

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

10 July 2017

Monday

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

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

NEWS HEADLINES

10 JULY 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
COMMISSION TO SUBMIT BBL DRAFT ON JULY 17

IRAQ DECLARES VICTORY OVER IS GROUP IN MOSUL

Iraqi prime minister congratulates 'heroic fighters' as defeated Islamic State jihadists flee across Tigris River.

TRAGEDY IN BOCAUE A DISTANT PAST AS PAGODA SAILS AGAIN

By Jessa M. Lopez



US, Asia seek to foil North Korea threat
The Lunas lived here in Sta. Mesa
Road-along urges kids to eat veggies
Magsayo scores a magnificent KO

WORLD'S G-20 LEADERS SHUT OUT TRUMP ON CLIMATE PACT
REBELS: CASH SEIZED FROM NBP INMATES SHORT BY P502K
WHY IS JUSTICE LONAN'S ASSISTANT ON HUNT FOR LAWYERS?
WHAT IS Robert Sison's advice to theater goers?

The Manila Times
Militant movement seeks to restore Muslim world governed by holy law

Ormoc reeling from blackout, aftershocks

Church, Palace expected to improve



Mercy: Resurgent in 3 provinces to overturn Robredo victory
Phil chief orders probe on deaths of 'persons of interest'

Over 500 aftershocks recorded after Leyte quake

Congress seen to back martial law extension

Senate panel approves extension of martial law



2,000 civilians dead in Marawi war - source
Valles' election signals 'new day of peace' - Palace

Duterte taps ex-PDEA chief as new DDB chair

Congress open to ML extension

PEF takes up VP poll protest this week



Putin eyes new era of cooperation under Trump
1,204 Phil Army spend for training, gear a 50% decline

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS
10 JULY 2017

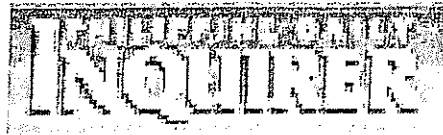
PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather	-	PDI p.A2-3
HEADLINE NEWS			
2-4	Iraq declares victory over IS group in Mosul	Reuters	PDI p.A1
5-7	Congress seen to back martial law extension	Paolo Romero & Alexis Romero	The Phil Star p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
8	2 Filipinos kidnapped by ASG recovered alive	Julmunir I Jannaral	The Mla Times p.A7
9	2 boat crew members freed from Sayyaf	Jules S Alipala	PDI p.A15
10	3 Abu, 1 sundalo patay sa engkuwentro	Fer Taboy	Balita p.5
11	Arrested NPA amazon distant relative of defense chief's wife	Michael Punongbayan	The Phil Star p.5
12	NPA rebe;is return valuables seized from cops, Driver	Nestor P Burgos Jr	PDI p.A14
AFP RELATED NEWS			
13	Martial law until 2022	Rio N Araja & Macon R Araneta	Mla Standard p.A1
14	Senate likely to okay martial law extension	JP Lopez	Malaya p.B1
15	Opposition to question SC over Marawi rebellion	Llanesca T Pantl	The Mla Times p.A2
16-17	Congress open to ML extension	Angie M Rosales	The Daily Tribune p.1
18	Martial law extension next lookout for minority	Vince F Nonato	PDI p.A6
19	DU30, senators to tackle MArawi, martial law	Christine O Avendano	PDI p.A4
20	AFP: Hostages killed for not taking up arms	Jeffrey Maitem & Allan Nawal	PDI p.A2
21-22	2,000 civilians dead in Marawi war - source	Gerry Baldo	The Daily Tribune p.1
23	Survivor's tale: Tasty water lilies	Allan Nawal	PDI p.A10
24-25	Operations vs Maute fine-tuned, says AFP	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B1
26	AFP says end is near for Marawi siege	Francis T Wakefield	Tempo p.5
27	Año believes Marawi fighting to end soon	Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca	Peoples Tonight p.6
28	Military air strikes target high-rise Marawi snipers	AFP	The Phil Star p.1
29	Snipers ng Maute tatargetin ng airstrike	Jeff Gallos	Remate p.3
30	Maute Child warriors dapat mamugot	Rhoderick Beñez	PM p.2

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

31	AFP carries Bicolanos' aid for Marawi refugees	Rhaydz B Barcia	The Mla Times p.A7
32	MILF perplexed at the way Maute group is fighting military	Ryan D Rosauero	PDI p.A21
33	AFP to create unit to defend RP cyberspace	PNA	The Daily Tribune p.3
34	Military eyes cyber force to stop terror's internet blitz	PNA	Mla Standard p.A1
35	Photo: Tactical Briefing	AFP	Malaya p.B1
EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY			
36	Martial law pa more	Ellen Tordesillas	Malaya p.B4
37	Non-issue	Ninez CAcho-Olivares	The Daily Tribune p.6
38-39	Introspective	Tony Katigbak	The Phil Star p.13
40-41	Martial law head nixes scalawags in Mindanao	Jarius Bondoc	The Phil Star p.13
42	PMA Class 1965 vs Cebu Pacific	Ramon J Farolan	PDI p.A19
43	Leonen's baseless anti-martial law dissent	Oscar Franklin Tan	PDI p.A19
ONLINE NEWS			
44	AFP to create unit to defend PH military cyberspace	Priam F Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
45	Majority if MID assets now seeing action in Marawi City	Priam F Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
46-47	3 Abu Sayyaf members killed in clash with soldiers in Sulu		www.interaksyon.com

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

10 July 2017



Page: A2-3

PANAHON TV
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JULY 10, 2017 | MONDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

2013-04-04

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING VISAYAS, MINDANAO AND PALAWAN (As of 5:00 AM July 9, 2017)

LAOAG CITY 25 - 33 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 26 - 35 °C
BAGUIO CITY 17 - 25 °C	TAGAYTAY CITY 24 - 29 °C
SBMA/CLARK 25 - 33 °C	LEGAZPI CITY 25 - 30 °C
METRO MANILA 25 - 33 °C	TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 31 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD-BPT 25 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU 25 - 32 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 24 - 31 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 31 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 25 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 32 °C

SUNRISE 5:33 AM	SUNSET 6:30 PM
MOONRISE 7:20 PM	MOONSET 6:15 AM
FULL MOON JUL 9 8:10 PM	LAST QUARTER JUL 17 9:26 AM
LOW TIDE 6:42 PM 0.00 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 10:20 AM 1.26 Meter

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

	JUL 9	JUL 10	JUL 11	JUL 12	JUL 13	JUL 14
METRO MANILA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 34 °C	22 - 30 °C	22 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 35 °C	26 - 36 °C	26 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
LAOAG	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 26 °C	16 - 26 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 34 °C	26 - 34 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	 KAGIT RO. PADALA MO!	

DZRH NEWS MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

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

10 July 2017



Page: A1

IRAQI PRIME MINISTER CONGRATULATES 'HEROIC FIGHTERS' AS DEFEATED ISLAMIC STATE JIHADIS FLEE ACROSS TIGRIS RIVER.

IRAQI PRIME MINISTER CONGRATULATES 'HEROIC FIGHTERS' AS DEFEATED ISLAMIC STATE JIHADIS FLEE ACROSS TIGRIS RIVER.

Iraqi prime minister congratulates 'heroic fighters' as defeated Islamic State jihadis flee across Tigris River.

MOSUL, IRAQ—Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared victory in the "liberated" city of Mosul on Sunday, his office said, after a grueling nearly nine-month battle against the Islamic State (IS) group.

Abadi arrived "in the liberated city of Mosul" and congratulated "the heroic fighters and the Iraqi people on the achievement of the major victory," his

office said in a statement.

A photo on Abadi's official Twitter account showed him dressed in a black military uniform and cap as he arrived in Mosul to announce the recapture of the city.

The fighting did not seem to be completely over yet, with gunfire still audible in Mosul and airstrikes hitting the city around the time the premier's

office released the statement.

Iraqi forces launched the Mosul operation in October last year, first fighting their way to the city, retaking its east and then assaulting its western side, where some of the heaviest fighting occurred.

The battle has taken a heavy toll on civilians, pushing more than 900,000 people to flee their homes, only a frac-

tion of whom have returned, according to the United Nations.

And security forces have also suffered heavy losses, with thousands killed and wounded, though official casualty figures have not been released by Iraqi authorities.

IS overran large areas north and west of Baghdad in 2014, but Iraqi forces backed by US-led airstrikes have

since regained much of the territory they lost.

Earlier on Sunday, IS militants threw themselves into the Tigris River, trying to flee the battlefield in Mosul as they faced imminent defeat by Iraqi forces fighting to dislodge them from their last pocket in the city.

A US-trained elite Iraqi force in the Old City of Mosul

A21

FROM A1

reached the Tigris riverside, state TV said, indicating that the insurgents' last redoubt was on the verge of falling.

After eight months of combat that had ruined parts of the city, killed thousands of civilians and displaced nearly 1 million people, Iraqi officials said victory was close.

The militants had been driven from all but a patch of territory on the western bank of the Tigris bisecting Mosul, where they had staged a last stand in the narrow alleys of the Old City.

Decaying corpses

Plumes of smoke rose over the Old City on Sunday and the decaying corpses of IS fighters lay in the streets.

Scattered bursts of gunfire could be heard and several airstrikes were carried out.

Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool, spokesperson for the Iraqi military, told state TV earlier on Sunday that 30 militants had been killed attempting to get away by swimming across the Tigris.

Later, Iraqiya News ran an on-screen headline saying: "Forces from the Counter Terrorism Service raised the



WE'RE THE VICTORS Iraqi federal police pose for selfies with an upside down Islamic State group flag after clearing their sector in Mosul of jihadis on Saturday. —AFP

Iraqi flag on the Tigris riverbank in the Old City of Mosul."

Though heavy fighting was still under way, Iraqi troops were celebrating the clearing of IS militants from some of their

last strongholds in Mosul on Sunday.

Lt. Gen. Jassim Nizal of the Army's 9th Division said his forces had achieved "victory" in the sector allotted to them, after a similar announcement by the

militarized Federal Police.

Dancing atop tanks

Iraqi Special Forces were still fighting a few hundred meters away.

Nizal's soldiers danced to

patriotic music atop tanks even as airstrikes sent plumes of smoke into the air nearby.

IS vowed on Saturday to "fight to the death" in Mosul.

State television quoted a military spokesperson on Saturday as saying the insurgents' defense lines were collapsing.

"We are seeing now the last meters and then final victory will be announced," a presenter said, citing correspondents embedded with security forces fighting in IS redoubt in the Old City by the Tigris.

"It's a matter of hours," she added.

Female suicide bombers

Cornered in a shrinking area of the city, the IS fighters had resorted to sending female suicide bombers among the thousands of civilians who are emerging from the battlefield wounded, malnourished and fearful.

The battle has also exacted a heavy toll on Iraq's security forces.

The Iraqi government does not reveal casualty figures, but a funding request from the US Department of Defense said the Counter Terrorism Service, which has spearheaded the fight in Mosul, had suffered 40-percent losses.

The United States leads an international coalition that is back-

ing the campaign against IS in Mosul by conducting airstrikes against the militants and assisting troops on the ground.

The US Department of Defense has requested \$1.269 billion in US budget funds for 2018 to continue supporting Iraqi forces.

Without Mosul—by far the largest city to fall under militant control—the IS dominion in Iraq will be reduced to mainly rural, desert areas west and south of the city where tens of thousands of people live.

It is almost exactly three years since the ultrahardline group's leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi proclaimed a "caliphate" spanning Syria and Iraq from the pulpit of the medieval Grand al-Nuri mosque.

End of IS

Abadi declared the end of the IS group's "state of falsehood" a week ago, after security forces retook the mosque—although only after retreating militants blew it up.

The recapture of Mosul does not, however, mark the end of the threat posed by IS, which holds territory elsewhere in Iraq and is able to carry out frequent bombings in government-held areas.

The militants are expected to revert to insurgent tactics as they lose territory.—REPORTS FROM AFP, AP AND REUTERS

16 July 2017



Page: 1

Congress seen to back martial law extension

By PAOLO ROMERO
and ALEXIS ROMERO

Members of the two chambers of Congress are expected to support an extension of martial law in Mindanao in case Malacañang asks for it.

Senators and congressmen said they would ask for security briefings on the situation in Marawi, but would likely support the Duterte administration in its decision.

Malacañang also does not see any hindrance should President Duterte decide to extend martial law in Mindanao beyond the 60-day period after the Supreme Court (SC) ruled there was factual basis for the proclamation.

Senators expect that a request from the President to extend the imposition of martial law in Mindanao will easily hurdle Congress, which is dominated by his allies.

Based on the constitutional limit of 60 days, martial law

Turn to Page 14

will lapse on July 23, a day before Duterte's second State of the Nation Address (SONA).

Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar yesterday expressed belief there would be no difficulties in the event that the President sees the need for an extension of martial law.

"It depends on when the conflict in Marawi will end. I think it will see its end. But if it is not yet finished. The declaration of martial law was supported by Congress and the judiciary," Andanar told radio station dzBB.

