

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

09 July 2017

Sunday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS
09 JULY 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather	-	PDI p.A15
HEADLINE NEWS			
2-3	Martial Law stays – Duterte	Catherine Valente	MlaTimes p.A1
4-5	Rody rules out ML end before out ML end before Sona	Ted Tuvera	DTribune p.1
6-7	Rody Likely to extend Mindanao martial law	Edith Regalado	PhilStar p.1
AFP RELATED NEWS			
8-9	Navy hoist Philippine flag in Mavulis Island	LC.Domingo	MlaTimes p.A7
10	Bad weather stop battle ready rody	Philip Tubeza	PDI p.A15
11	'I have to be with my soldiers'	Edith Regalado	PhilStar p.1
12-13	Defense chief denies new martial law arrest order	Dempsey Reyes	MlaTimes p.A2
14-15	AFP sees end of war vs IS allies	AFP	DTribune p.1
16	Speaker pushing for 5 more years of martial law	DJ Yap	PDI p.A2
17	High-rise sniper keep trooper at bay	AFP	Mla Standard p.A2
18	AFP Presses airstrikes to neutralize sniper positions	Jeoffrey Maitem	PDI p.A2
19	Death toll sa Marawi,477 na	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p.2
20	Maute gagamitan na ng mas malalakas na bomba ng AFP	--	PoliceFiles p.2
21	INTEL fund ng Kongreso mas malaki sa AFP at PNP	--	PoliceFiles p.2
22	Isnilon hapilon nakulong sa marawi	Mary Anne Sapico	Remate p.4
23	TOP Commanders ng maute- Isis huwag patakas sa war zone	Joy Cantos	PM p.2
24	Donasyon sa Marawi victims, transparent –AFP	Aries Cano	Abante p.6
25	Maute Sniper target ng airstrikes	AFP Wires	Abante p.2
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
26	Troops kill ASG member, seize firearms, shabu in Basilan	Nonoy Lacson	MlaBulletin p. 18
27	Thousands flee as gov't NPA poised for clashes	Mike Crismundo	Mlabulletin p.18
28	Captured rebel in top NPA cadre, insist military	PNA	DTribune p.3
29	Explosive, arms seized from wanted BIFF leader	PNA	DTribune p.3
30	4 killed,15 hurt in sulo encounter	PNA	DTribune p.3
31	From business to the battlefield	Richel Umel	PDI p.A15
32	Photo: Call to Duty	Richel Umel	PDI p.A15
33	Sayyaf beheading of 2 Vietnamese a retaliation?	John Uson	PhilStar p.6

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


34	3 Abus, Trooper killed in Sulu Clash	Roel Pareño	PhilStar p.1
35	3 Abu, 1 sundalo patay sa encounter	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p.3
36	Abu patay sa encounter	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p.7
SPORTS			
37	AFP, PNP Clash for title	--	Mla Bulletin p.19
38	Armed Forces face PNP in duel of 'men in uniform'	--	PhilStar p.19
EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY			
39	Wakas na ang Abu Sayyaf	--	Ngayon p.4
40-41	Judicial review of martial law	Randy David	PDI p.A12
42	Martial Law sa Mindanao dapat palawigin	Alvin Feliciano	Remate p.5
ONLINE NEWS			
43	Task Force 'Bangon Marawi' discusses rehab plans	PNA	www.retiredanalyst.com
44	Marawi battle nears end	PNA	www.retiredanalyst.com
45	Captured rebel is top NPA cadre	PNA	www.retiredanalyst.com

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09 July 2017

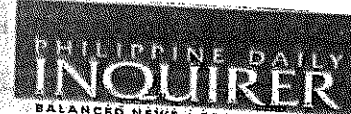
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Page: A15



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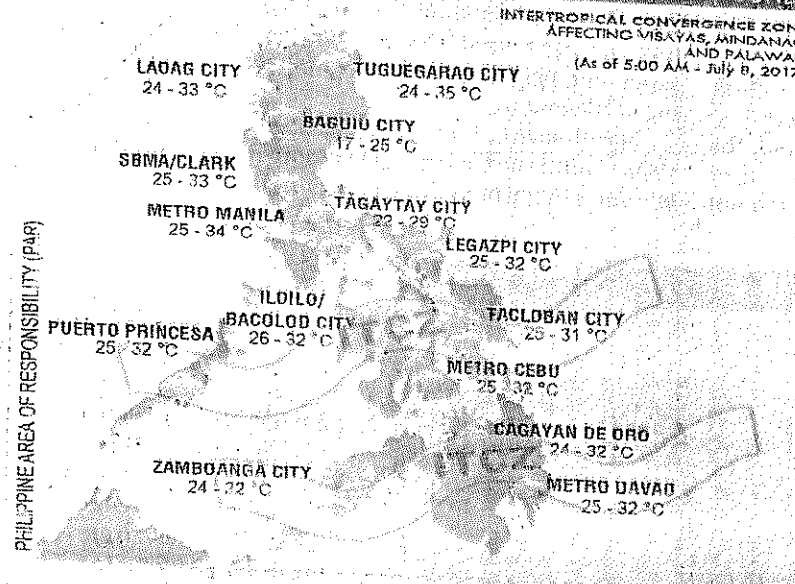










BALANCED NEWS & FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JULY 9, 2017 | SUNDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING VISAYAS, MINDANAO
AND PALAWAN
(As of 5:00 AM - July 8, 2017)




PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


SUNRISE  5:33 AM	SUNSET  6:30 PM
MOONRISE  6:33 PM	MOONSET  5:25 AM
FULL MOON  JUL 9 6:10 PM	LAST QUARTER  JUL 17 9:26 AM
LOW TIDE 6:07 PM 0.02 Meter	HIGH TIDE 9:45 AM 1.25 Meter


Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

	JUL 10	JUL 11
METRO MANILA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 34 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 35 °C	24 - 35 °C
LAOAG	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 26 °C	16 - 25 °C
SRMA/CLARK	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
TAGAYTAY	21 - 29 °C	22 - 30 °C
LEGAZPI	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 - 32 °C	26 - 31 °C
METRO CEBU	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
TACLOBAN	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C




MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM





SAGOT KO, PANDA KO!



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

09 July 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

DESPITE END OF 60-DAY LIMIT BEFORE SONA

Martial law stays – Duterte

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said he won't lift martial law in Mindanao before his State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 24, as the situation in conflict-torn Marawi City remained critical.

The 60-day period of martial rule in the south will end on July 22, two days before he delivers his second SONA.

In a talk with reporters during an unannounced visit to the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade in Iligan City on Friday, Duterte said he would lift martial law only if the military and police told him the danger posed by the militants had abated.

"No," the President said, when asked if martial law would be lifted before his SONA.

"*Hindi ako ang nag-ano* [I am not the one who determines this]. It's the armed forces and the police," he added.

Duterte said he consulted with the military and was told that the situation in Marawi City was still "critical."

He said he would rely on their advice because "they are the ones keeping this republic healthy and alive."

"*Ang magsabi sa akin na hindi na critical, ang armed forces at ang pulis* [Only the armed forces and police can tell me if it is no longer critical]. I do not have an independent study of how things are on the ground," Duterte said.

"*Pag sinabi na nilang wala nang delikado* [When they say the situation is no longer delicate] and everything is okay, that's the time we lift martial law," he added.

The 1987 Constitution states that Congress, upon the initiative of the President, "may extend such

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Army Cc

2

► Duterte A2

ring the land.

Martial law stays

proclamation [of martial law] or the suspension [of the writ of habeas corpus] for a period to be determined by the Congress, if the invasion or rebellion shall persist and public safety requires it."

The Supreme Court in its July 4 ruling that upheld Duterte's martial law declaration under Proclamation 216, raised the possibility of extending military rule beyond 60 days.

On Friday, Armed Forces spokesman Restituto Padilla Jr. said the military would give its recommendation to Duterte as early as next week.

"Regarding the recommendation whether to extend or stop the implementation of martial law, the assessment is not yet done.

The recommendation for the commander-in-chief needs basis," Padilla said in Filipino.

"Its assessment or study is still ongoing. We can submit this next week or before the 60-day limit lapses," he added.

The fighting between government troops and militants, which entered its 46th day on Saturday, has resulted in the deaths of 39 civilians, 353 terrorists, and 87 security troops.

The President has expressed optimism that the armed conflict in Marawi City would end in just a "matter of days," saying the government forces seemed to be "winning" the battle.

Palace seeks meeting with senators

A lawmaker said Malacañang had asked the Senate for a meeting late next week to discuss "the situation" in Mindanao since martial law since was imposed last May 23 because of the Marawi crisis.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto 3rd on Saturday revealed that a Palace emissary contacted him recently and told him that the Palace wanted to schedule a meeting with the senators.

He clarified that the Palace sought the meeting with the Senate prior to the statement of Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon for President Rodrigo Duterte to first inform Congress of his intention to extend martial law in Mindanao.

"Before that suggestion came out, I was already informed by the Palace that they want to talk. So, that's okay," Sotto said in an interview over dwlZ.

Asked when the meeting would take place, the senator said: "Sometime late next week."

"I was asked to inform the other leaders or other members of the Senate that the Palace is requesting for a meeting," he added.

The senator said the emissary told him the agenda would be the "situation in Mindanao, and probably leave the decision to us whether to extend (martial law) or whatever."

WITH BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO

09 July 2017



Page: 1

MARAWI CITY SITUATION STILL CRITICAL – DUTERTE

Rody rules out ML end before Sona

By Ted Tuvera

Martial law in Mindanao will be maximized, President Duterte said yesterday as he made no indications of lifting it before he delivers his second State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 24.

Talking to reporters in Davao City on Friday, Mr. Duterte noted that state forces on the ground in conflict-hit Marawi City remain the only source of his decision on the length of martial law.

The “critical” situation was what convinced Mr. Duterte to place the entire Mindanao region under martial law last May 20.

If the situation remains as

such, Mr. Duterte said he has no reason to end it before it meets its 60-day limit under the Charter.

The President also reiterated that only officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) are allowed to advise him on how will he proceed with martial law. *Turn to page 2*



President Duterte, members of his cabinet and military officers, visit inside a military camp in Marawi City this morning. Duterte said that the situation in Marawi City is still critical and that the military forces on the ground are the only source of his decision on the length of martial law. AFP

4

From page 1

"No, I do not have to lift it yet. It's the call of the Armed Forces and the police. I consulted them and said it was (still) critical," Mr. Duterte said.

"If the (military and the police) tells me that everything is okay, then that is the time that we will lift the martial law. Otherwise, it will remain," he added.

The 60 day period of martial law in Mindanao will lapse on July 22, a Saturday. Mr. Duterte is set to deliver his Sona on July 24, a Monday, at the Batasan Pambansa building of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Duterte said that his judgment would depend on what forces on the ground will suggest to him because he does not have the actual idea of the situation inside Marawi.

"I do not have an independent study of what, how things are on the ground. It's not my job. And I cannot do it physically even," the President said.

"I have just to rely on the word of the Armed Forces and the police because they are the one keeping

this Republic healthy and alive," he added.

Rody tries to sneak into Marawi

The desire to know what's inside the war zone prompted Mr. Duterte to make an unannounced attempt to enter Marawi City last Friday.

True to his title as the Armed Forces' Commander in Chief, Mr. Duterte donned a Philippine Army combat uniform and carried along a rifle during his inspection of troops in Iligan City.

