

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



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

24 December 2017

Sunday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • TRANSPARENT VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 24, 2017 | SUNDAY

TROPICAL STORM "VINTA"
ESTIMATED AT 210 KM WEST-NORTHWEST OF
ZAMBOANGA CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
AS OF 8:00 AM - DECEMBER 23 (2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

CULBERG SEA

SUNRISE **SUNSET**

6:18 AM 5:34 PM

MOONRISE **MOONSET**

10:31 AM 10:34 PM

NEW MOON **FIRST QUARTER**

DEC 15 DEC 26

2:30 PM 5:03 PM

LOW TIDE **HIGH TIDE**

(MANILA SOUTH HARBOR)

9:15 AM 12:07 AM

0.10 Meter 0.96 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 rain

	DEC 25	DEC 26	DEC 25	DEC 26	DEC 25	DEC 26		
METRO MANILA	24 - 30 °C	24 - 29 °C	TAGAYTAY	18 - 27 °C	18 - 26 °C	TACLOBAN	24 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	20 - 28 °C	21 - 27 °C	LEGAZPI	25 - 29 °C	25 - 30 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C
LAOAG	22 - 29 °C	21 - 30 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 30 °C	24 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 - 34 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 24 °C	15 - 24 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	24 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C	ZAMBANGA	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	AIR 21 SABOT KO, PADALA MO! PILIPINAS HD WEEKDAYS 6 AM, 6:30 PM & 9 PM WEEKENDS 6 AM		

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINAS HD

AIR 21

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

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'Vinta' death toll rises to at least 140

A mountain village was obliterated by mudslides as Tropical Storm 'Vinta' dumped heavy rains on Mindanao starting Thursday, killing at least 140 people. Village officials said people living along riverbanks and coastlines had refused to heed repeated warnings for them to evacuate their homes. Floods and mudslides swallowed homes while swollen rivers swept away residents at various towns in Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. Scores were still missing, while thousands were left homeless.

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Unheeded warnings to evacuate cost the lives of people living along riverbanks, coastlines and other danger zones when Tropical Storm "Vinta" (international name: Tembin) pummeled Mindanao on Thursday and Friday.

Mudslides swallowed homes and swollen rivers swept away dwellings, killing more than 140 people as Vinta dumped heavy rains on the island.

One mountain village was obliterated, buried in mudslides.

"We've repeatedly pleaded with villagers near coastlines and riverbanks to evacuate but they refused," said Vice Mayor Jesus Lim of Salug town in Zamboanga del Norte, where seven people died and seven others went missing due to flooding that destroyed 40 houses.

No one died in Cagayan de Oro City, where hundreds perished from flash floods in 2011, because residents heeded the order to evacuate when Vinta made landfall on Thursday, Mayor Oscar Moreno said on Friday.

62 killed in Lanao del Norte

In Lanao del Norte, 62 people died in the floods, according to the authorities.

In Salvador, an official said 41 people had been confirmed dead in the flash floods that hit the town's 15 villages on Friday.

As of 3 p.m. on Saturday, only 23 bodies had been recovered as rains were starting to pour anew, said Rodel Maghinay, head of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO).

Maghinay said six of the fatalities were residents of Barangay Tugaya, which is adjacent to the village of Dalama in Tubod town.

"Most of the dead were Muslims and their bodies were immediately buried by their relatives," he said.

Survivor's tale

In Tubod, eight people had been confirmed killed while 20 others had remained missing as of Saturday, said Viemar Paloma, head of the MDRRMO.

The rain was not heavy that day, but two people who lived near the Cabuyao River, heard a roar and saw water breaching the banks.

"It was so fast. It didn't even take five minutes," Maryjane Dulag, 34, described what happened at 10 a.m. on Friday, hours after Vinta made landfall in Davao Oriental.

Huge logs, boulders

"I told them to run away," said Daniñ, referring to his wife Maryjane and their four children.

"I saw the rampaging river, and the huge logs and boulders

OF

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5, 5295

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being carried away. I saw the rumbling current rushing toward me. It was a good thing that I still managed to run," said Danilo, who lived in the area the past 16 years but never saw something similar before.

He said the creek used to be 200 meters wide, but the rampaging water wiped out the entire "purok" (area) in Barangay Dalama where his family lived and turned the entire village into a waterway.

Danilo said the whole family managed to run 2 kilometers away from their house to escape the flood.

On Saturday, they went back to the house to find things they could save. The house, its walls torn off, was lying on its side.

Danilo said the logs and big rocks carried by the water could have come down from Mt. Pana, a relatively forested area.

Stump of chapel

Most of the houses in the neighborhood were gone, and only a concrete stump remained of the chapel, which had shielded their house from the rampaging water.

A total of 105 houses were destroyed and 94 families were displaced in Barangay Dalama.

A military report said 11 other people died at the town of Munaí, also in Lanao del Norte.

The provincial board has declared a state of calamity in the whole province.

Two people were confirmed dead in Iligan City. One was hit by falling coconut trees while monitoring the water level of Abuno River.

Zamboanga del Norte

In Zamboanga del Norte, 30 people died when floods hit the village of Anongan, a fishing community at Sibuco town, on Friday evening, said Senior Supt. Raul Tacaca, the provincial police director.

"More people are reported missing," Tacaca said.

Sibuco Mayor Bong Edding said "the floodwaters from the mountain came down so fast and swept away people and houses."

Years of logging

The mayor blamed years of logging in the mountain near Anungan for the tragedy that unfolded on Friday, adding he and other officials would move

to halt the logging operations.

Tacaca said nine reportedly died and 28 were missing in Gutalac town.

Four houses were destroyed along the rivers at Barangay Cocob and at Barangay Salvador. Some 75 families have been displaced.

Lanao del Sur

In Lanao del Sur, 18 people were confirmed dead from floods and landslides, said Zia Adiong, spokesperson of the Lanao del Sur crisis management team.

But the Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team (HEART) of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) reported a higher figure.

Laisa Alamia, head of HEART, said 21 people died in Lanao del Sur.

Adiong said Piagapo town recorded 10 deaths, followed by Madalum with four, and Balin-gong, two. Tugaya and Tamparan each had one death.

State of calamity

The provincial government of Lanao del Sur has declared a state of calamity in the entire province, including Marawi City.

Adiong blamed the swollen Lake Lanao as one of the causes of the floods.

At Monkayo, Compostela Valley, a 78-year-old woman suffering from paralysis was reported missing following a landslide at the gold-rich Mt. Diwalwal village.

