

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

27 August 2017

Sunday

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

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PARATV ONLY **STAR**

DZR NEWS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

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

AIR 21
SHOOT HIM, PARALA HIM

2:30 AM
5:15 PM
7:35 AM
10:15 PM

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST - AUGUST 27, 2017 - SUNDAY

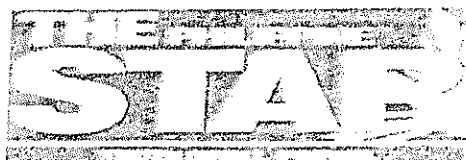
TROPICAL STORM HOUND
WINDS: 10-15 KNOTS
WAVES: 1-2 METERS

MANILA	25 - 30 °C	GENERAL SANTOS	24 - 32 °C
BAKING CITY	25 - 27 °C	DAVAO CITY	25 - 32 °C
MANILA BAY	24 - 32 °C	GENERAL SAUNDERS	26 - 33 °C
ANTIPATRIZ CITY	25 - 32 °C	GENERAL SERRANO	24 - 32 °C
MANILA BAY	25 - 32 °C	GENERAL TROSA	24 - 33 °C
MANILA BAY	24 - 32 °C	GENERAL VALDEPEÑA	25 - 32 °C

STATION	TEMPERATURE	WIND	MOON	SEA	WIND	TEMPERATURE	WIND	MOON	SEA
MANILA	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS
BAKING CITY	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS
MANILA BAY	24 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	24 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS
ANTIPATRIZ CITY	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS
MANILA BAY	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS
MANILA BAY	24 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	24 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS
MANILA BAY	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS
MANILA BAY	24 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	24 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS
MANILA BAY	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS
MANILA BAY	24 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	24 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS
MANILA BAY	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	25 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS
MANILA BAY	24 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS	10-15 KNOTS	24 °C	10-15 KNOTS	☀	1-2 METERS

Philippine Army
Office of the Army Chief of Staff
Public Affairs Office
Manila

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Kian buried amid calls to end drug killings

By GHIO ONG

Kian Loyd delos Santos was laid to rest yesterday at the La Loma Cemetery in Quezon City as thousands joined the funeral procession that called for justice for the 17-year-old student and an end to the drug war killings.

Delos Santos was dragged by plainclothes policemen to a dark, trash-filled alley in Caloocan City before he was shot in the head and left next to a pigsty, according to witnesses whose accounts appeared to be backed up by security video footage.

The death of the Grade 11 student has drawn attention to allegations by critics that police have been systematically executing suspected users and dealers, a charge the authorities deny.

Mourners, some of them wearing white shirts displaying the words "Justice for Kian," held flowers and small flags and placards denouncing the killing, as the procession

moved out of Delos Santos' home in Libis Baesa, Caloocan City to the La Loma Cemetery.

Activists came in groups to express their support and sympathy.

Some people whose relatives were also killed by police joined calls to stop the summary killings under the war against drugs.

"I came to support the family. I want justice for Kian and all victims, including my son," said Katherine David, whose 21-year-old son was shot dead by police with two other men in January.

Delos Santos' flower-draped coffin passed slowly through narrow streets on a flat-bed

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Kian From Page 1

truck with two black and red colored tarpaulins containing the words "Run, Kian, Run" and "Stop the killings" displayed on each side.

The cortege made a brief stop in front of the Caloocan police community precinct where three police officers involved in the killing of Delos Santos were assigned before proceeding to the Sta. Quitéria Church where the funeral mass was held.

The militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) led the protesters shouting "Justice for Kian, justice for all" in front of the police precinct.

"The thousands who lined

the streets and joined the funeral march of Kian delos Santos is a strong protest against Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs and the poor," the group said in a statement.

"It is a sign that the people have had enough and are indignant over the impunity that prevails today. We call for accountability of the police officers directly involved in the killings as well as accountability of the commander-in-chief who sanctioned the killings."

At the funeral mass, Caloocan Bishop Pablo Virgilio David condemned the killing of Delos Santos as well as other victims of summary executions.

He said Delos Santos was not the only victim of the war on drugs as he mentioned by name the others who also fell victim to suspected vigilante groups carrying out the killings for the police.

"Most of the families did not file cases... To whom would they charge if the suspects are wearing bonnets?" David remarked.

"Most of them, even if they witnessed that the victims were shot defenselessly would be recorded on police reports that they fought back. Most of the witnesses would not dare testify for fear that they could be the next victims. Stop the killings, start healing."

David comforted the grieving parents during his homily. "Not only your family, but



Protesters against human rights violations joined the funeral procession for Grade 11 student Kian Loyd Delos Santos yesterday in Caloocan City. They demanded justice for Delos Santos, who was slain in a drug operation last week.

BOY SANTOS

the heavens also cried for you early this morning,” David said.

“*Ahng Lorenza and Mang Saldy*, you are not alone. With you are parents who also lost their children.”

Saldy thanked the crowd who joined them in mourning their loss. “I have nothing else to wish for but for Kian to get justice and for his killers to pay for what they did,” he said in Filipino.

He also hoped that his son’s fate would not happen to others.

“So that they would never feel how to lose a child as good as Kian,” he said.

Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) chief Persida Rueda-Acosta assisted the family during the funeral procession.

Among those who attended were former Education secretary Armin Luistro and Fr. Robert Reyes, the “running priest” who concelebrated the funeral mass with David.

