

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

12 December 2017

Tuesday

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

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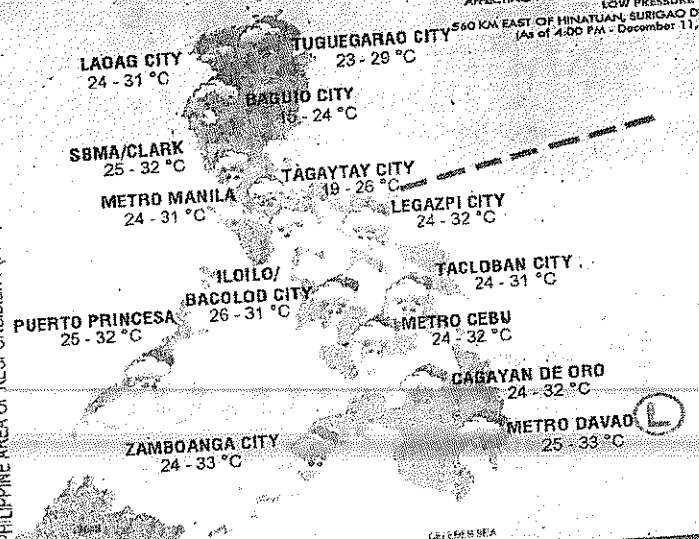
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 12, 2017 | TUESDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)



TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON
NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON
LOW PRESSURE AREA 560 KM EAST OF HINATUAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR (As of 4:00 PM - December 11, 2017)

SUNRISE 6:11 AM	SUNSET 6:28 PM
MOONRISE 1:03 AM	MOONSET 1:24 PM
LAST QUARTER DEC 10 3:51 PM	NEW MOON DEC 16 2:30 PM
LOW TIDE 11:08 AM -0.01 Meter	HIGH TIDE 2:43 AM 0.86 Meter

- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
- Light rains

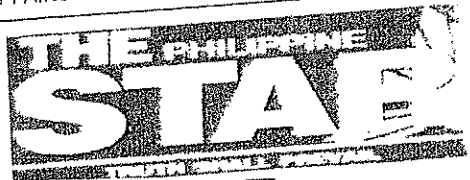
	DEC 10	DEC 11	DEC 12	DEC 13	DEC 14
METRO MANILA	24-31°C	25-31°C	19-26°C	20-25°C	24-31°C
TUGUEGARAO	23-30°C	22-30°C	24-32°C	25-32°C	24-31°C
LAOAG	24-30°C	23-30°C	24-31°C	24-31°C	24-32°C
BAGUIO	15-23°C	16-23°C	25-31°C	26-32°C	24-32°C
SBMA/CLARK	24-31°C	24-32°C	24-31°C	25-31°C	25-30°C
TAGAYTAY					23-31°C
LEGAZPI					23-31°C
PUERTO PRINCESA					24-32°C
ILOILO/BACOLOD					24-32°C
METRO CEBU					25-32°C
TACLOBAN					24-31°C
GAGAYAN DE ORO					24-31°C
METRO DAVAO					24-32°C
ZAMBOANGA					24-32°C

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

PILIPINAS HD

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



December 2017

'Martial law to be used vs NPA'

Congress sets joint session on Rody proposal

by ALEXIS ROMERO

The threat posed by communist rebels was one of the reasons cited by President Duterte to justify his request for Congress to extend martial law in Mindanao by one more year.

In a letter to the House of

Representatives and the Senate dated Dec. 8, Duterte said the New People's Army intensified its rebellion and "terrorist attacks" against civilians while the government was busy addressing the problems caused by jihadists.

"The New People's Army took advantage of the situation and intensified their dec-

ades-long rebellion against the government and stepped up terrorist acts against innocent civilians and private entities as well as guerrilla warfare against the security sector and public and government infrastructure, purposely to seize political power through violent means and supplant the country's democratic form of

government with communist rule," the President said.

"These recent developments involving the NDF-CPP-NPA (National Democratic Front-Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army) forebode another year of intensified armed hostilities with us together

Turn to Page 2

Martial law From Page 1

with other security concerns described above, continue to make Mindanao the hotbed of rebellion," he added.

The NPA is the armed component of the communist movement while the CPP serves as its political arm. The NDF used to represent the rebels in the peace talks with the government before negotiations collapsed this year.

Duterte is asking Congress to extend martial law in Mindanao by one year to curb the threats posed by the Islamic State (IS)-linked terrorists who survived the Marawi siege and other armed groups.

The President imposed military rule in Mindanao on May 23 after terrorists laid siege to Marawi City, kidnapped dozens of civilians and burned several buildings.

Congress voted to extend martial law until the end of the year last July. The President did not mention the communist threat when he sought an extension of martial law in Mindanao five months ago.

Duterte declared Marawi liberated from terrorists last October but did not lift martial law because of supposed threats in other parts of Mindanao like Basilan and Sulu.

Last week, the military recommended a one-year extension of martial law in Mindanao, saying the government needs to run after other armed groups in the south.

Civil society groups and the political opposition are concerned that the extension of martial law in Mindanao would lead to abusive practices and human rights violations.

Duterte requested the ex-

tension two weeks after he terminated peace talks with communist rebels, whom he accused of pushing for a coalition government.

The request also came a week after he declared the NPA and the CPP as terrorist groups.

The extension of military rule in Mindanao has to secure the nod of Congress, which will go on a month-long break from Dec. 15.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the administration expects intensified clashes between government forces and communist rebels.

Roque said the President would use the "full force" of martial law against the NPA "as long as there are acts of rebellion being committed in the island province of Mindanao."

Asked if an arrest order would also be issued against NPA members, Roque said: "Of course. That goes without saying that the martial law administrator is empowered to order the arrest of individuals and because the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus is also suspended, then they would have to await the lifting of martial law for judicial remedy."

In his letter, Duterte said the NPA has perpetrated a total of 385 atrocities in Mindanao, which resulted in the death of 41 government troopers and the wounding of 62 others.

The violent incidents involving communists also left 23 civilians dead and six others wounded, he added.

Duterte said the communist insurgents also staged 59 arson incidents in Mindanao and has destroyed P2.2 billion worth of properties. Among the com-

panies attacked by the rebels were the Lapanday Food Corp. in Davao City, the Mil-Oro Mining and Frasec Ventures Corp. in Davao Oriental.

He said the atrocities prompted him to issue Proclamation 360 declaring the termination of peace negotiations with the communists and Proclamation 374 labeling the CPP and NPA as terrorist organizations.

Other threats

The President also cited the threats posed by remnants of the Maute group, the Abu Sayyaf and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in his letter to Congress.

He said the remnants of the group of terrorist leader Isnilon Hapilon and brothers Abdullah and Omar Maute have continued to recruit and train new members and fighters. Hapilon and Omar died in a clash last October while Abdullah was killed last September.

Duterte claimed that at least 185 persons listed in the martial law arrest orders remain at large.

He said members of the IS-inspired Da'awatul Islamiyah, Waliyatul Masriq and their supporters have been building up finances and logistics and reorganizing in Central Mindanao, particularly in Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sulu and Basilan.

"These activities are geared toward the conduct of intensified atrocities and armed public uprisings in support of their objective of establishing the foundation of a global Islamic caliphate and of a *wilayat* (state or province) not only in the Philippines but also in the whole of Southeast Asia," Duterte said.

The President also men-

tioned the presence of a certain Turaife group, which was reportedly planning to stage bombings in Cotabato.

He said Abu Turaife, described by some reports as a commander of a BIFF break-away group, is a "potential successor" of Hapilon as an emir of the IS in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

Duterte said the BIFF break-away group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, continued to defy the government by perpetrating at least 15 violent incidents during the martial law period in Maguindanao and North Cotabato. The group has initiated at least 89 violent incidents this year, he added.

The remnants of the Abu Sayyaf, Duterte claimed, remain a "serious security concern." The terrorist group is believed to have presence in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga peninsula.

Duterte said the Abu Sayyaf, which has been involved in several kidnapping incidents and bombings, has conducted at least 43 acts of terrorism which claimed the lives of eight civilians, three of whom were beheaded.

Joint session

The Senate and the House of Representatives would convene and hold this week a joint session to deliberate on the proposal of President Duterte to extend martial law in Mindanao for another year.

"Our session officially ends on Friday, Dec. 15; hence, we may have a joint session on Thursday or Friday as part of the 2nd Regular Session, without need of a special session," House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas told reporters in a Viber group message.

Fariñas said there is no

need to hold a special session as espoused by Malacañang earlier to discuss the martial law request, since Congress has until Dec. 15 to deliberate on it before it adjourns for the Christmas break.

Security officials are expected to brief senators today on the situation in Marawi City and other parts of Mindanao, which Duterte said remains under serious threat not only from Islamic extremists but also communist rebels.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said economic managers and human rights officials will also give their respective briefings and answer questions from senators.

"Then, Wednesday morning is the joint session. We start in the morning, I don't know what time we'll finish," Pimentel told reporters.

The Senate last night approved the concurrent resolution calling for a joint session of Congress on Wednesday.

Under the Constitution, the president needs congressional permission to extend any existing declaration of martial law.

The Senate and the House are to vote jointly, so senators are expected to be outvoted by the congressmen.

Meanwhile, opposition Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay yesterday said Duterte's request for a one-year extension "amounts to a patent violation of the safeguards which the 1987 Constitution imposes for the limited grounds and duration of martial law and its extension."

It is also a "malevolent perpetuation of the subjugation of the supermajority in the Congress by the President even against the unequivocal provisions of the Constitution protecting civil liberties and the rule of law."

The Philippine Councilors League (PCL) of the Philippines expressed support for Duterte's request for an extension of martial law in Mindanao for another year.

The PCL endorsed to the President its support to the recommendation of the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on the extension of martial law.

Davao City Councilor Danilo Dayanghirang, chair of the PCL, said Mindanaoans have noted a surge in investors who felt that their investments are more secure under martial law.

Activists of the human rights group Karapatan, however, claimed that the extension of martial law in Mindanao could bring the country closer to nationwide military rule.

"This is a dangerous precedent that inches the entire country closer to a nationwide declaration of martial law. Martial law in Mindanao has paved the way for the intensification of rights violations – both within and outside of Marawi," Cristina Palabay, secretary-general of Karapatan said.

Since the declaration of martial law last May 23, Karapatan said it recorded at least 29 victims of extrajudicial killings, including 15 cases in Southern Mindanao.

Many of the supposed victims were members of local peasant organizations and affiliates of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), who were targeted for their local campaigns for genuine agrarian reform and against militarization. – With Delon Porcalla, Paolo Romero, Michael Punongbayan, Edith Regalado, Artemio Dumlaog, Roel Pareño

12 December 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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PRRD justifies extension of martial law

By ROY C. MABASA

Malacañang on Monday released a copy of President Rodrigo R. Duterte's letter to Congress requesting to extend the validity of martial law in Mindanao for another year, citing threats from ISIS-inspired groups and the communist rebels.

In a letter addressed to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, the President ▶ 4

justified that further extension of the implementation of martial law and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao will help military and the police and all other law enforcement agencies to "quell completely and put an end to the ongoing rebellion on Mindanao and prevent the same from escalating from other parts of the country"

"Public safety indubitably requires such further extension, not only for the sake of security and public order, but more importantly to enable the government and the people of Mindanao to pursue the bigger task of rehabilitation and the promotion of a stable socio-economic growth and development," Duterte said in his letter dated December 8, 2017.

Regrouping forces

Duterte said martial law administrator Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana recommended a one-year extension of martial law to "ensure total eradication of the DAESH-inspired Da'awatul Islamiyah Waliyatul Masriq, other like-minded local and foreign terror groups and armed lawless groups, the communist terrorists and their coddlers, supporters, and financiers."

In his letter, the President said the recommendation was based on the security assessment made by the AFP, and a separate evaluation from the PNP.

Duterte said he is seeking an extension of the validity of martial law and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus from December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2018, "or for such other period of time as the Congress may determine, in accordance with Section 18, Article VII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution."

Despite the death of the Maute brothers and Isnilon Hapilon, Duterte said there are remnants of the terror

group who have continued to rebuild their organization through the recruitment and training of new members and fighters to carry on the rebellion, noting that 185 of those who were listed in the martial law arrest warrants have remained at-large, "in all probability, are presently regrouping and consolidating their forces."

NPA, Turaifie group

Another concern is the Turaifie group, which he said, has been "monitored to be planning to conduct bombings, notably targeting the Cotabato area. The group's leader is said to be Hapilon's potential successor as emir of DARSH Wilayat in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

Furthermore, Duterte said the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighter (BIFF) continues to defy the government by perpetrating at least 15 violent incidents during the martial law period in Maguindanao and North Cotabato. This year alone, the President said the BIFF has initiated at least 89 violent incidents, mostly harassments and roadside bombings against government troops.

Duterte also cited the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf Group remain a security concern in Mindanao, especially in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Zamboanga Peninsula. The ASG, on the other hand has conducted at least 43 acts of terrorism, including attacks using improvised explosive devices (IEDs), harassments and kidnappings this year which resulted in the killing of eight civilians, three of whom were mercilessly beheaded.

The President also included in the list of security threats in Mindanao the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

The NPA has perpetuated a total of at least 385 atrocities in Mindanao this year resulting in 41 deaths and 62 wounded on the part of government forces.

Apart from other killings and atrocities involving the NPA, the Chief Executive said 59 arson incidents were carried out this year by communist rebels in Mindanao, targeting businesses and private establishments, and destroying an estimated P2.2 billion of properties.

Go after looters

The Metro Marawi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MMCCI) vice president Solaiman L. Matonding is supporting the extension of martial law in Mindanao for "security reasons" but says government must ensure victims of looting and human rights abuses are "given justice."

Matonding, president of the Marawi Association of Internally Displaced Business Persons Association urged government to look into the looting allegedly perpetrated by members of the Armed Forces (AFP) in Marawi.

He said they likewise seek justice for victims of looting and human rights abuses and that culprits must be prosecuted, otherwise "it won't be wise to extend" martial law in Mindanao.

Stolen items included, among others, money, pieces of jewelry, sala sets, appliances, jars, decorations and even wooden doors made of "narra."

"Terrorists don't have cargo trucks to transport these things, only the military is capable of that," Matonding said.

He recommended to Task Force Bangon Marawi the creation of a special body that will investigate possible abuses of the police and military and avoid "extortion by men in uniform" and establish a Marawi Inventory on Properties Damaged Board (MIPRODAB) to conduct an official assessment of actual damage to private properties and business establishments.

Matonding added they seek indemnification to all victims in the business sector.

The Marawi Chamber estimated losses in the business sector could reach P8.8 billion.

December 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 2

Army fetes 51 promoted generals

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Philippine Army recently welcomed 51 newly-promoted generals during a ceremony held at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig

City. Three Lieutenant Generals, seven Major Generals, and 41 Brigadier Generals were given full military honors followed by a courtesy call to the Army Chief, Lieutenant General Rolando

Joselito D. Bautista.

The three officers promoted to Lt. Gen. were Carlito G. Galvez, Rafael C. Valencia, and Benjamin C. Madrigal. The seven officers promoted to Maj. Gen. were Ronnie S. Evangelista, Felimon T. Santos Jr, Arnel B.

Dela Vega, Casiano C. Monilla, Isidro L. Purisima, Macairog S. Alberto, and Rizaldo B. Limoso.