In Southern Mindanao, only one death was reported. A person died at the height of the floods at Barangay Ma-a in Davao City.

Officials said preemptive evacuations implemented in the region had worked and minimized casualties and damage.

Power outages were reported in parts of Misamis Oriental, Lanao del Norte, Bukidnon, Lanao del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Norte, Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur, while a water shortage was reported in Cagayan de Oro.

Vinta is expected to leave the country today. —WITH REPORTS FROM JULIE ALIPALA, DIVINA SUSON, RICHEL UMEI, FRINSTON LIM, JIGGER J. JERUSALEM AND JUDY QUIROS IN MINDANAO; JAYMEE T. GAMIL AND JEANNETTE L. ANDRADE IN MANILA; AND AP INQ

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PNP, AFP beef up W. Visayas security

ILOILO CITY – The Philippine National Police (PNP) and Philippine Army (PA) in Western Visayas remain on alert against possible attacks from the New People's Army (NPA) amid the Christmas season ceasefire declared by the government and communist rebels.

Chief Supt. Cesar Hawthorne Binag, chief of the Western Visayas Police Regional Office (PRO-6), assured that the regional police force is ready for any eventuality.

Supt. Gilbert Gorero, PRO-6 spokes-

person, said that police patrols have been beefed up in camps, stations, and detachments.

"We will intensify our police presence in places of convergence and other vital installations," Gorero told the Manila Bulletin.

This year, the police in Western Visayas has been repeatedly attacked by the NPA, which will mark its 49th founding anniversary on December 26.

In Maasin, Iloilo, the NPA staged a daylight raid in June that disarmed

police officers on duty, while a sneak attack last November killed one police officer.

The 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) of the Philippine Army is likewise preparing for any eventuality.

"The troops will be on active defense," said Maj. Gen. Jon Aying, 3ID commanding officer.

"We are not planning to attack. But if there is clear and present danger, we will attack. We will not wait until we, the government forces, will be attacked," Aying said. (Para Yap)

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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NPA rebel killed hours before truce

By ABEL SALDICO

MILAGROS, Masbate — Army troopers engaged New People's Army (NPA) fighters in an encounter in the town of Baleno, this province, killing one of the guerrillas just hours before a scheduled Christmas truce was to take effect yesterday.

Captain Joash Pramis, Public Affairs Officer of the Philippine Army's 9th Infantry Division (9ID), said the encounter broke out at 7:15 a.m. Saturday in Barangay Obongot Diot in Baleno.

A still unidentified NPA member was killed in the clash as the firepower of elements of the 2nd Infantry Battalion proved too much for the band of rebels who eventually retreated, said Pramis.

The encounter happened less than 11 hours before the Suspension of Military Operation (SOMO) announced by government last Thursday was to take effect. A unilateral ceasefire beginning also at 6 p.m. yesterday was, likewise, announced by the NPA last Friday.

Brig. Gen. Danilo Chad Isleta, 9ID acting commander, called on active members of the NPA to use the Christmas truce to celebrate with their families and contemplate on surrendering and returning to the fold of the law.

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Pahina. 7

NGAYON

Detachment ng militar inatake ng BIFF

NORTH COTABATO – Inatake ng mga teroristang Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters ang Army-Cafgu detachment sa bayan ng Aleosan sa North Cotabato kamakalawa ng gabi.

Ayon kay B/Gen. Nolly Samarita, hepe ng 602nd Brigade, sinalakay ng mga miyembro ng BIFF ang detachment ng Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) sa ilalim ng Bravo Company ng 38th Infantry Battalion Philippine Army.

Agad naman itong natunugan ng mga sundalo at Cafgu kaya gumanti ng putok sa mga terorista.

Tumagal ng 20-minuto ang palitan ng putok sa magkabilang panig kaya nagdulot ng takot sa mga residente. Umattas din ang mga terorista nang matunugan ang paparating na karagdagan pwersa ng militar.

Walang nasugatan o natatay sa mga sundalo at Cafgu habang hindi naman matiyak sa panig ng mga terorista.

Sangayon ay nagpapatuloy pa ang clearing combat operation ng militar laban sa BIFF sa bayan ng Aleosan. (Rhoderick Beñez)

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AFP, PNP still on 'active defense' mode for CPP anniversary

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

BUTUAN CITY – Field unit commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) will remain in "active defense mode" while also placed on "alert" status despite the suspension of offensive military and police operations.

In separate phone interviews with the field unit commanders on Saturday, they said "full alert" status is still in effect despite of SOMO, especially on the 49th celebration of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

"We are still on active defense mode," a ground Army commander said, who requested anonymity.

Combat maneuvering Army battalions is under the opera-

tional control of the 401st Infantry (Unity) Brigade stationed at Camp Datu Makapandong in Awa New Leyte, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur and 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade based at Camp Bancasi in Butuan City.

Operational control (Opcon) units of the 401st and 402nd Brigades are also deployed in strategic areas in the region.

"We are not laying down our guns and we are ready to respond if the New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the CPP will stage terroristic acts towards the civilian communities and government forces and key government or private installations," another ground Army commander said.

He assured they are prepared to secure the public for the incoming founding anniversary of the communist terrorist group.

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62% of Pinoys oppose extended ML

Six in every 10 Filipinos oppose the extension of martial law in Mindanao beyond 2017, the fourth quarter survey of Social Weather Stations (SWS) showed.

Conducted from Dec. 8 to 16 with results released last Friday, the survey showed that

62 percent believe extending martial rule is no longer necessary since the siege in Marawi City is already over. Twenty-six percent approve of the extension while the remaining 12 percent were undecided.

Malacañang denied the way the survey questions were

formed, as presidential spokesman Harry Roque said its framing failed to consider the real sentiments of the people in Mindanao, who were satisfied with the peace and security situation in the region during martial law implementation.

Turn to Page 6

"We understand the sentiment of the public when 62 percent of the respondents said they oppose martial law extension in Mindanao, given the construction of the survey question which began with '*Dahil tapos na ang giyera sa Marawi City...*' (Because the war in Marawi City is over...)," Roque pointed out.

He explained that it is precisely because of the implementation of martial law that Mindanao has a "seemingly peaceful environment," which makes people believe that the war is over.

"Martial law allowed our defenders to keep the Daesh, their supporters and remnants in check. If martial law had not been implemented, the current situation in the communities in Mindanao would have been vastly different," Roque stressed.

