

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



**TEAM ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

15 July 2017

**Saturday**

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

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# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER


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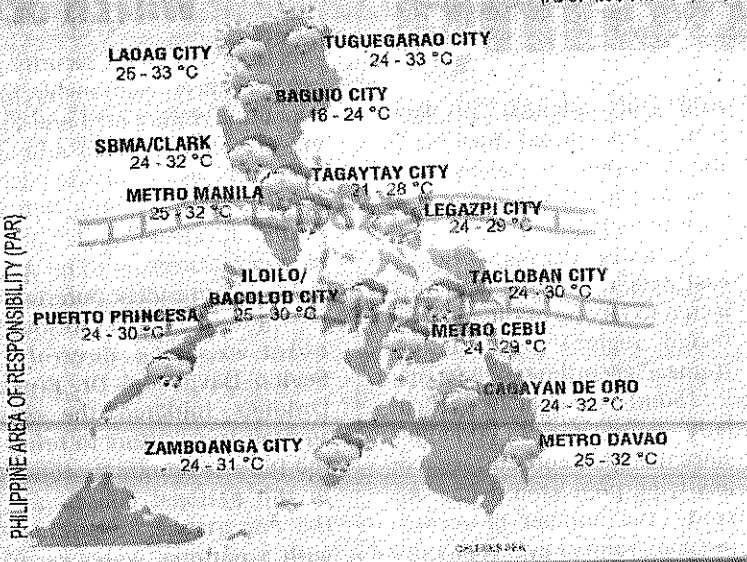
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**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JULY 6, 2017 | SATURDAY**


INTER TROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON AND VISAYAS (As of 4:00 PM - July 14, 2017)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)


<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:35 AM	6:29 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
10:58 PM	10:31 AM
<b>FULL MOON</b>	<b>LAST QUARTER</b>
JUL 9 9:10 PM	JUL 17 3:28 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
9:18 PM 0.12 Meter	12:42 PM 1.12 Meter
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	

	JUL 16	JUL 17	JUL 18	JUL 19	JUL 20	JUL 21
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	25-33°C	26-33°C				
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	24-33°C	25-33°C				
<b>LAOAG</b>	25-33°C	25-33°C				
<b>BAGUIO</b>	17-24°C	17-24°C				
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	25-33°C	25-33°C				
<b>TAGAYTAY</b>			21-30°C	22-30°C		
<b>LEGAZPI</b>			25-31°C	25-32°C		
<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>			24-30°C	24-29°C		
<b>ILDILLO/BACOLOD</b>			25-30°C	26-32°C		
<b>METRO CEBU</b>			25-31°C	25-32°C		
<b>TACLOBAN</b>					24-31°C	25-32°C
<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>					24-32°C	25-33°C
<b>METRO DAVAO</b>					25-33°C	25-33°C
<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>					24-32°C	25-32°C




**DZRH NEWS**


**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**11AM & 5PM**



**PILIPINAS HD**



**AIR 21**



**SAGOT KO, PAGALA MO!**

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



15 July 2017



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# AQUINO TO BE INDICTED OVER MAMASAPANO

STORY BY DJYAP

Ombudsman finds probable cause to indict former President, 2 others as 'coconspirators' in the botched raid that led to the massacre of 44 police commandos in 2015. **A2**

## WHAT WENT BEFORE

In January this year, former President Benigno Aquino III denied having a direct participation in the botched operation in Mamasapano, Maguindanao, by the Special Action Force (SAF) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) that led to the deaths of 44 police commandos on Jan. 25, 2015.

Aquino asked the Office of the Ombudsman to dismiss the three complaints filed against him by the relatives of the slain SAF commandos, saying he could not be directly faulted for the deaths of the troopers because of his limited involvement in the operation.

He said he was not directly involved in the planning and execution of "Oplan: Exodus," as these duties fell under the "sole discretion" of the ground commanders. Two al Qaida-linked terror suspects were the targets of the operation. One was eventually killed and the other had escaped.

Aquino said the insubordination of SAF commander Director Getulio Napeñas led to the clash

with Moro rebels.

"If I had a fault as President at the time, it would be this: It never occurred me that Napeñas would lie to the President of the Philippines," Aquino said.

He said he instructed Napeñas to coordinate with the military for armor, artillery, air and troop support in the event the mission was discovered and Moro rebels responded in force.

But Napeñas informed the military about the mission only when the raid was underway, instead of "days before" to give the military time to prepare, he said.

Two years after the botched operation, the Ombudsman filed in the Sandiganbayan charges of graft and usurpation of official functions against then PNP Director General Alan Purisima and Napeñas for bypassing the PNP chain of command.

—INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ  
Source: Inquirer Archives

By DJ Yap  
@deejayINQ

OFFICE OF THE

Former President Benigno Aquino III was ordered criminally indicted on Friday and could face imprisonment if convicted in connection with the botched Mamasapano raid that left 44 Special Action Force (SAF) commandos dead in one of the biggest crises that hit his administration.

In a resolution on Friday, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales held Aquino and two other former police officials criminally liable for what had become infamously known as the Jan. 25, 2015, "Mamasapano Massacre."

Morales, who administered Aquino's oath of office and was appointed by him as chief anti-graft prosecutor after she retired from the Supreme Court, named former Philippine National Police chief Alan Purisima and sacked SAF commander Getulio Napeñas as Aquino's "coconspirators" in charges of usurpation of authority and violation of the anti-graft law.

The graft charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and four years for usurpation.

"There is no gainsaying that President Aquino was fully aware that the Office of the Ombudsman had placed Purisima under preventive suspension at that time," Morales said, referring to her order to suspend the former PNP chief over an anomalous gun license delivery deal.

She said text messages between Aquino and Purisima, which were disclosed during a Senate investigation, showed that the "suspended police chief played a major role in the botched operation."

She said Purisima usurped authority by playing an active role "to the point that he was exercising a degree of authority and discretion over Napeñas and consequently, over the operation" in Mamasapano.

Morales said Aquino was complicit in Purisima's usurpation when the former President "assented to or at the very least failed to prevent Purisima" from getting involved in the operation.

The law says a suspended public officer "is barred from performing any public func-

tions and from meddling into the affairs of the government." Purisima would not have been involved "were it not for the complicity and influence of President Aquino," Morales said.

According to Morales, usurpation of authority is "committed by any person who shall knowingly and falsely represent himself to be an officer, agent or representative of any department or agency of the Philippine government" and unlawfully performing functions of that official.

Morales said Aquino violated a provision of the anti-graft law prohibiting any public officer from inducing or influencing another to perform an act that violated duly promulgated rules and regulations.

The Ombudsman, however, dismissed a complaint of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide against Aquino, Purisima and Napeñas, saying the deaths of the commandos were caused by "the intentional act of shooting by the hostile forces" beyond their control.

The mission to arrest two militants went disastrously wrong when SAF commandos were ambushed and outnumbered by rebel gunmen.

The commandos killed one of the militants, top Malaysian terror suspect and bomb maker Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan. But the brutal deaths sparked public outrage.

The fallout from the carnage, which also left 20 Moro fighters dead, included the refusal by Congress to pass the Bangsamoro Basic Law which would have crowned Aquino's efforts to bring lasting peace to rebellion-torn Mindanao.

Senate Majority Leader Franklin Drilon said he respected but disagreed with the Ombudsman's decision to indict Aquino, his party mate.

He said in a statement that the Senate committee on public order did not find Aquino criminally liable.

Merlyn Gamutan, widow of SAF Senior Insp. Joey Gamutan, said she wanted the charges pursued against Aquino and his coaccused "until they are jailed."

"They should pay for his negligence," she told the Inquirer. "Our husbands would

- a source of national pride

still be alive if not for their negligence."

Aquino's spokesperson Abigail Valte said he and his lawyers were studying the Ombudsman's order "with the end view of filing a motion for reconsideration."

"An initial reading shows that there may have been a misappreciation of some facts surrounding the incident, leading to some erroneous conclusions," Valte said.

In a statement, President Duterte's spokesperson Ernesto Abella said Malacañang respected the Ombudsman's decision.

"The President recognizes the heroic sacrifice of the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force 44, and it is his—and the nation's—hope to finally bring justice to the victims and families of the Fallen 44 and put closure to the issue as part of the healing process," Abella said.

Morales issued her resolution against Aquino a day after she appeared in the television show "Direct Talk" on Japan's NHK World, in which she spoke about the dangers of "blind loyalty" to an official who appoints another to a government position.

"Some people believe that gratitude is a virtue," she said. "So you are appointed by a particular person and so you believe that you owe it to him that you are appointed and so you are loyal to him. There's this blind loyalty irrespective of whether the appointive power is right or wrong."

Liberal Party president Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the party "stands by former President Aquino in his lifelong commitment to the peace process in Mindanao and see his actions in relation to Mamasapano as imperatives in good faith to advance the cause of justice and peace in Mindanao."

He said he believed Aquino could defend his actions and trusted that the Ombudsman would act "with fairness and credibility."

—WITH REPORTS FROM NIKKO DIZON, PHILIP C. TUBEZA, JOCELYN R. UY, AFP, AP AND REUTERS INQ

5295

OFFICE OF THE

5, 5295

15 July 2017



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# Noy to face trial for Mamasapano

By ELIZABETH MARCELO

**Former president Benigno Aquino III will face trial before the Sandiganbayan for the death of more than 60 people, including 44 police commandos, in the January 2015 Mamasapano raid.**

In a 35-page consolidated resolution released yesterday, the Office of the Ombudsman found probable cause to indict Aquino in court with usurpation of authority under Article 177 of the Revised Penal Code and violation of Section 3 (a) of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Aquino was found liable for al-

*Palace: Rody wants justice, closure for SAF 44. Story on Page 8.*

lowing director general Alan Purisima, who was suspended at the time as chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) due to a graft case, to play a "major role" in the raid

Purisima and former PNP-Special Action Force (SAF) director Getulio Napeñas Jr were ordered indicted together with Aquino

The deaths of the so-called SAF 44 sparked public outrage and set back the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The trapped police commandos waited for reinforcement that never came.

Purisima and Napeñas are facing separate cases of graft and usurpation of authority before the Sandiganbayan also in connection with the Mamasapano operation.

The resolution, approved by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales on July 1, resolved three separate complaints filed by the families of the slain SAF troopers in July and August

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## Noy From Page 1

last year, shortly after Aquino was stripped of im-

munity from suit following the end of his term.

The complainants, assisted by the Volunteer Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), originally charged Aquino, Purisima and Napeñas with reckless impru-

dence resulting in multiple homicide, but the ombudsman, in its resolution, said it found "no probable cause" to sustain the filing of such case in court, pointing out that the acts or negligence of the three former officials were not the "proximate cause" of the death of the SAF 44.

The ombudsman, however, found Aquino liable for usurpation of authority for allowing Purisima to play a "major role" in Oplan Exodus, the SAF operation aimed at neutralizing Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir alias Marwan and Filipino bomb maker Abdul Basit Usman.

Marwan had a \$5-million prize on his head offered by the US government.

The ombudsman said Aquino still allowed Purisima to participate in the planning and execution of Oplan Exodus despite the latter's then being under preventive suspension over an alleged anomalous courier service deal between the PNP and a private firm for the delivery of firearms licenses.

"There is no gainsaying that President Aquino was fully aware that the Office of the Ombudsman had placed Purisima under preventive suspension at that time," the resolution read.

The ombudsman said the meetings between Aquino, Purisima and Napeñas at Malacañang in December 2014 as well as the exchange of text messages between Aquino and Purisima on Jan. 8 and 13 and on the actual day of the implementation of Oplan Exodus on Jan. 25, 2015, all point to the fact that the latter took the lead in the SAF operation.

"The foregoing record of SMS exchanges does not jibe with President Aquino's asseveration that he merely utilized Purisima as a 'resource person providing vital information' for Oplan Exodus," the Ombudsman said.

"(Purisima) indeed played an active role in Oplan Exodus as shown by all the SMS exchanges and findings of the Senate Committee Report on Mamasapano incident, to the point that he was exercising a degree of authority and discretion over Napeñas, and consequently, over the operation," it added.

