

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

16 August 2017

Wednesday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 16, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

**INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING PALAWAN, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
(As of 4:00 PM- August 15, 2017)**

LAOAG CITY 25 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY 25 - 34 °C
BAGUIO CITY 16 - 25 °C
SBMA/CLARK 25 - 33 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 22 - 29 °C
METRO MANILA 24 - 33 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 26 - 33 °C
ILOILO/ BACOLOD CITY 26 - 32 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 25 - 32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 33 °C
METRO CEBU 26 - 32 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 33 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO 25 - 30 °C

SUNRISE 5:42 AM
SUNSET 6:18 PM

MOONRISE 12:04 AM
MOONSET 1:06 PM

FULL MOON AUG 15 8:15 AM
LAST QUARTER AUG 20 2:30 AM

LOW TIDE 12:19 PM
HIGH TIDE 4:09 AM

0.57 Meter
0.89 Meter

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

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

DZRHNEWS TELEVISION

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

PILIPINAS HD

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

16 August 2017

The Manila Times

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Army denies NPA killed 10 soldiers

LAS NAVAS, Northern Samar: The 803rd Infantry Brigade, Philippine Army (PA), based in Camp Sumoroy, Catarman, Northern Samar broke its silence on reports that 10 soldiers have been killed in a series of attacks perpetrated by the New People's Army (NPA) under the Silvio Pajares Command here.

In a media briefing on Monday afternoon at Las Navas Mayor Minda Tan's residence some 70 kilometers away from the capital town of Catarman, Capt. Federico Morales, Civil Military Operations (CMO) chief and official spokesman for the 803rd Brigade, said there was no truth to the claim that 10 soldiers were killed in action in Barangay Bangon, Gamay, Barangay Potong, Lapinig, and Barangay Carawag, Palapag, all in Northern Samar.

NPA-Eastern Visayas under the Efren Martires Command made the claim in a statement posted in the Facebook account of a certain

Roy Santos a few days ago.

"The NPA statement through the Efren Martires Command that there were 10 soldiers killed in separate attacks was fake news and mere propaganda just to show that these rebels are still strong," Morales said.

He added that there was indeed a series of clashes between government troops and the NPA but there were no casualties on the government side as the NPA claimed.

In the statement, the NPA said a certain Sgt. Falconete was killed in a gunbattle in Barangay Bangon but Morales said Sgt. Falconete is alive and is still with his detachment as its commander.

When asked if the Army could provide proof that Falconete is still alive, he said, "I would ask the superior officer of Falconete to give him a pass so that I can present him before the media just to show that he is alive."

ELADIO PERFECTO

16 August 2017



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Major changes in AFP leadership loom

By **JAIME LAUDE** and **ALEXIS ROMERO**

A major leadership change in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) looms with the scheduled retirement of two senior military commanders this month and next month.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo yesterday said that the AFP's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based in Lucena City in Quezon will have a new commander this weekend following the compulsory retirement of Lt. Gen. Ferdinand Quidilla.

On Sept. 4, Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) commander Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo will retire, but his replacement is also yet to be announced.

Solcom has operational jurisdiction over the entire Southern Luzon area while Nolcom has jurisdiction over the entire Northern Luzon, including the disputed Panatag Shoal off the coast of Zambales – currently being occupied by the Chinese – and Berham Rise in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Aurora province.

Last Friday, AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año installed Maj. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar, a Philippine Air Force pilot, as the new commander of the Palawan-based Western Command, following the compulsory retirement of Lt. Gen. Raul del Rosario, also a PAF pilot.

Westcom has operational jurisdiction over the country's territorial and maritime domain in the disputed Spratlys archipelago.

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Año's chance of getting DILG top post dims

By Ted Tuvera

It looks like Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año's chance of grabbing the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) post upon retirement would not happen the way President Duterte wants it to be.

That is why, at a Palace briefing yesterday, presidential spokesman

Ernesto Abella said the Chief Executive is seeking measures on how to handle the DILG.

Chapter I, Section 8 of Republic Act 6975 or the DILG Act of 1990 states that "(no) retired or resigned military officer or police official may be appointed as Secretary within one year from the date of his retirement or resignation."

Abella said President Duterte

has been made aware of the law provision, that is why he will make it sure that a temporary replacement for Año should be named soon.

"I'm sure the President has an alternative solution regarding the matter or he will be able to address the matters concerning the DILG," the Palace official said.

"The President did make mention

of General Año and he has also been made aware of the provision," he added.

Outgoing AFP chief of staff Año is set to retire from military service this October.

Mr. Duterte originally wanted the top military official to file an early retirement by June to occupy the DILG post. But due to the Islamic State (IS)-inspired attacks

in Marawi City, the President ordered Año to remain as AFP chief of staff.

Año is currently the chief implementor of martial law in Mindanao.

Año was tapped by Mr. Duterte to replace then Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno who was fired by the Chief Executive over graft allegations last April.

August 2017



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AFP to verify sightings of Chinese vessels near Pagasa Island

The military is verifying reports on alleged Chinese activities near Pagasa Island, said Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo following Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano's information during the Department of National Defense's budget hearing on Monday.

In the meeting, Alejano claimed that China is planning to occupy sandbars off the western side of Pagasa Island following several sightings of Chinese vessels.

Arevalo said the AFP will not issue any other comment until they verify the information.

In a press conference, Magdalo Partylist Rep. Gary Alejano disclosed

information from a military source that the Chinese vessels spotted north of Pagasa island three days ago were two frigates, one coast guard vessel, two large fishing vessels and their maritime militia.

Alejano also reported that a Philippine government ship from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) was allegedly prevented from going near the sandbars west of the disputed island.

"This is highly suspicious and threatening considering that China says one thing in public and does another on the ground," Alejano said.

The lawmaker called on the government to file an appropriate

Turn to page 3

No. 16-A and Republic Act 409 or the Revised Charter of the City of Manila. Through expropriation, the city government buys private properties that are then distributed to qualified applicants.

Under the project, the awardees are given 20 to 25 years to pay for the lots at affordable rates. Within two years from the awarding of the lot, the beneficiaries should occupy the area and vacate the premises not included in the award, according to Danny Isiderio, chief of the city's Urban Settlements Office (USO).

The price of the 40- to 50-square meter lot ranges from P300,000 to P400,000, with monthly amortization of only P500 to P1,500. The lot awarded cannot be sold or rented for 20 years without the written consent of the Office of the Mayor, and it should be used for residential purposes only.

With the CTSC Resolution No. 008-2017, the land awardees will only have to wait for the Deed of Sale that would eventually pave the way for the issuance of Transfer Certificate of Title under their names, according to Isiderio.

Early this month, Estrada had identified 470 more families as the next beneficiaries of the land distribution program.

For 2017, he has set aside an initial fund of P50 million for the expropriation of the five private estates where the 470 would-be beneficiaries have long been occupying.

