

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

28 August 2017

Monday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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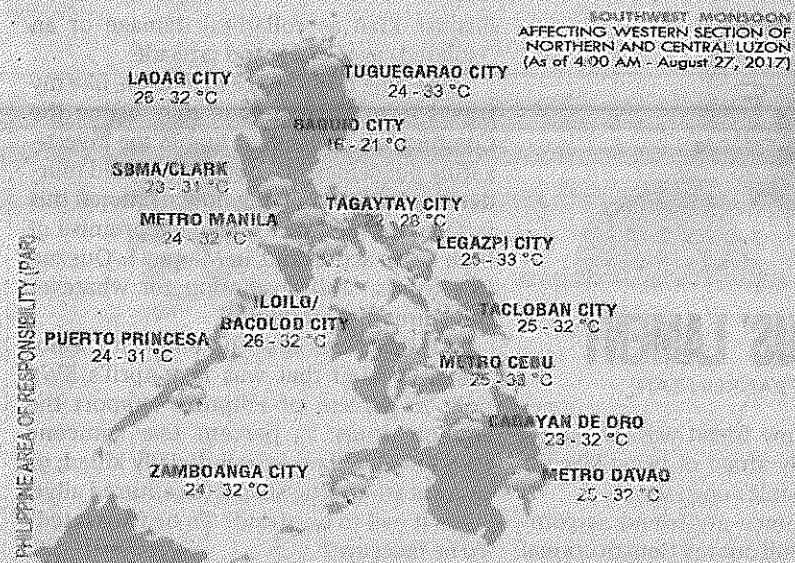
PANAHON TV
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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

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

SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON (As of 4:00 AM - August 27, 2017)





PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:44 AM	6:11 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
11:07 AM	10:58 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
AUG 22 2:30 AM	AUG 29 4:13 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
8:51 AM 0.40 Meter	2:19 AM 0.84 Meter

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

Cloudy times with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

METRO MANILA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	23 - 28 °C	22 - 28 °C	TACLOBAN	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	LEGAZPI	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
LAOAG	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	16 - 22 °C	16 - 22 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	26 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU	26 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	 		

DZRH NEWS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINAS HD

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

28

August 2017

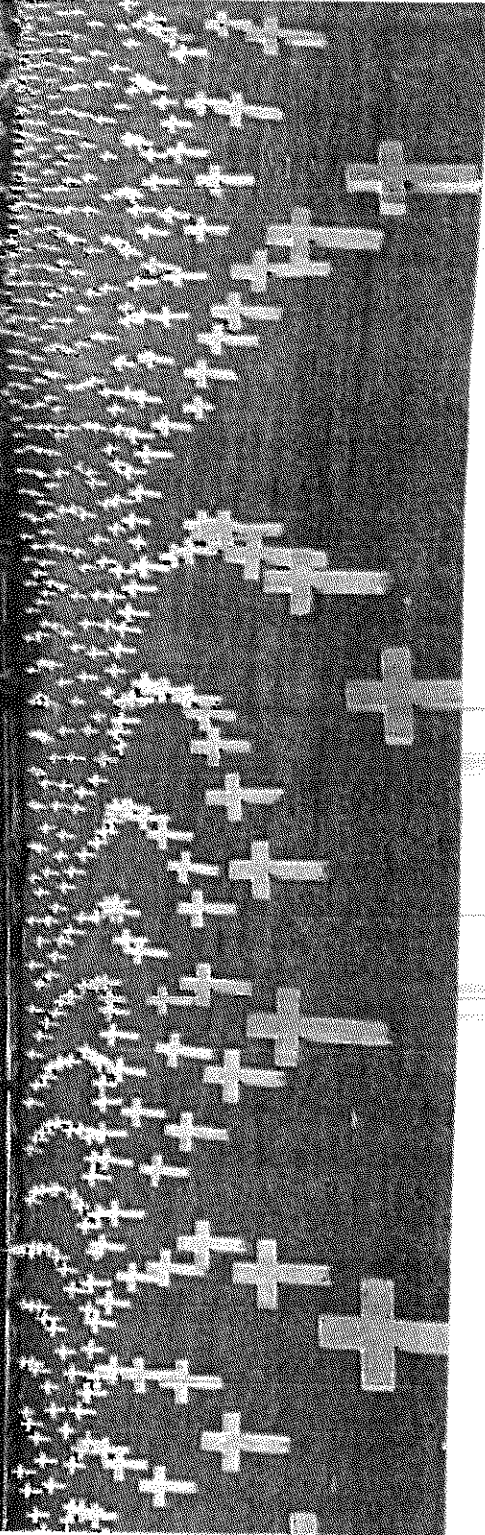


Page. 1

AWARD FOR FALLEN HEROES

STORY
ON P2

On National Heroes Day, the Commander-in-Chief confers the first Order of Lapu-Lapu on soldiers who died fighting in war-torn Marawi



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DUTERTE HONORS FALLEN HEROES

By
Efren
Montano

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Roa Duterte will award the first Order of Lapu-Lapu to fallen soldiers of the Marawi siege even as he urged Filipinos to uphold the rule of law in the battle against lawlessness in his National Heroes Day message.

The President is scheduled to lead the flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City this morning at 8:30 a.m. in commemoration of National Heroes Day.

This year's commemorative program, with the theme, "Taong Bayan: Ang Bagong Bayani ng Bayan," is led by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) in coordination with other government agencies, local government units, and non-government organizations.

"Let us honor them by upholding the rule of law, protecting our nation and fostering goodwill among ourselves," the President said.

"We will harness the same virtues as we continue to fight against lawlessness, criminality and poverty that hinder us from achieving our full potential," Duterte said.

Malacañang has declared August 28 as a regular holiday in commemoration of National Heroes Day.

In today's rites, Brig. Gen. Tirso A. Dolina of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will lead the invocation, followed by the welcome remarks by Taguig City Mayor Maria Laarni Lopez-Cayetano and a message by NHCP Chairman Dr. Rene Escalante.

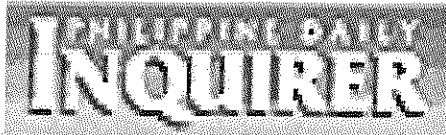
President Duterte, the guest-of-honor, will then lead the awarding of Order of Lapu-Lapu to the fallen soldiers of Marawi.

Thereafter, DND Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana will introduce President Duterte, who will deliver a message.

The Order of Lapu-Lapu is a recognition given to officials, government personnel, and private individuals for their "invaluable service in relation to a campaign or advocacy of the president."

The NHCP is the national government agency mandated to promote Philippine history through its museums, research and publication, and preserve the nation's historical heritage through conservation and the marking of historic sites and structures.

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Woman asks: Is this my son with Maute?

FROM A1

By Jeffrey Maitem
and Divina Suson
@inquirermindanao

ILIGAN CITY—Rowhanisa Abdul Jabar was scanning Facebook recently when she saw pictures supposedly posted by the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group showing children belonging to the Maute terrorist group carrying firearms.

One of the pictures caught Jabar's attention because it showed a boy who looked like her son, Ram-Ram, who was kidnapped in 2010 when he was just 3 years old.