David believes the response to Delos Santos’ killing marks a turning point in the opposition to the drug war.

A member of Rise Up, a Manila-based coalition of church-related groups opposing the drug war, said families of about 20 victims joined the funeral procession.

“There’s been a big change. Before, police could kill and nobody paid attention. Now people are starting to show support and sympathy,” she said.

The Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) issued a statement denouncing the killing of Delos Santos.

“We denounce in the strongest terms all unjust slayings and the rising culture of senseless killing and impunity that, to our very deep regret, have accompanied from its very inception the President’s well-intentioned campaign against illegal drugs,” PCEC national director Bishop Noel Pantoja said.

Outcry

PAO led the Delos Santos family in filing charges of murder and torture against the policemen involved in the killing.

Police claimed Delos Santos tried to flee when he saw the lawmen approaching him during a drug sting in his neighborhood on Aug. 16.

Policemen gave chase but Delos Santos allegedly pulled out a handgun and opened fire, triggering a brief firefight.

Delos Santos was killed during the exchange of fire, according to police who added Delos Santos had a .45 automatic and two sachets of shabu.

His relatives, however, disputed the police claims, saying the gun and the drugs were planted.

The relatives showed a barangay security video showing two men dragging Delos Santos.

Witnesses said the policemen handed the handgun to Delos Santos and ordered him to run before shooting him down.

The three policemen involved – PO3 Arnel Oares, and PO1s Jeremias Pereda and Jerwin Cruz – were charged with murder and torture of a

minor before the Department of Justice on Friday.

Their superior, Chief Insp. Amor Cerillo, commander of the Police Community Precinct 7 of Caloocan City, was included in the charges under the principle of command responsibility.

The complaint followed at least two cases filed last year against police over President Duterte’s war on drugs, which has killed thousands, outraged human rights groups and alarmed Western governments.

The Unity of Child Rights Advocates Against Inhumane Treatment and Neglect of Children (UNCHAIN Children) said more than 30 children have already died in connection with Duterte’s drug war.

Duterte has expressed extraordinary support for police enforcing his crackdown, promising to pardon them if they are convicted to keep them out of jail.

Amid the growing outcry, however, Duterte ordered the arrest of the policemen linked to the killing of Delos Santos.

Malacañang gave assurance that the proper authorities would investigate the killing of Delos Santos.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella on Friday said Duterte has ordered an investigation into the killing.

He said the killing of Delos Santos is a wake up call for the police and other state agencies to review and reform their law enforcement procedures. – With Janvic Mateo, Emmanuel Tupas, Rhodina Villanueva, Reuters

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Gov't forces seize sack of war materials from NPAs

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – Government forces seized from three captured New People's Army (NPA) rebels a sackload of high-powered firearms and other war materials in Barangay Licoan, Simulao town, Bukidnon province, said Capt. Norman Tagros, Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer of the Army's 403rd Infantry Brigade, on Saturday.

The Bukidnon police and Army soldiers belonging to the First Special Forces Battalion were conducting law enforcement operation at Licoan village and three nearby villages when the suspects were sighted carrying a sack loaded with firearms and ammunitions on Wednesday, the 403rd

CMO officer said, in a statement.

Identities of the captured NPAs were temporarily withheld as tactical interrogation was still ongoing, he said.

The suspects are believed to be members of the guerrilla-Front Committee 68 of the CPP-NPA North-Central Mindanao Regional Committee operating in Mount Kalatungan and Mount Kitanglad in Bukidnon province, he said.

The 403rd CMO officer said the suspects were arrested while patrolling government troops chanced upon them in a small house in Barangay Licoan. They were carrying a sack loaded with war materials.

Seized from the suspect's possession were an M14 rifle, caliber .22 rifle, an Armalite rifle, two steel magazines of

7.62mm, 45 rounds of caliber 7.62mm cartridges, two steel magazines of 5.56mm, 40 rounds of caliber 5.56mm cartridges, two hand grenades, seven rounds of 12 gauge cartridges, nine rounds of caliber .38 cartridges, five fired cartridges of caliber .38, two cellular phones, assorted live ammunitions for hand guns and subversive documents, according to Tagros.

The suspects will face charges for illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and explosive charges, he said.

After tactical investigation, the suspects will be turned over to Bukidnon Police Provincial Office for the filing of case and the disposition of the seized war materials, he added.

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The Manila Times

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2 policemen in Marawi soldier's killing detained

BY RJ CARBONELL

THE two Zamboanga del Sur policemen who shot dead an army soldier who was on leave from the fighting in Marawi City were put in restrictive custody on Friday by the Philippine National Police (PNP).

"The two are under the restrictive custody of the Aurora Municipal Police Station," Zamboanga Peninsula police spokesperson

Chief Inspector Helen Galvez said.

Corporal Rodillo Bartolome was shot dead in Aurora town in Zamboanga del Sur on Wednesday by Police Officer (PO) 2 Ronal Zeros and PO1 Michael Bullanday after being mistaken as a gun-for-hire.

When Aurora Police searched and checked Bartolome's belongings, they found his identification card as a government troop-

er serving under the Philippine Army's 53rd Infantry Battalion.

According to Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesperson Captain Jo-An Petinglay, Bartolome was allowed to go on an overnight leave by commanding officer to be able to visit his family.

She added that Bartolome underwent debriefing and tested "negative for crisis stress" before leaving the camp.