One such property is the 28,789-square meter estate that covers the streets of Jose Abad Santos, Solis, and Antipolo in Barangays 215 and 216 in Tondo. The landowner, Vargas Realty Inc., wants to sell it to the city government at P1.3 billion.

Pat C. Santos

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Repulsive, bishop says of Maute plan to use hostages as human shields

The Catholic prelate of war-torn Marawi City was outraged by the Maute group's supposed plan to use its hostages as human bombs if their situation worsens any further.

The terrorists, who attacked the city on May 23, made the threat as security forces regained control of Marawi where soldiers and policemen have been finding human remains, mostly skeletal.

"Horrible! Repulsive! The terrorists must be really desperate to make this threat," Marawi bishop Edwin dela Peña said of the Maute plan to use their hostages as human bombs.

"They really know that this latest challenge is really despicable and they hope that the government will heed this," he said after escaped hostages told the authorities of the Maute plan.

The authorities could not determine exactly how many hostages the extremists hold, but one of the hostages,

Catholic priest Teresito Suganob, earlier said there were hundreds.

Suganob, the escaped hostages said, was still alive and was being forced to make bombs as security forces regain the city.

So far, soldiers and policemen have found 45 human re-

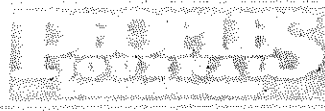
mains in the beleaguered city but none of them match the DNA samples submitted by Marawi residents looking for missing relatives.

Supt. Ramos Bergonio, operations chief of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory, said the DNA of the 45 human remains were tested

against 57 DNA samples submitted by the relatives.

"There has been no recorded match," Bergonio said, adding that genetic sampling was the only means of accurately identifying the bodies because of their advanced state of decomposition. —JULIE M. AURELIO AND JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE INQ

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Palace hits Maute plan to use hostages as suicide bombers

By Efren Montano

MALACAÑANG has condemned a reported plan by the ISIS-inspired Maute terror group to use their hostages as suicide bombers if it finds itself cornered by government forces.

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

Abella reacted to the accounts of the three hostages who managed to escape from their captors in Marawi City.

The three hostages told authorities about the Maute's plan to strap the hostages with improvised explosive devices and use them as suicide bombers.

The Palace official assured government troops will observe "the rules of engagement" for the hostages' safety.

"No less than the Commander-in-Chief has given this primordial consideration and guidance to our troops," Abella said.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said that three implied that Fr. Chito Suganob, a priest who has been held hostage by the group for weeks, is still alive.

PROBE MAUTE USE OF GOV'T AMMUNITION—SOLON

HOUSE Committee on Appropriations chairman Davao City Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles yesterday called for an investigation into reports that the Maute Group are

using ammunition from Government Arsenal.

During a budget deliberation, the Department of National Defense was asked to verify reports about the possibility that some government troops are supplying firearms and ammunition to the enemies of the state.

DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana did not categorically deny that the ammunition boxes, with Government Arsenal markings, were among those recovered in areas in Marawi that were cleared by government troops.

He, however, admitted that the ammunition boxes, with Armscor Philippines markings, were among those discovered by troopers during clearing operations.

Armscor Philippines is a local gun and ammunition manufacturer, dealer and importer.

Government Arsenal chief retired Maj. Gen. Jonathan Martir said they cannot monitor the distribution of the ammunition manufactured in the Government Arsenal Bataan plant after turning them over to the AFP's Logistics Command.

Nograles said he saw photos of the ammunition boxes seized in Marawi, which were purportedly issued by the DND's Government Arsenal. He expressed deep concern that the government-manufactured firearms and ammunition are falling into the wrong hands and are being used to kill and maim government security forces.

"The worst thing that we can have is magkaroon tayo ng mga ganitong encounters tapos ang ginagamit na bala ng mga kalaban natin ay galing sa government arsenal," Nograles said.

Fighting between government troops and the Maute Group erupted in Marawi City on May 23. The armed conflict has resulted in the death of at least 695 people, including 45 civilians and 122 government troops.

With Jester Manalastas

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Mautes, Hapilon still in Marawi – AFP

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) expressed belief that brothers Abdulah and Omar Maute and Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon are still in the main-battle area inside Marawi City.

In an interview, AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo, said that, base on the monitoring done by troops on the ground, the terrorist leaders were still in the area, and have not escaped.

"For the record, ang ating monitoring ay kasalukuyan pa rin silang nanduruun sa Marawi. Kagaya ng lagi nating binabangit this is a good news para sa atin, sapagkat at least

sa kabila nung nangyaring kaguluhan, kasiraan at nagpapatuloy pang bakbakan at least alam natin na yung ating hinahanap kasalukuyan pang nandun sa area (For the record our monitoring indicates that they are still there in Marawi. Like what we stated this is a good news for us because at least despite the ongoing conflict, destruction and gunbattle at least we know that the people we are looking for are still in thre area)," Arevalo said.

"And we hope that we will be able to neutralize them then and there upang hindi na nila maipagpatuloy pa, magkaroon pa sila (so that they could not continue the) next chapter o pagpapatuloy ng kanilang atrocity, terrorist activity in other parts of the

country," he added.

Arevalo also said he was not certain whether or not the three HVT (high-valued targets) were hiding in a mosque together with the other hostages.

"Sa mosque? Hindi ko, hindi namin masabi (We cannot say) where exactly there are kung nandun sila sa (if they are inside the) mosque. But what we can say is they are still within the main battle area," Arevalo said.

"We have received a similar report and we are currently validating it. But we just cannot tell you specifically what actiond are we going to do because those are operational details, those are matters of operational security which we cannot tell," he added.

Arevalo assured that the AFP remains sincere and firm in its desire of ending the rebellion in Marawi which has been raging for nearly three months.

"And we are going to exert all efforts within the limits and bounds of the law (to defeat the enemy. Like what we previously stated we are always observing the rules of engagement and we are going to get the remnants of the Daesh inspired Maute Group," Arevalo said.

Arevalo also explained that the military continues to evaluate daily operations on a day-to-day basis to ensure that they learn from the experience.

"Everyday na nagsasagawa tayo ng ating operations ay pinag-aaralan natin on how we are faring and how we'll be



HAPILON

able to defeat the enemy. So itong mga ito ang iko-compile natin, pag-aaralan at gagawa ng mga pagbabagong kinakailangan in terms of our doctrines," Arevalo said.

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Maute chiefs still in Marawi – AFP

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) expressed belief that brothers Abdulah and Omar Maute and Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon are still in the main-battle area inside Marawi City.

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"Sa kabila nung nangyaring kaguluhan, kasiraan at nagpapatuloy pang bakbakan at least alam

natin na 'yung ating hinahanap kasalukuyan pang nandun sa area," said Arevalo.

When asked if the three HVT (high-valued targets) are hidden inside a mosque together with the other hostages, Arevalo said they could not say that.

"Sa mosque? Hindi ko, hindi namin masabi (We cannot say) where exactly they are kung nandun sila sa (if they are inside the) mosque. But what we can say is they are still within the main battle area," Arevalo said.