Ram-Ram was taken from the family apartment in Tondo, Manila, while Jabar was tending her stall at Tutuban Mall in Divisoria, the city's busy commercial district.

The main suspect in the kidnapping, helper Ula Arada, was arrested, but her accomplices have remained at large.

Ram-Ram, who would be 10 years old today, has yet to be recovered.



SAME BOY? Ram-Ram (left) at 3 years old and the IS-inspired child fighter at right. —FACEBOOK PHOTO

'Help'

"Please help," Jabar said in a post on Facebook.

"Is the boy in the picture holding a gun my son?" she said. "If it's he, I hope he is alive."

The pictures of children carrying assault rifles were supposedly taken in Marawi

City and posted on Facebook by IS, which has lost its stronghold of Mosul in Iraq to the Iraqi military and is getting a pounding from US-backed allied forces in Raqqa, Syria.

Jabar told the Inquirer on Sunday that she had asked the military for help in verifying

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whether the boy in the picture was her son.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesperson for Joint Task Force Marawi and the military's Western Mindanao Command, told the Inquirer that the intelligence community was trying to establish the authenticity of the pictures.

"There is no word yet from our intelligence operatives. But if we look back at previous hostages that were able to come out alive, they were all saying a lot of minor fighters were inside," Petinglay said, referring to Marawi where government forces have been battling IS-inspired terrorists from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups since May 23.

Petinglay said the terrorists were using child fighters because they could easily manipulate them.

"They can easily shape the minds of these young people. Besides, with money, minors are not difficult to encourage to join them," Petinglay said.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy

commander of Task Group Lanao, confirmed that the terrorists were using child soldiers.

"Our soldiers have a soft spot for young fighters but they are forced to shoot them when they get violent with their arms," Brawner said in a press briefing on Saturday.

Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesperson for the Lanao del Sur provincial crisis management committee, condemned the use of child soldiers in the war for Marawi, calling it "illegal, immoral and un-Islamic."

The terrorists seized parts of Marawi on May 23 in a bid to establish an IS enclave in Southeast Asia.

An air and ground assault by government forces, with US and Australian intelligence support, has pushed the terrorists to the city center, where the gunmen are holed up in buildings and mosques.

More than 700 people have been killed in the fighting, including 597 terrorists, 130 soldiers and policemen, and 45 civilians. INQ

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Marawi donations for 68 slain soldiers hit P68 M

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Anonymous donors gave P68 million to the families of 68 soldiers killed in the ongoing battle between government forces and local terrorist group Maute in Marawi City.

The Philippine Army turned over the financial assistance in checks amounting to ₱1 million each to the families of the 68 fallen soldiers yesterday at the Ricarte Hall in Philippine Army Officers Club in Fort Bonifacio.

Lt. Col. Enrico Gil Iletto, Army Public Affairs chief, said the money was donated to the Armed Forces by a number of philanthropists who wished to remain anonymous.

Earlier this month, the military also distributed financial assistance checks worth 1 million each to selected beneficiaries of the fatalities, including the next of kin of six soldiers from the Army.

The next of kin of the other 68 fallen soldiers will also receive their financial assistance

checks from the military during the ceremonial turnover to be led by the Army Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda.

Iletto said the financial assistance for the remaining beneficiaries is now being processed to be released to the Philippine Army, which will turn it over to the beneficiaries.

"The Philippine Army is grateful for the support extended to the families of our fallen soldiers. This will surely serve as an inspiration to our troops still fighting in Marawi City," he

added.

The Filipino community in San Angelo, Texas in United States also donated \$7,000 or P350,000 to wounded soldiers to express their gratitude and support to them.

The money and gifts will benefit those confined at the Heroes' Ward of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center.

"This is actually a reflection of the good reputation that the Armed Forces has, not only in the Philippines but also abroad. We also have high prestige there because we all follow the law," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

He thanked the Filipino community in San Angelo, Texas and Rhea Agatep-Hale, who initiated the collection of donations from community members.

The turnover of gifts to wounded soldiers was facilitated by the Defense Intelligence and Security Group headed by Lt. Col. Estrellito Romero.

As of Aug. 24, a total of 98 Army soldiers were killed in action in the continuing fight in Marawi City.

Since the start of the Marawi rebellion, there has been an outpouring support from Army stakeholders and the private sector.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Families of 68 fallen soldiers get ₱1 M each

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Philippine Army (PA) distributed yesterday financial assistance checks amounting to ₱1 million each to the families of 68 fallen soldiers who fought to liberate Marawi ▶4

Families of 68 fallen... ◀1

City from terrorists.

Lieutenant Colonel Gil C. Iieto, acting Army Public Affairs chief, said the checks were handed over to the beneficiaries at a ceremony held at the Ricarte Hall, Philippine Army Officers Club in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Iieto said the financial assistance was donated to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) by a number of philanthropists who wished to remain anonymous.

Last August 2 and 9, the AFP already distributed Financial Assistance checks worth ₱1 million each to selected beneficiaries of the Marawi KIAs (killed in action) which included the next of kin of six KIAs from the Army.

The next of kin of another 68 fallen soldiers will be given their financial assistance checks during the ceremonial

turnover to be led by Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso V. Miranda. The 68 beneficiaries were chosen based on the chronological order of the fallen soldiers' date of death.

As of August 24, there has been a total of 98 Army soldiers killed in action in the continuing fight in Marawi City against the Maute Group.

Financial assistance for the remaining KIAs is now being processed for released to the Philippine Army.

"The Philippine Army is grateful for the support extended to the families of our fallen soldiers. This will surely serve as an inspiration to our troops still fighting in Marawi City," Iieto said.

Since the start of the Marawi siege last May 23, there has been an outpouring support from Army stakeholders and the private sector.

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Kin of fallen soldiers, cops in Marawi start getting P1M

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Philippine Army leadership yesterday handed over P1 million in financial assistance to each of the families of 64 soldiers who were among those slain in the dragging armed conflict in Marawi City.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda turned over the checks to the next of kin of the fallen Army soldiers in rites held at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, said acting Army spokesman Lt. Col. Enrico Gil Ileta.

The assistance is courtesy of an unnamed philanthropist who offered to donate P1 million in assistance to every soldier and policeman who perished and will perish in the ongoing operations in Marawi City.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla described the philanthropist as a “member of the business community,” “has a varied business interest in many

areas,” and “has more than enough to provide what he is giving.”

Yesterday’s distribution of the

checks brought to 76 the number of families of slain Army and Marine soldiers who have received

Maute patriarch dies

CAYAMORA Maute, father of the leaders of the Maute Group, died Sunday afternoon at the Taguig-Pateros District Hospital where he was taken after having difficulty breathing and a weak pulse, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology spokesman Sr. Insp. Xavier Solda said.

Solda told a radio interview that Maute, 67, had a weak pulse, high blood pressure and difficulty breathing before authorities decided to take him to the hospital, where he died at the intensive care unit 3:07 p.m.

He said Maute was already suffering from hepatitis, diabetes and hypertension before his detention.

He was arrested last June in Davao City and was detained at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City for security reasons.

Maute is the father of Omar and Abdullah, who led terrorists in occupying Marawi City.

Radio reports said Maute’s relatives already have his remains and will take it to Quiapo.

Maute’s death comes as government troops make their final push to completely recover Marawi City from the Maute terrorist group.

