

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



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

25 August 2017

Friday

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

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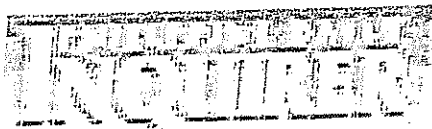
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PANAHON TV **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**
 www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV **BALANCED NEWS - FEARLESS VIEWS**

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST AUGUST 25, 2017 FRIDAY

TROPICAL DEPRESSION JOJOLA - ESTIMATED AT 400 KM NORTHEAST OF CEBU, CATAOBIANES SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF LUZON (AUGUST 25 - August 26, 2017)

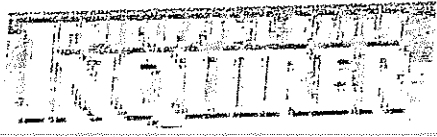
SUNRISE 5:43 AM **SUNSET** 6:13 PM
MOONRISE 8:38 AM **MOONSET** 8:54 PM
NEW MOON AUG 22 7:30 AM **FIRST QUARTER** AUG 23 4:12 PM
LOW TIDE 7:08 PM **HIGH TIDE** 12:12 PM
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
 0.27 Meter - 1.01 Meter

Partly cloudy to all time cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms
 Mostly clear with scattered showers and/or thunderstorms
 Partly with gusty wind

City	Forecast 1	Forecast 2	Temp Range 1	Temp Range 2
METRO MANILA			24 - 29 °C	24 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO			23 - 29 °C	24 - 30 °C
LAOAG			24 - 29 °C	23 - 28 °C
BAGUIO			15 - 20 °C	15 - 19 °C
SBMA/CLARK			23 - 29 °C	23 - 29 °C
TAGAYTAY			23 - 28 °C	22 - 26 °C
LEGAZPI			25 - 28 °C	25 - 29 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA			24 - 29 °C	24 - 29 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD			24 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C
METRO CEBU			25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C
TACLOBAN			25 - 29 °C	25 - 30 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO			24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO			25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
ZAMBOANGA			24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION MONDAY - FRIDAY 11 AM & 5 PM **PILIPINAS HD** WEEKDAYS 6 AM, 6:30 PM & 9 PM WEEKENDS 6 AM

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FAELDON LINKS LACSON, SON TO SMUGGLING

STORY BY TINA G. SANTOS AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO

Outgoing BOC chief says Sen. Panfilo Lacson is accusing him of corruption because the customs bureau is closing in on the senator's son for cement smuggling.

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FROM A1

By Tina G. Santos and Christine O. Avendaño
@Team_Inquirer

TAYTAY, RIZAL—A day after Sen. Panfilo Lacson named him as among the corrupt officials in the Bureau of Customs (BOC), outgoing Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon fired back at Lacson, accusing the senator and his son of cement smuggling.

Faeldon, in a press conference near his home in Barangay Dolores in Taytay, Rizal province, said the senator's son and namesake, Panfilo Lacson Jr., was the managing director of Bonjourno Trading, a company that the customs commissioner said was cited as the "No. 1 smuggler of cement in the country" by the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (CeMAP) Inc.

Lacson, however, said Faeldon should have filed charges against his son if he had a case against the latter.

"If my son is guilty or he is into smuggling, I will be the one and not (Faeldon) to file a case against him," Lacson said in a news conference, which he called after the resigned BOC chief made the public accusations.

He said his son had denied any wrongdoing.

67 shipments

Faeldon said that during his one-year stint at the BOC, Bonjourno brought in 67 shipments of cement, 63 of which were valued at P4.6 billion.

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freight (cost) is \$8-\$9 per ton," the senator said.

Faeldon said he was still looking into Bonjourno's 63 other shipments to determine if the company had paid the correct freight charges.

The younger Lacson, he said, also went to his office several times and allegedly tried to bribe his staff.

"Ping Lacson mentioned players at the BOC. My question to him: 'Are you a player (in smuggling)? Is your son a player? Is he your dummy?'" Faeldon said.

The senator said he was not a dummy for his son, noting that if his son had indeed made so much money, he would have finished the construction of his house, which began two years ago.

Lacson said he asked his son about Faeldon's claim that he was delivering money to the commissioner's office.

"He said he had not done so at anytime, he had not met Faeldon. He had absolutely no reason to bribe Faeldon or the customs bureau. That's a big big lie," he said," Lacson said.

Faeldon said the senator seemed to know everything at the BOC. "Does he know this? Or are you the one behind this?" he said, referring to Lacson Jr.'s alleged smuggling activities.

Closing in

"How much tax are you paying? You brought in tons of cement. If those do not match, then you are a smuggler, Senator Lacson, unless you tell me you do not know Panfilo Lacson Jr.'s activities," he said.

"If you deny knowing these,

you know nothing about Customs. You are a liar," Faeldon added.

Faeldon said Lacson's accusations against him was meant to remove him and his appointed men from the BOC as they were closing in on Bonjourno's illegal activities.

"They do not want the truth to come out. They want us all out, the six of us," he said, referring to the former military officers that he had recommended to key posts in the BOC who were also named on Lacson's list of alleged corrupt Customs officials.

Faeldon also accused Lacson of using the issue to launch another bid for the presidency.

The outgoing customs chief called on the Senate blue ribbon committee, which is investigating the entry to the country of a P6.4-billion "shabu" (crystal meth) shipment from China that passed through the BOC, to also investigate Lacson and his son.

Faeldon cited pieces of evidence, including bank certificates and a letter from CeMAP, which listed Bonjourno as among the four importers "still undervaluing their freight rates."

"Let us investigate this because this is smuggling of cement by a high-ranking government official," he said. INQ



WATCH: Lacson says Faeldon should have filed charges against my son
<http://inq.news/LacsonVsFaeldon>

He said one of his staff members, a brokerage exam topnotcher, discovered that Lacson Jr.'s company attempted to undervalue by 50 percent the freight cost of at least four shipments.