The ombudsman said Purisima could not have acted in such manner "were it not for the complicity and influence of President Aquino."

Furthermore, the ombudsman said Aquino should be held liable for violation of Section 3 (a) of RA 3019, which makes it unlawful for public official "to persuade, induce or influence another public officer to perform an act constituting a violation of rules and regulations duly promulgated by competent authority."

It was revealed during a Senate investigation that Purisima and Napeñas violated the PNP chain of command by keeping the then acting PNP chief Leonardo Espina and then interior secretary Mar Roxas in the dark about Oplan Exodus.

While leaving Mamasapano after killing Marwan, the SAF troopers ran into hundreds of fully armed MILF and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters guerrillas. The encounter left 44 SAF troopers, 18 MILF members and three civilians dead.

15 July 2017

The Manila Times

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## Reds seize 2 PNP officers in Mindanao

**ZAMBOANGA CITY:** Two police officers from Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental provinces were captured and being held “prisoners of war” by the communist New People’s Army (NPA).

A rebel spokesman, Roel Agustin, on Friday said both Police Officer 1 Alfredo Basabica and Senior Police Officer 2 George Rupinta are being interrogated by the NPA.

Basabica was captured at a rebel checkpoint in Barangay Panasialan, Compostela town, while traveling to Davao City.

Rupinta was seized in the town of Lupon in Davao Oriental.

The NPA released a video of Rupinta appealing to the government to stop the military offensives against the rebel group and resume stalled peace talks with the communists.

Rupinta told his family that the rebels were treating him fairly and that they have nothing to worry about

his safety in the hands of his captors.

The rebels accused the military of murdering innocent civilians suspected of being rebels or supporters of the NPA in the provinces.

There was no immediate reaction from the military or police on the capture of Basabica and Rupinta, whose capture came only days after security officials said at least eight rebels died in a firefight in Davao.

Troops recovered the bodies of the slain rebels and six automatic rifles and a machine gun.

Peace talks between the government and the communist rebels stalled with the NPA accusing President Rodrigo Duterte of failing to release all political prisoners as a precondition to the signing of a ceasefire agreement.

The military blamed the rebels for deadly attacks despite the peace negotiations. **AL JACINTO**

15 July 2017

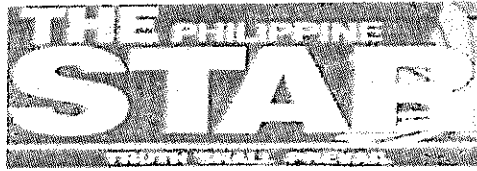


Pahina. 7

## Sundalo todas sa sagupaan

**BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya** – Isa na namang miyembro ng Philippine Army ang nasawi matapos ang panibagong sagupaan sa pagitan ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) at militar sa liblib na lugar sa Nagtipunan, Quirino, kamakalawa Ayon kay 1Lt. James Carl Teaña, tagapagsalita ng 86<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (86IB), ang sundalo ay nakilalang si Pfc Dante Madalang, ng Bravo Company-86IB na nakabase sa Brgy. Dipantin, Nagtipunan. Dakong alas-10:50 ng umaga nitong Huwebes nang tambangan ang militar ng nasa 60 miyembro ng Southern Front Platoon Quirino sa pamumuno ni Renato Businia sa masukal na bahagi ng Sitio Tabiis, Brgy. Anak, Nagtipunan. Naunahan man, nagawang mapa-atras ng mga sundalo ang mga rebelde matapos ang ilang minutong bakbakan na nagresulta sa pagkasawi ni Madalang. Nitong Martes lamang, anim ring miyembro ng Bravo Co. na sina TSgt. Rhae Bolhayon; Sgt. Jose Soriano, Cpl. Edmar Angca; Pfc. Jerry Manalo; Pfc. Jarid Talay at Pfc. Dakilas Duclan ang nasugatan matapos masabugan ng landmine sa Brgy. Sangbay, nasabing bayan. **Victor Martin**

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## **2 kids hurt in Maguindanao grenade attack**

MAGUINDANAO – Two children were wounded when gunmen attacked their house using a shoulder-fired grenade launcher in Datu Anggal town Thursday.

Senior Superintendent Agustin Tello, Maguindanao police chief, said Akmad Sigah, 15, and Jerome Guiama, 12, were wounded from shrapnel and rushed to a hospital for treatment.

“Let us give them enough time to get to the bottom of this. The perpetrators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of law once identified,” Tello said.

The attack triggered panic among villagers.

– John Unson



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### **Bahay pinasabugan, 2 bata sugatan**

Sugatan ang dalawang bata makaraang sumabog ang isang bomba sa Maguindanao. Kasabay nito, inalerto ng pulisya ang buong puwersa nito makaraan ang pagsabog sa isang bahay sa Crossing Talitay sa Datu Anggal Midtimbang, Maguindanao, bandang 7:15 ng gabi. Sa natanggap na report ni Senior Supt. Agustin Tello, director ng Maguindanao Police Provincial Office (MPPO) pinasabugan ng bala ng M79 grenade launcher ang isang bahay sa lugar, at dalawang bata ang nasugatan.

Isinugod sa Maguindanao Medical Center ang dalawang paslit, na ligtas na ngayon sa kapahamakan.

Ayon kay Capt. Arvin Encinas, tagapagsalita ng 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division, away-pamilya ang dahilan sa pagsabog.

**Fer Taboy**

15 July 2017

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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**BICOL HELPS MARAWI**  
— Executive Assistant  
III Abdulharman C.  
Gandamra (second from  
left) from the Marawi  
City Mayor's Office  
receives from officers of  
the Army's 9th Infantry  
Division based in Bicol  
Region cash amounting  
to P800,000 which was  
raised for displaced  
persons in the city  
through the 'Tulong sa  
Marawi Project' in Region  
5. (Ruel Saldico)



15 July 2017

# INQUIRER

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## MARAWI SIEGE TO GO BEYOND 60 DAYS

**By Philip C. Tubeza,  
Jeffrey Maitem  
and Julie M. Aurelio  
@Team\_Inquirer**

The liberation of Marawi is well under way but it cannot be completed by July 22 when the martial law President Duterte declared in Mindanao expires, the military said on Friday.

The military bared the assessment as five Catholic prelates expressed concern at suggestions, particularly by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, that martial law be extended for five years or the remainder of the President's term.

Military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military is still assessing the security situation even as the Marawi crisis nears its end.

### Not before Sona

But Padilla admitted operations, including airstrikes, may continue even beyond July 24, when the President delivers his State of the Nation Address (Sona) before Congress.

"We are right into the 10 to 15 days of the President," Padilla said referring to Mr. Duterte's expressed desire that the military liberate Marawi within that period.

"But the 10 to 15 days [will go] beyond the Sona, by the way, so don't expect it before the Sona," Padilla said, noting the military has yet to clear 600 houses and buildings in Marawi.

With the military clearing 40 to 50 houses a day, Padilla said they might need another 12 days to clear the city of 70 to 80 terrorists who at-

tacked the city on May 23.

### Casualties

As of 7 p.m. on July 13, security forces have killed 394 terrorists and recovered 498 firearms. But government fatalities numbered 93 while the terrorists killed 45 civilians.

Troops were able to rescue 1,723 people from the war-torn city but there are still some 300 civilians who are either trapped by the fighting or taken hostage by the terrorists.

Brig. Gen. Ramiro Rey, commander of the Joint Task Force Group Lanao, told reporters on Thursday they need to flush out Maute terrorists hiding in fortified positions in four barangays.

"We will continue with the use of FA-50 [multirole fighter jets] as long as the strategic target will take down the terrorist group," Rey said.

He said that was the reason they to continue to conduct air strikes despite the 12 deaths the military sustained from friendly fire.

On Wednesday, two more soldiers were killed while 11 others were wounded by shrapnel when a bomb exploded 250 meters off-target. Last May 31, at least 10 soldiers were killed in a similar "friendly fire."

The military said they are investigating the incidents but they still need air support in Marawi.

"In the four barangays (where the terrorists are holed up), the fighting has subsided in two [but] there is still heavy fighting in the other two," Padilla said.

"It could be that the leaders of this group are there or they are guarding something there that we still do not know

about," Padilla added.

Joint Task Force Marawi spokesperson Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera said surgical air assaults are very important in the fight because the terrorists are occupying major strongholds and fortified defense positions.

"This is what we need to take down using airstrikes," he said. "We are close to the center of gravity and we are gaining more ground."

### Churchmen wary

But at least five Catholic bishops are apprehensive of moves to extend martial law in Mindanao.

"I support martial law but for the extension ... Our president and legislators must evaluate the situation. The situation has to be investigated before saying we need more years," Ozamiz Archbishop Martin Jumoad said.

Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes warned that continued military rule will only worsen the peace and order situation and possibly increase human rights violations.

"Even if 57 percent of Filipinos approve of martial law in Mindanao now, I don't believe that the majority will like to extend it for five years," Bastes said.

For his part, Caloocan Bishop Pablo Virgilio David suggested conducting a survey among Mindanao residents if they favor extending martial law for five years.

"Instead of getting the pulse of majority of Filipinos, the survey should also find out if majority of the people of Mindanao, Christians and Muslims, would agree to an extended martial law in Mindanao," he said.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

David is the incoming vice president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and is set to assume his post in December.

Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma agreed, saying the termination of martial law or its extension should be determined by circumstances.

"To me, martial law with its termination or extension should be determined by circumstances. To determine appropriateness and decide now is unrealistic," Palma said.

"Yes, many favor it now, including myself. To say it's OK to extend another five years is simplistic," he said.

#### **Address conflict's roots**

Kidapawan Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo stressed that the government should instead pursue better governance and poverty alleviation.

"Many also agree with the Mindanao bishops' position that martial law is and should be temporary. Better governance and poverty alleviation should be pursued relentlessly by all. War in Marawi never again," the prelate said.

#### **Talks, walks and works**

Running priest Robert Reyes said the Marawi crisis—which is now nearing its second month—cannot be solved by military power alone.

"We cannot kill the enemy because they propagate," Reyes said in Iligan City, near Marawi, where the peace group Ka-Salam was launched by Oxfam and other groups.

"While members of the Maute and the Abu Sayyaf are

dying, their relatives are also angered. So even if the military says there's no more Maute or Abu in Marawi, their relatives are still everywhere," Reyes said.

Fearing a cycle of violence, Reyes is promoting "talks, walks and works" to promote peace in Mindanao.

He said under talks, Christians, Muslims and tribesmen, called *lumad* (indigenous people), should talk about problems and find a common solution before they become more serious.

Under walk, people should promote openness, dialogue and peace to defeat the deep distrust among people.

For example, those in Manila are wary of those wearing the *thobe* favored by Muslim men and the *hijab* used by Muslim women.

"They say Muslims are bad but they don't really understand. Muslims are peaceful. Islam itself means peace," he added.

Reyes said some Muslims also do not trust Christians while some tribesmen are also suspicious of them.

"There is now this culture of suspicion, which we can address by speaking to each other, conducting dialogues among ourselves," he said.

Alim Saad Amate, president of the United Imams of the Philippines, said Muslims too would like to continue talking with Christians and *lumad* so that problems can be properly addressed.

Amate said many Muslims do not support violence because they would rather attend to their businesses. "Besides, war devastates everything," he said. —WITH

A REPORT FROM ALLAN NAWAL INQ

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**WELL UNDER WAY, BUT ...**



Soldiers walk through the rubble of what used to be a Maute-controlled area in Marawi City. —ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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# INQUIRER

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**'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH'**

## MARAWI WOMEN ARE GOING HOME

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY— Enough is enough! Come what may, they're going back to Marawi City on July 24, vowed a group of women displaced by the fighting between government security forces and Islamic militants.

"Any right-minded Maranao and (internally displaced person) should go if only to show the world that we are coming home. We have been suffering in evacuation centers," Bai Sittie Marohomsar said on Thursday night, during a debriefing of a group of women in a hotel here.

The women plan to return on the day that President Duterte would be delivering his second State of the Nation Address.