– *Raymond Africa and Evan Orias*

the P1 million assistance from the philanthropist.

Eight families received the assistance from AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Ano last August 2 and 9 in Cagayan de Oro City and Manila. The military leadership later decided to let the major services do the distribution.

“The Philippine Army is grateful for the support extended to the families of our fallen soldiers. This will surely serve as an inspiration to our troops still fighting in Marawi City,” said Ileta.

As of yesterday, a total of 130 soldiers and policemen have already died in the fighting in Marawi. Ninety-eight of the slain troops were Army soldiers, including four junior officers, and the rest are from the Marines and PNP.

Ileta said the 68 families who received the checks yesterday were chosen “based on the chronological order of the fallen soldiers’ date of casualty (death).”

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The Manila Times

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Arroyo visits Marawi evacuees in Iligan City

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo visited Marawi City evacuees in Iligan City on Sunday, distributing hygiene packs to families displaced by more than three months of fighting between the military and the terrorist Maute group.

Arroyo, who now represents the second district of Pampanga province in the House of Representatives, visited evacuees at the National School of Fisheries in Barangay Buru-un and at the Sta. Elena Evacuation site, both in Iligan.

She was accompanied by Iligan City Mayor Celso Regencia and Vice Mayor Jemar Vera Cruz.

Iligan City, which is 30 kilometers from the fighting in war-torn Marawi, has five evacuation

► VisitsA2



HELP FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES Former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is greeted by Marawi evacuees in Iligan City, where she distributed hygiene packs to families displaced by fighting. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

■ VISITS FROM A1

Arroyo visits Marawi

centers, sheltering more than 800 families. There are also 14,000 families living with relatives in Iligan.

Arroyo traces her roots to Iligan City as her maternal grandparents lived in the city in the 1950s. The former president also lived in her family's ancestral house in Iligan during her childhood.

P1M to families of slain soldiers

Also on Sunday, the Philippine Army turned over financial assistance of P1 million to each of the families of soldiers killed in Marawi City, in simple rites at Fort Bonifacio.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso

Miranda turned over the checks to the families of 68 fallen Army men, from donations to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) by a number of philanthropists who chose to remain anonymous.

The 68 beneficiaries were chosen based on the chronological order of the dates of reports of casualties in Marawi.

As of August 24, 130 soldiers have been killed in the three-month old fighting in Marawi City.

Forty-five civilians are believed to have been executed by Maute terrorists inside the main battle area.

On the terrorists' side, at least 603 Maute members have been killed. A total of 661 firearms were seized.

DEMPSEY REYES

28 August 2017



Pahina. 3

Sundalo pinosasan sa shabu

TIMBOG ang isang aktibong miyembro ng Philippine Army, at kasama nitong babae makaraan ang operasyon ng pulisya laban sa ilegal na droga sa Barangay Ong Yiu sa Butuan City kamakalawa.

Agad ikinulong sa Station 2 ng Butuan City Police ang mga suspek na sina Private First Class Joy Casinares, 44, residente ng Purok 1, Barangay Holy Redeemer at ang 22-anyos na si Sherlyn Laruza, ng Purok 9.

Nakuha mula sa posesyon ng dalawa ang apat na plastic sachet na naglalaman ng shabu na nagkakahalaga ng P12,000, dalawang cellphones, isang .45 baril at mga drug paraphernalia.

Base sa report, dakong alas-9 ng gabi nang ikasa ang drug bust operation ng mga operatiba ng Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) ng Butuan Police sa bahay ng sundalo ilang sandal matapos pagbentahan ang pulis-poseur buyer ng shabu. Sasampahan sila ng kasong paglabag sa RA 9165 o ang comprehensive dangerous drugs act of 2002. **JEFF G**

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26 August 2017



Pahina. 2

Ibinigay na sa mga kaanak
P68 MILLION SA
MARAWI HEROES

MISMONG si Philippine Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda ang nanguna sa pamamahagi ng financial assistance sa mga kaanak ng mga sundalong nasawi sa giyera sa Marawi City.

Ayon kay Philippine Army acting Spokesperson Lt. Col Enrico Gil Ileta na tig-isang milyong pisong financial assistance ang natanggap ng mga kaanak ng mga sundalong napatay sa bakbakan sa Marawi.

Ani Ileta, lubos na nagpapasalamat ang pamumuan ng Philippine Army sa suportang ibinigay para sa mga pamilya ng mga nasawing sundalo.

(BRT)

VB August 2017



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Ex-Army timbog sa 'shabu'

BORACAY ISLAND - Arestado ang isang dating miyembro ng Philippine Army matapos umanong maaktuhang nagtutulak ng ilegal na droga sa samb-puwersang buy-bust operation ng Provincial Drug Enforcement Unit at Boracay Police.

Kinilala ng awtoridad ang suspek na si Alexis Garcia, 33, tubong Tapaz, Capiz. Ayon kay Chief Inspector Frenzy Andrade, hepe ng Provincial Drug Enforcement Unit, nagtatrabaho si Garcia sa isang resort sa Boracay bilang chief security officer.

Narekober umano sa suspek ang 13 sachet ng pinaghinalaang shabu, isang 9mm caliber pistol, at P1,000 marked money.

Jun N. Aguirre

20 August 2017

Malaya

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Duterte pays tribute to nation's heroes

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday urged Filipinos to emulate the examples of the country's heroes and honor them by upholding the rule of law, protecting the country, fostering goodwill and continuing to support the fight against lawlessness, criminality and poverty of the administration.

As the country celebrates National Heroes' Day today (Monday), Duterte paid tribute to all Filipinos who helped lay the foundations of the country, acknowledging that it was through their courage, leadership and wisdom that the nation now enjoys "the blessings of freedom, independence and democracy.

"They have dedicated their lives to ensure that the future generations will have a life that is full and comfortable. We are forever grateful for their noble deeds and sacrifice. Let us honor them by upholding the rule of law, protecting our nation and fostering goodwill among ourselves," Duterte said.

"We will harness the same virtues as we continue to fight against lawlessness, criminality and poverty that hinder us from achieving our full potential. As we commemorate the life and works

of our national heroes, we must continue to embrace their ways in our daily undertakings. Let us emulate their example as we continue to realize our ideals and aspirations for ourselves and for our country," he added.

Duterte is expected to lead the commemoration and wreath laying ceremony at the Libingan ng mga Bayani today.

The Official Gazette said the celebration of National Heroes' Day in the Philippines started during the American colonial period and pays tribute to all heroes, particularly the unnamed ones.

"Our national heroes are often portrayed as a pantheon of distinct and powerful personalities who have managed to get their names published in our history books by virtue of their words or actions. But National Heroes Day specifies no hero; the law that put into practice the celebration does not name a single one. And this lack of specifics offers an opportunity to celebrate the bravery of not one, not a few, but all Filipino heroes who have braved death or persecution for home, nation, justice, and freedom," the Gazette said.

It added that National Heroes'

See DUTERTE > Page B3

DUTERTE

Day was enacted as a holiday through Act No. 3827 on October 28, 1931 which declared the last Sunday of August of every year to mark the commemoration of the National Heroes' day.

