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TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

17 August 2017

Thursday

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 17, 2017 | THURSDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
(As of 4:30 PM - August 16, 2017)

LADAG CITY
25 - 32 °C

TUGUEGARAO CITY
25 - 35 °C

BAGUIO CITY
16 - 25 °C

SBMA/CLARK
25 - 33 °C

TAGAYTAY CITY
23 - 29 °C

METRO MANILA
25 - 33 °C

LEGAZPI CITY
26 - 32 °C

ILOILO/ BACOLOD CITY
26 - 32 °C

TACLOBAN CITY
25 - 31 °C

PUERTO PRINCESA
25 - 31 °C

METRO CEBU
25 - 32 °C

CAGAYAN DE ORO
24 - 33 °C

ZAMBOANGA CITY
24 - 32 °C

METRO DAVAO
25 - 33 °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
2:36 AM

LOW TIDE
1:50 PM
0.19 Meter

HIGH TIDE
5:04 AM
1.10 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

	AUG 16	AUG 17	AUG 18	AUG 19	AUG 20	AUG 21
METRO MANILA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	23 - 28 °C	22 - 29 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 35 °C	25 - 34 °C	26 - 31 °C	26 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
LADAG	25 - 32 °C	25 - 30 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C
BAGUIO	16 - 25 °C	16 - 24 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C		
TAGAYTAY						
LEGAZPI						
PUERTO PRINCESA						
ILOILO/ BACOLOD						
METRO CEBU						
TACLOBAN						
CAGAYAN DE ORO						
METRO DAVAO						
ZAMBOANGA						

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINAS 10

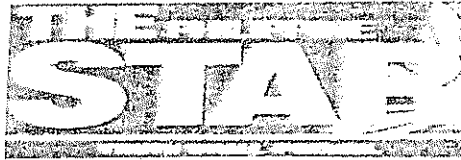
WEEKDAYS
6 AM, 6:30 PM & 9 PM

WEEKENDS
6 AM

AIR 21

SAGOT KO, PADALA MOY

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Taguiwalo rejected as DSWD chief

By MARVIN SY

She could only speculate on the reasons for the rejection of her appointment, such as her opposition to the pork barrel system and the tax reform package. But social welfare secretary Judy Taguiwalo said yesterday she would consider it a "badge of honor" because she did her job well and stood up for what she believed was right.



Taguiwalo also vowed to continue serving the people despite her departure from the Cabinet.

Thirteen of the 25-member Commission on Appointments (CA) voted against the confirmation of Taguiwalo, who was named by President Duterte to the Department of Social Welfare and Development in May last year before he assumed office. A former associate professor at the

Department of Women and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Taguiwalo was nominated by the National Democratic Front as one of the leftist representatives to the Cabinet that Duterte wanted to be "inclusive."

Taguiwalo had been bypassed by the CA twice, the latest being last July 23 when the Senate and the House held a

special joint session to approve the extension of martial law in Mindanao.

Aside from the pork barrel issue, she also got embroiled in a controversy when Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III used the phrase "na-ano lang" to describe single mothers like her. Sotto was hit with a barrage of

Turn to Page 2

Taguiwalo From Page 1

criticisms because of his off the cuff remark during Taguiwalo's confirmation hearing in May.

CA committee on labor, employment and social welfare chairman Jose Mayo Almarino of Davao Oriental said the votes were cast during an executive session immediately after Taguiwalo's confirmation hearing was terminated yesterday.

Among the 12 senators who are members of the CA, seven stood up during the plenary session to put on record that they voted to confirm Taguiwalo. These were Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto, Minority Leader Franklin Drilon and his fellow Liberal Party (LP) members Francis Pangilinan and Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, Sonny Angara, Loren Legarda and Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Under the rules of the CA, voting is done through secret balloting, so unless its members opt to reveal how they voted, there is no disclosure about this.

It is widely known that the House contingent to the CA votes as a bloc.

Do you hear the people sing?

Militant groups assailed the rejection of Taguiwalo's appointment and blamed Duterte for not supporting her.

Taguiwalo was the third Cabinet member who failed to hurdle the confirmation process set by the Constitution, the first two being Perfecto Yasay Jr. who was foreign secretary and Gina Lopez as environment chief.

In rejecting Taguiwalo's appointment, Almarino did not

provide any concrete reason except that issues and concerns were consistently raised during her confirmation hearings.

Even though she was advised not to attend yesterday's plenary session since she was going to be rejected, Taguiwalo opted to attend and listen to the reasons she was rejected by the CA.

In a press briefing held after the plenary session, Taguiwalo said that she was not that surprised by the CA decision but admitted she was disappointed.

"The decision of the CA does not reflect the sentiments of the nation," she said.

Taguiwalo stressed her background as a left-leaning activist, as well as her strong stance against some policy issues of the administration, could have contributed to her non-confirmation.

She said political interference in the use of funds of the DSWD was something that she rejected and this alienated her from many legislators.

As soon as she stepped in as DSWD secretary, Taguiwalo noted that there were lists of legislators supposedly with funds lodged within the agency.

Taguiwalo said that she took a strong stance against the pork barrel fund and in relation to this, issued a memorandum circular clarifying that referrals from legislators are not needed for people to avail themselves of the services of the DSWD.

She said there was a debate on whether the legislators have funds in the DSWD and she made it clear that as long as there are specific allocations contained in the General Appropriations Act, then there should be no issue.

"But when they were saying that I have funds there, I said there is none. It's not in the law. If you want us to work together, we can work together. You can suggest and we can work together according to guidelines of DSWD," Taguiwalo said.