The spokesman said it is important that the Filipino public is aware of the context behind the extension.

"We have to explain to our people that what the Daesh-Maute did in Marawi was just the tip of the iceberg. The Dawlah Ismailiya remains determined to establish an *IS wilayat* in Mindanao... (but) with martial law in place, our defenders can establish a tighter net against these rebels and terrorists who will not stop until they are completely defeated," Roque added.

With martial law in place, the military would also be able to aid and secure the various government agencies tasked with rehabilitating Marawi City at the soonest time, he also said.

According to the SWS survey, opposition to the extension of martial law in Mindanao beyond Dec. 31 was highest in Metro Manila at 67 percent, followed by the rest of Luzon at 63 percent, Mindanao at 62 percent and the Visayas at 55 percent.

Opposition is highest among respondents from class E (67 percent), followed by those from class D (61 percent) and ABC (55 percent).

The same survey showed that 66 percent of Filipinos believe the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) can suppress the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists groups even without martial law.

This is higher by 12 points from the 54 percent obtained in a similar survey conducted in September.

Also, it revealed that the number of those who said martial law is necessary for the AFP to suppress the terrorist groups decreased from 25 percent in September to 18 percent in December. Those who were undecided also decreased from 22 percent to 16 percent.

The survey, which had 1,200 respondents, also showed similar sentiments across all geographic areas and socio-economic classes. It had a margin of error of +/- three percent for the national percentages.

War against poverty

Meanwhile, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president and Davao Archbishop Romulo Valles said majority of the com-

munities in Mindanao favor the one-year extension, although they would continue to listen to the people's concerns on the issue throughout 2018.

He added that many people believe that violent extremists still persist even if the military succeeded in ending the siege in Marawi.

"We know that violent extremists continue to perpetrate crimes of violence against fundamental human rights to life, property and religious freedom. They continue to recruit members from disillusioned youth in various parts of Mindanao," Valles said.

To discourage people from joining these extremist groups, the Catholic bishops asked the government and local communities to help put an end to poverty, which it identified as among the primary reasons why people go to war against the government.

In a statement titled "Waging Peace, Winning Minds and Hearts" released yesterday, the bishops tackled the extension of martial rule in the context of the current situation in

Mindanao.

"We ask our public officials as well as our own local communities to undertake the more arduous task of waging peace. This means addressing the root causes of unrest. Poverty is the mother of war," said Valles.

Aside from poverty, the group cited landlessness, inadequate implementation of agrarian reform, continued environmental destruction through irresponsible mining and logging operations, labor contractualization, marginalization of indigenous peoples and their displacement from ancestral domains, and corruption in government offices as issues that the government needs to address.

But achieving peace is not just the concern of the government, as he also called on religious leaders to do their part.

"We urge religious leaders of all denominations to form the consciences of their respective constituents regarding the blasphemous evil of using God's name and one's religious beliefs to kill innocent

people and despise other religious beliefs. We recommend effective dialogue with rebels towards peace," the Davao prelate said.

The bishops also paid tribute to the gallantry of the military, especially those who sacrificed their lives to defend the peace in Mindanao and retake Marawi from the clutches of terrorists.

They also appealed to the Duterte administration "to push without undue delay the full implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro signed in Malacañang in March 2014."

They also challenge the government's peacekeeping personnel to make it part of their primary duty to put an end to summary executions and to uphold the human rights of all Filipinos.

Valle cited the instances where local church communities teamed up with government agencies and civil society organizations to provide rehabilitation to drug dependents.
– **Janvic Mateo, Christina Mendez, Evelyn Macairan**

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Most Pinoys oppose martial law extension, says SWS survey

Malacañang on Saturday defended the yearlong extension of martial law in Mindanao, which the majority of Filipinos opposed, according to a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

While they opposed the extension of martial law in Mindanao, most Filipinos were satisfied with President Duterte's performance in the fourth quarter as his ratings improved across areas and classes.

Interviewed face-to-face, 71 percent of 1,200 respondents were satisfied with Mr. Duterte's performance, 13 percent said otherwise, and 15 percent were undecided.

SWS considers a rating of +70 and above "excellent."

The nationwide poll was conducted from Dec. 8 to 16 and had a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3 percentage points.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque attributed the finding that 62 percent of Filipinos disagreed with the martial law extension to the construction of the SWS question, which began by saying that the war in Marawi City had ended.

Sixty-six percent of the respondents believed the Armed Force of the Philippines could suppress Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorist groups even without

martial law.

The fighting in Marawi ended after five months of battle between government forces and the Islamic State (IS)-inspired extremists. It destroyed most of the city and displaced 200,000 residents.

President Duterte first declared martial law over the whole of Mindanao on May 23 after the first wave of violence gripped the city. In July, Congress granted his request to extend it to Dec. 31, 2017.

Earlier this month, lawmakers again gave in to his request to extend it for one year.

Roque said Malacañang had

to make people see that the siege of Marawi by extremists wasn't all that they wanted to do.

He indicated that martial law remained necessary to thwart the terrorists' other plans.

"With martial law in place, our defenders can establish a tighter net against these rebels and terrorists who will not stop until they are completely defeated," Roque said in a statement.

Martial law is also vital in ensuring that Marawi City is able to rise again, he said.

"In addition, martial law will also aid our defenders in securing Task Force Bangon Marawi agencies that are carrying out

the rehabilitation of Marawi City," he said.

Malacañang also wants people to understand that martial law is key to bringing back peace to Mindanao, which is why people believe that the war is over, said Roque.

"Martial law allowed our defenders to keep the Daesh (Arab name of IS), their supporters and remnants in check. If martial law had not been implemented, the current situation in the communities in Mindanao would have been vastly different," he said. —REPORTS FROM

LEILA B. SALAVERRIA AND INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ

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'NO NEED TO RUSH'
**LAGMAN: DELAY
IN MARTIAL LAW
RESO TO PREEMPT
SC CHALLENGE**

By DJ Yap
@deejayapINQ

The delay in the processing of the joint resolution of Congress extending martial law in Mindanao by one year could be "deliberate and premeditated" to foil plans to challenge its constitutionality, a House opposition leader said on Saturday.

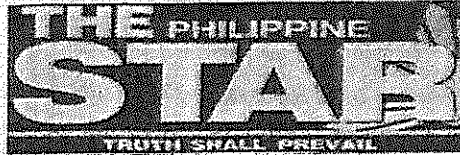
A day after calling attention to the delayed preparation and enrollment of the congressional document, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said there could be more to the issue, considering a number of dissenters were planning to question the martial law extension before the Supreme Court.

