

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



**TEAM ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)  
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

23 August 2017

Wednesday

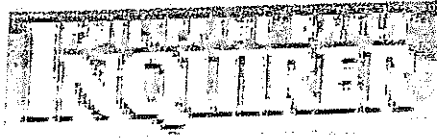
*Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.*

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BALANCED NEWS - FEARLESS VIEWS

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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 23, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING LUZON AND WESTERN VISAYAS (As of 4:00 PM - August 22, 2017)


LAOAG CITY 24 - 30 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 24 - 34 °C	SBMA/CLARK 24 - 30 °C	BAGUIO CITY 15 - 23 °C
METRO MANILA 25 - 32 °C	TAGAYTAY CITY 22 - 29 °C	LEGAZPI CITY 26 - 31 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 33 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 33 °C	TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU 25 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 34 °C
	CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 33 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 33 °C	

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:43 AM	6:14 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
6:52 AM	7:29 PM
<b>NEW MOON</b>	<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>
AUG 22 2:30 AM	AUG 28 4:15 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
6:17 PM 0.11 Meter	10:40 AM 1.28 Meter


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

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METRO MANILA 25 - 32 °C	TAGAYTAY 22 - 30 °C	TACLOBAN 25 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO 25 - 35 °C	LEGAZPI 26 - 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 34 °C
LAOAG 24 - 31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 33 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO 16 - 24 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD 25 - 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA 24 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK 24 - 30 °C	METRO CEBU 25 - 33 °C	



MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11 AM & 5 PM

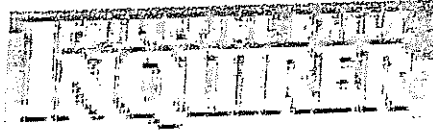


SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!



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

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# BOC 'TARA' TRAIL LEADS TO DAVAO

A customs 'fixer' tells Senate that he gave an initial P5 million to an alleged representative of Davao City Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte so his shipments won't be inspected at the ports.

By **Christine O. Avendaño**  
@10avendanoINQ

A "fixer," who helped smuggle into the country P6.4 billion worth of "shabu" (crystal meth) from China, testified on Tuesday that he gave P5 million in "enrollment fee" to a Davao City councilor with alleged close links to Vice Mayor Paolo

Duterte, a son of President Duterte.

Mark Ruben Taguba II told the Senate blue ribbon committee that he gave payoffs to members of the "Davao Group" in the Bureau of Customs (BOC) so that shipments he would bring in would not be inspected.

Taguba said he went to Davao City to meet Councilor Nilo "Small"

Abellera Jr. and handed him P5 million in cash.

Both Vice Mayor Duterte and Abellera declined to comment.

Earlier, Vice Mayor Duterte also refused to comment on Taguba's claims saying, "One does not dignify lies with a response."

Abellera was invited by the blue ribbon committee, but he did not

show up at the fourth hearing on the shabu smuggling, pleading hypertension.

Small, a certain Tita Nani and a certain Jack were earlier identified by Taguba as members of the Davao Group in the BOC.

He gave the blue ribbon committee at a previous hearing a list of people he was bribing as **A15**

## FROM A1

part of the "tara" (grease-money) system in the BOC.

The trucker-turned-fixer helped bring in 604 kilos of shabu that got past the BOC on May 17 and ended up in a warehouse in Valenzuela City.

The shipment was recovered by BOC agents following a tip from China and Richard Chen, whose company had shipped what turned out to be illegal drugs.

At the hearing, Taguba confirmed that the man in a picture shown by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV was Abellera, who, he said, he had met in a restaurant in Davao City.

"I am trying to establish here that Mr. Small Abellera is known in Davao as close to Mr. Paolo Duterte and you could see several pictures here to show their closeness," Trillanes said.

Taguba read to the committee his Jan. 11 communication with Tita Nani in which he asked that he be "enrolled" so that he could be in the "market."

In her text message response, Tita Nani said she would make the "final arrangement" with Jack, whom she described as the "handler of Paolo."

"Now we have to advance d lmln so he can fly dwn to davao to arrange ur mtng with Pulong asap. During the mtng u per-

sonally turn over d 5mln. Same manner u likewise turn over d lmln to jack wn we meet," according to the text message.

Asked by Trillanes if he was sure that Abellera was representing Vice Mayor Duterte before he handed the P5 million, Taguba said he was told that this was the case.

He said he had no choice at that time but to meet with Abellera because his shipment had been placed on alert by Mike Sabban, a technical assistant at the BOC who had a fight with his father.

Taguba said he would pay P10,000 per container to the Davao Group afterward or P1 million weekly depending on the number of containers that arrived.

He earlier said that customs brokers paid as much as P34,500 in grease money per container to BOC employees to speed up the processing of their shipments and avoid being flagged for issues that would have led to stricter inspections.

The amount was on top of the P40,000 value-added tax, he said.

### 10,000 containers daily

Some 10,000 containers go through the BOC daily.

Taguba said he dealt with the Davao Group because Sabban, who he said was a brother of retired Lt. Gen. Juancho Sabban, had placed his shipment on

alert as a result of Sabban's falling out with his father.

Trillanes later told reporters that the connection between Abellera and Vice Mayor Duterte was very clear.

"We will solidify these links when Abellera attends the next hearing," the senator said.

President Duterte has vowed to resign if critics can prove that members of his family are involved in corruption.

"If my son [Paolo Duterte] was really into it or is in there, all you have to do is to produce the paper," Mr. Duterte said on Aug. 11. "Just give me an affidavit and I will step down as President of this republic."

The blue ribbon committee chair, Sen. Richard Gordon, said he would invite Abellera to the next hearing scheduled for Aug. 30.

Taguba said at the hearing that his meeting with Abellera became possible after he was introduced to him by the group of Tita Nani, whose last name he did not know but who was known to be "influential" in the BOC.

He said he met with Tita Nani in Eastwood in Pasig City. A certain Jojo Bacud introduced Tita Nani to him, he said.

Bacud in turn was introduced to him by his father, Michael Ruben Taguba Jr., when Nicanor Faeldon became customs commissioner.

Taguba said that Bacud was

also from Cagayan like his father and that all he knew was that he was connected with the BOC's Special Studies and Project Development Office.

But BOC officials told the committee that there was no Jojo Bacud working in the bureau.