Taguiwalo also made known her position against most of the components of the administration's comprehensive tax reform program.

Apart from the rationalization of the income tax rates component of the program, Taguiwalo said that she did not agree with the taxes that would have an adverse impact on the masses, such as the excise tax on fuel products.

Taguiwalo said she could only think of these reasons for her rejection because she was able to fulfill her mandate at the DSWD and was not involved in any wrongdoing whatsoever.

"My life has always been devoted to serving the people. Today's decision of the CA to reject my appointment will in no way deter or distract me from what I know best, serving the people," she said.

Just like Lopez, who sang the pop hit "I believe I can fly" when she was rejected by the CA, Taguiwalo said that she also had a song in response to her own rejection.

She said it would be: "Do you hear the people sing?" This was from the musical *Les Misérables*, which was used as the anthem of the revolution.

Recto, in his speech in support of Taguiwalo, noted that she was someone who truly cares for the welfare of the poor.

"The nominee should not be dismissed as one of the token leftists in the Cabinet. She was not put there as a memento to prove Digong's (Duterte's

nickname) big tent approach in forming a government. Rather, I believe that she holds the post by virtue of her ability, and not by her affiliation," Recto said.

"She represents all of us, all our dreams, all our aspirations for our nation, our people and our children. She personifies that elusive political ideal that persons of different persuasions can come together for the common good," Recto added.

Angara said he was able to work with Taguiwalo when she was still teaching at UP and saw for himself that she was a person with integrity and who truly had the heart for the marginalized.

In a statement, the LP lamented the loss of a committed Cabinet official with the CA's rejection of Taguiwalo.

"In the 14 months that secretary Taguiwalo was at the helm of the DSWD, we have seen her continue the Aquino administration's successful conditional cash transfer program which benefited 4.4 million Filipino families," the LP stated.

"Echoing the Liberal Party position and contrary to the pronouncements of the President and the actions of his allies in Congress, she has also voiced her opposition to lowering the age of criminal liability of minors. It is ironic that the allies of the administration rejected the President's appointee," it added.

Saddened

Malacañang lamented Taguiwalo's rejection as talks swirled that former defense secretary Gilbert Teodoro's wife, Monica Louise or Nikki, would replace her.

But there was no confirmation about Taguiwalo's replacement.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said they were

saddened by the decision as Taguiwalo served the Duterte administration "with passion, profession and integrity."

Taguiwalo made an impact on the lives of many Filipinos in her tenure as DSWD secretary, the official said.

"The President is now looking and studying for a possible replacement," Abella added.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar vouched for the integrity of Taguiwalo while she headed the department, noting the many sorties he joined during Taguiwalo's year at DSWD.

"Secretary Judy was a hard-working secretary," Andanar said, lamenting another "loss" within the President's official family.

Blame it on Duterte

Kabayan party-list Rep. Harry Roque, a member of the House minority bloc, Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), fishergroup Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), party-list Kabataan, Anakbayan, Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Gabriela and human rights group Karapatan all bewailed the CA decision.

Most of them expressed belief that Taguiwalo was given the boot because of her refusal to grant the lawmakers' wish to use the DSWD funds as their pork barrel and that Duterte did not do enough to back her up.

"Truth to tell, Duterte holds a supermajority in Congress and could, if he so wishes, easily push for the confirmation of... Taguiwalo and Agrarian Secretary Rafael Mariano," Anakbayan national chair

Vencer Crisostomo said.

Crisostomo also said Taguiwalo did not compromise her stand against martial law and the peace talks with the communists, which had collapsed.

"No less than the ordinary Filipinos know that secretary Taguiwalo competently serves the people well. Only the narrow circle of pro-pork barrel politicians, economic managers and ex-military generals in the Cabinet want her out because they opt for a traditional corrupt and incompetent social welfare chief so they could continue the tradition of political patronage in social services," Pamalakaya chairman Fernando Hicap said.

Gabriela challenged those who voted against Taguiwalo to reveal their identities.

There was no mention of how she was handling the social impact of the drug war and the Marawi City crisis that has dragged on since hostilities broke out on May 23, among other issues related to the DSWD.

Before her rejection, Taguiwalo called on fellow social welfare ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to develop models for social protection programs, saying the CCT program was not the solution to poverty.

"How do we wean governments out of cash transfer solutions? This is the P80 billion and increasing question that we at the DSWD are grappling with," Taguiwalo said.

"With this amount, we can provide free college education, irrigation and yet here we are, looking for ways to pay for cash transfer through tax increases," she added. - With Christina Mendez, Elizabeth Marcelo, Janvic Mateo, Jess Diaz, Deion Porcalla, Mayen Jaymalin, Rainier Allan Ronda

17 August 2017

INQUIRY

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JUDY BLAMES PORK FOR CA REJECTION

STORY BY CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO

"DSWD funds are not common funds and benefits of congressmen or congresswomen." Judy Taguiwalo said during she didn't want to violate the Supreme Court ruling against pork

FROM A1

By Christine O. Avendaño
@10avendanoINQ

Judy Taguiwalo on Wednesday said her opposition to pork barrel funds for congressmen in the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and to the executive's tax reform package could be the reason for her rejection by the Commission on Appointments.

"What more could they ask from me? I did not steal money," she told reporters.

Taguiwalo, a left-leaning activist who was jailed during the martial law era of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, failed to acquire the 13 votes needed to get approval of her nomination as social welfare secretary by the 24-member appointments commission in Congress.

She is expected to vacate her office immediately following her rejection by the body.