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Soldier on end to Marawi war: Are we there yet?

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – “Are we there yet?”

One of the soldiers in the battlefield in Marawi City asked President Duterte during his surprise visit to the frontlines last Thursday whether the end to the fighting was near.

“I am not ready to talk peace at this time because so many soldiers have died in the war, including policemen. We have to end it the way it should be,” Duterte replied.

Duterte said the ultimate

objective remains and the war against the Maute group will not stop until the last terrorist is neutralized.

Duterte assured the soldiers that he would look for the money to rehabilitate Marawi from the ravages of war.

“But at the same time, I have also to rehabilitate my armed forces because there’s a fracture here somewhere. So many have died and I need the money to kickstart the rehabilitation,” he said.

Duterte visited the frontlines last Thursday as he congratulated the troops for regaining control of the Grand

Mosque in the city, an indication they are entering the final stage of battle.

During the talk with the troops, another soldier asked Duterte how he finds the devastation left by the fighting in Marawi.

Duterte said it hurts him since Marawi City is also the place of his ancestors and the Moro people.

He said even Moro National Liberation Front chairman Nur Misuari and Moro Islamic Liberation Front head Al Haj Murad were deeply hurt by the devastation and the fighting in Marawi City.

Duterte, however, was quick to point out that the attack on Marawi was well-planned.

He cited the tunnels dug under the houses and buildings that were used by the Maute terrorists to stockpile their weapons and recruit more fighters.

The President said that over the years, the Maute group has been selling illegal drugs to finance their movement.

“And of course there are many who remit money because the struggle is already happening,” he added.

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Gov't forces retake Grand Mosque in Marawi City

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Friday underscored significant positive developments this week in war-torn Marawi City following the retaking of the Marawi City Grand Mosque.

AFP spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., said it took the government troops almost a month to retake the Grand Mosque or the Islamic Center from the terrorist Maute group.

"We did not conduct a frontal attack because we wanted to preserve the Grand Mosque owing to the promise of our Commander-in-Chief, the President,

and our Chief of Staff, who strongly provided guidance not to destroy any place of worship even if international protocols would allow us to do that," Padilla said during the regular Mindanao Hour briefing in Malacañang.

"We met resistance in the surrounding areas over that less than a month of time, until we got to that point when we were able to assault the Grand Mosque," Padilla said.

The AFP official said the government forces are now clearing the Grand Mosque

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Gov't forces retake Grand Mosque in Marawi City

From page 1

of unexploded ordnance and IEDs. "The Grand Mosque is located in the central area of Marawi. It is the most significant landmark because it being the biggest mosque in the area," Padilla said.

"So having it under the hands of government provides us the impetus to symbolically say that we had retaken the center of the city," he said.

Padilla explained that it took a month to retake the Grand Mosque to ensure that it will not be destroyed during the conflict, and that there would be a place of worship for Muslim brothers and sisters to go to when the conflict is over.

Aside from the Grand Mosque, Padilla said government troops were able to retake the Marawi City Police Station.

With these developments, Padilla said the battle area has been reduced to about one-half square kilometer grid.

Padilla meanwhile said President Duterte was able to revisit Marawi City last Thursday afternoon.

He said the President wants to meet the troops fighting for the government.

"The President wants to extend his gratitude to all the soldiers, and to boost their morale, he gave watches and groceries," he said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will continue to presume that leaders of the terrorist Maute Group are still trapped in Marawi City, until their

bodies are recovered or evidence proves that they have escaped.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Army spokesman, made the statement when asked late Thursday on whether there is any indication that Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and Omar and Abdullah Maute have breached the military cordon set up around the locality.

Padilla said it would be very difficult for them to break out as all exit and entry points in the city are kept under strict watch by military units.

Until evidence shows that the three had been killed or had escaped, the military will presume that they are still inside Marawi City, he added.

Fighting in Marawi City broke out last May 23 after the government launched an attempt to arrest Hapilon and his cohorts.

As of Aug. 23, 595 Maute Group terrorists have been killed in battle, along with 129 troops and 45 civilians.

In Cagayan de Oro City, more than three months after the armed conflict in Marawi City, the threat level in the neighboring city of Iligan remains high, the city's chief of police said Thursday.

Senior Supt. Leony Roy Ga, Iligan city police director, said local authorities are still on high alert following advisory from the Philippine National Police (PNP) high command.

While armed extremist fighters are still engaging the government forces in Marawi, Ga cited credible

reports of suspicious persons mingling with the evacuees.

"We receive intelligence reports from time to time, and we have to verify their veracity. But just the same we remain on alert," Ga said in an interview at the sidelines of the awarding ceremony held at the PNP-10 headquarters at Camp Vicente Alagar in Barangay Lapasan on Thursday.

Ga and the Iligan city police office are both awardees of the PNP. Ga was adjudged as the Best Senior Police Commissioned Officer for Operations, while his office was awarded with the Best City Police Office.

The awarding ceremony was graced by Deputy Director General Ramon Apolinario, the deputy chief PNP for Administration.

He said the donation of 10 Vios patrol cars and 14 pick-up trucks from the local government had boosted the morale of that city's police force owing to their all-out anti-crime operations.

Ga said the patrol cars are being used for urban police visibility while the pick-up trucks for securing the city's boundaries it shared with Lanao del Norte and Misamis Oriental.