"I just can't go there when peace is won. I am not buying that statement telling me (that) 'you place yourself in jeopardy.' But somehow, during the fighting, you should show yourself to — that you are with — one in our desire to protect the Republic," Mr. Duterte stressed.

"I have to be with the men, the fighting forces of government. I should show my face there," he said.

Bad weather prevented the war-ready President to enter Marawi.

"Well, this is the second time. The last time, I was not able to go in because also of the weather," the President said.

"We were circling many times

but we could not penetrate the — well, it was really (a) squall. So, we waited in the camp for the skies to clear up," he added.

Photos and video footage released by the Palace showed the 72-year-old wearing camouflage fatigues with a submachine gun slung over his shoulder.

Duterte walked with soldiers and aides at an army camp about 25 kilometres (15 miles) from Marawi, saying bad weather stopped him flying into the battlefield.

But he said he could not wait until the fighting was over to visit the wartorn area, adding his trip was designed to show solidarity.

More than six weeks after hundreds of IS-styled gunmen attacked Marawi, the militants are still holding out in about 1,000 buildings, and up to 300 civilians remain trapped, the military said Friday.

The fighting has left 953 militants, 87 soldiers and police, and 39 civilians dead, according to government officials, while nearly 400,000 residents of Marawi and nearby areas have fled the

fighting.

Duterte declared martial law over Mindanao within hours of the start of the Marawi fighting on May 23 to stop what he said was an IS bid to carve out territory in the Mindanao region.

Rody gets a ratings boost

Rody's decision not to lift martial law prematurely came after the Social Weather Stations (SWS) released last Friday a 'record high' performance rating on Mr. Duterte which the Palace said showed that a large majority of Filipinos supported the President's actions following the rebellion in Marawi.

"The survey result is a clear indication of the growing confidence in the Chief Executive and his performance as the country's leader. The data collection concluded a month after PRRD placed the whole island of Mindanao under martial law shows tacit public support to the President's action following the rebellion in Marawi," Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

Mr. Duterte got a net satisfaction rating of +66, a new personal record high for Duterte after one year in office.

This is three points higher than the +63 net satisfaction rating that the President got in the first quarter of the year.

The opinion poll conducted June 23-26 showed that 78 percent of respondents were satisfied with the President's performance compared to 12 percent dissatisfied and 10 percent undecided.

The survey was conducted one month after President Duterte placed the entire Mindanao under martial law and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the region after the Islamic-State-inspired Maute group, aided by foreign Islamist fighters and local extremists, laid siege to Marawi City in an attempt to establish an IS 'wilayat' or province in the capital of Lanao del Sur.

While the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will be making an assessment and recommendation to determine on whether martial law in Mindanao will be extended, it is the political leadership who will make a final decision on the matter, an AFP spokesman said.

These will be coming from the ground commanders engaged in the ongoing operations to clear Marawi City and those tasked to secure Mindanao, said AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Thursday.

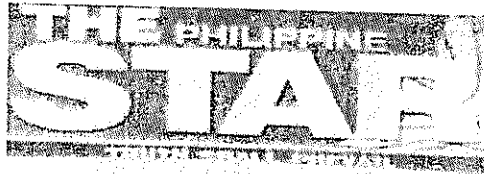
He added that when Mr. Duterte placed Mindanao under martial law following the May 23 attack of the Maute Group terrorists, the AFP has set up certain conditions it has to meet before the 60-day declaration expires.

"In the assessment that we will be doing, we will look into whether these conditions are met or achieved and in case this should not take place, then we will recommend the extension of Martial Law," Padilla stressed.

The AFP spokesman said their recommendations will be forwarded to the Chief Executive before the end of next week.

"Whatever recommendations will be forwarded to the President, we can guarantee you that it will be something that will be well thought of and will be something that will have basis. But the final decision will be the decision with the political leadership," Padilla pointed out.

09 July 2017



Page: 1

Rody likely to extend Mindanao martial law

By EDITH REGALADO
and CHRISTINA MENDEZ

DAVAO CITY – President Duterte is likely to extend martial law in Mindanao beyond the 60-day period as clashes between government forces and Islamic militants in Marawi City continue.

On Friday, Duterte said he would only lift martial rule, which is to expire on July 22, if the military and police tell him the danger posed by the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists has abated.

"Pag sinabi nila wala nang delikado (if they say it's no longer dangerous) and everything is OK, then that is the time that we will lift martial law," Duterte said, referring to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

"So, I have just to rely on the word of the Armed Forces and the police because they are the ones keeping this republic healthy and alive," he said.

Based on latest information he received from the police and the military, Duterte said the situation in Marawi City remains critical.

"I consulted them and they said it was critical," he said, emphasizing it is only the military and the police who can tell him if things have improved or not.

Turn to Page 8

Rody From Page 1

But he said the offensive against the militants is winding down in Marawi City, which was attacked by hundreds of gunmen waving Islamic State (IS)-style black flags on May 23. Scores of gunmen are still holding hostages and continuing to fight in four areas of the city, the military said.

Lawmakers are urging Duterte to inform them officially of his intention - if there is any - to lift or extend martial law before he delivers his first State of the Nation Address before Congress on July 24.

Martial law in Mindanao would mark its 60th day on July 22, the period prescribed by the Constitution.

The battle for Marawi has killed more than 400 - including 94 troopers - and displaced over 200,000 residents.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said they are still assessing the situation to determine if there is a need to extend martial law.

"We will know this in a couple of weeks. We will make our own recommendation," he said.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, military spokesman, also said they are not done yet with their assessment.

"But the recommendation that will be forwarded to the President, we guarantee that it would be something that is well thought of and will be something that will have basis. But the final decision will be a decision of the political leadership," Padilla, in an earlier interview, said.

Meanwhile, the Lamitan City council wants martial law in Mindanao extended so that authorities could easily address security concerns, especially in Basilan.

Vice Mayor Roderick Furigay said the members of the Lamitan City council unanimously approved a resolution authored by Councilor Clarito San Juan seeking an extension of martial law.

Furigay said Lamitan City

has benefited a lot from martial law, especially in the fight against criminality. He said the 45 barangays in the city were in favor of martial law.

Furigay said the crime rate in Lamitan has dropped significantly under martial law.

"There was no adverse effect and no abuses from the police and military," he pointed out.

He said residents in Basilan have even convinced many Abu Sayyaf members to surrender to authorities.

He said Lamitan is wary of the possible spillover of the Marawi violence to other towns and cities in Mindanao.

"The implementation of martial law addressed head-on the terrorism and criminal problem and the momentum is on our side, so there's a need to extend it because there is a need to end the problem of the IS and lawless elements," Furigay said.

Furigay said the Department of Defense and the Office of the President would be given formal copies of the resolution tomorrow.

- With Roel Pareño

09 July 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7



BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

SANTA ANA, Cagayan: The Batanes Island province-based Philippine Navy (PN) on Saturday hoisted the Philippine flag in Mavulis Island, the country's northernmost island devastated by Typhoon "Ferdie" last year.

TERRITORIAL MARKER

Philippine Navy officers, led by Commodore Jeff Rene Magdugo, salute before the Philippine flag reinstalled in Mavulis Island.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, AFP NORTHERN LUZON COMMAND

8

Navy hoists Philippine flag in Mavulis Island

Also known as the Y'ami Island which is said to be closer to Taiwan than it is to Apariti town, the place is one of the unoccupied islets in Itbayat Island described as the paradise up north, that reaching the place is only for the brave.

Commodore Jeff Rene Magdugo led 22 researchers from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and two local fisherfolk from Itbayat Island, one of the six municipalities of Batanes with a population of close to 3,000 in five barangay (villages).

It was during the height of Typhoon "Ferdie" (Meranti) in September 2016 when the flagpole in the island was damaged. It was recently restored for the reinstallation of the Philippine flag.

"We have to reinstall the Philippine Flag in Mavulis Island to assert the country's sovereignty and to let all the people know that this is part of our country," Magdugo said,

adding the area also serves as the country's northern boundary marker.

He said it was a pleasure for his team to hoist the flag despite challenges along their way to the newly repaired flagpole.

"We had to climb up rocky mountains and slippery cliffs and crossed rough and high seas just to hoist again the country's national symbol in one of Itbayat's unoccupied islets," Magdugo said.

In May 2016, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) made history after soldiers hoisted the Philippine flag for the first time in the island.

According to the AFP, it was done to support the local government's call for help to transform the islet into a resting place and shelter for Filipino fishermen.

The island is full of vegetation, of mango and palm, and is part of the Luzon Volcanic Arc.

9

09 July 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A15

Bad weather stops battle ready Rody

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

A gun-toting President Duterte has made a surprise visit to a military camp close to a city where Islamic State (IS) group-inspired militants are battling security forces.

Photos and video footage of his camp visit on Friday released by his office showed the 72-year-old leader wearing a camouflage military uniform with rolled up sleeves and an Israeli-made Galil submachine gun slung over his shoulder.

Mr. Duterte, who also wore a dark bull cap, walked with soldiers and aides at the Philippine Army's 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade camp in Barangay Maria Christina, Iligan City, about 25 kilometers from Marawi.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar said the President had planned to visit the troops in Marawi.

"The President, as commander in chief, will not back-down from violent extremists," Andanar said. "He is ready for combat and it only shows that he is one with his soldiers."

Duterte said bad weather stopped him from flying into Marawi where he wanted to be with "the fighting forces of government."

"I should show my face there. You don't go there when it's peace time already," he said. "It's not like you place



ARMED President Duterte was all set to visit the troops in Marawi City on Friday but bad weather stood in the way.

—MALACAÑANG PHOTO/VIDEOGRAB

yourself in jeopardy. But during the fighting, you should show yourself that you are one (with the troops in) our desire to protect the Republic."

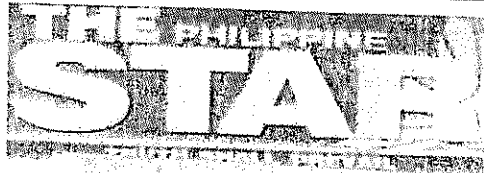
It was the second time Mr. Duterte tried to visit Marawi since he declared martial law in Mindanao on May 23. Bad weather also forced the cancellation of his first trip on June 8.

More than six weeks after hundreds of IS-inspired gun-

men attacked Marawi, the militants were still holding out in about 800 buildings, and up to 300 civilians remained trapped, the military said on Friday.

The fighting has left 366 militants, 87 soldiers and police, and 39 civilians dead, according to officials. Nearly 400,000 residents of Marawi and nearby areas have fled the fighting. —WITH A REPORT FROM AFP

09 July 2017



Page: 1

'I have to be with my soldiers'

DAVAO CITY – After bad weather forced him to abort his visit to the battle-scarred Marawi City on Friday, President Duterte said he needed to go back to be with the troops and show his solidarity with them "in our desire to protect the republic."

"I have to be with the men, the fighting forces of government. I should show my face there. *Hindi naman pwede 'yung peace time ka na pumunta* (It's not good to go there only during peace time)," the President said on Friday afternoon at the Davao International Airport upon his return from Iligan City, where he was stuck

Turn to Page 4

I have From Page 1

because he was prevented from proceeding to Marawi City due to bad weather.

"*Hindi naman 'yung sabihin ko na* (I can't just say) 'you place yourself in jeopardy.' But somehow, during the fighting, you should show yourself to – that you are with – one in our desire to protect the republic," Duterte added.