But Marawi Mayor Majul Usman Gandamra warned the group about the "still ongoing offensives and the risk to people's lives" in the area.

"I am hoping they will not (go back to Marawi) without clearance from the military and local government units," he said.

The group, however, appeared determined to go. "We will go home. Try to tell the others. We are not going to kill anyone ... we are not going to fight with the government. We cannot do that because they can drop bombs on us," added Marohomsar, 52.

### Fearful

"Perhaps the Filipino people might just have the heart to tell President Duterte that enough is enough," Marohomsar said. Constantly, she added, "we are getting insults from the President who is supposed to be our very own."

Marohomsar said they were also worried that the President would extend martial law in the city, which would mark its second month on July 23.

"If you extend (it), what will happen to us? We are fearful of the future facing us," she said.

More than 400,000 people have been displaced since violence erupted in Marawi City on May 23.

Nearly 40,000 remain in cramped and unsanitary emergency shelters set up in community halls, gymnasiums and Islamic schools.

According to Health Secretary Paulyn Ubial, at least 24 people have died from dehydration, pneumonia and other illnesses in the centers.

Anisah Saripada, 47, a resident of Lilod, Marawi City, said she will join the July 24 "homecoming."

"It's painful for me. I don't know if we still have a home when we go back. Let us not discuss what's the cause here. Let's just go back," she said. —JEFFREY MAITEM, INQUIRER MINDANAO INQ



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# Gov't sets P15B for Marawi rehab

By Ben O. de Vera  
@bendeveralNQ

The government will release at least P15 billion to rehabilitate Marawi City in the next two years, Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said on Friday.

In a statement, Diokno said the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) had allotted about P5 billion this year, P10 billion for next year and a yet to be determined amount for 2019.

Diokno noted that President Duterte earlier pledged P20 billion for the rehabilitation of the city where government forces had been fighting Islamic State supporters since late May.

Diokno said the budget allocations would form part of the Department of Public Works and

Highways (DPWH)-led comprehensive master plan for Marawi reconstruction and rehabilitation.

"The budgets and funding sources for 2017 and 2018 have been identified prior to the creation of the DPWH master plan in order to quickly respond to the needs of ongoing efforts and to accommodate the rehabilitation plan as soon as it is set up. The budget allocation for 2019 will be estimated based on the remaining needs of the plan," Diokno said.

"The initial fund of P5 billion for 2017 will be sourced from the 2016 and 2017 NDRRM (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council) fund with a combined remaining balance of around P7.4 billion, and the 2017 contingent fund with a balance of almost P3.35 billion, both

as of July 2017," Diokno said.

"Funds could also be sourced from the respective budgets of different agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the DPWH, the Armed Forces of the Philippines Engineering Brigade, and foreign donors. China has already donated P15 million for Marawi's rehabilitation to boost the resources of the Department of Health and the DSWD," Diokno said.

Under the proposed P3.767-trillion 2018 national budget, Diokno said P310 million had also been allocated for 12 infrastructure projects under the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's regional DPWH.

Also, for the NDRRM fund for 2018, P25.5 billion has been allocated, of which P10 billion

had been allotted for the Marawi recovery and rehabilitation program, according to Diokno.

As a whole, "the ongoing conflict in Marawi City will not significantly affect the performance of the Philippine economy, nor will it warrant the creation of a supplemental budget to rehabilitate the area," the budget chief said.

## Emergency loans

Meanwhile, the state-run Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) will also offer emergency loans to members and pensioners living or working in Marawi City from July 5 until Aug. 3.

The GSIS has allocated P282 million for 11,128 members as well as 592 old-age pensioners.

"Since the clashes between military forces and the terrorist group have been preventing the city council to convene and issue the required resolution declaring Marawi as a calamity area, the GSIS has decided to forego the said requirement and immediately offer the loan to help its members and pensioners in the area," GSIS officer in charge Nora Malubay-Saludares said in a statement.

Members with no existing emergency loans could borrow P20,000, while those with emergency loan balances could apply for a P40,000 loan, from which the GSIS said their outstanding balance would be deducted.

The loanable amount for pensioners is P20,000.

"Old-age pensioners may avail of the loan by personally

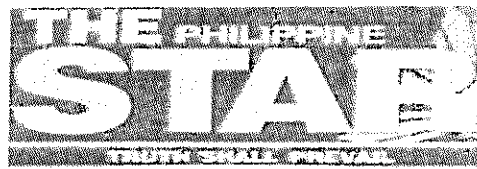
applying at any GSIS branch office. Pensioners who have become active members anew after reentering government service may apply for the loan only once," the GSIS said.

The loan shall have a 6-percent interest per annum computed in advance, payable in 36 monthly installments.

It will be also covered by a loan redemption insurance, under which the immediate family does not have to pay the remaining balance when the member dies, as the loan shall be deemed fully paid as long as the loan repayment is up to date, according to the GSIS.

The loan proceeds will be electronically credited to the borrower's GSIS electronic card (eCard) or unified multipurpose ID card. INQ

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# 600 buildings still need to be cleared in Marawi

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

With around 600 structures still needing to be cleared of militants, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said yesterday it might not be able to wrap up its operations in Marawi City before the 60-day martial law lapses on July 22 or two days before President Duterte's State of the Nation Address (SONA).

"We are right into the 10 to 15 days of the President. But the 10 to 15 days is beyond the SONA, by the way, so don't expect it to be before the SONA," military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

Speaking during the Mindanao Hour at Malacañang, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella reported that 600 of the 1,500 to 2,000 buildings and structures in Marawi have yet to be inspected and cleared of terrorists.

Abella said clearing operations are "progressing positively." He added that there are still 80 terrorists holed up in four barangays, with heavy resistance monitored in two villages.

"As of the 13th of July, 43 had been cleared; 53 and 54 previously in – respectively in previous days. More or less 600 buildings remain to be cleared (out of the) 1,500 to 2,000 buildings, total facilities to clear at the beginning of the conflict," Abella said.

About eight days into the 60-day limit of the martial law proclamation in Mindanao, the AFP has yet to give developments on the status of Fr. Teresito "Chito" Soganub who was taken hostage by the Maute

gunmen along with around 200 others at the height of the siege last May.

Padilla said the AFP is readying its assessment report that President Duterte would likely use as basis for any decision to request for martial law extension.

"The assessment was actually based on the operational imperatives that were given to us at the beginning of the declaration," Padilla said when asked if the 10 to 15 day time frame sought by the President would go beyond July 22.

"So, whether we have achieved or accomplished those operational imperatives is the gist of the assessment," he said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the retaking of Marawi from the Maute terrorists is becoming more complex.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines is now reviewing and recalibrating its existing doctrines in order for the troops to adapt and respond to this evolving type of war," he said.

Lorenzana, who like President Duterte expects that the more than a month of fighting will finally be over within 15 days, said the battle to retake Marawi is proving to be a challenge.

Only last Wednesday, two Army Scout Rangers were killed and 11 others were wounded when a wayward bomb during airstrike operations missed its target and blasted a building close to the soldiers' positions.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of lives resulting from this most unfortunate incident. We reach out to the families

and loved ones of the soldiers who lost their lives, and pray for the speedy recovery of those who were injured," Lorenzana said.

Optimistic that the conflict would be over before the SONA on July 24, the military said government forces have already confined and constricted the movements of the terrorists in a small area within the city's central business district.

Lorenzana compared the fighting in Marawi to those that took place in Mosul, Fallujah in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria.

## A major project

Padilla refused to comment when asked if the AFP would seek an extension of martial law.

"I cannot go beyond what I just said because the recommendation primarily is not yet done and it is the decision of the leadership, that will be the basis," Padilla explained.

"Whatever they decide on, for how long it will be extended, if it is extended, or if it's lifted, the Armed Forces will just comply," he said.

Abella said the Maute terrorists had killed 45 civilians as of Thursday evening.

"This count is based on body recoveries. But as we go deeper into that, into the contested areas, we expect the numbers to rise. It may rise, based on potential execution of hostages or civilians killed in action," he said.

Government forces rescued a total of 1,723 civilians. Casualties were pegged at 93.

The AFP said 394 terrorists have been killed and 498 high-

powered firearms recovered from terrorists. Forty-eight buildings were cleared on Thursday.

Abella also reported the recovery of six corpses in orange garbs. They were believed to be the remains of victims of execution by terrorists.

The Inter-Agency Task Force Bangon Marawi preparation is underway and Joint Task Group Ranao link up is ongoing.

As of 2:20 p.m. Thursday, the government received donations for Marawi casualties a total of P5,554,823.23 and for evacuees at P779,727.21.

Padilla said the AFP is leaning forward on its linkage with the Inter-Agency Task Force Bangon Marawi with two military engineering brigades already deployed in Marawi.

The AFP is also playing a key role in the establishment of a temporary resettlement area, which is expected or projected to house about 3,000 evacuees in various evacuation centers.

"(It) is a major project that has to be undertaken even before hostilities end to enable the local government and the national government to relocate and improve the living conditions of the evacuees who are now in the evacuation centers," Padilla said.

"We will work closely with all these agencies to ensure that the task at hand in the reconstruction, rehabilitation and rebuilding of Marawi into a stronger, more resilient community becomes better," he said.

Padilla assured the residents of Marawi that the AFP will not pull out until normalcy has returned. – With Jaime Laude

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## P15 B earmarked for Marawi rehab

By MARY GRACE PADIN

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has earmarked P15 billion for the implementation of a multi-year rehabilitation plan for war-torn Marawi City.

Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said yesterday the DBM would allot at least P5 billion in 2017 and P10 billion in 2018 to finance the efforts of the government to reconstruct Marawi once the battle against Maute terrorists in the city has been concluded.

An additional budget, yet to be determined, will also be provided in 2019.

Diokno told a briefing in Malacañang the DBM is looking at various funds, including those from the National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), to finance multi-year rehabilitation program.

"The rebuilding of Marawi will be a multi-year task. It cannot be done in a few months or one year. So with that, we are talking of a multi-year effort. And in fact there is a task force created to prepare such a plan," Diokno explained.

"Funds could also be sourced from the respective budgets of different agencies such as DSWD (Department of Social Welfare Development), DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways), AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) Engineering Brigade and foreign donors," the DBM added in a statement.

China has donated P15 million for Marawi's rehabilitation to boost the resources of the Department of Health and DSWD.

Diokno said the administration has mapped out the plans, with assurance it will be transparent in terms of expenses.

"Why is accountability important? Well, we learned our lessons from the Yolanda incident. The Filipino people should know how the money was spent," he said.

Diokno said the agency has set aside P5 billion from August to December for the restoration effort.

"We will get it from the NDRRMC and there are existing budgets from related agencies,"

he added.

For next year, the DBM said another P310 million has also been allocated for 12 infrastructure projects in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

President Duterte had ordered the creation of Task Force Bangon Marawi to implement the rehabilitation plan for the war-torn city. Duterte previously promised to set aside P20 billion to rebuild Marawi.

The DPWH is expected to come up with the master plan for the effort.

"The budgets and funding sources for 2017 and 2018 have been identified prior to the creation of the DPWH's 'master plan' in order to quickly respond to the needs of ongoing effort and to accommodate the rehabilitation plan as soon as it is set up," Diokno said.

"The budget allocation for 2019 will be estimated based on the remaining needs of the plan," he added.

Meanwhile, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) announced yesterday it was offering emergency loans to members and pensioners affected by the Marawi conflict.

The GSIS said P282 million has been earmarked for the program, which is expected to benefit about 11,128 members and 592 pensioners.

"Since the clashes between military forces and the terrorist group have been preventing the city council to convene and issue the required resolution declaring Marawi as a calamity area, GSIS decided to forego said requirement and immediately offered the loan to help its members and pensioners in the area," GSIS officer-in-charge Nora Malubay-Saludares said.

First time applicants for the emergency loan, as well as old-age pensioners, may borrow P20,000 from the GSIS, while those with loan balances may borrow P40,000, from which their outstanding balance will be deducted.