With the influx of internally displaced persons from Marawi, he said the Iligan city police are always on the lookout for possible terrorists.

"In light of the Marawi conflict, we are doubling our efforts. Even during the start of the Marawi crisis, we had already anticipated that the next target is Iligan," he said. **PNA**

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Duterte shot at 'kaluluwa' during third Marawi visit

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte did not have a live target when he fired a sniper rifle at enemy positions on his third visit to Marawi City, Malacañang said on Friday.

In a video, Duterte is shown holding a sniper rifle. The footage was not included in Radio Television Malacañang's documentation.

"P— ina. Kaluluwa. Wala iyon. Kaluluwa," he said while laughing, after Uson asked him if he hit a target.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella told reporters after Duterte's

attendance at the launch of Azuela Cove, a real estate development by the Alcantara Group and the Ayala Land, in Davao City said that Duterte was given an opportunity to handle the firearm for the photos.

"Let me correct that. He was not engaging. He was simply handling this particular piece of firearm. And the President is very conversant with weapons like these and he knows the limits of what he should do," he said.

"There was no live target," Abella said.

Duterte moved around the main battle area in

Marawi City in his full battle gear, heavily guarded by soldiers on Thursday afternoon.

The visit came hours after the troops had retaken the Marawi City police station and the Grand Mosque, which had served as the lair of the pro-ISIS Maute forces.

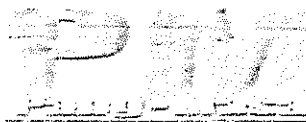
Aside from the top security officials led by Armed Forces of the Philippines chief General Eduardo Año, Communications Assistant Secretary Mocha Uson also joined the visit and shared a video about it on her personal Facebook page.



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PRES. DUTERTE

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Pahina. 2

Krisis sa Marawi 96 araw na: 772 death toll-AFP

Pumalo na kahapon sa mahigit 3 buwan o 96 araw ang krisis sa lungsod ng Marawi habang umaabot naman sa 772 ang kabuuang death toll sa patuloy na bakbakan sa pagitan ng tropa ng militar at ng Maute-ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria).

Ayon kay Captain Jo-ann Petinglay, Spokesperson ng Joint Task Force (JTF) Marawi nasa 597 na ang napapatay sa mga teroristang Maute-ISIS at 45 naman sa hanay ng sibilyan.

Sa panig ng militar ay umaabot na sa 130 ang mga bayaning security forces na nagbuwis ng buhay sa operasyon. Nakarekober naman ang tropang gobyerno ng 660 mga armas at nasa 1,728 ang mga sibilyang hostage na nasagip ng tropa ng pamahalaan.

Sa kasalukuyan, ayon naman kay Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., Deputy ng Task Force Lanao, nasa 4 pang mga mosque na pinagtataguan ng Maute-ISIS ang target ng kanilang operasyon upang mailigtas ang nalalabi pang mga hostages.

Ayon kay Brawner, tinatayang nasa 40-50 pa ang mga kalaban na nakaposisyon sa battle zone habang nasa 40 pa ang mga hostages kabilang ang paring Katolikong si Fr. Chito Sukanob.

Inihayag ng opisyal na magpapatuloy ang bakbakan hangga't hindi nababawi ng tropang gobyerno ang Marawi City sa kamay ng mga teroristang naghask ng terorismo dito simula pa noong Mayo 23 ng taong ito. Ang insidente ay nagbunsod sa pagdedeklara ng martial law ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa buong rehiyon ng Mindanao.

"Our operations continues in the main battle zone, hopefully matapos na," ani Brawner upang masimulan na ang rehabilitasyon sa lugar at makabalik na ang mga evacuees sa kanilang mga tahanan. -Joy Santos-

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P1.6 B allotted for police, military housing – lawmaker

By JESS DIAZ

Some P1.6 billion has been allocated as additional fund for police and military housing for next year, Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Benitez said yesterday.

The lawmaker said the amount constitutes the bulk of the proposed P2.235-billion 2018 budget for the

National Housing Authority (NHA).

The P1.6 billion is on top of what remains of police and military housing funds managed by the NHA, Benitez said.

"We have to provide decent and affordable housing to our policemen and soldiers," he added.

He noted that President

Duterte has promised to build more comfortable dwelling for police and military personnel after he allowed housing units the NHA built for them in Bulacan to be occupied and owned by members of militant group Kadamay.

Benitez, who chairs the House committee on housing and urban development, urged the government to

allot more funds to address the long-standing problem of homelessness in the country.

"We have long been grappling with homelessness and each year, the country's housing needs, especially in urban areas, keep on swelling along with population growth and rapid urbanization," he said.

Total housing requirements, according to him, will balloon to 6.8 million by 2022, including a backlog of two million units from previous years.

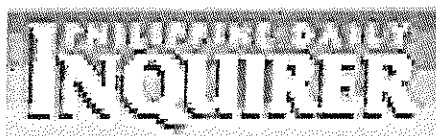
Benitez lamented that there are not enough funds for housing.

"Compared to its Asian neighbors, the country has the lowest public spending

on housing. It is deeply disconcerting that housing is left neglected by the government when shelter is a basic human need and the most visible manifestation of human dignity," he said.

He said the Duterte administration should include housing in its massive infrastructure program, dubbed "Build Build Build."

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Lorenzana, Red leader trade barbs over funds

By Jeannette I. Andrade
@jiandradeINQ

The war of words between the defense department and communist rebels sank to a new low yesterday with both sides accusing each other of financial impropriety.