"The patent design is to deprive challengers of the extension from attaching in their petitions before the Supreme Court the required certified true copy of the enrolled joint resolution," he said in a statement.

"As the delay progresses, aggravated by the ensuing holidays, the effectivity of the extension on Jan. 1 will soon set in," he added.

"Once the extension becomes effective, any petition or prayer for the issuance of a temporary restraining order or a writ of preliminary injunction may be mooted," said Lagman, a leader of the Magnificent Seven bloc. INQ

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Lagman laments lack of time to stop ML extension

By JESS DIAZ

There may be no more time for the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO), if it wants to, against the extension of martial law starting on Jan. 1, opposition Rep. Edcel Lagman said yesterday.

That is because of the delay in the printing of a clean copy of the joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives extending martial rule, he said.

"The undue delay in the

preparation and enrollment of the joint resolution could be deliberate and premeditated," Lagman said. "The patent design is to deprive challengers of the extension from attaching in their petitions before the Supreme Court the required certified true copy of the enrolled joint resolution."

He said the delay is aggravated by the ensuing holidays, and soon the extension of martial law would take effect. "Once the extension becomes effective, any petition or prayer for the issuance of a temporary

restraining order or a writ of preliminary injunction may be mooted," he stressed.

The Albay congressman intends to challenge before the SC the decision of Congress to extend martial law in Mindanao.

Asked to react to Lagman's statement, Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas said, "Like the Speaker has stated, Rep. Lagman seems to be dictating on the majority of its duties and prerogatives, such as the time and manner of considering the request of the President to

extend his martial law proclamation."

On Friday, Fariñas said, "Since the resolution will take effect on Jan. 1, there is no need to rush it like Rep. Lagman wishes for."

"Unlike bills approved by Congress, a joint resolution does not have to be transmitted to the President for his approval. The Speaker and I have already signed the joint resolution and (it) will be transmitted to our Senate counterparts for their signatures. Rep. Lagman may rest assured that the joint

resolution will be duly enrolled before its effectivity on Jan. 1, 2018," he said.

The Albay lawmaker said he inquired from the House secretariat and was told that it was "is still coordinating with the Senate on the reconciled version of the resolution."

Turning to the Senate, he was informed that the House "has not yet transmitted (it) to us."

"After extending with inordinate haste the duration of martial law in Mindanao effective Jan. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2018, the covering joint resolu-

tion is nowhere to be found or has not even been prepared or enrolled eight days after the joint session adjourned," he said.

Lagman was among those who questioned President Duterte's martial law proclamation in April, which was good for 60 days. Before it expired in June, Congress extended it up to the end of this year.

The petitioners lost their case. The SC upheld Duterte's proclamation. No challenge was brought against the first extension.

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Lagman hits martial law maneuver

By BEN R. ROSARIO

An opposition legislator charged yesterday that the delayed release of the adopted congressional resolution extending martial law in Mindanao was "deliberately and pre-meditated" to prevent oppositors from asking the Supreme Court (SC) to stop its implementation.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman aired this view even as he assailed the alleged maneuver aimed at weakening legal arguments that the opposition may bring to the SC to stop the one-year extension of martial law and suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao.

"Once the extension becomes effective, any petition or prayer for the issuance of a temporary restraining order (TRO) or a writ of preliminary injunction may be mooted," Lagman lamented.

He noted that although Resolution of Both Houses No. No. 13 was adopted nearly two weeks ago, there remains no sign it will be released by Senate and House leaders.

"Why approve with inordinate haste the extension just to foot-drag the preparation for enrollment of the requisite joint resolution?" Lagman asked.

He added: "The patent design is to deprive challengers of the extension from attaching in their petitions before the Supreme Court the required certified true copy of the enrolled joint resolution."

Opposition against a one-year martial law extension has the support of majority or 82 percent of Filipinos, results of a recent Social Weather Station (SWS) poll revealed.

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AFP to stay on the defensive vs Reds

By **CHRISTINA MENDEZ**

The military will continue its defensive operations as government forces observe President Duterte's declaration of the suspension of military operations (SOMO) against the communist New People's Army (NPA) that started yesterday and will be in effect until Dec. 26.

In observance of the traditional Christmas ceasefire with NPA rebels, Duterte also called for a SOMO from 6 p.m. of Dec. 30 to 11:59 p.m. of Jan. 2.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea issued the one-page order after the President ordered the unilateral ceasefire, which was followed by the declaration of a similar ceasefire by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NPA that reciprocated the government's move.

Malacañang directed Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Armed Forces chief Gen. Rey Guerrero and Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa to follow the President's directive without prejudice

to the security forces' right to self-defense.

"It is understood that during the suspension of military operations on the said periods, the AFP and the PNP will continue to undertake defensive military and police actions and movements as may be necessary to secure civilian communities," Medialdea said.

The military and the police are also tasked to protect government establishments, military installations and bases.

According to Medialdea, the ceasefire is meant "to

provide our military and uniformed personnel and our people in conflict areas a meaningful opportunity to celebrate the Yuletide season in peace and harmony with their families."

Meanwhile, one soldier was wounded when Army troops clashed with communist guerrillas in a remote village in Magpet, North Cotabato last Tuesday.

Lt. Col. Harold Argamosa, commander of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion, said the rebels were preparing to celebrate in the area the CPP's

49th founding anniversary on Dec. 26.

Argamosa, commander of the 39th Infantry Battalion, said the rebels were driven out of Sitio Punong, Barangay Manobo after a brief firefight.

Recovered from the scene of the encounter were an M16 rifle, food rations, backpacks and rebel documents.

Argamosa said one soldier was wounded while some rebels were believed wounded after bloodstains were spotted on their escape route.

The NPA said the government's alleged death squads

are not covered by the Christmas ceasefire of the rebel group, the CPP's central committee said late Friday.

In a statement posted on CPP's official website, the CPP Central Committee said all units of the NPA and the people's militia are on full alert.

"Active self-defense shall be undertaken in the face of clear and imminent danger. This ceasefire order does not cover the government's death squads," the CPP said.

– With Jaime Laude, Jose Rodel Clapano

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Alleged killing by military forces of 8 Lumads hit

By MARIC B. CABAYURAN

Sen. Loren Legarda yesterday strongly condemned the alleged killing by military forces of eight Lumads including their chieftain, Datu Victor Danyan, in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato on December 3.

