

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

12 July 2017

Wednesday

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land

TABLE OF CONTENTS
12 JULY 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather	-	PDI p.A9
HEADLINE NEWS			
2-3	Senators cool to ML extension by 5 years	Christine O Avendano	PDI p.A1
4-5	Rody: Give me 15 days to end Marawi conflivt	Edith Regalado & Christina Mendez	The Phil Star p.1
6-8	Marawi crisis over in 15 days - Rody	Ted Tuvera & Mario J mallari	The Daily Tribune p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
9	6 soldiers hurt in Quirini landmine explosion	Thom F Picana	The Mla Times p.A7
10	6 soldiers hurt in landmine attack	Raymond Catindig	The Phil Star p.16
11	Army man beaten up by pizza store employees	Melnie Ragasa-Jimena	Bulgar p.3
AFP RELATED NEWS			
12-13	Siege over in 15 days		Mla Standard p.A1
14-15	Duterte: 15 more days to end Marawi offensive	Catherine S Valente	The Mla Times p.A1
16	Duterte: Marawi siege over in 10 to 15 days	Philip C Tubeza	PDI p.A7
17	DND's Lorenzana cool on proposal to extend martial rule in Mindanao	Rene Acosta	Business Mirror p.A3
18-19	Extend martial law – PNP Chief	Bernadette E Tamayo	The Mla Times p.A1
20	Prolonged ML to spook tourists, investors - lawmakers	Paolo Romero	The Phil Star p.14
21	DND chief on ML, human rights: Trust your AFP	Edith Regalado	The Phil Star p.14
22	57% of Pinoys approve of ML in Mindanao - SWS	Helen Flores	The Phil Star p.1
23	Marawi siege turning into a 'war of attrition'	Ryan D Rosauo	PDI p.A7
24	Muslim nonsupporters 'fair game' for Maute	Allan Nawal	PDI p.A6
25	Marawi folk allowed to go to safe zones	Jeoffrey Maitem	PDI p.A6
26	Marawi casualty claim being verified	Francis T Wakefield	Tempo p.8
27	AFP hirap mabawi ang Marawi		Police Files p.4
28	510 na patay sa 50 days nang bakbakan sa Marawi city		Police Files p.2
29	Paring bihag bomb-maker ng Maute	Betchai Julian	Abante p.2

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

30	4 MAute terror suspects face rebellion raps	Jaime Laude	The Phil Star p.4
31	Photo: PAL Donation		Mla Standard p.B1
32	Soldier nabbed for foiled resto robbery	Jhesset O Enano	PDI p.A15
EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY			
33	Hirit ni House Speaker Alvarez: Martial Law, palawagin pa ng limang taon	Korina Sanchez	Bulgar p.4
34	Mga bata ang kalaban		Ngayon p.4
35	Sabwatan sa kasakiman ang dahilan!	Kokoy Alano	PM p.3
36	Martial Law, palalawagin pa	Bert De Guzman	BAlita p.7
37	Huwag pangunahan sa batas militar		Abante p.4
38	Walong Maute hinarang sa NAIA	Lucky Boy Alcala	Police Files p.4
39-40	Five years?		Malaya p.B4
41	Deferential treatment	Florangel Rosario Braid	Mla Bulletin p.11
42	Five-year martial law	Alejandro Del Rosario	Mla Standard p.A5
43-44	Martial law expresses	Tony Lopez	Mla Standard p.A4
45-46	Rody's martial law	Ana Marie Pamintuan	The Phil Star p.7
47	The military dilemma	Manuel L Quezon III	PDI p.A10
48	The Court and martial law		PDI p.A10
ONLINE NEWS			
49	Duterte eyes end of Marawi conflict in 10-15 days		www.pna.gov.ph
50	AFP not open to place entire PH under ML		www.pna.gov.ph
51	4 men in MAraawi barred from leaving Philippines	Raoul Esperas	www.retiredanalvst.blogspot.com

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

12 JULY 2017

Gov't withholds P200-M payment to MRT mainliner



STARBUST

Palawan, Comandante used his 15-day Marawi ultimatum

It is a requirement to allow a day to allow the Marawians

Rody: Give me 15 days to end Marawi conflict

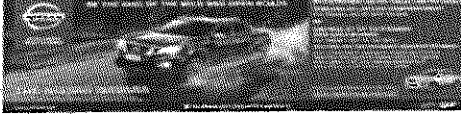
Formerly, Rody gave...
More of...
case...
Rody

57% of Duterte's supporters of ML, in Marawi said - SWS

Marawi...
Duterte...
Rody



Marawi...
Duterte...
Rody




The Manila Times

Our...
Marawi...
Duterte...
Rody


Extend martial law - PNP chief

Duterte: 15 more days to end Marawi offensive

Arum on WBO verdict: It was a close fight



Palawan...
Napoles asks SC to grant her bail plea



Tribune


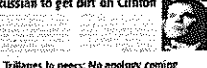



Marawi crisis over in 15 days - Rody

Marcos hails PET's will to pursue poll recount

BBL will have to consider Misuari's demands - Dureza

Trump son met Russian to get dirt on Clinton

Trillanes to peers: No apology coming



LESACA COMPLAINT PROMPTS UBER DRIVED SUSPENSION



INQUIRER

SENATORS COOL TO ML EXTENSION BY 5 YEARS

Several Senate members...
HOW many Filipinos will there be by the end of this year? **INQUIRER**
WHY won't Misuari in Tarlac drop their own ID system? **INQUIRER**
WBO snubbed Rafael Nadal in Wimbledon a fourth court **INQUIRER**
WBO...
TRIALS...
TRIBUNAL MEETS ON MARCOS PROTEST

Trump Jr. told of Russia aid for dad

Options, directions for PH in sea row

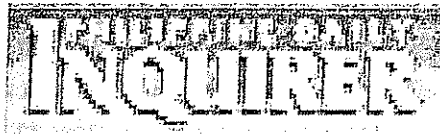
Parents oppose tattoos on children

Vilma, Paolo top choices of editors



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

12 July 2017



Page: A9

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JULY 12, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO (As of 6:00 PM - July 11, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:34 AM	6:29 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
8:50 PM	7:56 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
JUL 9 6:10 PM	JUL 11 3:26 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
7:51 PM 6.63 Meter	1:30 AM 1.24 Meter

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

CITY	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE
METRO MANILA	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 30 °C	22 - 30 °C	TACLOBAN	25 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 35 °C	25 - 35 °C	LEGAZPI	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 32 °C
LAOAG	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 32 °C
BAGUID	18 - 26 °C	17 - 25 °C	ILOILO/BACLOD	26 - 30 °C	26 - 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C		

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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

12 July 2017



Page: A1

SENATORS COOL TO ML EXTENSION BY 5 YEARS

STORY BY CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO

Several Senate members look forward to a security briefing and a debate in a joint session of Congress before deciding whether to extend martial law in Mindanao. So far, the President has not requested an extension.

A2

FROM A1

By Christine O. Avendaño
@10avendanoINQ

Several senators are not too keen to consider the proposal of Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez for a five-year extension of the martial law proclamation in Mindanao, many of them waiting for a security briefing on the progress of its implementation.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said a second briefing for the senators was expected to take place before President Duterte's Proclamation No. 216, limited under the Constitution to 60 days, expires on July 22.

Speaking to reporters, Pimentel said he and some majority bloc senators were set to meet with the President after the submission of the draft

Bangsamoro Basic Law in the Palace on July 17.

"There is no fixed agenda but since we are there so we would be discussing priorities now that the second regular session will start," he said.

Congress returns on July 24.

Pimentel was asked whether he would bring up with Mr. Duterte proposals to extend martial law.

"Yes, that will be discussed because that's the 55th day," he replied. "If there is no intention to request an extension, it will lapse after 60 days."

The Senate President said he had not yet taken a position on whether an extension was needed and would only take a stand after the security briefing.

Lacson's reaction

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he did not agree with Alvarez's proposed five-year extension of

martial law. Lacson questioned the basis of the Speaker's proposal.

"Even the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) has indicated that it may not be necessary, hence won't recommend it," Lacson said in a text message.

He was referring to the military's statement on Monday that it found a five-year extension "too long."

Like Pimentel, Lacson said the recommendations of police and military officials would influence his decision.

Sen. Francis Escudero noted that "both the Palace and the AFP are lukewarm and have distanced themselves from Alvarez's proposal."

Drilon urges debate

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said "Congress, in a joint session, should debate and decide first on the need to

extend martial law, before talking about the length or period of extension.”

Drilon earlier urged the President to notify Congress if he wanted to extend martial law before July 22 so that Congress could tackle it when it holds a joint session for Mr. Duterte's second State of the Nation Address on July 24.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV said an extension of the proclamation should be “justified by competent authorities and in this case, defense officials.”

“They should [convince] us that there is no other option,” Trillanes told reporters.

Sen. Nancy Binay also underscored the importance of the security briefing before any discussion of how long to extend martial law.

‘Different story’

Binay, chair of the Senate tourism committee, said the martial law proclamation had affected tourism in the country because of the wrong perception that Metro Manila was also affected by the conflict in Marawi City.

Senate Majority Leader

Vicente Sotto III said he believed the military could stop rebellion in Mindanao in a year's time but stopping terrorism was a “different story.”

“Terrorism could be anywhere in the Philippines ... so you can never wipe it out,” Sotto told reporters, agreeing that terrorism could not be used as justification for an extension of martial law.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said in a statement on Monday that as the chief martial law administrator, he would follow the path laid out by the national government.

“While we respect the position of our lawmakers and laud their support to the military, we believe that the declaration of martial law is an extraordinary power of the President as Commander in Chief that must be resorted to only when warranted by our national security circumstances,” Lorenzana said.

Anchored on rule of law

“Our Constitution has prescribed limitations precisely to prevent its being abused as it has implications to the country's peace and order, economy,

trade, tourism and our people's way of life,” he stressed.

“Every decision we make and operation we undertake is anchored on the rule of law and respect for human rights. They can trust their Armed Forces to protect them and advance the people's best interest,” Lorenzana said.

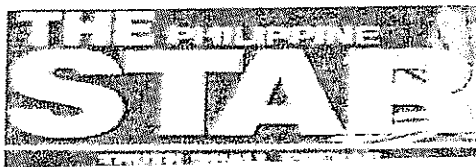
The chief of the Philippine National Police, Director General Ronald dela Rosa, told reporters that he and the AFP chief of staff, Gen. Eduardo Año, had agreed that they would recommend a martial law extension if the President asked their opinion.

“But not five years, 60-60 *na lang muna* (just 60 days),” Dela Rosa said. “If we recommend, it would be within the legal parameters.”

He said he did not think extending martial law by five years was acceptable to the people.

Vice President Leni Robredo on Tuesday advised Congress to listen to military officials. “Let us discuss first what is really happening,” she said in an interview in Naga City. —WITH REPORTS FROM NIKKO DIZON, JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE, JOCELYN R. UY AND DJ YAP INQ

12 July 2017



Page: 1

Rody: Give me 15 days to end Marawi conflict

By EDITH REGALADO and CHRISTINA MENDEZ

With fighting in Marawi dragging on for more than a month now, President Duterte thinks he needs 10 to 15 days more to rid the city of militants professing allegiance to the Middle East-based terror group Islamic State (IS).

"Just 10 to 15 days," the President said in remarks at the 10th listing anniversary of Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc yesterday at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

"Maybe we miscalculated the number of firearms *Hindi maubusan* (They never run out)," Duterte said, referring to the Mautes. "This is already the 45th or 46th day, *hindi maubos-ubos*, especially the grenades which are placed inside the tube of the Armalite."

Asked to clarify the statement, chief presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo did not discount the possibility that the President could be talking about extending martial law.

But Panelo said Duterte had declared he would wait for the recommendation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) before deciding whether to extend martial law or not.

"If the 10 to 15 days fall beyond the 60-day period, then logically an extension is most likely. But as he has repeatedly said, the extension of martial law depends on the recommendation

Turn to Page 8

Rody From Page 1

of the AFP and the PNP," he said.

Still, the President "could be referring to both, as martial law was declared on the basis of the ongoing rebellion in Marawi City," Pano said.

The siege of Marawi by

the Maute group has already claimed more than 500 lives – including 89 soldiers and policemen – since its start on May 23.

The President said at the PSE gathering that what the soldiers on the ground found

baffling was the Maute terrorists' seemingly inexhaustible supply of grenades and other ammunition for their high-powered firearms.

Some 80 to 100 militants still holed up in some parts of Marawi are holding close to 300 people hostage, including a Roman Catholic priest.

The President lamented that while authorities had been

alerted to the militants' stockpiling of weapons in Marawi prior to the siege, they were clueless about the amount of weapons smuggled in.

In his speech, Duterte did not say if he would seek an extension of martial law in Mindanao, which expires on July 22.

He stressed, however, that he would make another at-

tempt to go to Marawi City – after being turned back twice by bad weather.

"I want to be with my men fighting on the ground. I do not want to go there when it is already peaceful," he said.

He said in jest that if he would take a bullet from a sniper, he'd rather have it to his butt.

Sought for comment on the President's pronouncement,

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr said the commander-in-chief was referring to an "indicative target," and not a time frame to actually end the conflict.

"It's just an indicative target, that's it. You can't just say 'fighting should only be over in 10 days.' But that's an indicative target and we are determined to get that," Esperon told reporters.

12 July 2017



Page: 1

Marawi crisis over in 15 days – Rody

By Ted Tuvera and Mario J. Mallari

President Duterte yesterday indicated that the crisis in Marawi City could be over in 10 to 15 days.

"The reason we find them to be difficult enemies is that we knew that they have all sorts of ammunition and have stocked many weapons. Son of a bitch, it seems that they do not run out of supplies," he said. "It looks like their grenades are forever."

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, for his part, said Mr. Duterte's pronouncement that the situation in Marawi will be fine in 10 to 15 days is not a stiff deadline to reckon with.