Faeldon said Lacson's son declared a freight cost of \$8 per metric ton when the prevailing market price was between \$16 and \$20.

"We discovered the smuggled shipment during our first 12 days in office at [the Bureau of] Customs," he said.

'Fake documents'

"In a span of a week, the company managed to bring in three shipments worth a total of P106 million. How is that possible for a company whose starting capital is only P20,000? These are only initial three ships," Faeldon said.

"Can he afford this? Did he

pay the right tariff? The right tax?" he asked, adding that Bonjourno also submitted fake documents to try to justify the amount that it was insisting to pay.

"Of course, this is smuggling," he added.

But Faeldon said the four shipments were eventually released after the company paid the correct freight charges.

Lacson said there was no smuggling because cement was not subject to customs tariff and duties but was only covered by the value-added tax, which is collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

63 other shipments

"What Faeldon is saying that (the tax for freight cost should be) \$16 per ton. That's too high. One friend who is exporting nickel to China, which is supposed to be more costly, the

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Expert: Kian kneeling when shot by cops

By PAOLO ROMERO

Teenage student Kian Loyd delos Santos was slumped or kneeling on the ground when three bullets were fired into his body – two to the head and one in the back, forensic experts testified before the Senate yesterday.

In separate testimonies before the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs, Dr. Erwin Erfe, head of the forensics department of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO), and Dr. Jocelyn Cruz of the Northern Police District (NPD) said two bullets entered the 17-year-old victim's head, one behind the left ear and one through the ear itself.

Both experts said the bullets that

entered the head had an "upward trajectory," indicating Delos Santos was prone when shot by an assailant standing on the left side of the Grade 11 student.

Cruz and Erfe conducted separate autopsies on Delos Santos, whom police said engaged the lawmen in a firefight during an anti-drug operation in Caloocan City on Aug. 16.

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The three police officers – PO3 Arnel Oares, PO1 Jerwin Cruz and PO1 Jeremiah Pereda – accused of killing Delos Santos claimed the victim fired at them, triggering a shootout.

However, a security video showed two of the three officers dragging an individual to an alley where Delos Santos was later found.

"The position of the victim, he was kneeling face down when he was shot," Cruz told the panel chaired by Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Erfe, whose services were sought by the victim's parents, however, said there was a third shooter who shot the victim in the back.

"He (assailant) was at the near contact distance, *malapit na malapit* (very close). The shooters were standing," Erfe said.

Erfe said he conducted the autopsy after Delos Santos'

body was already embalmed by a funeral parlor in Malabon City.

It was not clear why the NPD autopsy missed the third bullet wound found by Erfe on the victim's back.

Lacson noted that both the PAO and NPD autopsies found two exit wounds in the head but there was no exit cavity for the third entry at the back.

He said the Philippine National Police (PNP) Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) found only two slugs, apparently from the head shots.

"So where's the third slug? Have you found it?" Lacson asked the two forensic experts. There were no clear answers as other senators cut in to ask their questions.

Cruz's autopsy determined the head shots were done at a distance of 60 centimeters, or two feet or more. She noted that there was no "tattoo-

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ng,” or the marks left by inburned gunpowder, on the entry wounds when the gun is fired at close range.

Senators asked Cruz to provide photographs of the autopsy, but she said police did not have them.

Erfe said it was possible not to have tattooing even if shots are fired at close range.

The reasons for the differing autopsies were not resolved during the hearing.

Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV also asked the whereabouts of Delos Santos' clothes on the night he was killed but no one present in the hearing could answer.

Chief Insp. Amor Cerillo,

who was relieved as head of the Caloocan Police Community Precinct 7 where the three policemen are assigned, said initial ballistics report indicated that the 9 mm slugs recovered from the crime scene came from Oares' pistol.

Shoot first, ask later

When asked by Aquino to comment on the autopsies, particularly that Delos Santos was shot while prone, PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said in Filipino: “If you shoot someone in the back, who is kneeling, you're not a law enforcer, you're a criminal, a murderer.”

In yesterday's hearing, the police officials seemed to justify the killing of Delos Santos, learning that the victim was into illegal drugs only after he was killed.

Chief Supt. Roberto Fajardo, the NPD director who was relieved of his duty, told the hearing there was no specific target of the Aug. 16 operation in Caloocan City, but police could confirm Delos Santos was involved in drugs.

Asked if those drug links were known after the killing, Fajardo said: “Yes. We have to check the background. We checked after.”

He said a drug suspect arrested the following day confirmed Delos Santos was dealing drugs.

Senior Supt. Chito Bersaluna, the former Caloocan police chief, said Delos Santos could be tied to the drugs trade by a recovered cellphone and “based on what came out on social media” after his killing.

Those admissions will add to the growing scrutiny on police behind a crackdown that President Duterte on Wednesday said would not stop. He said there was no justification for the killing of Delos Santos, and police responsible would face justice.

The three police accused of involvement in the killing said little during the inquiry. One refused to speak, while the other two maintained the individual on the security video was their “asset,” not Delos Santos.

Witnesses said otherwise.

They claimed seeing Delos Santos being dragged into a corner before he was found dead in a ditch near his home. A .45 caliber pistol was reportedly found in his left hand.

The same witnesses had been taken into custody by Sen. Risa Hontiveros, who said it was only “temporary.”

She said the families of the witnesses sought her for their protection.

PAO chief Persida Acosta echoed Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II's call to Hontiveros to surrender the witnesses for custody under the government's witness protection program.

The Senate, however, has provided protective custody to the three witnesses.

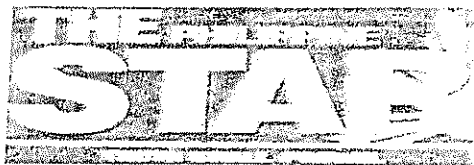
Hontiveros said the executive session to hear the testimony of the three witnesses did not push through because Lacson wanted to secure a written authorization letter from the mother of one of the witnesses first before speaking with them.