The GSIS said the loan is payable in 36 monthly installments at six percent interest rate per annum.

The deadline for the submission of loan application is Aug 3, 2017.

– With Christina Mendez



15 July 2017

# The Manila Times

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## INITIAL P5-B SET ASIDE FOR REHAB

### AFP: Marawi crisis won't be over before SONA

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) does not see the Marawi crisis ending before President Rodrigo Duterte's second State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 24 as about 600 buildings have yet to be cleared of terrorists and booby traps, its spokesman said on Friday.

Speaking to reporters, AFP spokesman Brig.

► Crisis A2

#### ■ CRISIS FROM A1

### AFP: Marawi

Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr said the military would need 10 to 15 more days to regain control of buildings occupied by the Islamic State-linked Maute terrorists in the war-torn city.

"[T]he 10 to 15 days is beyond the SONA by the way so don't expect it to be before the SONA," Padilla said during the "Mindanao Hour" news briefing in Malacañang.

"At the very beginning of the conflict, we estimated about 1,500 to 2,000 total structures, infrastructure that needed to be cleared. Right now, we're down to the last 600-plus. So we're moving progressively. Three days ago we cleared 54, the other day 53, now we're clearing 48. And we hope to

clear more buildings as we go on," he added.

Duterte, speaking to the business community at the Philippine Stock Exchange, on Wednesday said the Marawi crisis would be resolved in "10 to 15 days," a self-imposed deadline that goes beyond the 60-day limit of his declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

The President has said that any decision to extend military rule in Mindanao will depend on the military's assessment.

Padilla said the military was still finalizing its recommendation on whether or not to extend martial law over Mindanao, which will expire on July 22.

Padilla said the military hoped to give the recommendation to the President "way before the deadline."

As of Friday, the death toll in

Marawi included 392 terrorists, 93 government security forces, and 45 civilians.

### Initial P5B for rehab

Padilla said that even though fighting was ongoing, the government had begun the early recovery stage, which would involve setting up tent-style temporary resettlement areas for 3,000 evacuees.

"The Armed Forces is leaning forward on its linkage with the Inter-Agency Task Force 'Bangon Marawi' and two of our engineering brigades are already on the ground, working closely with the other agencies that are in charge of the early recovery phase, primarily the preparation of the temporary resettlement area," Padilla said.

Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno announced on Friday that the government had allocated an initial P5 billion for the recovery and rehabilitation of Marawi City in 2017.

During the Palace news briefing, Diokno said the money would be obtained from the contingent fund and other funds being held by different government agencies, as well as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund.

"For the rest of the year, from August to December, that's five months, I have already identified some P5 billion for the Marawi restoration. It's standby money there," Diokno said.

Diokno also said there were some offers of grants from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE



**EVIDENCE OF TERROR** An undated handout photo released on July 14 by authorities in Lanao del Sur shows rescuers inspecting body bags containing the remains and belongings of civilians believed to have been executed by terrorists in Marawi. AFP PHOTO

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## Govt...

From A1

President Rodrigo Duterte recently ordered the creation of Task Force Bangon Marawi to implement rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Marawi City, with the Department of Public Works and Highways expected to come up with a comprehensive master plan to map out these efforts. The President previously promised to give P20 billion for Marawi's rehabilitation, at least P10 billion of which will be released in 2018.

Diokno said that the budgets and funding sources for 2017 and 2018 had been identified before the creation of the DPWH master plan to quickly respond to the rehabilitation needs.

Other funds could also be sourced from the respective budgets of different agencies such as Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the AFP Engineering Brigade, and foreign donors.

China has already donated P15 million for Marawi rehabilitation to boost the resources of Health and Social Welfare departments.

For the NDRRM Fund FY 2018, P25.5 billion has been allocated; while P10 billion of that amount has been allotted for the Marawi recovery and rehabilitation program.

In the 2018 budget, P310 million has also been allocated for 12 infrastructure projects under ARMM Regional DPWH.

The Budget chief also said that the international community has expressed willingness to assist in the recovery of Marawi.

Among the international organizations that committed financial help are the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Diokno assured the public that all funds would be properly accounted for.

"Why is accountability important? Well, we learned our lessons from the 'Yolanda' incident. The Filipino people should know how the money was spent," he said.

Meanwhile, member-agencies of the Inter-Agency Task Force Bangon Marawi are set to conduct a meeting with local officials and chief executives to formalize the initial rehabilitation plan.

Office of Civil Defense Post-Disaster Evaluation and Management chief Lenie Alegre said

the sub-committees are expected to present their initial plans to the local government units by next week.

"So, even before we end the conflict, the government is actually planning ahead for early recovery and rehabilitation as well as possible reconstruction," Alegre said.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. reiterated the military's continuous efforts to restore normalcy in the areas of conflict.

He said two engineering brigades are already on the ground and are working closely with local officials in preparing the temporary resettlement area for the evacuees.

Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said that the clearing operations of infrastructure in Marawi City are progressing well, with 48 more buildings cleared yesterday, July 13. Around 600 buildings remain to be cleared.

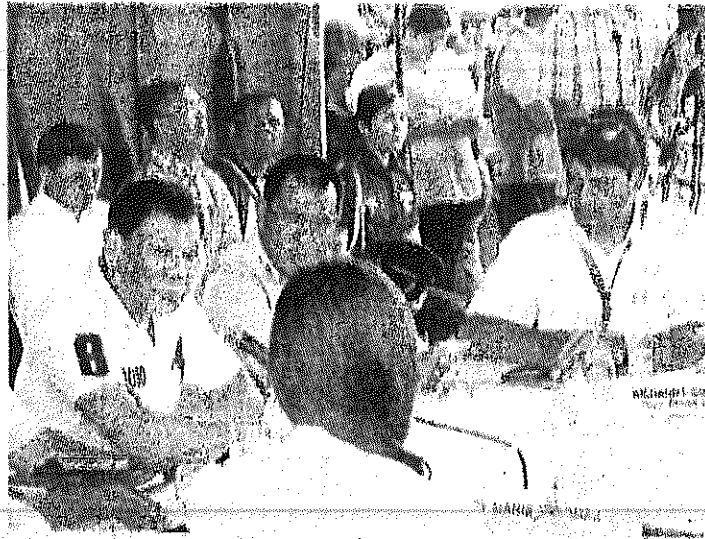
As for the donations for Marawi victims, as of July 13, donations for soldiers killed in action have soared to P5.5 million while donations for internally displaced persons have reached P779,727.21.

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Manila  
**Standard**

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## Gov't sets multi-year Marawi rehab plan



**TREMOR DISCUSSION.** President Rodrigo Duterte discusses at the Ormoc City airport with members of his Cabinet and local officials Thursday developments after a major earthquake damaged Leyte, devastated in 2013 by Super Typhoon 'Yolanda.' Presidential Photo

**By John Paolo Bencito**

THE government is ready to mobilize P5 billion for the rehabilitation of war-torn Marawi City, the Department of Budget and Management said Friday.

"The rebuilding of Marawi will be a multi-year task. It cannot be done in a few months or one year. So with that, we are talking of a multi-year effort. And in fact there is a task force created to prepare such a plan," Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said Friday.

In the meantime, the DBM has identified P5 billion in standby funds, most of it from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, which can already be tapped. *Next page*



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Pahina. 2

## Marawi siege malabong matapos bago SONA - AFP

Malabo umanong matapos ang krisis sa Marawi City na nasa ika-53 araw na kahapon bago ang State of the Nation of the Nation (SONA) ni Pangulong Duterte sa darating na Hulyo 24.

Sinabi ni AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., na nasa 600 pang gusali ang kaila-

ngang malinis na inokupa ng Maute terrorists group.

Una rito, nagtakda muli ng palugit na 15 araw si Pangulong Duterte sa tropa ng pamahalaan para tapusin ang Marawi siege.

"Yeah, so we are right into the 10 to 15 days of the President. But the 10 to 15 days is beyond the SONA, by the way, so don't

expect it to be before the Sona," sabi ni Padilla.

Ayon kay Padilla, simula nang magsagawa ng clearing operations ang tropang gobyerno ay nasa 1,50-2,000 istraktura na inokupa ng 500 terorista ang target malinis sa lungsod habang 40 hanggang 50 gusali ang nalilinis ng militar kada araw na operasyon sa Marawi City.

Nakatakda namang magrekomenda si Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana kay Pangulong Duterte kung palalawigin o tatapusin na ang Martial Law.

Umaabot na sa 530 ang death toll sa Marawi, kabilang ang 392 terorista, 93 security forces at 45 sibilyan.

May 498 armas ang nakumpiska at nasa 1,723 sibilyang hostage at na-trap sa bakbakan ang nasa-gip. (Joy Cantos)

15 July 2017



Pahina. 2

**Giyera sa Marawi, tapusin  
bago mag-SONA**

## **HIRIT NG AFP: HINDI KAYA**

HINDI kakayanin na matuldukan at mapalaya mula sa terorismo ang Marawi City bago ang araw ng State of the Nation Address

(SONA) ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Hulyo 24. Ayon kay Brigadier General Restituto Padilla, tagapagsalita ng Armed Forces

of the Philippines (AFP), kakailanganin pa ng sampu hanggang labinlimang araw bago mabawi ang kontrol sa mga gusali sa lungsod na

okupado ng Maute-ISIS.

Sa tantya ni Padilla, aabot pa sa animmaraang gusali ang hindi pa nalilinis ng tropa ng pamahalaan mula sa presen-

siya ng mga terorista. Aabot sa 40 hanggang 50 gusali ang napapasok na ng mga sundalo at pulis sa clearing operations nito. *(V. Reyes)*

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# AIRSTRIKES HIT MARAWI ANEW

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces conducted airstrikes in Marawi City yesterday using other aircraft a day after the military temporarily grounded the FA-50PH fighter jets they are using following Wednesday's accident in which two soldiers were killed and 11 others were wounded.

Page 2

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces conducted airstrike in Marawi City yesterday using other aircraft a day after the military temporarily grounded the FA-50PH fighter jets they are using following Wednesday's accident in which two soldiers were killed and 11 others were wounded.

In a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the Philippine Air Force is using the OV10 and MG-520 bombers and SF-260 and AW attack helicopters in airstrikes against buildings still occupied by the Islamic State-

inspired militants.

"The incident that happened, however, will not cancel out or prevent the use of any other aircraft other than this one for further airstrikes so that we can provide our troops the necessary support that they will need in terms of close air support, field artillery support, and other combat support that they will require," Padilla said.

"It's still available to our commanders on the ground to employ the available aircraft minus this particular aircraft," he added.

Padilla said that the military is not using the FA-50PH aircraft for any further airstrikes in Marawi until such time that the cause of

the accident has been determined or the failure of the equipment has been known.

"Until such time that we are sure of the cause of one of those bombs falling short of target will we then resume the use of that aircraft," Padilla said.

A Super Radyo DZBB report said the airstrikes were conducted before 9 a.m. and gunfire erupted between soldiers and the Maute Group at the same time. Fires also broke out in areas where the airstrikes were conducted.

Meanwhile, the government is expecting a higher civilian death toll in the hands of the enemy as security forces advance operations

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against terrorists in Marawi.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said troops recently recovered the remains of six persons believed to be executed by terrorists, resulting to a civilian casualty count of 45 as of July 13.

"This count is based on body recoveries but as we go deeper into that, into the contested areas, we expect the numbers to rise," Abella said. "It may rise based on potential execution of hostages or civilians killed in action," he said.

Padilla said troops are pursuing around 80 terrorists still holed up in Marawi.

Around 600 buildings remain to be cleared by government forces.

They also trying to recover around 300 civilians still trapped in the area.

"Our troops are leaning forward. They really want to finish this fight as soon as possible," Padilla said. "That's why they're all determined to hold on to the territory that was held already by our troops."

The fighting has been raging for more than a month now. President Duterte said he hopes the conflict will be over in 10 to 15 days, citing some government difficulty due to heavy supply of enemy arsenal.

Three hundred ninety four militants and 93 troops have been killed in the conflict. **(with a report from Genalyn D. Kabling)**

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## Marawi crisis to last past SONA

AS President Rodrigo Duterte has previously indicated, the Marawi crisis would not be over before his second State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 24.