"All co-equal branches of government were one in saying that the martial law in Mindanao was justified. I think if there is a need to extend it, there will be no problems," he added.

On Saturday, Duterte hinted that he might seek an extension of martial law as government forces continue to battle Maute militants in Marawi.

Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao on May 23 after the Islamic State-aligned Maute terrorists launched attacks in Marawi City, burning several structures and holding hostage more than a dozen people.

Under the 1987 Constitution, the President can declare martial law if warranted for 60 days and inform Congress within 48 hours the justifications for it.

Any extension of the declaration should be done with the consent of the Senate and the House convening jointly.

Officials could not give a categorical answer when asked whether the President would ask Congress to extend martial law, saying it would depend on the assessment of the military.

Andanar claimed that martial law in Mindanao, which has sparked fears of human rights violations, has the support of a majority of Filipinos.

"Almost all Filipinos support the declaration of martial law because people want peace in the land," he said.

"It showed that the President does not hesitate to act if it is for the benefit of our countrymen," Andanar added.

ML extension backed

Duterte's allies in Congress have approved resolutions expressing support for martial law and rejecting calls from

the opposition to hold a joint session to review the basis of the proclamation.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III earlier sought another closed-door briefing from security officials on the situation in Marawi City before Duterte's Proclamation 216 expires.

"We want to be briefed so that we'll have a better grasp and understanding of the situation on the ground in Marawi," Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito said.

"But since there have been no atrocities or any human rights violations committed since the imposition of martial law, it will be easier to justify an extension if needed," he said.

Sotto said "if the situation so warrants" the two chambers would agree to extend martial law.

Sen. Francis Escudero said as much. "If they show that the problem is still subsisting, and martial law is still needed to address it."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who chairs the Senate committee on public order and safety, said while the lawmakers' decision would largely depend on how the security officials will present their case to Congress, Duterte has "an overwhelming number of allies" in both Houses.

Pimentel earlier said the 23-member Senate and the House with 296 members would vote once they convene in joint session to deliberate on the extension.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, chairman of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said any "rational informed policy decision (of Congress) must be based on complete, accurate and timely information."

Sotto, Ejercito and Sen. Richard Gordon said last week they were inclined to support an extension, especially after the high court upheld the proclamation.

Sotto and Ejercito, however, said it might be better if the scope of the extension was limited, for example, to Lanao del Sur where Marawi City is located.

Pimentel and Gordon earlier said it would be better if Duterte informs Congress of his intention to extend martial law.

Gordon said based on the Constitution, martial law in Mindanao "dies a natural

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

DEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email: add_cacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 645-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

death" on the 60th day and Duterte should initiate an extension before July 22.

This, he said, is to avoid any "legal fracas" as the Constitution "abhors a vacuum."

Gordon suggested that Duterte make a formal justification of his extension when he delivers his SONA before the joint session of Congress at the opening of the second regular legislative session on July 24.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon earlier suggested that Duterte inform Congress of his intention to extend martial law.

Since Congress will be in joint session on July 24, Drilon suggested that instead of adjourning after the SONA, lawmakers continue the session to deliberate on the request for possible extension.

Drilon said even if there could be a gap of a day or a few days from the expiry to the time Congress makes its decision, another martial law proclamation is still considered an extension.

"To me, to avoid any constitutional issues—this is a case of first impression, as it has never happened before. I think the President will lose nothing if before July 22 he sends a notice to Congress that he wants to extend martial law for whatever reason," he said.

Escudero earlier said the possible gap is not an issue as government troops will still be in Marawi City rooting out the Maute terrorists.

"I have always been against setting deadlines that may endanger the lives of our soldiers just for the sake of meeting the deadline set," Escudero said.

Allies of the President in the House of Representatives also expressed support for an extension of martial law.

"The Marawi conflict left more than 400 people dead and damaged buildings and infrastructure. So I support the extension of martial law," Surigao del Sur Rep. Johnny Pimentel, chairman of the House committee on good government and public accountability, said.

House Minority Leader Danilo Suarez of Quezon province echoed Pimentel's statement.

"I think the situation in Marawi is far from being normal. An extension of the martial rule may be in order," Suarez said.

Suarez said it is Congress that has the power to extend

DEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email: add_cacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 645-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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

martial law.

"It is the call of the House and the Senate if the President will ask for it. I think it's more of a military decision and the President will be guided accordingly by the decision of the military," he said.

Representatives Winston Castelo (Quezon City), LRay Villafuerte (Camarines Sur), Robert Ace Barbers (Surigao del Norte), Jericho Jonas Nograles (PBA party-list), Sherwin Tugna (Cibac party-list) and Roger Mercado (southern Leyte) lauded the decision of the Supreme Court (SC) upholding Duterte's declaration of martial law.

"The ruling is not without any justifiable reason. We are glad to know that all three branches of government are united in solving this biggest threat to the country's security," Castelo, who heads the House committee on Metro Manila development, said.

"I hope that detractors would stop bellyaching and refocus their attention on more productive endeavors such as helping Malacañang on the relief and rehabilitation efforts in Marawi City," Villafuerte, vice chairman of the House committee on defense, said.

2025 a world-class

AIRS - Email add: oacp

Barbers said the President's declaration of martial law in Mindanao proved to be a wise move as it prevented possible reinforcements for the terrorist Maute group in Marawi.

"This is a victory for every peace-loving Filipino who condemned the senseless loss of lives in the rebellion," Barbers said.

With a vote of 11-3-1, the high court affirmed the President's Proclamation 216, junking petitions that questioned his basis for declaring martial rule in the south.

"I hope those who dissent will support the efforts for peace and rehabilitation in Mindanao," Nograles said.

Tugna said the SC decision would allow government forces to exhaust all necessary means to pursue the members of the Maute group and prevent terrorist attacks from spreading to other parts of the country.

"Our Muslim brothers must do their part in rebuilding Mindanao so they could see the funds and infrastructure projects of the national government," Mercado said.

Last week, the high court upheld Duterte's martial law declaration in Mindanao, junk-

210E

845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

ing petitions questioning its basis.

Eleven justices voted in favor of the Proclamation 216 while three voted to limit it to Marawi City. Only Associate Justice Marvic Leonen voted against the declaration.

Duterte earlier said he may not lift martial rule in Mindanao before his second SONA on July 24.

"No. It's the Armed Forces and the police who will decide. I consulted them and said it was critical," the President told reporters in Davao City on Friday.

"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. 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," the President added.

Andanar said the government is praying that the Marawi crisis would end soon, noting that the rehabilitation can only start once the security threats are addressed.

- With Paolo Romero, Deion Porcalla

10 July 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 17

2 Filipinos kidnapped by ASG recovered alive

SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao: The Anti-Kidnapping Group, the Sulu Provincial Police Office and the 501st Brigade under the Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu recovered alive two kidnap victims at Daang Puti, Patikul, Sulu on Thursday afternoon, a military official said on Sunday.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command (West-MinCom) said Reyjim Rocabo, 41, a mechanic, and Roel Leones, 37, a crew—both from Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur—were on board a motorcycle when intercepted and recovered by government forces.

Upon verification, the two said they were kept under the custody of a certain Ben Tadoo and Almujer Yaddah during their captivity along with some other kidnap victims, Petinglay added.

Rocabo and Leones are crew of *FB Ramona 2* who were forcibly taken by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) along with two other boat crew last December 20, 2016 on the high seas of the Celebes.

Abducted with Rocabo and Leones were Noel Besconde, boat captain, and Roy Borja Ramos, also a crew.

On April 13, after more than three months in captivity, Besconde was beheaded by the group of Abu Sayyaf Group sub-leader Almujer Yadah at Si-

tio Pantay Minol, Barangay Tanum, Patikul, Sulu.

On June 8, Roy Borja Ramos, was rescued by government forces at Barangay Lagtoh, Talipao, Sulu after he was able to escape his captors in Patikul area two days before.

"Rocabo and Leones are now under the custody of the Anti-Kidnapping Group and will eventually be turned over to their families after actionable information is taken from them," Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, JTF Sulu commander, said.

"As we speak, follow-up operations, in coordination with the Sulu police, are ongoing for the possible rescue of the other kidnap victims," Sobejana added.

"We call on the people of Sulu to continue helping us in this endeavor. A peaceful and progressive community will never be achieved if we will not take a strong stand against these local terrorists," the JTF Sulu commander said.

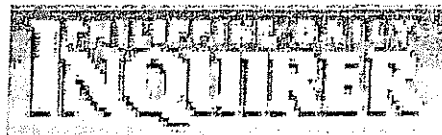
"Every one of us is part of the solution, we must join the fight and help save our communities," Sobejana added.

Twenty kidnap victims remain in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf Group, a terrorist band affiliated with the Islamic State or IS.

Of the 20, 16 are foreigners and four are Filipinos, according to Sobejana.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

10 July 2017



Page: 15

SULU CAPTIVES

2 BOAT CREW MEMBERS FREED FROM SAYYAF

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two kidnapped crew members of a fishing boat were rescued in Patikul, Sulu province, on Friday, the military said.

Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said members of the Anti-Kidnaping Group, the Sulu provincial police office and the Army's 501st Brigade rescued Reyjim Rocabo, 41, and Roel Leones, 37, both from Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur province.

The rescuing team was under Joint Task Force Sulu, a multiagency group that is focused on preventing and solving kidnapping cases.

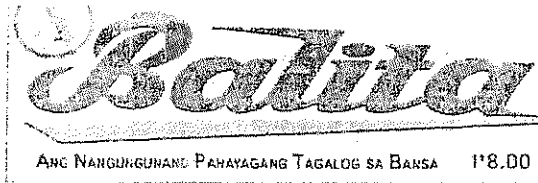
Rocabo and Leones were crew members of FB Ramona 2. They and two others had been taken captive by Abu Sayyaf handits on Dec. 20 off Celebes Sea.

The captain of the boat was beheaded on April 13, or after more than three months in captivity.

Another crew member, Roy Ramos, escaped from his captors on June 8. —JULIES ALI-

PALA INQ

(D) July 2017



Page. 5

3 Abu, 1 sundalo patay sa engkuwentro

Tatlong miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) at isang sundalo ang namatay sa sagupaan sa Sulu nitong Sabado.

Kinumpirma rin ni Brig. General Cirilito Sobejana, commander ng Joint Task Force Sulu, na 15 sundalo ang nasugatan sa bakbakan na nangyari dakong 8:45 ng umaga sa Sitio Darayan, Barangay Darag, malapit sa boundary ng Barangay Buhanginan sa Patikul.

Sinabi ni Sobejana na nakaengkuwentro ng tropa ng 21st

Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army, sa pamumuno ni Maj. Christopher Genzola, ang hindi mabilang na armadong bandido.

Ang nasabing grupo ng mga bandido ay pinamunuan ng isang Almujer Yaddah, sub-leader ng ASG, ayon kay Sobejana.

Tumagal ng halos isang oras ang sagupaan na ikinasawi ng tatlong bandido at isang sundalo.

Ayon kay Sobejana, nagpapatuloy ang pagtugis ng militar sa Abu Sayyaf, na pinaniniwalang may bitbit na mga

bihag nang mangyari ang bakbakan.

“Our operating troops were also able to see the bandits dragging two bodies of their companions who appeared to be already lifeless. As we speak, skirmishes are still ongoing as our troops are going after the tracks of the withdrawing bandits,” ani Sobejana.

Ang mga sugatang sundalo ay dinala sa Camp Teofilo Busbos Hospital habang ang labi ng nasawing sundalo ay nasa military mortuary ng headquarters ng Joint Task Force Sulu.

Fer Taboy

16 July 2017



Page: 5

Arrested NPA amazon distant relative of defense chief's wife

By **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

The military yesterday clarified that a female member of the New People's Army (NPA) arrested in Abra last week is a distant relative of the wife of Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

"Lorenzana is not related to arrested NPA amazon Adriel Dawn Aguilar Aquino, contrary to what was intimated in some news reports," said Director Arsenio Andolong, chief of the Public Affairs Service of the Department of National Defense.

"She is a distant relative of the secretary's wife and this has no relevance to Ms. Aquino's arrest by proper authorities," he added.

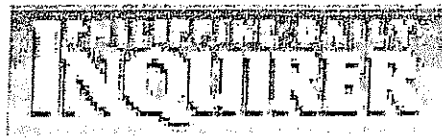
Andolong also said that Lorenzana would like to stress that the rule of law must be upheld at all times and equally applied to everyone regardless of who he or she may be.

Philippine Army troops from its 24th Infantry Battalion arrested Aquino fol-

lowing an encounter on July 1.

Aquino was wounded in the firefight in Barangay Kiilong-olao where she was arrested after high-powered firearms were recovered from her group.

10 July 2017



Page: A14

NPA REBELS RETURN VALUABLES SEIZED FROM COPS, DRIVER

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—Communist rebels turned over to employees of an Iloilo radio station personal items that the rebels seized in last month's raid on the police station of Maasin town in Iloilo.

A group of rebels, who introduced themselves as members of the New People's Army (NPA) Napoleon Tumagtang Command, on Friday handed over two laptops to two Bombo Radyo Iloilo employees.