On one side, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana raised doubt that so-called revolutionary taxes being collected by rebels were being spent on the poor, as rebels claimed.

On the other side, leaders of National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) accused Lorenzana of lacking transparency in the use of billions of pesos of defense funds.

In a statement, Lorenzana questioned claims made by Fidel Agcaoili, NDFP chief peace negotiator, that revolutionary tax being collected by rebels were being used for projects for the poor.

"Where does the money you forcibly collect really go?" said Lorenzana, addressing himself to NDFP.

"What's your proof that the people, particularly the poor, benefit?" he said.

"What's clear is that the 'revolutionary tax' they collect is spent for the luxury of a few (in the communist organization)," Lorenzana added.

Explain DND spending

Agcaoili, in a statement, said Lorenzana should be the one to explain how Department of National Defense (DND) funds were being spent.

"Without confirming his allegation, what is Lorenzana complaining about? All taxes collected by the revolutionary government go toward providing services to the people and the communities," Agcaoili said.

"What about the P137.2-billion 2017 budget of the DND, where did the monies go?" said Agcaoili.

"To line the pockets of the generals, military commanders and senior officials of the DND and Armed Forces of the Philippines," he said.

In a speech before businessmen in Davao City on Friday, Lorenzana said businessmen and groups should reject rebel demands to pay taxes because they "rely on extortion to survive."

"If the sources of their funds run dry, their activity will also decrease and eventually end their movement," Lorenzana said.

Peace spoilers

Lorenzana said the communist movement, not he, was the one spoiling the peace process by "playing its old game of accusing the government of the very crimes that its members are committing."

The defense chief said it was the rebellion that was keeping the countryside from taking off.

The rebels, said Lorenzana, "have now stepped up their rhetoric because their ploy to continue talking while fighting was finally terminated by the President."

Agcaoili, in the NDFP statement, said despite substantial funding, the DND failed to protect Philippine territory in the West Philippine Sea from aggression by China.

Peace talks between the government and NDFP were scrapped by Mr. Duterte in July after New People's Army rebels raided a convoy of presidential guards in the borders of Davao City, Bukidnon and North Cotabato.

Seven members of the Presidential Security Group were wounded in the attack.

—WITH A REPORT FROM KARLOS MANLUPIG INQ

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MILF hunts ISIS-inspired group in Maguindanao

COTABATO CITY – Government forces and Moro rebel group that signed a peace deal with the government have continued to hunt down ISIS-identified armed group in Maguindanao.

Under the 1997 ceasefire agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the latter must help the government get rid of terrorists in communities identified with the MILF in various parts of Mindanao.

For the past two weeks, the MILF had been pursuing the ISIS-flag carrying armed group, led by Esmal Abdulmalik of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Maguindanao's second district.

Abdulmalik heads a faction of the BIFF that pledged allegiance to ISIS.

A military intelligence officer said Abdulmalik, one of the lieutenants of slain Malaysian terrorist and bomb expert Zulkifli bin Hir alias Marwan, was believed to be injured.

Abu Amir, spokesperson for the Imam Karialan faction of the BIFF, said Abdulmalik was injured in several clashes with the MILF's Task Force Ittihad (Unity) in remote villages of Datu Salibo, Maguindanao.

Abu Misri Mama, speaking for the Bongos faction of the BIFF, said he has no report about Abdulmalik getting injured but his son, Abu Torayfe, sub-leader leader of the BIFF whose men were identified with ISIS, was reported dead.

Abu Torayfe was killed. He is the son of Commander Esmal Abdulmalik," Mama said. "We have no report that Abdulmalik was injured."

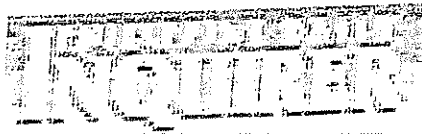
Senior Supt. Agustin Tello, Maguindanao police director, said the police have been helping the MILF in locating the BIFF/ISIS group.

The Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade had been providing artillery assistance to the MILF's Task Force Ittihad and placed its forces on alert to thwart any possible retaliatory or diversionary attacks by Abdulmalik's men on civilians and "soft targets" in Maguindanao.

More than 50 fighters from both sides have been killed while dozens were hurt in the clashes between former comrades.

It started when the ISIS-flag carrying BIFF tried to encroach an MILF community in Barangays Tee and Andavit in Datu Salibo by setting off improvised bomb that injured 10 MILF fighters. **PNA**

27 August 2017



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Ending martial law

The commemoration last week of the martyrdom of Ninoy Aquino at the Manila airport tarmac 34 years ago on Aug. 21, 1983, reminded us of the horrors of the martial law (ML) regime of Ferdinand Marcos.

Martial law exorcised. Whether at the tarmac, at the Luneta, at the Manila Memorial Park where his remains are immortalized, or at other venues, the ML survivors—led by former president Benigno Aquino III—fittingly remembered Ninoy's heroic sacrifice of his life that we may enjoy ours, but ominously warned against a repetition of ML.

President Duterte has, however, said more than once (the latest being during his State of the Nation Address on July 24) that he was "not stupid" to impose ML nationwide because he knew only too well its constitutional constraints. I think that if he wanted to impose authoritarian rule, he would simply set aside the Constitution and rely on the brute power of the military and the police.