Former President Jose Laurel, through Executive Order No. 20 signed in 1942, set the National Heroes Day's holiday on November 30 until it was reverted back to the last Sunday of August by then President Elpidio Quirino in 1952 through Administrative Order No. 190.

Former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in 2007, signed into law Republic Act No. 9492 which amended Book 1, Chapter 7 of the Administrative Code and changed the celebration of National Heroes Day to the last Monday of August.

"The rationale behind the move was President Arroyo's 'Holiday Economics' program which aimed to reduce work disruptions by moving holidays to the nearest Monday or Friday of the week, thus allowing for longer weekends and boosting domestic leisure and tourism," the Gazette read.

AFP report on Marawi death toll: 603 terrorists, 130 soldiers, 45 civilians

BY RENE ACOSTA

✉ @reneacostaBM

THE Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command said last Sunday that the death toll on the side of the terrorists has already reached 603 since the military operations commenced on May 23, and at least 45 civilians have already been killed.

On the other hand, at least 130 soldiers have been killed, with more than a thousand wounded in the operations, which military officials said were nearing its end, as the soldiers are being repelled by 30 to 40 terrorists who have been surrounded in two barangays.

The military said it has also rescued 1,728 civilians, cleared 33 buildings from the Maute-IS Group and recovered at least 661 firearms.

While officials kept on saying the Marawi City operations are winding down with the "defenders" merely holding on in two barangays, they could not say when the fighting will finally stop.

Soldiers, however, have already recovered the city's Islamic Center last week, which became the headquarters of the Maute-IS Group since the fighting broke on May 23.

Just before the weekend, President Duterte visited Marawi for the third time, where he huddled with troops for about four minutes.

During his conversation with the soldiers in the battle area, the Commander in Chief reiterated his support to the troops, saying he will never abandon them.

"I would like to reiterate this: I will never abandon you as long as you are doing the right thing," he said.

"This would include fighting against the terrorists groups, the drug lords or the common criminals, as long as you are doing your sworn duty to enforce the law and protect the republic," he added.

"Let me emphasize, however, that you must do your job in accordance with the law," Duterte said.

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603 Maute fighters killed, so far – AFP

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday said that 603 Maute terrorists have so far been killed as fighting in Marawi City entered its 97th day.

The AFP Joint Task Force Marawi added that a total of 661 firearms have also been recovered by government forces from the enemy side.

On the other hand, a total of 33 more buildings have been cleared.

One hundred thirty soldiers and police officers, were likewise killed in the protracted fighting.

On Wednesday, government troops scored a major victory when they regained control of the Islamic Center and the Marawi City police station.

In an earlier press briefing in Malacanang, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla said that fighting between government forces and the Maute group is presently contained in two barangays.

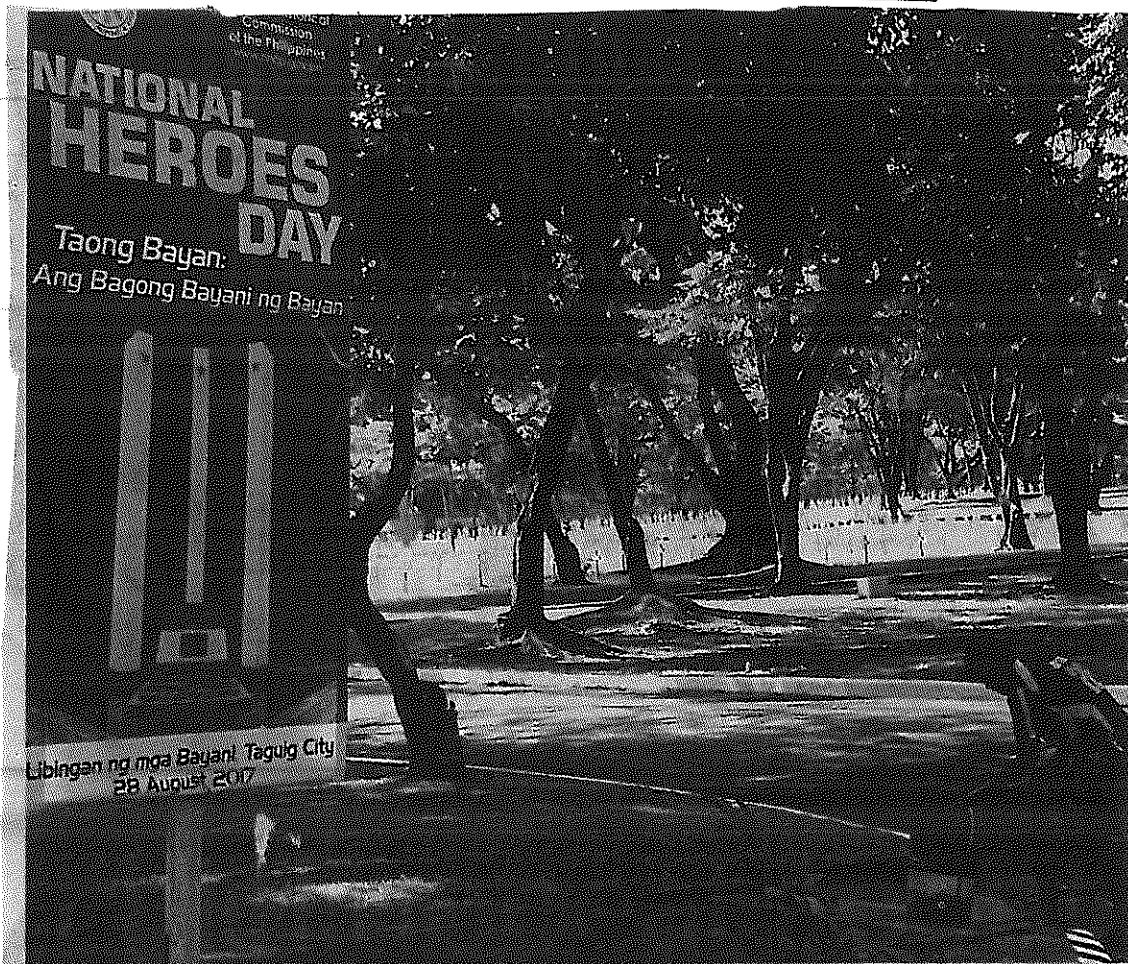
He added that based on the recent assessment by AFP Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., their best estimate is that the enemy is down to 50 fighters who are still holding around 30 hostages.