Two witnesses are minors and are related, so the authorization from the mother of one of them would cover for both.

The sister of the two minors initially signed the consent form to allow Hontiveros, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and Caloocan Bishop Pablo David to have them in custody.

She also went to the Senate yesterday to give her consent to the chamber to provide them with protective custody. – With Marvin Sy, Edu Punay, Reuters

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Army battalion to be deployed in Basilan

MAGUINDANAO - The Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) will deploy another Army battalion in Maluso, Basilan to prevent a repeat of the attack by Abu Sayyaf bandits on Monday.

The contingent will not only secure the area but also engage in civic-military activities, said Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Westmincom chief.

Nine villagers, including a militiaman, were killed while 16 others were wounded when the bandits led by Furudji Indama attacked Barangay Tubigan. The bandits strafed and burned houses and a barangay day care center.

Four bandits were killed and six others wounded when the villagers returned

fire.

The Abu Sayyaf beheaded a retired soldier in another barangay while fleeing toward a forested area.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Mujiv Hataman distributed relief goods to affected residents on Wednesday. Local officials provided cash assistance to the families of

the slain villagers.

Village officials expressed concern that the bandits would avenge the death of their comrades.

Residents said more soldiers should be deployed in their barangay, noting that only a small group of militiamen and soldiers are deployed in their village.

- John Unson

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Oust-Duterte move 'imaginary' - 4th ID chief

By **CANCER ORDONEZ IMAM**

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY - The newly-installed 4th Infantry Division commander of the Philippine Army has branded as "imaginary" the clamor of an alleged group composed of military and police personnel to oust President Duterte.

"It's imaginary. We have worked for so long about professionalizing our Armed Forces, and these people are just, maybe, imagining what they can," Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva said.

Villanueva was chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP). He replaced Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr, who

was assigned as chief of the Southern Luzon Command.

A group that called itself the Patriotic and Democratic Movement (PADEM), in a statement, has called for the ouster of President Duterte.

"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," PADEM said in a statement.

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Son of former 4th ID chief assumes same post after 29 years

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - The new commander of the Army's North-eastern and Northern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division, the largest infantry division of the Armed Forces

of the Philippines (AFP) stationed in Mindanao, is the son of the former head of the same ID 29 years ago.

Maj. Gen. Ronald C. Villanueva, former head of the AFP's Intelligence Service, replaced Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal, Jr., who already assumed

the post of chief of the Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar, Lucena City last Friday.

Villanueva's father, Retired Brig. Gen. Rogelio F. Villanueva, who was the 4th ID commander, attended the ceremony.

"Camp Evangelista has been a

home for my family. I grew up here since my father led this division from 1988 to 1990. Who would have thought that someday I would be standing here delivering my remarks as division commander just like my father 29 years ago," Villanueva said.

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• **NPA's free abducted
CAFGU in Agusan**

BUTUAN CITY - In less than three days in captivity, the New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Wednesday afternoon freed a former member of the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) in the outskirts of Barangay Mahaba, Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte province. In a live broadcast at a local radio station here late Wednesday afternoon, a certain Ke Sandara Sidiakan, spokesperson for guerilla-Front Committee 21 of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee, said the custodial force of the NPA released Arnold Panisan, 34, after he pledged to cut his link with the government military forces in the area. Panisan was formally turned over by the NPA custodial force to local officials of Mahaba and third party facilitators before he was turned over to his immediate kin. He was officially released at 3:27 p.m. on Wednesday. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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The Manila Times

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Troops regain Marawi police station, mosque

BY DEMPSEY REYES

AFTER three months of intense fighting, government troops finally regained the Marawi City police station and the Grand Mosque in Marawi City.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., military spokesman, said troops took control of the police station on Tuesday. Prior to that, soldiers cleared nine structures inside the main battle zone, where at least 29 buildings were regained.

Padilla said the mosque was

used by the Maute Group as a storage area.

The fighting entered its 95th day on Thursday.

"Our use of artillery fire in several places occupied by the enemy are still ongoing and air strikes or air support, close air

support from our Air Forces is also continuous," Padilla said in a news conference.

The military has yet to get the latest report on the number of casualties from the ground. Military officials earlier said clearing operations had been slow because many of the buildings in Marawi were littered with explosives. Padilla said Maute terrorists planted explosives while retreating.

Padilla said Maute leaders Isnilon Hapilon, Abdullah and Omarkhayam Maute are still inside the battle area.

"We want to believe that they are

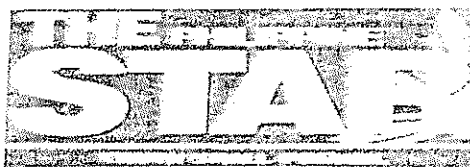
still in Marawi," he said.

At least 300 buildings in Marawi City have yet to be cleared of explosives and booby traps.

"We need to clear every place, buildings and we also have to be careful in clearing these because we are all aware that these buildings were previously used as strongholds by our enemies," Padilla said.

So far, 129 soldiers have been killed in the clashes while 45 civilians were slain by terrorists. At least 595 Maute members have been neutralized by the government forces.

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Gov't troops close to retaking Marawi

By **JAIME LAUDE**

Government security forces moved closer to ending the battle for Marawi City by retaking the police headquarters previously occupied by the Maute group.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the troops are also close to retaking the grand mosque that the terrorists have been using as main base since they occupied the city last May 23.

"The retaking of the Marawi City police station, which is highly strategic, is very significant in our ongoing operations to liberate the city," Padilla said.

Padilla said the Maute terrorists are now left with little space to maneuver. He added that out of the 600 buildings that the terrorists have occupied in the main battle area, half have been cleared by government troops.

"Operations are still ongoing,

including the clearing of the Grand Mosque," Padilla said.

The extremists had used the Grand Mosque as well as other mosques in the city as machine gun and sniper nests.

The military said up to 50 militants are still inside the mosque, holding 46 civilians hostage.