Taguba said he gave Bacud P5,000 per container so that his shipments would not be put on alert in the bureau.

But when his shipment was placed on alert by Sabban, Taguba said he asked Bacud for help but was told that Sabban was indeed influential in the BOC. It was then that Bacud introduced her to Tita Nani.

### Airport exec on leave

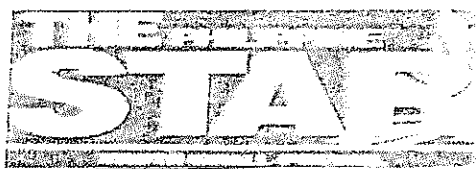
An official at Ninoy Aquino International Airport has gone on leave after a witness in the Senate probe tagged him as part of the Davao Group.

Retired Col. Allen Capuyan, assistant general manager of security and emergency services, filed a leave of absence, Manila International Airport Authority General Manager Ed Monreal said in a statement.

Taguba named Capuyan, alias "Big Brother" and "Noel," as a member of the Davao Group.

He said he did not know Capuyan's full name but it was provided by Trillanes, who said Capuyan was a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983. —WITH A REPORT FROM JEROME ANING INQ

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# It's Kian in video, cops admit; NPD chief axed

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

Two of three policemen linked to the killing of 17-year-old Kian Loyd delos Santos have admitted they were the persons in civilian clothes seen dragging the teenage student along an alley on the night of Aug. 16, as shown on a video recording of the closed circuit television installed in the area, the Philippine National Police (PNP)'s Internal Affairs Service (IAS) said yesterday.

This developed as the director of the Northern Police District (NPD), Chief Supt. Roberto Fajardo, who claimed that Delos Santos was a drug courier, was sacked yesterday.

*"Dalawang pulis ang umamin na sila nga daw 'yung nakaangkay kay Kian at si Kian nga ang nasa video. Taliwas po dun sa kamulang sinabi nung una na iyon daw ay informant (Two of the policemen admitted that they were the ones with arms around Kian's shoulders and that Kian is the one in the video, contrary to their initial statement that the one with them was an informant)," IAS Inspector General Alfegar Triambulo told reporters.*

He did not identify the two

police officers.

"I'm not sure why they initially denied that (they were in the video), but they confirmed that with our investigators who put it on record," Triambulo added.

In a report by *GMA News*, a witness presented by the police, drug suspect Renato Loberas, earlier claimed it was not Delos Santos who was being dragged away as recorded on CCTV.

Following the developments, Triambulo said the IAS has found sufficient basis to push through with the pre-charge investigation against Caloocan City Police Officer 3 Arnel Oares, PO1 Jerwin Cruz

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OFFICE OF TI

and PO1 Jeremias Pereda for lapses that led to the death of the Grade 11 student.

"There is obviously something irregular in their police operation because someone died. There are lapses in the conduct of the operation because their primary function is to make arrests and not to kill," Triambulo said.

The IAS chief said that after finding probable cause, the IAS can file an administrative case of serious irregularity in the performance of duty or grave misconduct by the police officers.

He explained that this will pave the way for the summary hearing procedure where the three policemen will have the opportunity to defend themselves.

Chief Insp. Amor Cerillo, the precinct commander and supervisor of the police operatives, is included in the IAS investigation under the command responsibility doctrine, according to Triambulo. "Under command responsibility,

as provided in (Republic Act) 8551, the immediate supervisor is included in the investigation," he noted.

The IAS will submit today to PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa its initial findings on the investigation in the police operation that led to Delos Santos' death.

## NPD chief relieved

Meanwhile, Dela Rosa ordered the administrative relief of Northern Police District (NPD) director Chief Supt. Roberto Fajardo to give way to an impartial investigation. "*Dahil sa nangyari, kasama na ang command responsibility sa kanya para mabilis 'yung pag-imbestigang kaso* (Because of what happened, Fajardo is included in the command responsibility to speed up the investigation on the case)," Dela Rosa said.

Fajardo will be placed at the Personnel Administrative Holding Unit of the PNP at Camp Crame while relieved

Caloocan City Police Senior Supt. Chito Bersaluna will be detailed at the Regional Personnel Holding and Accounting Unit at the National Capital Region Police Office in Bicutan, Taguig City.

Earlier, Fajardo said Delos Santos used to sell 10 grams of shabu worth P18,000 a day in their area before he was killed by police operatives.

He said a gram of shabu cost about P8,000-P9,000, depending on its quality or grade.

"Shabu is sold as *isang bul-to* (one bulk), equal to five grams. So, *dalawang bul-to 'yung* (two bulks are) 10 grams *na nasa* (which cost) P18,000 *'yung recovered kay* (from) Kian," Fajardo explained.

Fajardo said the Caloocan City Police have witnesses to testify to Delos Santos' alleged involvement in drug operations as the runner.

He added that the pushers now use minors as their runners. He said Delos Santos was newly identified in the police intelligence network and was known in their neigh-

borhood to be a runner. He said the source and recipients of the drugs the boy was peddling remain under investigation.

"*Ang tawag nga dati diyay ay* (They used to call Kian) addict, pusher. Now *na namatay na, mabait na sya* (that he's dead, he became a good person). *Lumalabas na sirasakyan nila na mabait na ito* (It's turning out that the public is riding on his 'good image')." Fajardo noted.

He, however, admitted that the intelligence information did not indicate that Delos Santos was a minor.

## 9 more cops

The IAS is also looking for about nine more cops believed to be part of the deadly police operation.

Triambulo said records submitted by the Caloocan City Police indicated that there were 13 police officers who took part in the Oplan Galugad.

He said the investigators went back to the area to conduct ocular inspection. He also said the IAS would request Dela Rosa to order the relief of the re-

maining policemen, place them under restrictive custody and disarm them to encourage witnesses to come forward without any fear of retaliation.

## Pro-Duterte fiscal won't handle Kian case - Aguirre

The Caloocan City prosecutor whom Sen. Franklin Drilon accused of prejudging the death of Delos Santos will not handle the case, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said yesterday.

Aguirre assured Drilon that Assistant City Prosecutor Darwin Cañete would no longer be involved in the imminent preliminary investigation on criminal charges expected to be filed by Delos Santos' family against the policemen behind the teenager's death.