John Talento, assistant station manager, said the rebels had arranged a meeting at a hinterland village in Iloilo where the laptops were turned over.

The rebels told Talento that they returned the items because these were personal belongings of Maasin policemen.

They asked the radio station employees to facilitate the return of the laptops to their owners.

Talento said the radio station employees had proceeded to the headquarters of the Iloilo provincial police office in Santa Barbara town and turned over the laptops.

The laptops were among items taken by at least 60 rebels who raided the Maasin police station on June 18.

Policemen on duty were un-



On June 18, rebels walked freely in Maasin town, Iloilo province, and seized guns and ammunition from a police station without firing their guns. —PHOTO COURTESY OF RMN ILOILO

harmful but the rebels took 15 firearms, including 11 M-16 rifles and four hand guns, ammunition and radio sets among others.

The Philippine National Police will use the two laptops as evidence in the criminal complaints filed against suspected rebels who took part in the raid, according to a statement of the Western Visayas Police Office.

Those charged included leaders of the NPA's Southern and Central Fronts in Panay.

In a separate turnover on Saturday, a group of NPA rebels, who introduced themselves also as members of the Napoleon Tumagtang Command, handed over to two reporters of RMN Iloilo personal belongings and cash of Charles Paconsis.

Paconsis was the driver of the van that the rebels commandeered and abandoned in San Miguel town on June 15 or three days before the raid.

Unidentified persons who later turned out to be rebels had arranged to hire the van driven by Paconsis.

Paconsis escaped from the rebels and reported the attack to police.

Wilfredo Talaron, one of the RMN Iloilo reporters who met with the 40 rebels on Saturday, said the rebels admitted that they had intended to use the van during the raid on the Maasin police station.

They told Talaron and fellow reporter Ralph Mosqueda that they took Paconsis' bag for "safekeeping."

The rebels handed over bottles of perfume and cologne, two mobile phones, an asthma inhaler, a power bank and bills and coins.

They also gave P7,000 which they said was the "rental fee" for the van.

The reporters turned over the cash and items to the San Miguel police station.

Talaron said the rebels asked for permission to blindfold the radio employees before they were taken to the site of the turnover. INQ

10 July 2017

Manila Standard

Page. A1

'Martial law until 2022'

Speaker: Du30 must be given time to quell Mindanao rebellion

By Rio N. Araja
and Macon R. Araneta

HOUSE Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez wants martial law in Mindanao to stay until 2022 or until President Rodrigo Duterte steps down.

He said the extension of martial law could give the President more time to quell the over 40 years of rebellion and armed conflict in Mindanao.

"Being from Mindanao, I support the martial law even up to 2022 just to be able to solve the problem," he added.

He clarified, however, that this was his personal position and not the stand of the House of Representatives.

"You should realize that rebellion in the area has been there for more than 40 years. Up to now, it continues to beset the country. We should put an end to it even just in Mindanao," he said.

He said terrorism is not the only problem in Mindanao because rebel groups have existed in Mindanao for so many years.

"You know that the problem is not all about the ISIS [Islamic State]. There is the New People's Army. They want to oust the government. That is rebellion, too," he said.

On May 23, the Office of the President released Proclamation

No. 216, declaring a state of martial law and suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao. *Next page*

'Martial...'

From A1

The period of martial law is limited to 60 days by the Constitution, and can only be extended by Congress.

In the Senate, the majority bloc said they see an easy approval of an extension of martial law in Mindanao should the President request it.

"Yes, if the situation so warrants," said Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III.

Senator Francis Escudero expressed the same view, saying Congress would give its approval if the President and military officials can show that problem on Maute terror group still subsists and that martial law is still needed to address it.

Senator JV Ejercito added that it will be easier to approve an extension of martial law since no abuses or human rights violations were reported during the period.

Both Ejercito and Senator Juan Edgardo Angara said they wanted a new military briefing before extending martial law.

Senator Panfilo Lacson said the extension will largely depend on how the security officials of the

government will present their case to the Congress, notwithstanding the overwhelming number of allies the President has in both Houses.

Senator Gregorio Honasan said they would decide based on "the most current comprehensive consolidated report from the martial law administrators, local governments, and coordinated agencies on the ground."

The leftist youth organization Anakbayan said the proposal to extend martial law to tackle the communist insurgency exposed "the fascist bent" of those behind the plan.

Earlier, Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. acknowledged that martial law was indeed directed against the communist New People's Army.

"Even without martial law, peasant leaders, indigenous people, activists, and ordinary people have been harassed and killed by trigger-happy military and policemen on the mere accusation of being NPA rebels. Martial law must be stopped now. Extending its duration and scope will only make things worse," said Vencer Crisostomo, Anakbayan national chairman.

With Sandy Araneta

10 July 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B1

Senate likely to okay martial law extension

BY JP LOPEZ

SENATORS yesterday said President Duterte would most likely get an extension from Congress for his martial law declaration depending on how his security officials conduct their briefing on the accomplishments of martial law in Mindanao.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the number of Duterte's allies in both chambers of Congress is also overwhelming.

But Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said the exten-

sion would "probably" be limited to Lanao del Sur, where Marawi City is located.

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito said it is easier to justify the extension, if needed, "since there have been no (reports of) atrocities or any human rights violations committed since the imposition of martial law."

"We want to be briefed so that we'll have a better grasp and understanding of the situation on the ground in Marawi," Ejercito said.

Earlier, senators asked the Palace security cluster to update Congress

on the operations to rid Marawi of the Islamic State-backed Maute terrorist group.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III earlier said the security briefing before the martial law declaration expires on July 22 is being arranged.

Sen. Francis Escudero said Congress would approve martial law extension if security officials could show that "the problem is still subsisting and martial law is still needed to address it."

Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara said senators will ask for a security

briefing, "and then we will take it from there."

Sen. Gregorio Honasan said: "It all depends on the most current comprehensive consolidated report from the martial law administrators, local governments, and coordinated agencies on the ground."

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, a member of the opposition, said "the ease of securing an extension (of martial law from Congress) is not so much the issue as ensuring that the justification of the extension is constitutionally sound and justified."

10 July 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A2

Opposition to question SC over Marawi rebellion

BY LLANESCA T. PANTI

THE motion for reconsideration set to be filed by opposition lawmakers to contest the Supreme Court's July 4 ruling upholding President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of martial law over the entire island of Mindanao will assert that there was no basis for anchoring the declaration on the supposed existence of rebellion.

Rep. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. of Ifugao said in a radio interview that opposition lawmakers, petitioners in the challenge recently junked by the High Court, were set to file a motion for reconsideration this week.

"The main issue here is [whether] the President had enough information to declare martial law in the whole of Mindanao, particularly on the [existence of] rebellion. That is the focal point here because the Supreme Court, in its ruling, said that it is not important whether the President's information is true or not enough," Baguilat said.

"The Supreme Court should explain why it found enough grounds to say that there is rebellion in Mindanao and, thus, the need to declare martial law. As far as we are concerned, the declaration based on rebellion [is] based on scant, if not false information,"

Baguilat added.

Duterte declared martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao on May 23 through Proclamation 216, in response to the siege of Marawi City by members of the Maute Group.

The lawmaker said he was taken aback when the ruling upheld the declaration of martial law over the entire island of Mindanao and not just in Lanao del Sur province, where government troops are locked in an armed conflict with the Islamic State-linked Maute group.

"Had the martial law been limited to Lanao del Sur, we can live with that. And so we were surprised that the entire declaration was deemed legal. If the martial law declaration in Mindanao is baseless, then the Supreme Court could void the martial law declaration in Mindanao and limit

it to Lanao del Sur instead," he maintained.

Baguilat added, "We can't give up on this because there are a lot of points in the ruling that can be contested under the [motion]. A lot of people are emotional because we want to defeat Maute, and so there is this supposed need to declare martial law. But we have to explain to our people that declaring martial law is not simple as that and eradicating terrorism or quelling military uprising can be addressed with regular presidential authority."

He stressed that the President should not be authorized to declare martial law based on false information.

"Let's go back to the start. This Marawi incident happened because there was an unsuccessful military operation aimed at arresting Isnilon Hapilon who is the Maute leader. There was no statement on Maute's part that they want to take Marawi or Lanao off Philippine territory. Given such, there's no rebellion there," the lawmaker said.

The martial law proclamation in Mindanao will end on July 22.

Senators open to extending martial law

Some senators expressed belief on Sunday that President Duterte

would not have difficulty in getting Congress' approval to extend martial law in Mindanao.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto 3rd said he would not object to a martial law extension as long as the situation warranted such move.

Sen. Francis Escudero said the Executive branch must show that the problem was still subsisting and that martial law was still needed to address it.

For Sen. Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, it would be better if senators would again be briefed by security officials on the situation in Marawi, to get a better grasp and understanding of the situation on the ground.

"But since there have been no atrocities or any human rights violations committed since imposition of martial law, it will be easier to justify extension if needed," he added.

Senators Panfilo Lacson and Juan Edgardo Angara said their positions would depend on how security officials would present their arguments before Congress.

"It will largely depend on how the security officials of the government will present their case to the Congress, notwithstanding the overwhelming number of allies the President has in both Houses," said Lacson.

WITH JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA

July 2017



Page: 1

SENATORS TO ASK FOR SECURITY BRIEFING

Congress open to ML extension

By Angie M. Rosales

Congress appears receptive to President Duterte seeking an extension of martial law in Mindanao if prior to the lapse of the 60-day limit on the extreme Executive measure under the Constitution.

Senators said they do not see any impediment in granting Mr. Duterte's request extending the implementation of martial law even after the 60-day period expires two weeks from now or on July 23 when Mr. Duterte delivers his second State of the Nation Address (Sona).

the security officials of the government will present their case to the Congress, notwithstanding the overwhelming number of allies the President has in both Houses," Sen. Panfilo Lacson said which was a view echoed by Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III.

"It will largely depend on how

Turn to page 2



Soldiers ride on a truck on their way to the frontline in the outskirts of Marawi City.

AFP

from page 1

"Yes (it will likely be approved) if the situation so warrants," Sotto said.

Amid talks of possible extension of the martial law proclamation, a number of senators have pressed for another round of briefing with security and defense officials to assess the situation and ascertain the need for its continued imposition in Mindanao or limit its scope only in Marawi City.

House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas said he will also support Mr. Duterte if he decides to extend martial law in Mindanao.

"If the President requests Congress to extend his proclamation or suspension on the ground that the rebellion is still persisting and public safety requires it, I shall support him," Fariñas said in a statement.

"Pres. Duterte has shown that he is true to his oath to support and defend the Constitution, and our people continue to express their trust and confidence in him," he added.

Under the 1987 Constitution, upon the initiative of the President, Congress may, in the same manner, extend such proclamation or suspension for a period to be determined by the Congress, if the invasion or rebellion shall persist and public safety requires it."

Plea for extension anticipated

This early, however, some senators admitted that they're anticipating the possible extension of martial law after the 60-day

period of implementation expires on July 22.

"We want to be briefed so that we'll have a better grasp and understanding of the situation on the ground in Marawi," Sen. JV Ejercito said in a text message to reporters.

Ejercito shared the call for the conduct of another round of briefing first broached by Minority Leader Franklin Drilon and Sen. Win Gatchalian last week.

The need for it was also called by Sen. Sonny Angara especially if Duterte will request for an extension.

"We will ask for a briefing from the military which is what we also requested for after the initial proclamation and then we take it from there," Angara said.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, chairman of the Senate committee on national defense and security, echoed the need for such a briefing saying that any rational and informed policy decision must be based on complete, accurate and timely information.

"It all depends on the most current comprehensive, consolidated report from the martial law administrators, local governments and coordinated agencies on the ground," he added.

Ejercito and Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero said any such request will likely breeze through if security and defense officials can prove that the armed conflict is still subsisting and martial law is still needed to address it.

"But since there have been no

atrocities or any human rights violations committed since the imposition of martial law, it will be easier to justify the extension if needed," Ejercito said.

Strong public support

A latest Social Weather Stations survey showed that Duterte got a record-high public satisfaction rating after his declaration of martial law in Mindanao, which had been upheld by the Supreme Court (SC).

Congress and the SC have also both ruled that Proclamation 216 which imposed martial law in Mindanao was in accordance with the Constitution.

"The imposition of Martial Law is an act of the Commander-in-Chief, subject to its revocation by the Congress and review by the SC of the sufficiency of its factual basis," Fariñas said.

The SC last July 4 upheld Mr. Duterte's proclamation, dismissing the consolidated oppositions filed by a group of opposition congressmen led by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, activists and militant lawmakers, and four women residents of Marawi City.

"We should all support him, as well as the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police and all government authorities in alleviating the sufferings of our people in Mindanao," Fariñas said.

Sotto expressed the view that if martial law is extended, it should be limited to Lanao del Sur and not the entire Mindanao while Ejercito the extension should be "not too long" and that

they can "crush the Maute group in the period they are asking for" suggesting an extension of not more than two months.