"It's just an indicative target. We can never be in the position to say that fighting will last in 10 days," Esperon told reporters in a chance interview at the sidelines of the President's first visit to the PSE.

"As an indicative target, we are determined to get that," he added.

Turn to page 2

From page 1

Meanwhile, the business community in President Duterte's hometown urged him to lift martial law in Davao City due to its impact on investments and tourism and for security protocols to just be heightened without martial law.

"We support the President in his efforts to eradicate the elements that resort to violence and perpetuate atrocities to bring about their selfish interests. Yet, we cannot deny the slowdown, especially in the tourism industry when Martial Law was declared in Mindanao," Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry Incorporated (DCCCI) president Ronald Go said.

"For any extension of Martial Law, we hope for an expeditious conclusion to the conflict or a scenario where the area covered by martial law is reduced so that we can continue attracting tourists and investors as we have experienced for the first part of this year," he added.

Martial Law administrator and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, for his part, said in a statement that if ever the military rule, state security forces will continue to respect civil rights.

"If martial law is extended, they can continue to trust their defense and security establishments since every decision we make and operation we undertake is anchored on the rule of law and respect for human rights," Lorenzana said.

"They can trust their Armed Forces to protect them and advance the people's best interest," he added.

SND chief assures: No ML abuses
Amid the looming extension of

martial law in Mindanao, Secretary of National Defense Lorenzana, who is also the martial law administrator, yesterday assured the public that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will uphold the rule of law and will not abuse its authority in the event the initial 60-day martial law declared by President Duterte will be extended.

The President placed Mindanao under martial law immediately after the Marawi City siege erupted. It will expire on July 23.

So far, Lorenzana issued two arrest orders against those involved in the siege - mostly members and supporters of the IS-inspired Maute group.

"As the Administrator of Martial Law in Mindanao, we will follow whatever path will be laid out by the national government.

"The Filipino people can rest assured, however, that if martial law is extended, they can continue to trust their defense and security establishments since every decision we make and operation we undertake are anchored on the rule of law and respect for human rights. They can trust their Armed Forces to protect them and advance the people's best interest."

There are clamors for the extension of the martial law to completely flush out and defeat the Maute group.

But Lorenzana maintained that martial rule should only be resorted to when national security warrants.

"While we respect the position of our lawmakers and laud their support to the military, we believe that the declaration of Martial Law is an extraordinary power of the President as Commander-in-Chief that must be resorted to only when

warranted by our national security circumstances," said Lorenzana.

"Our Constitution has prescribed limitations precisely to prevent its being abused as it has implications to the country's peace and order, economy, trade, tourism, and our people's way of life," he added.

Nationwide ML not needed—AFP

At a press briefing, AFP spokesman Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said there was no need to declare martial law in the entire country.

Padilla stressed that such did not cross the mind of the military leadership, which is currently making its assessment for its recommendation to the President regarding the lifting or extension of martial law.

"It never crossed the mind of the Armed Forces to raise it nationwide because there was no need for it anyway" said Padilla.

Padilla said that there is no basis right now to expand martial law, if it is extended, in Luzon and the Visayas.

"May I ask you, do you see any need to do that (declare martial law in Luzon and Visayas)? Are there any threats going around? My point is, let's not raise the martial law bogey...because there is nothing that is occurring on that sort," said Padilla.

Reports of civilian deaths unverified

Lorenzana also yesterday branded as "unverified" the reports published by this newspaper on Monday stating that 2,000 civilians had been killed in the 50-day old Marawi City siege laid by the Islamic State-inspired terrorists.

In a statement, Lorenzana

stressed that operations are still ongoing in Marawi City and that actual data are still being validated.

"These are unverified reports. Operations are still ongoing and the proper authorities are still assessing, consolidating, and verifying data from Marawi City," Lorenzana said.

On Monday, *The Tribune*, quoting a source, reported that 2,000 civilians have been killed in the ongoing conflict in Marawi City.

The figure is very far from the official 39 civilian death toll by the military.

While Lorenzana did not categorically deny the report, he called on the public to be cautious about information.

"For now, we once again call on the people to be more cautious and discerning. Do not accept any information as fact," the Defense chief said.

Lorenzana also again emphasized that people should not share "fake news."

"Such information is not only detrimental to our ongoing operations. It also hurts our economy and our international image as a nation," he added.

As yesterday, the military said that a total of 381 terrorists had been killed since the siege started last May 23 when government forces attempted to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, the designated emir or leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Southeast Asia.

On the other hand, 90 soldiers and policemen were killed in action.

Cuy, Bato brief senators on Marawi crisis

National security officials on

Tuesday met with some senators to brief them on the current situation in Marawi City and the declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

Among the officials present in the meeting were Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Catalino Cuy and Philippine National Police Chief Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa.

Senators who were briefed were Senate President Koko Pimentel, Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III, Senators Joseph Victor Ejercito, Sherwin Gatchalian, and Gringo Honasan.

In an interview, the Senate President said it was Cuy who had requested to provide the senators with a briefing on the Marawi Law and order situation.

Pimentel, president of ruling PDP-Laban, clarified that the meeting with Cuy and dela Rosa is different from the briefing to be given by security officials on the implementation of martial law in Mindanao.

"The martial law briefing must be given by the martial law administrator who is the secretary of the Department of National Defense, and the martial law implementor, who is the AFP chief of staff, plus the National Security Adviser," he said.

The security briefing has yet to be scheduled even as the 60-day martial law declaration is set to lapse in less than two weeks, or on July 22.

"If there is no intention to request for an extension, the martial law will lapse after 60 days so no need for briefing. But if they intend to ask, they better brief us," Pimentel said.

With PNA

12 July 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 47

6 soldiers hurt in Quirino landmine explosion

NAGTIPUNAN, Quirino: Six soldiers were wounded after a landmine allegedly planted by the communist New Peoples Army (NPA) rebels exploded in Barangay Sangbay here on Tuesday morning.

Lt. James Carl Teño, Army Civilian-Military Operations officer of the 86th Infantry "Highlander" Battalion (86IB), 5th Infantry Division (5ID), said the soldiers based in Barangay Dipantin here were on their way to conduct a community support program with barangay and civic leaders.

The soldiers, belonging to the Bravo Company of the 86IB, on-board two Korean-made KM 450 military trucks were approaching Sangbay village when the landmine exploded wounding six of them.

They were identified as TSgt. Rhae Bolhayon, Sgt. Jose Soriano, Cpl. Edmar Angca, and Private First Class Dakilas Duclan, Jerry Manalo and Jarid Talay.

Three of them were already declared out of danger, while the three were in critical condition as of Tuesday afternoon, military officials said.

The military vehicles, slightly damaged from the explosion, were used to bring the wounded soldiers to the nearest hospital.

The land mine was a pressurized

release-type mine that immediately explodes when stepped on or even touched.

Lt. Col. Jose Vladimir Cagara, commanding officer of the 86IB, said they are investigating the incident further with the Philippine National Police in Quirino province.

"It is saddening that while our soldiers are delivering their community and security services to the villagers, they fall victims of rebel atrocities," Cagara said.

It may be recalled that the use of land mines is prohibited under the 1949 Protocols of the Geneva Convention because of its harmful effects particularly on civilians.

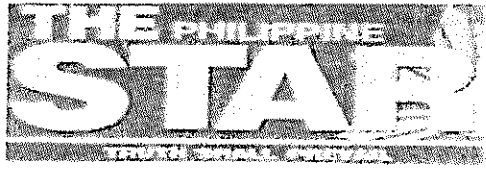
The military believes the explosion was meant as retaliation of the communist rebels after the soldiers seized a large NPA encampment where rebel documents and war materials were seized on July 4 in Barangay Dismungal, also in Nagtipunan.

On April 29, about 150 members of the communist NPA raided Maddela town's police station killing a policeman and carting away 10 firearms.

The rebels based in Quirino have not issued any statement regarding the attack.

**THOM F. PICAÑA AND
LEANDER C. DOMINGO**

12 July 2017



Page: 16

6 soldiers hurt in landmine attack

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Six Army soldiers were wounded when a landmine believed planted by New People's Army (NPA) rebels exploded in Barangay Sangbay, Nagtipunan, Quirino yesterday morning.

Soldiers of the 86th Infantry Battalion were in a two-vehicle convoy on their way to the camp when the explosion occurred.

"The wounded troops were brought to the Diduyon District Hospital for initial treatment. Three were declared out of danger while three others were transferred to the Caba-roquis Hospital for further treatment," said Capt. Jefferson Somera, spokesman for the 5th Infantry Division (ID) based in Gamu, Isabela.

Meanwhile, in Masbate, NPA rebels burned an abandoned military camp in Barangay Calipat-an in San Jacinto town.

– Raymund Catindig, Jaime Laude, Francis Elevado, Artemio Dumlao, Victor Martin

12 July 2017



Pahina. 3

Army man beaten up by pizza store employees

A MEMBER of the Philippine Army was beaten black and blue by employees of a pizza parlor that he tried to rob on Monday night in Quezon City.

The suspect, Ventura Ramirez, 37, is now detained at the QCPD-Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit. He was turned over by operatives of QCPD Station 10 after he allegedly tried to stage a heist at Angel's Pizza branch on Kalayaan Avenue, Bgy. Pinyahan.

Jeric Alberto, an employee of the said establishment, said the suspect who was wearing bonnet entered the store at 10:30 p.m., pulled out a handgun and announced a heist.

Sensing that the suspect was alone, three of the store crewmen ganged up on the suspect and grabbed his handgun. Another crew called up QCPD Station 10.

Charges will be filed against the suspect.

Melnie Ragasa-Jimena

12 July 2017

Manila
Standard

Page. A1

'Siege over in 15 days'

But Duterte warns ISIS still to haunt us

THE siege in Marawi could be finished within 10 to 15 days, President Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday.

Speaking before traders at the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati, Duterte said that the government is looking at finishing the ongoing siege, which saw hundreds of soldiers killed and thousands of civilians displaced 15 days from now.

"The way I see it, it will be over in 10 to 15 days. But remember, the new scourge is ISIS—it will continue to haunt us because of our Muslim brothers and sisters," Duterte said during the 10th launching anniversary of Davao-based Phoenix Petroleum.

Duterte said what prevents government forces from a swift takeover of Marawi City is the

Next page

'Siege...

From A1

unusually high number of arms concentrated in the war-torn city.

"This is the 45th, 46th day? The weapons have not been used up, especially the grenades. These can be fired from a rifle," he said in Filipino.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon said security officials are working on finishing the ongoing siege within the "indicative target" provided by the President.

"That's just an indicative target," he said. "You can't dictate for certain that the battle will be over in 10 days. But that's an indicative target and we are determined to get that."

Duterte said he will once again try to visit Marawi within the week, de-

spite three failed attempts already in the past.

"I'll try again, I don't want to go there when it's peaceful already. I'll try to make it again this week," he said.

The military is set to hand over its assessment on the implementation of martial law to the President as early as this week, before Duterte's second State of the Nation Address.

Both Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Aro and Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa had said they would recommend an extension of martial law if the Marawi crisis remained unresolved.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Tuesday sought to allay fears of possible abuses under a prolonged imposition of martial rule in Mindanao, pointing to safeguards in the Constitution.

"The Filipino people can rest assured, however, that if martial law is extended, they can continue to trust their defense and security establishments since every decision we make and operation we undertake is anchored on the rule of law and respect for human rights. They can trust their Armed Forces to protect them and advance the people's best interest," he added.

Lorenzana, who is also martial law administrator, hinted that he was in favor of a fairly short extension period.

On Saturday, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez suggested a five-year extension of martial law in Mindanao, a proposal that has won little support, even from the Armed Forces, which said five years would be too long.

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Tuesday said he is not in favor of ex-

tending martial law in Mindanao in five more years, saying it would have negative effects on the country and will send a wrong signal to potential investors.

"There is no basis for that. We want to get this over as fast as we can and we want Mindanao to have sense of normality... So, I think our interest is really to get back to normal as soon as possible," Gatchalian said.

As chairman of the Senate Economic Affairs Committee, Gatchalian said extending martial rule in the region will also send a wrong signal to potential investors especially to Mindanao.

But Dela Rosa earlier urged the lawmakers to extend martial law in Mindanao to the "maximum period" possible.

He made the appeal after a two-hour briefing with Senators Aquilino Pi-

mentel III, Vicente Sotto III, Gregorio Honasan, JV Ejercito, and Gatchalian.

Local Government officer-in-charge Catalino Cuy requested the briefing.

In an interview with GMA News Online, Dela Rosa said he proposed that the martial law declaration still cover the whole of Mindanao, as he warned of other "Marawi-style" sieges in other areas of the island.

Apart from the Maute group, Dela Rosa said there are other ISIS-inspired groups, including the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters.

Dela Rosa said he could not still say when the Marawi crisis, already on its seventh week, will end.

But Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said the extension of martial law must be requested by the President.

12 July 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

Duterte: 15 more days to end Marawi offensive

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday said he needed 15 more days to solve the crisis in Marawi City, a self-imposed deadline that will go beyond the 60-day period of the martial law he declared in Mindanao.

In his speech during the celebration of Phoenix Petroleum's 10th listing anniversary in Makati City, Duterte acknowledged that the war against the Maute terrorist group in Marawi City has dragged on because of the enemy's massive stockpile of firearms.

"I hope that things can [get better]... I need about 15 more days. *Karami ng armas. Anak ng... Hindi maubusan.* This is the 45th, 46th day? *Hindi maubus-ubos ang--- lalo na yunggrenades* (They have inexhaustible firearms, especially grenades)," the President said.

"That's why I'm not in my usual equanimity. *kasi alam mo kung bakit* (You know why?) You want to know the truth? Because I declared martial law. And I was the one who ordered the Armed Forces and the police to go there and fight and die," he added.

This, Duterte said, was the reason why he attempted to visit Marawi City but was unable to because of bad weather.