Mosques and other places of worship were excluded from the airstrike target list by the military.

Padilla added the troops are still hunting down Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

Hapilon, the designated Islamic State emir in Southeast Asia, is still in the area along with some of his top lieutenants, Padilla said.

Padilla explained it would not be possible for Hapilon to slip past the tight military and police security cordon thrown around the city to include the passageway in Lanao Lake to prevent any escape or reinforcement.

— With Roel Pareño

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Malaya
The Katipala Newspaper

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Duterte visits anew main battle area in Marawi

**BY VICTOR REYES
AND JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR**

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday visited troops battling terrorists in Marawi City, hours after the troops gained control of a mosque that had been occupied by the Maute Group.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the military's Joint Task Force Ranao, said the President arrived at around 4 p.m. in the main battle area and talked with the soldiers.

The main battle area is where the fighting is confined. It is now less than a square kilometer and is in portions of two barangays in the city. Military estimates say there are about 50 Maute members confined in the main battle area.

"He stayed for about two hours. He went to the main battle area. He congratulated the troops for the progress (of the operations), because we gained control of the Islamic center," said Brawner.

It was the third time Duterte visited Marawi City since the conflict started on May 23, and the second in the main battle area. The first was on August 4.

Duterte extended some financial aid, food

See DUTERTE > Page B3



In war zone. President Duterte, in full battle gear and armed with a high-powered gun, shows up in Marawi. COURTESY OF THE ARMED FORCES

packs, and watches.

Zia Alonto Adiong, head of the Marawi Crisis Management Committee, said in a tweet Duterte "went inside the main battle" ground.

"Thrice he visited Marawi & (and) twice inside the MBA (main battle ground)," Adiong said.

The conflict has already resulted in the death of 595 Maute members, 129 soldiers and policemen, and 45 civilians.

Brawner said the President also spoke to the troops about the need for the military to focus on its duties and responsibilities.

"He also talked against corruption. He told the soldiers not think of that and just focus on their job," he said.

Brawner said the President was accompanied AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año, Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, and national security adviser Hermogenes Esperon, among other officials.

Lt. Col. Emmanuel Garcia, chief of the 4th Civil Relations Service, said: "He (Duterte) congratulated the troops for a job well done in defending Marawi from terrorist elements and for retaking the Islamic center this morning."

"Message to troops, in a nutshell, is he will not abandon troops whether in the fight versus LTG (local terrorist group), drug lords

or common criminals as long as the troops are doing their sworn duty to enforce the law and protect the Republic, and doing it in accordance with law," Garcia also said.

Brawner said soldiers gained control of the mosque yesterday after some enemy resistance. He said three soldiers were reported injured in the fighting.

"The attack was not frontal because we want to preserve the mosque. What we did was envelopment to preserve the mosque. We didn't bomb it, no frontal attack," said Brawner.

A military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Grand Mosque was abandoned by the Maute men who repositioned themselves in structures.

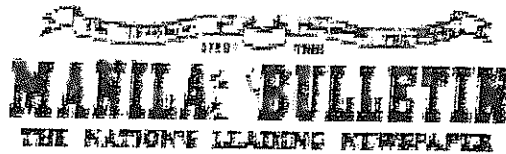
The source said soldiers gained control of mosque past noon yesterday and is has been cleared of improvised explosive devices.

He said the structures at the back of the mosque are "stronger."

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Duterte sets foot in Marawi's main battle zone anew

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

President Duterte visited the war-torn city of Marawi, Lanao del Sur's main battle area for the second time on Thursday.

In photos shared to members of the media by Special Assistant to the Presi-

dent Christopher Go Thursday evening, Duterte, clad in full military attire, was seen riding a vehicle.

Marawi Crisis Management Committee head Zia Alonto Adiong, in his Twitter account, said Duterte visited inside the main battle area.

This was the third time Du- ►8

terte visited the besieged city and his second time inside the main battle area.

According to a Palace official, Duterte was accompanied by National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año.

The Palace official also added that Duterte once again distributed financial aid, food packs, and watches to the soldiers. He also delivered a speech before the government troops.

Duterte last visited Marawi City on August 5 where he expressed his support and appreciation to the soldiers.

"I have to be here because I want all of you to know that - mahal ko kayo (I love you)," Duterte had told the soldiers during his August 5 visit.

The President also said that he is hopeful that the government will not lose more troops because of the ongoing battle.

"I hope you will be able to clean up Marawi City and get rid of the terrorists," Duterte said.

He also visited to wounded soldiers in Camp Ranao and gave a

short message before the members of Joint Task Force Marawi.

Duterte was able to visit Marawi for the first time since the war broke out last July 20 after two failed attempts due to the bad weather.

The war in Marawi City erupted on May 23, 2017 while Duterte was in Moscow, Russia, for an official visit. The insurgency prompted Duterte to declare martial law in the entire island of Mindanao.

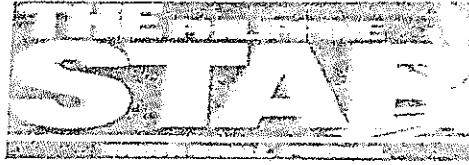
Duterte's declaration expired last July 22 but Congress granted its extension until December 31, 2017.

According to the August 23, 2017 report of the AFP, a total of 45 civilians were killed by the terrorists while 1,728 civilians have been rescued by the government troops.

The government troops were able to kill a total of 595 members of the pro-Islamic State (ISIS) Maute Group, while the number of government casualties is at 129.

In his speech last Wednesday, Duterte recalled how he knew about the brewing threat of terrorism in Marawi City but said he was appalled how the terrorists were able to stockpile on ordnance, ammunition, explosives, and firearms.

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Duterte visits Marawi anew

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte visited Marawi City again yesterday, as the crisis created by the Islamic State-linked Maute terrorist group entered its third month.

Clad in a camouflage military uniform, bulletproof vest and helmet, the President was armed with a rifle while traveling around the besieged Islamic town.

