindling number of enemy forces is not enough reason for the government to lift martial law in Mindanao, the military official stressed.

The Mautes, who allegedly pledged allegiance to IS, laid siege to the southern city in an attempt to establish caliphate for jihadist fighters in Southeast Asia.

The attack has prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law in the entire Mindanao.

Congress has extended the martial law declaration until December 31, 2017.

"Actually, we don't look at Marawi per se as the reason for keeping

martial law. You know this rebel group has a structure that is beyond Marawi. They have groups in other portions of Lanao, in Maguindanao, in Sulu archipelago," Padilla said.

"It does not mean to say that just because we have been able to address the security issue in Marawi, there is going to be a preemptive lifting of martial law. No, we still have a lot of homework to do. We still have a lot of areas to address, and that is why we still need it," he added.

Relatedly, enhancing the country's intelligence gathering capabilities, among others, is one of the key improvements that has to be done by the defense and military as fighting in besieged Marawi City reaches its 83rd day Monday.

"The Marawi incident (which

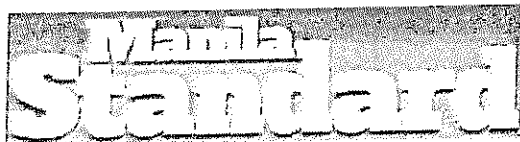
erupted last May 23) taught us a lot of lessons. First, we have to re-study and improve our intelligence capability," Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

He added the military needs more training in urban warfare, citing difficulties in neutralizing Maute terrorists who opted to entrench themselves in houses and buildings.

"We are looking into this (matter), we will do this, definitely. In fact, we have several offers from different countries (to train our soldiers) in urban warfare," Lorenzana stressed.

The Defense chief also expressed the need for a stronger reserve force to back up the regular units in their security and other roles. **PNA**

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## 59 Maute men reject rebellion raps — PAO

THE 59 suspected members of the Maute terror group who were arrested in Zamboanga City on Monday asked the Department of Justice to dismiss the criminal charges filed against them.

During the preliminary hearing of their case the respondents, through the lawyers from the Public Attorney's Office, denied the rebellion charges filed against them by the martial law authorities.

In other developments:

- Edmundo Ramos, a construction worker, was able to escape the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and subsequently was rescued on Monday by government forces, according to a report reaching Camp Aguinaldo.

Rear Admiral Rene Medina, commander of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao, said his men rescued Ramos around 1 a.m. near Tapiantan Island.

Medina said Ramos was given medical aid, but that he was in good condition.

- Islamic State-inspired groups are threatening to use their hostages as suicide bombers should they be cornered, Malacañang said Friday.

"We have been receiving ac-

counts from hostages who were able to escape from the Maute rebels in Marawi that the enemy would be using hostages as suicide bombers once they were cornered by government troops," Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella told reporters.

He condemned the rebels' plan.

The 59 respondents detained in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City denied being members of the Maute group in counter-affidavits written in Maranao and Tausug and submitted to the panel led by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong.

They were first brought to the Justice department on July 28 for inquest proceedings, but they sought more time to answer the charges and opted for a preliminary investigation that extended their period of detention.

According to the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police, 32 of the suspects were arrested at a checkpoint in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, while the rest were caught in a raid in a house in Guiwan in Zamboanga City on July 25. **Rey E. Requejo, Florante S. Solmerin, Francisco Tuyay and John Paolo Bencito**

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

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# Marawi rebels down to 40 –AFP

By **ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS**  
and **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said yesterday that the number of Islamic State-inspired Maute rebels

in Marawi City in Lanao del Sur is now down to between 20 and 40.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla military operations are now concentrated in two of the 96 barangays of the city.

“Between 20 to 40 na lang siguro ‘yan (I think it’s just around 30 to 40),” Padilla said. “But their capacity to inflict harm is still there because they still have arms, they still have adequate ammunition, and they ▶6

still continue to hold hostages,” he said during the Mindanao Hour press briefing Monday.