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BusinessMirror

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AFP retooling on urban warfare doctrine after Marawi City siege

THE Armed Forces (AFP) will conduct a massive revamp on the way its units approach urban warfare once the Marawi crisis has been successfully resolved.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard A. Arevalo made the statement, saying that proposed upgrades will focus on theories, doctrines, tactics, techniques and procedures on this form of fighting the Maute Group terrorists are using.

"Although the AFP has experience on urban warfare [e.g., close quarter battles], the fighting in Marawi City is a different level as [our troops have to fight in a locality] with very dense and reinforced structures [which the enemy is using as firing points and hiding places]," he added in Filipino on Monday.

Aside from the well-built structures

converted by lawless elements into fighting positions, troops engaged in clearing operations are constantly being threatened by improvised explosive devices and snipers.

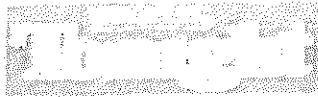
Worsening the situation is the fact the Maute Group terrorists are willing to use civilian hostages as human shields, destroy private and public properties indiscriminately to meet their ends, and willingness to sacrifice themselves for their cause.

Arevalo said the AFP needs to evaluate how its troops and their tactics have fared against the enemy.

This evaluation will determine the changes in the military's urban warfare theories, doctrines, tactics, techniques and procedures, he added. *PNA*

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DND told: Probe if Maute use gov't weapons

A HOUSE leader asked yesterday the Department of National Defense (DND) to conduct a deeper probe on reports that ammunitions from Government Arsenal are being used by the Maute group to fight government forces in Marawi City.

During the House committee on appropriations hearing on next year's budget of DND, Davao City Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles, the panel chairman, said the ammunitions were reportedly sourced from the Government Arsenal. The government's ammunition plant in Bataan, and from private arms and ammunitions manufacturers.

DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana did not categorically deny that ammunition boxes with Government Arsenal markings were among those recovered in areas in Marawi that were cleared by government troops.

He admitted, however, that ammunition boxes with Armscor Philippines markings were among those discovered by government during clearing operations.

Armscor Philippines is a local gun and ammunitions manufacturer, dealer and importer.

Government Arsenal chief Maj. Gen. Jonathan Martir (ret) on the other hand claimed they cannot

monitor the distribution of the ammunition that are manufactured in the Government Arsenal Bataan plant after turning them over to the AFP's Logistics Command.

Nograles said he saw the photos of the ammunition boxes which are purportedly issued by the DND's Government Arsenal and he is deeply concerned that government-manufactured firearms and ammunition are falling into the wrong hands and are being used to kill and maim government security forces.

"The worst thing that we can have is magkaroon tayo ng mga ganitong encounters (in Marawi) tapos ang ginagamit na bala ng mga kalaban natin ay galing sa government arsenal," said Nograles.

Nograles also quizzed the DND on the progress of its compliance with President Duterte's instruction for the immediate acquisition of various life-saving medical equipment that are direly needed by military hospitals.

These medical equipment includes Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machines, catheterization laboratory and hyperbaric chamber.

Lorenzana admitted there were delays in the acquisition of these equipment due to bidding and procurement problems.

Ryan Ponce Pacpaco

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Manila Standard

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'Maute uses govt arms'

A LAWMAKER on Tuesday asked the Defense Department to probe the reports that some of the weapons and ammunition being used by the terrorist Maute Group in Marawi City came from a government arsenal in Limay, Bataan.

Davao City Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles, head of the House of Rep-

resentatives' committee on appropriations, sought the inquiry after Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana did not categorically deny that ammunition boxes with Government Arsenal markings were among those recovered in the areas in Marawi that were cleared by government troops in their fight against the terrorists

Next page

He made his statement even as Malacañang on Tuesday told Filipinos not to fall for "fake news" amid reports that the Pentagon had considered conducting air strikes on "ISIS targets" in Marawi City using armed drones.

"Even leading news networks can get it wrong and fall prey to false reports and fake news," Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

"Be careful and always double-check your reports before sharing and acting on anything. Let us help one another in fighting fake news."

In Monday night's budget presentation of the department, Lorenzana said the ammunition boxes with ARMSCOR Philippines markings were among those discovered by the authorities during clearing operations. Armscor Philippines is a local gun and ammunition manufacturer, dealer and importer.

Government Arsenal chief Jonathan Martir, on the other hand, claimed they could not monitor the distribution of ammunition that are manufactured in the Government Arsenal Bataan plant after turning them over to the AFP's Logistics Command.

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Lorenzana said there were delays in the acquisition of these equipment due to bidding and procurement problems.

Nograles noted, however, that the DND had yet to conduct the bidding process for P537 million worth of hospital facilities that were supposed to benefit wounded military personnel. **Maricel V. Cruz and John Paolo Bencito**

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NGAYON

Pahina. 4

Mga bala sa Government Arsenal ibinebenta sa Maute

Sariling bala umano mula sa Government Arsenal na ibinebenta sa Maute ang pumapatay sa mga sundalo sa Marawi City.

Dahil dito, inatasan ni House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. Carlo Alexei Nograles si Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na masusing imbestigahan ang nasabing nakakaalarmang report at panagutin ang mga may sala.

Ang krisis sa Marawi City ay nasa ika-85 araw na kahapon at umaabot na sa 128 ang bilang ng mga nasawing sundalo habang 562 ang Maute at 45 ang mga sibilyan.

Sinabi ni Nograles na lumilitaw na galing sa government arsenal o ang ammunition plant sa Bataan ang mga balang ginagamit ng Maute gayundin mula sa mga pribadong armas at ammunitions manufacturers.

"The worst thing that we can have is magkaroon tayo ng mga ganitong encounter (in Marawi) tapos ang ginagamit na bala ng mga kalaban ay galing sa government arsenal," ani Nograles.

Sa pagharap ni Defense Secretary

Lorenzana sa panukalang P144.7 bilyon pondo ng DND sa 2018, hindi itinanggi ni Lorenzana na may mga bala na ginagamit ang Maute na galing sa government arsenal sa Bataan base sa mga markings na narekober ng tropa ng militar sa battle zone.

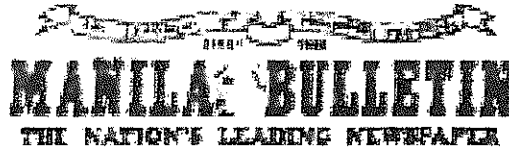
Aminado naman si Lorenzana na ang mga kahon ng mga bala na may tatak na Armscor Philippines ay kabilang sa nasamsam ng mga sundalo sa clearing operations. Ang Armscor Philippines ay isang local gun and ammunition manufacturer, dealer at importer.

Inihayag naman ni Government Arsenal Chief ret. Major Gen. Jonathan Martir na hindi nila mamomonitor ang distribusyon ng mga bala ng Government Arsenal sa Bataan plant matapos itong maipasa sa AFP Logistics Command.