Legarda, chairwoman of the Senate finance committee, expressed outrage over the incident following reports that the victims were farmers who were harvesting their produce when the shooting took place.

"I seek justice for the death of these Lumads who were just doing their harvest for the day when they were killed. This is an atrocious act that must be dealt with using the full force of the law. I urge authorities to investigate this incident and bring the perpetrators to justice," she said.

Legarda cited news reports that the military claims it was an

encounter between government troops and Danyan's group who were allegedly members of the New People's Army (NPA), but witnesses said it was a massacre and that Danyan was not a member of NPA but an active community leader.

The NPA is the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

There were also reports that the incident involves a dispute on the ancestral land of the Lumads.

"The families of the victims and the Lumad community demand justice for the death of their kin and the disruption of peace in the entire community," Legarda said.

"I call on the government to urgently implement measures that would protect our indigenous peoples and put an end to these unwarranted killings," she added.

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The Manila Times

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Malaysia arrests militants planning to fight in PH

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian police have detained 20 alleged Islamic militants, including a leading member of an Indonesian extremist group and others believed to be planning to fight in the strife-torn southern Philippines, authorities said.

They were the latest arrests of alleged extremists in Muslim-majority Malay-

sia, as fears grow militants who had been fighting with the Islamic State (IS) group overseas are heading back to Southeast Asia after the jihadists' losses in the Middle East.

The arrests were made in nationwide raids from late November to mid-December, police said in a statement.

Among those detained was an alleged senior leader of the Indonesian IS-linked militant outfit Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD), which has been blamed for several recent deadly attacks in its home country.

The 24-year-old was picked up in the southern Malaysian state of Johor, police

said, without identifying him.

A 50-year-old Filipino suspected of trying to recruit people to join Philippine kidnap-for-ransom gang Abu Sayyaf was arrested in Kuala Lumpur.

Several Filipinos, Malaysians and Indonesians were detained on Borneo island,

► **Militants A2**

also suspected of planning to join militants in the Philippines.

The arrests come after hundreds

of local and foreign gunmen who had pledged allegiance to IS laid siege to the principal Islamic city

in the mainly Catholic Philippines for five months.

The brutal battle for Marawi claimed over 1,000 lives.

A militant from an unidentified North African country who had previously fought with IS

in the Middle East was also arrested at Kuala Lumpur airport, police said.

Malaysia has rounded up hundreds of suspected Islamic militants in recent years but has not suffered a major attack. **AFP**

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Manila Standard

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'MILITARY, NOT EXTRA POWERS, CAN STOP TERROR'

By John Paolo Bencito and Rio N. Araja

MAJORITY of Filipinos expressed opposition to President Rodrigo Duterte's move extending military rule beyond its end date on Dec. 31, 2017, with an even higher number believing the military could "suppress" terrorists even without additional powers from Congress.

But the Palace insisted the Marawi siege "was just the tip of the iceberg," as it slammed how the survey questions were constructed.

Meanwhile, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, an opposition lawmaker, believes the "undue delay" of Congress to prepare a joint resolution approving the one-year extension of martial law in Mindanao could be done deliberately to deprive challengers to attach their petitions.

"The undue delay in the preparation and enrollment of the joint resolution extending martial law in Mindanao could be deliberate and premeditated," he said.

"Why approve with inordinate haste the extension just to foot-drag the preparation for enrollment of the requisite joint resolution?" he asked.

"In fact, Senate sources revealed that as of Dec. 21, 2017, the resolution was still with the Office of Majority Leader [of the House of Representatives Rodolfo] Fariñas," Lagman said.

He said the undue delay was a "patent design" to deny the challengers of the martial law extension to attach their petitions before the Supreme Court the required certified true copy of the enrolled joint resolution.

"As the delay progresses, aggravated by the ensuing holidays, the effectivity of the extension on Jan. 1, 2018 will soon set in," he said.

He added "once the extension becomes effective, any petition or prayer for the issuance of a temporary restraining order or a writ of preliminary injunction may be mooted."

The latest Social Weather Stations survey, conducted from Dec. 8 to 16 but only released Friday, Dec. 22, showed that 62 percent of Filipinos oppose martial law extension in Mindanao, while 26 percent were in favor.

Indecision, meanwhile, is at 12 percent.

Opposition to the extension of martial law in Mindanao beyond Dec. 31, 2017 was highest in Metro Manila at 67 percent, followed by Balance Luzon at 63 percent, Mindanao at 62 percent, and Visayas at 55 percent.

In the meantime, 66 percent said the Armed Forces of the Philippines could readily suppress the Maute group and Abu Sanyaf even without martial law.

Some 18 percent disagreed with the notion, while 6 percent were undecided.

The proportion of those who agree that the AFP can suppress the Maute group and Abu Sanyaf even without martial law is 12 points above the 54 percent in September 2017, the pollster said.

It was at 57 percent in June 2017, when SWS first asked the question.

Compared to September 2017, the proportion of those who agree that the AFP can suppress the Maute group and Abu Sanyaf without martial law rose in all areas.

It rose by 16 points in Metro Manila, from 54 percent in September 2017 to 70 percent in December 2017.

In Balance Luzon, it rose by 15 points from 52 percent to 67 percent; by 8 points in the Visayas, from 58 percent to 66 percent; and by 9 points in Mindanao, from 52 percent to 61 percent.

But in a statement, Palace spokesman Harry Roque insisted there was still a need for martial law, which was responsible for the "seemingly peaceful" environment in southern Philippines.

Roque said: "We understand the sentiment of the public when 62 percent of the respondents said they oppose martial law extension in Mindanao, given the construction of the survey question which began, 'Dahil tapos na ang giyera sa Marawi City' (since the siege is over)."

The SWS survey asked: "Gaano po kayo sumasang-ayon o hindi sumasang-ayon sa pangungusap na ito: 'Dahil tapos na ang giyera sa Marawi City, hindi na kailangan palawigin pa ang martial law nang lagpas ng takda nitong pagtatapos sa Dec. 31, 2017.'"

"Martial law allowed our defenders to keep the Daesh, their supporters, and remnants in check. If martial law had not been implemented, the current situation in the communities in Mindanao would have been vastly different," said the Palace spokesman.

"We therefore have to explain to our people that what the Daesh-Maute did in Marawi was just the tip of the iceberg," he added.

Roque said that terrorist remnants remains determined to establish an IS wilayat in Mindanao.