Martial law in Mindanao will remain in effect, he said, adding, “The public must know that the situation in Marawi is not the sole reason President Duterte declared martial law in the entire Mindanao. This rebel group has a structure that is beyond Marawi,” Padilla said. “They have groups in other portions of Lanao, in Maguindanao, in Sulu archipelago, et cetera.”

“No. We still have a lot of work to do. We still have a lot of areas to address. And that is why we still need it (martial law),” Padilla said.

These issues include the proliferation of firearms possessed by the armed groups in Mindanao, the existence of all other elements that are still around and may consolidate and join forces.

“Hangga’t hindi natin na-a-address ito, may pangangailangan na ipagpatuloy natin itong ginagawa nating security operations (Until these issues are addressed, there is a need that we continue with our operations),” Padilla said.

These issues, he said, include the proliferation of firearms held by armed groups in Mindanao, the existence of other elements who may consolidate and join forces.

Padilla said citizens have no reason to be afraid of martial law as long as they are law-abiding.

“Martial law is addressed not only at the rebellion occurring in Marawi but the overall security situation in Mindanao,” he added.

According to the latest report of the AFP, a total of 45 civilians have been killed by the terrorists in Marawi City since the war started on May 23, 2017.

As of Sunday evening, a total of 1,728 civilians have been rescued; 562 enemies killed, 619 firearms recovered, and 128 government troopers killed.

The AFP’s Joint Task Force Marawi said 38 more buildings were cleared on Day 83 of the operations. At least 11 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were recovered.

Joint Task Force Marawi and Western Mindanao Command (WestMin-Com) spokeswoman Captan Jo-Ann D. Petinglay, said at least 400 structures in a one square kilometer area are still yet to be cleared. The troops have been able to clear at least 15 structures a day.



"We will always be of help whenever it is needed," said Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command.

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OFFICE OF THE

"In the past few days, soldiers were only able to clear two buildings, depending on the structure. For example, if it's a six-story building, it takes about one or two days before it can be cleared. The structure has more IEDs. We also think about the hostages; that's the challenging part," Petinglay said.

She said troops have yet to get close to the main group. "According sa apat na hostage na rescue, halos iyung lahat ng hostages dun nakatago sa isang mosque (According to the four hostages that were rescued, almost all the hostages are being kept inside a mosque)," she said. The remaining hostages could be around 40, of which 20 are women.

She added that as of 7 p.m. Sunday, the total number of terrorists killed had already reached 562 with 619 firearms recovered, based on the latest figures provided by ground commanders. The government forces killed-in-action number 128.

Meanwhile, staff members of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), soldiers, and other local government workers delivered bundles of rice and goods to the displaced persons from Marawi City who are temporarily sheltered in an evacuation center in Malabang, Lanao del Sur last Friday.

Malabang which is about 73 kilometers away from Marawi City now has about 1,600 evacuees who sought refuge in the town after the Maute Group attacked Marawi last May.

Leading the distribution of the goods was Malabang Municipal Social Welfare and Development Chief Linang Pangkat, who expressed her gratitude to those who supported the endeavor, especially mentioning the security sector.

On behalf of the Malabang Mayor Raizol S. Balindong, Municipal Administrator Jerry Rakim thanked the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) government and the Lanao del Sur provincial government for the seven truckloads of aid that arrived for the evacuees.

Soldiers of the Joint Task Force Marawi conducted activities for the children and led them in singing the "Kalilintad" (Peace) song. Sgt. Tony Halasan, the composer and original singer of the song, played the guitar while children sang with him.

**Hostages as bombers**

Malacañang yesterday denounced the Maute Group's plan to use its hostages as suicide bombers should they be cornered by government troops.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said reports of the plan came from hostages who were able to escape.

"We strongly denounce these desperate actions which apparently are carefully calculated to create violent reaction from the general populace in order to create tension among ethnic groups, which the terrorist groups expect to work in favor of their cause," Abella said.

He said President Duterte has ordered the government troops to make the safety of the hostages their highest priority and consideration.