Sinabi ni Nograles na lubhang nakakalungkot ng makita niya ang mga larawan ng mga kahon-kahon ng mga bala na inisyu ng DND matapos itong mapunta sa maling mga kamay na siya pang pumatay sa mga sundalo ng pamahalaan. (Butch Quejada/Joy Cantos)

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AFP soldiers train in US military base

By ROY C. MASASA

For the first time, members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) were given access to a United States (US) military base to train with US Marines from Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division.

According to the US Embassy in Manila, Philippine Marines from Assault Armor Battalion worked alongside their American counterparts in Okinawa for more than two weeks to become familiar with Amphibious Assault Vehicles and how to best utilize their capabilities.

The US embassy reported that during the training, Filipino Marines learned different amphibious skills such as hand signaling, egress training, and water operations. They also familiarized themselves with maintenance procedures, logistical planning, and facility capabilities.

“This training benefits both forces moving forward as they continue to work together during exercises such as Kamandag this October to bolster Philippine amphibious capability and combined security operations,” the embassy said in a press statement.

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Palace: AFP may help DA cull 200K fowls affected by bird flu outbreak

MALACANANG bared yesterday that Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) may help the Department of Agriculture in culling about 200,000 fowls affected by the first bird flu outbreak in the country.

Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella told Palace reporters in his regular briefing that the government is working on expediting the culling of fowls and clearing of affected areas to minimize losses and hasten the recovery of the poultry industry.

Abella said the AFP "can field more men to cull birds."

"This is, after all, no small calamity," he added.

"We sympathize with the plight of farmers and other sectors in the poultry industry which are burdened by the drastic

measures needed to contain and eradicate our first ever avian flu outbreak," he said.

Reports earlier said that Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol was quoted as saying that the culling of 200,000 fowls may be finished by tomorrow.

The agriculture chief said only 18,685 poultry heads in San Luis, Pampanga have been culled since Saturday.

Around 37,000 fowls, mostly quail and ducks, have died of the bird flu in San Luis town, the first outbreak of the avian flu in the country. A sample of the affected fowls have been sent to Australia to determine the specific avian flu strain that hit the country.

The avian flu outbreak was first confirmed by the DA last Thursday in the

town of San Luis, Pampanga.

According to reports, the outbreak was contained in six poultry farms in the municipality.

The DA said that all birds – chickens, birds, ducks, pigeons, quails – within a one-kilometer radius from the affected farms will have to be culled.

So far, BAI reported that more than 18,000 birds have been culled.

While the type of bird flu that hit San Luis cannot be transmitted to humans, Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol issued an order temporarily banning all fowl shipments from Luzon to other parts of the Philippines.

He said the ban on the shipment of poultry meat and poultry products from Luzon to the rest of the country is an aggressive step

to contain the spread of avian influenza to other parts of the country.

The DA chief said the ban will be temporary and will be lifted as soon as experts conclude that the risk of spreading the virus has been eliminated.

But since there is no outbreak in the Visayas and Mindanao, Piñol said the shipment of poultry and poultry products from these areas to Luzon would be allowed.

In the meantime, the Department of Health (DoH) said it could take up to 90 days before an area is declared bird-flu free.

Health officials also reminded the public that it is safe to eat chicken meat, eggs, and other poultry products -- as long as they are "properly cooked." **Efren Montano**

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Military may be called in to cull fowls – Palace

By GENALYN D. KABILING

Government troops could be mobilized to help hasten the culling of 200,000 fowls following the avian flu outbreak in Pampanga, Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella recommended the military deployment due to the limited manpower of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to carry out the slaughter of infected fowls.

“Despite their lack of personnel, we urge DA and BAI to expedite the various clearing to minimize the losses and hasten the recovery of the poultry industry,” Abella said during a Palace press briefing.

“Perhaps if needed, the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) can field more men to cull birds. This is after all no small calamity,” he added.

The agriculture department earlier asked for five to six more days to complete the culling of the poultry heads due to lack of personnel to do the job. Quarantine authorities are also trying to look for suitable places to bury the dead stocks.

NAIA on alert

Meanwhile, BAI personnel assigned at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) terminals have been ordered to strictly monitor and inspect all poultry cargoes for all domestic flights to ensure that they fully comply with the new procedures to arrest the spread of the avian flu that hit Pampanga.

A new Memorandum Circular No. 9 at NAIA provides for the temporary ban on the movement of live domestic and wild birds and their products including poultry meat, day-old chicken, eggs, semen, and manure from Luzon to Visayas and Mindanao.

Shipment from Luzon to Luzon of live domestic and wild birds, including but not limited to chicken, ducks, geese, quails, doves and pigeons from outside the seven-kilometer radius control area of Pampanga shall be allowed but must be accompanied by a Shipping Permit and a Veterinary Health Certificate issued by a government sector veterinarian certifying that these products were sourced from farms with no incidence of Avian Influenza for the past 21 days prior to shipment.

Villar: Livelihood now!

At the Senate, Sen. Cynthia Villar called for an immediate livelihood assistance for livestock growers who are affected by the bird flu outbreak in San Luis, Pampanga.

Villar, chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Food, on Tuesday said that alternative livelihood resources should be in order to fill in for the income of poultry farmers and workers who will be affected due to the public's fear of the avian flu.

“Besides the financial assistance package being prepared by the Department of Agriculture (DA), alternative livelihood sources should also be made available to farmers who will not have a source of income for the next four to five months,” Villar said.

Citing earlier statements from DA officials, Villar reiterated to the public that the avian flu virus is contained and that only 17 fowl farms in San Luis, Pampanga, are affected.

“In support of other Pampanga poultry raisers, we should emphasize that not all Pampanga fowls are infected,” she said.

Bulacan reactivates task force on bird flu

Bulacan, Pampanga's closest neighbor near Metro Manila, has moved to reactivate its Provincial Avian Influenza Task Force to mitigate the possible ef-

fects of the bird flu outbreak in the town of San Luis.

Gov. Wilhelmino M. Sy-Alvarado said he instructed the Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) headed by Dr. Voltaire Basinang as well as Senior Supt. Romeo M. Caramat Jr., Bulacan police director, to establish 24-hour checkpoints to make sure that fowls like chicken, ducks, pigeons and quails will not enter Bulacan so that the bio-security of the province's poultry industry is not compromised.

He said, since Saturday, checkpoints had been established in the towns of San Miguel, San Ildefonso, San Rafael, Baliwag, Pulilan and Calumpit and some exits of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX).

The governor also presided an emergency meeting attended by stakeholders of the local poultry industry in Bulacan. Dr. Basinang instructed them to monitor and immediately report any signs of fowl sickness.

"The Task Force is ready to deploy teams to monitor poultry farms. We are requesting our stakeholders to religiously clean their farms and follow guidelines issued by the Provincial Veterinary Office," Alvarado said.