Morover, the 41 officers promoted to Brig. Gen. were Perfecto M. Rimando, Cirilito E. Sobejana, Pedro A. Sumayo Jr, Glorivine R. Dida, Fernando T. Trinidad, Francisco F. Mendoza, Felicisimo C. Buddiongan, Ramiro Manuel A. Rey, Arnulfo C. Matanguihan, Lope C Dagoy, Nixon M. Fortes, Milfredo M. Melegrito, Jose C. Faustino Jr, Manolo M. Samarita, Raniel T. Tamiro, Ernesto T. Lopena, Lenard T. Agustin, Antonio G. Parlade Jr, Cristobal N. Zaragoza, Rene Glen O. Paje, Edwin Leo Torrelavega, Abraham Claro C. Casis, Eric C. Vinoya, Ernie S. Langub, Tyne T. Bañas, Franco Nemesio M. Gacal, Bartolome Vicente O. Bacarro, Corleto S. Vinluan Jr, Jose Ely D. Alberto, Bismarck D. Soliba, Jesus B. Sarsagat, Cornelio H. Valencia Jr, Pio Q. Diñoso III, Jacinto R. Bareng, Divino Rey C. Pabayo Jr, Reuben S. Basiao, Diosdado C. Carreon, Arnulfo Marcelo B. Burgos Jr, John Dominic P. Pulido, Juvymay R. Uy, and Dionisio C. Baudin Jr.

2 December 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 17

2 dead, 8 hurt in Cotabato military truck accident

BY DEMPSEY REYES

TWO soldiers died and eight others were injured after a military truck turned turtle while traversing the Bulwang Spring/So Lukeke crossing in Antipas, Cotabato on Monday.

Lieutenant Silver Belvis, civil-military operations officer of the 39th Infantry Battalion (IB), said at about 9:30 a.m. in Barangay

Malatab a KM450 military truck carrying a squad under the 39th IB tried to avoid hitting a child who suddenly crossed the Antipas-

Arakan road but its driver lost control of the wheel.

The driver swerved to the opposite lane to avoid the child but the vehicle flipped and fell 10 feet down the left side of the road killing the two soldiers and injuring eight others.

A separate police report identified the driver as Private First Class Manuel Lumanod, 32; he only sustained minor injuries.

The others injured were iden-

tified only by their last names as Lumanod; Corporal Anta; Private First Class Lacunsay, PFC Amarillo, PVT Guimay, PVT Gepitulan, PVT Alao and PFC Silva.

The dead soldiers were PFC Pregillana and PVT Marsaga. They were dead on arrival at Antipas Medical Specialist Hospital.

Belvis said the troops came from security operations in Arakan, North Cotabato.

12 December 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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4 soldiers dead in road accidents

BY VICTOR REYES

FOUR soldiers died and 17 others were injured after when their trucks fell into ravines in accidents in North Cotabato and Zamboanga del Sur.

The latest incident occurred around 9:30 a.m. yesterday in Sitio Lukeke, Barangay Malatab, Antipas town in North Cotabato.

Soldiers from the 39th Infantry Battalion, coming from a security operation in the province, were on the way back to their detachment in Arakan town, when their truck avoided a child who suddenly crossed the road, said 1Lt. Silver Belvis, civil military operations officer of the Army's 39th IB.

The truck driver lost control of the military vehicle which overturned and fell into a 10-foot ravine at the left side of the road, Belvis said.

The incident left two soldiers

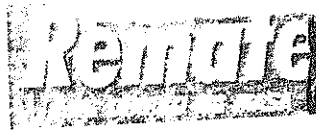
dead and eight injured. The names of the casualties were not immediately available.

In Pagadian City in Zamboanga del Sur, two soldiers died and nine others were injured in another vehicular accident in Barangay Lourdes at around 10:15 a.m. last Friday.

Maj. Richard Enciso, spokesman of the 1st Infantry Division, said the soldiers were evacuating three soldiers, wounded in a firefight earlier with New People's Army rebels in Laewood town, when their truck's brake malfunctioned and it subsequently fell into a ravine.

Enciso named the fatalities as Staff Sergeants Celerino Objero and Isgerie Papolonias. The wounded were Sergeants Bejaker Kasim and Roberto Rojas; Corporals Darryl Banares, Rodrigo Castillo, Melvin Calobong and Crisaldo Tan; Pfc. Jayson de Guzman; Pvt. George Bajo; and militiaman Romelson Tasa.

December 2017



Pahina. 3

2 soldiers dead, 8 hurt in Cotabato mishap

By ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA

TWO enlisted personnel were killed while eight others were wounded when the military truck they were riding overturned while avoiding a child who was crossing the highway in Cotabato.

Lt. Silver Belvis, Civil Military Operation (CMO) officer of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion (IB), said the identities of the victims were not yet identified as of presstime while the wounded soldiers were taken to the nearest hospital.

Reports said the accident occurred at 9:30 a.m. in Crossing Bulwang Spring, Sitio Lukeke, Bgy. Malatab, Cotabato.

Accordingly, the victims were onboard a military truck on their way back to Dilion TPB in Bgy. Doroluman, Arakan, Cotabato, when the accident happened.

The report said the truck was traversing along the highway when a child suddenly crossed, prompting the driver to apply the brakes, causing the vehicle to overturn and fell into a 10-foot canal on the left side of the road.

Because of the strong impact, two enlisted personnel were killed while eight others were wounded.

December 2017



Pahina. 3

2 sundalo patay sa Cotabato

NASAWI ang dalawang miyembro ng Philippine Army habang walang iba pa ang sugatan nang masangkot sa aksidente sa Cotabato City kahapon ng umaga.

Ayon kay Lt. Silver Belvis, ang civil military operations officer ng 39th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army, binabagtas ng mga sundalong lulan ng KM450 truck ang Antipas-Arakan road nang mahulog sa bangin dakong alas-nueve ng umaga habang nasa bahagi ng Crossing Bulwang Spring, Sitio Lukeke sa Barangay Malatab.

Sinasabing nawalan ng kontrol ang drayber ng trak na umiwas umano sa biglang tumawid na bata sa kalsada.

Bumaligtad pa ng ilang beses ang trak bago nahulog sa bangin. Hindi na muna pinangalanan ang mga nasawing sundalo habang ipinabatid sa pamilya ng mga ito ang insidente.

JEFF GALLOS

December 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 6

6

MARIO D. BASCO • Editor

PROBINSYA NGAYON

4 sundalo patay, 17 sugatan sa sakuna

Apat na sundalo ng Phil. Army ang namatay habang sa naganap na magkahiwalay na sakuna sa bayan ng Antipas, North Cotabato at Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur noong Sabado ng gabi at kahapon ng umaga.

Kinilala ang mga namatay na sundalo na sina Private Marsaga, Pfc Pregillana ng Army's 39th Infantry Battalion; Staff Sergeant Celerino Objero at si Staff Sergeant Isgerie Papolonias.

Naisugod naman sa magkahiwalay na pagamutan ang mga sugatang sina Private George Bajo, Corporal Darryl Banares, Corporal Rodrigo Castillo, Corporal Melvin Colobong, Private First Class Jayson de Guzman, Sergeant Benjaker Kasim, Sergeant Roberto Rojas Francisco, Corporal Crisaldo Tan, Cargu Romelson Tasa, Pfc Manuel Lumanod, Cpl. Anta, Private Lacunsay, Pfc Amarillo, Private Guimay, Private Gepitulan, Private Alao, at si Pfc Silva.

Sa pahayag ni Lt. Silver Belvis, Civil Military Operations Officer ng Army's 39th Infantry Battalion, kasalukuyang bumabagtas

Nina JOY CANTOS at RHODERICK BEÑEZ

sa kahabaan ng national highway sa may crossing ang KM 450 military truck na minamaheno ni Pfc. Lumanod na kasama sina Anta, Lacunsay, Maraillo, Guimay, Gepitulan, Alao, at si Silva

Gayunman, biglang may tumawid na bata kaya pilit iniwasan ni Lumanod kung saan kinabig nito ang trak pero namiskalkula kaya bumaliktad hanggang sa mahulog sa may 10 lalim na talampakan bangin sa kaliwang bahagi ng highway sa Barangay Malatab sa bayan ng Antipas, North Cotabato kahapon ng umaga.

Si Private Marsaga ay idineklarang patay sa Kidapawan Medical Specialist Hospital habang si Pfc Pregillana ay namatay habang ginagamot.

Samantala, ayon naman

ng bundok sa Barangay Lourdes, Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur noong Sabado ng gabi. Napag-alamang nagsagawa ng casualty evacuation ang militar sa mga nasugatang kasamahan sa Army's 53rd Infantry Division sa bakbakan nang makasalubong si kamatayan noong Sabado.

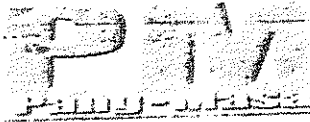
ng bundok sa Barangay Lourdes, Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur noong Sabado ng gabi.

Napag-alamang nagsagawa ng casualty evacuation ang militar sa mga nasugatang kasamahan sa Army's 53rd Infantry Division sa bakbakan nang makasalubong si kamatayan noong Sabado.



Inuusisa ng ilang residente ang nawasak na military truck matapos itong mahulog sa bangin sa Barangay Malatab, bayan ng Antipas, North Cotabato. Rhoderick Beñez

12 December 2017



Pahina. 2

2 patay, 8 sugatan...

TRAK NG SUNDALO SWAK SA BANGIN

Nasawi noon din ang dalawang sundalo habang wala naman ang sugatan nang aksidenteng bumulusok at mahulog sa bangin ang military truck na kanilang sinasakyan makaraang iwasan ang isang batang tumatawid sa highway ng Brgy. Malatab, Antipas, Cotabato nitong Lunes ng umaga.

Kinilala ang mga nasawing sundalo na nakilala lamang sa kanilang apelyido na sina Private Marsaga at Pfc Pregillana; pawang kasapi ng Army's 39th Infantry Battalion. Si Marsaga ay dead-on-arrival sa Kidapawan Medical Specialist Hospital habang si Pregillana ay binawian naman ng buhay habang isinasalba sa pagamutan.

Patuloy namang nilalapatan ng tunas sa pagamutan ang mga sugatang sina Pfc Manuel Lumanod, driver ng military vehicle at mga kasamahan nitong nakilala lamang sa mga apelyidong Cpl. Anta, Pvt. Lacunsay, Pfc Amariillo, Pvt Guimay, Pvt Gepitulan, Pvt Alao at Pfc Silva.

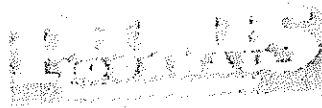
Sa ulat ni Chief Inspector Raymund Sarmogenes at Lt. Silver Belvis, Civil Military Operations (CMO) Officer ng Army's 39th IB hepe ng Antipas Police, dakong alas -9:30 ng umaga nang nangyari ang malagim na aksidente.

Habang binabagtas ng tropa ang highway sa nasabing lugar ay isang bata ang umano'y biglang tumawid sa kalsada. Pilit na iniwasan ni Lumanod ang bata dahil upang kabigin niya ang manibela sa ibang direkyon pero dahil sa miscalculasyon ay tumaob naman ang naturang truck hanggang sa mahulog sa 30 talampakang bangin sa kaliwang bahagi ng highway.

Patuloy ang imbestigasyon ng pulisya sa naturang trahedyo. -Joy Cantos-

B

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Military truck overturns, 2 soldiers killed, 8 hurt

TWO soldiers yesterday were killed while eight others were wounded in a road accident in Cotabato City.

Lt. Silver Belvis, Civil Military Operation officer of the 39th Infantry Bat-

talion of the Philippine Army, said the identities of the victims were withheld pending notification of their families.

The soldiers were in a military truck on their way back to Dilion TPB in Bgy.

By Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

Doroluman, Arakan Cotabato when they met the accident at 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

They were traveling the

highway in Crossing Bulwang Spring, Sitio Lukeke, Bgy. Malatab, Cotabato when a child suddenly crossed the road which prompted the driver to swerve.

The driver lost control

of the truck until it turned turtle and fell 10 feet deep on the left side of the road.

Two of the troopers died on the spot while the wounded personnel were rushed to the nearest hospital for treatment.

AK

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POLICE FILES

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Military truck nahulog sa bangin: 2 sundalo nasawi, 8 sugatan

DALAWANG sundalo ang nasawi habang 8 iba ang sugatan nang mahulog sa may 30 metrong lalim ng bangin ang kanilang sinasakayan military truck sa Antipas, Cotabato Province kahapon ng umaga.

Pansamanlata hindi pinangalanan ang 2 nasawing sundalo habang di pa batid ng kanilang mga pamilya at kamag-anak. Ang 8 sugartan naman ay dinala sa pagamutan Ayon kay Lt Silver Belvis, CMO officer ng 39th Infantry Battalion, 9:30 ng umaga nang magamap ang insidente sa Crossing Bulwang Spring, Sitio Lukeke, Brgy Malatab,

Antipas.

Sakay sa isang KM450 truck ang isang squad ng elemento ng 39th IB pabalik ng kanilang kampo sa Brgy Doroluman, Abaran, Cotabato matapos na magsagawa ng military operation.

Pagsapit sa nasabing lugar ay bigla nalang sumulpot ang isang bata na tumawid ng daan kayat iniwasan ito ng driver, dahilan upang mawalan ito ng kontrol sa manibela.