Three hostages were able to escape last week. Romar Marjalino, 39; his brother Roel, 37, and Jimmy Esperat, 43, said the terrorists were planning to strap improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on the hostages.

Marjalino confirmed that Catholic priest Fr. Teresito (Chito) Suganob is still alive but they were not able to bring him with them as he was too weak. Fr. Chito said that he had "accepted his fate," Marjalino said.

The priest is reportedly assigned to collecting powder from firecrackers like "piccolo" and "five star" for use making improvised bombs.

Marjalino said several children appeared sick due to the bomb explosions and the stench of decomposing human flesh.

During the celebration of International Humanitarian Law Month at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pasay City, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the Marawi terrorists were using children to fight government soldiers.

"We saw some teenagers holding guns and being used by Maute and other lawless elements in Mindanao," he said. "Kasama na ang mga Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu. Ginagamit talaga ang mga bata. In fact those who do the beheading of their captives are teenagers."

Sen. Richard Gordon said the use of children as soldiers is a violation of the Geneva Convention of 1949. (With reports by Roy G. Mabasa)

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## Maute fighters in Marawi down to 40, says AFP

Members of the Maute group holed up in Marawi City are down to about 20 to 40 gunmen, the military said yesterday as government troops continue to close in on the remaining strongholds of the terrorists.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the remaining Maute terrorists continue to pose a threat since they are still holding hostages in two barangays.

"Based on the ground commander's estimate, their number has decreased to less than 40. So maybe their forces have been reduced to between 20 and 40. The force is getting smaller," Padilla said in a press briefing yesterday in Malacañang.

"Their capacity to inflict harm, by the way, is still there because they still have arms, they still have adequate ammunition and they still continue to hold hostages. So that's the compounding factor," he added.

Islamic State-inspired Maute group laid siege on the predominantly Muslim city last May 23, prompting President Duterte to declare martial law in the entire island of Mindanao. The military has stopped setting a timeline for the Marawi operations after repeatedly missing its self-imposed deadlines.

Padilla said the clearing of Marawi City would not necessarily lead to the lifting of martial law in Mindanao.

"Actually, don't look at Marawi per se as the reason for keeping martial law. You know this rebel group has a structure that is beyond Marawi. They have groups in other portions of Lanao, in Maguindanao, in



Maute suspects attend the hearing on rebellion charges filed against them at the Department of Justice in Manila yesterday.

MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

Sulu archipelago," the military spokesman said.

"It does not mean to say that just because we have been able to address the security issue in Marawi, there is going to be a preemptive lifting of martial law. No, we still have a lot of homework to do. We still have a lot of areas to address, and that is why we still need it," he added.

Padilla said they are verifying reports that Maute group reinforcements have arrived in Marawi City.

"Be that as it may, the forces that have been laid out in the lake area are adequate to cover any kind of movement. Now, we anticipate those kinds of initiatives from the enemy: one of people wanting escape and get out at the heat of the fighting; and second for the possibility of reinforcement also making their way through that same corridor," he said.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said they have received reports about a plan of the Maute militants to use the hostages as suicide bombers once they are cornered by government troops.

"We strongly denounce these desperate actions, which apparently are carefully calculated to create violent reaction from the general populace in order to create tension between ethnic groups, which the terrorist groups expect to work in favor of their cause," Abella said.

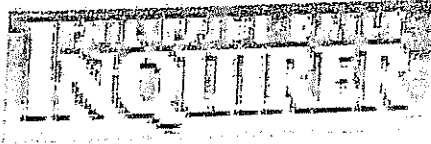
"We, however, assure our people that government forces will continue to abide by the rules of engagement to ensure the safety of hostages, particularly women and children, in our drive to clear Marawi of all armed elements," he added.

A total of 562 Maute militants, 128 government troopers and 45 civilians have died since the clashes started last May. More than 467,000 persons or about 104,000 families have been displaced by the conflict.

Recent developments in the campaign against terrorists include the rescue of four workers kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf and the death of terrorist leader Badong Muktadil.