An earlier attempt to visit Marawi City was also called off due to security concerns.

The helicopter carrying Duterte and his retinue had to turn back after minutes circling over Marawi City due to heavy rain. He was in military camouflage and carrying a long firearm. One of his companions was Special Assistant to the President Christopher "Bong" Go.

"We were circling many times but

we could not penetrate the – well, it was really squall. So, we waited in the camp for the skies to clear up. But, *pag-daun namin, wala* (still nothing). It was raining the whole day in Marawi," the President said.

"Well, this is the second time. The last time, I was not able to go in because also of the weather. *Dito naman ngayon, ganon rin ang nangyari* (This time it's the same)," he added.

Stuck in Iligan City, the President decided to visit the soldiers of the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade, Light Armor Division of the Philippine Army in Barangay Maria Christina.

During the unannounced visit, Duterte assured the troops of the government's unwavering support. – Edith Regalado

09 July 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A2

Defense chief denies new martial law arrest order

BY DEMPSEY REYES

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana denied on Saturday the existence of a third arrest order under the martial law proclamation in Mindanao, calling such document "fake."

"We have received reports that an Arrest Order No. 3 is currently being circulated. In my capacity as martial law administrator, I have not issued any Arrest Order No. 3, thus, any copy of the document being circulated is fake," he said in a statement.

After President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the whole island of Mindanao following the attacks of the Islamic State-linked Maute group in Marawi City, Lorenzana released two arrest orders containing 200 names, supposedly involved in

rebellion in Mindanao.

The two orders bore the names of members and sympathizers of the Maute group, whose attack on Marawi City last May 23 forced Duterte to declare military rule under Proclamation 216.

The earlier orders led to the arrest of a suspected Maute bomber in Cagayan de Oro City in June during pursuit operations of the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police, as well as the parents of the Maute brothers that led the Marawi attack.

Lorenzana called on the public

■ CBCP FROM A1

12

to avoid sharing the document titled "Arrest Order No. 3," which he tagged as "fake news."

"I call on everyone not to share this fake news to avoid confusion, and not to jeopardize our current operations. Any announcement relating to martial law will be disseminated officially," he said.

Sought for further clarification, Lorenzana told reporters in a text message the fake arrest order was shown to him by Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., head of the Western Mindanao Command.

"[Lt.] Gen. Galvez showed me a copy of it in his cellphone, in the DND (Department of National Defense) letterhead with my name at the bottom but unsigned. Therefore it is making the rounds already," he explained.

"I also got texts from Muslim friends telling me that some people they know are in the list who

are clean. That's why I made that press release," Lorenzana added, referring to his statement denying the issuance of a new arrest order.

Martial law in Mindanao is on its 48th day today. The maximum 60-day period for martial law set by the Constitution will end on July 22.

Earlier, Lorenzana said the military was studying the possibility of extending martial law in the whole Mindanao.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., the military spokesman, said ground commanders in Mindanao were still conducting an assessment to determine whether an extension of martial law would be necessary.

The recommendation, coming from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, will be submitted to the President by the end of this week, he said.

09 July 2017



Page: 01

AFP sees end of war vs IS allies

The Manila-based AFP...
said measures are being drawn up for the massive rehabilitation of the besieged city.
"There is a need to provide soft financial packages for house loans and also to provide the needed capital for the local traders since the crisis have significantly affected the local economy of this city," he said.
Adiong also bats to strengthen the teaching of moderate Islam to prevent individuals from the joining extremist group.
"There's a need to expand Mandarin system. Military approach will not end the problem, it has to be collective efforts from all sectors," he said.
According to him, the local government is already in talks with several non-government organizations to help address the root cause of conflict.
Snipers in high rises
Snipers in high-rise buildings are the main problem facing state forces battling to crush the pro-IS fighters who have occupied Marawi City for more than a month.
Herrera said this was the reason the government was using air strikes against the militants despite the massive damage it may cause in the city of Marawi.
"If we do not use air strikes, we will incur more casualties of our troops," he told reporters in Marawi, which was overrun by

continually increasing since the armed conflict erupted on May 23. At least 266 terrorists have been killed, while government troopers suffered 87 casualties.
There are 82 civilians who have also been executed by the Maute group.
Last Friday, the military extracted 300 more civilians in the battle, bringing the total number of rescued to 1,072.
The rescue efforts are also being conducted by the Joint Coordination

Monitoring and Assistance Center of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front under the "Peace Corridor" initiative.
Herrera said the troops are now zeroing in the area where the terrorists are being holed up.
"We have established defensive positions against the Maute," he said.
For his part, Zia Abanta-Adiong, the spokesman for the Lanao del Sur crisis management committee,

Turn to page 2

From page 1

hundreds of militants on May 23.

Despite more than a month of fighting with hundreds of government troops, militants flying the black flag of the IS group are still entrenched in parts of the city.

The military has used jet fighters, attack planes and helicopter gunships, armed with bombs and rockets, to attack areas where the gunmen are hiding.

"We have identified key defensive positions. These are being subjected to surgical air strikes now. They are still occupying high-rise buildings. We need to take them down so we can facilitate a swift offensive of our troops," Herrera said.

"One reason we are using air assets... is this is the advantage we need to neutralize the snipers' positions," the regional military spokesman added.

"They occupy high-rise buildings so we have to be higher. So we use air strikes."

While hundreds of fighters rampaged through much of Marawi in the early days of the siege, Herrera said there were now around 80 gunmen still active in the "main battle area" comprising around 800 buildings.

"These are the tall buildings. This was the center of commerce of Marawi City," he explained.

However the buildings also needed to be cleared of improvised bombs and other booby-traps as the troops advance, he said.

There are also about 300

civilians trapped in the area, Herrera said, adding that some were being used as hostages, bearers of supplies and even being forced to help in looting the city.

President Rodrigo Duterte last month vowed to "crush" the militants, but several deadlines have already been missed to end a conflict that has forced almost 400,000 people from their homes.

The fighting has reduced Marawi, considered the Muslim capital of the largely Catholic Philippines, to a ruined ghost town. It also prompted Duterte to declare martial law over the entire southern Philippines.

Herrera said 366 enemy fighters, 39 civilians and 87 government troops had been killed in the fighting so far.

Rehab plan for Marawi ready

Member agencies of Task Force "Bangon Marawi" met Friday to discuss the various recovery plans for the war-torn city.

The meeting was held at the social hall of the Department of National Defense (DND) building in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Task Force Bangon Marawi executive director, Defense Undersecretary Cesar Yano, chaired the meeting that was attended by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and Civil Defense administrator and representatives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines,

departments of national defense, public works, education, health, science and technology, budget, and trade, National Economic and Development Authority, National Housing Authority, National Electrification Authority, Office of Civil Defense, and Mindanao Development Authority.

By virtue of Administrative Order 3, Task Force Bangon Marawi was organized to lead the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts for communities affected by the Marawi crisis.

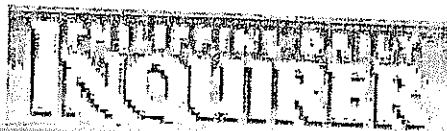
Yano was designated by NDRRMC chairman and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana as the executive director of the task force during the recent special/emergency NDRRMC full council meeting.

The task force has been tasked to organize and deploy a quick response team that will address the immediate needs of Marawi City's displaced and severely affected families.

It has also been directed to facilitate the conduct of post-conflict needs assessment in Marawi and develop a comprehensive rehabilitation and recovery program for the city and other affected areas.

"Task Force Bangon Marawi shall bear the build back better principle in its rehabilitation and recovery efforts, steering a culture of peace in Marawi communities and the rest of Mindanao," Yano said. **AFP**

09 July 2017



Page: A2

MILITARY RULE

SPEAKER PUSHING FOR 5 MORE YEARS OF MARTIAL LAW

By DJ Yap
@deejayapINQ

House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said on Saturday he would push Congress to extend martial law for five years, spanning the remainder of President Duterte's term, to give the country's leader time to eradicate terrorism and insurgency in the troubled region.

"If I can convince my colleagues, I will push for an extension until 2022, because two months is too short. Five months or one year or two years is too short," Alvarez said in an interview with the Inquirer.

Mr. Duterte has said he had no plans of lifting martial law, unless security authorities told him the situation in Mindanao was no longer critical.

The President placed the entire Mindanao under martial law on May 23 following the

siege of Marawi City by militants from the Maute group and its Abu Sayyaf allies. Both terror groups have sworn allegiance to Islamic State (IS).

"No," he said, when asked by journalists on whether he would lift martial law before his second State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 24.

"I consulted the [military and the police] and [they] said it was critical," the President said on Friday in Davao City. "It will be the Armed Forces and the police who will say if it's no longer critical."

He said he did not have his own "independent study" of the situation in the South.

"I just have to rely on the word of the Armed Forces and the police because they are the ones keeping this republic healthy and alive," he said. "When they say it's no longer dangerous and everything is okay, then that is the time that I

representatives—is, as a Mindanaoan, I want to extend it until 2022."

"Why? To stop this thing. This is not just Isis, there's also the rebellion of the NPA that's more than 40 years," the Davao del Norte congressman said, referring to the IS and to the communist-led New People's Army.

The Constitution states that Congress, upon the initiative of the President, "may extend such [martial law] proclamation or the suspension [of the writ of habeas corpus] for a period to be determined by the Congress, if the invasion or rebellion shall persist and public safety requires it."

Asked if he favored expanding martial law to cover the rest of the country, Alvarez said this would need to be discussed.

"Let the executive declare it first, then we will look at their grounds," he told the Inquirer.

—WITH A REPORT FROM PHILIP C. TUBEZA INQ

will lift martial law."

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the military would assess the security situation in Marawi and other parts of Mindanao before making any recommendation to the President.

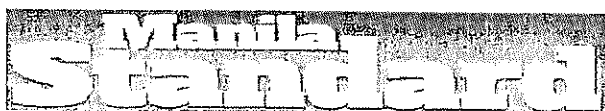
"This assessment and study is still ongoing," Padilla told reporters on Friday. He said Mr. Duterte wanted the AFP recommendation on his desk before the end of the 60-day martial law period.

Under the Constitution, martial law could be imposed for 60 days, unless extended by Congress. Mr. Duterte's Proclamation No. 216 will expire on July 22, before he delivers his Sona.

"For me," Alvarez said, "if the President asks for an extension, my personal position—not the position of the House of Repre-

14

09 July 2017



Page. A2

HIGH-RISE SNIPERS KEEP TROOPERS AT BAY

SNIPERS in high-rise buildings are the main problem facing Philippine forces battling to crush pro-Islamic State fighters who have occupied a southern city for more than a month, a military spokesman said Saturday.

Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera said this was the reason the government was using airstrikes against the militants despite the massive damage it may cause in Marawi City.

"If we do not use airstrikes, we will incur more casualties of our troops," he told reporters in Marawi, which was overrun by hundreds of militants on May 23.

Despite more than a month of fighting with hundreds of government troops, militants flying the black flag of the Islamic State group are still entrenched in parts of the city.

The military has used jet fighters, attack planes and helicopter

Turn to A2

gunships, armed with bombs and rockets, to attack areas where the gunmen are hiding.

"We have identified key defensive positions. These are being subjected to surgical air strikes now. They are still occupying high-rise buildings. We need to take them down so we can facilitate a swift offensive [by our troops]," Herrera said.