Ang truck ay bumaliktad at tuhuyang nahulog sa may 30 metro lalim ng bangin na nagresulta ng pagkasawi ng 2 sundalo. - MARK OBLAEDA

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1904 1985
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CHANGE OF GUARD – Brigadier General Danilo Chad D. Isleta (right) receives from Maj. Gen. Robert M. Arevalo the command saber of the Philippine Army in Bicol at the 9th Infantry 'Spear' Division (9ID) Headquarters in Pili, Camarines Sur on Friday. Looking on is outgoing 9ID commander, Maj. Gen. Manolito P. Orense. (Ruel Saldico)

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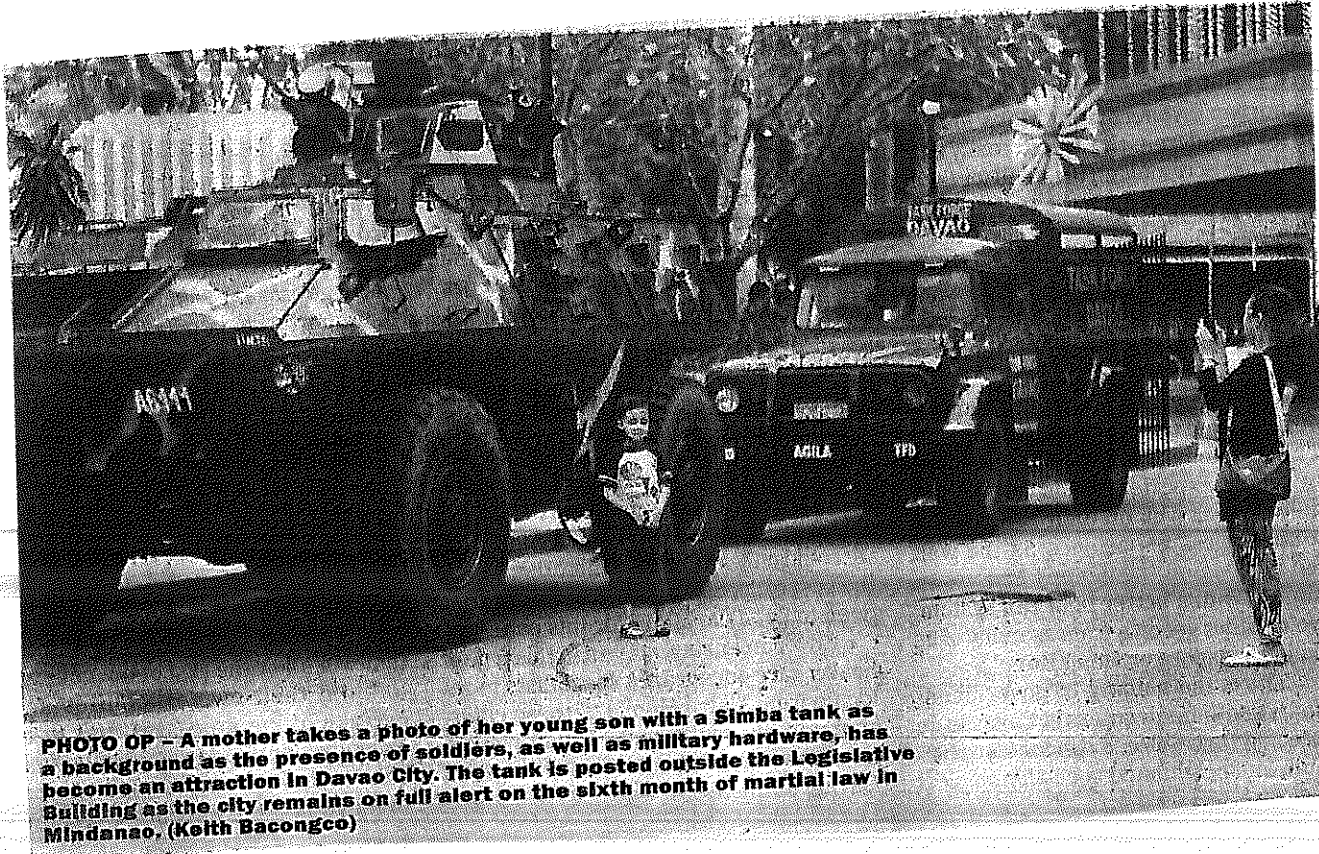


PHOTO OP – A mother takes a photo of her young son with a Simba tank as a background as the presence of soldiers, as well as military hardware, has become an attraction in Davao City. The tank is posted outside the Legislative Building as the city remains on full alert on the sixth month of martial law in Mindanao. (Keith Baongco)

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With ML, Duterte vows 'total eradication' of terrorists

By John Paolo Bencito

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte vowed the "total eradication" of Islamic State-inspired terrorists and communist rebels, including their coddlers, sup-

porters and financiers should Congress heed his request to extend beyond Dec. 31 martial law in Mindanao for one more year.

Citing the continued threat of terrorism and rebellion in the region, which makes Min-

danao "the hotbed of rebellion, Duterte stressed Monday the need for a one-year extension of martial law to "ensure total eradication of DAESH-inspired Da'awatul Islamiyah Waliyatul Masriq, other like-minded Local/Foreign

Terrorist Groups and Armed Lawless Groups, and the communist terrorists as well as their coddlers, supporters, and financiers."

"Public safety indubitably requires such further extension,

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not only for the sake of security and public order, but more importantly to enable the government and the people of Mindanao to pursue the bigger task of rehabilitation and the promotion of a stable socioeconomic growth and development," Duterte said in his letter dated Dec. 8 to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

Remnants of Da'awatul Islamiyah and their allies have

been monitored towards continuing with their plan to build a "wilayat" or province for the Islamic State in Southeast Asia—activities including recruitment and reorganization in Central Mindanao, particularly in Maguindanao and North Cotabato as well as Sulu and Basilan, Duterte said.

The President referred to continuing threats posed by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and Abu Sayyaf group carrying out acts of terrorism in various parts of the island.

In related developments:

- Congress will convene into

a joint session tomorrow to approve Duterte's request to extend martial law in Mindanao for another year, House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas said on Monday. Fariñas said Congress would not hold a special session during the Christmas holiday break.

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said the House leadership would support the President all the way.

"We support the President's desire to extend martial law in Mindanao to bring peace in Mindanao—the hotbed of terrorism" as described by the President," Alvarez said.

- Two opposition lawmakers, meanwhile, opposed the Palace's declaration for martial law extension, saying this violated the Constitution.

"Where is the actual invasion or actual rebellion in Mindanao? The Constitution provides that martial law can only be declared and its extension authorized in case of invasion or rebellion when public safety requires it," Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said, echoing the sentiments of party-list Rep. Carlos Zarate.

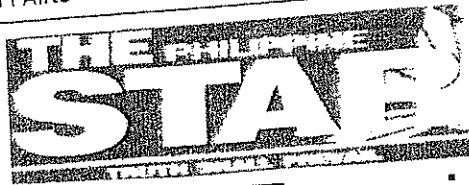
"Since the original or initiatory declaration of martial law is limited to not more than 60 days,

it stands to reason that any extension is subject to the same constraints with respect to duration and grounds," Lagman added.

- Former solicitor general Florin Hilbay, in an interview with ANC News, said there was no legal basis for an extension of martial law in Mindanao as mandated by the 1987 Constitution.

Hilbay stressed the Constitution was very clear on the basis for the President's declaration of martial law, either an actual invasion or rebellion and when the public safety required it. **With AFP, Maricel V. Cruz, Rey E. Requejo and Macon Ramos-Araneta**

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Joma: NDF remains open to peace talks

Despite the termination of peace negotiations by President Duterte, the Communist Party of the Philippines - National Democratic Front (CPP-NDF) yesterday said it remains open to talk peace with the government.

"It is wise for the CPP-NDF to remain open to peace negotiations because (if not), the people and the broad united front of patriotic and progres-

sive forces can get rid of the Duterte regime as it got rid of the Marcos and Estrada regimes," said CPP founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison.

In a statement posted yesterday on the NDF website, Sison described Duterte's government as a fascist regime.

"But the Duterte administration cannot be too sure if it will last long because the Filipino people and even

Turn to Page 2

Joma From Page 1

those in the government and their revolutionary forces detest the monstrous crimes of the regime, especially mass murder, corruption and puppetry to the US," he said.

He said the crisis of the ruling system continues to worsen "and the resources of the regime for violence and deception are limited."

Duterte has issued Proclamation 360 terminating the government and the NDF peace negotiations.

Sison said Duterte and his officials, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines, "have been boasting that they are bent on waging a war of suppression to destroy the revolutionary forces of the Filipino people."

With Duterte's termination of the peace negotiations and declaration of war against the NDF and its armed-wing New People's Army (NPA), "the Filipinos

are compelled to defend themselves, defeat the government and pursue the people's democratic revolution," he said.

Duterte had earlier issued Proclamation 374 labeling the CPP and the NPA as terrorist organizations.

"The purpose of the Duterte regime is to proscribe the CPP-NDF-NPA as a terrorist organization and slander the organization," Sison said.

He said the government wanted to list down suspected communist officers and members to intimidate, seize and murder them through its "Oplan Tokhang."

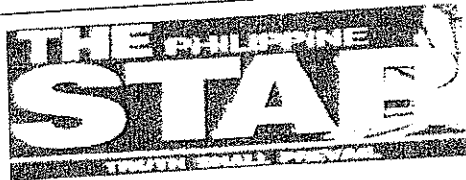
Meanwhile, suspected NPA rebels yesterday ambushed a police patrol vehicle in Claver while a barangay captain in Rizal, Surigao City was shot dead by two motorcycle-riding gunmen in Surigao del Norte.

Police Provincial Director

Senior Supt. Anthony Maghari said six policemen in the mobile car outmaneuvered the rebels along Kilometer 13, ending a 10-minute gunfight and forcing the attackers to flee.

- With Jose Rodel Clapano, Gilbert Bayoran, Ben Serrano

December 2017



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AFP vows to uphold human rights

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has pledged to uphold "every day" the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the world celebrated International Human Rights Day on Sunday.

In a statement released yesterday, Col. Edgard Arevalo,

AFP public affairs office chief, said the military has established human rights offices, from its general headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City down to the small units in the frontline.

"We continue to be transparent in our operations and are willing to cooperate in

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investigations where verified complaints are brought before us," he added.

Arevalo also gave assurance that the AFP observes the rules of engagement anchored on human rights, law of armed conflict and the provisions of the 1987 Constitution in all its engagements, from humanitarian assistance and disaster response to civil-military operations and combat operations.

The AFP also holds continuing lectures on human rights and international humanitarian law, he added.

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INQUIRER

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Du30 seeks ML extension by a year to fight terrorism

By DJ Yap
and Phillip C. Tubeza
@Team_Inquirer

In seeking a yearlong extension of martial law in Mindanao, President Duterte told Congress on Monday of persistent security threats in the region, including remnants of Islamic State-inspired extremist groups, the rise of a "potential successor" to slain terrorist leader Isnilon Hapilon, and increasing hostilities with communist insurgents.

In a letter to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, Mr. Duterte said extending martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus for one year would help the military, police and other law enforcement agencies to "quell completely and put an end to the ongoing rebellion in Mindanao" and prevent it from spreading to other parts of the country.

Mr. Duterte cited Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana's Dec. 4 letter recommending the extension of martial law based on the security assessment of the military.

In response to the President's letter, House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas said the Senate and the House of Representatives would have a joint session on Wednesday, the last session day of Congress this year, to discuss whether to grant the extension.

Siege of Marawi

Mr. Duterte initially imposed military rule across Mindanao on May 23 to quell an uprising by local terrorists loyal to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Marawi City.

Hundreds of gunmen rampaged through Marawi in what

authorities said was part of a campaign to establish a South-east Asian enclave for IS.

A military campaign backed by the United States, Australia and China took five months to defeat the terrorists, with the conflict claiming more than 1,100 lives and leaving large parts of Marawi in ruins.

"Despite the death of Hapilon and the Maute brothers, the remnants of their groups have continued to rebuild their organization through the recruitment and training of new members and fighters to carry on the rebellion," Mr. Duterte said in his letter to Congress.

He said at least 185 people listed in the martial law arrest orders remained at large and "in all probability, are presently regrouping and consolidating their forces."

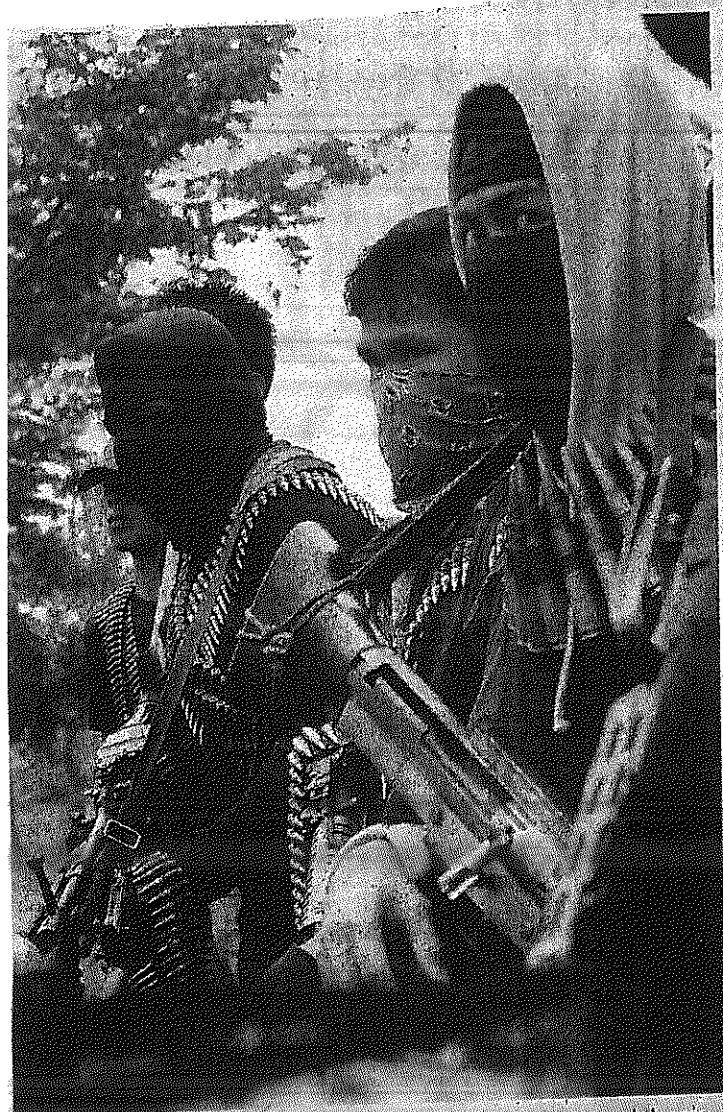
Mr. Duterte said the Islamic militants had apparently found a "potential successor" to Hapilon as emir, or leader, of their planned IS province in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

Turaifie group

The President said a band of extremists known as the "Turaifie group" had been monitored to be planning to conduct bombings, notably targeting the Cotabato area.

The band is led by Esmail Sheikh Abdulmalik, alias Abu Turaifie, a former Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) leader who formed his own group, the Jamaatul Muhaajireen Wal Ansar, in April. His group is allegedly recognized by IS.

"Turaifie is said to be Hapilon's potential successor as [leader of the IS province] in the Philippines and Southeast



CONTINUING THREAT Members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), shown in file photo, were involved in at least 15 violent incidents during the martial law period in Maguindanao and North Cotabato, according to President Duterte. —JEFFREY MAITEM

Asia,” Mr. Duterte said. Hapilon was a leader of the notorious Abu Sayyaf bandit group and seen as the IS leader in Southeast Asia. He was killed in a targeted military operation in Marawi in October.

Mr. Duterte said the BIFF

“continues to defy the government by perpetrating at least 15 violent incidents during the martial law period in Maguindanao and North Cotabato.”

He added that remnants of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga

Peninsula remain as a serious security concern.

The group has committed at least 43 acts of terrorism this year, including bombings and kidnappings, which resulted in the death of eight people, three of whom were beheaded, Mr. Duterte said.

Communist rebels

“Last but certainly not the least,” the President cited the threat posed by the communist New People’s Army, whose members, he said, took advantage of the situation “while the government was preoccupied” with the IS-inspired terrorists.

He said the NPA rebels “intensified their decadeslong rebellion against the government and stepped up terrorist acts against innocent civilians, and private entities, as well as guerrilla warfare against the security sector and public and government infrastructure, purposely to seize political power through violent means and supplant the country’s democratic form of government with communist rule.”

Mr. Duterte said the NPA committed 385 “atrocities” including “terrorism and guerrilla warfare in Mindanao.”

Congress approved Mr. Duterte’s initial imposition of martial law on the whole of Mindanao and in July extended its enforcement to the end of December. Now Mr. Duterte wants Congress to extend military rule and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao up to Dec. 31, 2018.

An opposition lawmaker said the President’s request was tantamount to a “patent violation of the safeguards which the 1987 Constitution imposes for the limited grounds and dura-

tion of martial law and its extension.”

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman described the move as a “malevolent perpetuation of the subjugation of the supermajority in Congress by the President even against the unequivocal provisions of the Constitution protecting civil liberties and the rule of law.”