"The other day I attempted again, but Marawi is always a rainy place. I was circling Marawi, I could not land, I could not go down nearer *baka matyambahan kami ng Barrett na caliber 50. Pag tinamaan yang gasolinahan na 'yan, sasahog talaga 'yan* (We may be hit by Barrett caliber 50. If the gasoline tank is hit, it will explode). But I really wanted to be there, to be just with the fighting security forces, just to show up there," he said.

"I want to be there while there is still fighting so that I can observe. But I'll try to make it again, this week. But *palagay ko* (I think), 10 to 15 days. *okay na,*" Duterte added.

The military earlier said that the intensity of the fighting in Marawi has diminished and that only about 80 to 100 Maute fighters are left in the city.

On Tuesday, Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla, AFP spokesman, said four persons detained by the Bureau of Immigration were suspected to have supported the siege in Marawi.

► CrisisA2

■ CRISIS FROM A1

Duterte

One of those detained was included in the Arrest Order No. 2 released by the Department of National Defense.

Padilla said Alnizar Palawan Maute is being investigated by the National Bureau of Investigation while three others also surnamed Maute were with the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"As to their exact participation, it's not known to me, but being

part of the rebellion is a crime and hence, they are being arrested because of that, so they may be supporters in terms of financial matters or others that facilitated the rebellion," he said.

The military official said individuals included in the arrest orders do not have to be actually involved in the armed conflict to be arrested.

"The arrest orders 1 and 2 does not mean that you have to be directly fighting alongside the Maute terrorists. Being part of the rebellion does not only constitute being an armed element of the rebellion in the

thick of the fighting," Padilla explained.

Support

A survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) showed that more Filipinos backed Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

Taken from June 23 to 27, the survey found 57 percent of 1,200 adult respondents agreed with the imposition of martial law.

Only 29 percent of those polled said that martial law should have been declared only in Marawi City and the Province of Lanao del Sur, while 11 percent said it should

have been limited to Marawi City, the Province of Lanao del Sur, and nearby provinces.

The survey found that 63 percent disagreed with proposals that martial law also be declared in the Visayas.

Meanwhile, 92 percent of Filipino adults were aware of Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao, the survey found.

Awareness of martial rule was highest in Mindanao at 98 percent, followed by Metro Manila at 93 percent, Visayas at 93 percent, and Balance Luzon at 88 percent.

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE AND
DEMPSEY REYES**

12 July 2017



Page: A7

Duterte: Marawi siege over in 10 to 15 days

by Philip C. Tubeza
pctubeza@INQ

The siege of Marawi could be over in the next 10 to 15 days, President Duterte said yesterday.

Mr. Duterte also said he would try again to visit Marawi this week to show his support and so he could “observe” government troops fighting Maute terrorists and their Abu Sayyaf allies, who had declared their allegiance to the Islamic State.

“I need 15 more days ... I think (in) 10 to 15 days, it will be OK,” Mr. Duterte said in a speech at the Philippine Stock

Exchange.

“But remember, the new scourge is ISIS. It will continue to haunt us,” he added.

It was not clear if this meant the President would ask Congress to extend martial law, which ends on July 22, or just 10 days away.

Mr. Duterte said government troops were having a hard time clearing the city of terrorists because the extremists had an almost endless supply of firearms and ammunition.

“What I really did not know and what we missed was that they had so many firearms. It’s not yet depleted,” the President said.

“This is the 45th or 46th day but they have not used up (their firearms and ammunition), especially their grenades,” he added.

Mr. Duterte said he would try again to visit Marawi before the fighting ends.

“I just want to show up there. I’ll try again this week. It’s not braggadocio. I don’t want to go there when it’s already peaceful,” he said.

Mr. Duterte tried to go to Marawi on Friday but inclement weather prevented his aircraft from landing in the city.

“I really want to go there. The other day, I attempted

again but Marawi is always a rainy place. I was circling Marawi (but) I could not land,” he said.

“I could not go down nearer because (an enemy sniper) might get lucky. If they hit our gas tank, it will really explode but I really wanted to be there just to be with the fighting security forces,” he added.

The President said he could stay near the front line so that he could “observe” what was happening.

“Even if I just show up...even if I’m hit, but only in the buttocks and not in front,” he said in jest. INQ

12 July 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. A3

Defense Sec. Lorenzana cool on proposal to extend martial rule in Mindanao

BY RENE ACOSTA [@reneacostaBM](#)

THE defense department is lukewarm to the proposal from the House of Representatives for the extension of martial rule in Mindanao, saying the Constitution has prescribed limits to the iron-fisted rule in order to prevent it from being abused.

The reaction was issued by Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana on Tuesday after a number of congressmen, including House Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez, said they favor the extension of martial law for five years. "While we respect the position of our lawmakers and laud their support to the military, we believe that the declaration of martial law is an extraordinary power of the President, as Commander in Chief, that must be resorted to only when warranted by our national security circumstances," Lorenzana said. "Our Constitution has prescribed limitations precisely to prevent its being abused, it has implications to the country's peace and order, economy, trade, tourism and our

people's way of life," he added.

While businessmen supported the imposition of martial rule in Mindanao in order to quell terrorism in Marawi City, they have also complained of business losses.

Still, Lorenzana said they will follow whatever decision the national government would make on the issue of the martial-law extension.

"As the administrator of martial law in Mindanao, we will follow whatever path will be laid out by the national government," he said.

He also assured that the military will not abuse the measure once it is decided that it would be extended.

"The Filipino people can rest assured, however, that if martial law is extended, they can continue to trust their defense and security establishments since every decision we make and operation we undertake is anchored on the rule of law and respect for human rights," Lorenzana said.

"They can trust their Armed Forces to protect them and advance the people's best interest," he added.

Lorenzana, likewise, debunked reports that at least 2,000 civilians have been killed in the ongoing operations against the Maute-Islamic State group in Marawi, which already entered its 50th day.

"These are unverified reports. Operations are still ongoing and the proper authorities are still assessing, consolidating and verifying data from Marawi City," the defense chief said.

"For now, we once again call on the people to be more cautious and discerning. Do not accept any information as fact. Avoid sharing unverified data and figures, and stop the proliferation of fake news that only cause undue alarm, panic and confusion among our people. Such information is not only detrimental to our ongoing operations. It also hurts our economy and our international image as a nation," he added.

12 July 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

Extend martial law – PNP chief

BY BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO AND DEMPSEY REYES

PHILIPPINE National Police chief Ronald de la Rosa sees the need to extend martial law in Mindanao because the security situation there, particularly in Marawi City, is still critical.

De la Rosa and Interior and Local Government Secretary Catalino Cuy briefed some senators on the law and order situation and concerns of local governments in Marawi City on Tuesday.

Present during the closed-door briefing were Senate President Aquilino Pimentel 3rd, Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto 3rd and Senators Sherwin Gatchalian, Gregorio Honasan 2nd and Joseph Victor Ejercito.

Asked whether they discussed martial law extension, de la Rosa said, "It's difficult to talk. I'm not the Senate spokesman. I was asked personally what will be my recommendation based on my assessment of the situation."

Asked what his recommendation was, de la Rosa replied: "Extend (but) within the legal framework. I will recommend the maximum (period)."

➤ PNP chief A2

"Because it is still dangerous in that area (Marawi City)," he explained.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao on May 23 hours after the Maute Group seized some areas in Marawi City.

Duterte had said that he will wait for the recommendation of the military before he decides whether to extend martial law or not. Under the law, the President has to ask congress to extend martial law and lawmakers will decide how long it will be imposed.

has yet to declare its own recommendation because it is still waiting for the assessment of ground commanders in Marawi City.

On Tuesday, however, AFP spokesman Brig Gen Restituto Padilla ruled out expanding the coverage of martial law.

"It never crossed the mind of the Armed Forces to raise martial law nationwide because there is no need for it anyway," Padilla told reporters in a news briefing.

The Supreme Court has ruled that President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of martial law is legal but some justices said it should have been limited to Marawi City.

"The declaration of martial law and its possible extension is dependent on the assessment that will be done by the Armed Forces. The assessment is not yet done... we need to wait for the assessment

Not nationwide

The Armed Forces of the Philippines

to be done because that will be our basis and we will submit this assessment to the office of the Secretary of National Defense, who is the administrator of martial law, and he will be the one to forward the recommendation to the President," Padilla explained.

The martial law declared in Mindanao will expire on July 23 or the day before the President delivers his second state of the nation address.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel 3rd on Tuesday said any request to extend the validity of Proclamation 216 placing Mindanao under martial rule must come from the President.

"Let's wait for the move of the President," Pimentel said when asked to comment on the proposal of Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez to extend martial law for five years or until 2022.

"My position is, any extension of martial law must be requested by the President. So, the idea about the need to extend it must come

from him and not from anyone else," the senator said.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon rejected Alvarez's proposal. "Congress, in a joint session, should debate and decide first on the need to extend martial law before talking about the length or period of the extension."

Sen. Francis Escudero shared Pimentel's view. "Only the President can ask for an extension of martial law. Both Palace and AFP are lukewarm and have distanced themselves from Alvarez's proposal," he said.

"I think we can stop rebellion within a year. Terrorism is something else because it can happen anywhere," Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto 3rd said.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian warned that extending martial law up to 2022 would discourage foreign investments.

"I think the country's interest is really to get back to normalcy as soon as possible. Personally, I'm

not inclined to have a protracted martial law. Martial law really sends a different connotation to other countries," he said.

"And even though you explain this martial law is different from the previous martial law or the martial law of other countries, martial law is martial law and serious investors will not come to Mindanao if they know martial law is being operated within that area," he said.

"I head the economic affairs committee, from my economic standpoint, it will send the wrong signal to potential investors especially to Mindanao," he added.

"Prior to martial law, I know for a fact that many (businessmen) wanted to invest in Mindanao considering the President is from there and he is really pushing for more investment in the region," he said. "But if you have a five-year martial law, the potential investors will now hesitate and think twice before going to Mindanao."

12 July 2017



Page: 14

Prolonged ML to spook tourists, investors – lawmakers

By PAOLO ROMERO

A prolonged martial law over Mindanao will do more harm than good and scare away investors and tourists, lawmakers warned yesterday.

Senators aired the warning after Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez pushed for a five-year extension of the 60-day martial law, which expires on July 22.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian

said the proposed five-year martial law has "no basis because we want to get this over as fast as we can and we want to have a sense of normalcy in Mindanao and the entire country."

"It's not good when the whole world knows that our martial law is five years because it sends a wrong signal to potential investors, especially in Mindanao," Gatchalian said.

"Considering Mindanao is one of the poorest islands in the country, we want businesses to come in but if you have uncertainty in that area, that will be difficult even for domestic investors," he said.

Gatchalian said he knows for a fact that prior to President Duterte's declaration of martial law last May 23, there were many foreign and domestic investors intending to pour money into Mindanao.

He said he was able to talk with some investors and fund managers, whose common warning was that the country's growth could be weighed down by the Marawi crisis.

Sen. Nancy Binay said the country's tourism industry was affected by the imposition of martial law with the decline in tourist arrivals.

"The (tourism) has a strong multiplier effect, its contribution to the GNP (gross national product) is huge," Binay said.

She added that she will ask the Department of Tourism to present its plan to address the situation.

Binay suggested that if martial law will be extended, its scope should only

be limited to Lanao del Sur.

She pushed anew for a briefing from security officials ahead of the expiry of martial law on July 22.

Sen. Sonny Angara balked at Alvarez's suggestion, saying "martial law has always been a temporary measure."

A lot to talk about

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, a partymate of Alvarez in PDP-Laban, thought the Speaker was simply saying that he was open to extending martial law that long.

Pimentel is also awaiting the report of security officials.

"What happened during martial law implementation? What were achieved? Then we measure this based on the goals when martial law was declared. What would be the justification or the grounds for extending it? So I will form my opinion after I hear the report," he said.

Pimentel said he and members of the Senate majority bloc will get a sense of what President Duterte really wants regarding the possible extension of martial law in a meeting on July 17 in Malacañang.

Pimentel said he will handpick the senators who will join him in the meeting with the President, saying there are "limited slots" available.

The July 17 meeting will come after the ceremonial turnover of the new Bangsamoro Basic Law to Congress.

Pimentel said he checked the schedule of the President for that day and saw that he was available.

"We can have it up to dinner or an all-nighter," he said.

He said the possible extension of martial law would be taken up since they will have a lot of time to talk that day.

Apart from the meeting with the President, the senators will also have a separate briefing from security officials on a still unspecified date regarding the situation in Marawi City and the overall implementation of martial law in Mindanao.

"It must be held before July 22. I am trying my best to schedule it this week, if not then by next week it should be held already," Pimentel said.

He said the briefing with security officials will be open to all senators and will be held at the Senate.

"If there is no intention to request for an extension it will lapse, the martial law will lapse after 60 days. So, no need for a briefing. If they intend to (extend it), they better brief us," he said.

One of the security officials, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa, said he is open to extending martial law.

He clarified, however, that he is not keen in supporting the extension of martial law in Mindanao for five years.

"I don't think it is acceptable to the people," Dela Rosa said.

Dela Rosa said he is inclined to recommend another 60-day extension to pave the way for the recovery and rehabilitation of Marawi City.

– With Marvin Sy, Roel Pareño, Cecille Suerte Felipe

12 July 2017



Page: 14

DND chief on ML, human rights: Trust your AFP

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – The people can trust the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to respect human rights and the rule of law should martial law in Mindanao be extended, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday.

Lorenzana said that as administrator of martial law in Mindanao, the AFP would follow whatever path is laid out by the national government.

"They can trust their Armed Forces to protect them and advance the people's best interest," he said.

Martial law in Mindanao is set to end its 60-day prescribed period on July 22 but President Duterte could ask Congress to extend it.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the martial law declaration of President Duterte covering the entire Mindanao region following the outbreak of hostilities between government troops and the

Maute group of extremists in Marawi City on May 23.