Duterte has repeatedly said he would keep coming back to boost the morale of soldiers deployed in the area.

His visit yesterday was kept under wraps so that even some ranking military and security officers were not aware where he exactly went.

At least 40 Maute terrorists are

believed to still be in the city and are keeping close to 300 residents, including a Catholic priest, as hostages.

As military operations in the city wind down, some residents have returned to their homes and the Mindanao State University has resumed classes. – **Edith Regalado**

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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AFP forms anti-terror task force

By JOSEPH JUBELAG

KIDAPAWAN CITY, North Cotabato - The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has organized an anti-terrorism task force that will intensify the security operations against foreign and local terrorist groups and criminal elements out to sow terror in the city.

Colonel Roberto Ancan, 1002nd Brigade commander, said the task force headed by Lt. Col. Noel Luoang will be composed of personnel from the 39th Infantry Battalion, 72nd Infantry Battalion, local police, and public safety office of the local government which will take charge of maintaining peace and order and curbing terror threats for the entire city which is home to some 150 local residents.

Mayor Joseph Evangelista said the

city government will provide the necessary funding and logistical support to the task force which is tasked not only to secure the city but the neighboring towns as well.

Evangelista cautioned the members of the task force to uphold the human rights of civilians while discharging their official duties.

"The task force's primordial task is to secure the people of the city from terror threats and criminality," Evangelista said.

He said the city is plagued with imminent threats coming from communist rebels and Islamic militants.

Luoang, former executive officer of 39th IB, said the task force will conduct anti-terrorism operations and will help the local police in law enforcement operations.

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Malaya
The Nation's Newspaper

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Rights group raps new AFP intel chief

THE human rights group Karapatan yesterday criticized the designation of Brig. Gen. Macairog Alberto as chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (ISAFP), saying he is behind killings in Compostela Valley.

In a statement, Karapatan secretary general Cristina Palabay said the promotion of Alberto as chief of all the military intelligence unit “is another step towards this worsening climate of impunity in the country”

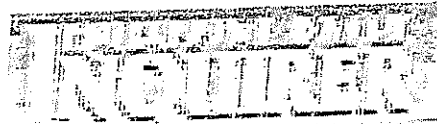
“Alberto’s one-year stint in Compostela Valley has resulted in at least 15 peasants and Lumad killed in one province alone, in pursuit of counter-insurgency objectives of the Duterte administration,” said Palabay.

Alberto, the outgoing commander of the Army’s 1001st Brigade based in Compostela Valley, is due to assume the new post today. He is a member of the Philippine Military Academy class of 1986.

Alberto is succeeding Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva, of the PMA Class 1985, who is the new commander of the Army’s 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City.

Palabay expressed disappointment that “murderers in uniform” are given higher assignments, instead of getting punished. – *Victor Reyes*

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Aid groups see 'humanitarian crisis' in PH



ARMYPHOTO

ONE WITH THE TROOPS President Duterte visits soldiers in the main battle area in Marawi City on Thursday, his third trip since fighting between government troops and Islamic State-inspired terrorists led by the Maute group erupted in the city on May 23.

PARIS—Fighting in the troubled southern Philippine region of Mindanao has combined with extreme weather events to create a “humanitarian catastrophe,” according to French aid groups.

Around 1 million people have fled their homes in the region, said Thibault Henry, head of the Philippine chapter of the charity Acted.

“Basic needs are not covered,” Henry told Agence France-Presse (AFP) on Wednesday.

400,000 displaced

“Clearly it’s a huge humanitarian crisis, a catastrophe, that will affect the region for many years,” he said, noting that more than half of the population lives in poverty.

In early July, the government estimated that fighting between government forces and Islamic State-inspired local terrorists in Marawi City had displaced more than 400,000 people.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the Philippines' largest Muslim rebel group, and government forces, with US and Australian military backing, are battling terrorists from the Maute group and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group who had pledged loyalty to the Middle East-based Islamic State (IS) jihadist group.

Hundreds of the terrorists occupied parts of Marawi on May 23 and the battle to retake the city from them had claimed more than 700 lives.

Mindanao was struck by ty-

phoons in 2012 and 2013 and a drought in 2016, Henry noted, adding that other rebel movements affected other parts of the region.

Vanessa Cardamone of Handicap International said conflict combined with extreme weather events had created a "complex crisis."

Cardamone said only 6 percent of those displaced were in evacuation centers, while most were lodging with relatives or friends.

Aid short of needs

For his part, Javad Amoozgar of the French charity Action Contre la Faim said humanitarian aid was falling far short of needs.

"The Philippines is at the bottom of the list ... forgotten by

the news," Amoozgar said.

"Most donors look at the number of victims before mobilizing. Here the people aren't dead yet, but we want to help them so they don't die," he said.

The 10,000-strong MILF has been leading a rebellion for more than 40 years to establish an independent or autonomous homeland in Mindanao for the mainly Catholic Philippines' Muslim minority.

Hardline militants, including former MILF members, oppose any form of peace with the government, and some have in recent years pledged allegiance to IS.

The MILF has repeatedly warned that if the peace process collapses it will lose many of its younger members to IS-aligned groups. —AFP

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Joma to AFP: Don't speculate on Rody ouster plot

Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison slammed the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for engaging in speculation in singling out an overseas Filipino worker as the lone source of a group seeking the ouster of President Duterte.

Sison said AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla made the mistake of accusing a certain Jon Bustamante of Pinoy Abrod as the originator of the Patriotic and Democratic Movement (PADEM), a group that calls for the ouster of Duterte.

Pinoy Abrod is an Amsterdam-based publication of overseas Filipino workers with whom Bustamante is closely associated.

Sison said Bustamante initially received the PADEM call from military and police officers from the Philippines and the US on his Facebook account.

Military cyber security experts traced the origin of PADEM to Bustamante, whom they claimed to be closely identified with Sison.