“Where is the actual invasion or actual rebellion in Mindanao? The Constitution provides that martial law can only be declared and its extension authorized in case of invasion or rebellion when public safety requires it,” Lagman said.

“Since the original or initiatory declaration of martial law is limited to not more than 60 days, it stands to reason that any extension is subject to the same constraints with respect to duration and grounds,” he added.

Go to SC

Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma urged the government to enforce martial law in Mindanao only up the end of the year.

“In general, I am not in favor of it,” Ledesma told reporters on Monday.

He warned that the extension of military rule in Mindanao may adversely affect the island’s economy.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque challenged the opponents of the extension to question it in the Supreme Court.

“They’re free to challenge martial law anew in the Supreme Court, but please note that there [have] been two challenges and in both instances the Palace has been upheld,” Roque told reporters. —WITH REPORTS

FROM JULIE M. AURELIO AND AFP INQ

17 December 2017

The Manila Times

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Congress to discuss martial law extension

BY JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA

MEMBERS of the Senate and House of Representatives will discuss President Rodrigo Duterte's request to extend martial law in Mindanao for another year on Dec. 13, Wednesday.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel 3rd said the two chambers will hold a joint session to tackle the President's letter asking congress to extend martial law.

Before the joint session, security officials will explain to senators why martial law should not be lifted.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, said Armed Forces chief Rey Leonardo Guerrero and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana will conduct the briefing.

"We'll find out what is the reason why there is need to extend," Lacson told reporters.

Lacson said he is not opposed to martial law extension because it would help security forces address other threats

particularly the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters.

But Senate minority leader Franklin Drilon said same standards should be observed if martial law is extended. He explained the extension must be in accordance with the Constitution.

The President wants to extend martial law because of the continuing threat by armed groups in the area, but Drilon noted that it is not among the requirements stated in the constitution, such as there should be an actual [rebellion].

In his letter request sent to congress, Duterte cited the threats posed by "communist terrorists" whom he said took advantage of the situation to intensify their attacks against the government.

Palace spokesman Harry Roque

said martial law will be used to quell the possible intensified attacks of the New People's Army (NPA) in Mindanao.

"For as long as there are acts of rebellion being committed in the island province of Mindanao, yes, he (Duterte) will use a full force of martial law against the NPA as well," Roque said in a news conference.

"We expect an intensified fighting on the part of the NPA. In fact, they have been exhibiting more intense targeting of ours soldiers and civilians after the President has already classified them as terrorist group," he added.

Duterte through Proclamation 374 declared the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the NPA, as terrorist groups.

Roque said the act of rebellion perpetrated by NPA insurgents is a "continuing crime" that needs to be addressed by the government.

"We engaged them in peace talks and we hoped that in fact, there would be eventual peace between the government and the NPA. We were frustrated because as you know, they never stopped attacking soldiers and civilians," Roque

said. "Act of rebellion is a continuing crime. So for as long as they don't lay down their grounds, they are committing a criminal act."

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman however strongly opposing the military's proposal to extend martial law, saying it is unconstitutional.

In a statement on Monday, Lagman said the extension of martial law is a "patent violation of the safeguards which the 1987 Constitution imposes for the limited grounds and duration of martial law and its extension."

[It is a] malevolent perpetuation of the subjugation of the supermajority in the Congress by the President even against the unequivocal provisions of the Constitution protecting civil liberties and the rule of law and blatant mockery of the liberality of the majority of the Supreme Court in upholding the President's past questionable actions," he added.

Lagman said that the extension cannot be backed by the Constitution because there is no actual invasion or rebellion in the Mindanao region.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

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NPA launches attacks in Surigao City

By **ROEL N. CATOTO**
and **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

SURIGAO CITY – Skirmishes between government forces and the New People's Army (NPA) erupted in this city after the Communist fighters launched two attacks in different parts of this city Sunday.

A Philippine National Police (PNP) patrol car, bearing six policemen and a civilian, was ambushed in Kilometer 13, Barangay Anomar before a team from the PNP Surigao del Norte Provincial Mobile Force Company (PMFC) was attacked in Kilometer 12 in Barangay Trinidad that sparked fierce encounters between the two sides.

The police reported no casualty on their side, and surmised that the Communist terrorists sustained heavy casualties based on the bloodstains they left behind in the areas of the encounters.

According to Surigao City Chief of Police Supt. Jay Baybayan, six policemen and a civilian were onboard a patrol car of the Claver Municipal Police Station, on their way to this city to have the vehicle repaired, when they were pounced upon by heavily armed men in Kilometer 13 in Barangay Anomar.

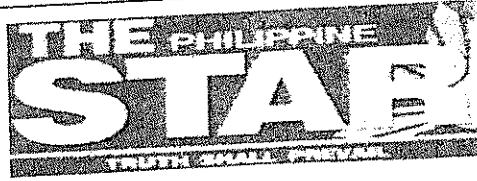
After this attack, the armed group struck anew in Kilometer 12 in Barangay Trinidad when it ambushed a PMFC team, led by Insp. Rodolfo Haradji.

Hot pursuit operations ensued with the PMFC being reinforced by elements of the Army's 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade.

The Communist terrorists were believed to belong to the Sangay sa Partido Pamproganda (SPP)-16-B and guerilla-Front Committee 16-C of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao regional Committee (NEMRC) under a certain "Commander Blu," said Police Regional Office 13 Regional Spokesperson Chief Insp. Renel E. Serrano.

"The gunfire took place but the NPA bandits retreated to a nearby hilly forested area after sensing they were outgunned, out-positioned and afraid of the reinforcement from nearby areas," PRO 13 Regional Director Chief Supt. Noli A. Romana said.

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127 Sayyaf men slain, 90 held in W. Mindanao

By **ROEL PAREÑO**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A total of 127 Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed while 90 others were arrested this year, a military official said yesterday.

In his annual report, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. of the Western Mindanao Command said 136 Abu Sayyaf bandits – 72 in Basilan, 43 in Sulu and 21 in Tawi-Tawi – also surrendered.

Galvez said 230 firearms were recovered from the bandits.

He said the number of Abu Sayyaf members who were neutralized is almost five times higher compared to last year, which was only 75.

With intensified military operations, Galvez said kidnappings were down to only 12 compared to 23 in 2016.

The bandits are still hold-

ing a Dutch man, five Indonesians and three Filipinos.

Galvez said personnel of the Joint Task Force Sulu led by Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Basilan under Brig. Gen. Juvymax Uy and Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi led by Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon are leading the operations to finish off the Abu Sayyaf and recover its remaining hostages.

Sobejana said they are running after 400 bandits led by Radulan Sahiron in Sulu.

In Basilan, Uy said they are pursuing 102 bandits led by Furuji Indama.

The military had set a deadline of until June this year to defeat the Abu Sayyaf.

The campaign was disrupted after Maute militants and their Abu Sayyaf cohorts attacked and occupied Marawi on May 23.

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Malaya

The National Newspaper

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Duterte lists reasons for seeking ML extension

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday formally asked Congress for another extension of his martial law (ML) declaration in Mindanao, this time lasting for a year, citing recruitment activities of the Maute terror group which attacked Marawi City in May, and its efforts to reorganize.

He also said other Islamic State-inspired groups and armed groups are planning bombings in the southern part of the country.

“These activities are geared towards the conduct of intensified atrocities and armed public uprisings,” Duterte said, adding the activities are aimed at establishing a global Islamic caliphate and a ‘wilayat’ not only in the Philippines but the whole of Southeast Asia.

He also cited attacks by the communist New People’s Army which he recently declared a terrorist group together with the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The President made the request in a letter dated December 8 sent to Congress yesterday.

House majority leader Rodolfo Fariñas said the House and the Senate will hold a joint session on the President’s request tomorrow, the last session day before Congress goes on a Christmas break.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said senators will receive a briefing today from security officials on the martial law declaration.

Duterte declared martial law on May 23, the day the Maute Group attacked Marawi. In July, he asked for an extension and Congress extended martial law to December 31.

The battle between government

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DUTERTE

forces and the Maute lasted for five months.

Duterte said a one-year extension is needed “primarily to ensure total eradication of Daesh-inspired Da’awatul Islamiyah Waliyatul Masriq, other like-minded local/foreign terrorist groups and armed lawless groups, and the communist terrorists and their coddlers, supporters and financiers.”

He said security forces have monitored continued recruitment activities by in Central Mindanao by the Maute Group despite the deaths of the Maute leaders and of Isnilon Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf leader said to have been anointed by the Islamic State as its southeast Asia leader.

Duterte also said at least 185 people, whose names are in arrest orders issued during the martial law period, have yet to be arrested.

The President said other reasons for seeking an extension are reports that a group headed by a “Turifie,” who is reportedly being groomed to replace Hapilon, is planning bomb attacks in the Cotabato area; continuing harassments activities and attacks by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters; threats from the Abu Sayyaf particularly in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and the Zamboanga Peninsula; threats and

He said the extension aims to give security forces time to put an end to the ongoing rebellion in Mindanao and prevent it from escalating and spilling to other parts of the country.

“Public safety indubitably requires further extension, not only for the sake of security and public order, but more importantly to enable the government and the people of Mindanao to pursue the bigger task of rehabilitation and the promotion of a stable socio-economic growth and develop-

ment,” he added.

Martial law allows for tougher surveillance and arrests without warrant, giving security forces greater rein to go after suspected extremist financiers and facilitators.

Duterte has long warned that Mindanao faced contamination by Islamic State, and experts say Muslim parts of the predominantly Catholic southern Philippines are fertile ground for expansion, due to their history of marginalization and neglect.

WHAT REBELLION?

Critics of Duterte, who has held open the possibility of extending military rule to the whole country, have slammed the imposition of martial law in Mindanao as a misuse of power and evidence of the president’s authoritarian tendencies.

Rep. Edcel Lagman (LP, Albay), a member of the opposition bloc, said Duterte’s request is “patent violation of the safeguards which the 1987 Constitution imposes for the limited grounds and duration of martial law and its extension.”

“Where is the actual invasion or actual rebellion in Mindanao? The Constitution provides that martial law can only be declared and its extension authorized in case of invasion or rebellion when public safety requires it,” Lagman said.

He said there is no more factual basis for the extension of martial law in Mindanao after the President declared the liberation of Marawi City in October.

Senate minority leader Franklin Drilon said there should be an “actual” armed uprising constituting rebellion or invasion, and when public safety requires the declaration of martial law. — *With Wendell Vigilia, JP Lopez, Victor Reyes, Ashzel Hachero and Reuters*

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Japan vows more aid for Marawi rehab

Japan has expressed its intention to provide more aid to rehabilitate and help address terrorism in Marawi.

Japanese Ambassador Koji Haneda conveyed the interest of their government to enhance the Japan Bangsamoro Initiative for Reconstruction and Development during a recent dinner with Al-Haj Murad Ibrahim, chairman of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's central committee, at Camp Darapanan.

Haneda also met with President Duterte, Yusoph Jikiri of the Moro National Liberation Front, Ghazali Jaafar of the Bangsamoro Transition Council as well as other major stakeholders during the groundbreaking of the Bangsamoro assembly organized by the BTC in Sultan Kudarat recently.

Haneda underscored Japan's pledge to strengthen the Japanese government's support for the peace process.

Meanwhile, a beverage company donated another P1 million for families of soldiers who died in the fighting in Marawi.

"The beverage company that requested to remain anonymous... also pledged to support the Armed Forces of the Philippines' educational program for dependents of soldiers, especially those of combat casualties," AFP acting spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

Arevalo said the donation was deposited to an account the AFP opened at the height of the crisis in Marawi.

Lt. Gen. Salvador Melchor Mison Jr., AFP vice chief of staff, received the P1-million check at Camp Aguinaldo recently.

The AFP said it was the third time the beverage company sent a donation for soldiers killed in Marawi.

– Pia Lee-Brago, Michael Punongbayan

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Terror threat, NPA attacks cited in Duterte's plea for ML extension

**By Ted Tuvera,
Angie M. Rosales,
Benjamin B. Pulta
and Gerry Baldo**

President Rodrigo Duterte has officially asked Congress to extend martial law in Mindanao until the end of next year to combat Islamist militants and communist rebels.

In a five-page letter addressed to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez dated December 8, the Chief Executive said the extension was necessary to contain an ongoing rebellion by supporters of

the Islamic State group as well as a rising threat from the New People's Army (NPA) communist guerrillas.

"I ask the Congress of the Philippines to further extend the proclamation of Martial Law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the whole of Mindanao for a period of one year," from January 1, 2018, the letter stressed.

Speaking to reporters, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the government was expecting that members of the NPA would carry out "intensified" attacks against troops, especially that the

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TONIGHT

NEWS

Speaker: Congress to approve ML extension

By RYAN PONCE
PACPACO

CONGRESS will hold a joint session at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning to approve Malacañang's request on the proposed one-year martial law extension and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao, said Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez yesterday.

"Of course we are supportive of the President and we will approve the martial law extension," said Alvarez.

"Para sa akin, kung puwede lang mag-martial law kami hanggang matapos iyung termino ng ating Pangulo which is 2022, para naman we feel secure

and safe," said Alvarez.

House Majority Floor Leader and Ilocos Norte Rep. Rodolfo "Rudy" Fariñas said the joint session was arrived at after the five-page letter-request of President Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte dated December 8, 2017, was transmitted to the House of Representatives at noontime yesterday.

Fariñas also reiterated that Congress will not hold a special session to discuss the martial law request because they still have ample time to deliberate on the request of President Duterte.

President Duterte initially issued a 60-day martial law last May 23 after the Marawi siege broke out, but security forces had a hard time flushing out the IS-linked Maute terrorists,

which was the reason why it had to be extended until Dec. 31 this year, which Congress approved.

But Fariñas admitted that he was not sure about the extent of martial law extension to be granted by Congress.

"We will have to discuss it with our Senate counterparts," said Fariñas.

But Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, head of the Magnificent 7 or the so-called genuine opposition, said the request of President Duterte "amounts to a patent violation of the safeguards which the 1987 Constitution imposes for the limited grounds and duration of martial law and its extension."

Lagman said "malevolent perpetuation of the subjugation of the superma-



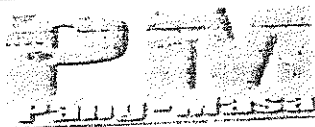
Speaker Alvarez

majority in the Congress by the President even against the unequivocal provisions of the Constitution protecting civil liberties and the rule of law."

"A blatant mockery of the liberality of the majority of the Supreme Court in upholding the President's past questionable actions," said Lagman.

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DU30 gagamitin ang ML extension vs NPA, ISIS

Matapos na pormal na hilingin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Kongreso ang isang taon pang ekstensyon ng Martial Law sa Mindanao, iginiit kahapon ng Malacañang na gagamitin nito ang naturang pagpapalawig ng Batas Militar laban sa New People's Army (NPA) at ISIS group sa Southern Philippines, ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque.

"As long as there are acts of rebellion committed in Mindanao, yes, he will use the Martial Law against NPA. President Duterte will use the full force of martial law vs NPA," paliwanag pa ni Sec. Roque sa media briefing sa Malacañang kahapon.

Magugunita na idineklara na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte nitong nakaraang linggo na isang terrorist group ang NPA kasabay ang paghahain ng

petisyon sa korte ng Department of Justice (DOJ) upang pormal na ideklara na terorista ang nasabing grupo.