"One reason we are using air assets... is this is the advantage we need to neutralize the snipers' positions," the regional military spokesman added.

"They occupy high-rise buildings so we have to be higher. So we use airstrikes."

While hundreds of fighters rampaged through much of Marawi in the early days of the siege, Herrera said there were now around 80 gunmen still active in the "main battle area" comprising around 800 buildings.

"These are the tall build-

ings. This was the center of commerce of Marawi City," he explained.

However, the buildings also needed to be cleared of improvised bombs and other booby-traps as the troops advance, he said.

There are also about 300 civilians trapped in the area, Herrera said, adding some were being used as hostages, bearers of supplies and even being forced to help in looting the city.

President Rodrigo Duterte last month vowed to "crush" the militants, but several deadlines have been missed to end a conflict that has forced almost 400,000 people from their homes.

The fighting has reduced Marawi, considered the Muslim capital of the largely Catholic Philippines, to a ruined ghost town. It also prompted Duterte to declare martial law over the entire southern Philippines. **AFP**

09 July 2017



Page: A2

MARAWI SIEGE: DAY 47

AFP PRESSES AIRSTRIKES TO NEUTRALIZE SNIPER POSITIONS

MARAWI CITY—The Armed Forces said on Saturday they would continue airstrikes to pound sniper positions to reduce casualties among government forces as they wrap up nearly two months of fighting to liberate Marawi City of Islamic State-inspired gunmen.

Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, Joint Task Force Marawi spokesperson, said troops needed to clear about 800 buildings and homes of Maute and Abu Sayyaf fighters and booby traps left behind by retreating militants.

"The mission is not yet done, but we can assure that we are very much focused and determined to carry on the fight until peace and

order in Mindanao, especially in Marawi, is fully restored, and the liberation of Marawi is achieved," Herrera said.

He said the "defensive positions" of the gunmen had been identified and were the targets of the airstrikes.

"They are still occupying high-rise buildings," he said. "We need to take these down so that we could facilitate the offensive of our troops. ... If we do not use airstrikes, we will incur more casualties of our troops."

The gunmen also were still using mosques as logistics and medical facilities, Herrera said. The military has been under orders not to target mosques.

The military has used jet fighters, attack planes and helicopter gunships, armed with bombs and rockets, to attack areas where the gunmen have been holding out.

"One reason we are using air assets ... is this is the advantage we need to neutralize the snipers' positions," Herrera said. "They occupy high-rise buildings so we have to be higher. So we use airstrikes."

Zia Alonto Adiong, provincial crisis management committee spokesperson, said officials have been appealing to the military not to use airstrikes against the gunmen.

"We don't really question the wisdom of our Armed Forces. We

just made an appeal because we represent the residents of Marawi City," Adiong said.

Herrera said the fighting since May 23, when the IS-linked fighters laid siege to Marawi, has killed 366 militants, 39 civilians and 87 soldiers and police.

More than 400,000 residents of the city and nearby areas have fled their homes.

The siege prompted President Duterte to declare martial law in Marawi and the rest of Mindanao.

Herrera said troops were still fighting about 80 gunmen led by Abdullah Maute. The gunmen also hold dozens of hostages in the war zone.

The Maute group, which calls

itself Ansar Dawlah Islamiyyah Philippine, has recently warned it would launch another attack.

In a statement released on Facebook by a spokesperson who identified himself as Semion Almujaheed, the group taunted government forces.

"You can't win and you will never win against us," he said. "Thousands of young Muslims like us who are more dedicated, skillful and trained are willing to die and sacrifice for Jihad which has been waged since the Spaniard's colonization and until today we are still fighting for the establishment of an Islamic state, a country ruled by the Sharia/Laws of Allah azza waja!"

Of their next attack, Almujaheed said, "you will never see it coming."

He also repeated an earlier IS claim that the attack on Resorts World hotel and casino was carried out by a "shaheed" or martyr.

"As what you have witnessed happened in the heart of your city, Manila Resorts Hotel and Casino. We killed many disbelievers," Almujaheed said.

The police, however, have identified the lone gunman who set fire to the casino before killing himself was a former gambler who had been banned from Resorts World. —REPORTS FROM JEOFFREY MAITEM, ALLAN A. NAWAL AND AFP INQ

09 July 2017



Pahina. 02

Death toll sa Marawi, 477 na

Umabot na sa 477 ang death toll sa patuloy na bakbakan ng government forces at Maute terrorist group sa Marawi City na sumiklab noong Mayo 23.

Kabilang dito ang 353 Maute, 85 sundalo at hasa 39 ang mga sibilyan.

Nasa 426 mga armas ang nasamsam habang tinatayang nasa 300 pa ang mga sibilyang hostage at na-trap.

Kaugnay nito, inutusan ni Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana ang tropang militar sa Marawi na huwag patakasin sa battle zone ang mga top commanders ng Maute.

Kabilang dito ang lider

ng Maute na si Abdullah Maute at si Abu Sayyaf commander Isnilon Hapilon na itinalagang emir ng ISIS sa Southeast Asia.

Una nang napaulat na napaslang sa ground strike at air assault operation ng mga sundalo ang isa pang lider na si Omar Maute.

Si Abdullah ay may patong sa ulong P5M habang si Hapilon ay \$5M mula sa US government. Bukod dito ay may dati ng reward na P7.4M si Hapilon at karagdang P10M na ipinalabas ni Pangulong Duterte.

Bagaman may mga kumakalat na nakata-

kas na sa Marawi City si Hapilon, naniniwala ang Kalihim na nagtatago lamang ito sa mga mosque kasama ang mga foreign terrorists.

Mahigpit naman ang pagkordon sa mga entry at exit points patungong Marawi City upang mapigilan ang mga dayuhang terorista na mag-reinforce sa Maute at makatakas.

Bantay sarado rin ang Lanao Lake matapos mapaulat na dito dumaan ang mga nagsitakas na terorista. (Joy Cantos)

09 July 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 2

Maute gagamitan na ng mas malalakas na bomba ng AFP

PLANO ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na gamitan ng mas malalakas na bomba ang natitirang lugar na hawak ng Maute terror group sa Marawi City para tuluyan nang maigil ang paghahasik ng kaguluhan ng grupo.

sinabi ito ni AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla sa pulong balitaan sa Malacñang.

Gayundam, sinabi ni Padilla na nakasalalay pa rin ito sa magiging assessment ng ground commander ng mga tropa ng gobyerno.

Sinabi ni Padilla pinili talaga ng Maute Group ang matitibay na gusali sa lungsod na hindi agad nasisira para pagkitaan.

Bagama't marami ng nabawing mga lugar ang mga sundalo, sinabi ni Gen. Padilla na apat na lugar pa ang nananatiling kontrolado ng mga terorista sa Marawi City.

Balak bagsakan ng Philippine Air Force ng mga 500 pound o 227 kilograms na bomba ang mga terorista gaya ng bombang ginamit ng amerika laban sa mga Taliban fighters sa

Afghanistan.

80 nalang ang miyembro ng Maute - AFP

AABOT na lamang sa 80 ang miyembro ng Maute Group na nasa Marawi City. Sinabi ito ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla sa ika-pitong linggo ng bakbakan sa lungsod.

Aahot na sa 353 na mga terorista ang napapatay ng pwersa ng pamahalaan habang nasa 85 sa panig ng militar, ayon kay Padilla.

Nasa 426 na matataas na kalibre ng baril naman ang narecover na ng mga sundalo.

Dagdag pa ni Padilla, bagaman nagpapatuloy ang bakbakan sa ilang mga lugar sa Marawi City, hindi na umano gumaganti ng putok ang mga kalaban.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi ni Padilla na may 800 bahay pa ang hindi nalilinis ng ating security forces at nasa 300 sibilyan ang nanatili at maaaring naiipit ng gulo.

20

09 July 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 2

AFP, P140-M; PNP, P252-M;
Senate, P298-M; House, P1.4-B

INTEL FUND NG KONGRESO MAS MALAKI SA AFP AT PNP

MAS malaki pa ang intelligence funds ng Senado at Kamara kumpara sa Defense Department, Armed Forces of the Philippines at Philippine National Police.

Itô ang lumabas sa 2016 audit report ng Commission on Audit.

Basê sa report ng COA, ang kabuuang nagugol na intelligence funds ng Philippine Army, Philippine Navy at Philippine Airforce ay P115.7 million noong 2016.

Ang Department of National Defense naman ay umabot sa P10.7 million ang intelligence funds

noong nakaraang taon.

Samantalang ang sa AFP general headquarters ay P140.6 million at ang sa PNP ay P252.5 million. Malaki ang lamang dito ng confidential, intelligence at extraordinary expenses ng senado noong 2016 na umabot naman ng P298 million.

Pero higit na mas malaki ang sa kamara na umabot naman ng P1.4 billion.

21

OK July 2017



Pahina. 4

Isnilon Hapilon nakulong sa Marawi

NAKATUTOK ngayon ang tropa ng pamahalaan para hindi makala-

bās sa kaniyang 'hiding place' si Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon

Region 2 'di pa handa sa ADDA

AMINADO ang tanggapan ng Land Transportation Office Region 2, sa Cauayan City, Isabela na hindi pa sila handa sa pagpapatupad Anti-Distracted Driving Act.

Ayon kay Administrative Division Officer Manuel Baricaua ng LTO Region 2, kailangan muna nilang magsanay ng enforcers para ng malaman ang mga panibagong violation ng mga driver.

Paliwanag ni Baricaua, kailangan pang sumailalim sa seminar ang enforcers ng LTO at Philippine National Police na ide-deputize na manghuli sa mga lalabag sa nasabing batas.

Aniya, nagkaroon ng mga pagbabago sa Implementing Rules and Regulation kaya kailangan munang mabigyan ng kaalaman ang enforcers para sa pagpapatupad sa bagong batas at sa oras na matiyak na ito, saka sila kikilos.

MARY ANNE SAPICO

sa Marawi City.

Ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, naniniwala silang nasa loob pa ng Marawi ang Emir ng ISIS sa Asia na si Hapilon matapos hindi makumpirma ang mga naglabasang report na nakatakas na ito palabas ng lungsod.

Aniya, hindi lang nila masabi sa ngayon kung saang eksakto ng lokasyon nagtatago si Hapilon habang nagpapatuloy ang operasyon ng tropa ng pamahalaan.

Dagdag pa nito, may indikasyon din na isa sa Maute brothers ay napa-

tay ha pero hangga't hindi nahahanap ang libingan nito, hindi pa ito ganap na makumpirma.

Samantala, pinatitiyak naman ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana sa ground troops na hindi hayaan na makawala ang top commanders ng teroristang Maute-ISIS na nakikipaglaban sa tropa ng gobyerno.

Ito ay kahit binanggit pa ng government ground commanders na tuluyan nang humihina ang grupo ng magkapatid na Omar at Abdullah Maute, kasama si ASG leader Hapilon na pinaniwalaang nasa loob pa ng war zone.

Sinabi ni AFP Western Mindanao Command head Brig. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr. na bagama't humina na ang pwersa ng mga terorista, ayaw nilang magpakampante lalo't tinangka ng ilang armadong grupo ang magbigay ng reinforcement.

Inihayag ni Hen. Galvez na katunayan na nakuha na nila ang Dansalan College na mahigit isang buwan hinawakan ng mga terorista.