In yesterday's Mindanao Hour in Malacanang, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Spokesperson Restituto Padilla Jr said the government would need 10 to 15 more days to regain control of buildings in Marawi City occupied by the Maute terrorists.

Padilla said about 600 buildings have yet to be cleared in Marawi City, with the military clearing an average of 40 to 50 buildings a day so far.

"Yeah, so we are right into the 10 to 15 days of the President. But the 10 to 15 days is beyond the SONA, by the way, so don't expect it to be before the SONA," Padilla said.

On Wednesday, Duterte said he needed 15 more days to solve the Marawi crisis, a self-imposed deadline which may go beyond the 60-day limit of his martial law in Mindanao, which expires on July 22.

But Padilla was mum whether the military would recommend the extension of martial law given the situation in Marawi City only to say that the assessment right now is on its concluding stage and will be given to the Chief of Staff who will then do his vetting on the recommendation and eventually submitted to the secretary of National Defense for submission to the Commander-in-Chief

"The secretary is the administrator of martial law and will necessarily have to have his inputs into the document," the military spokesman said.

Duterte, who earlier said that he will not lift martial law before his second SONA, said he will wait for the military's recommendation whether to extend the declaration or not.

As of 7 p.m. yesterday, Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said 392 terrorists have been killed while 93 government forces have died in the battle. Abella added that 45 civilians died in the clash that started on May 23 after Islamic State-inspired members of the Maute Group attacked Marawi City in a bid to establish a caliphate there. **Efren Montano**

15 July 2017



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## SC told: Compel Congress to convene joint session, review ML proclamation

By **HECTOR LAWAS**

**THE Supreme Court has been asked to resolve a pending petition for mandamus compelling Congress to perform its constitutional, ministerial duty to convene and review President Duterte's Proclamation No. 216, which placed the entire Mindanao region under martial law.**

In a 10-page manifestation, petitioners Alexander Padilla, Rene Saguisag, Christian Monsod, Loretta Ann Rosales, Rene Ballesteros, and Leila de Lima have underscored the need for a legislative review of the proclamation inasmuch as the 60-day validity of the con-

troversial measure was about to lapse on July 22 of this year.

"Considering this very limited timeline, it is, with due respect, extremely urgent that the present Petition be resolved before the sixty (60)-day lapses, lest the case be mooted by sheer lack of time, through no fault of the petitioners," the manifestation, signed by former solicitor general Florin Hilbay -- one of the counsels of the petitioners -- read in part.

The petitioners stressed the high court, in its recent ruling upholding the constitutionality of Proclamation No. 216, has recognized that among the safeguards to the Executive Branch's exercise of power to declare martial law or sus-

pend the privilege of writ of habeas corpus is the power of Congress for a legislative review.

The petitioners disclosed that legislative review was one of the safeguards provided by the 1987 Constitution to ensure that the Executive Branch does not abuse the power to declare martial law or suspend the issuance of the writ of habeas corpus.

Also, the petitioners stressed the Court's review power was passive, it's only initiated by the filing of a petition. On the other hand, Congress' review mechanism is automatic in the sense that it may be activated by Congress itself at anytime after the proclamation or suspension was made.

*Turn to Page 7*

**SC...**

*From Page 6*

In filing their petition for mandamus, the petitioners said the 1987 Constitution is very clear that Congress has the ministerial duty to convene a joint session and deliberate the factual and constitutional basis for martial law.

They argued that what both houses of Congress had done by

approving House Resolution 1050 and Senate Resolution 388 expressing support to the declaration of martial law cannot be considered compliance with the provision of the Constitution particularly Section VII, Section 18 which states that "Congress voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of all its members in regular or special session, may revoke such proclamation or suspension, which re-

vocation shall not be set aside from the President.

"We need to see that the system of checks and balances in our Constitution are working. Congress should not be allowed to shirk from or disregard its duty. The failure of Congress to act as a single deliberative body cannot be substituted with separate resolutions passed by both Houses of Congress. Substantial compliance is no compliance," they added.

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• **Regionalized relief  
for Marawi evacuees**

Relief operations for Marawi City strife-displaced persons are now compartmentalized to foster smooth coordination among public and private organizations serving three regions where the evacuees opted to seek refuge, according to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Councils (RDRRMCs) of ARMM, Region 10, and Region 12 are leading the compartmental relief operations in their respective areas of jurisdiction. The RDRMC ARMM, through the convergent Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team (HEART), caters to refugees staying in evacuation camps or relatives' homes in Marawi and Cotabato cities, in Saguiaran, Marantao and Malabang and other adjacent towns in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao provinces, the Bureau of Public Information (BPI) said. (Ali G. Macabalang)

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## SC asked to compel joint session of Congress to act on martial law

By **REY G. PANALIGAN**

The Supreme Court (SC) was asked yesterday to resolve immediately two petitions that seek to compel Congress to convene jointly and act on President Duterte's proclamation of martial law (ML) and suspension of the privilege of

the writ of habeas corpus for 60 days in Mindanao under Proclamation No. 216 issued last May 23.

It was the group of former senator Rene Saguisag that filed an urgent manifestation with the SC through former solicitor general Florin Hilbay.

The other petition was filed by

the group of former senator Wigberto Tañada. The two petitions have been consolidated by the SC.

Named respondents in the two petitions were Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez who are represented by Solicitor General Jose Calida.

The manifestation stated that the SC should issue a ruling on the petitions to clarify the duties of Congress as stated in Section 18, Article VII of the Constitution.

### **Prelate on ML**

For his part, a prelate said it should be the people of Mindanao who should be asked whether they want martial law extended or not.

Caloocan Bishop Pablo Virgilio David, incoming vice president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said: "Maybe instead of getting the pulse of majority of Filipinos on ML, the survey should also find out more specifically if majority of

the people of Mindanao (Christians and Muslims) would agree with an extended ML in Mindanao."

Speaking to Radio Veritas, the prelate said this in view of the result of the Social Weather Stations survey showing that majority or 57 percent of Filipinos are in favor of martial law.

Likewise, Davao Archbishop Romulo Valles, the incoming CBCP president, cited the importance of dialogue and open communication in helping address the Marawi crisis and other problems these turbulent times.

"We have a statement to be released and that statement clearly is encouraging us to engage and put out efforts in promoting dialogue, especially in these times of crisis and suffering such as what's happening in Marawi. Dialogue and open communication are necessary in helping address difficult situations and problems," Valles said. (With reports from Leslie Ann G. Aquino and Christina I. Hermoso)

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# Marawi airstrikes to continue despite mishap

By **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**  
and **GENALYN D. KABILING**

**T**he Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said that airstrikes in parts of Marawi City still controlled by Isis-inspired Maute group terrorists will continue despite last Wednesday's airstrike accident that killed two soldiers wounded 11 others.

The incident resulted in the grounding of the 12 FA-50PH training aircraft from South Korea starting Thursday.

In a related development, the government fears that the death toll for civilians will rise further as security forces step up operations against local terrorists in Marawi City.

## Airstrikes on

In a press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said despite the temporary grounding of the FA-50 PH planes, the Philippine Air Force is still using OV 10 and MG-520 bombers, and SF-260 and AW Attack Helicopters in the Marawi City airstrikes.

"The incident that happened, however,

will not cancel out or prevent the use of any other aircraft other than this one for further airstrikes so that we can provide our troops the necessary support that they will need in terms of close air support, field artillery support, and other combat support that they will require," Padilla said.

## Rising count

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said government troops recently recovered the remains of six persons believed to be executed by terrorists, increasing the number

of recorded civilians killed to 45.

"This count is based on body recoveries but as we go deeper into that, into the contested areas, we expect the numbers to rise," Abella said in a Palace press briefing.

"It may rise based on potential execution of hostages or civilians killed in action," he said.

To date, the conflict has left 532 people dead, including 394 terrorists a 93 soldiers and police officers.

The fighting between govern-

ment troops and Islamic State-linked Maute group terrorists has been raging for close to two months now.

## Hopeful, driven

President Duterte recently said he hopes the Marawi City conflict will be over in 10 to 15 days.

Padilla said the troops are pursuing around 80 Maute group members believed to be still holed up in Marawi.

Around 600 buildings have yet to be cleared by government forces. They also trying to recover around 300 civilians still trapped in the area.

"Our troops are leaning forward. They really want to finish this fight as soon as possible," Padilla said in the same Palace news conference.

"That's why they're all determined to hold on to the territory that was held already by our troops," he added.

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## Abu sub-leader, member nabbed

ZAMBOANGA CITY — An Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sub-leader and another ASG member reportedly behind the kidnap for ransom operations in Tawi-Tawi were arrested by joint operatives of the military and police on Thursday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Spokesman Army Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay identified the arrested ASG sub leaders as Omar Harun, alias Halipa.

Petinglay said Harun was arrested by composite elements of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi, led by Lieutenant Colonel Luis Tamondong of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-8, and the Provincial Police Office of Tawi-Tawi in Barangay Poblacion, Taganak at around 6:25 am, Thursday.

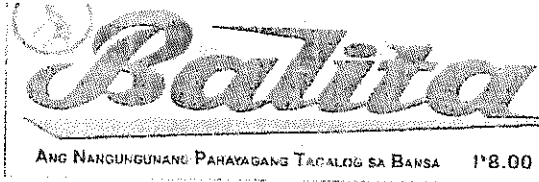
The group also arrested Ara Samindi, an ASG member in Lagaan island also in Taganak, Tawi-Tawi on the same day.

The two ASG members were brought by the troops to the PNP Bongao station for questioning and documentation procedures.

According to Petinglay Samindi and Harun were close associates of ASG/KFRG sub-leaders Alden Bagadi alias Sayning, Majan Sahijuan alias Apo Mike, and the late Abraham Hamid & Ahabsy Misaya.

Both were also involved in different seajacking activities including the attack on Vietnam-Flag vessel MV Giang Hai at Pearl Bank, Tawi-tawi last February 19, 2017 where six Vietnamese crewmen were also kidnapped and one killed on the vessel. (Nonoy E. Lacson)

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## 2 Abu Sayyaf nadakma sa Tawi-Tawi

Dinampot ng mga pulis at sundalo ang isang sub-leader ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) at kanyang tauhan sa operasyon sa Tawi-Tawi nitong Huwebes.

Inaresto si Omar Harun, alyas "Halipa", Abu Sayyaf sub-leader, ng mga operatiba ng Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi, sa pangunguna ni Lt. Col. Luis Tamondong ng Marine Battalion Landing Team-8, at ng Tawi-Tawi

Police Provincial Office sa Barangay Poblacion sa bayan ng Taganak, bandang 6:25 ng umaga.

Sa hiwalay na operasyon, nadakip naman ang isa pang bandido na si Ara Samindi sa Lagaan island sa Taganak, nang araw ding iyon.

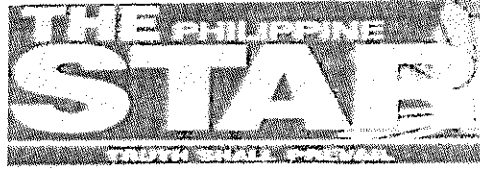
Batay sa record, sina Samindi at Harun ay kapwa malapit sa mga sub-leader ng ASG na sina Alden Bagadi, alyas "Sayning"; Majan

SahJuan, alyas "Apo Mike"; at ang yumaong sina Abraham Hamid at Alhabsy Misaya.

Kapwa sangkot ang dalawa sa iba't ibang insidente ng seajacking, kabilang ang pag-atake sa Vietnam-Flag vessel na MV Giang Hai sa Pearl Bank, Tawi-tawi, noong Pebrero 19, 2017, kung saan tinangay nila ang anim na tripulanteng Vietnamese at pinatay naman sa barko ang isa pa.

**Francis T. Wakefield**

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## 2 Abu Sayyaf men nabbed

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Two members of the Abu Sayyaf were arrested yesterday in a joint operation of the Task Force Tawi-Tawi and provincial police.