Hiniling ng Pangulo sa Kongreso ang pagpapalawig ng Batas Militar dahil sa kabila ng pagkakapatay sa ISIS-Maute leaders na sina Isnilon Hapilon at Maute brothers, ay patuloy ang banta ng terorismo sa rehiyon ng Mindanao dahil sa patuloy ang ISIS group sa pagre-recruit ng bagong miyembro para sa planong pag-atake nito sa isa pang lungsod bukod sa pinaigting na opensiba ng NPA.

Tinukoy ng commander-in-chief ang mga lugar sa Central Mindanao lalo na sa mga probinsya ng Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sulu at Basilan kung saan aktibo ang mga nasabing grupo.

Maliban dito, na-mo-

nitor din aniya ng militar ang kilos ng Turaife group na siyang kapalit umano ni Hapilon at nagbabalak ng mga pambobomba sa Cotabato area.

Nariyan din daw ang Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) at Abu Sayyaf Group na responsable sa mga insidente ngayon ng mga roadside bombings at IED bombings sa Maguindanao, Cotabato, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi at Zamboanga peninsula habang panay din ang pag-atake ng New People's Army (NPA).

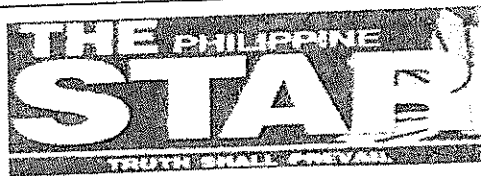
Nauna rito, sinabi ni PCOO Sec. Martin Andanan na may plano ang Daulah Islamiyah, isang teroristang grupong konektado sa Maute at Abu Sayyaf Group na umatake sa isang lungsod sa Mindanao.

Umaasa naman ang

Palasyo na kakatigan ng Kongreso ang hinihiling ni Pangulong Duterte na 1-year extension ng Martial law sa Mindanao.-
Rudy Andal-

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Metrobank search for outstanding Filipinos on

The Metrobank Foundation Inc. (MBFI) opened yesterday the nominations for the 2018 Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos.

The award honors 10 teachers, soldiers and police officers for rendering service "above and beyond the call of duty."

Their work must have transformed a community with a lasting positive impact on people and to the country, MBFI president Aniceto Sobrepeña said.

"Responsible citizen, exemplary public servant, agent of positive change – all these define the Outstanding Filipino. Once again, we are looking for these ordinary individuals with extraordinary accomplishments," Sobrepeña said.

"By giving them due recognition, we hope to inspire the Filipino nation further in our collective task of building a strong and progressive society," he added.

The nominees must have a minimum of 10 years of service in their profession. Those who are set to retire must have

at least three remaining years of service. Qualified elementary and secondary teachers must have completed academic requirements for master's degree while higher education teachers must have a doctorate degree.

Qualified Armed Forces of the Philippines commissioned officers (captain to colonel) must have completed a bachelor's degree. AFP enlisted personnel (corporal to chief master sergeant) should be high school graduates.

Philippine National Police commissioned officers (inspector to police senior superintendent) and non-commissioned officers (police officer 2 to senior police officer 4) must have completed a bachelor's degree.

Nomination forms and detailed guidelines are available through the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos Facebook page.

Deadline for nominations to be sent to the MBFI Secretariat is on March 1, 2018.

– Helen Flores

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JOINT SESSION FOR ML SET

By Jester P.
Manalastas

MEMBERS of the Senate and the House of Representatives will hold a joint session tomorrow to deliberate on the request of President Rodrigo Duterte for the extension of martial law in Mindanao.

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez yesterday received the formal request from President Rodrigo Duterte on the further extension of the proclamation of martial law and suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao.

Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas provided the media a copy of the letter.

With the recommendation from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP), President Duterte requested Congress to extend the proclamation of martial law in Mindanao from January 2018 to December 2018.

The last session day of Congress for this year is on December 13, but with this letter, the lawmakers may delay their Christmas break.

Fariñas said there is no need for a special session as they can hold session until Friday.

"Our session officially ends on Friday, December 15; hence, we may have a joint session on Thursday or Friday as part of the Second Regular Session, without need of a special session," Fariñas said in a text message to reporters.

Fariñas added that Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez told him they will discuss the letter with their Senate counterparts.

It can be recalled that the proclamation of martial law was already extended until December 31 of this year when it was declared last May 23.

President Duterte was prompted to declare martial law in Mindanao when the Maute Group attacked and terrorized Marawi City last May 23. The war between government troops and Maute Group lasted until October.

Maute leader Omar Maute and Isnilon Hapilon of the Abu Sayyaf Group were killed by the soldiers.

Senators on ML extension

Extending martial law in Mindanao for another year will be beneficial for the people and the region, according to some senators.

Sen. Manny Pacquiao said he is in favor of the request of extension martial law in Mindanao by another year. Pacquiao, a party mate of Duterte under PDP-

Laban, said residents of Mindanao feel safer with martial law in place.

"Taga-General Santos ako, wala namang problema. Mas masaya nga kami sa martial law ng Mindanao dahil safe kami, nakakalabas kami, naglalakad kami ng wala kaming bodyguard," Pacquiao said.

He pointed out that a one-year extension of is not too long, adding that there have been no abuse recorded in Mindanao since military rule was imposed in the area as a result of the attack on Marawi City by the Maute terrorist group.

Sen. JV Ejercito also favors the extension which would stop "war lords" and private armies from operating.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said that he sees no problem in extending or not the martial law.

"Sa akin walang problema kasi wala rin naman ngipin ang martial law sa atin. If you look at the Constitution, wala naman. Naroon pa rin ang reglamentary period. Di ka pwede mag-aresto basta-basta. Protected din," said Lacson.

Senators will be briefed today by security officials on the one year extension of martial law in Mindanao.

The office of Senator Grace Poe said the hearing of the Senate committee on public information and mass media on fake news slated today has been postponed to give way to the martial law extension briefing for senators.

Not legal

Former Solicitor General Florin Hilbay yesterday said there is no legal basis for an extension of martial law in Mindanao, adding that there is no such thing as "preventive martial law" in the 1987 Constitution.

Hilbay said the Constitution was very clear on the reason for allowing the President to declare martial law, which is either an actual invasion or rebellion and when the public safety requires it.

He stressed that though in all likelihood, President Duterte will get congressional support for his request for a one-year extension of martial law in the region, political support is different from complying with the provisions of the Constitution.

"There is no such thing as preventive martial law. Political support for martial law is different from constitutional compliance," Hilbay said.

With Marlon Purificacion, Hector Lawas

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House okays pay hike for cops, soldiers

By Ryan Ponce Pacpaco

VOTING 167 against four, the House of Representatives yesterday approved on third and final reading House Joint Resolution No. 18 authorizing the compensation adjustment for military and uniformed personnel (MUP) in the government, including doubling the base pay of rookie cops, soldiers, firefighters and jail guards which will require P63.4 billion starting next year.

Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles, the committee chairman, said it means that a rookie cop will enjoy a 100 percent increase in the monthly base pay from the current P14,834 to P29,668.

"This is in recognition of the critical role of the military and police in maintaining national security and peace and order, as they exercise their duty to ensure the safety of our citizens being exposed to various high peril environments and life-threatening risks, in the discharge of their functions," Nograles explained. Nograles, Speaker Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez, and House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte Rep. Rodolfo "Rudy" Fariñas underscored the importance to increase the compensation package of MUP because of their crucial role in ensuring the safety and peace and order of the country.

Under the joint resolution, the Department of Budget and Management said the resolution will double the base pay of a police officer (PO) I in the Philippine National

Police (PNP), a private in the Department of National Defense (DND), and equivalent ranks in the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA).

But the measure said that the modified base pay schedule for MUP shall be implemented in two tranches starting 2018 and 2019.

"Pending review of the current MUP pension system by the legislative and executive branches of government, which is aimed towards ensuring a sustainable and equitable pension system, the indexation of the pension of retired MUP with base pay of those in the active service shall be suspended with respect to the base pay increase authorized in the joint resolution," it said.

It was learned from the proposal that the overall adjustments will result in a 58.7 percent average increase in base pay for all MUP ranks.

It also said that the provisional and officers' allowances will no longer be part of the compensation of MUP as these are granted as an interim measure pending the modification of the base pay schedule.

The measure also provides that the increase in the compensation of the MUP will be funded from the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund (MPBF), and from any available allotment in the respective budgets of the agencies concerned.

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Duterte asks Congress for ML extension

THE threats from ISIS-inspired groups and the Reds has prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to formally request Congress to extend martial law in Mindanao for a year.

In his letter addressed to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez dated Dec 8, Duterte said martial law administrator Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana recommended a one-year extension of the martial law to "ensure total eradication of the DAESH-inspired Da'awatul Islamiyah Waliyatul Masriq (DIWM), other like-minded local and foreign terror groups and armed lawless groups, the communist terrorists and their coddlers, supporters, and financiers."

Duterte wants martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao to be extended until December 31, 2018.

He said the recommendation was based on the security assessment of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which was supported by the separate evaluation of the Philippine National Police.

"Public safety indubitably requires such further extension, not only for the sake of security and public order, but more importantly to enable the government and the people of Mindanao to pursue the bigger task of rehabilitation and the promotion of a stable socio-economic growth and development," the President

wrote.

Duterte said remnants of the groups of the Maute brothers and Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon have started recruiting and training new fighters. Members and allies of the DIWM, for instance, were monitored continuing their efforts in regrouping in Maguindanao and North Cotabato as well as Sulu and Basilan, geared to establish a wilayat in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

The President also cited the Turaijie Group, which was allegedly monitored planning bombings in the Cotabato area.

He said that Turaijie is believed to be Hapilon's potential successor as ISIS emir in Southeast Asia.

In his letter, Duterte also mentioned the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and the Abu Sayyaf group attacks.

Duterte also pointed out the threat of the New People's Army, which he said took advantage of the situation in Mindanao and intensified its "terrorist acts." In his letter, the President listed down the NPA's activities against the government.

"These recent developments involving the NDF-CPP-NPA forebode another year of intensified armed hostilities which, together with other security concerns described above, continue to make Mindanao the hotbed of rebellion," he said.

EMontano

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Pahina. 5

Martial Law extension kayang ihabol ng Kongreso – Malacañang

Kumpiyansa ang Malacañang na kaya pang ihabol ng mga mambabatas ang pag-aksiyon sa kahilingan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na panibagong extension ng Martial law sa Mindanao kahit malapit nang mag-recess ang Kongreso.

Sinabi ni Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar na nasa mga mambabatas na ang bola para pagpasyahan ang kahilingan ng Pangulo batay sa naging rekomendasyon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at Philippine National Police (PNP).

“Depende ‘yan sa mga congressmen at mga senador. Of course, sila ang may kapangyarihan

na i-extend iyan. May panahon naman lahat eh. Eh kung sa laro nga, last two minutes nakakahabol pa ‘di ba?” pahayag ni Andanar.

Samantala, inilabas na ng Malacañang ang kopya ng liham ni Pangulong Duterte sa Kongreso na may petsang Disyembre 8 kina House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez at Senate President Aquilino ‘Koko’ Pimentel III, para palawigin ang Martial law sa Mindanao.

Hiniling ng Pangulo na mapalawig ang Martial Law mula Enero 1 hanggang Disyembre 31, 2018 o batay sa deteminasyon ng Kongreso kung hanggang kailan alinsunod sa Section 18, Article VII ng 1987

Constitution.

Nakasaad sa sulat na bagama’t nakontrol na ang rebelyon sa Marawi City, may ibang mga grupo pa na nananatiling banta sa Mindanao batay sa security assessment ni AFP chief of staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero.

Kailangan aniyang matiyak na mapulbos ang mga Daesh-inspired na grupo gaya ng Da’ Awatul Islamiyah Waliyatul Masriq at iba pang katulad na local at foreign terrorist groups at mga armadong grupo, mga supporter, financiers at mga coddler ng mga ito.

Sinabi ng Pangulo na kahit patay na ang mga lider ng Maute-ISIS groups na sina Isnilon Hapilon at magkakapatid na Maute,

tuloy pa rin ang recruitment ng mga galamay sa Central Mindanao lalo na sa mga lalawigan ng Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sulu at Basilan.

Nakatanggap din ng intelligence report na nagbabalak umano ng pambobomba sa Cotabato area ang pumalit kay Hapilon na tinawag na Turaiife Group.

Sinabi ng Pangulo na bukod sa mga nabanggit na grupo ay nananatili rin ang banta ng New People’s Army (NPA) kaya mahalagang mapalawig ang Martial Law para maayos na maisulong ang reabilitasyon sa Marawi City at matiyak ang kaligtasan ng publiko at maibalik ang kaayusan sa Mindanao. (Aileen Taliping)

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POLICE FILES

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Duterte inisa-isa ang mga rason ng pagpapalawig sa martial law

NAIBIGAY na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Kongreso ang liham na humihiling na palawigin pa ang martial law sa Mindanao region at suspensyon sa privilege of writ of habeas corpus mula Enero hanggang Disyembre 2018.

Paliwanag ng Pangulo, ang Daesh-inspired na Da'adaful Islamiyah Waliyatul Mastiq, local at foreign terrorist groups, communist terrorists, at iba pang armadong grupo pati na ang kanilang mga taga-suporta at financiers ang dahilan ng pagpapalawig ng martial law.

Iginiit pa ng pangulo na bagaman napatay na ng militar ang mga lider ng teroristang grupo gaya nina Isnilon Hapilon, Omar at Abdullah Maute, patuloy parin ang recruitment ng mga natitirang galamay ng teroristang grupo.

May namo-monitor din aniya ang militar na kilos ng Turaife group, na siyang successor umano ni Hapilon at nagbabalak ng mga pambobomba sa Cotabato area.

Partikular na tinukoy ng pangulo ang Central Mindanao lalo na sa Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sulu at Basilan kung saan aktibo ang galaw ng mga terorista.

Nariyan din aniya ang Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) at Abu Sayyaf Group na responsable sa mga kidnappings, roadside bombings at IED bombings sa Maguindanao, Cotabato, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi Tawi at Zamboanga Peninsula.

Panay din aniya ang pag atake ng New People's Army.

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Palace releases letter seeking ML extension

Malacañang yesterday released a copy of President Duterte's letter to Congress requesting the extension of martial law in Mindanao for another year, citing threats from Islamic State-inspired groups and communist rebels.

In the letter addressed to Senate President Koko Pimentel and House Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez, Duterte justified that a further extension of martial law and the suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus in Mindanao will help the military and the police and all other law enforcement agencies to "quell completely and put an end to the ongoing rebellion on Mindanao and prevent the same from escalating from other parts of the country."

"Public safety indubitably requires such further extension, not only for the sake of security and public order, but more importantly to enable the government and

the people of Mindanao to pursue the bigger task of rehabilitation and the promotion of a stable socio-economic growth and development," Duterte said in the letter dated Dec. 8, 2017.

Duterte said martial law administrator Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana recommended a one-year extension of martial law to "ensure total eradication of the Daesh-inspired Da'awatul Islamiyah Waliyatul Masriq, other like-minded local and foreign terror groups and armed lawless groups, the communist terrorists and their coddlers, supporters, and financiers."