Ikinalungkot naman ng heneral ang paakyat na bilang ng mga sundalong nasasawi sa halos 90 at mahigit 500 sugatan.

MARY ANNE SAPICO

09 July 2017



Pahina. 2

477 na death toll sa Marawi crisis ... Top commanders ng Maute-ISIS hiwag patakasin sa war zone

Sa gitna na rin ng patuloy na papalilit na mundo ng mga terorista, nagpalabas kahapon ng direktiba si Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na hiwag patakasin sa battle zone sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur ang mga top Commanders ng Maute-ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria).

Ang direktiba ay ipinalabas ni Lorenzana sa mga ground commander at AFP troops kaugnay ng patuloy na krisis sa lungsod ng Marawi na pumalo na kahapon sa ika-47 araw.

Kabilang sa target ng opensiba ay ang lider ng Maute-ISIS na si Abdullah Maute at maging ang itinalagang Emir ng ISIS sa Southeast Asia na si Isnilon Hapilon.

Si Omar Maute, isa rin sa mga lider ng grupo ay una nang napaulat na napaslang sa ground strike at air assault operation ng tropa ng mga sundalo sa lungsod.

Si Abdullah ay may patong sa ulong P 5 M habang si Hapilon ay \$ 5 M mula sa pamahalaan ng Estados Unidos. Bukod dito ay may dati ng reward na P7.4 M si Hapilon at karagdagang P 10 M na ipinalabas ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

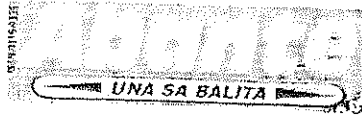
Bagaman may mga kumakalat na nakatakas na sa Marawi City si Hapilon, naniniwala ang Kalihim na nagtatago lamang ito sa mga mosque kasama ang mga dayuhang jihadists. Nabatid na sa kasalukuyan ay tinatayang nasa 80 na lamang mga terorista ang target ng operasyon ng tropa ng militar sa battle zone sa apat na Brgy ng lungsod.

Patuloy naman ang mahigpit na pagkordon sa mga entry at exit points patungong Marawi City upang mapigilan ang mga dayuhang terorista na mag-reinforce sa Maute-ISIS gayundin ay upang mapigilan ang mga ito na makatakas. Bantay sarado rin ang Lanao Lake matapos na una nang napaulat na dito dumaan ang mga nagsitakas na terorista.

Sa kasalukuyan nasa 477 na ang death toll sa bakbakan kabilang ang 353 Maute-ISIS terrorists, 85 sundalo at nasa 39 namat ang mga sibilyan.

Nasa 426 namang mga armas ang nasamsam habang tinatayang nasa 300 pa ang mga sibilyang hostage at na-trap sa bakbakan. *-Joy Cantos -*

09 July 2017



Pahina. 6

Donasyon sa Marawi victims, transparent -- AFP

Siniguro ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa publiko ang transparency at accountability sa mga donasyong tatanggapin para sa mga apektado ng karahasan sa Marawi City.

“Accountability and transparency has been a main consideration. Kaya katulad nu’ng mga binuksan nating bahk accounts sa amin sa military, transparent tayo dito at nag-create ng committee para ma-address ‘yung paano gamitin ito,” ayon kay AFP spokesperson Brigadier General Restituto Padilla, Jr. sa Mindanao Hour briefing sa Malacañang.

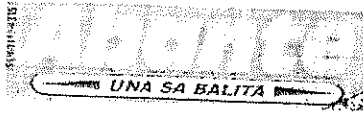
Sinabi pa ng AFP official na makasisiguro ang publiko na ang bawat

donasyong ibinibigay ng mga lokal o dayuhang donors ay makakarating sa mga “fallen soldiers” at biktima ng Marawi conflict.

Ang Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), at Department of Finance (DOF) naman ang mangangasiwa umano sa mga foreign donations.

“There will be appropriate reports to be prepared by the NDRRMC and the Inter-Agency Task Force Bangon Marawi, as a report to the public and to the donor countries on how it was spent. It’s our obligation and we will do that,” ayon pa kay Padilla. (Aries Cano)

09 July 2017



Pahina. 2

MAUTE SNIPERS TARGET NG AIRSTRIKES

Ulat ng AFP Wires

Pangunahing target ng isinasagawang airstrikes ng mga tropa ng pamahalaan sa Marawi City ang mga sniper ng Maute Group na nakaposisyon sa matataas na gusali ng lungsod.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, tagapagsalita ng Task Force Marawi, pangunahing problema na kinakaharap ng mga tropa ang snipers na nasa matataas na gusali kung kaya't kanilang ginagamitan ng airstrikes kahit na malaki ang pinsalang idudulot nito sa siyudad.

"If we do not use airstrikes, we will incur more casualties of

our troops," paliwanag ni Herrera sa mga reporter na nagkokober ng mga kaganapan sa Marawi.

Noong Mayo 23 pa nagsimula ang bakbakan sa Marawi subalit patuloy pa rin na lumalaban ang mga terorista na nakaposisyon sa ilan pang bahagi ng lungsod.

Gumamit na rin ang militar ng jet fighters, attack planes at helicopter gunships na armado ng mga bomba at rocket, sa mga lugar kung saan nagtatago ang mga terorista.

"We have identified key defensive positions. These are being subjected to surgical airstrikes now. They are still occupying high-rise buildings. We need to take them down so we can facilitate a swift

offensive of our troops," ayon kay Herrera.

"One reason we are using air assets... is this is the advantage we need to neutralize the snipers' positions. They occupy high-rise buildings so we have to be higher. So we use airstrikes," dagdag pa ng opisyal.

Sinabi pa nito na bagama't daan-daang mga miyembro ng Maute Group ang umatake sa Marawi, sa kasalukuyan ay nasa 80 na lamang ang natitira sa lungsod na patuloy na nakikipagbakbakan sa mga tropa ng pamahalaan sa 'main battle area' na mayroong 800 mga gusali.

"These are tall buildings. This was the center of commerce of Marawi

City," ayon kay Herrera.

Bukod sa mga sniper, kinakailangan din umanong ma-clear ng mga tropa ang mga gusali mula sa mga improvised bombs at iba pang booby-traps na itinatim ng mga terorista.

Sinabi pa ni Herrera na may 300 pang mga sibilyan ang na-tiip sa naturang lugar at ang iba ay bihag ng mga terorista na ginagawang taga-bitbit ng kanilang supplies at pwersahan pang pinagnanakaw sa siyudad.

Sa ngayon, nasa 366 terorista na umano ang nasawi, 39 naman sa sibilyan at 87 mula sa mga tropa ng pamahalaan.

25

09

July 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 18

Troops kill ASG member, seize firearms, shabu in Basilan

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY — A member of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) was killed, and two high-powered firearms were seized by Joint Task Force Basilan after an encounter with the terror group in Ungkaya Pukan, Basilan early Friday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) spokesman Army Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay said elements of the 18th Infantry Battalion and fighters of the ASG, led by Nawapi Abdul alias Khatan, figured in a heavy gun battle in Barangay Bohe Pahu, Ungkaya Pukan, Basilan at around 6:45 a.m. Friday.

Petinglay said two high-powered firearms, an M79 rifle and one carbine rifle, shabu and some drug paraphernalia were recovered from the area of encounter after the firefight.

At 7:25 a.m., responding troops of the 18IB proceeded to the encounter site and extricated the four wounded soldiers, who were promptly airlifted to Zamboanga City for immediate medical attention.

"The troops were conducting reconnaissance in response to the reported presence of Abu Sayyaf members in the area of engagement. Upon sensing the movement of the troops, the bandits initiated the armed confrontation," said Col. Juvymax Uy, commander of the Joint Task Force Basilan.

"The recovered shabu and drug paraphernalia are added evidence that these bandits are using drugs regularly," Uy said.

Also recovered from the encounter area was an unidentified body of one of the bandits.

"It is sad to report that four of our soldiers were wounded in this intense firefight with the Abu Sayyaf," said Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez Jr, commander of AFP-WestMinCom based in this city said.

26

09 July 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 18

Thousands flee as gov't, NPAs poise for clashes

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

BUTUAN CITY — More than 2,000 villagers have fled their homes for fear of being caught in the crossfire that might erupt between government security forces and communist insurgents in the mountain villages of Lianga town in Surigao del Sur province.

The highland villagers, mostly members of the Manobo tribe, fled their homes and farmlands in the sitios of Panac-moan, Han-ayan, Dikoy, Manluy-a, Sitio Kilometer 14 and Emerald, all of Barangay Diatagon, in Lianga town. They started moving out of their homes Monday, and many were seen evacuating as of Wednesday.

Human rights group Karapatan attributed the exodus of the highland villagers to the military presence in the lumad communities of Lianga, San Miguel and San Agustin towns, in Surigao del Sur province, since July 3, saying that the military movements

caused fear among the villagers.

Troops from the 75th Infantry Battalion (75th IB), 36th IB and 6th Special Forces Battalion have been deployed in Surigao del Sur province since 2015, particularly in Lianga town to crush the Communist rebellion.

The Army's 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade, led by Col. Franco Nem-esio Gacal based in Tandag City, said the field units in the province have been extending a "helping hand" to village communities, in relation to their ongoing peace and development program.

The highland villagers have been temporarily sheltered at Simowao Tribal Community School and nearby Emerald village of that same town, with some villagers living with relatives in Sitio Kilometer 9 of Barangay Diatagon.

Students of the Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development (ALCADEV), Inc. and volunteer teachers of six Tribal Filipino Community Schools run by the Tribal Filipino Program in the affected

communities have also evacuated. Classes of 633 lumad students have been disrupted with the suspension of classes due to the evacuation.

It was gathered that Bishop Modesto Villasanta of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), chairman of the human rights group Karapatan in Surigao del Sur, will ask Governor Vicente T. Pimentel to allow the use of the Surigao del Sur Sports Complex in Tandag City as temporary shelter for the evacuees.

Meanwhile, Pimentel has dispatched officials and personnel of the provincial disaster risk reduction and management council to assess the reported new evacuees in Lianga town.

The regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) based here is also set to deploy social workers to check the reported evacuees in Lianga town for possible relief assistance, DSWD 13 Regional Director Mita Chuchi G. Lim told The Manila Bulletin on Saturday.

27

09 July 2017



Page: 3

Captured rebel is top NPA cadre, insists military

SURIGAO CITY – The military yesterday insisted that the high-ranking officer of the New People's Army (NPA) it has captured in this city early this week was an active member of the New People's Army (NPA).

Arpel Rabago, who was intercepted at a police checkpoint here Wednesday (July 5), was described by the military as vice commander of the NPA's Guerrilla Front 16 (GF16) operating in this city and parts of Surigao del Norte.

NPA GF16 spokesman commander Ka Oto Rey Calaste, also known as Ka Oto, refuted this claim, saying Rabago left the rebel group as early as 2014, suggesting that Rabago was expelled for his "drinking habits."

Lt. Jonel Castillo, Civil Military Operation officer of the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion (IB) based in Surigao del Norte, countered that Rabago is still in the thick of his involvement with the NPA.

Based on documents recovered from previous encounters with the

NPA, Lt. Castillo said the military found out that Rabago was still active with the rebel movement, but had been given a new assignment.

"He (Rabago) is still listed as a member of the NPA, based on their own documents that our troops were able to recover in past encounters," Castillo said.