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August 2017

The Manila Times

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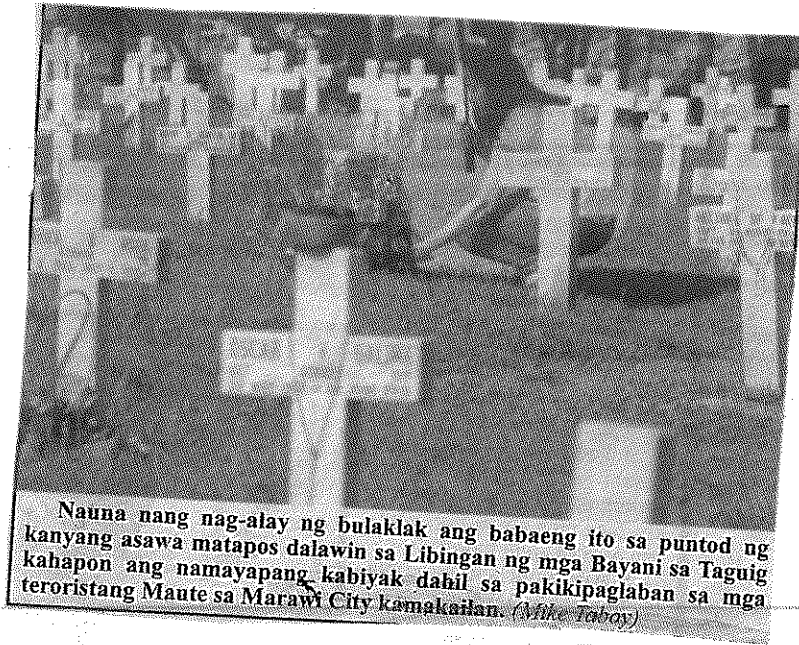
HEROES' DAY A worker paints the pavement at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City ahead of today's National Heroes' Day celebration to be led by President Rodrigo Duterte. PHOTO BY ROGER RAÑADA

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Pahina. 3



Nauna nang nag-alay ng bulaklak ang babaeng ito sa puntod ng kanyang asawa matapos dalawin sa Libingan ng mga Bayani sa Taguig kahapon ang namayapang kabiyak dahil sa pakikipaglaban sa mga teroristang Maute sa Marawi City kamakailan. (Mike Tabay)

20 August 2017



Pahina. 2

Bakbakan sa Marawi sumiklab uli

Sumiklab muli ang bakbakan sa pagitan ng tropa ng militar at mga teroristang Maute group sa battle zone area sa Marawi City.

Ang bakbakan ay nag-simula kamakalawa ng hapon malapit sa Bato Mosque at dalawa pang maliit na mosque sa lugar kung saan hinihinalang nagtatago ang mga lider ng Maute kaya tinarget ito ng militar sa isinagawang airstrike.

Ayon kay AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla na nasa 30 hang-gang 45 pang mga miyembro ng Maute ang tinutugis ng militar sa lungsod at malaki ang kanilang paniwala na hawak pa rin ng grupo ang nasa mahigit 30 pang bihag ng grupo.

Sa pinakahuling mosque umano na napasok ng mga sundalo kamakalawa ay hindi na nila nakita o naabutan ang mga bihag na kinabibilangan ni Fr.

Chito Suganob.

Paliwanag pa ni Padilla na hindi direktang mapuntirya ng mga sundalo ang mosque dahil iniwasan nilang mawasak ang lugar na pinagdarasalan at napagkukunan ng inspirasyon ng mga residente sa pagbangon muli ng kanilang lugar.

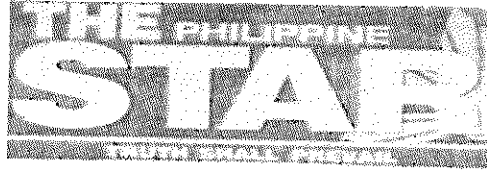
Posible rin umanong nakakalat at nagkahiwalay na ang mga terorista para hindi sila mahuli ng mga sundalo kaya nag-iingat din ang tropa ng militar sa kanilang mga

paggalaw.

Samantala, kinumpirma naman ni Provincial Crisis Management Committee Assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong na may ilang batang miyembro ng teroristang grupo ang nakuhanan ng litrato na may hawak na baril.

Sinabi naman ni Joint Task Force Lanao Deputy Commander, Col. Romeo Brawner na, may nakaka-engkwentro na silang mga child warriors ng Maute. (Gemma Garcia/Rhoderick Beñez)

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Muslim soldiers, cops pray in retaken Marawi mosque

By JOHN UNSON

LANAO DEL SUR – Muslim soldiers and police officers on Friday performed a prayer rite in one of the mosques formerly controlled by the Maute terrorist group in Marawi City.

Twenty-three Muslims prayed loudly in Arabic as their Christian colleagues stood guard outside the mosque located in Lilod district, which the terrorist occupied for weeks.

It was the first ceremony held at the mosque since the Mautes took control of the site on May 23, according to Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesman for the Lanao del Sur cri-

sis management committee.

The ceremony inspired residents and local officials to continue working for the restoration of Marawi City, Adiong said.

Christian police officers and soldiers helped clean and secure the mosque and its surroundings after the Maute terrorists abandoned it last week.

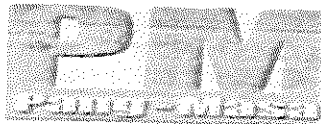
"That showed the conflict is not between Muslims and Christians. These groups are working together to restore law and order in Marawi City," Adiong said.

Displaced Marawi residents sheltered in evacuation sites said last Friday's prayer rite elated them.

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3 Mosque na pinagkukutaan ng Maute, nabawi ng militar

Nabawi na ng militar ang tatlong Mosque na pinagkutaan ng Maute-ISIS group sa Marawi City, kamakalawa.

Ito ang inihayag ni Joint Task Force Lanao Deputy Commander, Col. Romeo Brawner na kung saan bago nabawi ay nakasagupa ang mga child warriors ng Maute.

Sa pagbawi ng tatlong mosque ay paliit na nang paliit ang ginagalawan ng kalaban.

Inamin ng Armed Forces of the Philippines na nalusutan sila ng teroristang Maute nang mabawi na nila ang Grand Mosque sa sentro ng Marawi City na sinasabing stronghold na pinaniniwalaan din na dito itinatago ang mga bihag na sibilyan.

Ayon kay AFP B/Gen. Restituto Padilla, isang buwan ang kanilang ginawang operasyon bago nila napasok ang Grand Mosque at posible aniyang bago pa ito nagawa ng militar ay nakalipat na ng ibang lugar ang mga terorista.

Sa kasalukuyan ay humigit-kumulang 50 na lamang ang mga Maute at nasa 30 naman ang hawak na bihag ng mga ito.

Matatandaan na binati ni Pangulong Duterte ang militar sa matagumpay na pagbawi sa Grand Mosque nang bumisita ito sa lungsod kamakalawa. *-Rhoderick Beñez-*

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Death toll rises as fighting in Marawi erupts anew

By Mario J. Mallari

The death toll in the dragging Marawi City siege, now entering its 100th day, continued to rise to both sides of the government and the Islamic State-inspired terrorists as intense clashes erupted anew in the main battle area on Saturday.

Based on the data issued by the military yesterday, six more terrorists were killed during renewed firefight Friday and Saturday.

As of 7 p.m. Saturday, the military's Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) said a total of 803 terrorists, six more than previous update given by Wesmincom, had been killed since May 23.

However, not much of the claimed terrorists killed were recovered physically from the battlefield. They were either reported

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Death toll rises as fighting in Marawi erupts anew

From page 1

by troops, civilians and other intelligence sources of the military.

A total of 130 government troops were killed in action.

The military has stopped releasing the number of wounded in action. The last figure was pegged at more than 900 soldiers wounded.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Army leadership yesterday turned over P68 million financial assistance to the families of some of the slain Army soldiers in the dragging Marawi City siege.

Lt. Col. Enrico Gil Iletto, acting Army spokesman, said the families of 68 Army soldiers killed in action (KIA) in Marawi will be receiving P1 million check each during simple ceremony in Fort Bonifacio led by Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda.