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Army Cor. curing the land.

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POLICE FILES

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7 Pinoy kasama sa 20 terror suspects na inaresto sa Malaysia; kaanak ni Hapilon huli rin

UMABOT SA 20 terror suspects ang naaresto sa serbong operasyon ng Malaysian police.

Kabilang sa mga ito ang umano'y pitong Filipino, limang Indonesians at isang African.

Sinabi ni Malaysian police director general Mohamad Ruzi Harun, kabilang sa mga nahuli ang isang Malaysian na dating guru.

Nahuli rin ang kamag-anak ng napatay na Abu Sayyaf leader na si Isnilon Hapilon at ang isa pang Pinoy na naaresto sa Kuala Lumpur International airport dahil umano sa Malaysia na umamb sa Abu Sayyaf.

Ayon sa Malaysian police,

ang 16 sa mga naaresto ay tinangka na pumasok sa Mindanao upang umamb sa Abu Sayyaf.

Sinabi rin Harun na ang Sa-

datan sa Sabah ang magiging entry point ng mga terorista na nags makapasok sa Mindanao.

(Bombo Radyo)

24 December 2017

PHILIPPINE ARMY INQUIRER

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NEWS

Illustrations by Rene Elevera



Vice Adm. Ronald Mercado
Vice Adm. Ronald Joseph Mercado was set to retire in March 2018 when he was unceremoniously relieved as the flag officer in command (FOIC) on Dec. 19. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana claimed he ordered Mercado's relief because the latter allegedly insisted on his choice of a combat management systems supplier for the Navy's ambitious Frigate Acquisition Program, despite the P15.5-billion contract already awarded to Hyundai Heavy Industries. But talk in military circles has it that Mercado was protecting the interest of the Navy when he became meticulous over details for the first-ever warship of the Philippines. Mercado, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983, has remained silent about the controversy. Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero later handed the FOIC flag to a much younger officer, Rear Adm. Robert Empedrad.

Army Scout Ranger Capt. Rommel Sandoval
Army Scout Ranger Capt. Rommel Sandoval died in Marawi City while saving a fellow soldier. For acting beyond the call of duty and making the ultimate sacrifice, Sandoval was recognized a hero by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. On Dec. 20, AFP Day, Sandoval was posthumously awarded a Medal for Valor, the highest recognition given by the military to gallant soldiers. Sandoval, whose call sign was "Daredevil," was the commander of the 11th Scout Ranger company and the highest-ranking officer who died in the five-month battle to retake Marawi City from Islamic State-inspired Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorist groups. Killed alongside him last September was his buddy, Pfc. Sherwin Canapi. The two tried to save one of their company's team leaders who was wounded and trapped in one of the buildings in the city. But terrorists fired at them and hit Sandoval on the cheek. His wife, Maria Anna Rosario, received the Medal for Valor.

ONLINE NEWS

24 DECEMBER 2017

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

20 terror suspects from IS, Abu Sayyaf arrested in nationwide swoop

The third raid by the division involved the arrests of four Indonesians aged between 31 and 38 with the help from the Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom) in Sandakan, Sabah on Dec 4.

The suspects had entered Malaysia illegally from Tarakan and Nunukan, Indonesia and planned to enter southern Philippines to join the terrorist group.

On Dec 6, a 50-year-old Filipino suspected of having ties with the Abu Sayyaf group's supreme leader was arrested here.

The suspect was believed to have recruited Filipinos around Kepong, here to join the Abu Sayyaf group.

On Dec 10 in Sandakan saw another six Filipinos and five Malaysians aged between 16 and 47 who planned to join the terrorist group in southern Philippines arrested.

In another raid in Masai, Johor saw a Filipino who is listed as a wanted suspect in the Philippines arrested for suspicion of being involved in terror activities in Philippines.

The final raid on Dec 15, saw a 31-year-old North African man arrested at KLIA.

The suspect was previously arrested in Turkey in September last year for being involved in terror activities in Iraq and Syria.

He entered Malaysia in early December this year from a neighbouring country and was arrested through a foreign enforcement agency intelligence.

All suspects were detained under the Security Offences Act (Special Measures) 2012 (Sosma), Fuzi said.

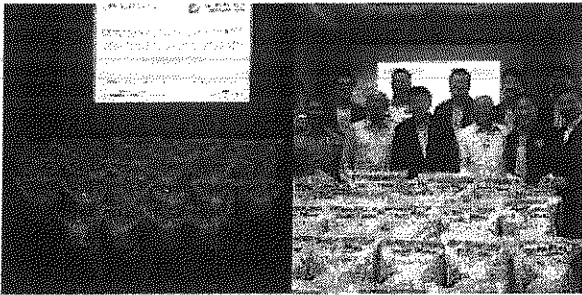
<https://www.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2017/12/317378/20-terror-suspects-abu-sayyaf-arrested-nationwide-swoop>

www.dwdd.com.ph

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | AFP receives 500 sacks of rice for Marawi soldiers

Published by [Alvin Santiago](#) on December 20, 2017 at 10:50 PM

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City – The Armed Forces of the Philippines received 500 sacks of rice from Lim Seh Leng Foundation through SL Agritech Corporation in a turnover ceremony on December 22, at the GHQ Conference Room.



The sacks of rice containing 25 kilos each are intended for soldiers assigned in Marawi City. The rice donation is in support and recognition of the services of soldiers who are fighting violent extremists and terrorists.

The distribution to beneficiaries will be facilitated by the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel through the Western Mindanao Command.

Dr Henry Lim Bon Liong, Chairman and CEO of SL Agritech Group turned over the donation to Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana and AFP Chief of Staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero.



The donated rice is of the Jasmine variety called Dona Maria with market value of around P95 per kilo.

"We are grateful for the act of kindness by our citizens who continue to appreciate the sacrifices of our soldiers especially those in Marawi," AFP Chief of Staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero said.