Truly, the 1987 Constitution has exorcised the evils of ML. As I wrote on Aug. 13, ML—under the present Charter—merely:

1. Facilitates the apprehension of suspects in the crimes of rebellion and invasion (but not in other crimes) and, with the concurrent suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, allows the detention of the suspects for 72 hours (instead of the usual 36 hours).

2. Triggers some constitutional provisions that could give the President additional powers or restrict some constitutional rights, provided Congress passes implementing laws specifically defining those powers and rights. Notably, the President has not asked for, and Congress has not passed, such laws.

Bloated recognition. Consequently, I



WITH DUE RESPECT

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

wonder why the military needed, and still needs, martial law. Other than facilitating the arrest and detention of rebellion suspects a little longer, ML has had, from where I sit, a limited role in suppressing the rebellion in Marawi and Mindanao.

On the other hand, the imposition of ML has unintentionally given bloated international recognition to the ability of the Mautes and the Islamic-State-connected group of Isnilon Hapilon to engage and, for a while, stymie our far more numerous, superiorly armed, and better trained military for more than three months now.

This recognition gave the rebels the opportunity to acquire more logistics, funds and arms from other radical groups, to recruit more cadres and to prolong their terroristic agenda.

ML's minuses. Foreigners still believe the traditional concept that ML automatically suspends the rule of law, suppresses civil liberties and imposes authoritarian rule. They are not aware of the strict limitations under our 1987 Constitution.

Hence, they avoid places where ML reigns.

True, foreign tourist arrivals for the entire country grew 12.73 percent in the first half of this year to 3.36 million from 2.98 million in the comparable period last year. But arrivals in Mindanao have suffered cancellations precisely due to the perceived strength of the rebels that necessitated the imposition and extension of ML.

Likewise, some long-term investments in infrastructures and manufacturing have been put on hold. Closer to the poor, agriculture-based jobs have dissipated while private capital has become shy.

I am sure the Duterte administration is fully aware of these minuses. Nonetheless, it has asked for and received from Congress an extension of ML till Dec. 31. It must have some reasons beyond my reach as an ordinary citizen.

Given, however, that the final assault to wipe out the few remaining rebels is well on its way, the military could or can recommend ML's termination soon. No law prevents the President from accepting such recommendation and ending ML at any time prior to Dec. 31.

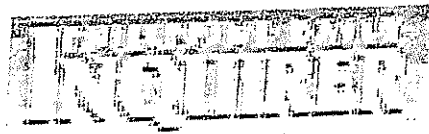
By lifting ML (and the suspension of the privilege) early, the President will signal normalization in Mindanao. He will also be lauding the ability of the military to contain the uprising, moving forward, without any need to detain rebellion suspects for more than the usual 36 hours.

Moreover, he will also encourage the return of tourists and of long-term investments in Mindanao to create new jobs and to rev up the economy.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

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YOUNG BLOOD

The face of war

ALEAH - HIDAYA HADJI RAKHIM

I.

I have read of the time when the Greeks hid inside Odysseus' horse to be able to enter the mighty fortresses of Troy, and attacked in the middle of the night. And destroyed Troy and ransacked the glory of the city and raped its women and killed its people. Andromache dropped the infant Astyanax from the tower of Troy in an act of mercy, to spare her and Hector's newborn from the brutalities and horrors of war.

I have read stories of Aryans who hid Jews in the secret compartments of their houses. I have read of the terror of the Jews every time they heard the footsteps of those hunting for them, and the breaths they had to subdue in the already alarming silence. I have read of the darkness of their rooms, as if they were animals waiting for the winter to pass. I have read of their hunger when provisions became scarce and water was the only sustenance that allowed them to survive.

I have read about wars, memorized the names of conquerors and generals, but seldom read the names of the victims whose deaths were for naught. I have read of historical sites that are now ruins. I have seen photographs of war, with houses reduced to ashes, buildings stained with blood and pocked with bullet holes, people and their faces riddled with desperation, innocents used as shields by monsters.

Not once did I entertain the idea that our homeland will become a battlefield. Not once did I think that in my youth I will come face to face with the atrocities of war. The fear brought by war, printed on pages and depicted in films, has become reality.

II.

In a short span of time, our once lively city has become a ghost town. The hum of life has turned into a disorienting, clangorous silence.

Bombs are dropped. Guns are indiscriminately fired. Fire has become the inescapable fate of our homes. And we can only hope from far away that the heavens will grant us mercy. Sometimes the sky howls in tears for our tragedy, sometimes the sun mocks the conflagrations. But we are far away; we can only pray and plead...

Photographs of our land circulate in the internet, and suddenly our home has become a stranger to our eyes. Schools, buildings, commercial establishments, residences—they all seem ghosts of what were once vibrant with life.

Corpses sprawl in streets that were once teeming with motor vehicles and sidewalk vendors. Some pictures reveal human limbs devoid of flesh, others reveal a body being feasted on by hounds. When everything left of Marawi are ashes, can we still call it home? Our *inged*?

A

When this war is over, can we call all the damage mere scars on our beautiful city?

le

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

I can tell you about the demarcation line separating the before and after of our history, the line that mantles the people of the lake in terror.

-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

On May 23, the sun gave no hint of the tragedy that was to come. Always-busy Banggolo was brimming with life as ever. I was traversing the crowded streets to meet my friends. No one knew that lives would change within hours.