– Michael Punongbayan, Edu Punay

15 August 2017



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## 58 SUSPECTED MAUTE MEMBERS APPEAR IN COURT

**By Marlon Ramos**  
@MRamosINQ

Fifty-eight suspected members of the Islamic State-inspired Maute terror group arrested in connection with the May 23 attack in Marawi City on Monday asked government prosecutors to drop the rebellion charges against them.

Aboard a military bus and

escorted by policemen and soldiers in full-battle gear, the suspected terrorists were taken to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the continuation of the preliminary hearing of the criminal complaints lodged against them.

The alleged Maute members, most of them in their teens, were handcuffed and sat in silence while a panel of DOJ

prosecutors led by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong received their counter-affidavits.

Aided by lawyers from the Public Attorney's Office, the accused feigned innocence as they claimed that they were only recruited by a certain Nur Supian to join the Moro National Liberation Front in exchange for P30,000. INQ

## ONLINE NEWS

15 AUGUST 2017

[www.dwdd.com](http://www.dwdd.com)

# SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | Go Negosyo give aid to families of slain Marawi Soldiers, Cops

**CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – The families of the 101 soldiers and policemen have received a P250,000 check each from the businessmen through the Go Negosyo Kapatid for Marawi network.

The Go Negosyo Kapatids who donated to the fund for the soldiers include Tessie Sy-Coson of the BDO and SM group, Jaime Zobel de Ayala of Ayala Corp., Josephine Gotianum Yap of Filinvest, Manny Pangilinan of the PLDT Smart foundation, Alfred Ty of Metrobank Foundation, Michael Tan of Asia Brewery and Philippine Airlines, and Tony Tan Caktiong of Jollibee Food Corp.

Also among the donors are Jean Henri Lhuillier of Cebuana Lhuillier, Mildren Vitangcol of St. Peter's Chapel, Alice Eduardo of Sta. Elena Corp., Injap Sia of Double Dragon Properties, Jojo Concepcion of Concepcion Industries, William Belo of Wilcon Depot, Dennis Uy of Chelsea Logistics, Santi Araneta of LBC, Sabin Aboitiz of Aboitiz Corp., and the Duterte Cabinet Spouses Association.

*"Through this occasion, we want to honor these courageous souls by showing that their fellow countrymen — from the government to the business sector — have not forgotten their ultimate sacrifice and their loved ones who miss them dearly,"* -Joey Concepcion, presidential adviser for entrepreneurship and Go Negosyo founder. **CRSAFP / MCAG**

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

[www.dwdd.com](http://www.dwdd.com)

# SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | Universal Reality Combat Championship Honors our Soldiers

Created by [Alvin Santiago](#)

CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – Universal Reality Combat Championship (URCC) initiated a civilian event to pay tribute in honor of our Fallen and Wounded Soldiers who fought for us, Filipinos.

This event was supported and witnessed by Major General Melquiades L Feliciano AFP, Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations or J7 with the officers and personnel of Philippine National Police.

Our dear soldiers, police officers and their dependents were invited to watch this live to show the Civilian's appreciation and support for our troops. The event was held at Smart Araneta Coliseum last August 12, 2017. The fund raising activity was led by JCI Manila. Some of the proceeds was donated to the AFP Health Service Command. **7CRG / MCAG**



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

[www.dwdd.com](http://www.dwdd.com)

## 3 Battle-Hardened Soldiers Recognized, to Receive P1 Million Each

By [Lui Claudio](#)

**CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City** – Three seasoned warriors who fought local terrorists in Mindanao were presented as this year's "The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers" (TOPS) in a ceremony held today, 14 August 2017 at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) General Headquarters Building.

"Our awardees are all battle-tested soldiers who are deployed in the most conflict-affected and challenging areas of our country. But more than being warriors, they have personified our AFP mandate of being genuine catalysts of peace, progress, and development," General Eduardo Año, AFP Chief of Staff said.