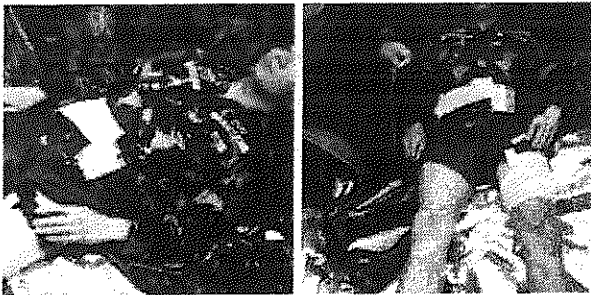
"Such gestures boost the morale of our troops and give us more reasons to serve our people better," Gen Guerrero added. **AFP PAO/MCAG**

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LEADER BY EXAMPLE | LTC Peter Edwin Navarro – A Warrior

Posted by Alvin Santiago on December 28, 2017 at 12:38 PM

BARANGAY MAMPAYAG, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon (DWDD) – There are commanders who lead by giving orders, while there are combatant commanders who led his men upfront in battle, selfless service for the people and country even to the expense of his safety, LTC Peter Edwin R Navarro, Commanding Officer of 1st Special Forces (Anytime...Anywhere) Battalion was Wounded-in-Action last July 22, 2017 during an encounter with NPA.



Despite being wounded in battle LTC Navarro still giving instructions to his men.



LTC Navarro during his casualty evacuation.



After 4 days of being confined at the hospital and hasn't fully recovered, LTC Navarro volunteered to be on Full Duty Status. 1SFBn / MCAg

www.dwdd.com.ph

DAREDEVIL | Cpt Rommel Sandoval receives Medal of Valor (Posthumous)

PHOTO BY [Alvin Santiago](#) on December 17, 2017 at 4:01 PM



FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD) – A snappy salute to Captain Rommel B. Sandoval. He received the Medal of Valor, AFP’s highest honor, for his acts of conspicuous courage, gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as the Commanding Officer of the 11th Scout Ranger Company, 4th Scout Ranger Battalion, First Scout Ranger Regiment, Special Operations Command during the Marawi Crisis.

Cpt. Sandoval displayed extraordinary courage, bravery, sterling leadership and professionalism by offering the greatest sacrifice of giving his life to a fellow comrade, thereby keeping with the finest tradition of a Filipino soldier. **OACPA / MCAG**

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REINTEGRATION | More Sayyaf Members Surrender in Sulu

Posted by Alvin Santiago on December 23, 2017 at 12:11 PM



CAMP BAUTISTA, Jolo (DWDD) – Since the Joint Task Force Sulu's proposal of the Comprehensive Psycho-Social and Reintegration Package for Abu Sayyaf surrenderors last November 16 that the Governor and all Mayors of Sulu are amenable with, more ASG members surrender.

This month alone, 7 Abu terrorists yielded with firearms making a total of 51 surrenderors with 48 firearms for the year since the first surrenderor last March.

Five of the seven surrenderors for December were presented by Lt. Col. Jessie R. Montoya, Commanding Officer of 2nd Special Forces Battalion to Brig. Gen. Cirilito E. Sobejana, JTF Sulu Commander at the War Room, here, Monday.



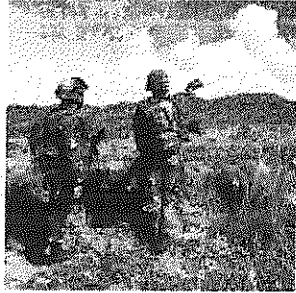
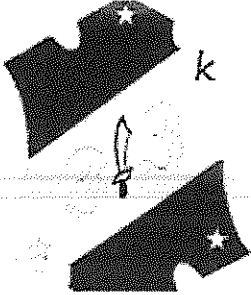
They are: Persing J. Abdurasid aka Lito, 41, and a resident of Brgy. Wannu Piyanjihan, Parang who brought his M1 Garand rifle last December 11; Midzfar Idjarani Jukuran aka Mitchie/Che Guevarra, 31, and a resident of Brgy. Panabuan, Indanan who yielded his M16 rifle last December 12; Tating Asid aka Black from Maimbung who submitted himself with M1 Garand rifle; Amin Asjad Ismula aka Amin, 37, a resident of Brgy. Taglibi, Patikul and Aldisar Bara Jurrani, 24, a resident of Brgy. Buansa, Indanan who handed-over one M1 Garand rifle each.

Right after the presentation, they underwent medical examination at the Station Hospital. They are now undergoing custodial debriefing in preparation to their reintegration into the society. Since they all surrendered with firearms, they shall be qualified to avail the comprehensive psycho-social reintegration package.

JTF Sulu leadership is very optimistic that with the active support of the Local Chief Executives and peace-loving Tausugs, the road toward peace and progress of the province is on sight. **JTF SULU / MCAG**

PEACE INTEGRATION | More NPA's Surrenders in Sultan Kudarat

Reported by: Alvin Santiago on December 28, 2017 at 10:45 AM



BAGUMBAYAN, Sultan Kudarat (DWDD) – Tinungo ng tropa ng 33rd Infantry “MAKABAYAN” Battalion ang Baranggay Sto Nino sa Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat upang magdaos ng diyalogo at Christmas party nuong ika-dalawampu ng Disyembre 2017.

Dumalo sa naturang pagtitipon ang mga Lumad mula sa iba’t-ibang barangay ng Bagumbayan kasama ang kanilang Kapitan, Tribal Elders at Indigenous People’s Mandatory Representative.

Kasama rin sa pagtitipon ang Philippine National Police at mga Lokal na Opisyal ng Munisipyo ng Bagumbayan sa pangunguna ni Mayor Jonalette De Pedro.

Sa naturang diyalogo, dininig ng mga kawal ang problema ng mga Lumad, partikular ang ginagawang panghihimasok ng teroristang NPA at kanilang mga Front Organization sa kanilang mga komunidad.

Ipinaliwanag ni LTC Harold M Cabunoc, pinuno ng 33rd IB, na ang hangarin ng Hukbong Katihan ng Pilipinas ay mahimok ang mga Lumad na na-recruit ng teroristang NPA na bumalik sa kanilang tahanan at isuko ang kanilang mga armas sa gobyerno.

Igniit ni LTC Cabunoc na kailangan ang suporta ng buong tribo para makontra ang panghihimasok ng mga teroristang komunista na siyang nagbunsod sa mga karahasan sa kanilang lugar.

Samantala, sa naturang pagtitipon ay pormal na sumuko ang sampung miyembro ng Platoon Arabo ng Guerilla Front 73.

Ayon kay Tata Isil, 22 taong gulang, lalo siyang naghirap sa ginawang pamumundok kasama ang teroristang NPA.

Sa loob ng 2 taon, iniwan niya ang kanyang anal paara sumama sa armadong kilusan kung saan ay naging kumander ang kanyang asawa na si Ka Jessie.

Sa sistemang balik-tribo ng 33IB, ipinatanggap ng Lokal na Pamahalaan at ng Philippine Army ang mga sumukong NPA sa kanilang mga pamilya, kaibigan at Tribal Elders.