The financial assistance was donated to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) by a number of philanthropists who wished to remain anonymous.

On Aug. 2 and 9, the AFP already distributed P1 million checks for each to selected beneficiaries of the Marawi KIAs which included the next of kin of

six KIAs from the Army.

The 68 beneficiaries were chosen based on the chronological order of the date when the soldiers fell.

As of Aug. 24, there has been a total of 98 Army soldiers KIA in the continuing fight in Marawi City against the Islamic State-inspired terrorists.

The financial assistance for the remaining KIAs is now being processed to be released to the Philippine Army and will subsequently be turned over to their beneficiaries.

“The Philippine Army is grateful for the support extended to the families of our fallen soldiers. This will surely serve as an inspiration to our troops still fighting in Marawi City,” said Iletto.

Since the Marawi rebellion erupted last May 23, there has been an outpouring support from Army stakeholders and private sectors.

Aside from financial assistance to the families of KIAs, people has been sending care packages with written letters from children to show their gratitude and boost the morale of soldiers currently deployed in Marawi City.

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POLICE FILES

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Ama ng Maute brothers namatay sa kulungan

BINAWIAN na ng buhay si Cayamora Maute, ang ama ng magkapaid na terorista na pasimuno ng kaguluhan sa Marawi City.

Ito ang kinumpirma ng Bureau of Jail Management and Penology kahapon.

Ayon kay BJMP spokesperson Insp. Xavier Solda, binawian ng buhay si Cayamora habang isinasugod sa Taguig-Pateros Hospital bandang 3:00 ng hapon.

Ayon kay Solda ang matandang Maute ay dumaranas ng sakit na diabetes, hypertension at hepatitis.

Naaresto si Cayamora noong nakaraang Hunyo 6 sa isang checkpoint sa Toril, Davao City.

Mula sa Davao City, inilipat sa Camp Bagong Diwa sa Taguig City ang nakatatandang Maute.

Pagkaraan ay naaresto rin ang misis ni Cayamora na si Ominta Romato Maute o alias Farhana at ikinulong din sa Camp Bagong Diwa.

Si Cayamora ang ama ng magkapaid na sina Omar at Abdullah Maute, na nangunguna sa pag-ookupa sa malaking bahagi ng Marawi City.

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MAUTE PATRIARCH DIES IN HOSPITAL

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

The patriarch of the Maute clan died in a government hospital on Sunday after his blood pressure shot up, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) said.

Senior Insp. Xavier Solda, spokesperson for the BJMP, said Cayamora Maute died at around 3:07 p.m. after he was brought to Taguig-Pateros District Hospital.

"The initial report that we received was that his blood pressure shot up," Solda said in

an interview.

The Maute patriarch was detained at the BJMP jail complex in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, after he was arrested in Davao on June 6.

Two of his sons led the group of terrorists that overran Marawi City on May 23. INQ

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Jailed Maute patriarch dies

The father of terrorist brothers Omarkhayam Romato and Abdullah Maute died yesterday in a hospital in Taguig, according to the Bureau of Jail Management (BJMP).

Cayamora Maute, 67, was taken to the Taguig-Pateros District Hospital already in critical condition. He was first brought to the intensive care

unit at Camp Bagong Diwa after complaining of severe pain. He died at around 3 p.m.

BJMP spokesperson Senior Inspector Xavier Solda said Maute had been suffering from diabetes, hypertension and hepatitis.

A jail warden had reported that his blood pressure shot up and he had difficulty

breathing. The BJMP and an augmentation team from the Philippine National Police were present at the hospital in Taguig, according to Solda.

Relatives received his body, which will be taken to Quiapo, according to a GMA News Online report.

The elder Maute was arrested on June 6 at a check-

point in Davao City. His wife Ominta Romato Maute, who also goes by the alias Farhana, was nabbed a few hours later. She is also detained at Camp Bagong Diwa.

The Maute brothers led the attack on Marawi City on May 23, prompting President Duterte to declare martial law over the entire Mindanao on the same day.

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Troops preparing for final assault vs Maute

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

With the Marawi crisis nearing its 100th day of fighting, government forces in the war-torn city are now preparing for the final assault against the Maute terror-

ists with hopes of ending the battle soon.

"Our troops are preparing for final assault," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday as he refused to set a deadline or target date as to when the final push will be carried out.

"When? It's up to them," Lorenzana said, stressing the decision is with the ground commanders and the troops in the battleground.

The military continues to battle the

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Troops From Page 1

Maute terrorists to retake Marawi City for 98 days running.

The fighting has claimed the lives of 130 soldiers and policemen while at least 603 terrorists have been killed and civilian casualties remain at 45.

The troops are now close to retaking Marawi from the terrorists.

The city's police headquarters had been retaken from the extremists last Thursday while the Grand Mosque was recaptured the following day.

The extremists had used the Grand Mosque as a strategic post, located downtown, as well as other mosques in the city as machine gun and sniper nests.

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Lorenzana blames CPP-NPA for non-dev't in countryside

The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) is the group responsible for the non-development of the rural areas due to the ongoing "armed struggle" against the government.

Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana made the statement after National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) spokesman Fidel Agcaoili's tagged him as a "peace spoiler."

"The leaders and members of the CPP-NPA are the real and original peace spoilers," he added in a statement late Saturday.

"First, their so-called 'armed struggle' to replace our democratic way of life with a communist form of government since the 1960s has consistently blocked the government's efforts to develop the countryside," the DND chief stressed.

He added the nation is well aware that the poverty experienced by the people in the countryside is due to the greed and desire of the rebels to be the ruling class in rural areas.

"Secondly, Fidel Agcaoili of the NDFP claims that the money they extorted from our people (what they call revolutionary tax) is being spent on the poor. *Saan napupunta*



LORENZANA

ang salaping sapilitan nilang kinukuha sa taong bayan? Ano ang mapapakita nilang katunayan na nakinabang ang bayan lalo na ang ating mga mahirap sa pangigingkil nila? Ang maliwanag, ang kanilang 'revolutionary tax' na sapilitang kinukuha sa mga tao ay ginagamit nila upang tustusan ang marangyang pamumuhay ng iilan, (Where does the money they forcibly get from the people go? What proof can they show that the country, especially the poor, benefited from their extortion? What is clear is that they use the 'revolutionary tax' which they

extort from the people to sustain the lavish lifestyle of a few)," Lorenzana disclosed.

"Alam naman po nating lahat na ang gobyerno lamang ng Pilipinas ang puwedeng mangolekta ng buwis ayon sa ating saligang batas (We are all aware that the Philippine government is the only one allowed to collect taxes as stated in our Constitution). All others who do it, especially those using the threat of violence, as what the NPA does, are plain and simple extortionists. Wala na pong ibang tawag diyan. Hinahamon ko ang mga NPA na mangolekta nang walang kasamang pananakot kung makaka-kolekta sila (There is no other term that can be used to call them. I challenge the NPA to collect without inflicting fear. I wonder if they can still collect)," he added.

Lorenzana also belied accusations of corruption hurled by the rebels at DND officials, stressing that the agency's budget is under tight scrutiny by the Commission on Audit and Congress.