Third to be rejected

Taguiwalo was the third member of President Duterte's Cabinet to be rejected by the appointments commission, after Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr., who was found to have lied about holding US citizenship, and Environment Secretary Gina Lopez, who was deemed unsuitable over her widespread suspensions and closures of mines.

Eight senators voted for the confirmation of Taguiwalo, who was one of three Cabinet members nominated by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

The two other NDFP nominees are Agriculture Secretary Rafael Mariano and National Anti-Poverty Commission chief Liza Maza.

Four senators—Ralph Recto, Loren Legarda, Francis Pangilinan and Sonny Angara—stood up during the plenary session to defend Tagui-

walo and declare that they had voted for her confirmation.

Recto, the Senate president pro tempore, said the Philippines "can never ask for a package as complete as her."

Pangilinan said aside from him and Recto, two other Liberal Party members on the appointments commission—Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon and Bam Aquino—also voted for Taguiwalo.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III told reporters he voted for Taguiwalo but said that after Wednesday's hearing and before the appointments commission's committee on labor, employment and social welfare met to decide her nomination, the situation for the social welfare chief was "touch and go."

Sotto said this was because of Taguiwalo's answers during the two-hour committee hearing where she was asked about her position on the tax reform package and the national identification system.

Rejection planned

A source from the appointments commission told the Inquirer that the House of Representatives contingent on the commission had planned to reject the nomination of Taguiwalo.

The House and the Senate each has 12 members on the appointments commission.

Except for the eight senators who admitted voting for Tagui-

walo, there was no way to say for sure how the other members voted, according to Sotto and Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

This was because before the secret voting began, the agreement was that they would count the votes until they reached the majority vote of 13 either for or against Taguiwalo's confirmation, they said.

"Some spoke there, but I know they voted for rejection," said Lacson, who declined to disclose his vote.

Senators Gregorio Honasan II, Manny Pacquiao and Cynthia Villar also did not say how they voted.

Despite her rejection, Taguiwalo attended the plenary session and sat with the audience to hear the committee chair, Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Almario, say that the panel rejected her appointment.

Almario said 13 votes for rejection was reached during the count. He did not say how the members voted.

When asked how he voted, an appointments commission member from the House said he risked losing his post if he violated the secrecy rule.

She expected the worst

But Manila Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo told the Inquirer: "Yes, I voted for her. She would have been a great equalizer."

In her news conference, Taguiwalo repeated her earlier

statement to reporters after she faced the committee that she was "hoping for the best but expecting the worst."

She said she saw no reason for the appointments commission to reject her if it was only a question of competence and integrity.

But she accepted her rejection, she said.

"I have served the people well. I gave my all and I'm proud to say that my integrity remains intact and I have never lost sight of the people I have sworn to serve with fidelity and courage," Taguiwalo said, reading from a prepared speech.

Speaking about her stand against her department releasing pork barrel funds to lawmakers, Taguiwalo said she had issued Memorandum Circular No. 9 to clarify that congressmen did not need a referral to get access to DSWD services.

"I stood up against continued pork barrel," she said, adding she had told DSWD regional directors that the department's funds were "not common funds and entitlements of congressmen or congresswomen."

She said she had told congressmen who claimed their districts had money with the DSWD that there was none and that she did not want to violate the law, particularly the Supreme Court ruling that outlawed the pork barrel system.

Likewise, she had ordered audits and status reports to find

IN THE KNOW

ona pride

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out where DSWD funds go.

Another possible reason for her rejection, she said, was her stand against the tax reform package, which she described as disadvantageous to the poor.

She said she also took a strong stand for free tuition at state universities and colleges as well as additional pension or gratuity pay for workers.

Identification with Left

Another possible reason was her identification with the Left and that the assistance she would give to the needy tended to be questioned, she said.

Taguiwalo said now that she had lost her job, she planned to pack up her things and take a break.

She said she also planned to visit her mother.

She would miss one thing, though, she said: having a personal driver, which came with the job.

Taguiwalo said she, too, had a parting song like Lopez, who sang "I Believe I Can Fly" after the appointments commission rejected her in May.

She said her song was "Do You Hear the People Sing?" from the musical "Les Miserables."

"That's [what] I want to tell the people. That even if I'm not with the DSWD, I am with the people who are standing for what is right, for the people and for the poor," she said. —WITH REPORTS FROM DJ YAP AND

REUTERS INQ

Judy Taguiwalo served as a professor at the women and development studies department in the University of the Philippines Diliman from 1992 to 2015.

She was faculty regent of the UP Board of Regents from 2009 to 2010.

She is also the founding national president of All UP Academic Employees Union and the chair of the board of trustees of Ibon Foundation.

Taguiwalo was also the national vice chair of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) and chair of the women's committee of ACT Philippines.

A political prisoner during martial law, Taguiwalo spent over three years in various prisons for resisting the Marcos dictatorship.

Taguiwalo holds a Ph.D. in Philippine studies from UP Diliman and a master's degree in public administration from Carleton University in Ontario, Canada. She obtained her bachelor's degree in social work from UP Diliman.

Her political party affiliations include membership in the International Association for Community Development and in the Women's Studies Association in the Philippines. She was also a co-convenor in the Pagbabago People's Movement for Change.

President Duterte appointed Taguiwalo as social welfare secretary on May 31 last year.

She was recommended to the post by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, which supported Mr. Duterte during the campaign for the presidential election. —INQUIRER RESEARCH

Source: DSWD, Inquirer Archives



WATCH THE VIDEO

<http://inq.news/TaguiwaloRejected>

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Metrobank names outstanding soldiers

BY VICTOR REYES

TWO “battle-hardened” officers and an enlisted personnel who figured in fights against communist and terrorist forces have been named by the Metrobank Foundation Inc. as the recipients of this year’s “Outstanding Philippine Soldiers.”