Carlito Galvez Jr., chief of the Philippine Army's Western Mindanao Command, said the two forces separately nabbed Omar Harun, alias Halipa, in Taganak town and Ara Samindi on Lagaan Island.

The two are henchmen of Alden Bagadi and Mohan Sahijan, respectively, the sub-leaders of Abu Sayyaf commanders Abraham Hamid and Alhabsy Misaya.

In Zamboanga City, acting city police chief Senior Superintendent Diomarie Albarico said a joint police and military operation also led to the arrest of Abdulmubin Kudalat Salahuddin, a mall security guard who doubles as a supplier of firearms and ammunition to the bandit group.

Inspector Edwin Duco, city police spokesman, said Salahuddin was also involved in the Sipadan dive resort kidnapping wherein 21 people, including nine Malaysians and 10 Europeans, were held hostage.

– Lino dela Cruz, Roel Pareno

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## 2 Abu bandits captured in Tawi-Tawi

By **Mario J. Mallari**

Two Abu Sayyaf personalities, one of them a sub-leader, were captured during separate operations launched by the military's Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi on Thursday.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesman for the military's Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), identified the two arrested ASG members as Omar Harun, alias Halipa, and Ara Samindi.

Harun was tagged as a sub-leader of the Abu Sayyaf group operating in Tawi Tawi.

He was collared by elements of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-8, led by Lt. Col. Luis Tamondong, during an operation in Barangay Poblacion, Taganak on Thursday at around 6:25 a.m.

In a separate operation, Samindi was captured by government forces in Lagaan Island also in Taganak.

The two Abu Sayyaf members were brought by the troops to the PNP Bongao station for questioning and documentation procedures.

Petinglay said that based on military record, Samindi and Harun were close associates of Abu Sayyaf leaders Alden Bagadi, alias

Saying, Majan Sahjjuan, alias Apo Mike, the late Abraham Hamid and Alhabsy Misaya.

Both were involved in different seajacking activities including the attack of Vietnam vessel MV Giang Hai at Pearl Bank, Tawi-Tawi last February 19 when six Vietnamese crewmen were also kidnapped while another one was killed.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, commander of Wesmincom, commended the troops for the arrest of the two Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"The complementing effort of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi and the Tawi-tawi PNP is very vital in the capture of these ASG bandits," said Galvez.

"We acknowledge the solid support we are receiving from the local government unit and the people of Tawi-tawi. Surely this accomplishment will not be a success if not for the aggressive stance and participation shown by the community against the Abu Sayyaf and kidnap for ransom groups operating in their province," he added.

From January 1, 2017 to date, a total of 69 Abu Sayyaf members were apprehended by the troops within the joint area of operations. Of this number, 11 were apprehended in Basilan, 43 in Sulu, 5 in Tawi-Tawi, and 10 in Zamboanga.



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# MNLF leaders' gathering on peace in Zambo misconstrued as an attack

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

**Z**AMBOANGA CITY — About 100 high-ranking leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) coming from all over Mindanao convened in this city Thursday in what the city government initially thought was in preparation for an attack but ended peacefully when the leader of the MNLF assured that they were there to pursue peace and development in Mindanao.

City Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco

was reportedly given the information that the gathering of the MNLF leaders in this city was aimed at soliciting a mass-based support for the group's supposed new attack on the city. Climaco reportedly ordered the police and military to visit the City Inn Hotel in this city and disperse the group.

Climaco said MNLF chair Yusop Jikiri violated the protocol of the city in holding a forum without giving prior notice to the city government.

But Taddik said the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which organized the forum

has written to the office of the city mayor here and informed the mayor of the upcoming activities a few days before the forum.

Taddik, in a message to Mayor Climaco said: "We love you. Many of our Muslim MNLF members and leaders who are in this city have voted for you in the last elections. We have some police and military integreees who are here helping you in the maintenance of peace and development."

The two-day seminar workshop was organized by the UNDP in coordination with the Office of the Presi-

dential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP) and the European Union (EU)

MNLF Central Committee deputy secretary general for military affairs Abuamri Taddik said the seminar workshop centered its discussion on peace and development in Muslim dominated areas in Mindanao

The UNDP, EU, and OPAPP wanted to know what the needs are in the area so they can create a socio-economic program and extend the necessary help, Taddik explained.

Among the topics that were discussed during the two day seminar workshop were the Bangsamoro right to self-discrimination and imperative for social, political and economic development, MNLF development program framework, including responsive Bangsamoro education (politically, culturally and economically), human capital development to drive economic growth and access to public health services, development of local entrepreneur-cottage industries with access to market and agriculture and non-agriculture based production including the processing and marketing of goods.

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**A PHALANX OF DEFENDERS** – Philippine troops march towards the frontline where they are battling militants in Marawi City. The fighting, which began May 23, is expected to be finished before the end of the month. (AFP)

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

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FEATURE STORY

# Behind The Lens:

## Jes Aznar

By ANGELICA GUTIERREZ

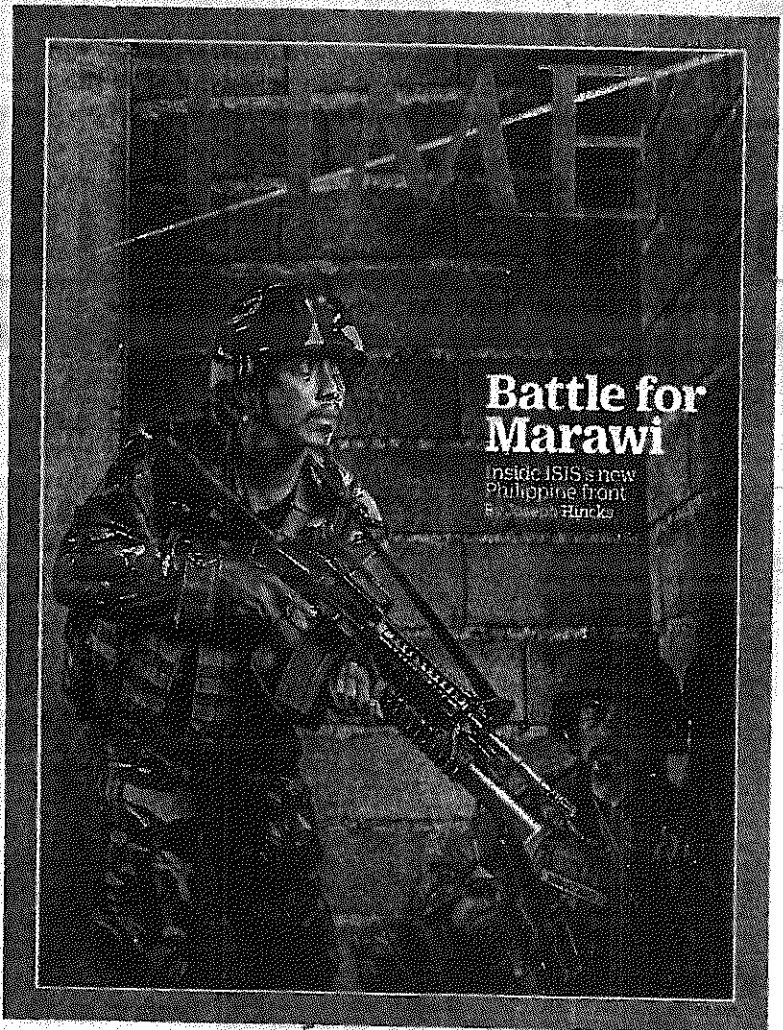
As a photojournalist, Jes Aznar faces danger every day — whether it's covering the clashes in Marawi, or coming under fire from keyboard warriors. Just last month, Thinking Pinoy blogger RJ Nieto falsely accused him of revealing Philippine soldiers' positions through videos posted on Instagram.

But instead of allowing threats from angry netizens to get to him, Jes soldiers on, and his hard work has paid off. His coverage of the Marawi siege landed on the cover of *Time* magazine's July 3, 2017 issue. He is also a contract photographer for international publications like *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Here, he talks to *Supreme* about the nature of his work, the role social media plays in it, and dealing with trolls.

**SUPREME:** When you're covering conflicts like the siege of Marawi, what does it look like?

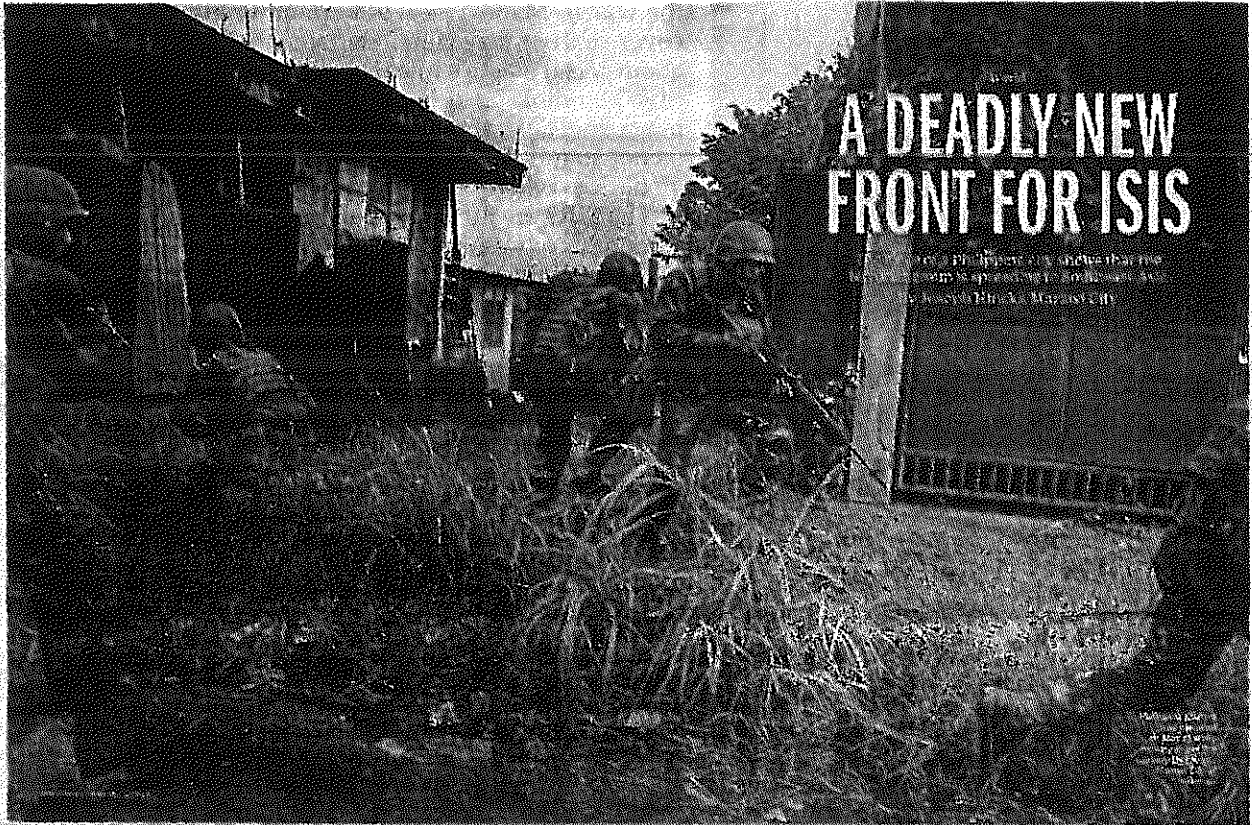
**JES AZNAR:** The siege of Marawi is unprecedented in the country. I have never covered anything like this in my career as a photojournalist. For some journalists, it is always better to go in big groups for safety. But there are some who prefer to go in small groups like we did. Those who have the proper gear and training try to follow soldiers on patrol or to their deployment areas. There are also some who stay in the provincial capitol to wait for announcements and press briefings.

There must be so much going on at once. How do you get a good shot in the midst of all the chaos? How do you decide which





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**moments to capture?**

Taking good shots under pressure takes years of practice, and knowing which shot to take depends on how well you know what you are covering. Pressure is something photojournalists have to deal with every day and in each assignment. It only takes a fraction of a second to capture the actual moment and then it's gone forever and you cannot get a second take.