"How could it line the pockets of top officials as their propaganda claims when it is barely enough for salaries, pensions, health care and maintenance and operations of the department, including its five bureaus? *Kaya nga po marami pa*

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ring kakulangan sa kagamitan ang ating AFP at may pagkakautang o arrears pa tayong kailangang bayaran sa mga retiradong sundalo (This is the reason why lack of equipment remains a problem in the AFP, not to mention the arrears for our retired soldiers that we have to pay.) In fact, the defense budget only accounts for less than 1 percent of GDP (gross domestic product),” the DND chief stated.

Lorenzana said Agcaoili and the rest of the CPP-NPA-NDF are laying the blame on the government for the failure of the peace talks because of the extent of their extortion and its adverse effects on businesses, people’s lives and development, especially in the countryside.

“If the CPP-NPA cannot win their so-called ‘war of liberation’ at the height of their self-proclaimed successes in the 80s, how much more now that they are marginalized, with many of their fighters surrendering, and their influenced barangays are dwindling,” the DND chief asked.

He added that the rebels have stepped up their rhetoric because their ploy to continue talking while fighting (euphemism for continued extortion) was finally terminated by the President.

PNA

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E · D · I · T · O · R · I · A · L

IS threat goes on

Bv all indications, the siege of Marawi City may soon end but it will not indicate an eradication of the Islamic State (IS) threat in the country and the greater Asia Pacific.

Marawi or the Philippines as an IS base is a necessary choice in the terror group's ambition to spread throughout the region, the same way that the Americans, the Japanese and other countries interested in regional dominance consider the strategic position of the country.

Last August 24, state forces recaptured the city's Grand Mosque, where previously as many as 100 civilian hostages including a priest were held by the pro-IS Maute group.

The military described the recapture of the Mosque as a significant development and an indication that the three-month war will end soon.

The IS, however, is intent on setting up a base in Southeast Asia as it is driven back in the Middle East as a result of the campaign launched by multinational forces against it.

The IS, using religion as propaganda has issued a call to wage a holy war or jihad against the "crusaders" which is a loose term to describe all those who do not subscribe to its philosophy of terror.

The call is evidently finding some measure of success as the military admitted that some of the militants appear to be foreigners, including Russians, Indonesians, Malaysians and many from the Middle East.

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In a recently released video produced by the IS' Al Hayat media center, a fighter identified as Abul-Yaman from Marawi, appeals to Muslims in East Asia, particularly those in Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand and Singapore to migrate to the city "to perform jihad."

The video depicted dead soldiers and militant "martyrs" dying in battle that surprisingly was accompanied by an American-accented narrator who railed against the "subjugation" of Muslims in the Philippines.

The video started with scenes of young men engaged in heavy fighting amid the Marawi city ruins, brandishing AK-47s amid mortar fire and air strikes.

One newspaper described the video scenes as reminiscent of the destruction of Mosul, Iraq.

It also showed the destruction of a Catholic church, terrorists tearing down a cross, smashing statues of the Virgin Mary and ripping up posters of the Pope.

"We will make revenge...We will be in Rome, in'shallah," a masked militant shouted.

The narrator then turned to Rody, for running to "his masters, the defenders of the cross, America, along with their regional guard dog Australia."

The siege of Marawi City appears merely the start of a determined effort from the terror group to relocate to the region and its next target in the country is anybody's guess.

A number of IS affiliates from Indonesia have reportedly crossed into the Philippines to support the local militants that showed the war is no longer a domestic but a regional problem.

"This is an evidence that the people under Jemaah Islamiyah in Indonesia now have a new 'flag' operating under IS, in this case, IS of the Philippines," Ridwan Habib, a terrorism analyst at the University of Indonesia said.

He said extremists in Indonesia who wish to join IS are now heading toward the Philippines instead of Syria and Iraq, because of the huge losses of the terror group in its former strongholds.

"In terms of costs, distance and access, the Philippines is more feasible," Habib added.

Many fighters from Southeast Asia who had traveled to fight with IS in Syria and Iraq are returning to their home countries with the Indonesian government reporting between 169 and 300 Indonesians who fought for IS have returned home but whose whereabouts are unknown.

Major General Simandjuntak, a military commander in Bali, described these returning fighters as "in a sleep or inactive mode."

Marawi City can be likened to the attack on Pearl Harbor that started five years of the Second World War.

al pride

(2) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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AS A MATTER OF FACT

SARA SOLIVEN DE GUZMAN

War of words

Clearly, the biggest fish in the War on Drugs is our government. Yes, the bulk of the drug supply allegedly comes straight out of the Bureau of Customs (BOC). The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is also partly to blame. They lack efficiency in patrolling the seas (and on air) to detect illegal vessels coming from afar. The Bureau of Immigration (BI) has ignored myriads of undocumented aliens in this country. Many of them are in the business of smuggling and illegal trade. Local government units co-exist and have turned a blind eye to what they see and know.



Wasn't it just a few weeks ago, when an investigation was conducted on the alleged involvement of the BOC in a shipment of shabu from China worth P6.4 billion (US\$126 million)? How did such large shipment pass through customs' so-called express "green" lane? It was reported that the company was not even registered in the record of importers with the BOC. Added to this is the fact that the trading company has done 13 importations, arriving one after another and with one supplier.

Why isn't the Armed Forces of the Philippines particularly the Philippine Coast Guard (a unit of the Philippine Navy), the agency manning our seas not able to detect illegal vessels entering our shores? Are they really having difficulty or are they pretending not to notice these vessels? If they are able to efficiently perform their duty then, the problem of smuggling, drug trafficking, etc. would have already been a non-issue. Yes, we may have way too many islands, but this is not an excuse nor should it be a hindrance to protect the country. To date, there are clandestine unloading points (already identified), mostly smaller coastal areas, where drugs are brought down from foreign vessels. These containers are then transshipped inland. Now what about the barangay and the mayors of these coastal towns? Don't tell me they don't know what's going on.

And what is the role of the Bureau of Immigration? The primary enforcement arm of the Department of Justice and the President of the Philippines in ensuring that all foreigners within its territorial jurisdiction comply with existing laws. It is mandated to assist local and international law enforcement agencies in securing the tranquility of the state against foreigners whose presence or stay may be deemed threats to national security, public safety, public morals and public health. Another function of the agency is to regulate the entry, stay and exit of these foreign nationals in the country. They apparently have a problem on enforcement. There seems to be way too many undocumented aliens in this country allegedly into illegal trading. Now, why are they allowing these people to slip through their fingers?

If only proper coordination among these three agencies can be enhanced in the pursuit of what is right and just, then the war on drugs would have ended very quickly.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Every branch of government has been sick with cancer for the longest time. Remember it was our national hero, Jose Rizal who first wrote about the social cancer in his novel *Noli Me Tangere* as a sequel to *El Filibusterismo* – The Reign of Greed. This sickness has spread to the different strata of our country: from the public officials, the priests, the rich and the poor and now even the developing working class. It is in our veins, in our hearts and in our mind. And it is about time we fight it and change our crippling, crumbling and fragmented spirit.

Why do we continue to allow those in public office, who have fooled us and corrupted our country to lead us? Why do we allow those already incarcerated for a crime they have committed in the past, return to power? Why do we re-submit ourselves to those who have been scourged of their regimes? And now we succumb to those spoils of public office, in congress and in the senate as they question alleged criminals? Who are the "real" criminals anyway?