The three were led by Lt. Col. Elmer Suderio, who led a series of armed operations against Abu Sayyaf Group members when

he was still assigned in Basilan as the commander of the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion. A member of the Philippine Military Academy class of 1993, Suderio was promoted to assistant chief of staff for operations of the Army’s 1st Infantry Division based in Zamboanga del Sur a few months ago.

“By neutralizing highly-wanted terrorists and capturing enemy strongholds, he contributed greatly to the improvement of peace and

order in Basilan,” the MFI said in recognizing the feat of Suderio.

Suderio served as the commander of the 12th Scout Ranger Company when it was established in 1998. The company, which was deployed to Basilan, was composed of more than 100 “problematic soldiers and mostly rejects from other Scout Ranger companies.”

“Faced with the challenge of

See METROBANK > Page B3



Outstanding soldiers. The Armed Forces leadership headed by Gen. Eduardo Año congratulates The Outstanding Philippines Soldiers 2017 during the presentation of winners in Camp Aguinaldo. Behind Año are Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison Jr., vice chief of staff; Vice Adm. Narciso Vingson Jr., deputy chief of staff; and Brig. Gen. Arnel Duco, deputy chief of staff for personnel, J1. (From left) Metrobank Foundation Inc. president Aniceto Sobrepeña, TOPS winners Lt. Col. Elmer Suderio, Lt. Col. Ricky Bunayog, and Staff Sgt. Narding Pascual.

ARMED FORCES PHOTO

• FROM PAGE B1 •

METROBANK

ASG terrorists, Lt. Col. Suderio transformed the 12th SRC into a disciplined and cohesive unit, developing their combat skills while implementing welfare programs to maintain high morale," the MFI said.

"The 12th SRC was eventually adjudged as the best company of the First Scout Regiment that same year," it added.

The other awardees were Lt. Col. Ricky Bunayog, the assistant chief of staff for operations of the Army's 6th Infantry Division in Maguindanao, and Staff Sgt. Narding Pascual, a squad leader of the 26th Infantry Battalion in Agusan del Sur.

Bunayog, also from the PMA class 1993, is being credited for feats against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, which is classified as a terrorist organization just like the Abu Sayyaf.

The MFI said Bunayog "facilitated hundreds of combat operations against the Bangsamoro Is-

lamic Freedom Fighters and other established armed lawless groups.

"These operations resulted to the neutralization (killing, arrest or surrender) of high-value criminals and the recovery of various war materiel and ammunition," the MFI said.

"Lt. Col. Bunayog's counter-terrorism initiatives go beyond executing combat missions. Aside from bearing down hard on dangerous terrorists, he recognizes the need to pursue socio-economic and non-combat activities to win the peace," it added.

Pascual was credited for spearheading "a number of successful armed operations" against communist New People's Army rebels "to bring peace and surrender of the rebels in the Banwaon (indigenous) communities" as the squad leader of the 26th IB.

"His efforts have caused the recovery of several firearms, surrender of rebels, military takeover of a rebel encampment and retrieval of rebel paraphernalia and documents," the MFI said.

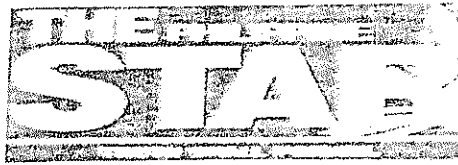
The three were presented as this year's awardees after the flag-raising rites in Camp Aguinaldo on Monday. The ceremony was attended, among others, by AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año and MFI president Aniceto Sobrepeña.

"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," said Año.

Año thanked the MFI for recognizing the efforts of the soldiers, saying: "We are always honored and grateful to have partners in advancement, especially through force motivation and capacity-building in the Armed Forces."

The three will be formally honored during the celebration of Metrobank's 55th anniversary next month. They will each receive P1 million in cash, a gold medallion, and a trophy from the MFI.

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3 soldiers among Metrobank's 10 outstanding Pinoys

By JAIME LAUDE

For their respective roles in the government's continued anti-insurgency and anti-terrorism campaign in Mindanao, an enlisted Army personnel and two middle-grade officers were selected by the Metrobank Foundation as among this year's 10 outstanding Filipinos.

The awardees, who were also named as this year's The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS), were S/Sgt Narding Pascual, squad leader of the Bravo Company at the 26th Infantry Battalion of the 4th Infantry Division based in Agusan del Sur; Lt. Col. Elmer Suderio, assistant chief of staff for operations, G3, of the 1st Infantry Division in Zamboanga del Sur and concurrent operations officer of Joint Task Force Marawi; and Lt. Col. Ricky Bunayog, assistant chief of staff for operations of the 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao.

Aside from being a hardened fighter, Pascual has been hailed by his fellow *lumads* as

"Caraga's Lumad Hero" for spearheading a number of successful operations against members of the New People's Army (NPA) that brought peace and order in the Banwaon communities located in NPA-infested town of San Luis in Agusan del Sur.

Among the tasks that he was able to accomplish were various community development efforts for the benefit of his fellow tribesmen, including the construction of a primary school, electrification, livelihood and reforestation projects and securing a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title that benefited 5,000 *lumads* in seven villages of San Luis.

Meanwhile, Suderio has been tagged by the civilians in Basilan's Soldier-Trailblazer for leading a series of heavy encounters with the Abu Sayyaf Group as commander of the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion.