Shortly after Bustamante uploaded the PADEM state-

ment, Sison and his fellow communist leader Fidel Agcaoili shared on their respective social media accounts Bustamante's post.

"It is understandable why the PADEM leaders and members are not yet revealing their real identities. If they do so prematurely, they would be subjected to punitive measures and even physical elimination. The high sense of security of PADEM should not give General Padilla the license to call PADEM a one-man organization," Sison said.

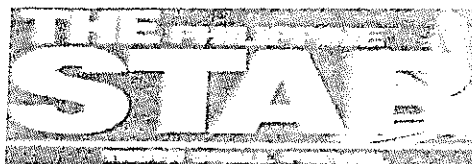
Padilla stood by the military findings, saying the CPP leadership is only waging a campaign against the government aimed at deceiving the public into believing that there is now a brewing rift within the military and police.

"They failed to get what they want from the government," Padilla said.

Padilla added that when the unilateral ceasefire and later the peace talks were ordered terminated by the President, Sison and his colleagues were stunned as these moves cut short their anti-government plans.

– Jaime Laude

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Rody, US Pacom chief discuss Marawi conflict

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

Admiral Harry Harris Jr., commander of the US Pacific Command, met with President Duterte the other day to discuss the support of the United States to the Philippine government in the ongoing efforts to end the conflict in Marawi City.

Harris visited the Philippines from Aug. 23 to 24 to meet with Philippine military and government leaders.

During the meeting with the President at Malacañang, Harris discussed the interoperability of the Philippine and US militaries as well as threats in the region.

On Wednesday, he participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City to honor the sacrifice and bravery of the Filipino military heroes buried there.

He also met with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Eduardo Año

and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano.

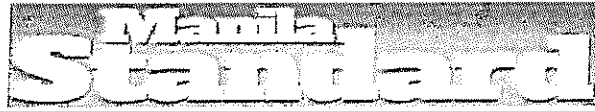
Among the focus of Harris' meetings were the upcoming bilateral engagements, recent aid and military assistance the US government has provided to the Philippines and opportunities for additional US support in Marawi.

Yesterday, Harris traveled to Zamboanga City to meet Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., chief of the Western Mindanao Command.

Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, Westmincom spokesperson, said Harris vowed to extend US assistance, including technical assistance and training on urban type operation, to the Philippine military, which continues to battle groups affiliated with the Islamic State in the country.

She added that Galvez presented Harris reports about the technical assistance provided by the US in counterterror operations. – With Roel Pareño, Jaime Laude

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US Admiral meets Du30, AFP officials

By Sara Susanne D. Fabunan

COMMANDER of the United States Pacific Command Adm. Harry Harris Jr. met with President Rodrigo Duterte to discuss US support to the Philippines on its ongoing efforts to end the conflict in Marawi, interoperability between the two militaries, and regional threats, the US Embassy in Manila said Thursday.

Harris also met with secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Gen. Eduardo Año, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alan Peter Cayetano, and later travelled to Zamboanga to meet Commander of Western Mindanao Command Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr.

“Adm. Harris participated in a wreath laying ceremony on Aug. 23 at the Heroes’ Cemetery, or Libingan ng mga Bayani, in Taguig to honor the sacrifice of the brave Filipino military heroes buried there,” the embassy said.

The US’s Admiral’s meetings focused on upcoming bilateral engagements, recent aid and military assistance that the US government has provided to the Philippines, as well as opportunities for additional support to Marawi.

Col. Ernest C. Lee, chief of the Joint US Military Assistance Group in the Philippines, formally transferred a new 28M Class Tethered Aerostat Radar System to Flag Officer in Command of the Philippine Navy Vice Adm. Joseph Ronald Mercado in a turn-over ceremony at the Naval Education and Training Command in Zambales on Aug. 22, 2017.

Mercado was the guest of honor and keynote speaker, and US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Klecheski also delivered remarks during the turnover.

The 28M Class TARS is a self-sustained, rapidly deployable, unmanned lighter-than-air platform which can rise to an altitude of 5,000 feet while tethered to a single cable.

Meanwhile, 16 Philippine Naval Information and Communication Technology Center personnel are engaged in a rigorous six-week training program at the NETC in Zambales to learn assembly, handling, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting for the TARS.

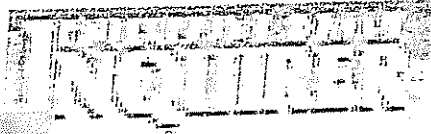
“These 16 students will become instructors for the next class of operators,” the US embassy said.

Through the donation, the PN is expected to enhance its capability in Maritime Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance by effectively detecting maritime and air traffic within the country’s coastal waters using sensors.

Moreover, it will also be utilized in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response operations.

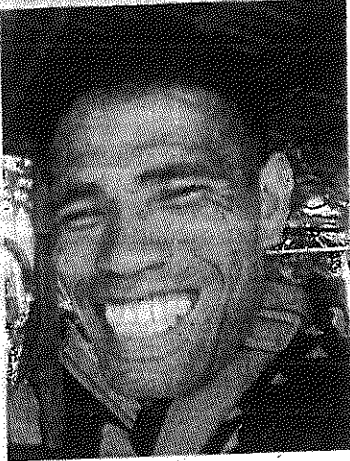
The TARS includes a weather station that provides telemetry data for the monitoring of ambient temperature, pressure, wind speed and other pertinent parameters to successfully operate the system.

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MARAWI BREAK



Pfc Rodilo Bartolome

**SOLDIER
SHOT DEAD
BY POLICEMEN
IN ZAMBO SUR**

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Private First Class Rodilo Bartolome survived the battle against terrorists in Marawi City, but failed to dodge bullets fired by policemen in Zamboanga del Sur province on Wednesday.

Bartolome, a member of the 53rd Infantry Battalion, was on a break from his assignment in Marawi City and was on his way home to Midsalip town when he was shot and killed in Aurora town, some 50 kilometers from Midsalip.