Migratory birds

In the Southern Tagalog region, the Quezon Protected Landscape (QPL) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) released an advisory to the public on what to avoid as the influx of migratory birds is expected from September this year until March of next year.

QPL Protected Area Superintendent Ramil Gutierrez said that the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), through Theresa Mundita S. Lim, issued a public advisory because migratory birds stop briefly along wetlands, like swamps, marshes, inter tidal and coastal areas rivers, ponds, lakes as well as forest – one of these areas found in the Pagbilao Mangrove Experimental

Forest in Quezon, where visitors catch sightings of local and migrants birds.

In the observance of Avian Influenza Protection Program of the Philippines, especially in managing the said virus, the public is strongly advised against culling, poisoning or chasing migratory birds, emphasizing has been proven ineffective in addressing the issue.

The advisory said that handling any sick or dead wild birds is strongly discouraged and domestic poultry should not be permitted to roam or be raised in areas frequented by migratory birds.

No bird flu in LU

Meanwhile, the San Fernando City government in La Union, through the City Veterinary Office (CVO), declared

yesterday that chickens and other fowls in the city and the rest of the province are safe from the avian flu.

"We need not worry," said Dr. Flosie Decena, city veterinary officer. Decena said that the chicken supply sold at the Auxiliary Wet Market here came from the neighboring province of Pangasinan. La Union's Rosario town, and Barangay Siboan-Otong in San Fernando City, La Union.

He assured that all chicken deliveries to the province originated from dressing plants thoroughly inspected by quarantine checkpoints manned by the Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO). (With reports from Ariel Fernandez, Vanne Elaine P. Terrazola, Freddie C. Velez, Danny J. Estacio, and Erwin G. Beleo)

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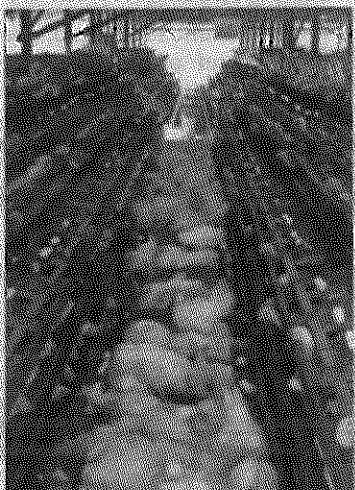
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DA OFFICIALS TOLD TO SEEK MILITARY HELP FOR POULTRY CLEARING

AFP help sought in poultry clearing

Malacañang on Tuesday urged agriculture officials to tap military personnel to cull more birds and hasten clearing operations against the avian flu virus. The culling of infected chickens has been delayed by the lack of personnel and dry soil pits. "Perhaps if needed, the AFP can field more men to cull more birds," presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said. —STORY BY LEILA B. SALAVERRIA

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Infected chickens in Pampanga
—TONETTE OREJAS

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

Malacañang on Monday called on agriculture officials to enlist military personnel to speed up clearing operations against the avian flu virus to ease the burden on the poultry industry.

Officials earlier said the lack of personnel and dry soil pits had delayed the culling of infected chickens.

Some of the workers have reportedly refused to undertake the task despite a daily allowance of P700, and did not want to be vaccinated or wear protective suits.

"Despite their lack of personnel, we urge [the Department of Agriculture] and [the Bureau of Animal Industry] to expedite the various clearing [operations] to minimize the losses and hasten the recovery of the poultry industry," presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said in a press briefing.

Abella said the Armed Forces of the Philippines could be called in to help if necessary.

"Perhaps, if needed, the AFP can field more men to cull more birds. This is, after all, no small calamity," he said.

He said Malacañang sympathized with farmers and with

the various sectors in the poultry industry burdened by the measures that have to be taken to deal with the country's first avian flu outbreak.

The outbreak has prompted consumers to shun poultry products and raised fears of price increases.

Malacañang has sought to ease the public's fears by saying that the avian flu strain found in Pampanga is not harmful to humans.

The Department of Health (DOH) said it was monitoring the condition of two poultry workers who had manifested flu-like symptoms.

Dr. Eric Tayag, DOH spokesperson, said the two "suspect cases" were under observation and isolated in an undisclosed hospital.

"Out of the 20 people interviewed by our team from different farms, two of them have symptoms; one had cough, the other had fever," Tayag said.

"We're verifying if their flu was caused by bird flu. Or it could also be that such suspect cases could be just influenza. We're still unsure if those are cases of bird flu because this is currently the season of influenza," he said.

—WITH REPORTS FROM TINA G. SANTOS AND JEROME ANING INQ

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BATTLE OF MISTAKS

By Camille P. Balagtas

THE Senate blue ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon held its third hearing on the smuggling of the P6.4 billion shabu shipment which slipped into the country from China through the Bureau of Customs.

Tension rose between Sen. Antonio Trillanes and BoC chief Nicarior Faeldon after the latter refused to answer the questions of his mistah (batchmate) in the Philippine Military Academy.

"May korapsyon ba sa Bureau of Customs?" Trillanes asked as he threatened to cite Faeldon in contempt for his refusal to answer his question.

Faeldon showed he was in a fighting mood with Trillanes, directly telling Senator Gordon that he would not answer any questions coming from his former comrade, Trillanes, causing tension to heighten during the Senate hearing and prompting Senator Gordon to call a break to personally convince Faeldon to answer the question of Senator Trillanes.

Faeldon who was defiant at first finally admitted that there is corruption going on in the Bureau of Customs which involved some employees whom he refused to identify but were caught on CCTV.

"Your honor prior to this hearing, Senator Trillanes has already accused me of being part of corruption in the Bureau of Customs," Faeldon complained.

"But because of my respect for other senators I will answer you (Trillanes). Yes your honor. There is corruption in the BoC," Faeldon admitted before the investigating committee.

Gordon told both Trillanes and Faeldon to set aside animosity and personal grudges as the Senate blue ribbon will not take any insult from anyone.

"We will not entertain arrogance. I'm being patient but I want everyone to understand that we are obliged to do what we are tasked to do," Gordon said.

Faeldon denied the al-

legations of Sen. Panfilo Lacson that he is one of those who is on the take in the BoC but admitted that he was already familiar with the "tara" system even before he entered the BOC.

The mode of corruption, Faeldon revealed, was through the "tara system" or the lagay system that was revealed earlier by Mark Taguba during the Lower House investigation.

"Before I assumed office, I already knew about the "tara corruption" but I cannot fight it alone by myself. I cannot investigate the tara alone. The appointment of new officers took place only last January and they started the investigation recently," Faeldon was quoted as saying.

Faeldon said only 16% can be accommodated by the present X-ray machine in the BoC, and considering that there were at least a minimum of ten thousand containers every day, the BOC needs to procure a X-ray machines that can accommodate this capacity daily.

Faeldon said he will support any independent investigation by either the National Bureau of Investigation or the Department of Justice.