While the military official conceded that Rabago had "laid low" from the communist guerrilla movement since 2014, Castillo said Rabago had been tasked to "monitor" military movements and coordinate with the NPA on regular basis.

Even if Rabago is no longer vice commander of GF16 – as its spokesman has asserted – the military official said there was denying that Rabago had been a high-ranking NPA cadre.

Rabago, also known as Ka Yoyo, has pending arrest warrants for frustrated murder, multiple attempted murder, kidnapping and serious illegal detention. He is held on a total of P920,000 bail for all charges.

PNA

28

69 July 2017



Page: 3

Explosive, arms seized from wanted BIFF leader

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao — A sub-commander of the outlawed Moro armed group eluded arrest during police and military operations in Datu Hofer town, but authorities seized high powered guns and grenade from his residence, police said.

Senior Supt. Agustin Tello, Maguindanao police director, said lawmen armed with search warrants for murder, multiple murder, bombings and extortion when they raided the house of Kareem Falcon, alias Commander Falcon, in Barangay Tuayan, Datu Hofer town in Maguindanao yesterday dawn.

But the suspect was not in his home when the lawmen swooped down at past 4 a.m.

Tello said the raiding team recovered a hand grenade, an improvised Armalite rifle, magazine and ammunition from Falcon's home. Two sachets of suspected shabu were also recovered, Tello said.

Tello said Falcon was involved in a rash of killings, robbery and extortion in Maguindanao, preying even on poor Muslim villagers during harvest season.

The police official said Falcon was the leader of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF)

who simultaneously fired rocket propelled grenades towards the Maguindanao provincial police office that left a civilian slightly injured last May.

Speaking to reporters, Tello said Falcon has also separate warrant of arrest for his alleged involvement in the 2009 Maguindanao massacre in Ampatuan, Maguindanao that left 58 people killed, including 30 journalists.

He may have eluded arrest but police filed charges for illegal possession of firearms and explosives and illegal drugs so another warrant will be out for him.

Meanwhile, another band of BIFF briefly clashed Saturday afternoon with government forces in Barangay Kilalan, Talitay, Maguindanao, an Army spokesperson said.

Capt. Arvin John Encinas, speaking for the 6th Infantry Division, said elements of the Army's 608th Infantry Brigade clashed with the BIFF forces under a certain Commander Abunawas.

Nobody was injured in the clash but the Army believed it prevented the BIFF from getting closer to the national highway to conduct atrocities against government forces or civilian commuters. **PNA**

29

09 July 2017



Page: 3

4 killed, 15 hurt in Sulu encounter

ZAMBOANGA CITY -- Three Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed in an hour-long clash yesterday in the province of Sulu, the Joint Task Force Sulu reported.

A soldier was also killed while 15 others were wounded during the clash, Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana Jr., Joint Task Force Sulu commander, disclosed.

Sobejana said the encounter broke out at around 8:45 a.m. Saturday in the boundary of Barangays Danag and Buhanginan, Patikul, Sulu.

Sobejana said the clash took place a day after government have recovered two Filipino kidnap victims in the town of Patikul, Sulu.

Recovered around 5 p.m. Friday, July 7, in Patikul, Sulu were Reyjim Rocabo, 41 and Roel Leones, 37 both residents of Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur.

"Rocabo and Leones specifically pinpointed the locations of the targeted Abu Sayyaf group who according to the duo, is keeping captive other kidnap victims

including some Vietnamese crewmen," Sobejana said.

He said the troops from the Army's 21st Infantry Battalion headed by Major Christopher Genzola engaged in an hour fierce firefight with heavily armed Abu Sayyaf bandits under Almujer Yaddah that resulted to the death of three bandits.

The troops recovered the remains of one of the three slain Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"Our operating troops were also able to see the bandits dragging two body of their companions who appeared to be already lifeless," Sobejana said.

He said the wounded soldiers were taken to the Camp Teodulfo Bautista Hospital while the remains of the slain soldier was brought to the Joint Task Force Sulu mortuary in Jolo, Sulu.

"It is with deep sadness to report that one of our soldiers succumb to death and 15 others wounded in their persistent effort to rescue the kidnap victims," Sobejana said. **PNA**

30

09 July 2017

INQUIRER

Page: 15

FROM BUSINESS TO THE BATTLEFIELD

By Jeffrey Maitem
and Richel Umel
@Team_Inquirer

MARAWI CITY—Entrepreneur Roberto Almario was attending to business in his comfortable Metro Manila office in May when he received a letter from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

It was a summon for the 48-year-old businessman to report for active service as a lieutenant colonel in the Army reserve.

"I did not hesitate and accepted the 60-day call to active duty," Almario told the inquirer.

The telco industry executive is not alone in this urban war zone; two other reservists have been assigned here after being called to active duty.

"There are three of us reservists from Manila who are now on active duty here. One is a senior vice president of a bank, while the other is an IT expert," Almario said.

Though their tasks here have to do with communications, Almario said he and the two other reservists have also been on the front line.

Sniper fire

On the day the Inquirer spoke with him, Almario was dodging sniper fire along with regular Army officers who were leading a mortar attack against an enemy position in

the heart of the city.

The father of two teenagers—aged 16 and 19—said his life here was very different from that in Metro Manila.

"Last month, I was a businessman. Now, I'm a soldier," said Almario, a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas.

He has become used to a soldier's daily grind, including the rather alien reality of taking orders from superiors. "In Manila, I run a business, here, I just follow orders," he said.

He has also gotten "used to eating sardines and to the smell of antimosquito coils at night," he added.

Almario said his two children were worried sick after learning that he does not just sit in an air-conditioned office but also ventures into the battlefield on a regular basis.

"Everybody in Manila is worried but my wife has been very supportive," he said.

Almario said wearing military fatigues was not really a novelty for him because of his Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in college and his involvement with the Army Reserve Command (Arescom).

But actual combat was an entirely different experience because "you have to learn how not to get hit."

Added Almario: "It's a whole new learning experience for me and in my own lit-

tle way, I get to help our troops. This is my first time (to go on active duty) and I'm glad the military utilized us."

He has found new respect for soldiers because their life was anything but easy, said Almario, who said he was seeking an extension of his tour of duty.

Aside from Almario and his two fellow reservists from Manila, there are reservists from other places who are also helping in their own way, said Col. Alex Aduca, the commander of the Army's 4th Mechanized Battalion based in Lanao del Norte province.

Aduca said those from Iligan City and other areas of Lanao del Norte were given various tasks, depending on their capabilities.

He said those under category A—the younger reservists—were tapped as standby forces or reserve combatants, while those under category B—the middle-aged ones—were assigned to man checkpoints.

Older reservists who are under category G and D, including senior citizens, were assigned to relief goods repacking stations and to other lighter tasks.

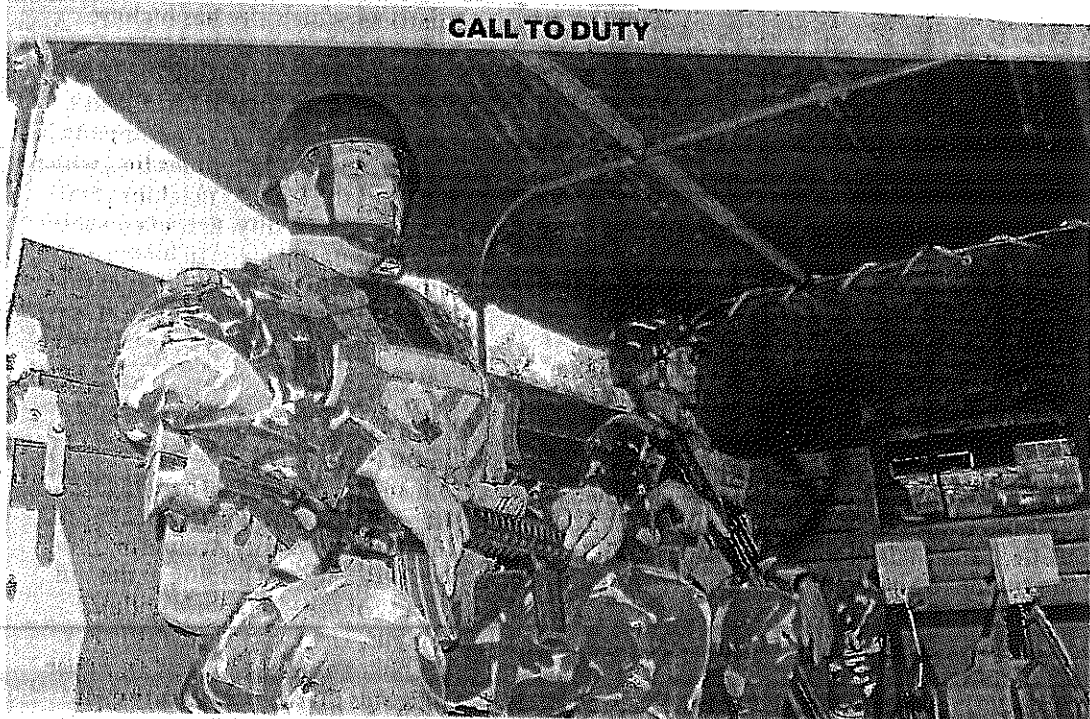
"We have tapped them to augment our regular forces," Aduca said. But he did not specify the number of reservists here and in other areas of Lanao del Norte. INQ

31

09 July 2017

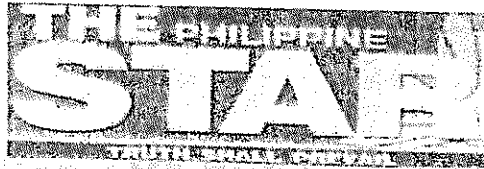
INQUIRER

Page: 115



CITIZEN SOLDIER – Almário (left) onboard a KM5 bound for the war zone in Marawi City. –RICHEL UMEJ

09 July 2017



Page: 6

Sayyaf beheading of 2 Vietnamese a retaliation?

By JOHN UNSÓN

COTABATO CITY – The beheading of two Vietnamese by the Abu Sayyaf last July 5 in Basilan was allegedly a retaliation against a highway project that would make their stronghold in the province accessible to government troops, officials said yesterday.

The decapitated remains of Hoang Trung Thong and Hoang Va Hai were left by their captors along a road in Limbo Tulan area in Barangay Tunahubong in Sumisip, Basilan, a strategic spot where the P1-billion Basilan Transcentral Road would soon cut through.

The construction of the 55-kilometer highway is a joint project of the Office of the Regional Governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and its regional public works department under Don Loong.

At least 19 kilometers of the road had been opened and was being prepared for concreting.

The road will connect Barangay Santa Clara in Lamitan City, the capital of Basilan, to Sumisip town stretching through mountain ranges in the heart of the island province.

Abu Sayyaf bandits thrice attempted to kill engineer Soler Undug, chief of the

Basilan District Engineering Office, using improvised explosive devices (IEDs) for his involvement in the road project.

Undug is also overseeing many other ARMM-funded projects in the former enclaves of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan that original settlers reoccupied recently with the help of authorities.

Military officials and local executives told **The STAR** that the remaining band of the Abu Sayyaf holding out in the hinterlands of Basilan's adjoining Punoh Lumot and Batu Lareg areas executed the two Vietnamese captives to show their opposition to the

road project.

Local officials, the police and the military restored government control over larger Abu Sayyaf camps in the province in recent months through governance and security interventions that also resulted in the surrender, in batches, of more than a hundred armed extremists, now being organized into livelihood cooperatives.