The Chief Executive said the recommendation was based on the security assessment made by the Armed Forces and a separate evaluation from the Philippine National Police. **(Roy C. Mabasa)**

Gov't asks for vigilance

Malacañang yesterday urged Filipinos to be always on guard and coordinate with authorities following reports that another terror group is reportedly plotting to attack a certain city or area in Mindanao.

In a radio interview, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Martin Andanar confirmed that Daulah Islamiyah, an umbrella-type of armed militant group, is currently on a recruitment binge and is said to be planning to attack a still unverified city or area in Mindanao.

"There are reports that they are planning to invade a place in Mindanao, but we don't know the place yet. That why the AFP and the PNP have issued stern warnings to our people in Mindanao to be very cautious and always be on guard," Andanar said. **(Roy C. Mabasa)**

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AFP wary of terror reprisal

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has instituted stringent measures to prevent foreign and local terrorists from launching any attacks in Mindanao similar to what happened to Marawi City.

AFP-Public Affairs Office (AFP-PAO) chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo gave this assurance after the remark made by Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar regarding alleged plans of the terrorist group Daulah Islamiyah attack another city in Mindanao.

"We have instituted stringent measures to keep foreign and local terrorists in check. These include constant coordination with other intelligence agencies of government through established platforms. We have protocols that we observe and continuously undergo updating," said Arevalo.

Arevalo added that the active participation of the public and community will also help in ensuring that terrorists will not succeed in launching any kind or form of attacks.

"But at the end of the day, the active involvement of our people and institutions of government that shall render our security posture strong and effective," said Arevalo.

Meantime, Metro Marawi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MMCCI) vice president Solaiman L. Matonding agreed to

extend martial law in Mindanao to one year for "security reasons."

But at the same time, Matonding wants government to ensure victims of looting as allegedly perpetrated by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) be "given justice."

Matonding, who is also President of the Marawi Association of Internally Displaced Business Persons Association, appealed to government to look into the issue hoping for culprits to be prosecuted, otherwise, he said, "it won't be wise to extend" martial law in Mindanao.

(With a report from Antonio L. Colina IV)

FB

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Pahina. 3

Military operations vs NPA patuloy sa Zambo

Walang tigil kahapon ang operasyon ng militar kontra New People's Army matapos ng sunod-sunod na sagupaan sa Lalawigan ng Zamboanga del Sur sa rehiyon ng Mindanao. Kamakalawa lamang ng hapon ay muling nag-sagupaan ang mga sundalo at rebelde sa Barangay Gasa sa bayan ng Lake-wood. Nabawi sa lugar ang isang M60 machine gun, isang M16 automatic rifle at isang bomba, gayundin ang mga medical supplies, jungle hammocks at backpacks. Walang naiulat na casualties sa magkabilang panig. (Al Jacinto)

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Military won't give in to holiday truce pleas

The military is not inclined to give in to a Christmas truce with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) despite calls by some groups, including the Church.

This, according to Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief, Col. Edgard Arevalo late Sunday.

"The AFP supports the wisdom and wise discretion of the CinC (Commander-in-Chief, President Rodrigo Duterte). He has already declared that there will be no unilateral ceasefire this December. The SND

(Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana) has made a similar announcement of his position on the matter," he added.

In the wake of continued NPA attacks, Arevalo said they see no difference this Christmas season.

The DND chief earlier had said he cannot recommend a "suspension of military operation" against as the CPP-NPA-NDF vowed to intensify attacks against military targets in wake of Proclamation 360 that terminated peace talks and negotiations with the latter.

Duterte signed the proclamation last November 23. **PNA**

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12 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

Reds harass Surigao cops

By ALFRED DALIZON

SUSPECTED New People's Army guerrillas harassed a group of policemen who were on their way back to their headquarters in Surigao City late Sunday morning but immediately retreated after the officers returned fire, the Caraga police director said yesterday.

Police Regional Office 13 director Chief Supt. Noli A. Romana said the rebels fired shots at a convoy of vehicles bearing members of the Surigao del Norte Provincial Public Safety Company while passing along Bgy. Trinidad, Surigao City at 10 a.m.

"It was a mere NPA harassment since no one was hurt on our side and not a single bullet struck any of our vehicles," Romana said.

The Caraga police director said that the officers under Supt. Diomedes Cuadra Jr. immediately returned fire at the rebel position and forced them to retreat. Security troops are still tracking down at least 15 guerrillas led by alias 'Ka Jun' who were tagged as behind the harassment.

The harassment came as Philippine National Police troops nationwide were ordered to intensify intelligence oper-

ations to thwart attempts by the NPA to mount more terror attacks in the countryside in the wake of President Duterte's order declaring the CPP/NPA/NDF as a terrorist organization.

"The Philippine National Police is prepared to address threats posed by the communist New People's Army against communities, industries, private businesses and government installations," said PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Dionardo B. Carlos amid warnings aired about resurgent NPA atrocities in the countryside in the aftermath of Presidential Proclamation No. 374 declaring them as terrorists.

According to the official, the PNP continues to maintain tactical capability thru its national, regional and provincial maneuver forces to respond to contingencies arising from CPP/NPA terrorist activities.

This was the case when PNP units successfully repulsed two separate hostilities staged by the CPP/NPA in Labo, Camarines Norte and Binuangan, Misamis Oriental recently," he said.

But at the same time, Carlos warned that persons or entities providing financial and material support to the CPP/NPA can be held liable for serious violation of law either as conspirators, accomplices or accessories to terrorism.

From page 1

communist group that has been declared as "terrorists."

"For as long as there are acts of rebellion being committed in the island province of Mindanao, yes, he (Mr. Duterte) will use a full force of martial law against the NPA as well," he stressed.

"We expect an intensified fighting on the part of the NPAs. As in fact, they have been exhibiting more intense targeting of our soldiers and civilians after the President has already classified them as terrorist group," the Palace official added.

Mr. Duterte last month called off peace talks with the communists, blaming continuing deadly attacks by the rebels.

The President initially imposed military rule across Mindanao in May to quell an uprising by Islamic State-inspired Maute groups in Marawi City.

Hundreds of gunmen rampaged through the Marawi in what authorities said was part of an attempt to establish a Southeast Asian base for IS.

Mr. Duterte declared in October that the city was "liberated" and military chiefs said most militant leaders, including the IS leader Isnilon Hapilon and Maute brothers Omarhayam and Abdullah, had been killed.

But authorities have continued to warn that those who escaped are regrouping and recruiting in Mindanao.

In his letter, the Commander-in-Chief said martial law had been key to containing the IS supporters in Marawi.

"The remnants of their group have continued to rebuild their organization through the recruitment and training of new members and fighters to carry on the rebellion," it stated.

Christmas break on December 15, and will resume sessions on January 15, 2018.

Senators are set to hold a briefing with so-called martial law administrators today before they deliberate on the proposed extension of Mr. Duterte's proclamation that placed the entire Mindanao region under military rule.

The said proceedings prompted the committee on public information and mass media postpone its hearing which coincided with the said briefing and deferred to a later date.

The convening of the joint session was announced by Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III following his submission on the floor of Senate concurrent Resolution 9 for the said proceedings which will start at 9 a.m. on Wednesday.

The resolution was immediately adopted, subject to style, as there had been no objection on the floor from among the senators.

Pimentel said there may no longer be any need to hold special session by Congress to deliberate the proposed extension of martial law in Mindanao.

"We're expecting half day more or less (joint session). That's the idea," he stressed.

So far, Pimentel said he has yet to hear any negative report regarding the implementation of military rule in the past seven months in Mindanao.

"That's why tomorrow we need a briefing (to find out) what is now the factual basis. How come the military recommended the extension," he added.

The Senate chief said, security officials and those from the Executive will have to justify before them why a one-year implementation is being recommended.

Roque, however, said there are chances that the Commander-in-Chief might opt to shorten military rule in Mindanao if he deems so.

"I think they want a final period to deal with acts of rebellion. So let's just give them the leeway because, after all, as soon as it is extended, it can be cut short if there is no need for it," he stressed.

Congress likely to approve ML extension

The Senate and the House are set to hold a joint session this week to decide on Mr. Duterte's request to extend martial law for another year.

Alvarez said the lower chamber is supportive of the proposal.

"Of course we are supportive of the President and we will approve the martial law extension," he added.

Alvarez expressed the view that military rule should be imposed for the duration of Duterte's term.

House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas said the joint session was arrived at after the 5-page letter request of the President was transmitted to the House of Representatives at noon on Monday.

Fariñas also reiterated that Congress has until Friday to discuss the martial law request because they still have ample time to deliberate on the request of Mr. Duterte.

According to Fariñas, extending martial law would have to be discussed with the Senate.

"We will have to discuss it with our Senate counterparts," he said.

Congress is set to go on a

No legal basis

But rights groups and other critics warned that the President is destroying the country's democracy following his request to extend martial law in Mindanao.

Former Solicitor General Florin Hilbay said moves to extend military rule has shaky legal basis under the Constitution.

"Constitutional compliance is an entirely separate matter. So we need to clarify what martial law is all about. There is no such thing as preventive martial law," Hilbay opined in a television interview where he was asked to comment on his thoughts when the martial law extension expires December 31.

He said if the President wants to extend the force of martial law in the entirety of Mindanao a fresh request for another extension is needed.

"And so we need to look at it at a constitutional stand point, there's no doubt in all likelihood the President would get the support of the House and the Senate," he added.

The former Solgen also said the Supreme Court has ruled that a declaration of martial law requires that there be an actual invasion or rebellion.

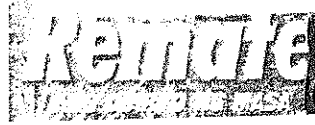
"Now if the President already declared, the military has already declared victory in Marawi against the rebels there then you now move into a rehabilitation phase for which there is no need or justification for another martial law," Hilbay said.

"You may have continuing lawless violence but you don't need martial law for that," he added.

AFP

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Pahina. 2

Kopya ng ML extension inilabas ng Malakanyang

INILABAS na ng Malakanyang ang kopya ng liham ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte para sa dalawang Kapulungan ng Kongreso na humihiling na mapalawig pa ang pagpapatupad ng batas militar sa buong Mindanao sa loob ng isang taon at pagpapatupad ng suspensyon ng privilege of writ of habeas corpus.

Mula Enero 1, 2018 hanggang December 31, 2018 ang hiniling ni Pangulong Duterte sa Kongreso na extension ng Martial Law sa rehiyon.

Nakasaad sa sulat ni Pangulong Duterte kina House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez at Senate President Koko Pimentel na may pelsang Disyembre 8 na malaking progreso ng militar na makontrol ang rebelyon sa Mindanao, lalo na ang Marawi City kung saan umatake ang ISIS-Maute terror group na nagresulta sa pagkakapatay sa kanilang mga lider.

Nakasaad din sa liham ng Punong Ehekutibo na base sa security assessment ni AFP chief of staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, kailangang matiyak na mapulbos o masugpo ang ISIS-inspired terror groups, iba pang local at foreign terrorist group at mga armadong grupo kasama ang kanilang mga supporter, financier at nagkakanlong o "coddler."

Sa kabila niya ng pagkakapatay sa ISIS-Maute leaders na sina Isnilon Hapilon at Maute brothers ay nagpapatuloy pa rin sa pag-recruit at muling pagbuo ng teroristang grupo.

Aniya, ang mga lugar sa Central Mindanao lalo na sa mga probinsya ng Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sulu at Basilan kung saan aktibo ang mga nasabing grupo.

Bukod dito, na-monitor din niya ng militar ang kilos ng Turafe group na siyang kapait umano ni Hapilon at nagbabalak ng mga pambobomba sa Cotabato area.

Nabanggit din ang Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters at Abu Sayyaf Group na responsable sa mga insidente ngayon ng mga roadside bombings at IED bombings sa Maguindanao, Cotabato, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi at Zamboanga peninsula habang panay rin ang pag-atake ng New People's Army.

Iginili pa ni Pangulong Duterte na mahalaga ring umusad nang maayos at walang hadlang ang rehabilitasyon sa Marawi City sa pamamagitan ng pagtiyak ng seguridad ng mga kabahagi sa reconstruction efforts.

Dahil umano sa mga nabanggit na rason, kailangan ang pagpapalawig sa martial law at ang suspensyon ng writ of habeas corpus privilege sa buong Mindanao. **KRIS JOSE**

Special session para sa ML extension 'di kailangan

WALANG special session para sa pagpapalawig ng martial law sa Mindanao.

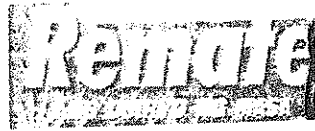
Ito ang tahasang sinabi ni House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas dahil ang sesyon niya ng Kongreso ay hanggang Biyernes pa.

Mangangahulugan niya na kung matatanggap ng Kongreso ang kopya ng sulat ng Pangulo ngayong araw ay agad itong isasalang upang matalakay.

Ipinaliwanag ni Fariñas na hindi na kailangang magkaroon pa ng special session sapagkat maaaring itong ihabol bago ang Christmas break. **MELIZA MALONTAG**

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Pahina. 4

56 ang dapat na retirement age ng uniformed personnel

old na at ayon sa batas, ito ang compulsory retirement ng mga uniformed personnel.

Dahil dito, minabuti ni Pangulong Duterte bilang Commander-in-Chief na i-extend ang termino ni AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Guerrero hanggang April 24 ng susunod na taon.

Nararapat ang extension na ito dahil sa mabigat na papasaning responsibilidad ni Gen. Guerrero. Una na rito ang inaasahang pagtugis sa mga myembro ng New People's Army na kama-kailan lang ay idineklarang teroristang grupo ng Pangulo. Kasabay nito ang pagtigil sa mga usaping pangkapayapaan sa maka-kaliwang grupo.

Pangalawa, nakatakdaang pormal na hingin ng Malacañang sa Kongreso na palawigin pa ng isang taon ang Martial Law sa Mindanao. Pag-uusapan ito ng Kongreso sa isang joint session ngayong linggo upang kilatisin kung

nararapat ba ang Martial Law extension.

Kung inaakala natin na balik normal na ang Mindanao sa pagkamatay ng mga Maute, nasisinguro kong may intelligence reports ang AFP at PNP na nag-udyok sa kanila para humingi pa ng extension para tuluyang supilin ang banta sa Mindanao.

Sa bigat ng mga responsibilidad na ito, walang magagawa si Gen. Guerrero kung 11 days lang siya sa pwesto.

Kung maaalala, may inihain nang panukalang batas para bigyan ng tatlong taong fixed term ang AFP Chief of Staff. Ipinasa ito ng dating Kongreso upang iwasan na ang 'revolving door' policy sa AFP.

Subalit na-veto ito ng dating Pangulong Aquino dahil labag umano ito sa Saligang Batas na nagbabawal sa extension ng retirement ng mga opisyal ng military maliban na lamang sa panahon ng digmaan o na-

tional emergency.

Dapat ay pag-aralang muli ang prebisyon na ito. Maraming taon ng training at experience ang taglay ng mga uniformed personnel gaya ng mga pulis at sundalo. Siguro naman hindi masyadong problema ang pisikal nilang kondisyon hanggang sa umabot sila ng edad na 60.

Ang buong institusyon ng kasundaluhan at kapulisan ang makikibang sa leadership at wisdom ng mga nakatatandang opisyal nila.