"The Filipino people can rest assured, however, that if martial law is extended, they can continue to trust their defense and security establishments since every decision we make and operation we undertake is anchored on the rule of law and respect for human rights," Lorenzana said.

He said the declaration of martial law is an "extraordinary power" by the President that has to be used only in times of national emergency and security.

While the Constitution has prescribed limitations precisely to prevent power from being abused, Lorenzana explained the martial law declaration has implications on the country's peace and order, economy, trade, tourism and people's way of life.

Vice President Leni Robredo said lawmakers should listen to security officials regarding the "real" security situation in Mindanao before pushing for the extension of martial law in the region.

"Before we talk about the extension of martial law, let's discuss first what is really happening there. Yesterday, someone proposed an extension," Robredo said, apparently referring to Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

On Saturday, Alvarez said he would ask Congress to extend martial law for five years to give President Duterte time to eradicate terrorism and insurgency in

Mindanao under his term.

"The military says this (five-year extension) is too long. Maybe it's better if we listen to those who officially hold information on the real situation before we talk about any extension," Robredo said.

Robredo noted Duterte had said the decision to extend martial law in Mindanao would depend on the advice of his security officials.

Duterte's martial law under Proclamation No. 216 will expire on July 22, two days before he delivers his second State of the Nation Address.

Davao City businessmen led by Ronald Go, president of the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (DCCCII), has expressed support for Duterte's declaration of martial law.

Go said he understands the need to quell any threat to national security.

However, he said the business community also looks forward to an expeditious conclusion of the conflict in Marawi City even with the possible extension of martial law.

"That for any extension of martial law, we hope for an expeditious conclusion to the conflict or a scenario where the area covered by martial law is reduced so that we can continue attracting tourists and investors as we have experienced in the first part of this year," Go said.

– With Helen Flores

12 July 2017



Page: 1

57% of Pinoys approve of ML in Mindanao – SWS

By HELEN FLORES

A majority of Filipinos are in favor of martial law in Mindanao, but more than six out of 10 of them oppose the expansion of martial law to the Visayas and Luzon, the latest survey by the

Social Weather Stations (SWS) shows

The survey, taken from June 23 to 26, found that 57 percent of adult Filipinos believe that "it was the right decision," 29 percent said it should have been declared only in Marawi City and the province of Lanao del Sur, while 11

percent said it should have been declared only in Marawi, Lanao del Sur and nearby provinces.

Those who said President Duterte was right in declaring martial law in the whole of Mindanao was highest in Mindanao at 64 percent, followed by

Metro Manila at 58 percent, the Visayas at 57 percent and balance Luzon at 53 percent.

By class, it was highest in class ABC at 70 percent, followed by class E at 58 percent and class D at 56 percent

Turn to Page 8

However, the June survey also found that 63 percent disagreed with the statement, "President Duterte should also declare martial law in the Visayas." Twenty-three percent agreed, while 13 percent were undecided about the matter.

The survey also showed 67 percent who disagreed with the statement, "President Duterte should also declare martial law in Luzon." Twenty percent agreed, while 13 percent were undecided.

Awareness of Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao was highest in

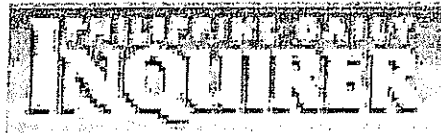
Mindanao at 98 percent, followed by Metro Manila at 93 percent, the Visayas at 93 percent and balance Luzon at 88 percent.

By class, awareness was highest in class D, or *masa*, at 93 percent, followed by class ABC at 90 percent and class E at 86 percent.

The survey used face-to-face interviews of 1,200 representative adults.

Duterte placed Mindanao under martial law last May 23 following the attack of the IS-linked Maute terrorists in Marawi City.

12 July 2017



Page: A7

Marawi siege turning into a 'war of attrition'

ILIGAN CITY—The Marawi fighting is turning into a war of attrition.

This was how Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) information and peace panel chief Mohagher Iqbal described the two-month long siege in this city as he emphasized the need to "deprive the militants of the opportunity to resupply [so that] the siege cannot last for long."

"If that is achieved, the militants will only be left with the will to fight. In war, that alone cannot take you far," he said.

According to official data, more than 400,000 displaced people are waiting for the war to end so they can return home. Those from Marawi fled to escape the crossfire while those from nearby towns evaded the specter of hunger as food supply in their localities tightened.

The MILF has downplayed the capacity of Islamic State (IS)-inspired militants to besiege Marawi City for an extended period, expecting the war to end the soonest.

"The fighting in Marawi City is going to end soon, God willing! There is no doubt about that. The Maute group cannot hold on any longer," the MILF

earlier said in a statement posted on its official website.

But the group did not give an estimate of the staying power of the Maute terrorists who are joined by fighters of the Abu Sayyaf, whose leader, Isnilon Hapilon, is said to be the southeast Asian emir of the IS to which the Lanao militants pledged allegiance.

Iqbal explained that the Maute group and its allied forces are "not an established army, hence, these are dependent on volunteers."

"And absent a clear political agenda, it is difficult to generate a horde of volunteers who will fight to the death in battle. By contrast, the MILF has a deeper reserve of fighters but its military activities are calibrated on the basis of its political objective," Iqbal said in a phone interview.

Iqbal is a veteran in over 40 years of fighting for a self-governing territory of predominantly Moro-populated areas in Mindanao founded on the Bangsamoro's distinct history and identity as a people.

The MILF fought four major wars with the Armed Forces, the longest of which was in 2000,

lasting some five months that concluded with the capture of its main camp in Maguindanao. When the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro was signed in 2014, the group has an estimated 12,000 fully armed fighters.

Styling itself as a local IS branch, the Maute group, on the other hand, has vowed to create a Mindanao wilayah (province) of the so-called Islamic caliphate to be governed by Shariah, a system of laws based on the Quran.

But the MILF finds this goal vague. "Building a caliphate is more in the mind rather than an immediate possibility."

Still, the idea drew in as much as 700 fighters when the siege was pulled off on May 23, based on the estimate of Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., chief of the Western Mindanao Command.

Early last month, Galvez also estimated that the militants could go on fighting for two more months given the cache of weapons and ammunition they have, either looted from homes and business establishments, or stacked up in advance. —RYAN D. ROSAURO INQ

12 July 2017



Page: 46

Muslim nonsupporters 'fair game' for Maute

By Allan Nawal and Julie S. Alipala
@Team_Inquirer

MARAWI CITY—"It's like issuing a fatwa (edict) against us," a Lanao del Sur official said as supporters and sympathizers of the Maute group started branding some individuals here as "murtad fitri" (apostate, or those who have renounced their faith).

Murtad fitri, or born Muslims not supportive of the Maute's cause, are fair game, said pro-Maute social media users, using the hashtag #amaq and #amaqmedia.

"Amaq" refers to the pro-Islamic State website Amaq News Agency.

The Lanao del Sur official, who did not want to be identified for his safety, said the Maute group continued to claim that the Marawi crisis was a war between Muslims and Christians.

Even on social media, pro-Maute individuals—some of whom used

aliases—said the "mujahideens" (holy warriors) were fighting for Islam and those who were not supportive of them were either "kuffar" (unbelievers), or murtad.

"But Allah will punish them for what they are doing to Muslims," said one post in Maranao.

Sgt. Albinir Esmael, a Muslim soldier, said it was painful to be branded as murtad.

"I am a practicing Muslim and I am fighting for peace. Did I lose my identity because I am fighting for peace?" said Esmael, a former Moro National Liberation Front member integrated into the Philippine Army.

Ustadz Abdulharim Ambor, an imam based in Iligan City, said it was not for a particular group to determine who the unbelievers were.

"Islam is a religion of peace and we believe that religion is not compulsory," he said.

Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, spokesperson of Task Force Marawi, said the Marawi crisis was far from being religious.

"This is a war against terror and the Maute group (members) have never been Muslims. They killed helpless civilians. They loot and they use drugs," Herrera said.

He also cited the deaths of some Muslim soldiers in the course of the military's efforts to retake the city.

At least five Muslim soldiers have died since the crisis started on May 23.

They were Sgt. Ashai Sakiran, Sgt. Cassidy Uday, Cpl. Taharuddin Salahudin, Cpl. Alyasir Abdullah and Pvt. Saed Padada.

A Maute propagandist wrote on Facebook that their hearts did not bleed when they killed people who pretended to be Muslims.

"They have to be beheaded if we catch them alive. Their souls belong to hell," the propagandist wrote.

An Islamic scholar said he would not debate with Maute supporters on the issue of apostasy, but he added that most Muslims did not share this idea.

"Our reason is it would be pointless to debate with them because they have their own conviction. But let me put it this way: Their number is only small compared with the majority of Muslims, who believe in coexistence and freedom of choice," said Aleem Taher Amate, president of the United Imam of the Philippines.

As to who the real "shaheed" (martyr) were between slain Muslim soldiers and Maute gunmen, Amate said "only Allah knows."

In Zamboanga City, elders of Muslim organizations are turning the tables on Islamic State-inspired gunmen, tagging them murtad for agitating war and bringing destruction to Marawi.

Aleem Jamal Sakaluran Munib, executive director of Davao City-based

Madrasah Comprehensive Development Program and convener of the Youth and Ulama dialogue in Zamboanga, said the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups launched a personalized war that had nothing to do with religion.

"How can you call it religious or holy when there is massive destruction of properties, violence, killing of innocent people," Munib told the Inquirer on Tuesday.

Munib is one of the speakers at the Promoting Political Climate and Stability for Peace forum in Zamboanga.

Mohaquer Iqbal, peace panel chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said the Maute's call for religious war and designation of those not joining it as murtad "is the line of Isis."

Munib Kahal, president of the Muslim Student Association, dismissed the Maute and Abu Sayyaf "as only one fraction of Muslims in Mindanao with political agenda." INQ

12 July 2017



Page: AL

HOME BRIEFLY

MARAWI FOLK ALLOWED TO GO TO SAFE ZONES

MARAWI CITY—The military said it would allow residents to return to their respective homes in areas considered “safe zones” only to get vital documents amid the ongoing battle between government troops and Islamic militants.

Lt. Col. Christopher Tampus, commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion, said on Monday afternoon that there were areas inside the city where residents could go back to.

But residents must coordinate with members of the Task Force Ranao based in the provincial capitol, Tampus said.

“There are areas where we will allow civilians to return to get documents and other important belongings. (Retrieving) television sets and refrigerators are not allowed. I’m very sorry... please be patient. In due time this will be over,” Tampus said.

The Army official said areas where there were still gun battles remained off limits to civilians.

“Those who want to go to their house should get clearance from the Task Force Ranao,” he said.

Meanwhile, Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, Task Force Marawi spokesperson, said they were finalizing the preparation for the deployment of Army engineers for the rebuilding and reconstruction of Marawi City. —**JEFFREY MAITEM INQ**

12 July 2017



Page. 8

Marawi casualty claim being verified

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana Tuesday said that news reports stating there are about 2,000 civilian casualties in Marawi City have yet to be verified.

In a statement, Lorenzana said that operations are still ongoing and that proper authorities are still assessing, consolidating, and verifying data from Marawi City.

"For now, we once again call on the people to be more cautious and discerning. Do not accept any information as fact," Lorenzana said.

In a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, said that based on information provided by local government units in the area, there are at least 300 civilians who remain unaccounted for.

Padilla said those unaccounted for are either trapped inside war-torn Marawi or being held hostage by the ISIS-inspired Maute Group.
(Francis T. Wakefield)

12 July 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 04

**AFP HIRAP MABAWI
ANG MARAWI**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Hirap pa rin ang militar na mabawi ang Marawi City mula sa lokal na ISIS na kinabibilangan ng iba't ibang jihadist group.

Problemado umano ang mga sundalo dahil sa mga hawak na bihag ng teroristang grupo sa pangunguna ng Maute terror group.

Walang eksaktong bilang ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) kung ilan ang hawak na bihag ng mga terorista, pero may ulat na nasa 240 ang kasama ni Fr. Chito Sukanob na hawak ng mga terorista.

Nakatutok din ang AFP sa ulat na ginagamit ng ISIS sa kanilang mga bihag bilang combatant, looter at human shield.

Ikinuwento umano ito ng nakatakas na bihag kung saan sinabing pinuwersa silang makipaglaban sa militar at pinapatay ang mga sumasalungat sa utos ng mga terorista.

Hiwa-hiwalay rin umano silang hawak ng mga kalaban at dinadala sila sa iba't ibang lugar.

Halos magdadalawang buwan na ang sagupaan sa Marawi City.

12 July 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 2

510 na patay sa 50 days nang bakbakan sa Marawi City

UMAKYAT na sa 510 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa patuloy na nagaganap na bakbakan sa pagitan ng tropa ng pamahalaan at Maute group sa Marawi City.

Sinabi ni Armed Forces of the Philippines Spokesman B/Gen. Restituto Padilla na sa ikalimampung araw ng bakbakan sa Marawi City ay umakyat na rin sa 90 sundalo na ang nagbuwis ng kanilang buhay.

Umaabot naman sa 381 ang bilang ng mga nasawing terorista habang 39 ang bilang ng mga sibilyan.

Ayon kay Padilla nasa 461 naman na matataas na kalibre ng baril ang narekober at 1,723 sibilyan ang na-rescue.

Nauna nang sinabi ng

Department of Social Welfare and Development na marami na rin ang mga nagkakasakit sa mahigit sa 40,000 katao na pansamantalang nanunuluyan sa mga evacuation centers.

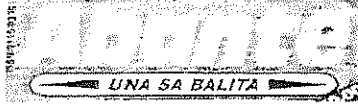
Samantala, aabot naman sa 10 paaralan ang nasira sa patuloy na labanan sa Marawi City.