It was revealed during the hearing that former Marine Colonel now BoC Intelligence Director Neil Estrella, who was one of the new appointees by Faeldon last January, was allegedly one of the tara recipients through a certain collector identified only as "Joel Pinawin."

Earlier, Estrella admitted breaking protocol in handling the P6.4 billion worth of shabu seized from a warehouse in Valenzuela City.

Aside from Estrella, customs broker Taguba who was also present during the hearing identified several officials and personnel of the BoC allegedly part of the payola scheme including Customs deputy Commissioner Teddy Raval, Manila International Container Port (MCIP) district collector Vincent Maronilla, MCIP Customs Intelligence and Investiga-

tion Service District Intelligence officer Teodoro Sagara, a certain Major Gutierrez (deceased), Import and Assessment Service Director Milo Maestre-campo, a certain Maita Acevedo, Jason, a certain Tita Nanny, Sandra and Alfred.

Taguba also admitted hearing the name of Presidential son, Paolo Duterte, who is also the vice mayor in Davao by some people but he denied having personal knowledge about it.

Earlier, Senator Lacson revealed that he has in his possession those in the supposed payola or those who are on the take in the BoC which could go as high as Customs Commissioner Faeldon which was provided by him by a very reliable source which was not even in the lists of Taguba.

Lacson said the name of Paolo Duterte is not included in his list.

ka

him for a broker.

Both Li and Chen were ordered detained at the Senate for being evasive and apparently lying to the Senate blue ribbon committee.

Earlier, PDEA Dir. Gen. Isidro Lapena said the drug evidence will no longer be admissible in court because Estrella made the mistake of opening the cargo.

Senator Gordon meanwhile said the inefficiency of the BoC and another agency, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, was making taxpayers carry the heavy burden.

"Sobrang nakakalungkot na imbes makatulong ang mga ahensiya na ito, na mi miss nila ang dapat nilang trabaho at ang tao ang siyang nagpapasan dahil sa kanilang pagiging incompetent," Gordon said.

Trilanes also asked questions of his fellow mutineer Capt Gerardo Gambala, now BoC Deputy Commissioner, who admitted that he heard about the Davao group in the BoC but not the President's son.

Kenneth Dong appeared in photos of presidential son Paolo circulating online. Dong admitted he was the person in the picture beside Paolo Duterte but clarified that he was not a friend of the latter and does not know him personally.

Dong is said to be a middleman for Richard Tan, the owner of Hongfei Philippines which shipped the seized shabu from China.

It was 2008, Dong said when he met the young Duterte because he was selling weighing scales in Davao, "pero hindi kami close at hindi ko siya personal na kaibigan."

The two Chinese nationals, Chen and Li Guang Feng a.k.a. Manny Li, who were alleged culprits in the shabu shipment were cited in contempt by Senate probers and placed in detention, having been found to have concealed vital information in the shipment of the contraband.

Dong revealed that it was Manny Li who asked

Nabbed for rape

Dong was arrested in connection with a rape case.

Right after the four-hour blue ribbon committee hearing, members of the Senate's Office of the Sergeant At-Arms (OSAA) held Dong and escorted him out of the session hall.

Then turned Dong over to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents.

In an ambush interview, NBI spokesperson Ferdinand Lavin said the arrest of Dong was based on a warrant for a charge of rape issued by a Paranaque City court.

Dong is a known patron of politicians and godson of senators Risa Hontiveros, Francis Pangilinan, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Joel Villanueva, and Ralph Recto.

Lavin said Dong will be brought to the NBI for processing.

Dong is also one of those charged by the NBI for drug trafficking and violations of Customs law.

Initial reports showed that Dong was accused of raping a 33-year-old woman on April 10, 2016.

The victim claimed that Dong drugged her before sexually molesting her. He has denied the allegations ever since.

With Marlon Purificacion, Hector Lawas

14 August 2017



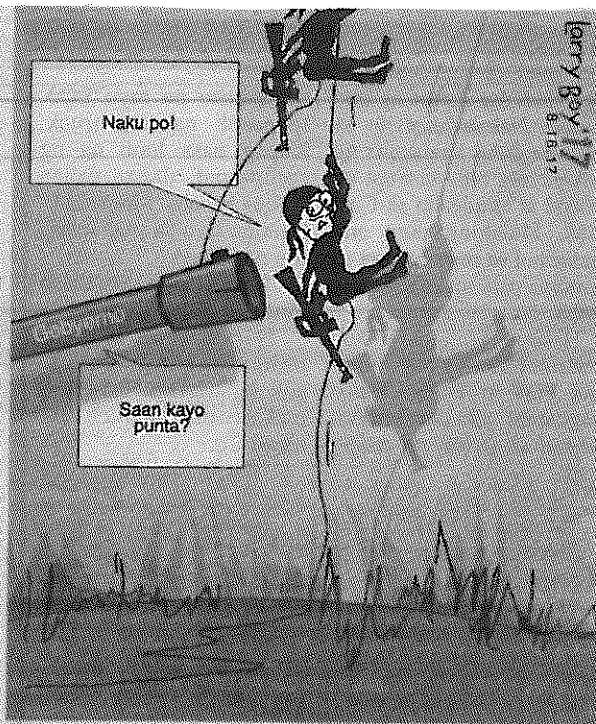
Pahina. 3

Editorial

40 na lang

MALAPIT nang matapos ang kaguluhan sa Marawi, ayon sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sapagkat kakaunti na ang bilang ng mga teroristang Maute. Sa kasalukuyan, nasa 40 na lang mga teroristang Maute at ilang barangay na lamang ang hawak ng mga ito. Humihina nang humihina ang mga terorista at hindi magtatagal at tuluyan nang babagsak ang mga ito.

Isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit hindi naging madali ang pagdurog sa mga terorista ay dahil may hawak itong mga bihag na ginagawang pananggalang. Kabilang sa mga hawak ang isang pari na umano'y pinipilit pagawain ng bomba. Ayon sa mga nakatakas, pati ang mga bihag na bata ay tinuturuang humawak ng baril at gumawa ng bomba. Ilan ang pinipilit



na maging suicide bomber. Napabalita rin na nabuntis umano ng mga terorista ang mga bihag na babae.

Durog na durog na ang Marawi City dahil sa walang tigil na pambobomba at nagpapatuloy pa hanggang sa kasalukuyan. Mula nang mag-simula ang kaguluhan noong Mayo 23, umabot na sa 562 Maute ang napatay at sa panig naman ng government troops ay 128. Tinatayang 104,000 pamilya ang lumikas sa Marawi para hindi madamay sa kaguluhan. Karamihan sa kanila ay nagtungo sa Iligan City samantalang ang iba ay nasa evacuation centers. Maraming "bakwit" ang nahahirapan na sa sitwasyon at nagpupumilit makabalik na sa kani-kanilang tirahan. Pero hindi sila pinapayagan ng mga sundalo.