"This exclusion is precisely done to avoid any purported prejudgment from being present in his resolution of the case if the same is raffled to him," Aguirre said, explaining that Cañete was only tasked to assist in the fact-finding probe

upon request of the local police due to his availability, being a resident in the city.

Aguirre further bared that cases in the Caloocan City prosecutor's office are raffled among prosecutors to ensure impartiality, unlike in other cities where cases are simply assigned to investigating prosecutors.

With these reasons, Aguirre stressed that there is no need to remove Cañete from the case - as sought by Drilon - since there is no preliminary investigation yet.

"I simply cannot order the relief of Cañete from the case of Kian, delos Santos. In the first place he is not handling the case. No case has yet been filed. How can I relieve a prosecutor from a case which he is not handling? How can I relieve him from handling a case that has yet to be filed?" Aguirre pointed out.

Still, he assured the opposition senator of fairness in the resolution of the murder charges that the Delos Santos family intends to file against the policemen.

- With Edu Punay 295

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# NPA hit for recruiting tribal group minors

By JOSEPH JUBELAG

ISULAN, Sultan Kudarat – Military authorities here assailed the New People's Army for recruiting minors belonging to the Indigenous Peoples (IP) to become rebel combatants.

Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, 33rd Infan-

try Battalion commander, said the NPA has been recruiting minors from the Ata Manobo tribal group in the province to become combatants.

He said two minors belonging to Ata Manobo tribal group were captured last Monday by government forces during an encounter in Barangay Laguilayan

here.

Cabunoc said one NPA rebel was killed while an Army soldier was injured during the firefight which lasted for almost one hour.

He said the captured NPA rebels, who are residents of Esperanza town, claimed that the NPA local command under Com-

mander George had been recruiting and training minors from "The employment of child warriors in armed conflict is a violation of the International Humanitarian Law," Cabunoc said.

He said the NPA has been exploiting minors belonging to IP groups in the province to rebel against the government.



13 August 2017

The Manila Times

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## Govt troops run after Abu raiders

**ZAMBOANGA CITY:** Security forces have been deployed to Basilan to hunt down Abu Sayyaf terrorists who raided a village in the restive Muslim province, the Philippine Army spokesman said.

The Western Mindanao Command's (WestMinCom) Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay on Tuesday said troops will not let up in their hunt for the bandits, whom authorities have blamed for a spate of deadly attacks in the province.

She added that at least nine people were reported dead and nine injured in the attack in Maluso town on August 21.

But local police, quoting wounded victims who were brought to Zamboanga City, said as many as 30 people were injured in the attack by about 50 gunmen in Tubigan village.

One victim, Marcelino Ramos, 31, said the attackers were members of groups linked to the Islamic State.

Petinglay said pro-government militia and soldiers from the 68th Infantry Battalion clashed

with the terrorist who were forced to withdraw but not after they burned at least five houses and a multi-purpose hall.

She added that prior to the raid, troops captured on August 19 an Abu Sayyaf encampment in Mangalut village in Akbar town where the terrorists assemble improvised explosives.

The area, the spokesman said, was being used by rebel leader Nurhassan Jamiri.

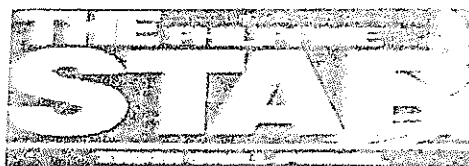
Soldiers recovered assorted materials used in the manufacture of improvised explosives, including rifle magazines, cell phones, batteries and solar panels.

Troops chasing the terrorists, who escaped the military raid, caught up with them the next day and in a clash killed three gunmen—Omar Abdurahim, Kahim Jovel Indanan and Ekram Alam.

Five others—Abduhari Kabus, Boy Idris, Hasan Kabus, Mammang and Jaber Sali—were wounded in the fighting but they managed to escape.

**AL JACINTO**

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## Sayyaf raiders in Basilan behead former soldier

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Abu Sayyaf gunmen who attacked a village and killed nine people in Maluso, Basilan last Monday also snatched and beheaded a retired soldier living in the village, the military said.

Col. Juvymax Uy, commander of Joint Task Force Basilan (JTFB), said the decapitated body and severed head of Julio Macaraig Pasawa were recovered yesterday in Barangay Upper Mahayahay, also in Maluso.

The bandits seized Pasawa, 62, after attacking Barangay Tubigan.

At least 20 Abu Sayyaf bandits in military uniform opened fire and burned five houses and a village hall in the attack on Tubigan. Among the dead were villagers and a militiaman.

Government militiamen were surprised by the dawn attack but later managed to put up resistance with extra troops and drive the attackers away after two hours of heavy fighting, the military said.

Uy said Pasawa, a retired Army master sergeant and an Islamic convert, had been a resident of the village after retiring from the Army as master sergeant.

“Perhaps the Abu Sayyaf group had discovered the victim to be a former soldier and this prompted them to seize him,” Uy said.

The military vowed to run after the Abu Sayyaf bandits involved in last Monday’s attack.

Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said troops are now hunting down the gunmen responsible for the attack.

“We will make sure that these terrorists will pay for their crimes committed

against humanity,” Galvez said. “That is the only way we can achieve justice for the orphans and widows of those who were killed,” he added.

Officials said last Monday’s attack could be a retaliatory move against the villagers.

“These groups (Abu Sayyaf) are obviously desperate to strike back, choosing those who do not have the capacity to fight them,” Galvez said.

Maluso Mayor Hanie Bud condemned the attack.

He said the bandits also destroyed the barangay children’s day care center.

“We in the local government unit of Maluso condemn this barbaric raid in strongest terms. We are now imposing measures to prevent a repeat of such deadly incursion by the Abu Sayyaf,” Bud said.

The provincial government of Basilan and the office of Gov. Mujiv Hataman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao extended initial cash assistance to the 16 villagers wounded in the attack.

Hataman also condemned the attack, saying the militants wanted to divert the military’s focus from an ongoing offensive in Marawi City by attacking even children, women and the elderly.

“They are cowards because they couldn’t face their military adversaries,” Hataman said.

The attack on Barangay Tubigan was the second after seven years. Violence broke out in the village between residents who were members of the local militia and sympathizers of the Abu Sayyaf.

Residents of Barangay Tubigan want the military to put up an Army detachment in the village to prevent another attack from the bandit group.