Sinabi ni Department of Education (DepEd) Assistant Secretary Atty. Tonisito Umali, bukod sa mga nasirang paaralan ay mayroong isang paaralan ang tunakawan.

Sinabi nito na gumagamit sila ng temporaryong lugar para gamitin ng mga mag-aaral.

Maraming mga guro ng Marawi ang sumasailalim ng debriefing dahil sa patuloy na labanan sa lugar.

12 July 2017



Pahina. 2

Paring bihag bomb-maker ng Maute

Ginagawang tagagawa at tagabitbit ng bomba ang paring Katoliko na bihag ng Maute Group, ayon sa paglalahad ng isa sa mga nakatakas na bihag nang humarap sa mga sundalo.

Ayon sa nakatakas na bihag na kimlala lang sa alyas "Tata", mula sa Iligan City, umaabot pa sa 28 sibilyan ang bihag ng mga terorista na kasa-kasama ng mga ito sa palipat-lipat na taguan.

Isinalaysay ni Tata na ginagamit na mga utusan gaya ng tagaluto at tagabitbit ng

mga gamit ng mga Maute ang mga bihag at maging si Fr. Chito Suganob ay pinagdadala at tinuruan pang gumawa ng bomba.

Sinabi pa ni Tata, palipat-lipat umano ang kanyang mga kaanak at kasamang mga bihag sa dalawang tunnel sa ilalim ng mosque sa sentrong bahagi ng Marawi City.

"Kasama yung pari Buhay yung pari, pinagagawa nga ng bomba, sa dalawang tunnel lang palipat-lipat lang sila

doon," kuwento pa ni Tata.

Samantala, mihayag naman ng mga kaanak ni Fr. Suganob na inaasahan na ng pamilya nito anuman ang dinaranas sa kamay ng Maute Group kasama ang iba pang bihag sa Marawi City.

"Wala namang pagpipilian ang aking kapatid o ang iba pang bihag dahil sa banta ng mga rebelde na pupugutan sila ng ulo kapag hindi sumumod sa pinapagawa," wika ni Boyet Suganob, kapatid ng pari. **(Betchai Julian)**

12 July 2017



Page: 4

4 Maute terror suspects face rebellion raps

By JAIME LAUDE

Four suspected members of the Maute terror group intercepted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Pasay City last Monday while trying to leave for Malaysia would face rebellion charges once their links with the terrorists have been fully established, the military said yesterday.

Three of the four are currently undergoing further interrogation at the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), while the other suspect is under the custody of National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) prior to the filing of rebellion charges against them.

Sources said that Ashary Palawan Maute, Yasser Dumaraya Maute and Abdulraham Maute are under CIDG custody in Camp Crame, Quezon City while Alnizar Palawan Maute is detained at the NBI.

"There's one who is now under the custody of the NBI as it has been established that he is included in the Arrest Order No. 2, while the three others are still undergoing further questioning at the PNP-CIDG," said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman.

Padilla, without identifying the four currently under government custody, said that investigators are now in the process of establishing the specific involvement of the suspects with the Maute terrorists.

Bureau of Immigration (BI) officers at the NAIA Terminal 3 initially stopped seven suspected Maute group members from boarding their Malaysia-bound flight at NAIA based on travel watch lists of the bureau the other day.

They were scheduled to board Cebu Pacific flight 5J 499 bound for Malaysia at 2:45 p.m. yesterday.

Three other Maute relatives – Abdulchahar Maute, Cota and Acnani Mawiyag – were also held at the airport but later allowed to leave.

BI and Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) officials have cleared another Saudi Arabia-bound Maute identified as Aziz Maute after authorities found out that he is an overseas Filipino worker in Riyadh and employed as a cleaner and is not involved in terrorist activities in Marawi.

Aziz Maute was scheduled to board Philippine Airlines flight PR 654 bound for Riyadh at noon.

Authorities said Ashary, Yasser, Abdulraham and Alnizar Maute have derogatory records in the ISAFP.

12 July 2017

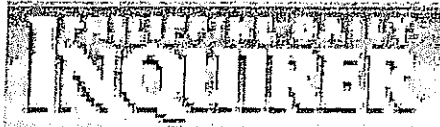
Manila Standard

Page. 31



PAL DONATION. Rear Admiral Narciso Vingson, deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (second from left), receives a P2-million check from Philippine Airlines chairman Dr. Lucio Tan (third from left), as the flag carrier's support to Filipino soldiers fighting in Marawi City. Dr. Tan lauded the courage and sacrifice of those in the frontlines and thanked the AFP for their loyal service to the nation. With them are (from left) AFP spokesperson Col. Restituto Padilla Jr., PAL president Jaime Bautista and Basic Holdings Corp. president and retired Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison.

12 July 2017



Page: A15

OVERPOWERED, DISARMED, ARRESTED

SOLDIER NABBED FOR FOILED RESTO ROBBERY

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
@JhessetEnanoINQ

A soldier who worked for the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) was arrested on Monday night after he tried to rob a pizza restaurant in Quezon City.

Sgt. Ventura Ramirez Jr. was overpowered by restaurant workers who turned him over to the police.

A report to Chief Supt. Guillermo Eleazar, Quezon City Police District director, said the employees of Angel's Pizza on Kalayaan Avenue in Barangay Pinyahan were manning the store around 10:30 p.m. when Ventura walked in, wearing a motorcycle helmet.

Footage from the establishment's closed-circuit televi-



Photo grab from CCTV footage shows suspect pointing a gun at Angel's Pizza crew. —QCPD PHOTO

sion (CCTV) camera showed him pulling out a .45-cal. firearm from his sling bag and pointing it at the staff.

However, the restaurant employees overpowered him, took his gun and called the police.

Supt. Pedro Sanchez of the Kamuning police station, said

that Ramirez, an active soldier, refused to give a statement to investigators.

An identification card recovered from the suspect showed that he was assigned to ISAFP as a confidential agent. He also yielded several bills in local and foreign currencies. —INQ

12 July 2017



Pahina. 4



na sang-ayon sa kanya. ***

Hirit ni House Speaker Alvarez: Martial Law, palawigin pa ng limang taon

NAGSALITA na ang militar, masyado raw matagal ang limang taon para palawigin ang kasalukuyang Batas Militar, batay sa sitwasyon ngayon. Pero nasa mga pulitiko pa rin ang desisyon. Matapos na kasi sa July 22 ang animnapung araw na ibinigay ng Konstitusyon para sa deklarasyon ng Martial Law sa Mindanao.

Kahit si Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana ay nagpahayag na palalawigin lang ang Martial Law kung talagang kinakailangan lang. Ayon sa AFP, wala nang isandaan ang mga Maute sa Marawi.

Kaya hindi natin maintindihan at hindi rin siguro maintindihan ng militar kung bakit limang taon kaagad ang nasa isip ni House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez?

Ang sinasabi ba ni Alvarez ay hindi kaya ng gobyerno na sugpuin ang anumang banta ng terorismo sa bansa mula sa mga militante kung walang Martial Law?

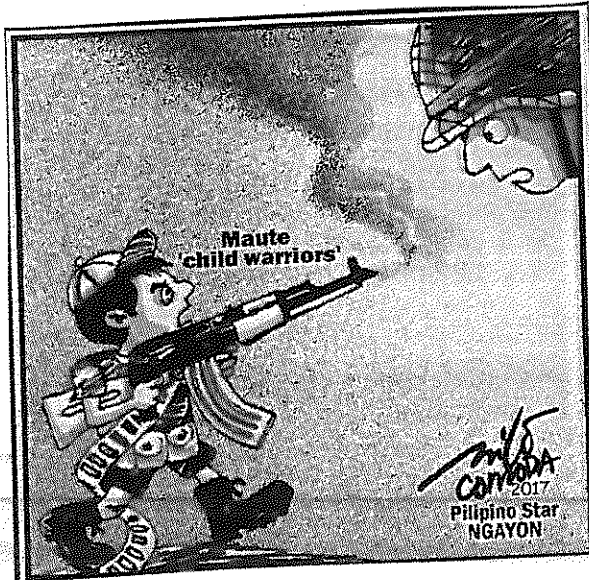
Kahit ang Palasyo ay dumidistansya sa pahayag ni Alvarez sa pagpapalawig ng Martial Law nang limang taon. Personal na opinyon lang daw niya 'yun. Ang desisyon ay manggagaling pa rin sa pangulo, batay na rin sa magiging rekomendasyon ng militar at pulisya sa kanya.

Anumang pagpapalawig ay kailangan ng desisyon mula sa Senado at Kongreso. Pero siya ang Speaker of the House at nakita na natin na kayang-kaya niyang magpatupad ng mga patakaran

12 July 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 4



Editorial

Mga bata ang kalaban

AYON sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Anasa 80 hanggang 100 pa ang mga teroristang Maute na naglulungga sa Marawi City at patuloy na nakikipaglaban sa kanila. Pero ang nakaka-shock sa sinabi ng AFP, pawang mga bata at mga teenager ang nakikipaglaban at nakakasagupa nila mismo. Ang rebelasyon ng AFP ay pinatotohanan ng mga nakatakas na hostages ng Maute na pawang mga bata at teenager ang nakikipaglaban. Sanay na sanay umanong humawak ng high-powered firearms ang mga teenager at ilan sa mga ito ang sniper. Karamihan sa mga teenager ay nahasa nang gumamit ng baril mula pa noong mga bata ito. Maaga umanong na-recruit ng Maute ang mga teenager kaya magagaling humawak ng baril. Sa isang interbyu sa TV, sinabi ng isang teenager na na-recruit ng Maute na isa sa mga itinaturo sa kanila ay ang pamumugot ng ulo. Iyon daw ang utos sa kanila at wala silang magawa kundi sundin iyon.

Isa sa mga pinangangambahan ngayon, pati ang mga binihag na bata at teenager noong sumalakay sa Marawi ang Maute ay puwersahan na ring pinagagamit ng baril at lumaban para sa kanila. Inuutusan din ng mga terorista ang kanilang bihag na magdala ng ammunitions, supplies at magnakaw sa mga abandonadong bahay. Ayon pa sa military, ang hindi sumunod sa utos ng mga terorista ay pinapatay. Anim na hostages na ang pinatay ng Maute dahil sa pagsuway ng mga ito sa utos na makipaglaban sa mga sundalo. Kaya walang magawa ang mga bihag kundi sundin ang utos. Laban iyon sa kanilang kalooban pero wala silang magawa.

Mabigat ang sitwasyong ito sa mga sundalo sa-pagkat maaari nilang mapatay ang "child warriors" para maidepensa ang sarili. Pero sabi ni AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, gagawin nila ang lahat para ma-rescue ang mga bata o teenager na puwersahang pinagagamit ng armas para lumaban sa government troops.

Gawin ng AFP ang lahat nang paraan para mailigtas ang "child warriors" na pinilit lamang ng Maute para makipagpatayan. Mga biktima lamang sila kaya kailangang mailigtas. Hindi sila nararapat sa ganitong laban. Kapag natapos ang giyera sa Marawi, kailangang ibaling ang atensiyon sa mga bata na nagiging biktima ng terorista. Kailangang mahango sila sa karalitaan at kamangmangan.

12 July 2017



Pahina. 3

BAKAS!



NI KOKOY ALANO

Sabwatan sa kasakiman ang dahilan!

MATAGAL nang isyu ang sabwatan ng mga kriminal na rebelde, masasamang elemento ng pulitika at AFP kaya naging kilabot na monsters ang Abu Sayyaf, BIFF, Maute at NPA.

Marami nang insidente na ang mga nabawing armas sa *gunrunners* ay nagmula sa AFP arsenal na handa nang ideliver sa mga kampo ng mga kalaban ng gobyerno. Mga *gunrunner* sa miyembro mismo ng AFP na posibleng may kakutsaba na mas nakakataas na opisyal ng kanilang organisasyon.

Naging malaking komersiyong na ang kriminalidad sa bansa, partikular na sa Mindanao at ito ang problema ni Pres. Digong Duterte. Kung hindi malilinis ang hanay ng AFP at PNP, malabong magtagumpay ang mga programa ng gobyerno tungo sa kapayapaan at pangkabuhayan.

Ang giyera sa Mindanao ay maaring walang kinalaman sa relihiyon at kultura na una nating pinanuwalaan. Kung totoong ang pondo ng mga rebelde ay nagmumula sa *illegal drugs* at *kidnappings for ransom* at ang kanilang ginagawang pambibiktima maging sa kanilang kabarangon Muslim ang pagbabasahan, malayong makamtan ng mga taga Mindanao ang mapayapang kasarinlan ng kanilang rehiyon. Nabigyan na sila ng pagkakataon na magkaroon ng ARMM pero nilamon ng pulitika at ang BBL naman ay napuno ng intriga. Isinusulong ang ang Federalisasyon na sana naman ay hindi balutin ng hirwaga bago matapos ang termino ng Presidente sa 2022.

Bagama't kilalang mga matatayang manindigan ang mga Muslim, marami pa rin sa kanila ang biktima ng pagsasamantala ng mga pulitkang nagkukunwaring kapanalig nila at tuluyan na nga silang nagiging tagapagpalaganap ng *racial exploitations* dahil nagpagamit din naman sila para magmanipula sa resulta ng mga nagdaang *national elections* kapalit ng salapi. Kung ganun, maliwanag na ang kataksilan ay nasa panig nila mismo. Ang bagong liderato ng AFP at PNP ay nakalubog pa rin sa kumunoy ng korapsiyon na inuwan ng mga nagdaang pamunuan nito at

(Sundan sa page 4)

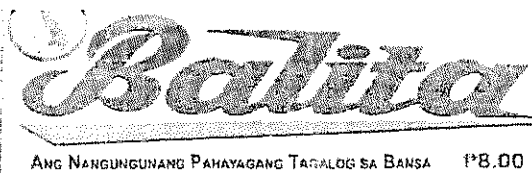
tanging ang ipakikitang tiwala at suporta sa kanila ng mamamayan lamang ang posibleng makapagpabago ng diskarte ng dinatnan nilang bulok na sistema.