Kaunti na lamang ng mga teroristang Maute at hindi magtatagal at mapupulbos na sila. Siguruhin na mapupulbos ang mga terorista para wala nang susunod pa. Kung hindi sila mapapatay pabalik-balik na lang ang gagawing panggugulo. Bigyan na sila ng ultimatum!

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Who killed Marawi?

COMMENTARY

MACABANGKIT B. LANTO

That is not the title of a fictional play or movie. It is reality. Marawi City is dead, not just figuratively but literally. She drew her last breath when some smart-aleck military commanders, feeling like Gen. George Patton reincarnate, employed his strategy of "rapid and aggressive offensive action" with lightning air strikes instead of relying on ground troops—a case of burning the house to catch a rat. In Marawi, the administration's much-touted "build, build, build" infrastructure program became "bomb, bomb, bomb."

A caveat: The question deserves extensive investigation and discourse, and this limited space cannot do justice to it. Readers will note that snippets of the answer to the question have been mentioned randomly in my earlier commentaries. Whodunit?

It's a classic case of irony: Marawi, an "Islamic city," ruined by attacks principally by advocates of Islam—radical Islam, that is. The rebels, or at least the ideologues among them like brothers Omar Khayyam and Abdullah Maute, are preaching a return to Wahhabi-Salafist Islam circa the Muhamad (PBUH) era to establish a caliphate. But their campaign is perverted by the beastly conduct of their advocacy, distorting Islam itself. The Prophet never employed human bombs or waged a campaign of terror, but evangelized unity and understanding with other "people of the Book," meaning Christians, etc. The jihadists are easily the "killers" of Marawi, or what we call in law principals by direct participation, sharing the same degree of culpability with the pilot bombers of

SF-260 trainer jets. These pilots, cynics derisively say, used Marawi as training ground to test the newly acquired jets from South Korea. (The joke is: When bomber planes zoom in the air, the first to cower are the soldiers, lest they be hit.) And now some lunatics are suggesting that unmanned US bomber drones responsible for the carnage in Syria and Iraq be deployed in Marawi, in violation of the Constitution and the PH-US Mutual Defense Treaty.

The government's culpability is aggravated by gross negligence, for failure to notice the "red flag" when *madaris* proliferated in Morolandia teaching principally Islam as religion and culture and excluding Philippine history and social science (lately, reform toward this end was instituted). Likewise overlooked was

the alarm of the Toril system in which Muslims of tender age are secluded in a compound away from their parents to be taught—nay, brain-washed about—Islam. This system molds the aversion of children to integration and insulates them from a multicultural Philippine society, which makes fertile ground for training radicals.

Government defense and security authorities insist there was no failure of intelligence. Granted. But what did they do to prevent the incipient inroads to peace?

Equally guilty are the *alim* and *ulama* edu-

cated in Middle East universities, for importing and evangelizing extremist Islam after their exposure to the teachings of the Al Qaeda, Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic State or Daesh, and the Arab Spring phenomenon. They are the accessory "killers" of Marawi.

Rebellion thrives when local governance is ineffective, if not kaput. When residents can no longer look upon local executives for help, they seek the rebel organization as a parallel government for assistance and speedy justice. These governors (barangay leaders included) are unwitting accomplices to the growing feeling of discontent and injustice among Moros. They saw signs that the jihadists would attack Marawi, yet did nothing. They too "killed" Marawi.

Some Maranao are unknowing conspirators to the tragedy. Their deviation from the teaching of the Holy Quran drew the wrath of Allah SWT, and they are now suffering for their sins of plying the drug trade, kidnapping, robbery and other crimes. They face indictment also for their apathy and lack of vigilance when the torching of Marawi by rebels seemed eminent.

The verdict: Marawi is a victim of unintended conspiracy by these culprits and John Does.

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

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www.dwdd.com

VISIT | US Marines Commandant Meets AFP Chief

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on August 14, 2017 at 9:33 AM



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City

(DWDD) – General Robert Neller, Commandant of the United States Marine Corps visits General Eduardo Año, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at the AFP Hall of Flags in the General Headquarters Building, Thursday, 10 August 2017.

General Neller met with other senior AFP leaders to discuss current military to military partnership and support. Present in the courtesy call is Rear Admiral Narciso Vingson Jr, the Deputy Chief of Staff AFP (left), and behind General Neller is his Filipino counterpart, MGen Emmanuel Salamat, Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps. **Photo by SN1 Donald Viluan PN / PAOAFP / MCAG**

Marawi bishop slams Maute plan to use hostages as suicide bombers

Ferdinand Patinio August 15, 2017, 5:40 pm



MANILA -- Marawi Bishop Edwin dela Peña slammed the reported plans of the Maute group to use their hostages as suicide bombers against government forces.

"Horrible! Kasuklam-suklam! Desperate na talaga ang mga terrorists kaya ginawa nila itong banta," Dela Peña said in a text message sent to reporters on Tuesday.

The Catholic prelate added, "Alam nilang nakakasuklam talaga itong huling hamon nila kaya umaasa silang pakikinggan sila ng gobyerno."

With this, Dela Peña is praying for the release of all hostages including Catholic priest Chito Sukanob.

"On this Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we invoke her intercession for the release of all hostages including Fr. Chito (Sukanob)," he added.

Three hostages who were able to escape in Marawi City revealed the group's sinister plan of the terrorist group to strap improvised explosive devices to hostages.

Some 46 people are still held captive by the ISIS-inspired organization. **(PNA)**

(Photo from CBCP Online)

www.pna.gov.ph

AFP validating Chinese intrusion reports off Pagasa Island

Priam Nepomuceno August 15, 2017, 5:45 pm

MANILA -- The military is verifying reports regarding alleged Chinese activities near Pagasa Island.

This was emphasized by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo following Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano's revelations of such during the Department of National Defense's budget hearing on Monday (Aug. 14).

In a press briefing, Alejano claimed Chinese vessels were spotted "one to three nautical miles north of Pag-asa Island."

Arevalo said the AFP will not issue any other comment until they verified the said information. (PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

Military to be alerted should NK proceeds with missile launch

Priam Nepomuceno August 15, 2017, 5:40 pm

MANILA -- Pertinent Filipino military units will be alerted once North Korea decides to go ahead with its plan to launch four intermediate range missiles off Guam waters sometime this month.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo, however, said it is very unlikely that the country will be embroiled in any conflict should the spat between North Korean and US escalate.

"Regarding North Korea's threat against Guam, we do not see any possibility that the Philippines will (get) embroiled in this spat as we are not really part of this conflict or (in the very least the) verbal tussle that is happening between the United States and North Korea," he added in Filipino.

But in the remote possibility that North Korean proceeds with its plan, the AFP with its Northern Luzon Command will be alerted in the event that any missile debris reached that part of the country, Arevalo disclosed.

"There (might) be debris (from) the missile that might affect the northern part of our country, so in this regard, we will alert the Northern Luzon Command to monitor on that possibility," the AFP official said.