**How do you stay safe while shooting in war-torn areas?**

Always keep in mind that there is no story or picture that is worth your life.

The soldiers often say we are so brave to be going to the frontline of battle just to take pictures. I just tell them it has nothing to do with bravery, as I am honestly scared. Being scared while covering a hostile situation for me is a good thing. It keeps me from doing stupid things I will later regret or, worse, get me killed. I think presence of mind is more useful than bravery in these kinds of situations.

If you will cover such situations, you should undergo a Hostile Environment and First Aid Training at the least.

**Are there certain protocols you have to follow while covering conflict?**

I guess it depends on the situation, place, the units you are with, and their activity. But generally, you shouldn't do anything that will put the unit you're with in danger, as you will be putting yourself in danger as well. So be



mindful of every step and action you take.

Colleagues who have had the chance of embedding with the US military in the wars in the Middle East for a long time say that everything was organized from embedding procedures to bunk beds that you will sleep in inside the base. And the units don't care what you write or take pictures of as long as you don't get in the way of their operation.

**How do you deal with the emotional toll of covering the drug war and the siege of Marawi?**

Those who cover traumatic events don't notice at first, but eventually, the emotional and mental toll will catch up with you. Every person has a different tolerance and different ways of processing traumatic events. Because our work is non-stop, we sometimes do not notice it, and most of the time take it for granted. For example, it took a year before the signs

and manifestations of stress and trauma from the three-month-long coverage of the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan kicked in for me. I was so sick and depressed for months. The PECO-JON (Peace and Conflict Journalists Network) sessions on trauma and healing years before helped me understand what was going on with me, and I reached out for help.

One has to deal with it sooner or later. No one is invincible.

**What role does social media play in your work?**

I guess social media is a great tool, but I'm still trying to figure out how it can help me, particularly with my professional work. But for its general use, Instagram has been great, especially for our personal projects like the @everydayphilippines page that we set up, and it continues to be successful. On the side of advocacy for human rights, we are now also setting up @everydayimpunity to show stories of the alarming culture of impunity the country has had for decades. And these pages have the support of an ever-growing global community of @everyday pages with millions of followers.

**How did you deal with being attacked by trolls after Rey Joseph Nieto's posts?**

I guess the same way anybody should handle fake news, just ignore.

**After everything that's happened with The Thinking Pinoy, do you feel vindicated after your photo was used on the cover of Time magazine?**

Honestly, I don't know how to connect the two. But vindication? No. I mean, it is not necessary. I'm just doing my job taking that picture, and I'd still be doing that with or without these detractors. Apparently, their gripe is with *The New York Times*, and later on with *Time* magazine, and *Washington Post*, etc. —basically every reputable international publication that has something to

do with publishing reports something that their principal doesn't agree with — or the media in general. So they use social media to try to discredit these publications. But unfortunately for them, most of these publications were built on time-proven integrity, long before they were even born. So it will be hard for them to make their case.

As for me, I have been working for international publications for more than a decade and my audience is global. Their principal is just a small fraction of the topics that I cover. Sure, people have their own biases, so be it. But since they are public figures, if they are doing something wrong or anything at all, my job is not to argue with them, but to take pictures and present stories of the truth. What significance do I have to be the story? None. So I'll just leave them be and just do my job.

I just felt sad. Sad because there is this small group of people in the Philippines who still don't understand the work of photojournalists. It's telling of many things, quite frankly.

**What struck you the most while covering Marawi?**

It struck everybody there that what happened in Marawi is unprecedented and unthinkable. What struck me is the fear of having more of these kinds of attacks and the consequences they would have for the people. For us.

**What would you say is the most rewarding part of your job?**

I think the most rewarding part of this job would be the moment you know your pictures helped someone. It may be for being informed, or for being enlightened, or moved, or for people to act and do something, or for those in power to act and help those affected in your pictures. That is the most rewarding part of any photojournalist's job.

\*\*\*  
Follow Jes Aznar's work on Instagram: @jeszmanni.

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Le Monde




Un camp de combattants de l'armée philippine dans la ville de Marawi, Philippines. Les combattants de l'armée philippine sont rassemblés dans un camp de combattants de l'armée philippine dans la ville de Marawi, Philippines. Les combattants de l'armée philippine sont rassemblés dans un camp de combattants de l'armée philippine dans la ville de Marawi, Philippines.

### Les djihadistes défient l'armée philippine

Dans le sud de l'archipel, des combattants ralliés à l'organisation Etat islamique occupent la ville de Marawi

Images courtesy of JEZ AZNAR

THE NEW YORK TIMES INTERNATIONAL MONDAY, MAY 29, 2017



Rescuers on Sunday recover bodies of people believed to have been killed by militants in Marawi City in the southern Philippines. The authorities put the bodies in the city of Marawi on Sunday.

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The Manila Times

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# Duterte to turn over 2018 budget on SONA

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte will submit to the House of Representatives the proposed national budget for next year on the day of his second State of the Nation Address (SONA) this month, Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said on Friday.

During the "Mindanao Hour" news briefing in Malacañang, Diokno said the administration was on track to submit the proposed P3.767-trillion proposed budget to Congress on July 24,

the same day when the second regular session of the 17th Congress opens.

"The President plans to submit the budget on the day of the SONA itself. So that's a first time

in Philippine history. Why are we doing this? So we can have an early start for the 2018," Diokno told reporters.

He said the proposed 2018 national budget, which the President had approved, allocates the largest outlays to education and infrastructure development.

"Now this project is consistent with President Duterte's 'Build, Build, Build' program to usher in the 'golden age of infrastructure' in the Philippines and his desire to develop the Filipino youth into an agile, competent workforce for the future," Diokno said.

Data from the Department of

Budget and Management (DBM) showed the Duterte administration would set aside the biggest slice of the nation's budget next year for social services, at 41.2 percent of the total, or P1.551 trillion.

Education, culture and manpower development will get P794 billion; social security, welfare and employment, P369.6 billion; and health, P177.6 billion.

At least 29.4 percent or P1.106 trillion will be allocated to economic services, such as infrastructure spending on power, water, transportation and communications (P734.5 billion) and agriculture and agrarian reform (P133.2 billion).



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The Manila Times

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# PNP braces for 'moderate' terror threat during SONA

BY DEMPSEY REYES AND ELSHAMAE ROBLES

**A MILITARY source on Friday disclosed that the terror threat before and during President Rodrigo Duterte's second State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 24 has been evaluated as "moderate."**

The source told reporters that at a "moderate" stage or at Level 3 police visibility will be felt in strategic places and critical infrastructures including the La Mesa Dam, oil depots, air and sea ports, railways and bus terminals.

The Quezon City Police District (QCPD) on Friday said it would implement tighter security measures for the event.

Two weeks before the SONA, QC Police and the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) presented the 2017 security plan which has the same setup with the President's previous SONA.

According to QCPD Director Chief Supt. Guillermo Eleazar, 6,000 police personnel will be deployed in areas surrounding the Batasan Complex.

Earlier, the House of Representatives announced security measures within the Batasan Complex will be tightened citing terror threats and threats coming from drug suspects who will allegedly finance the disruption of the President's second SONA.

Right after the pronouncement from the lower chamber, however, the military assured that so far, the Joint Task Force in Metro Manila

has not monitored any threats.

"Just like the previous SONA, we have sub-task groups. These are groups of CDM (Civil Disturbance Management) deployed along different strategic locations, so that we can assist the rallies and at the same time, we can implement the security plan," Eleazar said during a press conference in Quezon City.

"We believe that these personnel are enough for us to be able to maintain orderliness in the conduct of the SONA," he added.

NCRPO Director Oscar Albayalde assured members of the militant groups that police personnel will exercise maximum tolerance during the event.

"We look forward to a civilized and peaceful 2017 SONA of President Duterte," he told the media.

Similar to the 2016 SONA, protesters will be allowed to march to the front of the south gate of the Batasan Complex near the House Plenary hall where President

Duterte will deliver his speech.

The protesters will also be allowed to occupy two lanes of the eastbound lane on Batasan Road.

Albayalde reiterated that police personnel would not use shields and vests during the event since the Philippine National Police does not want to appear like they are intimidating the militant groups.

He also asked the militant groups to cooperate with police personnel and added that not only the legislators will be protected during the event but also ordinary Filipinos.

"We do not tolerate police brutality or abuse of authority provided that we observe our laws," he said.

Meanwhile, the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said it will conduct a big protest rally on July 24, following a protest vigil on Sunday where they will give their message to President Duterte.

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MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# We don't need 5 years of martial law

**I**F, as proposed by some lawmakers, President Duterte were to prolong the period of martial law in the Philippines to five years, the implication is that the government has not been able to stop the rebellion or invasion of the country.

The Supreme Court upheld the proclamation as the Maute attack on Marawi City was deemed a rebellion with assistance from foreign elements identified with the Islamic State. The proclamation was for a 60-day period as provided by the Constitution and that period ends on July 22. Congress may, upon the initiative of the President, extend the proclamation for a period to be determined by Congress "if the invasion or rebellion shall persist and public safety requires it."

The fighting continues to this day in Marawi City as the Maute rebels continue to hold on to their positions in three barangays of Marawi City. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) appears to have decided against an all-out assault to root them out, so as to keep casualties down, considering that Islamic State fighters could be out to seek martyrdom. But the AFP believes it will not be long before the Maute fighters are driven out of their present positions.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen Restituto Padilla Jr said the military will soon submit its recommendations to President Duterte on a possible extension of martial law, but he said extending it by five more years "may be too long." He evidently doesn't see the state of rebellion persisting for such a long period of time. For one, it would mean the AFP's inability to stop the Mautes.

He said he did not know the basis for Speaker

Pantaleon Alvarez proposing continuing martial law for five more years, until the end of President Duterte's term of office. That would be a political decision, he said. It does look like the political leaders in Congress have a political agenda quite apart from the reality of the military and security situation on the ground in Mindanao.

There is a second consideration that would arise if martial law were to be extended to five years. It would mean a disruption of all the plans of the President for Mindanao, most notably the peace agreement with the Bangsamoro leaders of an autonomous region or regions under a federal form of government, following amendment of the Constitution. It would not do to carry out such a plan under martial law conditions.

All plans for the economic development of the region would have to be set aside. Tourists would not be attracted to visit, it simply would not be fun. Investors would not want to put their money in projects under the abnormal conditions of martial law. All the regular processes of government would lie in the shadow of martial rule.

For all these reasons, we do not foresee a five-year period of martial law in Mindanao or any other part of the country. The Maute siege was a problem that is well on the way to being solved by the AFP and the rest of the national government.

President Duterte is doing well in carrying out his program of change for the country, particularly the massive infrastructure program that he has announced for the country, including a railroad system around the entire island of Mindanao. He will carry it out, along with his other programs for the country, and he does not need martial law to do it.

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# BULGAR

BOFF NA MAGA, MAYA NA BAYAN

Pahina. 2

ILANG linggo na ang bakkaban sa pagitan ng sandatahang lakas at ng mga teroristang Maute.

Daan-daan na ang namatay mula sa hanay ng mga sundalo, pulis, sibilyan at sa mga kalaban.

Multi-milyong piso na ang nasirang mga ari-arian, libu-libong pamilya na ang nawalan ng tahanan at marami na ang namamatay sa iba't ibang sakit sa mga kababayan nating nasa evacuation areas.

Inip na inip na tayong lahat na matapos na ang gulong ito. Marami tayong naririnig na opinyon mula sa publiko.

Ang iba, gustong pulbusin na ng gobyerno ang mga lugar na pinagtataguan ng Maute, kubkubin na raw — kolateral na lang daw ang mga madaramay.

Maging tayo, iniisip natin minsan, sana matapos na ito, pero hindi pumasok sa isip natin na madamay sa mabilisang pagtatapos ng giyera ang mga kaawa-awang sibilyan.