Ang mga kaguluhan na naitala sa Basilan, Davao, Zamboanga, Bohol at Marawi ay maari pang masundan ng mas malaking insidente kung hindi paghahandaan

ng matuwid na liderato ng AFP, PNP at pamunuang sibilyan. Asahan na lamang natin na magiging tumpak ang gagawing mga hakbang ng ating Presidente sa tulong ng Kongreso, Senado at mga matataas na hukuman ng bansa.

BAKAS sa Radyo La Verdad 1350KHz AM Band tungong Sabado 5:00-7:00 p.m.

12 July 2017



Page. 7



PAGTANAW AT PANANAW
Bert de Guzman

Martial law, palalawigin pa

HALOS tiyak nang palalawigin ang martial law sa Mindanao na dineklara ni President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (PRRD) noong Mayo 23, 2017. May bisa ito hanggang Hulyo 23 o 60 araw linsunod sa itinatakda ng Konstitusyon. Tiyak na hihilingin niya sa Kongreso ang xtension na tiyak namang susupportahan ina Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez at Senate Pres. Koko Pimentel, mga kaalaydo at apartido sa PDP-Laban.

Gayunman, hihingi ang mga senador at kongresista ng security briefings tungkol sa sitwasyon sa Marawi City. Nais nilang talaman ang tunay na kalagayan, kung nagulo at mapanganib pa ang lungsod sa pro-Islamic State Maute Group na ng mga sniper ay malaking problema

ng AFP dahil hanggang ngayon daw ay nakapuwesto pa sa matataas na gusali. Ito ang dahilan, ayon kay Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, kung bakit nagsasagawa ng airstrikes ang military para targetin ang MG snipers na nasa high-rise buildings.

Umaasa ang Malacañang sa pagbuti ng relasyon ng Simbahang Katoliko at ng Duterte administration sa pagkakahalal kay Davao Archbishop Romulo Valles bilang bagong pangulo ng Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), kapalit ni Dagupan-Lingayen Archbishop Socrates Villegas. Si Valley ay kaibigan ni Mano Digong. Siya rin ang nagpayo kay PDU30 na iwasan ang pagmumura. May hidwaan ang Simbahan at si Pres. Rody tungkol sa ilang isyu, tulad ng restorasyon ng death penalty, extrajudicial killings sa drug

war ng Pangulo, at iba pa. Naniwala at suportado ng publiko ang giyera ni PRRD sa illegal drugs basta iwasan lang ang walang patumanggang pamamanal at pagpatay ng mga pulis sa pinaghinatalaan pa lang o kaya'y hindi kasangkot dito. Ang nais nilang pagtuunan din ng pansin ng Duterte admin ay ang tungkol sa programa sa pabahay ng mahihirap na tao.

Para kay Manila Rep. Carlo Lopez (2nd District), dapat paglaanan ng angkop na pondo ang mga benepisyaryo ng Areas for Priority Development (APD). "Panahon na para mailipat sa kanila ang pagmamay-ari ng mga tahanan sa mga lugar na deklaradong APD's batay sa umiiral na mga batas," ayon kay Lopez.

Igigiit ni Lopez, vice chairman ng house committee on housing and

urban land reform, na maipasok sa 2018 budget na paglaanan ng pondo ang mga benepisyaryo sa APD's o maghahain siya ng panukalang batas tungkol dito.

Malinaw, aniya, sa batas ang karapatan ng mga mamamayan na ang mga tahanan ay nasa mga lugar na deklaradong APD's, gaya ng Presidential decree 1517, 2016, Proclamation 1967, Republic Act 7279 o Urban Development and Housing Act para maging kanila na ang mga ito. May report na ang mga residente na nasa marginalized sector o "laylayan ng lipunan" ay pinaalis sa lupaing saklaw ng APD's.

Sinabi ng Tondo solon na ang mga nabanggit na batas ay "nagbibigay ng sapat na proteksiyon sa mga residente at pamilyang nabanggit na nagiging biktima..."

Sundan sa pahina 11

Martial law...

Mula sa pahina 7

ng mga kasong ejection sa mga hukuman." Ayon sa kanya, ang libu-libong pamilya at benepisyaryo ng APD's ay iyong nakatira sa mga lupaing pribado at kuwestiyonableng lupain nang 10 taon o higit pa na hindi nabigyan ng pansin ng pamahalaan, karapatan at katarungan sa mga batas na umiiral.

Bilang halimbawa, binanggit niya ang kanyang constituents na hanggang ngayon ay walang katiyakan ang paninirahan, bagamat ang lugar na kanilang tinutirahan ay deklaradong APD's, panahon pa ng rehimeng Marcos. Dapat ay bigyan sila ng sapat at angkop na pabahay, at hindi lamang laging sinasalakay sapagkat sila ay pinaghinatalang drug pushers at users.

Idineklara ni Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi ang tagumpay ng Iraqi heroic soldiers matapos talurin ang Jihadist Islamic State o Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) sa mabangis na labanan sa Mosul noong Linggo sa loob ng 9 buwan. Dumating si Abadi sa "liberated city of Mosul" at binati ang matatapang at bayaning kawal ng Iraq. Kailan naman kaya bibisita si Pres. Rody sa Marawi City upang ideklarang "malaya na ang Marawi" mula sa teroristang Maute Group na puminsala, gumulo at naghasuk ng lagim at kamatayan sa mahigit 200,000 mamamayan ng lungsod?

12 July 2017



Pahina. 4

Huwag pangunahan sa batas militar

May punto ang oposisyon sa pagsasabing huwag pangunahan ang magiging desisyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kung palalawigin pa ang 60-araw ng Martial Law na dineklara nito sa buong Mindanao.

Pinuna ni Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman kung bakit pinag-usapan na ng mga senador at kongresista ang pagpapalawig ng martial samantalang hindi pa naman ito pormal na hinihiling ng pangulo sa Kongreso.

Kagaya ng unang mga pahayag ni Duterte, nakasalalay sa magiging rekomendasyon sa kanya ng militar at pulisya kung magkakaroon ng ekstensyon ang 60-araw ng Martial Law sa Mindanao. Hanggang sa ngayon ay wala pa namang ibimbigay na rekomendasyon sa kanya.

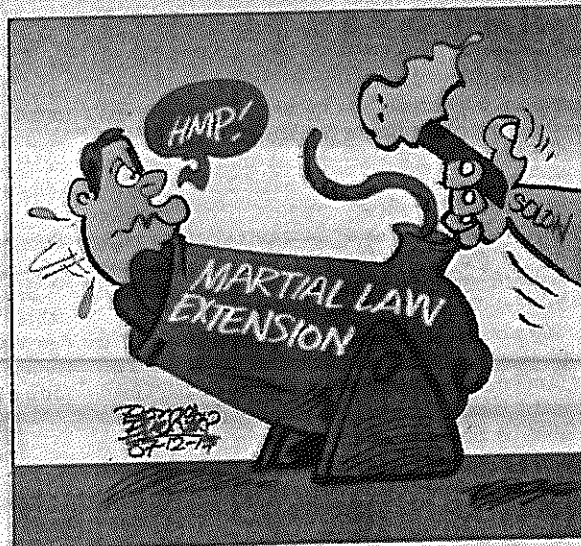
Ang sabi ng Armed Forces of the Philippines, inaaral pa nilang mabuti kung ano ang magiging rekomendasyon. Gayundin ang pulisya.

Maging si Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ay nagpahayag na nasa kamay ng pangulo, bilang Commander-in-Chief, ang pagdedeklara ng Martial Law. At upang mapawi ang mga pangamba, binigyang-diin ng Kalihim na may mga itinakdang limitasyon ang Saligang Batas upang hindi mabusos ang Martial Law.

Sa ngayon ay wala pa talaga tayong ideya kung ano ang mga susunod na kaganapan. Kung palalawigin ang Martial Law sa buong Mindanao, o lilimitahan lamang ito sa Marawi at mga karatig-lugar nito, o wala nang ekstensyon.

Nasa kamay pa rin ng pangulo ang pinal na desisyon kahit na ano pa man ang ibigay na rekomendasyon sa kanya ng militar at pulisya. Siya pa rin ang magpapasya sa bandang huli at susunod sa kanya ang ating mga kapulisan at kasundaluan.

Saludo lamang tayo sa ating mga kapulisan at kasunda-



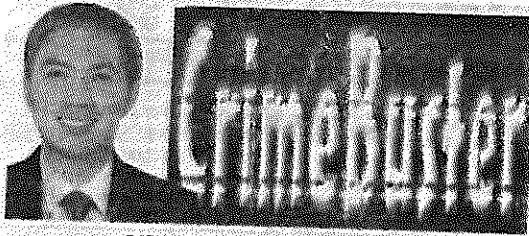
luhan dahil sa kanilang ipinakitang propesyunalismo bilang mga tagapagpatupad ng batas militar sa buong Mindanao. Wala tayong nabalitaan na mayroong naganap na malaking insidente ng pang-aabuso at paglabag sa mga karapatang pantao.

Mismong ang mga namumuno sa Department of National Defense at Armed Forces of the Philippines ay tinyak sa publiko na walang dapat ipangamba. Malaking bagay ito para mapawi ang mga pag-aalinlangan at takot ng mamamayan sa trauma ng Martial Law noong rehimeng Marcos.

12 July 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 2



NI LUCKY BOY ALCALA

E-mail address: luckyalcala@gmail.com/09175741727

WALONG katao kabilang ang isang overseas Filipino worker (OFW) na nakatakda sanang sumakay sa Cebu Pacific flight ang hinarang kamakalawa sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) dahil sa apel-yidong Maute.

Ayon kay Charo Lo-garta, tagapagsalita ng Cebu Pacific, dinala sa Airport Police Department ang pito ay isinasailalim na sa masusing imbestigasyon.

Kabilang sa mga naharang ay sina Abdul Kahar Maute, Al Nizar Maute, Abdul Rahman Maute, Yasser Maute, Ahzari Maute, Mawiyag Cota at Akmali Mawiyag.

Ang nabanggit na mga pasahero ay hinarang ng Bureau of Immigration (BI) sa NAIA na patungo sana sa Kuala Lumpur sa Malaysia at pasakay ng Cebu Pacific flight 5J-499 dakong alas-2:10 ng hapon.

Apat sa kanila ang luma-bas na may derogatory record mula sa Intelligence Service of Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) at sumasailalim sa masusing interogasyon.

Nabatid na isa pang pasahero ang na-hold na nakilala namang si Aziz Maute, 25 anyos, siya ay patungo Riyadh via PAL flight PR-654, subalit matapos ang ilang oras na interogasyon lumabas na lehitimong OFW si Aziz at may ilang taon nang nagtatrabaho sa Riyadh bilang housekeeper.

Makalipas ang imbestigasyon kay Aziz siya ay pinakawalan ng BI at nakatakda siyang magpa-rebook sa PAL flight para bukas patungong Riyadh.

Ang mga naharang na Maute ay pawang tubong Marawi at Iligan.

Sa ngayon ay hinihintay pa ang official statement ng Bureau of Immigration hingil sa pitong naharang na pasahero.

Hindi naman matukoy kung ang pitong nabanggit ay kabilang sa mga may -arrest order na ipinalabas ng Department of National- Defense (DND) kaugnay pa rin sa umiiral na Martial Law sa rehiyon ng Mindanao.

WALONG "MAUTE" HINARANG SA NAIA

12 July 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B4

Five years?

WITHOUT President Duterte asking for it – at least not publicly – Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez announced that if he had his way, he would have martial law in Mindanao extended for five years, or until 2022, the end of Duterte’s term.

The suggestion is so absurd that even Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, said this is too long an extension. By the way, the Constitution mandates the martial law proclamation is good only for 60 days, and will lapse on July 22, until Congress votes for its extension.

‘It is easy to see why there is serious opposition to a lengthy extension of martial law.’

sion.

Duterte himself said he will lift martial law if the defense department advises him so.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla said the military would submit a recommendation after finishing its assessment of the situation in Marawi City. Padilla said five years “may be too long.”

His colleagues in the House of Representatives have shot down Alvarez’s suggestion, with Rep. Harry Roque providing for a reasonable argument why he opposed it. Even Senate President Koko Pimentel is against the proposed lengthy extension.

Rep. Roque said, "Martial law, even if warranted, even if there is factual basis for it, is never good for the country. It is an admission to the entire world that there is rebellion or invasion in the Philippines." He added that this is never good for business, for tourism, and for our international reputation.

Rep. Rozzano Biazon supported this view, saying a lengthy extension "will give the impression that we are unable to contain the situation using normal powers of government."

While the extension of Proclamation 216 might be considered as a done deal, with the preponderance of Duterte allies in both houses of Congress likely to support it, it is easy to see why there is serious opposition to a lengthy extension of martial law.

The Filipino nation is still wary of the Marcos dictatorship that lasted for two decades, many of these years under martial law. This apprehension is very much evident in the present Constitution which was ratified under President Cory Aquino.

If Duterte can quell the religious-based rebellion in Marawi with the least use of martial law powers, just as he vowed he could do, then we might as well extend the emergency to the barest minimum.

After all, the military spokesmen say every day that passes means the government is getting nearer and nearer to clearing the whole of Marawi from Islamist rebels.

12 July 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 11

PAGBABAGO

Deferential treatment



By FLORANGEL ROSARIO BRAID

SEVERAL analysts, including former Constitutional Commissioner Chris Monsod used the word “abdication” and “deferential” treatment in describing the response of the 11 justices of the Supreme Court when they dismissed the three petitions questioning President Duterte’s Proclamation No. 216 declaring martial law in Marawi and the rest of Mindanao. In short, they believed that the attack by the Maute terror group was an act of rebellion as only this act and “invasion” would justify the imposition of military rule over the region.