Lieutenant Colonel Elmer Suderio, Lieutenant Colonel Ricky Bunayog, and Staff Sergeant Narding Pascual will be honored during Metrobank's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September. They will each receive P1 Million cash incentive, a gold medallion, and a trophy from the Metrobank Foundation, Inc.

The three awardees were chosen for rendering service beyond the call of duty, and for inspiring and influencing their comrades and the people in their respective communities. All three members of the Philippine Army were selected from around 40 nominations from the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

Lt. Col. Suderio is presently the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, G3, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in Zamboanga Del Sur and concurrently as the Operations Officer of Joint Task Force Marawi.

Known as Basilan's Soldier-Trailblazer, Lt. Col. Suderio formerly commanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scout Ranger Battalion in a series of armed operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group in Basilan from 2015 to 2017. These resulted in the neutralization of highly-wanted terrorists and capture of numerous enemy strongholds.

Lt. Col. Bunayog is the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, G3, of the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division based in Maguindanao. Dubbed as Central Mindanao's Warrior-Peacekeeper, he facilitated hundreds of combat operations against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), and other lawless armed groups. These operations resulted in the neutralization of high-value criminals and the recovery of various war materials and ammunitions.

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SSg Pascual hailed as CARAGA's Lumad Hero is currently deployed with the 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in San Nicolas, Agusan Del Sur. As a squad leader, he spearheaded a number of successful armed operations against the CNN (CPP-NPA-NDF) rebel units aimed to bring peace and order in the Banwaon Communities.

This year's winners of the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos were selected from a large pool of candidates from the military, police, and the academe. Other awardees are three members of the Philippine National Police and four civilians.

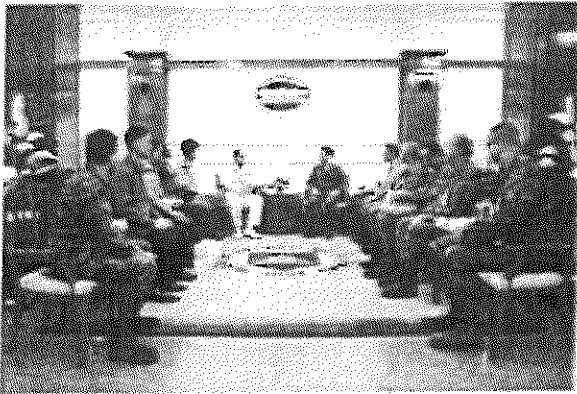
"The AFP expresses its gratitude to Metrobank Foundation Inc. headed by Mr. Aniceto Sobrepeña, and the Rotary Club of Makati-Metro led by Mr. Johnny Sy. We are always honored and grateful to have partners in advancement, especially through force motivation and capacity-building in the Armed Forces," General Año said.

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## VISIT | PA Welcomes NDC Bangladesh delegates

Posted by [Alvin Santillan](#)



*Philippine Army Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Robert M. Arevalo (7th from the left) speaks with Rear Admiral Muhammad Anwarul Islam, Senior Directing Staff (Navy), NDC Bangladesh (6th from the left) welcoming their delegation here on, August 9, 2017.*

**FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD)** – The Philippine Army welcomes the delegates from the National Defence College, Bangladesh, here on Wednesday, August 9, 2017.

Army Chief of Staff MGen. Robert M. Arevalo, took the Commanding General's stead in welcoming the 22 delegates comprising Bangladeshi, Indian, Nigerian, Omani, Sri Lankan, and American senior military officers, headed by Rear Admiral Muhammad Anwarul Islam, Senior Directing Staff (Navy), NDC Bangladesh.

Not being the first encounter with the NDC, the Philippine Army aims to foster good relationship with the Bangladesh Armed Forces with their Overseas Study Tour, which was the reason for their visit.