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez expressed a personal view the other day to extend martial law until the end of the term of Mr. Duterte in 2022 but which was a proposal that did not sit well with other legislators.

"If they can guarantee that they can finish operations in a month or two we can grant it. I'm inclined to vote for it," Ejercito said.

The senator also noted that there were no reports of abuses or atrocities committed by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for the duration martial law was declared.

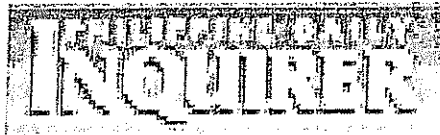
Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the Duterte administration needed a couple more weeks to determine whether they would recommend an extension of the implementation of Martial Law in Mindanao.

"We will know in a couple of weeks time, after that we will make our recommendations (as) we are still studying the situation in Marawi, Lanao Del Sur and the rest of Mindanao," Lorenzana said in Filipino.

Lorenzana also refused to comment on whether fighting in Marawi City before Duterte's first State-of-the-Nation-Address (SONA).

"We would like that to happen but we are leaving it to the ground commanders to do their pace, we are not micromanaging the events there," the DND chief stressed.

July 2017



Page: 16

MARTIAL LAW EXTENSION NEXT LOOKOUT FOR MINORITY

By **Vince F. Nonato**
@VinceNonatoINQ

A lawmaker from the opposition “Magnificent Seven” bloc has raised the possibility that the House of Representatives might extend martial law in Mindanao in time for President Duterte’s delivery of his State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 24.

Since the Sona coincides with the first day of the second regular session of the 17th Congress, it was possible the chamber, dominated by Duterte allies, would present such a resolution, according to Ifugao Rep. Teddy Baguilat Jr.

The 60-day martial law proclamation is effective until July 22.

“On July 24, we will have the joint session. Right before Sona, they might present the resolution extending martial law. We should be prepared for that,” Baguilat said in a radio interview on Sunday.

Baguilat’s statement came as the Armed Forces of the Philippines continued to assess if martial law needed to be extended amid continuing clashes with the Maute group in Marawi City.

Speaker’s preference

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez told the Inquirer on Saturday that “if I can convince my colleagues, I will push for an extension until 2022, because two months is too short.”

Baguilat said the opposition bloc would likely file again another petition in the Supreme Court if martial law was extended.

On July 4, the Supreme Court issued a landmark decision upholding the factual basis of Mr. Duterte’s proclamation of martial law, and his presidential prerogative in deciding the scope of its coverage.

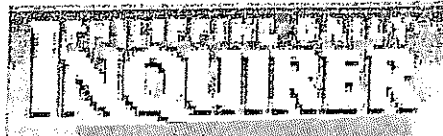
Baguilat said it would be a “suntok sa buwan” (a long shot) to seek a reversal of the July 4 ruling.

Even as the 60-day limit looms, the Magnificent Seven will still file a motion for reconsideration to appeal the ruling this week.

Baguilat, however, said he would rather focus on fighting the possibility of an extended martial law.

“I was the one who said, let’s not pursue a motion for reconsideration. Let’s just concentrate on the possible extension of martial law,” Baguilat said. INQ

10 July 2017



Page: A 4

MEET BEFORE SONA DU30, SENATORS TO TACKLE MARAWI, MARTIAL LAW

President Duterte will meet with senators from the majority bloc a week before Congress opens its second regular session on July 24.

Asked about the agenda of the meeting with the President, Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said apart from the legislative agenda and Mr. Duterte's second State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 24, it would likely touch on the assessment of the ongoing government operations to retake Marawi City from the Maute group and the Abu Sayyaf.

The senators had earlier asked for a second security briefing on the Marawi situation.

The planned meeting in Malacañang will come at a time when the 60-day martial law proclamation in Mindanao is set to expire on July 22.

Mr. Duterte has stressed he has no plans to lift martial law until military officials tell him the security situation in Mindanao is no longer critical.

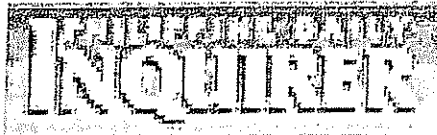
Under the 1987 Constitution, upon the initiative of the President, martial law could be extended by Congress.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon last week urged the President to notify Congress that he wanted an extension of the martial law proclamation before its expiration.

Drilon has also suggested that Congress tackle the extension after the President delivers his Sona, saying a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives requires this. —CHRISTINE

O. AVENDAÑO INQ

16 July 2017



Page: A2

AFP: Hostages killed for not taking up arms

by Jeffrey Maitem and Allan Nawal Inquirer Mindanao

MARAWI CITY—Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists have killed at least six hostages for refusing to take up arms against government forces, the military said on Sunday.

Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus, commander of the military's 1st Infantry Battalion, told reporters the military learned about the executions from three hostages who escaped from their captors on June 29.

"That's what the gunmen inside are doing. They are forcing their hostages to take up arms against our troops," Tampus said.

"We talked to three hostages, and that's what they relayed to us," he added.

The hostages were firing at troops patrolling Lake Lanao, he said.

"They were forced to do that. Six of the hostages were shot and killed in front of them, that's why they can't do anything but follow the orders given to them," Tampus said.

Atrocities

The escapees' account of the killings, which could not be independently verified, is the latest report of atrocities to come out of the conflict zone in Marawi, where the military is battling terrorists from the Maute group and their allies from an Abu Sayyaf faction that has pledged allegiance to the IS jihadist network in Iraq and Syria.

Eight or 10 hostages who either escaped or were rescued by the military earlier reported that the terrorists forced their civilian captives to loot homes, take up arms against government troops and serve as sex



Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus

slaves for the terrorists.

Some of the escapees said bodies of residents had been left in the streets, some for weeks, and civilians were distressed by government airstrikes and artillery bombardment that had reduced Marawi to rubble.

The terrorists stormed Marawi on May 23 to establish an IS enclave in Southeast Asia, drawing a military response that

included airstrikes aided by US and Australian surveillance aid.

Most of Marawi's more than 200,000 residents have fled the city and the fighting has cost the lives of more than 470 people—366 terrorists, 85 soldiers and police, and 39 civilians.

'Just a matter of time'

The military said the terrorists were down to just 80 fighters and a statement it released on Sunday quoted Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as saying the end of the conflict was "just a matter of time."

Año's assessment came after receiving a briefing on the conflict on Friday at Camp Ranao, the base of the Army's 103rd Brigade in Marawi City.

Explaining why only 80 terrorists remained when the original enemy force had been estimated at 700, Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera,

spokesperson for the 1st Infantry Division, said some terrorists managed to slip out of Marawi "probably in the first two weeks" of the fighting when the military was not yet in full control of Lake Lanao and other parts of city.

There were unverified reports that among those who had escaped was Isnilon Hapilon, the leader of the Abu Sayyaf fighters holed up in the city.

In the final stages of the conflict, Tampus' troops were tasked to secure the City Hall, 250 meters from the battle zone.

"The enemy's resistance continues, but they have no more automatic fire ... The resistance usually comes from snipers with grenade launchers," he said.

Herrera said around 300 civilians and hostages were in the battle zone. —WITH REPORTS FROM NIKKO DIZON IN MANILA AND REUTERS INQ

() July 2017



Page: 1

2,000 civilians dead in Marawi war – source

By Gerry Baldo and Mario J. Mallari

A grim picture of Marawi City, which has been turned into a battleground between sympathizers of the Islamic State (IS) and state forces for more than a month, is emerging as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) indicated the impending end of the conflict in “a matter of time.”

A lawyer, former government official and a long-time member of

the PDP-Laban claimed in a text message from the city that the civilian death toll in Marawi since May 23 could have breached 2,000.

Government vowed to end mopping-up operations soon but the fighting has continued for 47 days, belying the capacity of the military to use conventional warfare against a small guerrilla force in an urban setting.

The death toll of 2,000 civilians belies the claim of the military by the weekend that only 39 civilians

were killed in the fighting.

The lawyer, who spoke on condition of anonymity since he is staying on the arena of battle, said the AFP has claimed killing 351 members of the Maute Group while sustaining 85 fatalities from May 23.

President Duterte has ordered not only carpet-bombing of Marawi despite the danger of killing more civilians even as he apologized for the destruction of property in the course of the prolonged conflict.

The lawyer added the military has

barred civilians from the battle zone even as its bomber planes and 105 mm howitzers continue to flatten the city center, which he said is still under the control of the Maute Group.

Lt. Col. Jo Ar Herrera of the AFP Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) said aerial bombardment was needed to “neutralize the enemy sniper positions in high-rise buildings and neutralize their defensive positions.”

Turn to page 2

The lawyer stressed "the explanation is pleasing to the ear but the question to be answered is: Has it been effective in accomplishing its mission? The answer is a big no."

"At the early stage of the war, the military estimated the number of Maute terrorists within the range of 400. Now, if 351 of them have been killed, there are only a handful of 49 terrorists in the war zone compared to the thousands of soldiers and policemen who are aided by howitzers, rockets, mortars and aerial bombardment," the lawyer noted.

Casualties understated

The civilian casualties reported by the AFP are understated, he claimed.

"How accurate is the military count when up to now, they have not entered the heart of the city? The population center of the city, estimated to be 20 sq km, is controlled by the Maute up to now," he revealed.

Most of the civilian victims were rapped to death in this area by aerial bombings. Not one of them was counted by the military simply because they have not entered the area," the lawyer noted.

"Only the volunteer civilian groups, aside from those in the government-Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) peace corridor managed to retrieve cadavers and injured civilians. They have estimated the civilian casualties to have reached 1,882. This is not to mention the billions of pesos of looted and damaged properties," he added.

"How will you equate the loss of lives of children, the sick people and women with the 351 dead Maute fighters, which may not even be accurate?" the lawyer asked.

"As it is, there is no high-rise building standing in the terrorist enclave, all of which were destroyed by rockets and artillery fire. The military estimated the remaining civilians in the war zone to be only 300, with the surviving Maute fighters placed at 49. Now, is it reasonable to continue founding the war zone with powerful bombs when the expected victims are mostly civilians? Do we still recognize human rights?" he argued.

For its part, the youth group Anakbayan since aid the anti-NPA tack of Proclamation 216 became apparent when the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana insisted that martial law was directed against the NPA, whose fighters are dominated by members of indigenous peoples (IPs), along with some Moro guerrillas.

"The proposal of the Duterte allies like Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez Jr. to extend martial law by five years and admission by the AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. that the communist-led New People's Army (NPA) is one of its targets only exposes the fascist bent of the measure's architects," Anakbayan argued.

Anakbayan is the comprehensive mass organization of the Filipino youth, advocating genuine national independence and democracy as a solution to the nation's problems and it has a membership of 20,000 across the Philippines and in several cities in the US, Canada and Australia.

Anakbayan claims military harassment

"Even without martial law, peasant leaders, indigenous people, activists, and ordinary people have been harassed and killed by trigger-happy military and policemen on the mere accusation of being NPA rebels. Martial law must be stopped now. Extending its duration and scope will only make things worse," said Anakbayan national chairperson Vencer Crisostomo.

The youth leader said martial law in Mindanao has led to a spate of human rights abuses, with over 2,050 Lumad fleeing 13 communities after AFP soldiers invaded their ancestral lands and at least 14 peasant leaders and activists arrested in Mindanao since May 23.

"Duterte himself said that martial law shall remain until all enemies of state are wiped out. This is short of saying that martial law will remain forever and only gives license on the AFP and the police to unleash state violence and fascism on the people," said Crisostomo.

Anakbayan said that the use of martial law powers to go after revolutionaries, like the regime's order to "flatten the hills" and all-out war declaration is in line with US counterinsurgency doctrine and

further exposes the US hand behind martial law in Mindanao.

"For all his strong-man antics, Duterte's increasing reliance on the US-trained AFP is making him more servile than ever to US interests. Duterte's hands are tied from going against the US which wants to increase military presence as counterweight to China and whose multinational corporations are salivating over mineral-rich Mindanao," said Crisostomo.

Anakbayan said "if Duterte continues to stack his cabinet with generals, relies on the military establishment, and inflicts more fascist terror against the people, Duterte will prove to be the biggest stumbling block for social change and the biggest defender of oligarchic interests and US imperialist domination."

"Duterte's obsession with martial law, extrajudicial killings and state violence is offered as a 'one-size, fits-all' solution to all the country's problems. But our experience of two decades of Marcos dictatorship rule has shown that this only fostered human rights abuses and corruption by those in power," he said.

Crisostomo belied claims by Duterte administration officials that "only those committing acts of rebellion" should fear martial law, pointing out that this was the same lame assurances used by the Marcos dictatorship even as it arrested and detained without charges some 70,000 people, tortured, extrajudicially killed, and foreverly disappeared thousands others.

Anakbayan is called on the Filipino youth and people to join protest actions lined up this month that will culminate with a massive protest march on the occasion of Duterte's State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 24.

Victory irreversible

Lorenzana and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, after hearing an extensive briefing by military commanders in Marawi City, were one in saying the government victory is upcoming and irreversible.

As of 6 p.m. Saturday, the military said that a total of 367 terrorists had been killed and 367 firearms, most of them high-powered, were recovered.