In his dissent, Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said: “Section 18, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution expressly authorizes and specifically tasks the Court to review the judgment of the President as one of the two checking mechanisms on the President’s power to declare martial law or to suspend the privilege of the writ. The 1987 Constitution would not have entrusted this specific review power to the court if it intended the justices to simply trust the judgment or wisdom of the President. Such obeisance to the President is an abject abdication of a solemn duty imposed by the Constitution.” Thus, the Supreme Court missed this opportunity given by the Charter for it to reflect and act independently. While Carpio believes that martial law is constitutional only in Marawi, both Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and Justice Benjamin Caguioa opined that the declaration was constitutional only in Lanao del Sur (where Marawi is

located), Maguindanao, and Sulu. And while the three thought that martial law is justified in these areas, Justice Marvic Leonen, former chair of the Philippine panel during the PH-MILF peace talks believed that it was unconstitutional even in Marawi.

In justifying their decision, the 11 justices said that the very fact that they deliberated on the petitions showed that they exercised one of those limits in the President’s authority. They also noted that they upheld the declaration because of the existence of constitutional safeguards.

The court’s decision elicited considerable controversy. While some praised the “magnificent four” for their honesty and integrity, other voices thought otherwise. Justice Leonen bore the brunt of the storm for his remarks which I thought did not deserve the flak he has been receiving. Here, Leonen notes that what is now happening in Marawi are acts of terrorism, not rebellion, since the Mautes are nothing more than terrorists. He decries the creeping authoritarianism and the threat of a Marcosian martial law. The military has the capability to address the conflict, and will not need the declaration of martial law to do that, he noted in the following statement.

“We should desist, even resist when offered the farce that martial law is necessary because it is only an exclamation point. The crisis in Marawi is not considered a rebellion but an act of terrorism and therefore does not see the necessity for the imposition of martial law in Marawi or throughout the Philippines. The

military can quell the violence and can do so with the current legal arsenal that it has. Never again should this Court allow itself to step aside when the powerful invoke vague powers that feed on fear but could potentially undermine our most cherished rights... We should have the courage to never again clothe authoritarianism in any guise with the mantle of constitutionality. The ghost of Marcos’ Martial law must be exorcised with passion by this Court where its resilience reappears.”

To some extent, the High Court’s response to the petitioners reminds me of lines from “An Enemy of the People”, by Norwegian playwright, Henrik Ibsen. The theme centers on what the playwright calls the “tyranny of the majority.” The minority is always right; truth always rests with the minority, he says, as he describes the majority as the most dangerous enemy. In this literary piece, Ibsen focuses on the significance of the role of the intellectual and how freedom of thought, expression, and action is often disregarded by the prevailing majority. The play is concerned not only with corruption and pollution (also two of our top national problems), but also of the tendency of a democracy to deteriorate into a mobocracy, and the likelihood for moral ideals to be pushed aside by the pressures of self-interest. The influence of early Greek philosophers – Socrates and Plato who had voiced objection against the rule of the majority is evident in the thinking of philosophers like John Stuart Mill and Ibsen, among others.

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12 July 2017



Page. A5

Five-year martial law



IT IS well and good that the Armed Forces of the Philippines, this early, shot down the absurd proposal of a five-year martial law by House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

There have been several harebrained ideas coming from Speaker Alvarez but this one probably is the most outrageous. For President Rodrigo Duterte to proclaim martial law in the next five years, before the unfolding of events to lay its legal basis, is putting the cart before the horse. It does not take a rocket scientist or law graduate to know that.

But then, Bebot Alvarez probably wants to stay as Speaker in the next five years. Sucking up to Digong would ensure his tenure against challenges from other congressmen. Alvarez may not know it but his principal, the President, is surely aware the Speaker is doing him a disservice.

The military had enough sense to tell Alvarez that a five-year martial law is too long and any decision on its extension would depend on the situation on the ground. Duterte imposed martial law in Mindanao when the ISIS-linked Maute terrorists laid siege

to Marawi. The 60-day limit for imposing martial law, under the 1987 Constitution lapses on July 22, two days before the President deliver his State of the Nation Address before Congress on July 24. Duterte and sidekick Alvarez should just be grateful the Supreme Court ruled that the declaration of martial law in Mindanao has legal basis.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told a press briefing in Malacañang that the military's recommendation for the extension of martial law will depend on its own assessment of the situation and not on someone's say-so. The implementation of martial law after all falls on the shoulders of our soldiers. Without them, martial law cannot be carried out. Worse, a backlash to presidential abuses of prerogatives may just result in the army recoiling and pulling a coup d'état to unseat the President. This has happened before in Thailand and South Korea.

Except for some remnants and deadly sniper fire, it looks like government troops are about to wind up their clearing operation against the Mautes. It might still be acceptable to extend martial law another month in some parts of Mindanao threatened by terrorist acts. But unless we see urban guerrilla warfare being waged in Metro Manila and other major cities, the government

should be able to handle the situation without declaring the draconian measure of martial law.

But to impose martial law for five years? Even the people of Mindanao who want to get back to their homes and live normal lives will not accept living under the shadow of military rule.

Trump's Russian link

The Trump campaign team's denial of dealing with the Russians to influence the outcome of the last US elections is beginning to unravel. Listening and watching to CNN's Anderson Cooper's interview of political figures and analysts, one gets the sense that there was concerted effort to cover up the unlawful act.

A *New York Times* report detailed the meeting of Donald Trump Jr., campaign strategist Paul Manafort and Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner met with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya who purportedly offered damaging information on Democratic presidential rival Hilary Clinton.

Now getting info dirt on your rival is par for the course in any presidential election whether here or in America. But to meet with someone who's Russian and identified as having done work for the Kremlin, betrays Trump's desperation to win the White House. Putin, on the other hand, must probably think Trump would be more manageable than a Hillary Clinton, the for-

mer US Secretary of State. That Veselnitskaya is Russian should have raised the red flags with the Trump team. It's rather hard to believe Trump Junior's claim he does not know who he was meeting considering the Trump Towers in New York was then one of the most secured places during the presidential campaign. To get in one has to show proper identification before a layer of FBI and Secret Service agents.

Donald Jr. was a key player in his father's campaign for the White House. For him to say he does not the person he was meeting at the Trump Towers in New York City would show he really is a chip off the old block. Thomas Friedman, an author and political analyst, said Trump does not think things through and is prone to talking first and thinking later. These are not our words but Friedman's. He went on to add that Trump in the Group of 20 summit meeting in Hamburg, Germany failed to capitalize on harnessing the economic powers of these countries in dealing with the China problems on trade, the South China Sea dispute and the North Korean ICBM threat.

It would be interesting to see how much further the Trump team will unravel when they appear before a Senate committee which will investigate the case of Russian meddling in US elections. Senator John Warner wants to grill Trump Jr., et al.

12 July 2017



Page. 44

Martial law express



VIRTUAL REALITY

TONY LOPEZ

martial law, not the martial law that people were used to—and feared—for a long time. This is the Ferdinand Marcos martial law, which was declared from Sept. 21, 1972 and extended until 1981 when he theoretically lifted it. In effect, Marcos's martial law lasted for 14 years, from 1972 until the dictator was ousted by People Power in February 1986.

Martial law express came about because Solicitor General Jose Calida could not tell the high court, during the three days of oral arguments in June, what the difference is between martial law and the calling-out power of the President. Calida's answer: None.

What is the calling-out power of the President? It is one of the three extraordinary powers of the President, as commander-in-chief, the other two being suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus and declaring martial law.

According to the SC decision penned by Justice Mariano del Castillo, "among the three extraordinary powers, the calling-out power is the most benign and involves ordinary police action. The President may resort to this

extraordinary power whenever it becomes necessary to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion, or rebellion. "[T]he power to call is fully discretionary to the President," the only limitations being that he acts within permissible constitutional boundaries or

“Now we have a low-level martial law, not the martial law that people were used to.”

in a manner not constituting grave abuse of discretion." In fact, Del Castillo points out, "the actual use to which the President puts the armed forces is xx x not subject to judicial review."

This could mean that the only difference between the President's calling-out power and the power to declare martial law is that martial law is subject to review by the Supreme Court—and by Congress, which may extend it.

The 1987 Constitution puts limits on any Marcos-era type martial law. These limits, or bedrock standards as Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, are the fourth paragraph of Section 18, Article VII of the Constitution:

"A state of martial law does not suspend the operation of the Constitution, nor supplant the functioning of the civil courts or legislative assemblies, nor authorize the conferment of jurisdiction on military courts and agencies over civilians where civil courts are able to function, nor automatically suspend the privilege of the writ," writes Sereno in her dissenting opinion against the imposition of martial law on the entire island of Mindanao, instead of limiting this to just three provinces, including the province where Marawi City is located.

Martial law express has three major limits.

One, ability to legislate.

Says CJ Sereno: "The Constitution specifically provides that a state of martial law does not supplant the functioning of the legislative assemblies. The President is not automatically vested with plenary legislative powers. Ordinary legislation continues to belong to the national and local legislative bodies even during martial law. This necessarily connotes the continued operation of all statutes, even during a state of martial rule. It has been opined that the martial law administrator has the authority to issue orders that have the effect of law, but strictly only within the theater of war—an area that is not necessarily the same as the entire territorial scope of the martial law declaration."

Two, operation of civil courts. Explains Sereno: "The rule under the Constitution is that the civil courts cannot be supplanted by military courts. ... The civil courts remain open and fully functioning, and the Rules of Court continue to be applicable." She notes that despite Duterte's martial law, "all courts, including that in Manila City are functioning, albeit in a nearby municipality."

Turn to A5

Martial...

From A4

Three, despite martial law, there cannot be arbitrary arrests.

"The constitutional guarantee against arbitrary arrests under the Bill of Rights remains in full effect. As a general rule, a warrant of arrest is necessary before an arrest can be validly affected as provided in Section 2, Article III of the Constitution," insists Sereno.

However, she grants, "because rebellion, conspiracy, or proposal to commit rebellion and crimes or offenses committed in furtherance thereof constitute direct assaults against the State, they are in the nature of continuing crimes. As such, arrests without warrant of persons involved in rebellion are justified because they are essentially committing an offense when arrested."

Sereno says "The arrest of persons involved in rebellion is thus synonymous with a valid warrantless arrest of a person committing a crime in the presence of the arresting officer."

On the other hand, the chief points out. "Arrests of persons charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or the crime of conspiracy to commit terrorism may be made without judi-

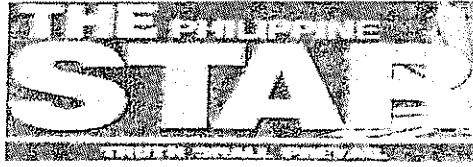
cial warrant only upon authority in writing by the Anti-Terrorism Council. Immediately after taking custody, the arresting officers shall notify in writing the judge of the court nearest the place of apprehension or arrest."

"The officer is allowed to detain the person for a period not exceeding three days from the moment the latter has been taken into custody. Within three days, the arresting officers shall present the person suspected of the crime of terrorism before any judge of the place where the arrest took place at any time of the day or night. Judges shall ascertain the identity of the arresting officers and the persons presented and inquire as to the reasons for the arrest. They shall also determine by questioning and personal observation whether or not the suspect has been subjected to any physical, moral or psychological torture. They shall submit a written report within three calendar days to the proper court that has jurisdiction over the case of the person thus arrested."

Considering the above, I am not surprised that House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez is now talking of an extended Duterte martial law—until 2022, until the President's term expires.

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12 July 2017



Page: 7

SKETCHES

ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

Rody's martial law

The rare times that I battled Metro Manila traffic to attend gatherings recently, I chatted with expats to find out what they thought about martial law under President Duterte.

Businessmen and officials even of several governments that champion human rights had a generally positive outlook about Duterte's martial law.

In fact those governments are concerned not about martial law, but about the potential spread of the terrorist threat in the region, with Mindanao as a base for the Islamic State. If this sounds like a speech by Dirty Rody, no, Juan and Juana, the foreign governments formed their own conclusions using their own intel sources.

The foreign governments, and their investors with presence in the Philippines, are mostly comfortable with Duterte's martial law. Especially because there have been no complaints of military abuses so far, except the usual noise from left-leaning groups.

In fact it's the Armed Forces of the Philippines that's protesting proposals by Duterte's sycophants in the House of Representatives to extend martial law for five years, or during his entire presidency.

Some of the expats expressed concern about prolonging martial law more than necessary, but who's to say when it's no longer needed? The AFP. And the expats also trust the AFP to make the proper recommendation at the right time.

Martial law has negative connotations everywhere. A travel industry player said the declaration prompted the cancellation of an initial 3,000 bookings from South Korea, the largest source of tourists for the Philippines.

A concern among expats is extending martial law to Metro Manila. So far, however, I haven't heard any serious talk about this, even from the House of silliness.

It's therefore not surprising that Duterte received his highest net approval rating yet in the Social Weather Stations survey taken last month, weeks after he declared martial law in the entire Mindanao.



For certain governments facing their own terrorist threats, one particular concern is the state of Philippine intelligence capability.

A foreign government (not Washington) had in fact warned Philippine security officials as early as two years ago about the potential threat of terrorists laying siege to Marawi City. Obviously, the warning was ignored, possibly because of a belief that Islamist threats would be neutralized by the peace initiatives with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Today there's a strong buzz at Camp Aguinaldo, corroborated by certain foreign governments, that young Turks in the MILF who are unimpressed with the peace talks have contributed mortars and other weaponry plus food and supplies to the Mautes and their Abu Sayyaf cousins, now holed up in tunnels they dug under Marawi over several months.

The existence of the tunnels is reportedly among the reasons for the protracted battles in a few villages in Marawi.

Local support for the Mautes, whose militants reportedly protect fund-raising activities including shabu manufacturing and drug trafficking by lowlives in the city, allowed the tunnels to be built under the noses of government security forces.

President Duterte got that part right about the drugs in Marawi. What was apparently overlooked was the magnitude of the terrorist threat funded by the lucrative drug trade.