A police report said Oscar Asuelo, a van dispatcher, reported Bartolome's presence, describing him as an "unidentified man with a gun" standing near a store in Barangay Monte Alegre.

PO2 Ronald Zeros and PO1 Michael Bullanday responded to Asuelo's report.

Police claimed that when Zeros and Bullanday reached the area, Bartolome allegedly drew a .45 cal. pistol, prompting them to shoot the soldier.

But resident Lydia Saycon had a different version of the incident. She said she saw Bartolome waiting for a van near an abandoned police checkpoint when two policemen in civilian clothes arrived.

"He was getting his wallet to show his ID to the Aurora policemen who were not in uniform. Suddenly they started shooting the man. We all got scared. That man was unarmed," Saycon told the inquirer.

Chief Supt. Billy Beltran, Western Mindanao regional police director, has ordered an investigation.

"I was told that the policemen responded to a call from residents about a suspicious person... The responding policemen alleged that as they were approaching the suspect, he immediately pulled a gun and aimed it at them," Beltran said.

The military did not respond to phone calls and text messages. Beltran, however, said he had spoken with Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, commander of the Western Mindanao Command, and with Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, about the ongoing investigation.

"We are saddened by the incident, and I will make sure that we uncover all facts as soon as possible," Beltran said, noting that the police would offer the soldier's family any assistance.

Bartolome, 33, left behind his wife and two children. —JULIE S. ALIPALA INQ

25 August 2017



Pahina. 3

Napagkamalang gun-for-hire 'MARAWI HERO' TODAS SA PULIS

HINDI namatay sa giyera ang isang sundalo kundi sa kamay ng mga pulis matapos umanong mapagkamalang miyembro ng gun-for-hire group sa Zamboanga del Sur.

Uwi sana sa kanyang bayan sa Aurora para magbakasyon mula sa giyera sa Marawi City ang biktimang si Corporal Rodilo Torres Bartolome nang komprontahin ng mga pulis base sa sumbong ng ilang residente.

Batay sa paunang pagsisiyasat, nakatanggap ng tagwag ang mga pulis sa bayan ng Aurora patungkol sa presensya umano ng armadong lalaki sa lugar na mukhang tuliro at pinaniniwalaang hitman.

Agad na rumesponde ang mga otoridad at namataan si Bartolome.

Bago pa man makalapit ang mga pulis ay bumunot na umano ng baril si Bartolome na naging dahilan para rumbak ng putok ang una.

Dead on the spot si Bartolome.

Ilang saksi naman ang nagsabi na wallet na may lamang ID ang binunot ng biktima pero inakala ng mga pulis na baril.

Nabatid na naghihintay lang ng masasakyan ipauwi ang sundalo matapos sumabak sa ilang buwang giyera sa Marawi City.

Patuloy ang pagsisiyasat ng pulisya sa insidente.

JEFF GALLOS

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Sundalo na galing sa bakbakan sa Marawi, napatay ng pulis sa Zambo

PATAY ang isang sundalo na mula sa Marawi City matapos mabari ng mga pulis sa Purok Magdadaro Brgy. Alegre, Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur. Nakilala ang nabari na sundalo na si Cpl Rodillo Bartolome, 33-anyos, ng Brgy. Kanipay, Midsalip Zamboanga del Sur Phil. Army 531B at naka-assigned sa Marawi City.

Nakilala naman ang nakabari na pulis na sina PO2 Ronald Zeros at PO1 Michael Bullanday na kapwa nakatalaga sa Community Police Assistance Center.

Ayon kay Chief Insp. Helen Galvez, Spokesman ng Police Regional Office 9, dakong 3:45 ng hapon nang maganap ang insidente sa Purok Magdadaro Brgy. Alegre, Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur.

Nabatid na nakatanggap ng report ang mga otoridad na mayroong isang lalaki na armado ng baril ang namataang naka-istambay sa isang tindahan sa nasabing barangay.

Agad na nagresponde si PO1 Bullanday at Zeros na sakay sa isang motor-siklo at nang lalapitan na ang "di nakikilalang sundalo upang sitahin at tinangka umano nitong bumunot ng baril kaya't inunahan nila itong barilin na tinamaan sa iba't ibang bahagi ng katawan na agad nitong ikinasawi.

Nabatid na papauwi na ang biktima sa kanyang pamilya mula sa Marawi City kung saan ito kabilang sa mga sundalong nakipagbakbakan sa teroristang Maute Group. (Mark Obleada)

ONLINE NEWS

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www.dwdd.com.ph

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | Filipino Community in Texas Sends Gifts to Soldiers Wounded in Marawi

Author: [Alvir Santiago](#)

Members of the Filipino Community in Texas, USA, expressed their gratitude and support to soldiers fighting terrorists in Marawi City through a gift-giving project for those who were wounded-in-action and presently confined at the Heroes' Ward of the AFP Medical Center, V. Luna Road, Quezon City on 22 August 2017.

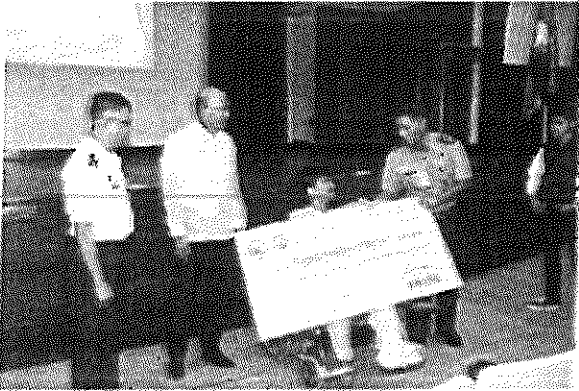
"This is actually a reflection of the good reputation that the Armed Forces has, hindi lang dito sa Pilipinas kung 'di sa abroad. Mataas na ang ating prestige doon kasi lahat tayo sumusunod sa batas," said Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana of the Department of National Defense (DND) who was the guest of honor and speaker in the said activity.