"We have the momentum. We dictate the operational tempo. We have the support of the people at large. Thus we are confident that the triumph of the forces of good against that of evil is irreversible," said Año.

"It is just a matter of time," he added.

For his part, Lorenzana said that the focus now is the rehabilitation of Marawi City - which has been battered by the conflict which entered its 49th day today.

"Government has trailed its focus on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi as the defeat of the Maute-ISIS group looms with the military operations and the cooperation of local government," said Lorenzana.

"Aided by the principled and properly guided implementation of Martial Law, the collapse of the terrorists support infrastructure is assured," Lorenzana added.

It will be recalled that the President declared martial law in Mindanao immediately after the ISIS-inspired terrorists launched widespread atrocities in Marawi City last May 23.

However, despite the optimism the two top officials are not making any deadline.

But Lorenzana earlier said that it will not be good if the conflict is not over before President Duterte delivers his first ever state of the nation address (SONA) on July 24.

Año cited the continuing advance of government troops toward enemy positions and the terrorists weakening resistance.

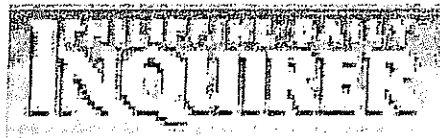
"We draw closer to the conclusion of this crisis each day," said Año.

"We are constantly and daily gaining battle space while the terrorists' grounds recede by the day as our troops press on relentlessly with their advance," the AFP chief added.

Lorenzana and Año visited Marawi City last Friday and received an extensive briefing from top military commanders overseeing the operations there led by Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom).

After the 25-minute briefing, a thorough deliberation and assessment followed unhampered. Lorenzana and Año provided inputs on the ends, ways, and means of the ongoing operations. Adjustments necessary to enhance the concepts of operation and lines of effort to end the 46-day old crises were discussed.

10 July 2017



Page: A10

Survivor's tale: 'Tasty water lilies'

MARAWI CITY—Jun Abapo, his nephew Onkoy Anggay, and fellow construction worker Barok Cueco decided on Wednesday evening to get out of the war zone in Padian (marketplace) here after more than a month of hiding.

The trio were constructing a building owned by an official of Molundo, Lanao del Sur when the fighting erupted on May 23.

"We hid in many structures while the fighting was going around us. Bombs would also drop near our location that our hiding places would shake violently," he said.

Abapo said they grew tired of the gunfire and of the exploding bombs that on Wednesday evening they decided to try their luck and escape.

They tried hard to avoid detection by Islamic State-inspired militants, who regularly patrolled the area, by moving from one house to another until they reached a portion of the Agus River.

Using improvised floaters such as water jugs, Abapo said they followed the flow of the water—occasionally hiding in the vegetation by the riverbank.

Eating water lilies

He said on Thursday morning they were fired upon by the gunmen but they managed to dodge every bullet by constantly diving underwater.

By Thursday evening, although exhausted and hungry, they continued with their goal—to get out of the war zone alive by all means.

"We didn't have anything to eat anymore and we were very hungry. We gathered some water lilies and ate the young stems. It did not taste bad so we just chomped on it," Abapo, a resident of Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte, said as he held back his tears.

For the succeeding days, they would swim by the riverbank while dodging more sniper fire and eat more water lilies whenever they can.

"For us, it was important

that we get out as soon as possible," he added.

But on Saturday evening, while swimming toward the bridge in Barangay Bubong, Abapo said a sniper's bullet hit Cueco.

"I put his body on a ramp by the riverbank," he said.

Separation

During successive snipers' fire, Abapo said he lost sight of Anggay, a son of his younger sister.

"I don't know where he went and I have no knowledge of what has become of his fate," he said, his face growing dim.

"I prayed hard that God give me more protection as I spent more hours on the river," he said.

"By then, water lilies had become 'tasty' already," he added.

On Sunday morning, Abapo said he finally reached the bridge, where he was spotted by a group of soldiers on the other side of the river, near the city hall.

He reckoned it was about 8 a.m. when he started swimming toward them.

Lt Yvonne Altamera, company commander of the Alpha Co. of the 1st Infantry Battalion, said they noticed Abapo swimming toward them amid gunfire.

"We did not return fire so as not to compromise our location but we were yelling to him to just swim toward us," Altamera said.

Surviving terror

It was around 9 a.m. when Abapo was finally plucked out of the water, weak and gasping for air.

"We gave him dry clothes to wear and slippers then brought him to our (battalion) headquarters," Altamera said.

Lt Col. Christopher Tampus, the 1st IB commander, said they immediately informed higher officials about Abapo's rescue.

"He had survived the Mautes' terror," Tampus added. —ALLAN NAWAL AND JOFFREY MAITEM INQ

10 July 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B1

Operations vs Maute fine-tuned, says AFP

BY VICTOR REYES

THE military is fine-tuning operations against members of the Maute Group still holed up in parts of Marawi City, a military official said yesterday.

The adjustments were crafted during a visit of top security officials in Marawi City last Friday, who checked on efforts to end the conflict which is on its 49th day today.

The conflict has so far resulted in the death of 367 Maute members, 85 soldiers and policemen, and 39 civilians.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public-affairs office, declined to give details on the adjustments being made on the ground, saying these are operational details that may compromise the efforts to rid the city of Maute remnants.

The visiting officials were led Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año, National Secretary Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, and the major service commanders.

Arevalo said the top officials were given a 25-minute briefing by Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, commander of the 1st Infantry Division commander and concurrent head of the Joint Task Force Ranao.

“A thorough deliberation and assessment followed unhampered” after the briefing, he said.

Arevalo said Lorenzana, Año and Esperon gave inputs but this does not mean the officials were “imposing” their thoughts on the ground commanders.

Arevalo said the current approach to defeat the Maute may be “perfect” for ground commanders but inputs from “experienced” and “knowledgeable” persons like Lorenzana, Esperon, and Año should be welcomed.

Lorenzana is a former Army major general who commanded the elite Special Operations Command of the Army. Esperon was Armed Forces chief, Army chief, and Army Special Operations Command chief.

“They are merely airing their (views) how it (operations) will be improved,” said Arevalo. He said these inputs were “married” to the concepts of the ground commanders, thus the adjustments.

“It’s going to be implemented because that is what was discussed,” said Arevalo of the adjustments, which he said will hasten the accomplishment of their mission to neutralize the Maute Group, rescue civilian hostages, and pave the way for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the city.

“The overall objective is towards the attainment of the mission. The objective is for us to accomplish our mission better,” said Arevalo.

Arevalo reiterated that the military is not setting a timeline as to when to end the conflict. “It might be detrimental to our interest if we are going to set a deadline.”

Asked if they can finish the job before President Duterte’s state of the nation address on July 24, Arevalo said: “We can’t say that, it’s difficult. It’s like setting a deadline already because SONA is on the 24.”

“We are going to finish it the soonest time possible without sacrificing the safety of our civilians and course our personnel... Our objective is to finish this the soonest time possible given the observations and adjustments. We are hopeful that we are going to accomplish it the soonest time possible but we cannot set a deadline,” said Arevalo.

Arevalo said Lorenzana and Año

See OPERATIONS > Page B3

OPERATIONS

were satisfied at how the operations are being conducted.

Año reiterated that the fighting will be soon over.

“We draw closer to the conclusion of this crisis each day. We are constantly and daily gaining battle space while the terrorists’ grounds recede by the day as our troops press on relentlessly with their advance,” said Año.

“We have the momentum; we dictate the operational tempo; we have the support of the people at large. Thus we are confident that the triumph of the forces of good against that of evil is irreversible. It

is just a matter of time,” said Año.

President Duterte attempted to visit Marawi last Friday but the trip did not push through because of bad weather, Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said in a radio interview yesterday.

Malacañang released photos of Duterte in Iligan City, wearing the Army’s camouflage uniform and with a rifle slung on his shoulder.

Andanar said Duterte was in soldier’s uniform to show solidarity with the forces.

Duterte first planned to visit Marawi on June 30, coinciding with his first year anniversary as president, but had to scrap the plan. – *With Jocelyn Montemayor*

10 July 2017



Page. 5

AFP says end is near for Marawi siege

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff General Eduardo Año expressed belief that the military is drawing closer to the conclusion of the crisis in Marawi City each day.

In a recent visit to the city together with other defense and military officials, Año said government forces are constantly and daily gaining battle space while the ISIS-inspired Maute Group terrorists' grounds recede by the day as troops press on relentlessly with their advance.

"We have the momentum; we dictate the operational tempo; we have the support of the people at large. Thus we are confident that the triumph of the forces of good against that of evil is irreversible," Año said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who also visited the warn-torn city, assured that government is now focusing on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi as the defeat of the Maute-ISIS Group looms.

AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Colonel Edgard Arevalo, said as of 6 p.m. Saturday, the terrorists have suffered 367 killed while a total of 367 firearms have been recovered from them.

Meanwhile, some 39 civilians have been mercilessly killed or executed by the Maute Group. A total of 1,722 civilians who were held hostage or trapped in the main battle were either rescued or brought out of harm's way. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

16 July 2017



Page. 6

Año believes Marawi fighting to end soon

By ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) believed that the crisis in Marawi City brought by the terror attack of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) inspired Maute Terror Group (MTG) will end soon.

AFP Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año, during his fourth visit together with defense and security officials in the city said the terrorists' grounds recede each day as government troops press on relentlessly with their advance.

"We draw closer to the conclusion of this crisis each day. We are constantly and daily gaining battle space while the terrorists' grounds recede by the day as our troops press on relentlessly with their advance. We have

the momentum; we dictate the operational tempo, we have the support of the people at large. Thus we are confident that the triumph of the forces of good against that of evil is irreversible. It is just a matter of time," Año said.

In line with this, Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana assured that the government has already trained its focus on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi as the defeat of the Maute-ISIS Group looms with the military operation and the cooperation of local government.

"Aided by the principled and properly guided implementation of martial law, the collapse of the terrorists support infrastructure is assured. And with the overwhelming support of fellow Filipinos in general and local residents in particular,

we can altogether deter terrorists from causing further havoc in other parts of our country," Lorenzana said.

Record from the AFP showed that as of 6 p.m. on July 8, 2017 the terrorists already suffered 367 members killed while 39 civilians were mercilessly killed and executed by the terrorists.

As of press time a total of 1,722 civilians who were held hostage or trapped in the main battle were rescued.

The AFP also cited the overwhelming support of Filipinos here and abroad and citizens from other parts of the globe to the troops fighting for the liberation of Marawi City.

As of July 2017, the cash donations for the orphans of soldiers killed in action have already exceeded P3.22 million while donations for Internally Displaced Persons has reached over P0.764 million.

With Genine Kassandra Gatdula (OJT)

10 July 2017



Page: 1

Military air strikes target high-rise Marawi snipers

Snipers in high-rise buildings are the main problem facing government forces battling to crush pro-Islamic State fighters who have occupied Marawi 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

air strikes against the militants despite the massive damage it may cause in the city.

"If we do not use air strikes, 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 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

Turn to Page 2

Military From Page 1

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 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.

- AFP

16 July 2017



Pahina. 3

Snipers ng Maute tatargetin ng airstrike

NAKATUTOK ngayon ang militar sa pagsasagawa ng serye ng "bomb run" laban sa mga natitirang sniper ng teroristang Maute na kumukubli sa matataas na gusali na isa sa mga suliraning humahadlang sa nais ng security forces na tapusin na ang giyera sa Marawi City.

Ito ang nakikitang mas

mabilis na solusyon ng AFP, ang paggamit muli ng kanilang air assets para buwagin nang tuluyan ang mga nakapuwetong sniper na nagpapahirap para umabante sa gitna ng warzone ang ground troops.

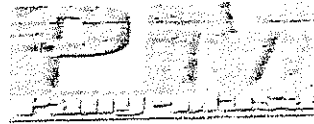
Ayon kay Joint Task Force Marawi Spokesperson Lt. Col. Jo Ar Herrera, kapag hindi nila ginamitan ng air strike ay lalong dadami ang casual-

ties mula sa government forces.

Ibinunyag din ni Herrera na tukoy na rin nila ang ilang defensive positions na sa ngayon ay subject ng kanilang surgical airstrikes.

Ibinunyag din ng AFP na nasa 80 pang Maute terrorists ang nananatili sa Marawi at patuloy na nakikipaglaban sa mga sundalo. **JEFF GALLOS**

10 July 2017



Pahina. 2

Bago maka-graduate...

MAUTE 'CHILD WARRIORS' DAPAT MAMUGOT

Kailangan umanong makapugot ng ulo ang isang 'child warrior' na sinasana ng mga Maute Terror Group bago sila maka-graduate.

Ito ang kwento ng isa sa mga batang mandirigma bilang pagsubok para maka-graduate sila, kailangan nilang mamugot ng sinumang jutos sa kanila at kung hindi susunod, sila umano ang malalagot.

Batay sa kwento ni 'Faisal', di niya tunay na pangalan ay napasama siya sa Maute group na naghasik ng karahasan sa Marawi noon pang 10 anyos pa lamang siya.