– With John Unson

23 August 2017



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# AFP stands by Rody amid ouster call from faceless group

By **Mario J. Mallari**  
and **Ted Tuvera**

Neither President Duterte nor the Armed Forces of the Philippines is buying the call from a faceless group seeking the ouster of the duly elected Duterte, as the President earlier fared any

protesting group to try and oust him from the presidency.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday distanced itself from a supposed group, claiming to be composed of members of the military and police, that is calling for the ouster of President Duterte.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, stressed that the AFP has nothing to do with the group calling itself the Patriotic and Democratic Movement (PADEM) that claims to represent the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) which is accusing the President of betrayal of public

trust and in violation of national sovereignty and democratic rights of the Filipino people.

Padilla maintained that the entire 125,000-strong AFP is standing by the duly-constituted government and remains apolitical.

The AFP spokesman vowed the military is ready to thwart any

attempt to disrupt stability in the country.

"The AFP categorically denies the recent statement issued by a group that pretends to be representative of the men and women of the AFP and the PNP and called themselves the Patriotic and Democratic Movement

(PADEM)," Padilla said.

"Such issues are clearly politically motivated and a matter that the AFP does not and will not subscribe to," he added.

According to Padilla, the public should respect the democratic processes.

*Turn to page 3*

**From page 1**

"Let us respect these processes and not allow ourselves to be used by individuals or groups with vested interests. We appeal for sobriety, reason and patience as we await the results of these processes,"

Padilla said.

Padilla stressed the military's constitutional mandate as protector of the people and will stand by law-abiding citizens whenever and wherever needed.

"Having affirmed this, the AFP, however, will not hesitate in acting against forces that shall undermine the stability and security of our country and those who wish to destabilize our nation through unconstitutional means," Padilla said.

"The AFP appeals to the public and the various political groups to respect the apolitical stance of the AFP and help bring unity and healing instead of fomenting divisiveness.

In a statement issued Monday, PADEM said it condemns and holds Duterte accountable for gross crimes in betrayal of public trust and in violation of national sovereignty and democratic rights of the Filipino people.

Among Duterte's alleged crimes are his alleged treating the AFP and the PNP as his private armies and practicing favoritism and violating professional and service standards in the promotion and assignment of officers.

PADEM added that the President was corrupting the PNP and the AFP with a system of monetary awards for the extrajudicial killing of alleged illegal drug users and of New People's Army suspects.

The group also accused Duterte of condoning and protecting top-level illegal drug lords, including his son, Davao City Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte.

PADEM slammed Duterte for allowing China to occupy Philippine-claimed territories in the disputed West Philippine Sea.

It urged Filipinos to exercise their right of assembly and expression to undertake mass actions demanding the ouster of Duterte as it called on fellow officers and members of the AFP and the PNP to join the people.

"We pledge to work for the withdrawal of military and police support for Duterte and his administration in conjunction with mass mobilization of the Filipino people in millions to manifest their demand for the resignation or ouster of Duterte and his administration," PADEM stated.

A certain Antonio Bonifacio signed as spokesman of PADEM.

The accusations appear to be the same accusations aired by Sen. Antonio Trillanes, detained Sen. Leila de Lima and Magdalo partylist Rep. Gary Alejandro, all of whom are identified with the yellows.

**Rody: Go ahead, oust me**  
President Duterte on Monday

night dared critics to boost their efforts to oust him from Malacañang.

The Chief Executive made the statement hours after groups flocked to the People Power Monument in EDSA calling for a stop to the series of extrajudicial killings being attributed to the government's intensified war on illegal drugs.

"I am encouraging you to take to the streets. Everybody. Revolution is an uprising. If you want that, go ahead. You have my blessing. Nobody will stop you in the streets," Duterte said.

"But if you take violence as your option, I say, go ahead, and let us find out. It's an uprising. Go ahead! I am urging all Filipinos who want to take part in the revolution," he added.

Duterte even argued that revolting against the government may be justified.

"Do it. I will be glad if you do it because actually the system here is rotten and government also," he said.

"Let's have an upheaval. But since I am in government, we really are enemies. But do it. I will be glad if you do it. Upheaval? You want to go to war against government? Go ahead," the President added.

Among the new dissidents that had been floated against Duterte on Monday were the supposed military and police elements going by the acronym PADEM that asked for the resignation of President Duterte, the Commander in Chief.

"We, officers and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, hereby make a compact to constitute ourselves as the Patriotic and Democratic Movement (PADEM) and to condemn and hold Rodrigo R. Duterte accountable for gross crimes in betrayal of public trust and in violation of national sovereignty and democratic rights of the Filipino people," Antonio Bonifacio, who introduced himself as PADEM spokesman said.

Bonifacio called on his alleged fellow comrades in arms to join the group's claimed brewing mutiny.

Malacañang, for its part, downplayed PADEM's efforts, saying it is not a verified group among the ranks of uniformed personnel.

"The entire AFP along with all the men and women of the uniformed services and all its civilian personnel stand by the constitutionally mandated government and unequivocally supports the Commander-in-Chief," Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a Palace briefing yesterday.

"The accusations and issues cited by the group are unfounded and uncalled for. Such issues are clearly politically motivated and a matter that the AFP does not and will not subscribe to," he added.

The AFP, for its part, denied PADEM's accusations against the Commander in Chief.

23 August 2017



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# AFP assures it stands by the President

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

**T**he Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said yesterday it is behind President Duterte as it denounced the statement issued by a group claiming to represent the men and women of the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) and calling for resignation or ouster of their Commander-in-Chief.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesman, said the group calling itself the Patriotic and Democratic Movement (PADEM) does not represent the views of the military and police institutions.

Padilla said the accusations and issues raised by PADEM in its statement are unfounded, uncalled for and clearly politically-motivated. These are matters that the AFP does not and will not subscribe to, he added.

In a statement it earlier issued, PADEM Spokesman Antonio Bonifacio said that as officers and members of the AFP and PNP, they have constituted themselves to condemn and hold Duterte accountable for “gross crimes in betrayal of public trust and in violation of national sovereignty and democratic rights of the Filipino people.”

PADEM enumerated a list of supposed crimes of the Duterte administration which included “treating the AFP and the PNP as his private armies;” “condoning and protecting top-level drug lords;” and corrupting the PNP and the AFP with a system of monetary awards for extrajudicial killings.”