An officer who places his men and civilians first, Suderio was initially adjudged as Best Scout Ranger company commander for transforming

more than 100 Scout Ranger reject soldiers into disciplined and cohesive fighters who have inflicted major damage on the Abu Sayyaf structure in the province.

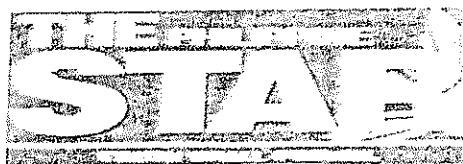
Bunayog is known as "Central Mindanao's Warrior-Peacekeeper" who, however, actively fights the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighter rebels. He is also involved in non-combat activities in pursuit of socio-economic gains in rural communities that benefitted Muslim communities in Central Mindanao.

With his firearms at his side, Bunayog also initiates various peace moves that have resulted in the resolution of long-standing blood feuds or *rido* in Maguindanao.

The three soldiers joined seven other outstanding Filipinos handpicked by the Metrobank Foundation for this year's roster.

Each awardee will receive P1 million in cash incentives, a gold medallion and a trophy from the foundation in a ceremony scheduled next week.

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Suspected NPAs kidnap cop in Cotabato

By **JOHN UNSON**

NORTH COTABATO – Suspected communist rebels snatched a policeman in Kidapawan City yesterday.

Officials said PO1 Bristol Catalan was riding a motorcycle to Makilala town in North Cotabato when suspected New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas flagged him down and brought him to a remote village in Barangay Katipunan after taking his service firearm.

Police regional spokesman Supt. Romeo Galgo said Catalan is assigned to the Makilala municipal police.

Galgo said the North Cotabato provincial police and the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion have launched joint operations to track down the rebels holding Catalan captive.

Meanwhile, the region-

al Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said it would probe the allegations of two farmers harassed by the military on suspicions that they were members of the NPA in Opol, Misamis Oriental.

CHR-10 regional director Jeanne Ivy Abrina said they have docketed the complaint of Roy Ebarat and Julieto Babatido, residents of Barangay Tingalan, in Opol.

Ebarat and Babatido complained the military entered their homes without a search warrant and accused them of being NPA rebels.

Both denied the allegations and filed the complaint before the CHR regional office.

"We will investigate this because this is not only in relation to our mandate but also with the continuous monitoring of martial law-related human rights violations," Abrina

said.

On the other hand, the NPA in Surigao del Sur issued an apology for the road attack in San Agustin town that wounded a truck driver and his assistant last Aug. 10.

Sandara Amihan, spokesperson for the NPA's Front Committee 14, said they are taking responsibility for the road attack and promised to compensate the two victims.

Amihan said the NPA planted an improvised explosive device along the highway in Barangay Sto. Niño when the cargo truck driven by Philip Silva Medrano inadvertently detonated the bomb. The explosion also wounded Joel Silyares.

The bomb was supposedly directed at a military convoy going to the province, Amihan said. – With Gerry Lee Gorit, Ben Serrano

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BIFF bomb maker gunned down

MAGUINDANAO – A suspected bomb expert of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) was killed in an encounter with law enforcers on Tuesday night.

Ebrahim Ali reportedly drew his gun when personnel of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and 6th Infantry Division (ID) were serving a warrant of arrest at his hideout in Barangay Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana issued the warrant as martial law administrator in Mindanao.

Ali was reportedly trained in bomb-making by Ma-

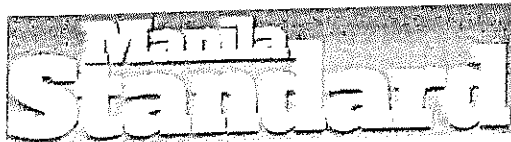
laysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, who was killed in a police operation in Mamasapano in 2015. Ali was reportedly an instructor of a faction of the BIFF led by Imam Karialan.

However, the BIFF denied that it had links with Ali. "We don't know him. He does not belong to our group," said Abu Amir, spokesman for the BIFF-Karialan faction.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, 6th ID spokesman, said the military is conducting parallel operations against the BIFF in Central Mindanao aside from going after Maute militants in Marawi.

– John Unson, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Jaime Laude

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BIFF bomb expert dies

By Francisco Tuyay

MILITARY and police operatives killed a bomb expert of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters after he resisted arrest in Maguindanao Tuesday night, an official said Wednesday.

Ebrahim Ali alias Ebs, 49, was slain after he resisted arrest and attempted to fire his gun at the authorities who came after him to serve an arrest warrant, said Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

He made his statement even as the Armed Forces of the Philippines vowed to neutralize the remaining Maute group terrorists who are in a one-square-kilometer area in Marawi City.

"We are firm in ending this rebellion in Marawi, and we are

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BIFF...

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going to exert all efforts within the limits and bounds of the law to get the remnants of the Daesh [ISIS]-inspired Maute Group," military spokesman Edgard Arevalo told reporters on Tuesday.

A Catholic bishop on Wednesday deplored the alleged plan of the Maute group to use civilian hostages as suicide bombers against security forces.

Marawi Bishop Edwin de la Peña said the "desperate" plan of the terrorists deserved strong condemnation.

"Horrible! Repulsive! These terrorists are really desperate, and that's why they are doing this," De la Peña said.

"What they are doing is abhorrent and they are hoping that the government will listen to them."

Encinas said Ali, who was operating under Muhaiden Animbang alias commander Kagi Karialan, was to be arrested by the Army's 603rd Brigade and police from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group when he challenged the authorities.

"The subject pulled out his gun from his sling bag when he was about to be arrested, prompting the arresting team to shoot him," Encinas said.