Sinabi niya rin na bago pa sumiklab ang gulo, matagal na silang nakapagplanta ng mga supply ng bala sa iba't

ibang bahay sa lungsod.

Nahuli ang 17 anyos na alyas 'Faisal' sa isang kalapit na bayan ng Marawi. Isa umano siya sa mga tauban ni Abdul-lah Maute na kabilang sa mga namuno sa pag-atake sa Marawi.

Sabi nila, "sino magsama mag-Jihad kasi lahat ng mga babae sa atin pinatay, lahat ng mga babae nating Muslim pinatay ng mga sundalo," kaya sumama ako sa kanila" ani Faisal sa ulat ng TV Network.

Kuwento pa ng binatilyo, naging bahagi siya ng grupong nangangasiwa sa ammunition o mga armas at balang ginagamit ng mga terorista sa bakbakan.

NI RHODERICK BENEZ

Kasama niya ang pinsan ni Abdullah na si Usman Maute, isa ring wanted dahil sa terorismo.

Ani Faisal, bago pa man sumiklab ang gulo noong Mayo 23, nagplanta na sila ng mga bala sa ilang bahay sa lungsod.

Pero di nabanggit ng binatilyo kung ito'y may aktuwal na pahintulot ng mga may-ari ng bahay o patago nilang itinatanim ang mga balang gagamitin pala ng Maute kalaunan.

Dagdag pa ng binatilyo, wala pang 10 miyembro ng Maute ang nasa Marawi nang mag-simula ang gulo noong Mayo 23.

Pero dumami ang

mga nakikipaglabar nang sumama na ang ilang residente ng lungsod. Sumama rin ang mga presong pinakawalan ng Maute.

P15,000 kada buwan (suweldo). Kapa mag-graduate ka, sab ng trainor namin ma dadagdagan ng P5,000 magiging P20,000. Wika ni Faisal.

July 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 27

AFP carries Bicolanos' aid for Marawi refugees

BY RHAYDZ B. BARCIA

TABACO CITY, Albay: Capt. Ronnie Madrinan of the Philippine Army's 9th Infantry Division's Public Affairs Office on Friday led a humanitarian team from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in transporting relief goods and nearly P1 million given by Bicolanos to Marawi City refugees.

Madrinan led at least five military and government trucks loaded with 200 sacks of rice, canned goods, noodles and used clothing generated after almost three weeks of knocking at the doors of the people of the Bicol Region seeking aid for evacuees affected by more than one month of fighting between the AFP and the Islamic State-affiliated Maute Group.

Besides the military and government trucks packed with goods, the AFP collected P800,000 in cash from the Bicolanos to be handed over by Madrinan to the city social welfare office of Marawi City currently stationed in neighboring Lanao del Norte, Iligan City.

Madrinan left Tabaco City international seaport via commercial ferry boat *Regina Calixta* owned by Catanduanes Gov. Joseph Cua bound for Virac, Catanduanes to get the goods gathered by the people of the province.

The AFP Bicol was given 50 percent discount in shipping fees by *Regina Calixta* management

From Virac, Madrinan will be transporting the goods to Iligan using a cargo ship also owned by Cua for free.

The AFP Bicol has been receiving donations from people from all walks of life, with Carlo Lincaso, owner of a thrift store in Legazpi City and former cameraman of GMA7 donating five big sacks of used clothes for the Marawi refugees.

The donation was picked up by Tactical Operations Group 5-Philippine Air Force in Bicol and transported to Tabaco City international seaport for the trip to Virac.

"We're grateful to the Bicolanos because in just less than three weeks, we were able to produce P800,000 and assorted relief goods for war-torn Marawi. The Bicolanos share whatever they can. These goods and money came solely from the Bicolanos, our stakeholders," Madrinan said.

He added that the relief goods will be handed over to the Marawi social welfare office.

The AFP launched the "Pagmakulog sa Sadiring Lahi (Compassion for our Fellowmen)" project, an initiative to lend a hand to the evacuees, on June 19 in Bicol's six provinces.

The kick-off was led by Army Gen. Manuelito Orense, commanding officer of the 9th Infantry Division.

After the launch, the AFP in Bicol also tapped social media

to appeal for help from netizens and local radio stations across the region.

The project aims to encourage Bicolanos to give any form of assistance to boost the morale of the displaced families.

According to Madrinan, they will sail for three days to reach Iligan City.

"We hope that the war in Marawi will be over, so that the displaced

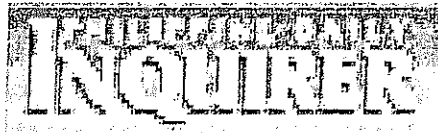
families can return home," he said.

The AFP in Bicol earlier sent at least three battalions to Mindanao before the Marawi City clashes erupted to go after Maute Group terrorists.

Since the Marawi siege started on May 23, at least three Marines from the Bicol Region and an Army soldier have been killed in action.

The fallen heroes were given military honors here.

16 July 2017



Page: A21

'DEFYING THE LOGIC OF WAR'

MILF PERPLEXED AT THE WAY MAUTE GROUP IS FIGHTING MILITARY

By Ryan D. Rosaura
@inquirermindanao

ILIGAN CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a 40-year veteran of separatist insurgency in Mindanao, is perplexed at the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute terrorist group fighting the government head-on.

In a statement posted on its official website, the MILF said on Sunday the Maute group was “defying the logic of war.”

Guerrilla warfare

“A weak party can only fight a strong party through a highly mobile warfare ... If the MILF has managed to stay alive and kicking to this day, it is because of the early realization that a weak party can never fight a [strong] party effectively, except by using various guerrilla warfare, including psychological war operation,” the MILF said.

Styling itself as a local branch of the IS jihadist group in Iraq and Syria, the Maute



A member of the Maute group guards food inside a house in Marawi City. —PHOTO FROM ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

group, backed by the Abu Sayyaf faction led by Isnilon Hapilon, rampaged through Marawi on May 23 and seized parts of a city in a bid to establish an IS enclave in Southeast Asia.

The MILF dismissed that

goal as “more in the mind rather than an immediate possibility.”

Martyrdom

It said the Maute terrorists’ “apparent wish or love [of] martyrdom” prevented them from pursuing guerrilla warfare as a means to advance their cause.

“It is their belief or obsession that martyrdom brings them direct to heaven ... This perhaps explained their almost stationary style of fighting, especially during the early part of the siege of Marawi City,” the MILF said.

Prior to signing a peace deal with the government, the MILF fought four major wars with the military, the longest of which was in 2000, lasting some five months and concluding with the capture of its main camp in Maguindanao.

At the time the peace agreement was signed in 2014, the MILF had an estimated 12,000 fully armed fighters. INQ

10 July 2017



Page: 3

AFP to create unit to defend RP cyberspace

With the Internet now being used as a platform for attacks by various threat groups nationwide, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday announced that it will build up a capable "cyber workforce" that will secure and defend the military's information networks and systems.

This was announced by AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo as the military concludes its Cybersecurity Summit which is aimed at educating and informing its members about the latest trends in cybersecurity.

It tapped partners from the information and communications

technology sector to impart knowledge and strategies on how to address the latest cybersecurity threats.

"It is high time that the AFP raise awareness for a secure and resilient AFP cyberspace as we adapt to the rapid technological advancements brought by the digital age," Arevalo stated.

The two-day summit was spearheaded by the Office of the Deputy Chief-of-Staff for Communication Electronics and Information System (CEIS).

It took place last June 28 to 29 at AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

It gathered some of the military's information technology experts as well as representatives from the CEIS offices of the AFP Major Services and Unified Commands, Philippine National Police, and Philippine Coast Guard.

Resource persons from the Department of Information and Communications Technology, PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group, National Privacy Commission, and other partners from the private sector attended the event.

Among the topics discussed in the summit were the National Cybersecurity Plan 2022, Data Privacy Act of 2012, Cyber Crime and Prevention and Cyber Threat Awareness and Updates.

During the summit, AFP deputy chief-of-staff for CEIS Major Gen. Jose Tanjuan Jr., announced that his office has been developing a strategic plan specifically to enhance the military's cyberspace capabilities. **PNA**



Sharing responsibility Rescuers demonstrate their skills in quick response and disaster preparedness during the 22nd Police Community Relations Month or PCR Month with the theme: "Sharing Responsibility-Taking Action in Unity" celebration at the PNP Transformation Oval in Camp Crame, Quezon City yesterday. **PNA**

16 July 2017



Page. A1

Military eyes 'cyber force' to stop terror's Internet blitz

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines on Sunday announced it will build a "cyber workforce" that will secure and defend the military's information networks and systems.

Armed Forces spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo made the statement after various groups started using the internet as a platform for attacks.

He made the statement after the military concluded its Cybersecurity Summit aimed at educating and informing its members about the latest trends in Cybersecurity.

"It is high time the AFP raised awareness for a secure and resilient AFP cyberspace as we adapt to the rapid technological advancements brought by the digital age," Arevalo said

The two-day summit was spearheaded by the Office of the Deputy Chief-of-Staff for Communication Electronics and Information System. It took place on June 28 to 29 in Camp Aguinaldo.

The meeting gathered some of the military's information technology experts and representatives from the CEIS offices of the AFP Major Services and Unified Commands, Philippine National Police and Philippine Coast Guard.

Resource persons from the Department of Information and Communications Technology, PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group, National Privacy Commission and other partners from the private sector attended the event.

Among the topics discussed in the summit

Next page

Military...

From A1

were the National Cybersecurity Plan 2022, Data Privacy Act of 2012, Cyber Crime and Prevention, and Cyber Threat Awareness and Updates

Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff for CEIS Major Gen. Jose Tanjuan Jr. said his office had been developing a plan to enhance the military's cyberspace

capabilities.

"The development of the AFP Cyberspace Strategic Plan is one of the thrusts of the AFP in attaining information security," Tanjuan said.

"It will provide the Armed Forces with a road map that will lead us to the realization of a fully cyberspace-capable organization by 2022."

The AFP Cyberspace Strategic Plan is expected to be finalized within the third quarter of 2017.

PNA

10 July 2017

Malaya

The National Newspaper

Page: B1



actical briefing. Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año (second from left, front row) listens as Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command, conducts a briefing at the 103rd Infantry Brigade Headquarters, Camp Ranau in Marawi City.

AFP PHOTO

10 July 2017

Malaya

The National Newspaper

Page: B4

'Martial law pa more'

SPEAKER Pantaleon Alvarez said he will be pushing for the extension of martial law in Mindanao declared by President Duterte last May 23 and is supposed to end on July 22, two days before he delivers his second State-of-the Nation address.


Alvarez, who has shepherded a docile House of Representatives to Duterte's bidding, said Saturday, "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 did not say what is needed that cannot be done without the sword of martial law hanging over Mindanao.

Duterte himself does not seem so eager to lift martial law in Mindanao. News reports said when he was asked last week if he would lift it before delivers his second SONA on July 24, he replied, "No".

"I consulted the [military and the police] and [they] said it was criti-

ELLEN TORDESILLAS



If he is getting high scores with martial law, why should he stop? He should give the Filipino people more of the same.

cal. It will be the Armed Forces and the police who will say if it's no longer critical," Duterte said.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesperson said they are still assessing the situation in Marawi which is entering its seventh week as a battlefield between government forces and terrorist groups of Maute and Abu Sayyaf which get support from the dreaded Middle East-based ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq

and Syria).

There is no pressure for Duterte to end his martial law declaration in Mindanao. In fact, he is getting all the support. The Supreme Court upheld the validity of his martial law declaration in the whole of Mindanao overwhelmingly 11-4.

Actually, only Associate Justice Marvic Leonen opposed his declaration all the way. Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Car-

pio supported his declaration of martial law but said it should be confined only to Marawi. Chief Justice Lourdes Sereno and Associate Justice Benjamin Caguioa saw the need for martial law in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, and Sulu.

The Filipino people do not seem to worry about martial law in Mindanao as reflected in the Social Weather Station Survey conducted last June 23 through 26 with 66 percent of the respondents satisfied with the way Duterte is running the country.

Never mind that in Mindanao, his net satisfaction rating dipped 12 points from 87 in March to 75 in June. His satisfaction rating increased in Luzon and Visayas for an overall assessment of "very good."

If he is getting high scores with martial law, why should he stop? He should give the Filipino people more of the same.

The Filipino people's embrace of Duterte reminds us of boiling

See MARTIAL > Page B5

MARTIAL

frog. If you put a frog into a pot of boiling water, it will leap out right way to escape the danger because

his survival instincts are geared towards detecting sudden changes.

But, if you put a frog in a kettle that is filled with unheated water, it will enjoy the coolness and become complacent. It will not im-

mediately react if you gradually heat the kettle.

Before he knows it, the water is boiling and it would be too late for him to jump out of the kettle. He will end up a boiled frog.

There's a lesson to learn from the nilagang palaka.

Blog: www.ellentordesillas.com
E-mail: ellentordesillas@gmail.com

10 July 2017



Page: 6

Non-issue

FRONTLINE



Ninez Cacho-Olivares

Obviously, President Duterte will have to get his martial law imposition extended by Congress, and he probably will easily get it from Congress shortly after he delivers his State of the Nation Address on the 24th.