In response, the AFP spokesman assured the public that the entire AFP stands by the Constitutionally-mandated government and unequivocally supports the Commander-in-Chief.

“Current developments and issues that this group wishes to take advantage of is now being addressed by the DOJ (Department of Justice) and parties to a possible crime are now under detention. Let us respect these processes and not allow ourselves to be used by individuals or groups with vested interests. We appeal for sobriety, reason and patience as we await the results of these processes,” he said.

### ‘Revolt if you will’

Faced with criticisms over his brutal drug war, President Duterte is willing to step down from office if the people mount a successful uprising against his administration.

The President said he would not stop people from taking to the streets and would actually be “glad” if they initiate a “himagsikan” (revolt) to effect changes

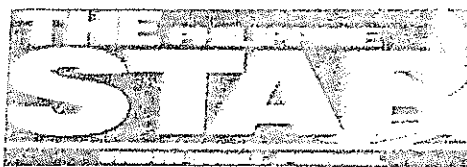
in government.

Duterte asserted that he does not care if people lose trust in him, insisting he has “no illusion” of staying in power anyway.

“You want to (go to) war against government? Go ahead. I am encouraging you to take to the street... Himagsikan is uprising. If you want that, go ahead. You have my blessing. Nobody will stop you in the streets,” he said during a press conference in Malacañang last Monday night.

“Since I am just a worker of government, I will just have to protect (myself). If I find out later that I am the only one defending the government, then I would be happy to go down. Walang problema ‘yan. Wala akong illusions diyam (There’s no problem. I have no illusions” about staying for five years,” he said. (With a report from Genalyn D. Kabiling)

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## AFP dismisses call to oust Duterte

By JAIME LAUDE

The military stands by the constitutionally mandated government and unequivocally supports the commander-in-chief, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) declared yesterday as it dismissed a call from a shadowy group – supposedly comprising soldiers and policemen – for the ouster of President Duterte.

“The AFP categorically denies the recent issued by a group that pretends to be representative of the men and women of the AFP and the PNP (Philippine National Police) and called themselves the Patriotic and Democratic Movement (PADEM),” Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesman, said in a statement.

The same statement was read at Malacañang by presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella.

PADEM, in a statement issued Monday, condemned Duterte and held him accountable for betrayal of public trust and violation of national sovereignty and democratic rights of the Filipino people.

The group also accused President Duterte of treating the AFP and the PNP as his private armies.

The group also accused President Duterte of having a direct hand in extrajudicial killings as part of his anti-drug campaign. It also accused him of allowing China to occupy land features in the West Philippine Sea, as well as bungling anti-terror operations in Marawi City that resulted in the destruction of the city and the deaths of hundreds of civilians and fighting men.

A certain Antonio Bonifacio, who claimed to be the spokesman of the group, signed PADEM’s statement. In the statement, the group said it is now working for the withdrawal of military and police support from the Duterte administration.

“The accusations and issues cited by the group are unfounded and uncalled for. Such issues are clearly politically motivated and a matter that the AFP does not and will not subscribe to,” Padilla said.

Padilla added that the issues raised by the group wishes were now being addressed by the Department of Justice and parties to wrongdoing are now under detention.

“Let us respect these processes and not allow ourselves to be used by individuals or groups with vested interests. We appeal for sobriety, reason and patience as we await the results of these processes,” Padilla said.

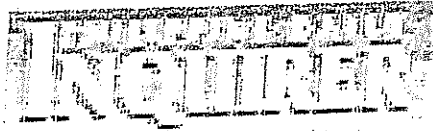
Soldiers, he said, are constitutionally mandated protectors of the people and will stand by law abiding citizens whenever and wherever they’re needed. Moreover, he said, they will not hesitate to act against forces out to undermine the stability and security of the country.

On Monday night, President Duterte stressed that he would welcome any attempt to oust him. The killing of 17-year old Kian delos Santos by policemen during an anti-drug operation in Caloocan had sparked calls for Duterte’s ouster or resignation. CCTV recording of the incident indicated Delos Santos killing was a rubout.

“They have a battle cry. *Himagsikan* (uprising)? Yes, go ahead... Do it. I will be glad if you do it because actually the system here is rotten and government also,” the President told reporters in Malacañang Park Monday night.

“I am encouraging you to take to the streets. Everybody... *himagsikan* is uprising. If you want that, go ahead. You have my blessing. Nobody will stop you in the streets,” he added. – With Alexis Romero, Christina Mendez

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## AFF AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR DUTERTE AMID OUSTER CALLS

By Jeannette I. Andrade  
@jiandradeINQ

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) affirmed on Tuesday its support for the Constitutionally mandated government of President Duterte amid calls by a shadowy group, claiming to be soldiers and policemen, for his ouster.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla likewise questioned the authenticity of the group calling itself the Patriotic and Democratic Movement (Padem) whose members claim to represent "the men and women of the AFP and the PNP (Philippine National Police)."

In a statement, Padilla said "the entire AFP along with all the men and women of the uniformed services and all our civilian personnel stand by the Constitutionally mandated government and unequivocally supports the Commander in Chief."

He described as "unfounded and uncalled for" the issues raised by the Padem in its Aug. 21 statement, which called for the ouster of Mr. Duterte for alleged betrayal of public trust.

Among the issues Padem cited include Mr. Duterte's alleged treatment of the police and military establishments as his private armies and the corruption of the PNP and AFP through a monetary award system for every suspected narcotics user and communist rebel killed.

Other issues cited by Padem include Mr. Duterte's alleged condonation and protection of drug lords and their coddlers; the pardon and promotion of policemen engaged in extrajudicial killings; allowing China to occupy maritime features in the West Philippine Sea; bungling operations in Marawi City; and allegedly favoring certain Chinese traders, Duterte relatives and cronies in awards for infrastructure projects funded by loans from China.

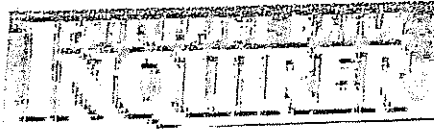
In its statement signed by an Antonio Bonifacio, the group called on all Filipinos to join protests to demand the ouster of Mr. Duterte. Padem also vowed to work for the withdrawal of police and military support from the Duterte administration.