Defense Chief thanked the San Angelo, Texas, Filipino Community and Mrs. Rhea Agatep-Hale who initiated the collection of donations from community members.

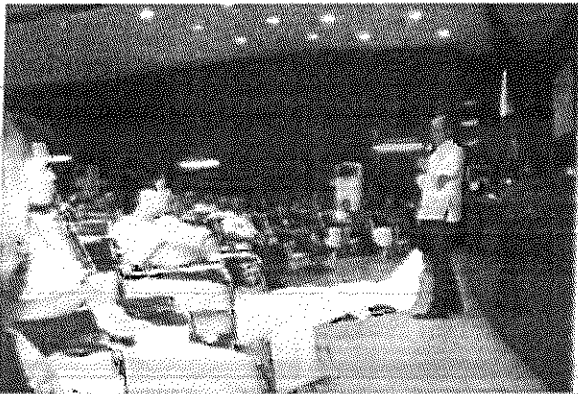
"Sabi nga niya, 'Nag-umpisa 'lang sa bahay ito. Then lumaki nang lumaki hanggang sa dumami na 'yung participants and they had to transfer to a convention center.... So, from a Hundred Thousand Pesos o Two Thousand Dollars' worth, naging US\$7,000 (Php350,000.00) na," Lorenzana added.

The turn-over of gifts to the patients was facilitated by the Defense Intelligence and Security Group (DISG) of the DND headed by LtC Estrellito P. Romero. It is part of the month-long series of activities in celebration of the DISG's 26th anniversary which included the SND's Cup, an invitational shooting competition held to raise funds for the beneficiaries of the AFP Educational Benefit Systems Office (AFPEBSO). DISG was able to raise P150,000.00 which was formally turned over on August 16, 2017, to AFPEBSO to help fund the education of children of soldiers who were killed or wounded in action.

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



SND leads gift giving to wounded soldiers of Marawi One of the wounded soldiers of Marawi received the prototype check of the donation handed over by Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana, together with DND's Defense Intelligence Security Group (DISG) LTC Estrellito P Romero, PA, during the DISG Gift Giving Program held at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center Auditorium in Quezon City on August 22, 2017, in cooperation with the Filipino Community of San Angelo, Texas, USA.



Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana discussed the welfare of the wounded soldiers of Marawi during his speech at the DND's Defense Intelligence Security Group (DISG) Gift Giving Program held at the AFP Medical Center's Auditorium on August 22, 2017. Present during the program were AFP soldiers who were wounded in action (WIA) in the Marawi battle and are now confined at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center. The wife of Secretary Lorenzana, Mrs. Editha A. Lorenzana, was also present at the gift giving program. PAO DND / MCAG

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

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

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SHOW OF GRATITUDE | Vietnam Envoy thanks PH Navy for rescuing Vietnamese hostage in Basilan

Report by [Aivir Santiago](#)

HPN NAVAL STATION JOSE ANDRADA, Roxas Blvd., Manila (DWDD) – Ambassador of the People's Republic of Vietnam, Ly Quoc Tuan, met with the Flag Office In Command, Philippine Navy, Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph S Mercado AFP, to personally express his country's gratitude on the successful rescue operation of a Vietnamese kidnap victim on Aug. 20, 2017 in Basilan.

During the exchange, Vice Admiral Mercado reiterated the commitment of the Philippine Navy in going after the terror group to rescue the remaining captives, *"You have the commitment of the Philippine Navy and the armed forces. In spite of our efforts right now in Marawi, we are not abandoning all our efforts in Jolo, Basilan, and Tawi-tawi in rescuing the kidnap victims."*

The event also saw the turnover of the rescued Vietnamese sailor, Do Trung Huique, to the Vietnam envoy in a simple rite led by the Navy chief.

Do, a crew member of MV Royal 16, was rescued by the combined forces of Joint Task Force Basilan through Naval Task Group Basilan and Naval Task Force 61 from the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) last Aug. 20 in Mataja Island, Basilan.

The Vietnamese sailor, along with other five crew members of said bulk carrier, was abducted by Abu Sayyaf bandits on Nov. 11, 2016 off the waters of Coco Island, Basilan.

The successful rescue is an indication of the on-going intensified military operations of the Philippine Navy and the armed forces to destroy elements of ASG in the South and save the innocent individuals who are still captives of the terror group. **NPAO / MCAG**



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CHANGE OF COMMAND | New Leadership at 201st Infantry Brigade

Photo by: [Arvin Santibao](#)

CAMP GEN ALFREDO M SANTOS, Calauag, Quezon (DWDD) – Major General Rhoderick M Parayno, Commander of the 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division presided over the change of command ceremony of 201st Infantry (Kabalikat) Brigade yesterday, August 23, 2017 at 201st Brigade Headquarters, Camp General Alfredo M Santos in Calauag, Quezon.

Brigadier General Lenard T Agustin relinquished the command of 201st Infantry Brigade (201Bde) of 2nd Infantry "Jungle Fighter" Division prior his assumption as Assistant Division Commander of the 10th Infantry "Agila" Division based in Camp General Manuel T Yan Sr., Brgy Tuboran, Mawab, Compostella Valley.

MGen Parayno expressed his deepest appreciation to the accomplishments contributed by BGen Agustin to the 2ID, AFP and the country as a whole. MGen Parayno also conveyed his profound and heartfelt thanks to the officers and men of 201st Brigade for supporting BGen Agustin during his stint as commander. *"Under your great leadership, the Kabalikat Troopers spared no time in winning the peace in the Provinces of Quezon and Marinduque"* remarked MGen Parayno in his speech.

Colonel Elias H Escarcha was designated as Acting Commander of 201st Brigade. "I am sure that you will continue the legacy of your predecessor and classmate" MGen Parayno added.

Both BGen Agustin and Col Escarcha are members of the Philippine Military Academy "Sinagtala" Class of 1986 and are recipients of various awards both from military and civilian sectors. 2ID / MCAG