He said Ali drew his gun after sensing the presence of security forces in his lair in Awang village in Datu Odin Sinsuat town around 7:15 p.m.

Reports said Ali was among the more than 300 people included in two arrest orders issued by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in connection with the implementation of martial law in Mindanao. **With PNA and Vito Barcelo**

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Pahina. 6

BIFF off'i todas sa militar

Todas sa isinagawang law enforcement operation ng militar ang isang high ranking official ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) mula sa tinaguriang Karialan faction kamakalawa ng gabi sa Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

Kinilala ang nasawing BIFF official na si Ibrahim Ali alyas Kumander Ibs, na sinasabing bomb-maker at trainer ng BIFF.

Ayon kay 6th Infantry Division spokesman Capt. Arvin Encinas, nag-

sagawa ng law enforcement operation ang pinagsanib na puwersa ng 19th IB, 603rd Brigade Philippine Army, DOS PNP at Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG-ARMM) malapit sa isang gasoline station sa Brgy. Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao kung saan namataan si Kumander Ibs na humantong sa engkuwentro matapos manlaban.

Nakuha mula sa suspek ang isang kalibre .45 pistola at mga bala. (Betchai Julian)

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AFP to send 400 soldiers to kill infected chickens in Pampanga

By Alvin Murcia, Mario J. Mallari and Charlie V. Manalo

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will deploy 400 soldiers to San Luis, Pampanga to help the Department of Agriculture (DA) to depopulate fowls infected by avian virus.

This was disclosed by Agriculture Secretary Manuel Piñol as he sought the help of the army after poultry farmers outside the one-kilometer quarantine radius in San Luis opted to surrender their birds to the government for culling to tide the loses and help stop the flu outbreak.

Brig. General Rodel Mario Alarcon yesterday confirmed to Piñol the availability of some 800-men or a battalion to help in the culling of some 600,000 chickens affected by the flu virus.

According to Piñol, the farm owners decided to cull the chickens because they could not sell their chicken or eggs within the radius.

"That is a welcome development to us in the Department of Agriculture because if the seven-kilometer radius will be depopulated that would serve as a buffer zone to the ground zero, meaning if the periphery is clean the chances of the virus spreading outside the area will be lessened. But you have to understand that the 26 farm owners volunteered to have their farms depopulated," Piñol said.

However, the DA will need some P52.8 million to compensate the affected farmers and they will ask President Duterte to provide the DA calamity funds for this problem.

The DA chief also revealed that aside from the army he also talked with PNP Director General Ronald de la Rosa for police help to strengthen the quarantine stations to secure the areas where the depopulation will be done.

As of August 16, a total of

73,110 layer chickens, ducks, fighting cocks and native chickens were culled. This accounted for both the commercial population and backyard population.

"Our checkpoints are guarded by our quarantine officers and assisted by the Philippine National Police and local government's *tanods*. Both poultry and poultry by-products are confiscated and disposed of properly. Surveillance within the 7-kilometer controlled zone was set. A total 20 personnel from Bureau of Animal Industry will be deployed for surveillance within the 7-kilometer controlled zone."

Because of the flu problem, the performance of the country's agricultural sector in the third quarter of 2017 will be affected, Piñol admitted yesterday.

"The performance of the agricultural sector will be affected in the third quarter of this year," Piñol said in a press conference in Quezon City.

He said despite the effect of the avian flu, only 0.3 percent of the population will be affected. "The effect would be psychological since consumers will think twice if they will buy chicken or not," he said.

The total population of poultry chickens in the country is 175 million, and they will be culling 600,000 thousand in one area.

"This is a nightmare to me. But we have to be firm so as to prevent the spread of the virus, thus I would rather be accused of overreacting than be lenient," he said.

Department of Health Assistant Secretary Eric Tayag said the two poultry farmers from San Luis town reported to have shown bird flu symptoms have tested negative in the confirmatory tests.

At the AFP, Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP-Public Affairs Office chief, said the DA requested for the 400 troops, and the AFP leadership has already approved it [5 and tapped the Northern Luzon

Command (Nolcom) based in Tarlac City to provide soldiers.

"We have to gather this particular number of personnel, provide them with the necessary briefing for them to be briefed that will exactly be their role," said Arevalo.

Arevalo said that the targeted deployment of troops will be today.

Asked what would be the specific role of the soldiers in containing the bird flu, Arevalo replied "there was no mention yet what exactly is their job, that will be contained in the briefing that will be done tomorrow (Thursday)."

"But what is needed, I believe, is assistance in executing the infected chickens," Arevalo added.

Arevalo said the AFP will try to come up with the requested 400 troops but assured that soldiers will be dispatched to assist the DA starting today.

"We still need to populate that number but we don't need to immediately send 400 at one time, what is important is we can respond the soonest possible time. 400 is a target but that doesn't mean that we have to gather that big number to be able to help," said Arevalo.

Around 200,000 birds have already been culled by the DA following the confirmation of bird flu virus in San Luis town in Pampanga.

At the House, former President and Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday asked the DA to conduct a thorough investigation to find out the source of the bird flu infection which hit the Pampanga to prevent possible outbreak in the future.

Mrs. Arroyo, in a statement, said her office is closely monitoring the situation which had prompted the mass slaughter of chickens to prevent the flu from spreading.

"While the outbreak does not affect my district, I have been

closely coordinating with local chief executives in my district who have poultry farms in their areas to implement precautionary measures to ensure that their livestock remain free of the virus," she stressed.