But Padilla pointed out that the issues raised by Padem were being aptly addressed by the concerned government agencies and appealed to the public and various political groups to "respect the apolitical stance of the AFP and help bring unity and healing instead of fomenting divisiveness and collapse."

Padilla said the AFP would not hesitate to act against forces who shall undermine the stability and security of the country and those who wish to destabilize the nation through unconstitutional means. INQ



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# MSU opens amid Marawi chaos

Students return to school as government troops continue to drive terrorists out of Lanao del Sur capital

By **Richel V. Umel**  
@inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—Hundreds of students—some of them with parents in tow—arrived at the main campus of Mindanao State University (MSU) here on Tuesday as the state-run institution opened for the first time since fighting broke out between government troops and the Maute terror group three months ago.

Among those who attended the first day of classes were children of evacuees who had to be transported by 12 buses contracted by the military and the provincial government of Lanao del Sur from Iligan City.

At least 8,000 students had enrolled for School Year 2017-2018 at MSU in Marawi, site of intense fighting between government troops and Islamic State-inspired militants, led by the Maute terror group, that invaded sections of Marawi on May 23.

At least 129 soldiers were killed while nearly 1,000 others were wounded in the fighting that entered its third month today. Military reports said 583 members of the Maute group and its allies were killed in the battle. The group is still holding around 70 hostages.

School officials could not

say if all students enrolled during this school term managed to reach the campus on Tuesday.

"I am very happy that classes have finally started," said Josette Mahusay, a public administration freshman.

But at 5 a.m. on Tuesday, just three hours before the gates of the campus opened, government forces engaged a still unidentified group in a firefight in the nearby town of Marantao.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesperson for the military's Task Force Marawi, said no casualty was reported in the firefight. She said the clash did not disrupt the opening of classes and failed to dampen the mood of students and MSU officials.

Mahusay said the incident led to tighter security in and around MSU. She said authorities had not ordered a campus lockdown.

"We are not afraid. We are determined to start classes, no matter what," said Elizabeth Pinto, a faculty member, whose child was among those who attended classes on Tuesday.

Mahusay said her desire to attend college at MSU had not changed even with the continued fighting between government troops and the Maute group.

After all, MSU, she said, was

far from the battle zone and she felt comfortable at the sight of soldiers securing the campus.

The militants had not occupied MSU. Some people chose to stay inside the campus, where soldiers had encamped, even at the height of the fighting in May.

Brig Gen Felicisimo Budiongan, deputy commander of the Philippine Army's armory division, said the Marantao clash was isolated and had

nothing to do with the opening of classes at MSU.

Inside the Marawi battle zone, not a single shot was fired on Tuesday but a reconnaissance plane was seen circling the city. There was also no airstrike, unlike days earlier when planes dropped bombs into an area where Maute gunmen and their allies had been holed up.

Budiongan said the military would do everything it could to keep everyone safe and keep peace and security inside the MSU campus.

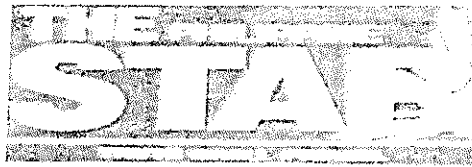
Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesperson for Task Force Bangon Marawi, said the fighting in downtown Marawi, about 2 kilometers from the campus, should not deter students from pursuing their dreams.

"We should not allow any obstacle in pursuit of education," said Jamaloden Basar, MSU vice president for administration and finance.

Lanao del Sur Vice Gov. Mamintal Alonto Adiong Jr. said the decision of school officials to reopen MSU and the students' desire to pursue their education showed that terror failed to defeat dreams.

"We stood up against them. We would fight terror and we would not allow terror to defeat us," he said. INQ

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# Maute militants raid Army detachment; 2 killed

**LANAO DEL SUR – Suspected Maute terrorists attacked an Army detachment in Marantao, Lanao del Sur yesterday in what authorities said was an attempt to divert attention to the fighting in Marawi. Two militants were killed.**

Village elders identified the fatalities as a certain Ekram and an alias Agakhan.

The Marantao police said four soldiers were wounded in the gunfight.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesperson for the Western Mindanao Command and Joint Task Force Marawi (JTFM), said an undetermined number of militants attacked the detachment in Barangay Poblacion before 5 a.m.

Petinglay said the troops recovered two rocket-propelled grenades, a grenade launcher and various ammunition. Members of the Barangay Police Action Team, Marawi police and soldiers from nearby

detachments reinforced the troops during the gunfight that lasted for more than an hour.

Police said the area was cleared at about 9:30 a.m.

"There is no truth to reports and text messages saying the incident caused a security lockdown in Marawi City," Petinglay said.

The attack coincided with the opening of classes at the Mindanao State University (MSU).

Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, JTFM commander, said security was tightened in the premises of MSU following the attack.

Police and military personnel escorted around 600 students and MSU officials

from Iligan, who arrived in 12 buses. They also provided security to the other students and university staff.

Marantao local officials urged the military to refrain from launching an airstrike, saying they will do everything to protect their communities.

"Nobody wanted to leave their homes so please don't launch any airstrike... Just support us in fighting these terrorists," Marantao Mayor Racma Abinal told a radio interview.

## Police station recovered

In Marawi, authorities have taken over a police station occupied by Maute militants, Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said yesterday.

"I just received a call from Task Force Marawi informing me that they have retaken

the Marawi City police station... I'm happy... I congratulate everyone for the hard work," Dela Rosa said during the 116th anniversary of the PNP at Camp Ruperto Kangleon in Palo, Leyte yesterday.

Dela Rosa said government forces also recovered the remains of the deputy police chief and an investigator killed by Maute militants.

As this developed, Col. Edgard Arevalo, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman, said two more Maute militants and another soldier were killed in the fighting in Marawi yesterday.

"As of today, Aug. 22, 585 enemies and 129 soldiers have been killed," Arevalo said.

Authorities said the terrorists are holed up in a few areas in two barangays. – John Unson, Roel Pareño, Jaime Laude, Miriam Desacada

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# Maute supporters stage attack in Lanao del Sur

**BY VICTOR REYES**

ALLEGED sympathizers of the Maute Group yesterday attacked a military detachment in Marantao town in Lanao del Sur, about three kilometers from the main area in Marawi City, where soldiers have been battling the terrorists for three months now.