It was between 2:30 and 3 p.m. that my friend received a text message from her father about an encounter between soldiers and rebels. No one among us took the message seriously. No one was alarmed. The gravity of the situation only set in when we realized that no jeepney driver wanted to risk going downtown. To cut the story short, I spent the night in a stranger's house for fear of being caught in the crossfire.

The night was silent save for gunfire aimed at God knew where. The phone lines were constantly occupied; it took multiple attempts before a message could be sent. All night, news of merciless killing of Christians and indiscriminate burning traveled with the speed of light—it was a night when every life seemed to be imperiled, when it took all my strength to keep still, to keep calm and in control of the panic gripping my heart. I thought of no one else but my family.

It was the longest night of my life: A second seemed to extend to a minute or more. There was a most disturbing silence that shackled Marawi, and for the first time, there was no *azan* to wake us up. Even the roosters seemed mute with fear.

The morning never looked more relieving. I remember how excited I was to see my father, who had come to collect me. I had never been an expressive person, but in that moment I could not help telling him, "Papang, *inikadakahadali ko seka!*" I missed you so much.

May 24, 2017: It was the last time I stepped inside our house, the last time I saw home, set my foot on our floor, touched the railings of our staircase, smelled the distinct odors in our household. It was the last day I walked inside my room without even directing a gaze at the books I had collected, which were piled near the wall. I did not know that a war was starting. It did not occur to me or to many others that the siege would extend for a week, or even a month, or more.

And now, far away from *inged*—from home—we speak of it as a faraway memory, too. What is left for us are remnants of what there used to be. The home we built and lived in for decades was destroyed in a matter of weeks. Marawi is burning, and not even our *ranao*, our lake, can save it from destruction.

III.

I had not even brought a single photograph of my childhood with me. The wedding albums of my parents were left at home. And yet, I believe that my family is among the lucky ones.

We are lucky because we were spared from walking from the war zone to Saguiaran. Other evacuees shared stories of escaping through the forest. We are lucky because upon leaving the war zone, we had a place to settle in, food to recharge us, and a foam mat on which we could rest our weary bodies. Not all *bakwit* are as lucky as we are.

Now I know war. It's not merely this three-letter word draped with images of destroyed buildings and nameless skeletons, and soldiers and rebels firing at each other. For months of being far from home, I have learned that war breeds hunger and beggars, orphans and widows and widowers, and discrimination. Indeed, war is a *maito*, a *bangkit*, or a mini-apocalypse, or so they say.

I have read of wars in history, and how the scars they caused seldom heal. War has given me a little kiss, so teach me how to forget...

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Aleah-Hidaya Hadji Rakhim, 24, is a student of Mindanao State University.

27 August 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 7



Tanong ng mga sundalo sa Marawi

IBABAHAGI ko ang naging pag-uusap ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte at ng mga sundalo sa battlefront ng siege sa Marawi City noong nakaraang Huwebes.

Iyon ang pangatlong pagdalaw ng Presidente sa Marawi City simula nang pumutok ang bakbakan dahil sa paglusob ng Islamic State-linked Maute militant group noong Mayo 23.

Ito'yong portion ng "talk to men", na kung saan nagkaroon ng chance ang mga sundalo na tanungin si Duterte sa mga kung ano ang saloobin nila ukol sa buong pangyayari sa Marawi.

Kahit paano ay mabigyan man lang tayo ng larawan kung ano ang nasa isip ng mga sundalo na putuloy na nakipagbakbakan sa Marawi.

QUESTION OF SOLDIER No. 1: Sir, how do you find 'yung --- 'yung nakita niyo, sir, after seeing the 'yung --- PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Devastation?

Q: Yes, devastation.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, ah, alam mo, I am not blaming the entire Maranao people. I sympathize with them. I grieve with them. But all these years kasi, they allowed the rebellion to ripen here.

So may mga tunnels and they were stocking firearms, and there was this recruitment. Akala natin shabu.

Shabu was the factor that was fueling the rebellion kasi ni-review (review) na --- nireview namin, ang mga intelligence sa community, wala namang malaking ano eh, 'yung saan naman ang pera galing sa labas. Whether ISIS or ---

Pero, over the years, ang shabu ang capital nila, and of course 'yung ngayon na medyo marami nang nagre-remit (remit) because the struggle is already happening.

Kaya ako, nasabi ko lang sa mga kapwa ko Moro, because of my grandmother, na sana huwag na lang tayong magpatayan. Tatal, we are ready to recognize the legitimate complaints of the Moro people.

If Murad and Misuari --- sabi ko sa kanila ngayon, at alam nila nagdudugo rin 'yung puso ko because there are --- this is the place of my forebears.

QUESTION OF SOLDIER No. 2: Sir, how do you want to encourage the soldiers here, sir? Are we there yet sa end of the war here?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I am not ready to talk peace at this time kasi marami na akong sundalong namatay pati pulis. We have to end it the way it should be.

At ang earlier kong pronouncement that we will not stop until the last terrorist is neutralized. 'Yun ang sinabi ko, and that will be the objective --- the ultimate objective of the Armed Forces of Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

But once ma-ano ito, I can assure you that we will look for the money to rehabilitate Marawi, but at the same time, I have also to rehabilitate my armed forces kasi there's a fracture here somewhere. Marami akong patay at tsaka kailangan ko talaga ng pera para gumulong ang tulong sa gobyerno.

Q: Thank you, sir.