A Christian elder, whose house is near the spot where the beheaded Vietnamese were found, said that the bandits are keeping more IEDs to sabotage the road-building equipment once workers start construction of the section of the high-

way traversing the remaining Abu Sayyaf camp.

Lt. Gen Carlito Galvez Jr. of the Western Mindanao Command in Zamboanga City said there could have been two objectives in the execution of the Vietnamese.

"Information relayed to us by people there indicated that it was two-pronged and also aimed at creating an impression that the group still exists in the province," Galvez said.

He said the Vietnamese were killed to dramatize opposition to the transcentral road project and to avenge the deaths of Abu Sayyaf bandits who participated in the violent siege led by the Maute terror

group in Marawi City.

"All of their camps in the lowlands in Basilan are now controlled by duly constituted barangay governments, secured jointly by the police and the military and, in some areas, by forces of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front," Galvez said.

"One reason why they dumped the dead bodies of the two Vietnamese near Barangay Tunahubong is to embarrass the local government unit of Sumisip, whose officials are hostile to the Abu Sayyaf," said an officer of the Department of the Interior and Local Government-ARMM.

09 July 2017



Page: 1

3 Abus, trooper killed in Sulu clash

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least three Abu Sayyaf militants and a trooper were killed while 15 soldiers were wounded in a firefight between bandits and government troops yesterday morning in Patikul town, Sulu, the military said.

The encounter erupted when troops zeroed in on the location of the Abu Sayyaf group after getting a tip from two kidnapped Filipino fishermen rescued on Friday.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS), said troops from the 21st Infantry Battalion led by Maj. Christopher Genzola engaged heavily armed Abu Sayyaf gunmen under the command of Al-mujer Yaddah in a one-hour firefight at Sitio Darayan at the boundary of Barangays Danag and Buhanginan around 8:45 a.m. yesterday.

During the clearing operations, troops recovered the body of an unidentified Abu bandit at the encounter

Turn to Page 14

3 Abus From Page 1

site, Sobejana said.

"Our forces on the ground also spotted the bandits dragging away two bodies of their companions who appeared to be dead," he said.

The killed soldier and wounded were brought to the military hospital in Jolo.

Sobejana said the encounter was a result of the information provided by two rescued kidnap victims, Reyjim Rocabo and Roel Leones.

He said they pinpointed the locations of the Abu Sayyaf group that is keeping captive 21 other kidnap victims, including Vietnamese crewmen

"The soldiers are careful in their movements since it is believed that the Abu Sayyaf group is still carrying with them around six to seven kidnap victims," Sobejana said.

He said pursuing forces were taking into consideration the safety of the kidnap victims.

2 fishermen rescued

Meanwhile, Rocabo, 41, and Leones, 37, both from Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur, were on board a motorcycle when intercepted and recovered by government forces at 5 p.m. at Daang Puti, Patikul town.

Sobejana said the victims revealed that they were kept under the custody of Abu Sayyaf members Ben Tatoo and Al-mujer Yaddah, along with other kidnap victims.

Rocabo and Leones, crewmen of *FB Ramona 2*, were seized by the Abu Sayyaf group along with captains Noel Besconde and Roy Borja Ramos last Dec. 20 at the Celebes Sea.

Besconde, however, was beheaded on April 13 by the group of Abu Sayyaf under Yaddah at Sitio Pantay Minol, Barangay Tanum, Patikul.

The military said Ramos, on the other hand, was rescued on June 8 by government forces at vicinity of sitio Kandabaw, Barangay Lagtoh, Talipao town after he escaped from his captors in Patikul two days earlier.

Sobejana said Rocabo and Leones were turned over to the police Anti-Kidnapping Group before they will be reunited with their families.

He called on the residents of Sulu to continue helping the government in defeating the Abu Sayyaf.

The military said the recovery brought the number of kidnap victims to 23, including 19 foreigners and four Filipinos, still in captivity of the Abu Sayyaf group.

— With Jaime Laude

09 July 2017



Pahina. 3

3 Abu, 1 sundalo patay sa encounter

Tatlong miyembro ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) at isang sundalo ang napatay habang 15 pa sa tropa ng pamahalaan ang nasugatan sa bakbakan sa Patikul, Sulu nitong Sabado ng umaga.

Ayon kay Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Commander ng Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu, nakasagupa ng tropa ng mga sundalo ang tinatayang nasa 100 hanggang 120 bandido sa combat operation sa hangganan ng Brgy. Danag at Buhangin ng bayang ito bandang alas-8:45 ng umaga.

This is part of our continuing operations to rescue kidnap victims and neutralize the Abu Sayyaf," pahayag ni Sobejana dahil sa mahigit pa sa 20 hostages ang hawak ng mga bandido sa Sulu.

Ang mga bandido, ayon sa opisyal ay pinamumunuan ni Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan at Almujer Yada; pawang Sub Commanders ng Abu Sayyaf na pinamumunuan ni Commander Radulan Sahiron.

Nasa 15 sundalo na-

man ang nasugatan na tinamaan ng pinaputok na M203 grenade launchers ng mga bandido. Ang mga ito ay isinugod na sa pagamutan para malapatan ng Lunas.

Sa kasalukuyan, ayon sa heneral ay nagpapatuloy ang opensiba upang durugin ang nalalabi pang mga bandido na namumugad sa lalawigan at mailigtas ang mga hostages. (Joy Caritas)

09 July 2017



Pahina. 7

Abu patay sa encounter

Umiskor ang tropa ng militar matapos mapaslang ang isa sa mga notoryus na Abu Sayyaf habang apat na sundalo naman ang sugatan sa naganap na bakbakan sa magubat na bahagi ng Barangay Bohe Pahu, bayan ng Ungkaya Pukan sa Basilan noong Biyernes ng umaga. Sa ulat ni Joint Task Force Basilan Commander Col. Juvymax Uy, nagsasagawa ng combat security operation ang Army's 18th Infantry Battalion nang makasagupa ang grupo ng Abu Sayyaf. Kinilala ang napatay na Abu Sayyaf na si Nawapi "Khatan" Abdulsail habang apat namang sundalo ang nasugatan na mabilis na inilipad na ng helicopter patungong Camp Navarro Hospital sa Zamboanga City. Narekober naman sa encounter site ang M79 rifle, carbine rifle, shabu at mga drug paraphernalia.

Joy Cantos

36

09 July 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 19

BASKETBALL

AFP, PNP clash for title

Games Tomorrow
(Smart-Araneta Coliseum)
6:30 p.m. – Ex-PBA vs UNTV
8 p.m. – AFP vs PNP

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) battle for the bragging rights as the toughest “men in uniform” when they clash in the UNTV Cup Executive Face-Off tomorrow at the Smart-Araneta Coliseum.

The AFP Cavaliers and the PNP Responders clash at 8 p.m. in what could be an extension to their exciting rivalry in the regular UNTV Cup won early this year by PNP.

The Cavaliers, who beat the Judiciary Magis, 86-70, in the semis, have won the UNTV Cup twice – both at the expense of the Responders.

PNP secured the right to face AFP by downing Department of Justice, 89-77.

Aside from the distinction of becoming the inaugural champion of the tournament, the winner will also claim the top prize of P1 million which it will donate to its chosen charity. The runner-up gets P500,000 which will also go to the charity.

The other highlight of the night is the awarding of P1 million to the Samahan Ng Mga Dating Professional na Basketbolita ng Pilipinas Foundation as its seed money. “We are donating P1 million to the foundation so we can help in its various projects especially for the ailing members,” said UNTV president and CEO Daniel Razon.

Only those who played from 1975 to 1990 can avail of financial help from the foundation.

37

09 July 2017



Page: 1a

Armed Forces faces PNP in duel of 'men in uniform'

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38

09 July 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 4



Editorial

Wakasan na ang Abu Sayyaf

DAPAT pag-isipan ng pamahalaan kung paano tatapusin ang kasamaan ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf na ginagawa nang laruan ang pagpatay sa kanilang hostages. Noong Miyerkules, natagpuan ng mga sundalo ang bangkay ng dalawang Vietnamese sa Bgy. Tumahubong, Basilan. Walang ulo ang mga bangkay na hinihinalang pinugutan ng Abu Sayyaf. Nakilala ang mga Vietnamese na sina Hoang Thong at Hoang Va Hai. Kabilang sila sa anim na tripulante ng MV Royal 16 Vietnamese cargo vessel na kinidnap ng mga bandido noong Nob. 11, 2016 sa karagatan ng Sibago Island, Basilan. Hawak pa ng mga bandido ang apat na Vietnamese.

Marami nang pinatay na bihag ang mga bandido. Kapag hindi nakapagbigay ng ransom, pinupugutan nila ng ulo. Noong nakaraang taon, dalawang Canadian hostages ang pinugutan ng ulo ng Sayyaf. Hindi umano nakapagbigay ng ransom ang Canadians. Pinugutan din ang isang binatilyo nang hindi makapagbigay ng ransom ang pamilya. Isang Norwegian din ang pinugutan. Pinugutan din ang American na si Guillermo Sobero. Bago pa ang mga pangyayaring 'yan, nang-hostage na sila ng mga turista na kinabibilangan nina Martin at Gracia Burnham. Napatay si Martin nang i-rescue.

Sinabi ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana noon, anim na buwan hanggang isang taon na lang ang itatagal ng Abu Sayyaf pero sa ginawang pangangidnap ng mga ito, imposibleng mangyari ang kanyang sinabi.

Malaking pera na ang naibulsa ng Sayyaf sa pangangidhap sa loob ng anim na buwan sa taong ito. Ayon sa report, umabot na sa P353 milyon ang kinita sa kidnapping. Ang kinikita sa kidnapping ang dahilan kaya nakakabili nang matataas na kalibre ng baril ang mga bandido.

Nagawang bombahin ang Maute sa Marawi. Siguro nararapat na ring pagplanuhan kung paano bobombahin ang Sayyaf sa Basilan at Sulu. Grabe na ang ginagawa nilang pagpatay sa mga kawawang sibilyan. Tapusin na sila!

39

09 July 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A12

Judicial review of martial law

The recent Supreme Court decision declaring Proclamation No. 216 constitutional is the latest addition to a long list of judicial rulings on the executive's use of extraordinary powers in dealing with urgent situations. But, unlike previous rulings since 1986, this one reflects a disturbing return to the paradigm of a strong presidency.

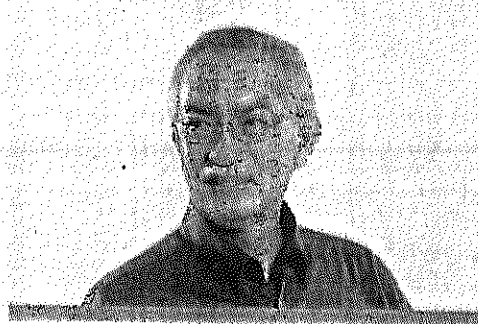
Two aspects of the majority's ruling confirm this.

First, the high court manifests what seems to me an almost dutiful readiness to affirm the President's action, and a profound reluctance to undertake an impartial review of the sufficiency of the factual basis for declaring martial law, as the 1987 Constitution mandates. The ruling says: "A review of the aforesaid facts similarly leads the Court to conclude that the President, in issuing Proclamation No. 216, had sufficient factual bases tending to show that actual rebellion exists."