One of the sympathizers was

killed while four soldiers were wounded.

The attack is seen as a "diversionary tactic, to divert military attention from the main battle area," said Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the military Joint Task Force Ranao based in Marawi City.

Brawner said the group was

See MAUTE ► Page B6

## MAUTE

also possibly aiming to disrupt the opening of classes at the Mindanao State University in Marawi City. He said classes opened despite the incident.

Brawner said about 20 Maute supporters attacked the detach-

ment at around 5:20 a.m., triggering a one-hour firefight.

The detachment, manned by soldiers and policemen, also serves as a checkpoint.

During clearing operations, troops recovered the body of a still unidentified Maute supporter, a rocket propelled-grenade, molotov

bombs, assorted ammunition, and P30,000 cash.

Asked if the group will reinforce the Maute remnants in the main battle area in Marawi, Brawner said: "If they are on the way to the main battle area, they are going to avoid the detachment and enter (the main battle area). But it's not... this is just

a harassment (incident)," he said.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs chief, said the conflict which started on May 23 has left 585 Maute members dead, 129 soldiers and policemen, and 45 civilians.

Around 50 Maute members remain in Marawi.

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Pahina. 3

### **3 brgy na lang sakop ng Maute sa Marawi**

Ilang barangay na lamang sa Marawi City ang sakop ng teroristang Maute Group.

Ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo, nasa dalawa o tatlong barangay na lamang ang hawak ng teroristang grupo.

Dahil dito ay naniniwala si Arevalo na malaki ang posibilidad na nasa loob pa rin ng battle area ang magkapatid na sina Omar

at Abdullah Maute gayundin ang kanilang lider na si Isnilon Hapilon.

Base sa record ng AFP, dakong alas-7:00 ng gabi kamakalawa ay mayroon dalawang terorista ang napatay habang isa ang napatay sa hanay ng militar.

Sa kabuuan, mayroon nang napapatay na 585 sa panig ng Maute group, sibilyan 45, 128 killed in action, 1 728 na mga bakwit ang na-rescue at 648 na mga armas ang narekoher

ng military.

Hindi naman nagbigay ng deadline ang AFP kung kailan matatapos ang giyera sa Marawi City hangga't hindi umano tuluyang nababawi ng tropa ng sundalo ang buong area para masabing tapos na ang kaguluhan dito.

Ngunit, nilinaw ni Arevalo na isa lamang ang natiitayk nila, na ang giyera sa Marawi ay nasa huling yugto na (*Gemma Garcia with trainee Engrid Genova*)

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## Charity show for PH soldiers raises ₱3.5M

TOKEN Lizares has cemented her status as Charity Diva when she performed at the Awit sa Marawi and raised ₱3.5 million for Filipino soldiers at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Theater in Quezon City last Aug. 15.

"My experience in the Marawi show was unforgettable. Touching. It was fulfilling kasi alam ko na 100 percent for a good cause ang show. And that Joel Cruz is really heaven sent for Marawi," said Lizares during an interview after the show.

Lizares has been helping many charitable institutions here and abroad. Recently, she was one of the artists who staged a benefit concert for the victims of the Marawi siege held in AFP Theater.

She started singing at 19

performing at the Manila Garden and Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel (now Sofitel). She has also performed in different Asian countries like Malaysia, Japan, New York, and Singapore back in the 80s singing mostly for Royal Families.

The Charity Diva also appeared on television shows like "Penthouse Live," "Family Kuwarta O Kahon," "The Lala Aunor Show," "Student Canteen" among others. She was also a mainstay on "Walang Tulugan" hosted by the late Master Showman German Moreno. Acting is also in her blood. She was the best friend of Tita Asya (played by Shalala) in ABS CBN's teleserye "Pusong Ligaw."

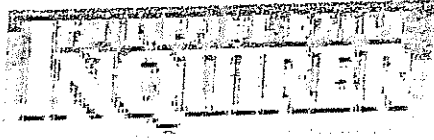
These days, Lizares is busy promoting her third album, "Til The World Is Gone" un-

der Ivory Records and will be coming out this August. Her songs are already available in Spotify, iTunes, Amazons, and Google Play store and is distributed by AstroVision-Astro Plus.

Lizares is also into composing. She has written songs for Concert Queen Pops Fernandez ("What Makes Me Love You") and Jukebox singer Eva Eugenio ("Bakit May Ulap Ang Landas"), both under OctoArts Records. She has two other albums named "Token of Love" and "Ikaw Lamang Sinta."

In 2003, the proud Ilongga was nominated by the Aliw Awards as Best New Female Artist and was given a special award by Shell Gasoline for her numerous charity works and giving. **(Robert R. Re-  
quintina)**

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**'OFFICER IN CHARGE'**

# DUTERTE MAY APPOINT AÑO USEC TO SKIRT LAW

By Philip C. Tubeza  
@pctubezaINQ

President Duterte is keen on having Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año at the helm of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) despite a law that bars him from immediately assuming the post after he retires in October.

Mr. Duterte said he could appoint Año as an undersecretary or senior aide in Malacañang to oversee the DILG to get around the DILG Act of 1990, which 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."

"It's Año but Año cannot work as a secretary because there is a prohibition that he cannot be appointed (immediately)," the President told a press briefing.

"I need his services. Año would be under me. I would make him a senior aide of the Office of the President or ... undersecretary if that is legally feasible," he added.

Mr. Duterte said Año could have a rank of undersecretary at the Palace but he "performs as officer in charge" of the DILG.

However, the President said he wanted Año to finish first the crisis in Marawi, which was overrun by Maute terrorists on May 23.