Even foreign observers think the government was caught flat-footed by the attack launched by the Mautes on May 23.

The best indication of this, the observers say, is that the President and commander-in-chief was with his top security officials in Russia, enjoying the sights in Moscow's Red Square, when the siege got underway. Martial law Proclamation 216 was in fact signed by the President in Moscow.

There are also strong indications that the capabilities of the Mautes and their Islamic State (IS) patrons were underestimated by Philippine security officials, the foreign observers say.

This supposedly ragtag group has taken on an entire armed forces and so drained AFP resources that defense officials had to accept US help in the form of jet fighter missiles, smart bombs, drones and artillery.

The ferocity of the Mautes has spooked certain foreign capitals, where officials are discussing ways of assisting the AFP in capacity-building to fight IS and its local affiliates. They are, of course, aware that President Duterte, sticking to his independent foreign policy stance, has avoided asking the international community for help.

Yesterday another SWS survey showed 57 percent public support for Duterte's martial law. That's not a lot to sustain support for prolonged military rule.

Even without martial law, the President still has the power to call out the armed forces to fight the Mautes. Senators are also set to review the Human Security Act so the toothless, useless law can be amended for actual application in counterterrorism.

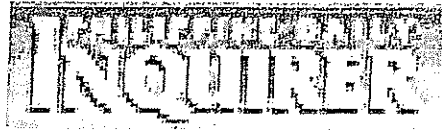
An upside for Duterte (not that he needs one) is that the IS threat has muted foreign criticism of his brutal campaign against the drug menace. He has successfully linked drug trafficking to the fund-raising activities of IS and the Mautes.

Sen. Leila de Lima has correctly lamented that Filipinos now ignore the continuing drug-related killings.

The one time that drug deaths grabbed public attention, there was even unspoken support for the execution of three "persons of interest" in the grisly rape and killing of two women and three children in Bulacan. The slain men were reportedly under the influence of shabu and alcohol when they went on their killing spree.

Pinoys generally like strong responses to criminality. And with all the stories coming out of Marawi about atrocities perpetrated by the Mautes, President Duterte is assured of public support for his brand of martial law. For now.

12 July 2017



Page: 110

The military dilemma

Yesterday, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana issued a statement popping the Speaker's martial-law-until-2022 trial balloon. His statement reasserted what the Armed Forces spokesman had said the day before. Martial law until 2022 is too long. The problem, for both Lorenzana and the rest of the military establishment that has been consistently—and rather boldly—arguing against martial law (before it was proclaimed), and pointing out it must be implemented in accordance with the 1987 Constitution and not Marcos-era principles in mind, is that it is arguing from a position of weakness.

As long as the military cannot proclaim victory in Marawi, then politically (and now legally, thanks to the Supreme Court), the President has no reason to lift his present proclamation—nor does Congress have an incentive to assert any opinion contrary to his. He has every incentive to issue another proclamation to extend it, which Congress shows every sign of accommodating. In the end, the President is Commander in Chief and for the same reasons the military establishment has tried to moderate the official interpretation—and implementation—of martial law, it cannot buck his authority. Both depend on the same laws and the same Constitution, after all.

This is the leverage the President has, and it limits the ability of the military establishment to maintain its post-Marcos, post-Arroyo attitudes toward its role in national life. But there is another lever of influence the President wields, and it is his power not only to hire and fire, and promote, but to shield the AFP from scrutiny as well.

As long as the Battle of Marawi is taking place, the AFP is shielded from serious inquiry. But eventually an inquiry will



THE LONG VIEW

MANUELL QUEZON III

have to be held, if the military is to institutionalize the lessons learned from the battle and adapt its doctrines accordingly. The role of at least two generals will be crucial in the postmortem that should take place.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista was selected to be the first commander of the Presidential Security Group in the present administration, and he obtained his first star in August 2016. It was the revitalization of a career that had been marred by the loss of 18 men in a clash with the Abu Sayyaf in April of that year. In March this year he ended his stint in the PSG and resumed command in the field. It was he who gave the order to undertake the raid on the Maute Group that turned into the Battle of Marawi. Coverage at the time, including interviews with Bautista himself, suggest that what transpired was a rush to seize Isnilon Hapilon when he was spotted in Marawi. "We did not expect the outcome, the reactions," Bautista said, adding: "We did not expect also their

sniping capability." But a quick reaction, the moment it failed in its objective—to capture or kill Hapilon—left the military unprepared, either in terms of establishing a secure perimeter around the area, or crushing the Mautes before they could burrow into the city, resulting in the ongoing siege.

Bautista made decisions as division commander with supervision over brigade commanders; here, the role of one of them, Brig. Gen. Nixon Fortes, is crucial. In January, Fortes was transferred to command the 103rd Brigade in Marawi, giving chase to Hapilon and his men; in March he claimed they had managed to wound Hapilon. On April 10 he donned his brigadier general's lone star; last month he was replaced as the commander in Marawi.

The military denied it was due to any failure of leadership, while unnamed sources asserted it was due to his failure to bring in sufficient troops in light of intelligence that the Maute Group was gathering there.

Success in Marawi could thus result in the distribution of medals and promotions, or a fact-finding witch-hunt in Congress to find someone to blame for what has become a drawn-out battle. The President has been on his best behavior with the AFP (broadly speaking), controlling himself to the extent of reading speeches at the Philippine Military Academy and AFP events rather than speaking off-the-cuff, as he does to the more primitive police. But he could easily use the Battle of Marawi to reshuffle commands, and promote officers uninterested in holding the line currently being held by Lorenzana and Gen. Eduardo Año.

Unlike generals facing retirement, the President has time on his side.

12 July 2017



Page: AID

The Court and martial law

1. A different majority

The Philippines' legal community is still coming to terms with the landmark Supreme Court ruling on the first of the martial law cases; it cannot be fully understood without a study of the majority decision and all 14 separate opinions. But the Constitution, which the "sovereign Filipino people" did "ordain and promulgate," is too important to be left to constitutionalists; all citizens must do their share in helping the President, whose powers both ordinary and extraordinary ultimately emanate from them, "preserve and defend" the Constitution.

That is, at bottom, what is at stake in any decision upholding, or rejecting, the constitutionality of the exercise of the Commander in Chief's martial law powers. Will the ruling keep the founding document's integrity, or will it tear a large hole in it? The answer should be of the most serious concern not just to the lawyers who argue our cases, but indeed to all of us.

Thus, criticism of the majority decision in the *Lagman vs Medialdea* case as overbroad and unduly deferential to the Executive does not mean that the critics cannot countenance or even imagine a decision that would have supported the Duterte administration's legal position. As the multiple separate opinions themselves prove, simple black or white answers will not do justice to this vital, complicated case.

Associate Justice Francis Jardeleza's separate opinion, for instance, makes a cogent argument for the President's necessary imposition of martial law in all of Mindanao, but without encouraging him to run amuck with it. If this had been the majority decision, rather than merely a separate concurring opinion, the outcry against the Court's finding of sufficient factual basis for the proclamation of martial law would have been much less, and more muted.

Jardeleza begins with an insightful appreciation of Art. VII, Sec. 18, one of the crucial antidictatorship provisions of the post-Marcos Constitution. "The provision is a microcosm of the system of checks and balances fundamental to our republication government." This framework forces the realization that all three branches of government have a role to play in the exercise of the martial law power and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. (Will this lead to a Court ruling, in the second martial law case, finding both chambers of Congress remiss in not convening a joint session after the proclamation was issued? We shall see.)

He proceeds: The Court's authority to revoke a President's proclamation of martial law for lack of a sufficient factual basis is *sui generis*. "It involves inquiry into the factual basis of the act, not a review of errors of law or a determination of lack or excess of jurisdiction or grave abuse of discretion."

Then, to the "sole substantive issue" of whether there is sufficient factual basis for the proclamation, Jardeleza proposes "a different standard of review." Instead of the standard of probable cause relied on by the majority decision, which he argues is "inapplicable in assessing the public safety requirement" (one of the two essential conditions before the President can impose martial law, the other being the existence of actual rebellion or invasion), he raises the standard of reasonableness. The majority decision infamously allowed the President unusual leeway to impose martial law anywhere in the Philippines, as long as the two conditions are met. Jardeleza's standard would likely not allow that. "The standard may be restated as *such evidence that is adequate to satisfy a reasonable mind seeking the truth (or falsity) of its factual evidence*. This is a flexible test that balances the President's authority to respond to exigencies created by a state of invasion or rebellion and the Court's duty to ensure that the executive act is within the bounds set by the Constitution."

As to the territorial scope of martial rule, Jardeleza offers a view that recognizes Executive primacy without confessing, as the majority decision did, to either judicial defeatism or distrust in news reports. "The executive's assessment of the nature and level of threat posed by these ISIS-inspired terror groups in Mindanao is not incompatible with local and foreign media reports and publicly available research papers."

In all, a reasonable perspective. It would have made for a different, and better, majority decision.

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

ONLINE NEWS 12 JULY 2017

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Duterte eyes end of Marawi conflict in 10-15 days

By Cielito M. Reganit

President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday said the Marawi conflict could end in 10 to 15 days.

In his speech during the 10th listing anniversary of the Phoenix Petroleum Philippines, Inc. at the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City, the President likewise expressed his resolve to visit Marawi City before the fighting ends.

"So 'yan ang ano ko. I hope that things can... I need about 15 more days," Duterte said.

He said the effort to clear Marawi of remaining militants is hampered by the apparent number of arms and ammunition that the terrorist have stockpiled.

"Hindi lang kasi ba't nahirapan tayo, we knew that they were sorts, nandoon na lahat. But ang hindi ko talaga alam at baka si ano hindi din talaga namin --- na-miss ano namin is --- karami ng armas. Hindi maubusan. This is the 45th, 46th day? Hindi maubus-ubos ang --- lalo na 'yung grenades," the President noted.

In the meantime, Duterte said that he remains resolute in his decision to visit Marawi City while the fighting is still ongoing.

He said he wanted go there to be with the state security forces that he ordered to fight and die for the country.

"That's why I'm not in really in --- in what my usual equanimity. Kasi alam mo kung bakit? You want to know the truth? Kasi ako 'yung nag-declare ng martial law. And I was the one who ordered the Armed Forces and the police to go there and fight and die. Kaya gusto ko talagang pumunta doon," Duterte said.

The last time the President attempted to visit the conflict area was last Friday but bad weather conditions forced him to go to Iligan City instead and visit the 2nd Mechanized Brigade of the Philippine Army.

"The other day I attempted again, but Marawi is always a rainy place. I was circling Marawi, I could not land, I could not go down nearer baka matyambahan kami ng Barrett na caliber 50," he said.

But the President is not losing hope to go to Marawi City to be with the military and police who are fighting to free the city from Islamic State-inspired militants and bring normalcy to the region and its residents.

"Gusto kong pumunta doon, 'yung hindi naman ako maipasubo ng sundalo na really, basta ilayo lang ako nang kaunti, basta I want to be there while there is still fighting so that I can observe. But I'll try to make it again, this week tignan ko kung... But palagay ko, 10 to 15 days okay na," Duterte said. (PNA)

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AFP not open to place entire PH under ML

Proposals to place the entire country under Martial Law never crossed the collective mind of the military.

This was stressed by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla during a press briefing Tuesday.

"Do you see the need for that to be done? Let's not raise the Martial Law bogey because there is nothing (of that sort is occurring)," the AFP official said.

Padilla added he also see no need, for the moment, to recommend the entire country be placed under Martial Law.

But, the military official said an assessment is still ongoing to determine its possible extension.

"The declaration of Martial Law (in Mindanao) and its possible extension is dependent on the assessment that will be done by the AFP. The assessment is not yet done, so I cannot answer that as of yet," he stated when asked on whether the military will recommend an extension for the ML.

Once the assessment is done along with their recommendation, it will be then forwarded to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, the Martial Law administrator, who will then forward it to President Rodrigo Duterte who will then review it.

"The declaration of Martial Law goes out of effect at the end of 60 days and the recommendation and decision to extend it must (be) done before it ends," Padilla said.

Martial Law in Mindanao was declared night time of May 23 shortly after the attack of the Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City.

Under the 1987 Constitution, Martial Law is only limited for 60 days and needs the approval of Congress for its extension.

"We are already on the 50th day of the Martial Law declaration which started on the 23rd of May, so we have 10 days to go, the recommendation must reach the Secretary (Lorenzana) before that time, and it must reach the President or the Commander-in-Chief," Padilla pointed out.

As of this posting, Maute Group casualties are placed at 381 terrorists killed along with 90 government troops, and civilians executed at 39.

Number of captured Maute Group firearms were placed at 461 and rescued civilians at 1,723. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/Gilbert Villaruz & Jayvee Castro [OJTs]/PNA)

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4 men from Marawi barred from leaving Philippines



Photo by Raoul Esperas

Four Pakistan-bound men from Marawi City were barred from leaving the Philippines on Monday afternoon at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

The four passengers were scheduled to depart for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on board a commercial flight when immigration officers noticed newly issued Pakistani visas on their passports.

Initial information gathered by ABS-CBN News showed that the men are all from Marawi City and claimed to be vacation-bound for Malaysia. The incident was almost the same time as 7 other passengers suspected to be related to the Maute clan were intercepted at NAIA on Monday afternoon.

The four passengers said they are tourists bound for a vacation in Malaysia but they failed to show their travel itinerary.

The four men also failed to produce airline onward tickets to Pakistan from Malaysia.

Red Narinas, head of the immigration port operations division, said that as standard operations procedure, all passengers with questionable itineraries as tourists, are subjected to a secondary interview.

All the four passengers failed the secondary interview and were not allowed to board their plane to Kuala Lumpur.

Marinas also informed other law enforcers at the airport on the identity of the 4 passengers but in the absence of a written derogatory information, authorities only imposed an offloading.