He said as much the other day when he stated martial law in Mindanao will be maximized, giving no indication that he will be lifting this before he delivers his Sona.

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

It was his defense chief, Delfin Lorenzana who kept on pushing the end of the Marawi war before the Sona, but even this may not occur, since Duterte says the time to lift martial law would be dependent on the assessment of the military, and the police, which to this day, the assessment remains "critical" or so he says.

Truth is, save for the critics, the issue of martial law being extended or being lifted is a non-issue with the general public,

mainly because the martial law Duterte-style is nothing like the martial law imposed for years by then President Ferdinand Marcos where the protected rights of the citizens were not respected and where Congress was completely shut down and abolished. The media were subjected to censorship and the political foes of Marcos and his regime, were all arrested and detained.

This Marcos style martial law is of course being made an argument by the Rody critics against the imposition of martial law by him, which argument does not fly precisely because the general public is witness to the fact that Rody's martial law is nothing like the martial law imposed by Marcos.

The fact alone that there are enough safeguards against a return to Marcos-style martial law ensures that there can be no return of the past martial law imposed in 1972.

This is the reason the arguments of the critics of martial law, which criticisms even extend to the Supreme Court's ruling being "too deferential to the President"

just doesn't fly with the Filipinos.

It really is difficult to buy the arguments of Rody's critics and not just on martial law. It is as if they seem to want the Islamic State-identified Maute terrorists to succeed in their plan to establish a provincial caliphate for IS whose leader and fighters in Mosul and Raqqa are being decimated.

It seem that all these critics want to get Rody and his government ousted for them – especially the yellows – to again be in power and position, which is fairly improbable at this time, since the yellows, whether they admit it or not, stink – as far as the general public is concerned.

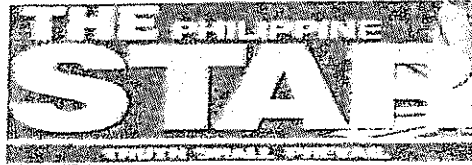
Besides, despite Rody's martial law imposition, his survey numbers are extremely high, and no matter what his arch critic Antonio Trillanes tries to muddy the high ratings by pointing to a 12 percent drop in Mindanao, heck, the numbers remain high.

Trillanes is now looking like a wet rag, coming up with analyses that are all shown when it comes to his criticisms of Duterte.

But that is not surprising, considering that even his coached and perjured witnesses such as Edgar Matobato, who is a fugitive and yet another witness who was obviously a paid witness, who also left the country and vanished, afraid to face the murder charges filed against him by the widow of the radio announcer the same witness claimed he killed.

As long as there are no abuses under a martial law regime, none of the criticisms thrown at Rody by his critics, especially the yellows and the political opposition, their arguments are likely to be thumbed down.

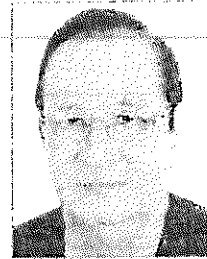
July 2017



Page: 13

INTROSPECTIVE

TONY KATIGBAK



'Peace talks' and empty promises

I can't understand why the president has once again agreed to sit down for "peace talks" with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). This marks the fifth time that the president has been open to talking and yet in all this time nothing has been done. It's quite frustrating because they are continuing with their extortion and attacks and it just seems like we can't do anything about it. We keep giving them a "seat at the table" so-to-speak and yet they haven't made any show of good faith that they will actually live up to their end of the bargain.

Honestly, when this began I understood where the president was coming from. After all, I am all for talking and working it out instead of fighting. Unfortunately it just seems like they constantly yank his chain and never actually do what they say. How much longer is the government supposed to wait for the CPP to come around and live up to their end? They have no qualms asking for everything but the kitchen sink but they refuse to give up anything. I think that alone should already send a message loud and clear.

I can feel President Duterte's frustration. After all, prior to his taking office he had been very vocal about coming to terms with the communists and being able to negotiate a win-win situation for everyone. It seems that now that the time has come he can't make any headway. It must be like banging his head on the wall. Curiously enough, we have to ask how much longer he will agree to this back and forth that hasn't amounted to anything?

I thought that the last time the talks fell through the president had had enough. I still remember he had angrily ordered his men to come home because they could not reach an agreement with the rebels. What has changed since then that has made him want to revisit talks again? Does he believe that this time

around will be any different? Seems to me that they will continue to ask for everything they want without being willing to give anything substantial in return. After all, let's face it, that's how they operate – fear and attacks and terror are their weapons to bend the government to their will so why would they ever agree to anything less than their initial demands? It just seems like an exercise in futility if you ask me.

And I am not the only one who thinks so. Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Monday that he also believes the government should stop talks with the communist rebels if they refuse to stop attacking state security forces. And he makes a good point. After all, what is the point of talking about peace when they continue with their rampage in the countryside extorting and kidnapping? At this point a show of good faith (and more) is necessary to bring everyone to the table again.

In the end, I am all for peace but we have to set a limit to the price we are willing to pay for it. We can't just give in because we are enamored with the idea of a "peace" and a "ceasefire." They have already gone back on their word more than once. The president has to enter into any new set of discussions with eyes wide open and make some demands of his own. In this way, maybe they will take the process more seriously and actually start some real change.

In some good news, on the other hand, the Department of Agriculture has recently announced it has launched a P200M loan program in its bid to provide affordable credit to farmers and fisherman in the country. This great program, the brainchild of the Secretary of Agriculture, is a very good effort and one deserving of our support. The program will target the poorest regions and

communities and allow farmers and fisherman the chance to avail of loans and financial services without the stringent requirements of most financial institutions.

I have always said that I believe we need to invest in our agriculture industry and I'm very happy to see that this program is a step in the right direction. We need to realize that despite technology booming at an incredible rate our farmers and fisherman still feed us. At the current rate they are going the agriculture sector is deteriorating and they are losing the younger generation. I saw a billboard that appropriately stated that the average age of farmers in the country now is roughly over 50 years old. The ad went on to ask "Who will feed us in the next ten years?"

That's a scary but very important thought. So many traditional professions like farming and fishing are being left behind and those in the field are getting older and older. It is important to breathe new life into the agriculture industry and make sure that it has a future or the future of everyone will be quite grim indeed.

* * *

I'm glad that the Anti-Distracted Driving Law is now in full effect. Despite the need for clarifications I have always been in favor of this law because I feel drivers should not be distracted or have their focus split when behind the wheel. We must admit that it's a big and legitimate problem when mobile use behind the wheel has resulted in as many accidents as drunk driving. The time has come to hold people responsible for their actions.

Now, drivers must be very careful behind the wheel or face a hefty fine (somewhere from P5,000 for the first offense and above) or having their license revoked. It may seem harsh but it is important to truly get the message across. In time I believe we'll all adjust and it will become a normal road rule much like wearing seatbelts. I remember when the seatbelt law was implemented, people also reacted badly but it was only a matter of time before they started following. Hopefully the same holds true for this.

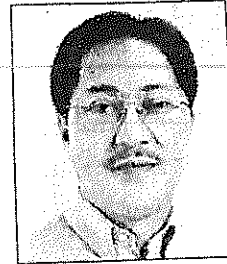
Now honestly, if only there was something that could be done about the horrendous traffic too! I truly believe people would be less tempted to spend so much time on their phones if they weren't stuck on the road for hours on end.

July 2017



Page: 13

GOTCHA JARIUS BONDOC



Martial law head nixes scalawags in Mindanao

The martial law administrator is against reassigning scalawag cops to Mindanao for disciplining. "Personally, for me, don't bring them here," Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana opined to the press last week. "We need good people to come here to fight this war."

He was reacting to Philippine National Police director general Ronald dela Rosa's sending two Metro Manila patrolmen to Marawi City for brutality. One was caught on video caning two detained drunks while the other did nothing to stop it. Dela Rosa ordered the hardship posting upon watching the video. Government troops are into their eighth week of house-to-house fighting to regain downtown Marawi from Maute Islamist terrorists.

"But what would they do here?" Lorenzana reacted to the cops' transfer. "Others don't want to come here." Born

and raised in Mindanao, Lorenzana as an Army officer participated in the capture of three Moro separatist camps in the late 1990s. Recalling his military stint, he said the assignment of scalawags from Luzon to Mindanao only gave the commanders problems. Lorenzana was designated administrator of martial law in Mindanao that President Rodrigo Duterte imposed on May 23. The defense chief is in charge of planning the military and police drive against violent extremists.

Muslim Autonomous Region Assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong also opposed dela Rosa's action. "It's quite offensive to treat us as a trash bin for abusive cops," he said as spokesman for the Marawi crisis committee overseeing 300,000 war evacuees. "To use the Marawi siege as punishment shows insensitivity."

Adiong and Lorenzana worried that Mindanao as disciplinary posting would trivialize the Marawi situation. Eighty-seven soldiers and three policemen have been killed in the fierce fighting. Government forces have displayed extraordinary deeds. Wounded soldiers keep volunteering to the battlefield, along with officers taking leaves of absence from

long-planned schooling in Manila. Five Muslim policemen withstood five weeks of starvation to protect five Christian civilians trapped in a terrorist-held area.

Still dela Rosa sent the two erring cops to Mindanao. He challenged newsmen to lay bets that the duo would become "the best" after their disciplinary stint. Dela Rosa too was born and raised in Mindanao, where he rose up the police ranks.

This is the third time under the Duterte administration that high officials howled against Mindanao postings of rogues in uniform. The first was in July 2016, when dela Rosa, newly designated as PNP chief, sent there 32 Quezon City anti-narcotics cops suspected of reselling confiscated meth. The second time was in February 2017, when 385 Metro Manila cops, with cases ranging from extortion to absenteeism, were sent to Basilan, where the Abu Sayyaf Islamists

kidnappers for ransom were rampaging.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, who hails from Mindanao, and Muslim Autonomous Region Gov. Mujiv Hataman back then said Mindanao deserved better policemen than scalawags from Luzon.

At that time dela Rosa did not mean Mindanao posting to produce the "best." His three reasons then were that there are no Korean retirees in Basilan for the crooked cops to kidnap for ransom, that the Moros would kill offending cops, and that the Mindanao posting would rid the PNP general headquarters of administrative headaches.

If dela Rosa now says Mindanao is good for discipline, it would be worthwhile to report what happened to the first batch of 32 and second batch of 385 transferees. Duterte said then that bad cops can become the worst criminals because they know the ins and outs of the law. Dela Rosa estimated that only two percent of the 160,000-strong PNP are crooked, but in the wake of the kidnap-murder of Korean businessman Jee Ick-joo, Duterte remarked that 60 percent of the force is "rotten to the core."

Two senators stood by de la Rosa's

Turn to page 14

BONDOC From page 13

disciplinary option. Francis Escudero and Gregorio Honasan said personnel reassignment is dela Rosa's prerogative. So long as the offenders criminally and administratively are charged, there's nothing wrong, Escudero explained. Honasan advised the executive officials to focus instead on the terrorist problem, like how the Maute jihadists were able to stockpile arms and food for the Marawi siege.

Two senators criticised dela Rosa. Bam Aquino said the posting of rogue cops will only further deteriorate the trust of Mindanaoans in policemen. Sherwin Gatchalian likened the rotten cops to cancer that must be excised and not merely transferred.

Catch *Sapod* radio show, Saturdays, 8-10 a.m., DWIZ (882-AM).

Gotcha archives on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jarius-Bondoc/1376602159218459>, or The STAR website <http://www.philstar.com/author/jarius%20Bondoc/GOTCHA>

10 July 2017



Page: 19

PMA Class 1965 vs Cebu Pacific

And this is where my story begins.

On May 26, 2017, four members of the class, including one widow, booked online round-trip tickets to Tagbilaran, Bohol, via Cebu Pacific. They were to attend the burial of a deceased classmate, Rear Admiral Manuel De Leon. Incidentally, De Leon was the first Philippine Coast Guard Commandant after the Coast Guard was transferred from the Department of National Defense to the Department of Transportation and Communications, now the Department of Transportation.

While making their bookings online, they realized there was neither a place to enter the information that they were all senior citizens, nor was there a clear notice or advice that senior citizen discounts were not allowed for online bookings. The following day they proceeded to SM Fairview to pay for their tickets, thinking that the senior citizen discount would then be implemented at the payment center. Not finding any Cebu Pacific office at SM Fairview, they went to a BDO payment center, presented their senior citizen IDs and asked for the senior discount. To their surprise, the receiving clerk informed them that she could only accept payment in the amount indicated in the online booking entry which was P50,265.44. They paid the whole amount, thinking that the discounts would be implemented at the Cebu Pacific counter at the airport. However, upon checking in they were told by the counter clerk that senior citizen discounts were not granted for online-booked tickets.