ONLINE NEWS

27 AUGUST 2017

AFP underscores significant positive developments in Marawi conflict

August 26, 2017, 1:46 pm

MANILA -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Friday underscored significant positive developments this week in war-torn Marawi City following the retaking of the Marawi City Grand Mosque.

AFP spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., said it took the government troops almost a month to retake the Grand Mosque or the Islamic Center from the terrorist Maute group.

"We did not conduct a frontal attack because we wanted to preserve the Grand Mosque, owing to the promise of our Commander-in-Chief, the President, and our Chief of Staff, who strongly provided guidance not to destroy any place of worship even if international protocols would allow us to do that," Padilla said during the regular Mindanao Hour briefing in Malacañang.

"We met resistance in the surrounding areas over that less than a month of time, until we got to that point when we were able to assault the Grand Mosque," Padilla explained.

The AFP official said the government forces are now clearing the Grand Mosque of unexploded ordnance and IEDs.

"The Grand Mosque is located in the central area of Marawi. It is the most significant landmark because it being the biggest mosque in the area," Padilla said.

"So having it under the hands of government provides us the impetus to symbolically say that *nakuha na natin 'yung sentro mismo ng bayan*," he said.

Padilla explained that it took a month to retake the Grand Mosque to ensure that it will not be destroyed during the conflict, and that there would be a place of worship for Muslim brothers and sisters to go to when the conflict is over.

Aside from the Grand Mosque, Padilla said government troops were able to retake the Marawi City Police Station.

With these developments, Padilla said the battle area has been reduced to about one-half square kilometer grid.

Padilla meanwhile said President Rodrigo Duterte was able to visit Marawi City anew last Thursday afternoon.

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"Ito po ay pagnanais ng ating Commander-in-Chief na makapiling ang mga tropang direktang nakikipaglaban sa mga kalaban natin," Padilla said.

"Siya po ay nagpaabot ng kanyang pasasalamat sa ating mga kasamahan at ganun din, nag-abot po ng ilang tulong at pampa-high morale na mga bagay tulad ng relo at iba pang mgagrocery items na kinakailangan po nila," he said.

In the same briefing, meanwhile, Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Assistant Secretary Kristoffer James Purisima said there is no humanitarian crisis in Marawi.

"We do not think it's a humanitarian crisis because we're addressing the situation that's happening. We know what's happening on the ground and we're addressing all the needs of our IDPs, whether they be in our evacuation centers or home-based," Purisima said.

Purisima said that Task Force Bangon Marawi has already started its post-conflict needs assessment, which is part of the comprehensive rehabilitation and recovery program.

"Kung wala tayong ginagawa on the ground, maaring sabihin na may krisis. Pero, I differ on that because I know that we're doing everything we can on the ground," Purisima said.

"This is an inter-agency effort. Hindi lamang ito Office of Civil Defense. *hindi lamang ito DND or DSWD or AFP. Lahat ito ng mga ahensya na kasama sa Task Force Bangon Marawi, 23 agencies and growing," he added.*

"So makakaasa ho ang ating mga kababayan na hindi natin pinapabayaang ang sitwasyon sa ground and this is not a humanitarian crisis," Purisima said.

Meanwhile, Purisima said the proposal to distribute chickens to the evacuees would need the approval of the Task Force.

"Pag-aaralan natin 'to. Dahil syempre kailangan 'yung welfare ng ating mga evacuees, ating mga IDPs ang nakasalalay dito... at syempre hindi tayo gagawa ng isang plano o isang programa na makakasakit lamang sa ating mga IDPs," he said.

Palace fetes Filipino athletes win in SEA Games

In the same briefing, Presidential Communications Office Director Omar Romero congratulated Filipino athletes who have won in the ongoing Southeast Asian Games.

"The Philippines now has 15 gold, 18 silver, and 31 bronze medals, as of August 25, this morning at 1 am." Romero said.

Gold medals were bagged by Eumir Marcial for Boxing Middleweight - 75 kilograms event; Marvin John Tupas for Boxing Lightweight - 81 kilograms event; Curte Robert Guarin, Emmanuel Portacio, Leoncio Carreon Jr., and Ronald Lising for Lawn Bowls-Men's Four event; Trenten Anthony Beram for the Athletics Men's 400 meters; and the Philippine Men's Ice Hockey Team.

Silver medals were meanwhile won by Mario Fernandez for Boxing Men's Bantamweight - 56 kilograms event; Marisa Baronda, Nancy Toyco, Nenita Tabiano, and Sharon Hauters for the Lawn Bowls –

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Women's Four event; and Yvonne Alyssa Dalida and Jemyca Aribado for the Squash Women's Jumbo Doubles.

Filipino athletes who won bronze medals were Lois Kaye Go for the Golf Women's Individual Stroke Play; Amparo Teresa Acuña for Shooting Women's 50-meter Rifle Prone; Ian Clark Bautista and Charly Suarez for Boxing Men's Flyweight - 52 kilograms event and Light Welterweight - 64 kilograms event, respectively.

Also winning bronze medals were Janry Ubas for Men's Athletics Long Jump; Warren Kiamco and Dennis Orcollo for Billiards & Snooker Pool 9 Ball Doubles; David William Pelino and Robert Andrew Garcia for Squash Men's Jumbo Doubles; as well as Bowling Tenpin Team of Five, and the Women's Karate Kumite Team. **(PCO Content)**

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