## Bawat sentimong para sa Marawi, ilaan sa pagsasaayos ng siyudad at hindi sa bulsa ng sinuman

Kung magagawan naman siguro ng paraan dapat mailigtas ang mga natitirang hostage ng mga terorista at makabalik nang ligtas sa piling ng kanilang mga mahal sa buhay.

Nagpanukala na tayo na magkaroon ng pondo para sa pagbangon ng Marawi – ang Bangon Marawi Fund. Ang pondong ito ay isang multiyear appropriation fund na gagamitin sa rehabilitasyon ng nasabing lungsod.

Hindi biro ang rekonstruksiyon ng Marawi. Ang dating naggagandahang gusali, ang rurok ng kanilang pag-unlad ay napunta lahat sa kawalan.

Sa ngayon, paunang tulong-pinansiyal na maaaring magamit ng gobyerno para rito ay magmumula sa P21.8 bilyong calamity fund mula sa 2017 National Budget.

Ang susunod na pondo ay maaari namang mahugot mula sa 2018 budget dahil kailangan talagang paglaanan ito ng ayudang pinansiyal.

Ngayong Hulyo, nakatakda nang magsu-rite ng 2018 proposed National Budget ang Malacañang sa Kongreso at tiyak na nakapaloob ito rito.

Kung sinsero tayo sa layunin nating tumulong para buhaying muli ang Marawi, kailangan natin ng malawakang pagsuporta

Marami ang kababayan nating umaasa na matutulungan sila ng gobyerno, na ang mga nasira nilang kabuhayan ay maibabalik at ang mga tahananang naipundar sa pamamagitan ng dugó't pawis ay muling maitatayo.

Sana, may mga gumagawa na ng pagtutuos sa mga gastusing kakailanganin ng pamahalaan. Habang maaga pa sana ay may mga opisyal na tayong bumubuo ng kaukulang hakbang at pondo na tiyak na magpapatayong muli sa nasadsad na lungsod.

Kung tutuusin dalawa lang ang sanhi ng bombahan. Ang isa, gustong manaig laban sa gobyerno at ang isa, gustong manaig laban sa mga kalaban upang iligtas ang lalawigan at ang kanyang mamamayan.

Pero, ano na pagkatapos ng gulo? Bawat bato, bawat piraso ng kahoy at bakal, kailangang maipahatid para bumalik o kung hindi naman ay bigyang-pag-asang muli ang Marawi.

At ngayon pa lang, nananawagan na tayo sa lahat na sama-sama tayong tumulong kahit tayong mga ordinaryong mamamayan, sana ay

tumulong sa ating mga kababayan.

Tumulong tayo. Huwag nating iasa lang ang lahat sa gobyerno— maging maliit na tulong maaari tayong magpaabot.

Pakiusap lang sana sa mga kinauukulan, sa ganitong mga pagkakataon, ang bawat sentimo na para sa Marawi rehabilitation, sana buumbuo pa ring makarating sa dapat kalagyan. Ito ang mga panahong mapatutunayan natin ang sinseridad at kalinisan ng ating hangarin bilang lingkod-bayan.

Alalahanin natin na isa sa mga pangako natin nang kinukuha natin ang tiwala ng sambayanan ay ang tapat na paglilingkod sa kanila. Patunayan natin ito ngayon.

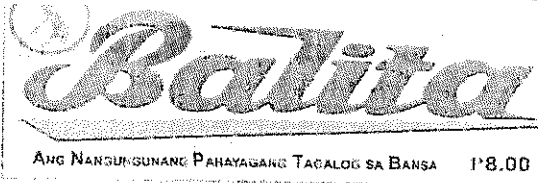
Ibangon nating muli ang Lungsod ng Marawi.

May katanungan ka ba, reklamo o nais ihingi ng tulong? Sumulat sa **AGARANG SOLUSYON** ni Sonny Angara, BULGAR Bldg., 538 Quezon Ave., Quezon City o mag-email sa [agarangsolusyon@bulgar.com.ph](mailto:agarangsolusyon@bulgar.com.ph)

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2) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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**EDITORIAL**

## Hindi natin kailangan ang limang taong batas militar

**K**UNG sakaling palawigin ni Pangulong Duterte sa susunod na limang taon ang batas militar sa Pilipinas, gaya ng iminungkahi ng ilang mambabatas, mangangahulugan itong hindi nagawang pigilan ng gobyerno ang rebelyon sa bansa.

Kinatigan ng Korte Suprema ang nasabing proklamasyon dahil ang pagsalakay ng Maute sa Marawi City ay itinuturing na rebelyon nang may ayuda mula sa mga banyagang terorista na nauugnay sa Islamic State. Ang proklamasyon ay para sa 60-araw lamang, alinsunod sa Konstitusyon, at magtatapos ito sa Hulyo 22. Sa inisyatiba ng Pangulo, maaaring palawigin ng Kongreso ang deklarasyon ng batas militar sa panahong Kongreso ang magtatakda "if the invasion or rebellion shall persist and public safety requires it."

Nagpapatuloy ang bakbakan sa Marawi City hanggang ngayon, habang sinisikap ng mga miyembro ng Maute na maratili sa kanilang posisyon sa tatlong barangay sa Marawi City. Mistulang nagpasya na ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) laban sa diretsahan at malawakang pag-atake kontra sa mga terorista upang maiwasan ang pagkamatay ng mga sibilyan, lalo na at handang mamatay ang mga mandirigma ng Islamic State. Ngunit naniniwala ang AFP na hindi magtatagal at maitataboy na ang mga miyembro ng Maute mula sa kanilang puwesto.

Sinabi ni AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Jr. na isusumite na ng militar ang mga rekomendasyon nito kay Pangulong Duterte kaugnay ng posibilidad na palawigin ang martial law, ngunit ang palawigin ito sa susunod na limang taon "may be too long." Hindi niya inaasahang tatagal nang ganun ang rebelyon. Siyempre pa, mangangahulugan ito na walang kakayahan ang AFP na pigilan ang grupo ng Maute.

Aniya, hindi niya alam ang basehan ni Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez sa pagmumungkahing palawigin nang limang taon ang batas militar, o hanggang sa matapos ang termino ni Pangulong Duterte. Magiging isang desisyong pulitikal ito, aniya. Mistulang may political agenda ang mga pinuno ng Kongreso na iba sa realidad ng militar at ng sitwasyong pangseguridad sa Mindanao.

May ikalawang konsiderasyon na uusbong sakaling tuluyang palawigin nang limang taon ang martial law. Mangangahulugan itong hindi maipatutupad ang mga plano ng Pangulo sa Mindanao, partikular na ang usapang pangkapayapaan sa mga leader ng Bangsamoro para sa isang rehiyong may awtonomiya, sa ilalim ng gobyernong federal, kapag naanyendahan na ang Konstitusyon. Hindi maisakatuparan ang mga planong gaya nito kung umiiral ang batas militar.

Kakailanganin ding usantabi ang mga plano para sa pagpapasigla ng ekonomiya sa rehiyon. Hindi maeengganyong bumusita ang mga turista, siguradong hindi sila masisyrahan. Hindi rin siyempre susugalan ng mga mamumuhunan ang mga proyekto sa ilalim ng hindi normal na sitwasyong dulot ng martial law. Ang lahat ng regular na proseso ng pamahalaan ay mababahiran ng pangangasiwang militar.

Sa lahat ng mga dahilang ito, hindi natin nakikita ang limang-taong pag-iral ng batas militar sa Mindanao o sa alinmang bahagi ng bansa. Isang malaking problema na sa bansa ang pagsalakay ng Maute at sinusikap na itong resolbahan ng AFP at ng gobyerno.

Mahusay na naisasakatuparan ni Pangulong Duterte ang kanyang programa ng pagbabago para sa bansa, partikular na ang malawakang programang imprastruktura na inilahad niya sa bansa, kabilang ang isang railroad system sa buong Mindanao. Ipatutupad niya ito, kasabay ng iba pa niyang programa sa bansa, at hindi na niya kakailanganin ng batas militar upang maisakatuparan ang mga ito.

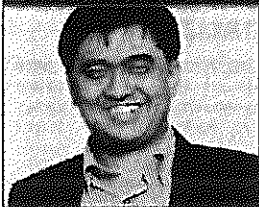


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Our Best Kept Secret



BRO. CLIFFORD T. SORITA

BEFORE we proceed to this week's article, allow me to congratulate Archbishop Romulo Valles of Davao who was elected as president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) during their plenary assembly at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center in Manila last July 8-10, 2017. He takes over from Archbishop Socrates Villegas of Lingayen-Dagupan, who is finishing his second and final term. Bishop Pablo Virgilio David of Kalookan has been elected CBCP vice president.

In the same Assembly of Philippine Bishops, outgoing CBCP President, Archbishop Socrates Villegas, whose salient points are as follows, issued an official Pastoral Statement of the CBCP on Marawi, Terrorism and Dialogue:

Greetings of peace in the Almighty and Most

# CBCP statement on Marawi terrorism and dialogue

Merciful God. We, the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines, wish to enjoin your assistance and collaboration. We all cry from our hearts: War in Marawi, never again! War in Marawi, no more! We therefore call for the return to normalcy and peace in Marawi and its environs as soon as possible. We wonder whether the continued state of Martial Law, much more its extension, will bring this about.

We believe that the war in Marawi is not religious. We have heard and read truly stunning stories of how Muslims have protected and helped Christians to escape from almost certain death. Even now, Christians are assisting thousands of Muslims who have fled from Marawi for safety. These are indisputable signs that there is no religious war.

**Condemnation of Terrorism and Violent Extremism:** For this reason, as Catholic religious leaders, we condemn in the strongest terms possible, as did Islamic religious scholars in Mindanao, the violent extremist Maute group in Marawi. Its leaders and members have pledged

allegiance to ISIS. They have contradicted the fundamental tenets of Islam by abducting and hostageing, maiming and killing the innocent.

**Dialogue for Peace, the Common Word:** Join us then, beloved people of good will, in conducting intra-faith dialogue among our respective co-religionists so that our various faiths may not be exploited and abused for the sake of terrorism or violent extremism. Let parents, schools, churches and mosques ensure that none may be lured by the recruitment efforts of terrorists. Let us teach the young and the old that our faiths are meant for peace. No religion teaches the killing of innocent people, simply because they belong to another religion.

Join us and let us continue the inter-religious dialogue called for by hundreds of Islamic leaders throughout the world. In 2007, they called for peace between Muslims and Christians when they wrote their famous open letter on "the Common Word" to Christian religious leaders. How true their words were! The Muslim leaders wrote:

The basis for peace and understanding already exists. It is part of the very foundational principles of both faiths: love of the One God and love of neighbor.

This is the commandment of God in Deuteronomy 6:4-5. Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength.

Our Lord Jesus, who is also revered as prophet in the Qur'an, cited this scriptural text and elaborated on it in Mark 12:28-31.

One of the scribes asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." He further commanded us: "Love one another as I love you" (John 15:12).

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## CBCP...

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**Praxis of Love and Gratitude:** Loving our neighbor needs action. Let us together invest our resources to helping the thousands of people who have fled from the horrors of Marawi. Let us pray for the safety of trapped civilians and of those abducted and hostageing by the terrorists. Let us be vigilant and

alert, helping our security forces thwart the threats of terrorism in other areas of Mindanao. Let us help the government rebuild the city of Marawi so that its citizens may return and restore their broken lives.

With profound gratitude, we acknowledge the priceless generosity of the kind donors from different faiths, both local and foreign, who promptly responded to meet the needs of the people of Marawi who have fled to

safer areas. We appeal for more help especially for those home-based displaced people who are not yet adequately served.

Maryam, the mother of Jesus, is praised and honored in the Qur'an and by many Christians. Catholics believe that 100 years ago, she appeared to three children in the village of Fatima, which is the very name of the daughter of the prophet Muhammad. To the prayers of Maryam, we commend our efforts for

peace and harmony between peoples of different faiths.

"Let us respect each other, be fair, just and kind to one another and live in sincere peace, harmony and mutual good will" (see the Common Word letter). May the God of peace be with you!

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For any personal comments or suggestions you may call 0917-4805585 or email me at csorita@yahoo.com.

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