This may suggest a conclusion arrived at after a thorough review by the Court. But, the ruling betrays its nervousness in undertaking its review function by adding: "After all, what the President needs to satisfy is only the standard of probable cause for a valid declaration of martial law and suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus." The Court, in effect, declares that the chief executive only needs to produce evidence that rebellion probably exists for martial law to be considered valid.

Second, and more crucially, the Supreme Court's ruling on Proclamation No. 216 practically cedes to the President the absolute right to determine the territorial scope of martial law. "Clearly, the power to determine the scope of territorial application belongs to the President... To reiterate, the Court is not equipped with the competence and logistical machinery to determine the strategical value of other places in the military's efforts to quell the rebellion and restore peace. It would be engaging in an act of adventurism if it dares to embark on a mission of deciphering the territorial metes and bounds of martial law." I find this statement dangerous.

This unnecessary admission by the Court paves the way for a nationwide decla-



PUBLIC LIVES

RANDY DAVID

ration of martial law. If the military says that some elements of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups fighting in Marawi have been spotted in other parts of the country beyond Mindanao, like Metro Manila, what will stop the President from extending the scope of martial law to cover the entire country?

The ruling states: "The Constitution grants him (the President) the prerogative whether to put the entire Philippines or any part thereof under martial law. There is no constitutional edict that martial law should be confined only in the particular place where the armed public uprising actually transpired. This is not only practical but also logical." I submit that this is a virtual surrender of the Court's review powers, a shameful abdication of its essential constitutional function with regard to martial law.

The Court adds: "Martial law is an urgent measure since at stake is the nation's territorial sovereignty and survival. As such, the President has to respond quickly." What that response may entail in practice can include a broad range of things under martial law. As the events in Marawi have shown, it can include the aerial bombing of suspected enemy lairs within the city proper, the raiding of homes, the commandeering of private facilities, the widespread destruction of private and public property, and the restriction of civil rights and freedoms. In the face of an emergency situation, the Constitution suggests a thoughtful calibration of the appropriate response.

40

There is no way one can look at images of devastation in Marawi today without asking whether any of this could have been avoided, or whether the state is not obliged to pay reparations to those whose livelihood and properties have been destroyed. To ask this is surely not to take anything away from the heroism and sacrifices of the military in their valiant effort to clear Marawi of the Maute terrorists. It is certainly worth noting that none of the abuses associated with martial law during the Marcos years have been reported in the Marawi crisis. The distinct impression that one gets is that our soldiers have acted only with utmost professionalism and concern for the public welfare and safety, to the point of putting their own lives in extreme danger. That, indeed, is very reassuring.

But, one cannot be complacent about the dangers that martial law poses to ordinary citizens, particularly since the Commander in Chief himself has a tendency to express a perverse acceptance of such abuses when speaking to the troops.

As Justice Antonio Carpio warns in a separate opinion, in which he affirms the validity of martial law for Marawi but not for the whole of Mindanao: "The Court cannot simply gloss over this Presidential mindset that has been publicly broadcast to the nation and to the world. Any sign of acquiescence by the Court to this Presidential mindset could be fatal to the survival of the 1987 Constitution and our democracy. The Court cannot play with the fire of martial law which could turn into ashes the very Constitution that members of the Court are sworn to preserve and defend, a tragic event that once befell the Court in 1972 and brought the Court to its lowest point in its history."

In 1972, Marcos was so confident he had popular support that he threatened to declare a revolutionary government if the Supreme Court struck down his martial law proclamation. The high court decided not to, wrongly believing this was the only way to preserve the rule of law. One hopes we are not seeing history repeat itself.

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09 July 2017



Pahina. 5

MARTIAL LAW SA MINDANAO DAPAT PALAWIGIN

NARARAPAT lamang na palawigin pa ang ipinatutupad na martial law sa Mindanao para tuluyang masugpo ang mga rebeldeng Maute Group na patuloy na naghahasik ng kaguluhan sa Marawi City at iba pang karatig lugar.

Hanggang hindi kasi nauubos ang mga rebeldeng ito ay tiyak na patuloy pang maghahasik ng kaguluhan ang Maute Group at ang iba pang grupo na kapanalig ng ISIS sa Mindanao.

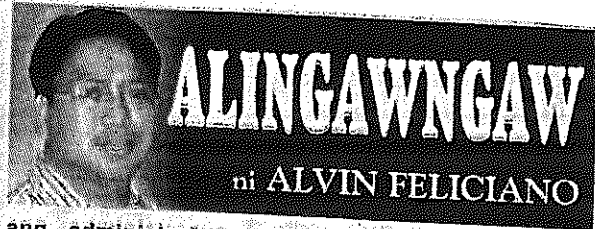
Hinihiling din ng Philippine National Police (PNP) at Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na palawigin pa ang ipinatutupad na martial law sa Mindanao dahil kapag natapos na ang kaguluhan ay kailangan pa ring kontrolado nila ang sitwasyon upang mas ma-

padali ang gagawing rehabilitasyon.

Sa pamamagitan kasi nito ay agad na mapipigilain ang anomang banta sa seguridad ng bansa dahil nakakalat sa iba't ibang lugar at nakaalerto ang mga pulis at sundalo na itatalaga sa bawat sulok ng Mindanao.

Sabi nga ni PNP Chief Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, paano naman nila isasaayos ang isang lugar kung makaririnig sila ng putukan sa iba't ibang sulok dahil na rin sa mga gustong manggulo.

Kamakailan ay pinaboran ng Supreme Court (SC) ang martial law sa botong 11-3-1 kung saan ay mayorya sa justices ang nagsabing may dahilan



ang administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na magdeklara ng martial law sa Mindanao.

Tatlo sa mga miyembro ng SC ang nagsabing dapat limitado lamang ang sakop ng martial law at ito ay sina Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Justices Antonio Carpio at Benjamin Caguioa habang ang tulo sa batas militar ay si Justice Marvic Leonen.

Labing-isa naman sa mga justice ang pumabor sa martial law at ito ay sina Presbitero Velasco, Teresita de Castro, Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin, Mariano del Castillo, Jose Mendoza, Bienvenido

Reyes, Estela Perlas-Bernabe, Francis Jardelena, Samuel Martires at Noel Tijam.

Dahil sa pagpabor na ito ng Korte Suprema, malinaw na walang batas na nilalabag si Duterte nang ideklara nito ang martial law dahil ang kagustuhan lamang ng Pangulo ay agad na mabawi sa mga terorista ang Marawi City.

Malaki na rin ang nag-iing pinsala sa Marawi City kaya sa halip na kontrahin natin si Pangulong Digong ay suportahan na lamang natin ang kanyang mga hakbang upang muling madaling makabangon ang naturang lugar.

ONLINE NEWS

09 JULY 2017

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Task Force 'Bangon Marawi' discusses rehab plans

MANILA, July 8 -- Member agencies of Task Force "Bangon Marawi" met Friday to discuss the various recovery plans for the war-torn city.

The meeting was held at the social hall of the Department of National Defense (DND) building in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Task Force Bangon Marawi executive director, Defense Undersecretary Cesar Yano, chaired the meeting that was attended by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and Civil Defense administrator and representatives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, departments of national defense, public works, education, health, science and technology, budget, and trade, National Economic and Development Authority, National Housing Authority, National Electrification Authority, Office of Civil Defense, and Mindanao Development Authority.

By virtue of Administrative Order No. 3, Task Force Bangon Marawi was organized to lead the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts for communities affected by the Marawi crisis.

Yano was designated by NDRRMC chairperson and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana as the executive director of the task force during the recent special/emergency NDRRMC full council meeting.

The task force has been tasked to organize and deploy a quick response team that will address the immediate needs of Marawi City's displaced and severely affected families.

It has also been directed to facilitate the conduct of post-conflict needs assessment in Marawi and develop a comprehensive rehabilitation and recovery program for the city and other affected areas.

"Task Force Bangon Marawi shall bear the build back better principle in its rehabilitation and recovery efforts, steering a culture of peace in Marawi communities and the rest of Mindanao," Yano said. (PFN/PNA)

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Marawi battle nears end

The fighting in this embattled city is expected to be over soon as the Islamic State for Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-inspired Maute and Abu-Sayyaf groups have been significantly reduced to at least 80 members as of Saturday, July 8, the military said.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is committed to ensure that Maute and Abu Sayyaf will not be able to pose a threat," Herrera said, noting that the military will still continue to pound the enemy positions in the area.

On Saturday, several fighting planes, including the country's newest jets, conducted bomb runs from dawn to noon.

Herrera said there are about 80 high-rise buildings that the military is trying to clear. He said terrorist leader Abdullah Maute is "still in command" and "foreign terrorists are still there" in the area.

The death toll has been continually increasing since the armed conflict erupted on May 23. At least 366 terrorist have been killed, while government troopers suffered 87 casualties.

There are 39 civilians have also been executed by the Maute group.

On Friday, the military extracted four more civilians in the battle zone bringing the total number of rescued civilians to 1,022.

The rescue efforts are also being conducted by the Joint Coordination, Monitoring and Assistance Center of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front under the "Peace Corridor" initiative.

Herrera said the troops are now zeroing in the area where the terrorists are being holed up.

"We have established defensive positions against the Maute," he said.

For his part, Zia Alonto-Adiong, the spokesperson of the Lanao del Sur crisis management committee, said measures are being drawn up for the massive rehabilitation of the besieged city.

"There is a need to provide soft financial packages for house loans and also to provide the needed capital for the local traders since the crisis have significantly affected the local economy of this city," he said.

Adiong also bats to strengthen the teaching of moderate Islam to prevent individuals from the joining extremist group.

"There's a need to expand Mandaris system. Military approach will not end the problem, it has to be collective efforts from all sectors," he said.

According to him, the local government is already in talks with several non-government organizations to help address the root cause of conflict. (PNA)

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Captured rebel is top NPA cadre

The military on Saturday insisted that the high-ranking officer of the New People's Army (NPA) it has captured in this city early this week was an active member of the New People's Army (NPA). Arpel Rabago, who was intercepted at a police checkpoint here Wednesday (July 5), was described by the military as vice commander of of the NPA's Guerrilla Front 16 (GF16) operating in this city and parts of Surigao del Norte.

NPA GF16 spokesperson commander Ka Oto Rey Calaste, also known as Ka Oto, refuted this claim, saying Rabago left the rebel group as early as 2014, suggesting that Rabago was expelled for his "drinking habits."

2Lt. Jonel Castillo, Civil Military Operation Officer of the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion (IB) based in Surigao del Norte, countered that Rabago is still in the thick of his involvement with the NPA.

Based on documents recovered from previous encounters with the NPA, Lt. Castillo said the military found out that Rabago was still active with the rebel movement, but had been given a new assignment.

"He (Rabago) is still listed as a member of the NPA, based on their own documents that our troops were able to recover in past encounters," Castillo told the Philippine News Agency.

While the military official conceded that Rabago had "laid low" from the communist guerrilla movement since 2014, Castillo said Rabago had been tasked to "monitor" military movements and coordinate with the NPA on regular basis.

Even if Rabago is no longer vice commander of GF16—as its spokesperson has asserted—the military official said there was denying that Rabago had been a high ranking NPA cadre.

Rabago, also known as Ka Yoyo, has pending arrest warrants for frustrated murder, multiple attempted murder, kidnapping and serious illegal detention. He is held on a total of P320,000 bail for all charges.

(PNA)