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

Naging makahulugan at mainit ang pagtanggap ng mga mga mahal nila sa buhay ang mga dating NPA nang sila ay lumapit sa kanilang kinaroroonan.

Sa pagdiriwang ng kapaskuhan, kasama ang trib, namahagi rin ang lokal na pamahalaan ng mga food packs para sa lahat ng dumalong miyembro ng tribong Dulangan Manobo.

Ayon kay Mayor De Pedro, bahagi ito sa kanyang programang pagpapaabot sa ordinaryong mamamayan ang serbisyo ng gobyerno.

Sa ngayon ay umaabot na sa 90 kasapi ng Guerilla Front 73 ang sumuko na sa mga tropa ng 331B simula nuong Mayo taong 2017 habang aabot na sa 23 na ang unang grupo ng mga sumuko ay makatatanggap na ng benepisyo mula sa pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng Comprehensive Local Integration Program o CLIP.

Naganap ang Awarding Ceremony sa sa "The Farm" sa Koronadal city nuong Disyembre a-beinte unona pinangunahan ni Gov Sultan Pax Mangudadatu. **331B / MCAG**

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ARMY ENGINEERS | 552ECB Assist during onslaught of TY Urduja

By Alvin Santiago | December 29, 2017 11:25 AM



MEDELLIN, Cebu (DWDD) – Our way of serving the people, securing the land. the Army Engineers...

Typhoon Urduja made its landfall and devastated some of the trees that caused unease to the populace of Medellin.

The Philippine Army is always the first responders in any calamity that arises within the community with this the Disaster Relief Office TEAM of this unit conducted clearing of debris made by typhon URDUJA at Poblacion Medellin Cebu in coordination with Municipal Risk Reduction Management Office in Medellin Cebu.

The team together with Medellin MDRRMO Conducted Rapid Damage Assessment and Need Analysis (RDANA) and clearing of debris in the municipality. **552ECB/MCAG**

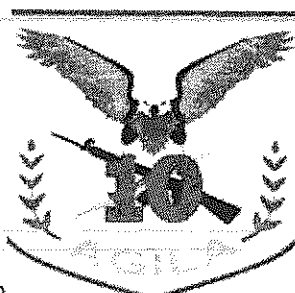
www.dwdd.com.ph

CRUMBLING FORCE | 3 NPAs and Hundreds of Allies Surrenders to 10th Infantry “Agila” Division

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on December 20, 2017 at 10:41 AM



File Photo



MAWAB, Compostela Valley Province (DWDD) – Another member of New People's Army (NPA) Alias Toni, 28 years of age and a resident of New Corella, Davao del Norte voluntarily surrendered with his two high-powered firearms to the 60th Infantry Battalion on December 3, 2017.

Meanwhile, on December 4, 2017, two former New People's Army (NPA) rebels who surrendered on 2016 are now undergoing training to become soldiers of the Philippine Army, they have received their cash assistance under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) at the DILG Office, Tagum City.

The CLIP is a government initiative that seeks to permanently and peacefully end all armed conflicts with armed groups. Both received their P15,000.00 immediate cash assistance and P50,000.00 worth of livelihood assistance in bulk. Davao del Norte OIC Provincial Director Jackeline E Esperon personally facilitated the distribution of the cash assistance.

Alias Toni said, “Di klarongpamamalakadnghukbo,” and he is also tired of his co-members of the group that he decided to surrender.

“They are actually the ones who really want to become soldiers. As how we do with the other FRs, we help them pursue their dreams or at least experience normal lives and have stable jobs,” Lt. Col. Emmanuel Canilla, Commander of 60IB said.

Col. Erwin Bernard Neri of 1001st Bde says “they [NPA former rebels] make the most out of their new life and make sure to use their money wisely”. He urged the NPA to return to the folds of the law and avail the programs of government and live as peaceful citizens of the country.

Meanwhile, a total of 120 members of Underground Mass Organization (UGMO) affiliated to Guerilla Front 2 and SECOM 27 of SMRC, New People's Army (NPA) surrendered and pledged its full support in attaining just and lasting peace in Compostela Valley to 71st Infantry Battalion from November 28 to December 07, 2017 at Purok 8, Brgy Nueva Visayas, Mawab, ComVal Province.

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

UGMO is a part of NPA's organizing tactics composed of SangaysaPartido (SP) that leads the group toward mass actions as well as the armed group barangay immersion and Milisyang Bayan (MBs) who will act as the lowest armed group that is tasked to conduct ambushes and any other annihilative activities to deter and inflict casualties to government forces.

"Lagilangnilangsinasabinamananalonaang NPA sagiyera kaya dapatangmalumad ay makipagtulunganupangkalabaninanggobyerno at sundaloperohanggangayonnamanwala pa ring nangyayari," said Anally Minio, an UGMO surrenderor.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Esteveyn E Ducusin, 71st Battalion Commanding Officer, *"the Militia and the SP's will not support the NPAs, they are tired of their propaganda of winning over the government. We do not condone any arrangements with this terrorist [NPA]. Your Army will use all its capabilities to pursue those who continuously commit terror acts and destroy peace."*

"With full force of the Army, 10ID ensures the safety of the innocent people within our area of responsibility. The remaining communist-terrorists (NPA) in the area will face the consequences of their terroristic actions. However, those who choose to surrender will have their normal life back under CLIP of the government," says Major General Noel S Clement, 10ID Commander.

With the current mass surrender, Army troopers disrupted the communist-terrorists' plan to conduct terroristic activities. **10DPAO/MCAG**

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NEW LIFE | Another ASG Surrenders With Firearms to JTF Sulu

Photos by [Alvin Santiago](#) on December 26, 2017 at 10:42 AM



PARANG, Sulu (DWDD) – As a gesture of his genuine intention to return to the folds of the law and live peacefully with his family, Mohammad Effendi C. Jawali alias Khan, 25 years old, and a resident of Barangay Paugan Parang, Sulu handed-over to Brig. Gen. Cirilito E. Sobejana, JTF Sulu commander his M16 rifle at the war room of JTF Sulu.

Khan's surrender was facilitated by 2nd Special Forces Battalion commanded by Lt. Col. Jessie R. Montoya who is now conducting a custodial debriefing to prepare said surrenderor for his reintegration with the society. Khan is a remnant of the slain ASG sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya. **JTFSulu/MCAG**