Aside from that, medical and evacuation procedures will also be prepared. Earlier, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said they are treating the event as a civil defense rather than a military issue.

"Our Office of Civil Defense (OCD) is on standby and prepared to address any untoward incident that may occur in the aftermath of such a missile launch. As we have done in the past, we have directed OCD to coordinate with the AFP in determining the areas that will potentially, although remotely, be affected," he noted.

The defense chief added that the OCD may also issue no-sail-zone advisories to coastal areas and alert advisories to local government agencies to step up preparedness of local communities in case the debris of a missile launch reaches the Philippines.

Lorenzana also called on all countries involved to exercise sobriety and refrain from actions that may escalate tensions not only in the Korean Peninsula, but the rest of the Asia-Pacific region as well. (PNA)

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<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com>

Marawi rehabilitation needs comprehensive plan, multilateral coordination

From the Philippine Information Agency (Aug 15): **Marawi rehabilitation needs comprehensive plan, multilateral coordination**

In a roundtable discussion on Friday, August 4, dubbed as "Rehabilitation and Recovery of Marawi City: Taking Steps Forward," representatives from various sectors drew together to address the concerns brought about by the ongoing crisis in the capital of Lanao del Sur.

Former United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) senior technical advisor for Yolanda recovery, Adam Marlatt, in his presentation, drummed the urgency for the creation of a comprehensive, multi-agency rehabilitation plan.

"As the final movements are made by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to secure [Marawi City], immediate measures must be taken ensuring good transition and rehabilitation phase," he said.

Marlatt, an American Marine Reserve Infantry Sergeant and founder of Global Disaster Immediate Response Team (DIRT), said that the Marawi crisis needs "early recovery planning including the launch of a cluster system as well as implementing immediate projects to coordinate, de-conflict, and identify critical needs."

This rehab engagement, Marlatt said, must involve an intensive coordination among all Philippine agencies, private sector actors, non-government organizations international NGOs, and international governments' stakeholders.

Crises, such as this in Marawi, are not new to Marlatt. Using the skills he learned on the battlefield, on a District Stability Team with the US State Department, he has deployed his team in the immediate aftermath of disasters to provide technical solutions, medical assistance, and coordination support. Among his team's interventions included Haiti, Pakistan, New Zealand, Japan, and the tri-state area after Hurricane Sandy.

In the recovery phase, Marlatt shared a few points on how to go forward:

- * After immediate actions taken, [psychosocial] projects should be implemented to change the culture of Marawi City and its reintegrated residents.
- * Expand the economic activities (including agricultural, industrial, and technical programming) to allow for the transition from illicit work opportunities to trade skills.
- * Engage with the private sector on the facilitation of long-term activities to expand opportunities while reducing extremism and illegal activities in the area.

Humanitarian assistance

As the discussion was aimed at examining possible long-term interventions towards rebuilding Marawi from the rubble, Negosyo Para sa Kapayapaan sa Sulu consultant Gabriel Malvar's talk centered on the complexity of the issue, including its socio-political, cultural, and economic aspects and consequences.

"We need to look at the issues in the Marawi crisis from various perspectives. ... This is a combination of various factors in the past and present. The innocent civilians are the ones caught in the conflict," he said.

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

Head of Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO) - Lanao del Sur Saripada Pacasum Jr presented updates on the developments of the relief operations of their counterpart in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Pacasum reported that as of August 3, around 1,758 civilians have been rescued by ARRM-PDRRMO.

LTC Rosendo Abad Jr (GSC PA) shared on the Marawi Command Center's progress in handling the Marawi crisis, saying that various local and national government agencies have started collaborating with the Joint Task Group (JTG) on the rehabilitation.

Abad also assured that humanitarian assistance, relief, and rescue are in full swing under the direction of the Joint Task Force Marawi and the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC), through JTG Ranao and JTG Tabang.

The children and their future

For his part, Xavier Ateneo president Fr Roberto C Yap SJ told the group that the university is willing to provide venues and technical assistance for the discourse on the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

XU has more than a hundred Muslim students and has recognized the interfaith efforts of the student group, Siraj Muslim Religious Organization.

Xavier Ateneo's Social Development Office and XU Central Student Government are also manning the #TabangMarawi relief operation at the XU Peace Park. As of this report, Tabang Marawi has already received more than Php4M worth of cash and in-kind donations.

Besides emphasizing the importance of coordination from different public and private sectors to address the Marawi crisis, Yap re-echoed the words of Fr Bienvenido Nebres SJ (former president of Xavier University and Ateneo de Manila University).

"Whenever we coordinate, we should put in our minds and hearts the children of Marawi. If we fail the children, we fail the future," Yap said, expressing the university's commitment as a convergence point of ideas and discussions for the rehabilitation efforts.

XU's vice-president for social development Roel Ravanera, in his closing remarks, also said that the university remains steadfast in providing context on the realities of Marawi crisis through social outreach, research, and inclusive engagements with different public and private organizations.

The Marawi conflict erupted on May 23, after a contingent of roughly 500 members of the ISIS-inspired Maute terrorist group attacked the city, resulting in over 500 deaths, displacement of more than 200,000 people, and billions worth of damage to property.

The national government targets to earmark at least Php10B initially for the Marawi rehabilitation and recovery.

This roundtable discussion was made possible through the collaboration of Xavier Ateneo, Upsilon Sigma Phi of the University of the Philippines, and Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) through Undersecretary Noel Puyat.

Guests included representatives from the Philippine Army, Oro Chamber, Department of Agriculture - Region 10, Philippine National Police - Northern Mindanao, Muslim Youth Council, Lanao del Sur Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO), National Economic and Development Authority - X, and civil society organizations.

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

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Clearing operations vs Maute to continue, says Task Force Marawi spox

From the Philippine Information Agency (Aug 15): **Clearing operations vs Maute to continue, says Task Force Marawi spox**

Fighting has remained intense here yesterday, Aug. 14, as the government troops are still clearing a remaining square-kilometer area in the main business district here according to Capt. Joan Petinglay, spokesperson of Task Force Marawi.

In a press briefing, Petinglay said, "our soldiers are doing their best to neutralize every member of the ISIS-inspired Maute terror group, and to rescue as many hostages as they can."

Petinglay also reported that 562 terrorists were killed and 619 firearms were recovered since the clashes between the Maute group and the government soldiers erupted last May 23.

The terrorists have killed 45 civilians and 128 soldiers and policemen.

In the same press briefing, Assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) also revealed that the local chief executives of Lanao del Sur had met in Iligan City to discuss and find ways to counter extremism in the area.

The local government officials and security officials have forged to work for long-term solutions to the security threats in Lanao del Sur.

Presently, a total of 104,832 families with 467, 377 individuals got displaced by the Marawi crisis.

Government agencies have continued to provide the affected families with relief goods while the Department of Health (DOH) continues to extend free health care services for the evacuees.

Transitional shelters will also be built to relocate the evacuees from cramped evacuation centers.