The courtesy call was followed by a briefing on the Army Transformation Roadmap (ATR), and a tour at the PA Museum. OACPA / MCAG



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## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | Lone Philanthropist donates P1-M for every AFP KIA in Marawi City



*From one military spouse to another. Mrs Jean Joselyn Dioso-Año, wife of AFP Chief of Staff General Eduard Año, hands over the P1-million check to Mrs Leah Dinglasan, spouse of the late TSg Aldrin Dinglasan of the Philippine Marines who died fighting the Maute-IS group in Marawi City. Mrs Dinglasan is one of five beneficiaries who received financial aid in a Ceremonial Turnover held 09 August 2017 at the GHQ Conference Room here. (Photo by SN1 Viluan/PAOAFP)*

CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – At least P98 million have been donated for each families of soldiers Killed-in-Action (KIA) during the ongoing fight against Daesh-inspired Maute Group in Marawi City, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said.

“The lone philanthropist donor, who wished to remain anonymous despite the large amount of financial aid, pledged and actually donated P1-million each to the kin of our brave soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice fighting to wrest Marawi City from terrorists’ control,” Colonel Arevalo added.

From the P98 Million donation, five donees received a-million-peso check each during a ceremonial turnover presided by the AFP Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año on 09 August 2017 at the General Headquarters Conference Room here.

A week earlier, on 02 August 2017, Gen Año handed over the same amount of check each to the families of three fallen heroes in Marawi during his visit to the Headquarters, 4th Infantry Division at Camp Evangelista in Cagayan De Oro City.

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The remaining P90 Million will be turned over to the Major Services for distribution to other beneficiaries.

"What is immensely admirable with this anonymous donor, apart from his or her selflessness in giving away such an enormous sum of money, is the express continuing commitment to provide a-million-peso each to the family of soldiers who may be KIA, God forbid, in the continuing crisis in Marawi. The number of soldiers KIA has now reached 122 from 98 at the time of the pledge," Col Arevalo said.

The donation was deposited in the account name AFP Marawi Casualty in Landbank of the Philippines. The account was opened in June for those who have expressed desire to help the families of soldiers who died in battle.

"On behalf of the AFP, our soldiers, and their families, I wish to commend the generosity of our benefactor who chose to remain anonymous despite the enormity of this gesture," General Año said.

"This, and the countless other gestures of goodwill, sympathy, and support that we have received in this time when our resolve is being challenged manifest the true spirit of Bayanihan that is kindled in each one of us," General Año added. **PAO AFP / MCAG**

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## WOUNDED PERSONNEL MEDAL | CSAFP awards wounded soldiers

CAMP NAVARRO, Calarian, Zamboanga City (DWDD) – ‘AFP is proud of you’. “Get well soon, brave soldiers.” this was the statement made by General Eduardo Año, Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines to wounded soldiers confined at the Camp Navarro Station Hospital, Western Mindanao Command in Camp Navarro, Calarian, Zamboanga City.

General Año, personally pinned the “Wounded Personnel Medal” during the awarding in Zamboanga City last Friday, August 11, 2017.

The personnel who received the award were Staff Sergeant Junifel Pangasian, Sergeant Yusop Nahudan, Sergeant Al-Mukhtar Sali, Corporal Ayatulla Hamid, Private Arjone Bano, Mole Icasama and Lito Laiag of the Civilian Active Auxiliary, and Charlie Alejandro of the Civilian Volunteers’ Organization.

The soldiers were wounded in separate armed engagements with the Abu Sayyaf Group in Basilan, the Local Terrorist Group in Marawi City, and the communist terrorists in Zamboanga del Norte.

In his message to the troops, General Año said: “We are seeing the end of the Marawi armed conflict with more than 560 terrorists slain in the battle area. We see this as an opportunity to end terrorism and bring the defeat of threat groups in Basilan, Sulu, Marawi, and Maguindanao.” “These are times when we really feel the support of our countrymen, which is very rewarding for us, soldiers.” added the AFP Chief of Staff. He also commended Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., Commander of the Western Mindanao Command, for the successful offensives against the Abu Sayyaf and the local terrorists within the joint area of operations.

“I further laud our medical personnel for giving their service to our battle casualties. We owe our success to the brave soldiers, to the commanders, and our stakeholders.”