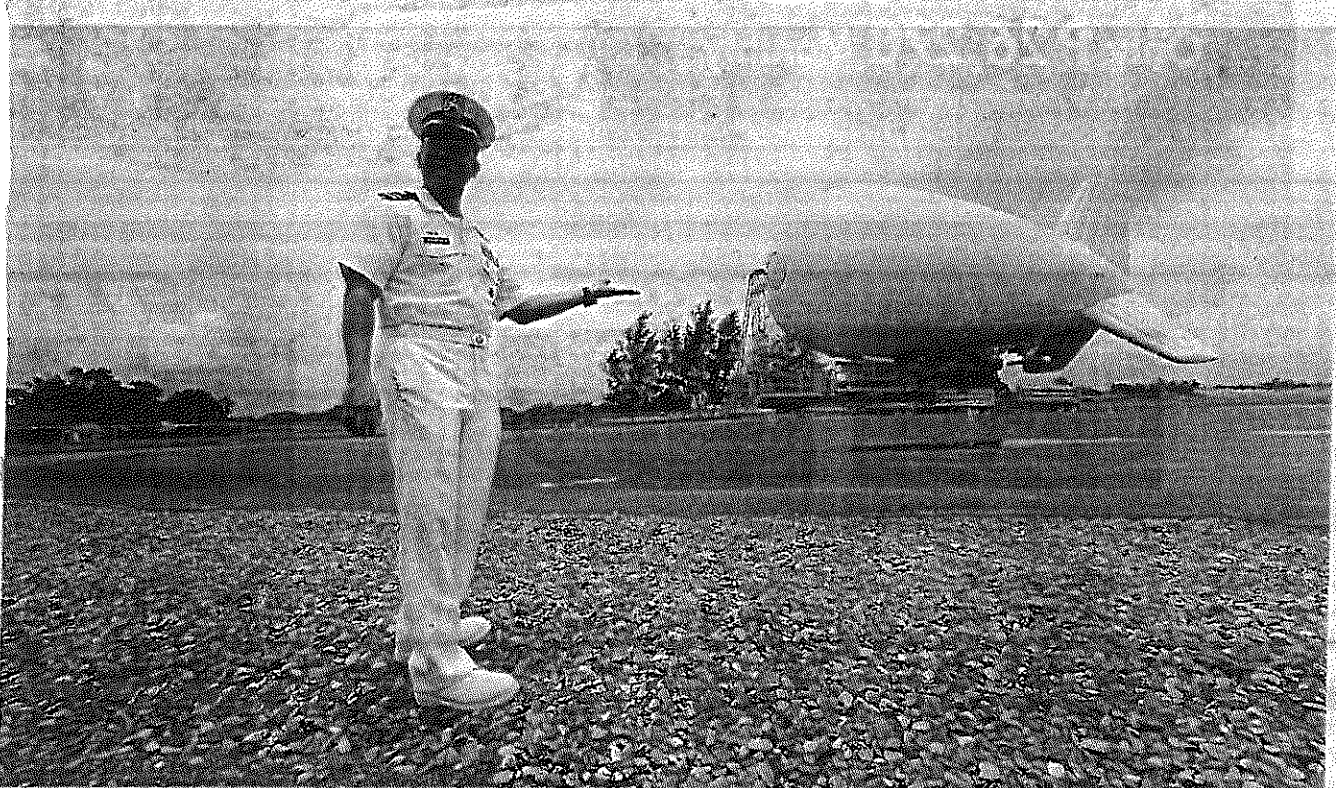
Mr. Duterte announced Año's designation as the next DILG secretary on May 10 after former Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno was fired in April over alleged corruption involving the purchase of firetrucks from Austria.

Undersecretary Catalino Cuy is running the DILG as acting Interior secretary. INQ

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MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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**NAVY BOOST** – A member of the Philippine Navy boasts of the newly acquired tethered Aerostat Radar System at the Naval Education and Training Command in San Antonio, Zambales last Monday. The radar system, donated thru Joint US Military Assistance Group, will be utilized by the Navy in Maritime Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance by effectively detecting maritime and air traffic within the country's coastal water using its sensors. It provides telemetry data for monitoring of ambient temperature, pressure, wind speed and other parameters. (Czar Dancel)



## **ONLINE NEWS**

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[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

# 100 lady soldiers, cops to help in initial Marawi rehab

Priam Nepomuceno

Around 100 lady police officers and soldiers will be deployed in Marawi City to help in the initial cleaning and rehabilitation phase of the war-torn area.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs office chief, said the contingent will consists of 40 enlisted military and 60 police personnel.

These personnel will be deployed to give the cleaning and rehabilitation phase a "feminine touch".

Arevalo said these women will be leaving for Marawi City via Villamor Airbase, Pasay City on August 29.

As of 7 p.m. Monday, Maute Group terrorists killed in the ongoing Marawi City clearing operations are now placed at 585 along with 129 government troops and 45 civilians.

Weapons seized are at 648 and rescued civilians at 1,728. Latest monitoring indicated that Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, Omar and Abdullah Maute, the alleged leader of the Maute Group terrorists, are still inside the city.

Fighting in Marawi City broke out when government troops tried to arrest Hapilon and his cohorts last May 23. (PNA)

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## AFP denies links with group calling for Duterte ouster

Priam Nepomuceno

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Tuesday said it has nothing to do with the group calling itself the "Patriotic and Democractic Movement" (PADEM) which is seeking the ouster of President Rodrigo Duterte.

The group, allegedly composed of AFP and PNP members, claimed that the Chief Executive committed "gross crimes in betrayal of public trusts and in violation of national sovereignty and democractic rights of the the Filipino people."

"The AFP categorically denies the recent statement issued by a group that pretends to be representative of the men and women of the AFP and the PNP and called themselves the PADEM," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said in a message to AFP reporters.

He added that the entire AFP supports the constitutionally mandated government and unequivocally supports the President who is also the Commander-in-Chief.

"The accusations and issues cited by the group are unfounded and uncalled for. Such issues are clearly politically motivated and a matter that the AFP does not and will not subscribe to," Padilla stressed.

He also added that current developments and issues that this group wishes to take advantage of is now being addressed by the Department of Justice and parties to a possible crime are now under detention.

"Let us respect these processes and not allow ourselves to be used by individuals or groups with vested interests. We appeal for sobriety, reason and patience as we await the results of these processes," the AFP spokesperson added.

Also, as the constitutionally mandated protectors of the people, Padilla said the AFP will stand by the law abiding citizens whenever necessary.

"Having affirmed this, the AFP however, will not hesitate in acting against forces who shall undermine the stability and security of our country and those who wish to destabilize our nation thru unconstitutional means," he pointed out.

In the same vein, Padilla said the entire AFP is appealing to the public and the various political groups to respect the apolitical stance of the military and help bring unity and healing instead of fomenting divisiveness and collapse. (PNA)