Pampanga Gov. Lilia Pineda has declared a state of calamity in the province saying that although the avian flu virus only affected one town, there were seven other towns covered by the 7-kilometer radius of the quarantine area: Apalit, Candaba, Minalin, Sta. Ana, Sto. Tomas, Mexico and San Simon. Also covered is the City of San Fernando.

"The Pampanga provincial government will also extend financial and technical assistance to all affected poultry farm owners. As additional preventive measure, the provincial government has also ordered the inspection of all poultry farms in the province," Mrs. Arroyo said.

Former Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo also urged government authorities to dig deeper into the cause of the latest bird flu outbreak.

According to Pelayo, the Philippines has been a bird flu-free country for a longtime, and this was because the bird flu virus will not survive in temperatures more than 28 degrees celsius as mentioned by a lot of experts.

"Historically, bird flu cases in other countries only happen during winter time, during November to January. In this case, it happened during summertime in the Philippines," said Pelayo.

Pelayo lamented that the latest avian flu outbreak would deal a big blow to the economy as there are a lot of people depending on poultry industry.

"It would be a big blow to the Philippines since we have been bird flu-free for a long time, and to our local producers, especially in Pampanga," said Pelayo.

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Pahina. 5

EDITORIAL

KONTAK NG MAUTE-ASG SA AFP AT IBA PA DAPAT SUYURIN

DAPAT talagang tutukan ng mga awtoridad ang pakahulugan ng natuklasang katotohanang galing sa gobyerno ang mga bala, at maaaring baril at iba pang gamit-militar, na ipinanalaban ng mga terorista sa mga pwersa ng pamahalaan sa giyera sa Marawi City.

May tatak na Government Arsenal ang mga kahon ng bala na nadiskubre habang may mga tatak ding Armscor Philippines ang iba pa.

Ang Armscor Philippines ay pribadong kompanya na manufacturer o tagagawa at tagabenta ng mga baril at bala.

Lumitaw ang mga katotohanang ito sa imbestigasyong isinasagawa ng Kamara, lalo na sa parte ni Davao Congressman Karlo Nograles na nagpalabas ng ganitong ulat.

Malaki ang pondo ng Maute at Abu Sayyaf Group mula sa kidnapping for ransom, droga, lokal na opisyal na kaalyado ng mga ito at ayuda ng mga Arabong bansa kaya kayang-kaya nila ang bumili ng malakihang bulo ng mga armas at bala na pawang magaganda at epektibo sa mga labanan at pagsasagawa ng terorismo.

Dapat na mabilis na alamin ng mga awtoridad kung bakit napasasakamay ng mga terorista ang mga bala at baril.

Isa sa mga pinakamahalagang katanungan dito ay kung sino sa mga nasa Armed Forces of the Philippines ang kontak at suplayer ng mga terorista at sino naman naman ang nakikipagtransakyon sa Armscor sa mga ito.

Hindi pupwedeng magpatuloy ang ganitong gawain na isang dahilan kung bakit nakapagtatagal sa giyera ang mga terorista.

Ang isa pang masakit ay kung ang mga kontak ng mga terorista ay nasa hanay ng mga kalahok sa digmaan at nagsisilbing mata ng mga ito laban sa mismong mga pwersa ng pamahalaan.

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Gov't soldiers getting tired of protracted war in Marawi

By Mario J. Mallari

Nearly three months after Islamic State-inspired terrorists laid siege on Marawi City, government security forces are still struggling to flush out the militants from the Islamic city despite employing the full might of the military.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office chief, said the dragging Marawi City rebellion is taking toll on the soldiers, who are getting tired due to the protracted war with IS-inspired terrorists.

Arevalo, however, stressed that the soldiers continued to be on high morale due to the support being extended to them not only by the government leadership but also from the civilian sector.

"Well, they also get tired just like us, they are also humans who get tired. They are lacking in sleep and rest but our soldiers have the proper training to overcome stressful situations...the perilous situation in the field," said Arevalo.

"You will be surprised that their morale is still high. Notwithstanding the fact that they are now on day 86, their morale remains to be very high. We could attribute these to the very good support from the

general headquarters and the appreciation being shown by fellow Filipinos," he added.

Meanwhile, a total of P4.5-million was raised in a benefit concert for the heroes of the battle-stricken Marawi City held Sunday night at the AFP Theatre in Camp Aguinaldo.

AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año expressed gratitude to Joel Cruz, president and chief executive officer of Aficionado, for leading the benefit concert and others who donated and sponsored the event.

"On behalf of the whole Armed Forces of the Philippines, I extend my deep gratitude to the donors and sponsors who helped raise funds for our troops and their families," said Año.

"Your generosity and manifestation of support continue to be a source of inspiration and strength for our soldiers to continue to fight towards just and lasting peace for our country," he added.

Dubbed "Awit sa Marawi," the activity was aimed at raising funds for the benefit of soldiers who were wounded-in-action, or killed-in-action during the rebellion in Marawi. It will also benefit their families, and displaced residents of the city.

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Pahina. 2

Sundalo sa Marawi, 'stressed' na

Nakakaranas na ng combat stress ang ilan sa mga sundalo na patuloy na nakikipaglaban sa teroristang Maute Group sa Marawi City, ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines-Public Affairs Office (AFP-PIO) chief Col. Edgard Arevalo sa press briefing nito kahapon.

"Hindi naman po malayo na may ilang sundalo tayong makaranas ng combat stress. Mayroon po tayong programa para sa ating mga sundalo, mayroon din po tayong

kahandaan hinggil sa mga iyan. Mayroon po tayong professionals na handa pong gawin at ginagampanan ang tungkuling iyan," pahayag ni Arevalo.