General Año arrived from Basilan, shortly after he visited the troops at the headquarters of the 104th Brigade in Barangay Tabiawan, Isabela City, Basilan. He was accompanied by Lieutenant General Galvez; Brigadier General Cirilito Sobejana, Commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu; Brigadier Custodio Parcon, Jr., Commander of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi; and Colonel Leonel Nicolas, Commander of the Joint Task Force Zamboanga. The AFP Chief of Staff was also given an update on the ongoing offensives against the threat groups within the joint area of operations. PAO AFP / MCAG

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## **MORE HELP | Essential Items to Donate for Marawi Rehabilitation**

**COL JESUS VILLAMOR AIRBASE, Pasay City (DWDD)** – If you have been following the news about Marawi City, it's easy to see that as the operation continues, there is also urgent need to donate and send aid to both the “bawkits (evacuees)” and the soldiers.

While the authorities are forward-looking with a rehabilitation plan for Marawi already in place, focus must be made on the immediate needs of those in the war-torn areas. In this regard, we rounded up priority items that everyone can collectively supply to the evacuation centers and military camps.

**WATER.** Access to safe and clean water is a must for both the evacuees and soldiers. They are already in a crisis situation and health issues should not add to their worries. Agua Vida took the initiative of sending mobile water stations to military camps while Asia Brewery has also been sending Absolute white-labeled water bottles to evacuation centers and military camps. Both Lucio Tan-owned companies are active in helping out the Marawi soldiers and evacuees. If you're thinking of items to donate, water is a top priority.

**HALAL FOOD.** Majority of the affected residents in Marawi are Muslims and because of their faith, it is important to note that the food we should be donating or preparing for our Muslim brothers and sisters should be “halal” (meaning permissible or lawful). Thankfully, there are canned goods and grocery items that are Halal-certified. Be mindful in checking the label.

**HIJAB / CLOTHES (FULL BODY COVERAGE).** Because of the nature of the crisis, many of the residents fled only with the clothes on their back. As with Muslim practices, there is a special need to send out and donate hijab (a veil or covering traditionally worn by Muslim women) as well as pieces of clothing that would fully cover the women. Underwear and socks would also be appreciated.

**BLANKET.** Being forced out of their homes, the evacuees would need blankets to protect themselves from the cold and what the everyday weather would bring. The blankets would be useful to the troops as well.

**TOILETRIES (TOOTHBRUSH / TOOTHPASTE / TOILET PAPER / SANITARY NAPKIN / BABY DIAPER / BATH SOAP / SHAMPOO / DEODORANT).** Regular bathing and dental care remain very much a part of the daily lives of the bawkits and the soldiers. Health and hygiene would always be a priority. The sanitary napkin is especially important for women bawkits so they wouldn't have to worry about access to feminine hygiene. Diapers would also be needed by infants and toddlers affected by the crisis.

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**MEDICINE AND FIRST AID KITS.** Access to first aid and medicines should always be available for the soldiers and the bakwits. Health and safety issues are on top of the list.

**STUFFED TOYS.** Sadly, children are not spared from the ugly complications of war and have to deal with the situation as "collateral damage." Stuffed toys would help ease the discomforts of displacement and would provide warmth and entertainment for the kids.

**BATTERIES.** Be it typhoon, earthquake or a siege, battery donations would also be of help. It can be used for flashlights and radio and for other emergency situations.

There are a number of organizations which could help send donations, be they cash or in kind, to Marawi. Consider getting in touch with the following:

**PHILIPPINE RED CROSS** Address: PRC Tower 37 EDSA cor. Boni Avenue,  
Mandaluyong City Contact: [emergencyappeal@redcross.org.ph](mailto:emergencyappeal@redcross.org.ph)

Local Government of Marawi City (Satellite Office) Address: 12 Guillermo Guevarra Street,  
Camague (near Mercy Community Hospital), Iligan City Contact: 0955-769-4404; 0915-972-  
4348; 0930-009-1401. PAO PAF / MCAG

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