Sa isang panukalang batas nga na nagnanais i-extend ang retirement age ng uniformed personnel hanggang 60, isa sa mga rason ay ang malaking investment ng pamahalaan sa training ng mga sundalo at pulis kaya nararapat na mapakinabangan ito ng bayan nang mas matagal.

(I-follow sa Twitter si Cong. Ricky Sandoval. @Rep_Sandoval o i-like sa Facebook: @RickySandovalMalabon.

December 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 2

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ROWENA DEL PRADO • Editor

BANSA

ISIS, NPA target ng martial law!

Gagamitin ng Malacañang ang extension ng martial law (ML) sa Mindanao upang malipol ang mga teroristang Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) at New People's Army (NPA) na kumikilos at nagpapalakas ng kaniyang grupo sa katimugang bahagi ng Pilipinas.

Ito ang binigyang-diin kahapon ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque kasunod ng pahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na nais niyang

ML extension kinontra, labag sa Konstitusyon

Maring kinontra ng independent opposition sa Kamara ang rekomendasyon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines at Philippine National Police na palawigin pa ng isang taon ang pagpapairal ng martial law (ML) o batas militar sa Mindanao.

Ayon kina Albay Rep. Edoel Lagman at Akbayan Rep. Tom Villarin, ang martial law extension ay labag sa itinatakda ng Konstitusyon.

Iginiit ni Lagman na awtorisado lamang ng Saigang Batas ang mar-

Nina RUDY ANDAL,

mapalawig ng isa pang taon ang pagpapatupad ng martial law sa buong rehiyon ng Mindanao.

"As long as there are acts of rebellion committed in Mindanao, yes, he will use the martial law against NPA. President Duterte will use the full force of martial law vs NPA," pahayag ni Sec. Roque sa media briefing sa Malacañang.

Pormal nang hiniling ni Pangulong Duterte sa

tial law at ang pagpapalawig nito kung may pananakop o rebelyon subalit mismong si Pangulong Duterte na ang nagdeklarang laya na ang Marawi City sa terorismo ng Maute group.

Pihapayagan lamang umano ng Konstitusyon na maipatupad ang batas militar sa loob ng 60-araw kaya lohikal na isipin na hindi rin maaaring lumagpas sa ganitong panahon ang extension nito at hindi maaaring paabutin ng isang taon.

Iginiit din ni Akbayan

GEMMA GARCIA at MALOU ESCUDERO

Kongreso ang 1-year extension ng martial law sa Mindanao mula Enero 1, 2018-Disyembre 31, 2018 dahil na rin sa patuloy na banta ng terorismo sa rehiyon.

Ang 5-pahinang sulat ng Pangulo na humihiling ng 1-taong extension sa martial law sa Mindanao ay natanggap nina House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez at Senate President Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel

Party-list Rep. Tom Villarin

na hindi maaaring ikatuwiran ng gobyerno ang patuloy na banta ng terorismo at ang pagpapabilis ng rehabilitasyon ng Marawi City para sa ML extension.

Kung hahayaan umano ito ng Kongreso ay magiging mapanganib itong "precedent" para madalalin ang pagdedeklara ng batas militar sa buong bansa at pagpapalawig pa nito lalo na ngayong idineklara na rin ng Pangulong Duterte bilang terorista ang CPP-NPA. (Gemma Garcia)

III kahapon.

Sa kanyang liham, niliwanag ng Pangulo na malaki ang naitulong ng pagpapairal ng martial law sa Mindanao para humupa ang karahasan doon at nakontrol ang rebelyon sa rehiyon at kailangan pa itong ipagpatuloy dahil mabigat pa ang banta sa seguridad. Sa katunayan, umabot na aniya sa 920 ang Daesh-inspired fighters at mga lider ang naneutralized sa panahong ipinatutupad ang martial law sa Mindanao habang 139 terorista ang naaresto at 61 dito ang nakasuhan na. Napabilis din aniya ang pagpapalaya sa Marawi City mula sa kamay ng mga teroristang Maute group.

Gayunman, base na rin umano sa assessment ng militar, kailangan pa ng pagpapatupad ng martial law sa Mindanao para siguraduhin ang lubos na pagbuwag ng Daesh-inspired group na Da'Awatul Islamiyah Wailyatul Masriq at iba pang lokal at dayuhang terror groups na namumugad sa Mindanao. Kasama rin sa konsiderasyon sa 1-year ML extension ay ang iba pang armed lawless group pati na ang Communist Party of the Philippines-New Peoples Army (CPP-NPA) na idineklara na ng Pangulo na terrorist group.

Iginiit ng Pangulo na sa kabila ng pagkakapatay sa ISIS-Maute leader na sina Isnilon Hapilon at Maute brothers, patuloy pa rin sa pag-recruit ng mga terorista matapos ang pagkakabuwag sa Maute-ISIS sa bakbakan sa Marawi City. Tinukoy ng Pangulo ang mga lugar sa Central Mindanao lalo na sa mga probinsya ng Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sulu at Basilan kung saan aktibo ang mga nasabing grupo. Na-monitor din ng militar ang kilos ng militar na siyang kapalit umano ni Hapilon at nagbabalak ng mga pag-atake at pambombas sa Cotabato area. Nariyan din aniya ang Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) at Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) na responsable sa mga roadside at IED bombings sa Maguindanao, Cotabato, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi at Zamboanga Peninsula habang panay din ang pag-atake ng NPA.

Dahil dito, magdadaos ng joint session ang Kongreso bukas, Miyerkules upang talakayin ang panukalang pagpapalawig ng martial law sa Mindanao.

Ayon kay Pimentel magbibigay ng briefing sa mga mambabatas ang mga martial law administrators dakong alas-10 ngayong umaga tungkol sa kahlilingan ni Duterte na palawigin ng isa pang taon ang martial law.

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Balita

Page. 2

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSA P8.00

Isa pang martial law extension pinalagan

Tinutulan ng isang human rights group ang pagpapalawig sa martial law sa Mindanao sa pangamba na maaari itong magsilbing mitsa ng implementasyon nito sa buong bansa.

Kinuwestiyon din ng Karapatan ang pagpapalawig ni Pangulong Duterte sa martial law ng isa pang taon, bilang pagtalima sa rekomendasyon ng militar at pulisya.

Nananatiling palaisipan sa grupo kung bakit pinalawig pa ng presidente ang martial law sa Mindanao gayong idineklara na ng militar ang "victory" sa Marawi siege.

"What, then, is the basis for extending martial law for another year? This is a dangerous precedent that inches the entire country closer to a nationwide declaration of martial rule. Martial law in Mindanao has paved the way for the intensification of rights violations – both within and outside of Marawi," sabi ni Karapatan Secretary General

Cristina Palabay. "We cannot expect the institution to benefit most from another year of martial law to decide against it. If this is allowed in Congress, speculation will be enough to put the entire country under martial law, creating an environment for State security forces to continue violations without accountability."

Tinutulan din ng isang Katolikong obispo ang extension ng martial law sa Mindanao.

Sinabi ni Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma na hindi siya sa pabor sa pagpapalawig ng martial law dahil kumbinsido siyang hindi na ito kinakailangan.

"In general, I am not in favor of it," sabi niya sa isang interbyu. "There is no need for martial law."

Naniniwala ang obispo ng Cagayan de Oro na ang pagpapalawig sa martial law ay makaaapekto sa kalagayang pang-ekonomiya ng Mindanao.

**Chito A. Chavez
at Leslie Ann G. Aquino**

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Balita

Page. 3

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSÀ P8.00

2, 2017

Palasyo sa Mindanaons: Alerto vs terorismo

NI ROY C. MABASA

Inalerto kahapon ng Malacañang ang mga mamamayan na palaging magbantay at makipag-ugnayan sa mga awtoridad kasunod ng mga ulat na isa na namang teroristang grupo ang nagbabalak na umatake sa Mindanao.

Sa panayam sa radio, kinumpirma ni Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Secretary Martin Andanar na ang Daulah Islamiyah, isang umbrella-type ng armadong militanteng grupo, ay kasalukuyang nangangalap ng mga kasapi at nagbabalak na umatake sa hindi pa matukoy na lungsod o lugar sa Mindanao.

"There are reports that they are planning to invade a place in Mindanao, but we don't know (the

place) yet. That why the AFP and the PNP have issued stern warnings to our people in Mindanao to be very cautious and always be on guard," ani Andanar.

Ayon kay Andanar, ang Daulah Islamiya ang grupong may kontrol sa Abu Sayyaf at Maute, at sinasabing namamahala sa Mindanao.

Bukod sa pakikinig sa payo ng AFP at PNP, hiniling ni Andanar sa mamamayan sa iba't ibang komunidad na bantayan ang kanilang mga komunidad at panatilihin ang komunikasyon sa mga opisyal ng barangay, local government units at mga lider sa lugar.

"And perhaps, as residents of houses in different barangays, perhaps

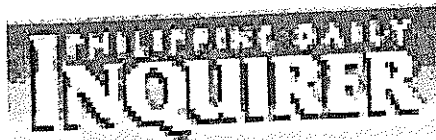
it's about time to talk to our neighbors and organize ourselves so that we will know what to do in case of any untoward incidents," anang PCO chief.

Sinabi ni Andanar na ang banta ng mga teroristang grupo, gayundin ng Communist Party of Philippines and the New People's Army (CPP-NPA), ay ilan lamang sa mga rason kung bakit inirekomenda ng AFP at PNP ang pagpapalawig sa martial law period sa Mindanao.

Bukod dito, aniya, kailangan ding tiyakin na hindi maaabala ang rehabilitasyon ng Marawi City ng mga bantang karahasan.

Magpapaso ang martial law sa Mindanao sa Disyembre 31.

12 December 2017



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Extend martial law? What for?

Many residents of Marawi City are lackadaisical toward, if not wary of, the issue of extending martial law in Mindanao, maybe out of despair and hopelessness. Such an extraordinary presidential power reserved by the Constitution for extreme crisis did not save their city from being flattened into rubble. In fact, it might even have emboldened military planners into carpet-bombing Marawi and unleashing military might. Martial law neither protected their houses from ruin nor accelerated the city's liberation from the jihadists. So why the fuss over the issue?

The opinion advanced by Sen. Franklin Drilon, who knows his law, having twice served as secretary of justice (forget that he is a "dilawan"), should not be casually dismissed by Malacañang. The alleged "significant violent activities" and continuing threat by extremists to security, upon which the military and police base their recommendation to extend martial law, are way off the constitutional requirement of persisting rebellion or invasion or when "public safety requires it." The fact that there is no ACTUAL rebellion and invasion in Mindanao stares us in the face. No amount of sugarcoating and gobbledegook can shroud that. But then, cases are often decided, not on legal grounds, but on other factors, not the least of them politics.

Martial law is needed in the rehabilitation of Marawi? I don't see the nexus, except perhaps in that it can suspend bidding on and speed up reconstruction projects—which can

COMMENTARY

MACABANGKIT B. LANTO

be done anyway by other executive fiats.

As an upside to today's martial law, I don't see any fingerprint or vestige close enough to what we experienced during Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship. Every time I go to Iligan City I keep forgetting that we are under martial law. (Until now we are barred from visiting our house in Marawi and seeing the extent of its destruction even if it is distant from "ground zero" and despite the message of the secretary of national defense to allow me and my son, Maamor, to at least put locks on the doors of what remains of our house as well as the compound after the bombing and subsequent ransacking. Our hope is that perchance some memorabilia can still be retrieved.)

Let me give you a glimpse of a facet of Marcos' martial law that is absent in today's situation. One time after playing golf in nearby Iligan, my friends, including then Vice Gov. Abdul Marohombsar (now deceased), and I were stopped at a military checkpoint. I was driving my car and was ordered by a soldier to disembark and take off my golf cap and shades, just to irritate us. In good nature and hoping a semblance of respect would be accorded our group, the vice governor introduced me as the president of the local branch of the Integrated

Bar of the Philippines, which I was. This got the goat of the soldier, who angrily swore and retorted that it was lawyers like us who were making life hard for them: "P*ta, kay-ong mga abogado ang nagpapahirap sa buhay namin!" He held us for about 30 minutes, or until the queue of cars behind us was about two kilometers long.

In another instance, soldiers rounded up professionals, religious leaders and sultans, and government officials, including myself, and detained us for days on end on the trumped-up charge of rebellion. Now contrast this with the raid on the houses of the Parojinogs and similar raids and arrests that were done only on the strength of warrants issued by a court.

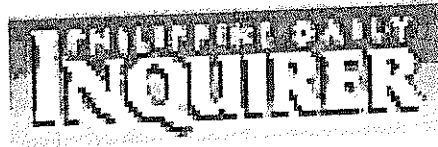
Kudos to the framers of the 1987 Constitution who, taking a leaf from the experience during the Marcos regime, made it difficult, through rigid protocols, for a president to declare martial law and instituted safeguards for the citizenry's civil and political rights.

As for the issue at hand: Extending martial law or not will not bring back our former life as residents of Marawi, or the smiles on our faces, or our precious possessions. What the heck.

Macabangkit B. Lanto (amb_mac_lanto@yahoo.com), UP Law 1967, was a Fulbright fellow in New York University for his post-graduate studies. He has served the government as congressman, ambassador, and undersecretary, among other positions.

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MARTIAL LAW EXTENSION

It is not about President Duterte's prerogatives. The proposal of martial law extension in Mindanao is coming from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police and local government units themselves. They know what's best for the country's security situation because it is their field and they have the

information on what is really going on in there.

Let us set aside politics here. Safety of our people in Mindanao is what we are all after. If we don't put Mindanao under martial law, groups with evil motives will feel free and confident to plot another siege there. They would think that what happened in Marawi could be easily staged

somewhere again because the focus of the government is now elsewhere. They should feel that they are still being carefully monitored, and what they did in Marawi will not be allowed to happen, ever again.

LINDSAY CRISTINE
ANTONIO,
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BusinessMirror

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The insurgency situation, then and now



Cecilio T. Arillo

DATABASE

IN the 16 months that President Corazon C. Aquino ran the government as a dictator after abolishing the 1973 Constitution and wrecked the entire Marcos bureaucracy, she arbitrarily freed the communists from prison and their social-democrat allies.

Worse, the Aquino administration, after issuing Proclamation 2, which granted general amnesty to communist rebels and their socialist democrat allies (left of center), compromised national security, employed many of them in her government and triggered a spate of rebellion among the young officers in the police and military organizations.

Hundreds of these leftists and their allies later went back to the hills and elsewhere and resumed fighting the government.

Some infiltrated the trade unions, schools and universities, businesses, church, media, judiciary and departments of Agrarian Reform, Agriculture, Human Rights Commission, defense department, Congress and other sectors of society. When Marcos lost power, the NPA, the guerrilla arm of the CPP, had 16,500 regulars, but none of them could operate effectively in Metro Manila.

After that, she declared a unilateral cease-fire and held peace talks with them without precondition, hoping that she would win the coveted Nobel Peace Prize.

Among those released were Jose Maria Sison, Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) chairman, and Dante Buscayno, New People's Army (NPA) commander, who were placed, respectively, in the custody of the late Joker Arroyo, President Aquino's first Executive Secretary, and Doña Aurora Aquino, the President's mother-in-law.

Sison subsequently escaped to Eastern Europe on a passport issued by the Aquino government and then settled in Utrecht, Netherlands, where he relentlessly directed the armed and political struggle against the Philippine government with other members of the CPP Central Committee, who later joined him there.