Upon their return to Manila, they proceeded to the Cebu Pacific office at the airport to seek clarification as to why they were not granted the senior citizen discount. They were referred to a supervisor, Francis Dalagot, who in turn informed them that an Ivan Gaw would attend to their complaint based on the Passenger Feedback form which they were asked to fill out. In the form, they pointed out that the airline was in violation of the Senior Citizen Law, and asked for a reimbursement of the discount to which they were entitled to under the law. They included their names and contact numbers. Until now, there has been no response from Cebu Pacific.

My comments:

DOTC-DTI Administrative Order No. 01, Series of 2012, provides for a "Bill of Rights for Air Passengers and Carrier Obligations." Under this Bill of Rights is Section 4.2 that in part reads: "In case of online booking, the air carrier must establish a system wherein the purchaser is fully apprised of the required disclosures under this Section twice prior to final submission of his/her online offer to purchase."

But even in the absence of this administrative order, the fundamental law is quite clear. Republic Act No. 9904, known as the Expanded Senior Citizen Act of 2010, grants senior citizens a 20-percent discount for "actual transportation fare for domestic air transport services." The Implementing Rules and Regulations of this law specifically reads as follows: "Fare for domestic air and sea travel including advanced booking, shall be subject to the 20% discount and VAT exemption, if applicable."

In this particular case, Cebu Pacific did not comply with the Bill of Rights for Air Passengers, and violated RA 9904, by not granting the senior citizen discount. Neither did Cebu Pacific get in touch with the passengers to explain its position.

Lengthy legal proceedings will not benefit either the community of senior citizens or the business organization concerned. Let us get together to ensure that the law is observed in a manner convenient for our elderly citizens. In the end, we all benefit from helping each other.

In March 1965 the Philippine Military Academy graduated 57 brand-new second lieutenants for the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The commander in chief then was President Diosdado Macapagal, while the AFP chief of staff was Gen. Alfredo M. Santos, an engineer-turned-soldier who was corps commander of the Mapua Institute of Technology ROTC contingent in his college years.

The valedictorian of the class was Cadet Antonio Daza, younger brother of Rep. Raul Daza of Samar. Aside from the Presidential Sabre that was reserved for the class topnotcher, Daza would win many of the awards that were handed out during graduation rites at Fort Del Pilar. The First Captain, or "Baron," was Cadet Felix Turingan, from the Mountain Province. Turingan, along with Cadet Rex Robles of Iloilo, would later on become stalwart members of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement during the crisis years of the Marcos regime.

At the height of their careers, Romeo Padiernos would serve as commander, Southern Command, while Jose Lapuz would head Central Command in the Visayas. Romeo Malig was one of my key officials at the Bureau of Customs. He would later become the first Filipino to head American President Lines in Manila.

At the turn of the century, members of the class started to drop out of the service as they reached the compulsory retirement age of 56 years. Many would join the private sector while one, Ernesto Sacro, would be installed as a bishop of a Protestant community in the country. Jose Solquillo is an executive with the Lucio Tan group of companies, while Tirso Rosal served as a security consultant with Hanjin Shipyard in Subic after a stint as director of the PNP Computer Service.

Today all the living members of the class, together with the widows, are basically senior citizens of our society. They proudly carry senior citizen identification cards.

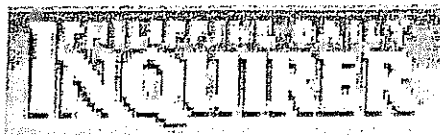


REVELLE

RAMON J. FAROLAN

AC

10 July 2017



Page: A19

Leonen's baseless anti-martial law dissent

Jakarta—Many were “shookt” by Justice Marvic Leonen’s dissent—before the Lagman decision was out!—because only he argued martial law is invalid even in Marawi City. Some headlines dubbed Leonen the “lone dissenter,” fake news that undermined Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Justice Benjamin Caguioa’s dissents.

The script styles Leonen as a new Claudio Teehankee, the Marcos Court’s great lone dissenter. Leonen fueled it by tweeting his dissent at 6 p.m., on July 5, hours before Lagman’s release.

People quote the dissent’s lines with great emotional appeal, but the actual legal portions have no basis. It is structured like an Antonio Contreras post bashing law using political science.

First, Leonen argues martial law is invalid as President Duterte declared it but did not define what it allows.

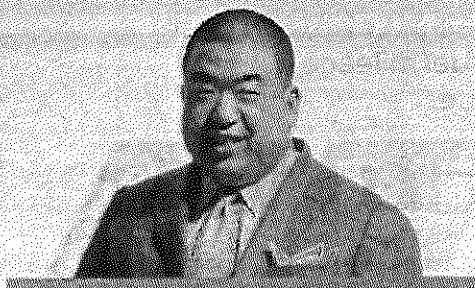
But that is Leonen’s job. Past presidents declared a “state of rebellion” or “state of national emergency.” The Supreme Court ruled these grant no new powers.

Second, Leonen argues Mr. Duterte should use normal “calling out” power to deploy the army, not martial law. But this is a political, not legal, point.

Third, Leonen argues the wrong case. The issue is Mr. Duterte’s sufficient—not perfect—factual basis. Passing is 50 percent, not 90 percent. Justices thus gauge the big picture, not single factual errors.

Leonen goes far beyond facts to show Mr. Duterte interprets intelligence reports and the cultural context of Salafi-jihadis. He insists hundreds of armed men are terrorists and cannot possibly be rebels.

Even if he is right, we elected Mr. Duterte, not him. The Constitution



SISYPHUS' LAMENT

OSCAR FRANKLIN TAN

allows Congress—not the Supreme Court—to review Mr. Duterte’s interpretation of facts. Because passing is only 50 percent, note nonfanatic scholars from Carpio to former solicitor general Florin Hilbay stop short of questioning factual basis in Marawi itself, a sure “gg.”

Fourth, Leonen imprecisely conflates martial law and calling out. He rightly asks why armed forces orders on martial law mix dismantling the New People’s Army, private armies and drug syndicates.

But the president may “call out” troops any time. Invalidating abuse of calling out is separate from invalidating martial law.

Fifth, Leonen breaks from centuries of martial law doctrine to search for new bases. He applied “void for vagueness”—a freedom of speech doctrine—to the martial law declaration’s text, an odd mix and match.

Nothing destroys an advocacy more than forcing far-reaching but weak arguments over measured but solid ones. Previously, Leonen argued the “National Pantheon” law prohibits the Marcos burial. All other justices, even dissenters, ruled this is

a different cemetery from the Libingan ng Inga Bayani.

If Leonen is right, we must impeach the entire Supreme Court for gross incompetence—they could not even find the right cemetery!

The Lagman decision’s shocking surprise was—and not all justices agree—that Supreme Court review of martial law must be all or nothing. If the Supreme Court upholds, geographic scope is left solely to Mr. Duterte. It claims to have no power to effect Carpio’s dissent, echoed by Sereno and Caguioa, that martial law is valid in Marawi but not all of Mindanao because of the decades-old doctrine that there must be “actual,” not just “imminent,” rebellion.

Does factual basis in Marawi thus allow Mr. Duterte to declare martial law nationwide and replace Batanes’ governor?

Martial law means replacing civilian government that broke down with the military. Carpio asserted—and Solicitor General Jose Calida agreed—that Mr. Duterte has no new powers under martial law where there is no actual fighting. This fits within Lagman and was echoed by concurring justices such as Presbitero Velasco.

If the Supreme Court explicitly adopts this on reconsideration, it would both preserve the commander in chief’s traditional latitude but deter abuse of martial law. Sadly, we are too fixated with Leonen’s tweets to pursue the real debate.

My read order: Del Castillo-Jardeleza-Carpio-Sereno-Velasco-Bernabe-Peraltade Castro-Bersamin-Mendoza-Leonen-Caguioa-Tijam-Martires-Reyes.

React: oscarfranklin.tan@yahoo.com.ph, Twitter @oscarbftan, facebook.com/OscarFranklinTan.

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

ONLINE NEWS 10 JULY 2017

www.pna.gov.ph

AFP to create unit to defend PH military cyberspace

With the Internet now being used as a platform for attacks by various threat groups nationwide, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday announced that it will build up a capable "cyber workforce" that will secure and defend the military's information networks and systems.

This was announced by AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo as the military concludes its Cybersecurity Summit which is aimed at educating and informing its members about the latest trends in cybersecurity.

It tapped partners from the information and communications technology sector to impart knowledge and strategies on how to address the latest cybersecurity threats.

"It is high time that the AFP raise awareness for a secure and resilient AFP cyberspace as we adapt to the rapid technological advancements brought by the digital age," Arevalo stated.

The two-day summit was spearheaded by the Office of the Deputy Chief-of-Staff for Communication Electronics and Information System (CEIS).

It took place last June 28 to 29 at AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

It gathered some of the military's information technology experts as well as representatives from the CEIS offices of the AFP Major Services and Unified Commands, Philippine National Police, and Philippine Coast Guard.

Resource persons from the Department of Information and Communications Technology, PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group, National Privacy Commission, and other partners from the private sector attended the event.

Among the topics discussed in the summit were the National Cybersecurity Plan 2022, Data Privacy Act of 2012, Cyber Crime and Prevention, and Cyber Threat Awareness and Updates.

During the summit, AFP deputy chief-of-staff for CEIS Major Gen. Jose Tanjuan, Jr. , announced that his office has been developing a strategic plan specifically to enhance the military's cyberspace capabilities.

"The development of the AFP Cyberspace Strategic Plan is one of the thrusts of the AFP in attaining information security. It will provide the Armed Forces with a roadmap that will lead us to the realization of a fully cyberspace-capable organization by 2022," he added.

The AFP Cyberspace Strategic Plan is expected to be finalized within the third quarter of 2017. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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

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

www.pna.gov.ph

(News Feature) Majority of MID assets now seeing action in Marawi City

A large portion of the country's armored assets are now seeing action in the ongoing operations to clear Marawi City of the remaining Maute Group terrorists.

This was bared by Mechanized Infantry Division (MID) public affairs office chief Capt. Emman Adriano in an interview with the PNA over the weekend.

"(Armored assets deployed) are four mechanized battalions, one cavalry squadron and one light armored troop. All of our newly acquired armored vehicles are now deployed in Marawi City," he added in Filipino.

These units consists of more than 120 armored vehicles of various types.

The EDA Program grants excess US military equipment, without cost, to qualified allied countries.

The new armored vehicles, Adriano is referring to the 114 M-113A2 armored personnel carriers acquired from the US through the Excess Defense Articles Program (EDA) in 2016.

The latter program gives excess American military equipment, without cost, to qualified allied countries.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines virtually got these additional armored assets for free saved for the shipping costs which amounted to PHP67.5 million and refitting of .50 caliber machine guns to the APCs.

The M-113A2 was developed to provide a survivable and reliable light tracked vehicle that allows for troops to be brought forward under armor for dismounted operations.

Also seeing action are the 28 armored vehicles fitted with remote-control weapons systems with .50 caliber, 25mm and 90mm guns.

The above-mentioned armored units were upgraded by Israeli defense manufacturer Elbit Systems Ltd for PHP882 million last 2014 and delivered in 2016. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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

www.interakson.com

3 Abu Sayyaf members killed in clash with soldiers in Sulu



file photo of Abu Sayyaf fighters on patrol.

MANILA – Three members of the Abu Sayyaf local terrorist group were killed in an encounter Saturday in Sulu Province, as troops of the Joint Task Force Sulu continue to besiege the lairs of ASG remnants, the Western Mindanao Command said in a report.

Soldiers of the 21st Infantry Battalion headed by Major Christopher Genzola engaged in an hour-long fierce firefight with heavily armed ASG under Almujer Yaddah at Sitio Darayan at the boundary of Barangay Danag and Barangay Buhanginan, both of Patikul, Sulu at 8:45 a.m. Saturday.

One soldier was killed in the clash.

During clearing operations, troops recovered one unidentified body of the enemy from the encounter site.

"Our operating troops were also able to see the bandits dragging two bodies of their companions who appeared to be already lifeless," said Brigadier General Cirilito Sobejana, Commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu.

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

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

Troops were acting upon information initially taken from the two recovered kidnap victims Friday afternoon in Daang Puti, Patikul, Sulu.

Rocabo and Leones specifically pinpointed the locations of the targeted Abu Sayyaf group who were keeping captive other kidnap victims, including some Vietnamese crewmen. The ASG last week beheaded two of their Vietnamese captives.

"As we speak, skirmishes are still ongoing as our troops are going after the tracks of the withdrawing bandits," said BGen Sobejana.

"The soldiers are very careful in their movements since it is believed that the Abu Syayaf group is still carrying with them around 6 to 7 kidnap victims.

"During the course of encounter, one soldier died and 15 others were slightly wounded. All WIA [wounded in action] were safely evacuated and are already being treated at the Kamp Teofilo Busbos Hospital in Jolo, Sulu, while the body of the dead soldier was brought to the military mortuary in the JTF Sulu headquarters," Sobejana said.

"The family of the fallen soldier will immediately be notified and will receive all compensations due to the family of a hero.

"Forces of the JTF Sulu are in still in the area pursuing the bandits who left several blood stains on their tracks. We will continue pressing them on until these terrorists are all neutralized and the KVs rescued," said Sobejana.

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