Now that the tables have turned, those once silenced are the ones questioning today. *Sanamagan!* Aren't there other qualified Filipinos who can lead our country to a better tomorrow? Why allow these buffoons to question justice on our behalf when we very well know they too are corrupt?

Government has allowed us to get into a "laissez faire" – free enterprise in all sorts of ways operating on its own laws. In fact, every branch of government, every department, every agency set and reset their own rules and guidelines leading us to confusion when every new department/agency head is appointed. There is no sustainable future in this type of endeavor. And you wonder how Indonesia, Malaysia, now Vietnam and soon Cambodia and Myanmar have overtaken us? *Susmariosep!*

We must stop pointing fingers at one another and get our act together. The TV and radio news, newspapers and social media have created war of words. This is "yellow journalism" at its worst and it's not helping us any bit.

Yellow journalism stirs up our mood. It excites us and angers us. The danger is that it influences us enormously even when the facts and data are fabricated or even half presented. The news can be fake or leaning toward an angle that is very subjective and incoherent.

When our thought is excited, it doesn't make us think reasonably. We have to learn to think without prejudice. We shouldn't create fear for others. We need to be careful of our thought forms because our thought governs us.

We are like newspapers. We should contribute our news in a healthy way. Our own publication can create war or peace. We need to bring in peace in order to achieve harmony. We should turn the news that we spread into a force of good. This can only happen if we unite and work together, when we understand each other. Most important, when we purify our thoughts. By doing so, we create a better society.

We should learn to base our decisions and thoughts on real and factual data and evidence. We cannot afford to give in to a "he said, she said" kind of news. We must read, digest, analyze and use science, logic and common sense. We should also check our sources. Just believing without checking is dangerous.

Now on the series of crimes happening around us, our agencies need to be more knowledgeable of their work. Proper investigation needs training and proper investigative procedures not to mention equipment. Continuous research-based investigative procedures will produce successful investigations. Investigators can use different techniques to solve a crime – arson, murder or kidnapping. They must have the knowledge and application of the principles of evidence; be able to look for evidence and analyze them; identify the victims; and locate the suspects; and the principles of humanizing the law that comes with a strong commitment on social responsibility.

Our public investigative teams like the NBI, the CIDG and forensic scientists should be prepared and well-trained especially if the President is determined to continue the war on drugs and the fight against corruption.

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ONLINE NEWS

28 AUGUST 2017

<http://dwdd.com.ph>

CHANGE OF COMMAND | Intelligence Service AFP Welcomes New Chief

Posted by Alvin Santiago



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – Brig. Gen. Macairog Alberto (*Left*), the previous Commander of 1001st Infantry Brigade of the 10th Infantry “Agila” Division took post as the new Chief of the Intelligence Service AFP (ISAFP) vacated by Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva (*Middle*) in a Change of Command Ceremony presided by Gen. Eduardo Año, AFP Chief of Staff (*Right*) at the ISAFP Compound, General Headquarters AFP, 25 August 2017.

MGEN Villanueva who has assumed Command of 4th Infantry “Diamond” Division PA served as Intel Branch Chief of the 4thID PA in 1994, Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence in 1999, and Chief of Staff of 4th ID PA in 2012 to 2014. He is the son of retired BGEN Rogelio Villanueva, the former Commander of the same division 29 years ago. **Photo by SN1 Viluan / PAOAFP / MCAG**

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

<http://dwdd.com.ph>

| PA Welcomes Indonesian Army Command and Staff College

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on August 26, 2017 at 3:11 PM

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FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Metro Manila (DWDD) – Philippine Army Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Robert M. Arevalo welcomed delegates of the Indonesian Army Command and Staff College headed by Col Muhammad Zamroni, Student Commander, during their visit at the Headquarters Philippine Army on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 as part of their Overseas Study Tour. **OACPA / MCAG**

TAGS: [OACPA](#) [MCAG](#)

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

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

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com>

Philippines: NPA collects P1.2B in extortion activities

From Anadolu Agency (Aug 26): Philippines: NPA collects P1.2B in extortion activities

Defense chief calls businesses not to give into their demands

The Philippine defense chief said the communist rebel group is collecting as much as P1.2 billion in revolutionary taxes every year from various mining areas in Mindanao.

The collection of revolutionary taxes by the New People's Army are extortion activities that have long been hurting the business sector in the country, Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenza underscored.

Lorenzana's statement comes in the southern city of Davao following reports and complaints from business groups in Mindanao on the extortion activities of the NPAs.

"Don't give in to their demands. They rely on extortion to survive. If the sources of their funds run dry, their activity will also decrease and eventually end their movement," Davao Today quoted Lorenzana as saying on Friday.

The government peace panel restarted talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines, its armed NPA and political wing the National Democratic Front in 2016, three years after talks were shelved during the Aquino administration.

But in May, President Rodrigo Duterte ended the peace talks with the communists, blaming the NPA rebels of continued attacks against security forces.

Duterte has repeatedly said peace negotiations between the government and the communists would only resume if they stop their extortion activities.

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

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com>

Video shows ISIS destroying Catholic church, threatening Rome

From Angelus News (Aug 25): **Video shows ISIS destroying Catholic church, threatening Rome**

A new video has been released showing ISIS militants in the Philippines threatening to come to Rome as they desecrate a Catholic church. Filmed in the Philippine city of Marawi, the video shows militants shooting and setting fires within a church, as they destroy a crucifix and statues of Mary and St. Joseph.

One jihadist tears up photos of Pope Francis and Benedict XVI while saying, "Remember this, you kuffar [non-Muslims] – we will be in Rome, we will be in Rome, inshallah [god willing]." Over the footage, another narrator can be heard saying "after all their efforts, it would be the religion of the cross that would be broken. The crusaders' enmity toward the Muslims only served to embolden a generation of youth."

The video, distributed by the pro-ISIS media organization, Al Hayat, also contains graphic footage of fighting in the besieged Philippine city, including dead Philippine soldiers and militants shooting AK-47s as a narrator encourages Muslims in East Asia to come to the city "to perform jihad."

Since May 23, militants of the Maute group, which formed in 2012 and pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in 2015, have been fighting against government forces for control of the city of Marawi on the island of Mindanao. Violence began after a failed army and police raid to capture Isnilon Hapilon, a local Islamist leader. The initial attack launched by Maute burned several buildings, including the Catholic cathedral and the bishop's residence.

The majority of the city's 200,000 people – mostly Muslim – have fled since its occupation. At least 400 people have been killed in the fighting as of mid-July, though numbers haven't been updated since. On Aug. 24, government forces recaptured the city's Grand Mosque, where it had been believed that as many as 40 civilian hostages were being held by militants, though no militants or hostages were found. Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said in a briefing that the retaking of the Grand Mosque, located in the central area of Marawi, was "a significant development," despite recovering no hostages. The government has said some of the militants fighting in Marawi appear to be from abroad, including countries like Russia, Indonesia, and Malaysia. However, Officials say there are also indications that other slain militants have come from the Middle East. The fighting has fueled fears that the Islamic State is attempting to set up a regional base in Southeast Asia.