Idinagdag pa ni Arevalo na hindi pinababayaan ang mga sundalo sapagkat kung magkaroon man sila ng ganitong suliranin o sitwasyon, iyan ay dahil sa mahaba na nilang paglaban sa Maute Group.

Samantala, inihayag din ni Arevalo na riahaharap sa mga kasong administratibo ang isang

sundalo sa Marawi na minura umano ang mga pasahero ng bus sa isang checkpoint sa Marantao, Lanao-del Sur.

Inalis muna sa kanyang pwesto at nakadeti ni ngayon sa barracks si Cpl. Marlo Lorigas habang iniimbestigahan sa insidente.

Ani Arevalo, ito ang unang kaso ng pang-aabusong isang sundalo mula nang ideklara ang Martial Law sa Mindanao pero iginiit na isa lang itong isolated incident. (Betchai Julian)

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ASSISTANCE | AFP to send soldiers to Pampanga to assist DA

By [Alvin Santiago](#)

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Force of the Philippines (AFP) is ready to send soldiers to Pampanga after the Department of Agriculture (DA) requested for augmentation of personnel to assist in the containment and disposal of Avian Flu infected poultry.

According to AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col Edgard Arevalo, the DA initially requested 400 soldiers from the AFP, particularly from the Northern Luzon command (NOLCOM), to perform particular task in helping clear the province of this dilemma.

Arevalo said that as of now, that they still have to muster the requested number of troops and provide them with the necessary briefing tomorrow so they would know their particular task and how to also protect themselves.

He also assured the public that the military operations in Marawi will not be affected by this deployment.

On another note, despite the stressful situation in Marawi, Arevalo added, that the morale of soldiers are still high since they are trained on how to handle different situations like lack of sleep, perilous situations in the war zone, and battle stress. This is done through various morale and welfare programs, training, the implementation of the rotation policy, leaves and passes, etc.

Aside from this, our soldiers continue to feel the support and appreciation from the government and from our countrymen.

Meanwhile, the military leadership in Marawi is seeing the termination of operations against the Daesh-inspired Maute terror group in a few weeks.

Lt Gen Carlito Galvez, Task Force Marawi Commander, was earlier quoted to have stated the near-end of the siege.

Arevalo stated that since Gen Galvez is directly in control and coordinating with the field commanders on this operation, he is in a better position to give such statement. Since this is

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the kind of good news many of our countrymen, specially the people Marawi has been waiting for since day one of the siege.

He added that the AFP is more eager to end the conflict and start the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Marawi. **AES / MCAG**

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UPDATES | BGen Padilla clarifies issues on the Marawi Situation, NoKor Missile Threat

By [Alvin Santiago](#)

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines Spokesperson, Brigadier General Restituto Padilla issued in a statement that the Philippine Army is in a continuous process of conducting clearing operations in areas formerly held by the terrorist group Maute in Marawi City.



BGen. Padilla had stated that they are also continuously and surely drawing nearer to the terrorists' ground hideout, and are doing everything in their power to put an end to the siege being staged in the city.

In addition, BGen. Padilla confirms that the insurgents are occupying only an area less than a square kilometer as of today. Within the area are the three remaining terrorist group leaders, Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute Brothers, Omar and Abdullah, but are being hunted down and searched for to this point in time.



The AFP Spokesperson also clears that the possible threat of the Philippines being targeted or affected by the, as of now postponed, Missile Launches from North Korea to Guam is a Civil Defense Issue that is under the jurisdiction and order of the Office of Civil Defense and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

The AFP, on the other hand is in-charge of the Search, Rescue, and Retrieval Operations. Should there be a need for a pre-emptive evacuation resulting in the possible imminence of

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a missile attack, the Armed Forces will spare no expense and deploy all units that may be of use in the process of evacuating and transferring Filipinos away from the areas of concern.

With regards to the Filipinos currently situated in Guam, although the chances of being affected are quite remote, the country's military forces are ready and equipped to send aid, should the need arise. Brigadier General Padilla assures all Filipinos that the Armed Forces of the Philippines will, in fact, be of service of the government, the country, and most especially, the Filipino people. **ALS / MCAG**

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NEUTRALIZED | BIFF Bomb Maker and Trainer killed

Reported by: [Alvin Sanleazar](#)

Authorities were able to neutralized an alleged bombmaker and trainer of the bandit group Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters or BIFF.

According to P/Chief Insp Achmad Alibonga, Chief of Police of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao – PNP, the operation was jointly launched by the combined elements of the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Datu Odin Sinsuat – PNP and troops from the 603rd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army against the suspect identified as Ebrahim Ali.

Ali was killed in the operation after he fought it off with the raiding team. Recovered from the suspect was one caliber 45 pistol, one magazine and bullets.

The suspect is in the No. 2 Arrest Order of the Department of National Defense. **AES / MCAG**

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ENCOUNTER | Army Troops battle NPA remnant's in Burauen, Leyte

By [Alvin Santigas](#)

BURAUEN, Leyte (DWDD) – A 20-minute firefight ensued between the 78th Infantry (Warrior) Battalion's Scout Platoon and members of the communist terrorists New People's Army at Barangay Roxas, Burauen, Leyte yesterday, August 15, 2017, at 10 ' o clock in the morning.

No casualty was reported on the government side, while the enemy suffered an undetermined number of casualties.

The troops seized an enemy encampment and recovered one (1) back pack, one (1) sack of rice and subversive documents in the area. The seizure of the enemy encampment is the result of the mutual cooperation between the military and the villagers in the said barangay.

Civilians reported the presence of the NPA rebels who continue to extort, recruit and harm them. **78IB / MCAG**