Sison and the key CPP members were convicted by the courts for waging an insurgency war for more than two decades before Mrs. Aquino freed them from prison. Their socialist democratic allies were, likewise, imprisoned for exploding bombs and burning shopping malls and hotels that killed innocent people, including American nationals.

By 1988, the NPA had an armed strength of 25,200, including 2,500 operating in Metro Manila. Worse, 20 percent of the country's 42,000 barangays or villages were under the CPP-NPA's influence. Ironically, this was the same year that President Aquino announced in her second State of the Nation address that "the insurgency was broken."

Between 1988 and early-1992, 78 policemen and military men were systematically assassinated by the NPAs in Metro Manila alone.

Only then-Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and the reformist officers questioned President Aquino's immediate release from prison of the communists and their allies at the height of the Edsa euphoria.

"Cory's point was that everybody who fought Marcos deserved a second chance for freedom. It did not seem to matter that Sison and company were not just fighting Marcos—they were out to overthrow the state and democracy. Cory would be proven wrong and naïve," Enrile said.

Enrile, who initiated the military-lead Edsa uprising that swept Aquino to power and whom she had tried to banish from her administration that early, told the President and her Executive Secretary that releasing the leftists from prison without first requiring them to renounce their

Sison and the key CPP members were convicted by the courts for waging an insurgency war for more than two decades before Mrs. Aquino freed them from prison. Their socialist democratic allies were, likewise, imprisoned for exploding bombs and burning shopping malls and hotels that killed innocent people, including American nationals.

own constitutions, abjure armed struggle and pledge allegiance to the Philippine flag would be a dangerous move. The CPP and NPA operate under their own separate constitutions and bylaws that they approved on December 26, 1968, and March 29, 1969, respectively.

Recalling that incident, then-Army Col. Gregorio B. Honasan, head of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, known by now as Revolutionary Alliance of the Masses, said that President Aquino merely ignored Enrile's advice.

Honasan said: "Mrs. Aquino was supposed to provide the leadership and a clear direction to the armed services in fighting the communists, but she chose, instead, to stay in the middle [centrist] and treated the insurgency problem as if it was the sole concern of the individual soldiers."

First elected to the Senate in 1995 as an independent candidate, Honasan said when President Aquino ordered the military to deliver a string of victories against the communists, "I didn't know whether I should laugh or curse her, for how can we deliver a string of victories when she was sleeping with the communists and, at the same time, treating the military as her enemies?"

Mrs. Aquino's successor, President Fidel V. Ramos, who also aspired the Nobel Prize, did not even object to the wholesale release of the leftists, according to Enrile in his book. Worse, Ramos repealed Republic Act 1700, the country's only anti-subversion law, with his allies in Congress on January 22, 1992.

The repeal, in effect, created a serious security vacuum, enabled the communists to expand and rearm, resurrected the already moribund Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and revitalized the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a group that had been granted belligerent status by the previous regimes and now incessantly demanding for the creation of its own laws, separate territory, parliamentary system of government, separate taxation, armed force and its own human-rights commission, among others, all in violation of the Philippine Constitution.

It can be recalled that it was also Mrs. Aquino who resurrected MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari, then on self-exile in Libya, on the initiative of her brother, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Local Government Secretary Nene Pimentel and Butch Aquino, her brother-in-law. With them then was socialist-democrat Norberto Gonzales, who played a key role as a national security adviser of both Presidents Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Looking back, can the Moros really outsmart President Duterte and Congress in the name of a "peace negotiation," which many observers believe is just, to them, an extension of their battlefield as multifarious security events showed?

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Lagman: Where is actual invasion, rebellion in Mindanao?

But opposition lawmaker, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman rejected Duterte's request.

"Where is the actual invasion or actual rebellion in Mindanao? The Constitution provides that martial law can only be declared and its extension authorized in case of invasion or rebellion when public safety requires it," Lagman said in a statement issued Monday.

He said another year of martial law in Mindanao would amount to the following:

- 1) Patent violation of the safeguards which the 1987 Constitution imposes for the limited grounds and duration of martial law and its extension;
- 2) Malevolent perpetuation of the subjugation of the supermajority in the Congress by the President even against the unequivocal provisions of the Constitution protecting civil liberties and the rule of law; and
- 3) Blatant mockery of the liberality of the majority of the Supreme Court in upholding the President's past questionable actions

"Since the original or initiatory declaration of martial law is limited to not more than 60 days, it stands to reason that any extension is subject to the same constraints with respect to duration and grounds," the lawmaker said.

"There is no more factual basis for the extension of martial law in Mindanao after President Duterte declared the liberation of Marawi City from rebels and terrorists almost two months ago, and government combat forces had been withdrawn," added Lagman.

The Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines recommended the extension of martial law in Mindanao for another year purportedly to contain continuing threats by terrorists.

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But Lagman said "this is not a constitutional ground because threat or imminent danger of an invasion or rebellion has been removed as a ground for martial law in the 1987 Constitution for being self-serving, contingent and even nebulous."

"It is even arguable that not more than one extension is allowed because a series of extensions would violate the constitutional intent for a limited martial law duration, and the phraseology of the Constitution only authorizes the extension of "such proclamation" (original declaration), but not any extension thereof," he explained.

Instead of extending martial law, Duterte should "call the armed forces to subdue lawless violence or declare martial law anew but limited by constitutional restraints and subject to the oversight powers of the Congress and the Supreme Court," according to Lagman.

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Westmincom: 354 Abu Sayyaf 'neutralized' since January

From the Philippine Star (Dec 11): Westmincom: 354 Abu Sayyaf 'neutralized' since January



Former members of the Abu Sayyaf group surrender to the military in January. Philstar.com/Roel Pareño. file

Anti-terror task forces under the Western Mindanao have neutralized — by death, arrest or surrender — 354 members of the Abu Sayyaf this year, five times more than in 2016.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Westmincom chief, said that from that number, at least 127 Abu Sayyaf militants were killed and 90 were apprehended. At least 136 have surrendered to government forces — 72 in Basilan, 43 in Sulu and 21 in Tawi-Tawi.

"This is almost five times higher than the number of neutralized Abu Sayyaf members in 2016, when only 75 members were neutralized," Galvez said in a press briefing.

Westmincom's figures account for 40 percent of bandits neutralized this year, he said.

The campaign against the Abu Sayyaf slowed down in May after the Islamic State-inspired Maute Group and Abu Sayyaf attacked and held parts of Marawi City until October 23.

Galvez said intensified operations in the Westmincom's area of responsibility decreased kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf to 12 incidents against 23 in 2016. Government forces have yet to recover at least 11 kidnap victims — seven foreigners and four Filipinos — still held in the mountains of Sulu.

The number of violent incidents — kidnapping, harassment, bombings and killings — in 2017 was also lower at 77 against 123 in 2016.

Westmincom also recovered 230 firearms from the Abu Sayyaf group.

Galvez said credit for the achievements should go to Joint Task Force Sulu under Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Basilan led by Brig. Gen. Juvymax Uy and Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi led by Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon.

<http://www.philstar.com/nation/2017/12/11/1767361/westmincom-354-abu-sayyaf-neutralized-january>

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Intel backs extension of martial law in Mindanao

Parrocha December 11, 2017, 7:51 pm

A -- Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III on Monday said Congress is planning to hold a joint session on Wednesday (December 13) to discuss the proposed one-year extension of martial law in Mindanao.

Pimentel told reporters in an interview that the Senate will be meeting martial law administrators on Tuesday, December 12, at 10 a.m. Afterwards, the joint session would proceed on Wednesday.

Pimentel said that he expects that the joint session would take more or less half a day.

Pimentel, meanwhile, said that he is supportive of the proposal to extend martial law in Mindanao.

"It has no effect except that military is out of the camps. That is the only effect. That is why tomorrow I will have a briefing. What is the factual basis? What does the military know? How come they demanded the extension? We'll have to listen first," he added.


From Pimentel, Senator Manny Pacquiao said that he is also in favor of martial law extension in Mindanao.

Pacquiao is President of the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban), which is also the political party of President Rodrigo Duterte. Meanwhile, Pacquiao is a member of the House of Representatives.

Pacquiao, in a letter to the Congress dated December 8, asked for an extension of martial law in Mindanao for a whole year in order to totally eradicate terror threats posed by remnants of Islamic State (IS) and other terrorist groups and by communist rebels in the region.

"The extension of the implementation of Martial Law and suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao will help the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and other law enforcement agencies to quell completely and put an end to the ongoing rebellion in Mindanao and prevent the same from escalating to other parts of the country," Duterte said in his letter.

In his letter, Duterte highlighted the different terror threats facing Mindanao, which were part of the security assessment conducted by the AFP and the PNP. (PNA)


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ML extension to thwart ISIS, NPA threats in Mindanao: Duterte

By Jose Cielito Reganit December 11, 2017. 6:10 pm

MANILA -- President Rodrigo Duterte has asked Congress to further extend the declaration of martial law in the whole of Mindanao for another year, or for the entirety of 2018, in order to totally eradicate terror threats posed by remnants of Islamic State (IS)-linked terrorists and by communist rebels in the region.

In his letter to Congress dated December 8, Duterte said extending the martial law for another year will help state security forces to crush the rebellion in Mindanao and ensure public safety.

"A further extension of the implementation of Martial Law and suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao will help the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and all other law enforcement agencies to quell completely and put an end to the ongoing rebellion in Mindanao and prevent the same from escalating to other parts of the country," Duterte said in his letter.

"Public safety indubitably requires such further extension, not only for the sake of security and public order, but more importantly to enable the government and the people of Mindanao to pursue the bigger task of rehabilitation and the promotion of a stable socio-economic growth and development," he added.

In his letter, Duterte highlighted the different terror threats facing Mindanao, which were part of the security assessment submitted to Malacañang by the AFP and the PNP.

The President noted that despite the deaths of almost a thousand IS-inspired extremists, including their leaders, in the battle of Marawi, remnants of the group and their supporters have continued their recruitment and training of new members "to carry on the rebellion."

"You will please note that at least 185 persons listed in the martial law arrest orders have remained at large and, in all probability, are presently regrouping and consolidating their forces," he said.

He specifically pointed to the remnants of the IS-inspired Da'awatul Islamiyah Waliyatul Masriq (DIWM) as being active in recruiting and consolidating their forces in Central Mindanao.

"These activities are geared towards the conduct of intensified atrocities and armed public uprisings in support of their objective of establishing the foundation of a global Islamic caliphate and of a Wilayat not only in the Philippines but also in the whole of Southeast Asia," Duterte said.

The President also cited the terror threat from the Turaifie Group, which has been monitored to be planning to conduct bombings in the Cotabato area.

In the meantime, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), a breakaway faction of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), has been continuously perpetrating violence in Maguindanao and North Cotabato, having initiated a total of 89 violent incidents since the start of this year.

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He also cited threats posed by remnants of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga Peninsula.

According to reports, the ASG was behind 43 acts of terrorism this year, which included bombings, kidnappings and beheadings.

Lastly, Duterte accused the NPA of taking advantage of the Marawi siege to intensify their decades-long rebellion against the government and "stepped up terrorist acts against innocent civilians and private entities, as well as guerilla warfare against the security sector and public and government infrastructure."

He said the NPA's objective was to "purposely seize political power through violent means and supplant the country's democratic form of government with Communist rule."

The President said the NPA has perpetrated at least 385 atrocities in Mindanao since the year started that resulted in the deaths of 41 state forces and the wounding of 62 others.

He said these atrocities also resulted in the deaths of 23 civilians, including a four-month old infant, and the wounding of six others.

In the meantime, at least 59 arson incidents against private business and establishment have been carried out by the NPA in Mindanao this year that resulted in the destruction of an estimated PHP2.2 billion worth of properties.

The President said that he was constrained to terminate peace talks with the National Democratic front-Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (NDF-CPP-NPA), and later on to tag the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization, as a direct result of the atrocities on the part of the NPA.

"These recent developments involving the NDF-CPP-NPA forebode another year of intensified armed hostilities which, together with other security concerns and described above, continue to make Mindanao the hotbed of rebellion," he said.

"For all these reasons, I ask the Congress of the Philippines to further extend the proclamation of Martial Law and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in the whole of Mindanao for a period of one year, from 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2018, or for such period of time as the Congress may determine, in accordance with Section 18, Article VII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution," Duterte said in his letter.

President Duterte first declared martial law in Mindanao on May 23, 2017 when fighting broke out between government forces and IS-linked terrorists erupted in Marawi City.

In July, Congress extended the declaration until December 31, upon Duterte's request. (PNA)

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Duterte to Congress: ML extension in M'danao needed for 'total eradication' of 'communist terrorists,' ISIS-inspired groups

By

Lira Dalangin-Fernandez, InterAksyon

| December 11, 2017, 11:14 AM



Reuters file photo of President Rodrigo Duterte

(UPDATE 2 — 2:52 p.m.) MANILA, Philippines — Before taking their Christmas break, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives are likely to conduct a joint session to deliberate on President Rodrigo Duterte's request to extend martial law in Mindanao.

In a text message to reporters on Monday, December 11, House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas said that the congressional session "officially end on on Friday, Dec 15; hence, we may have a joint session on Thursday (Dec. 14) or Friday (Dec. 15) as part of the 2nd Regular Session, without need of a special session."

He added that Congress members would have a briefing with military officials on Wednesday, December 13.

ML in Mindanao needed for 'total eradication' of ISIS-inspired and communist-led terrorist groups

In his five-page December 8 letter to Senate president Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III and Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, Duterte asked the chambers to extend martial law in Mindanao until 2018, "primarily to ensure total eradication" of terrorist groups in the region "inspired by of DAESH" or ISIS such as the Da'awatul Islamiyah Waliyatul Masriq (DIWM) and other local and foreign extremist groups and armed lawless groups "and the communist terrorists and their coddlers, supporters, and financiers."

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The President said his request for Congress to extend martial law in the South was based on the "security assessment made by" the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief as stated in the December 4, 2017 letter that Duterte received from Department of National Defense chief Delfin Lorenzana.

"The security assessment submitted by the AFP, supported by a similar assessment by the Philippine National Police, highlights certain essential facts that I, as Commander-in-Chief of all armed forces of the Philippines, have personal knowledge of," added Duterte.

Duterte: Terrorist acts by ISIS-inspired groups, NPAs continue

According to the chief executive, remnants of the DIWM and their allies, protectors, supporters and sympathizers "have been monitored in their continued efforts towards radicalization/recruitment, financial and logistical buildup, as well as in their consolidation/reorganization in Central Mindanao, particularly in the provinces of Maguindanao and North Cotabato and also in Sulu and Basilan."

"These activities are geared towards the conduct of intensified atrocities and armed public uprisings in support of their objective of establishing the foundation of a global Islamic caliphate and of a *Wilayat* not only in the Philippines but in the whole Southeast Asia," the President noted.

Regarding the alleged threat by communists, Duterte informed Congress that while the government was preoccupied with fighting ISIS-inspired groups in the South, the New People's Army allegedly "took advantage of the situation and intensified their decades-long rebellion."

The NPA allegedly did this by stepping up "terrorist acts against innocent civilians and private entities, as well as guerilla warfare against the security sector and public and government infrastructure," according to Duterte.

The President claimed that the NPA did all these "purposely to seize political power through violent means and supplant the country's democratic form of government with Communist rule."

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