

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

16 July 2017

Sunday

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

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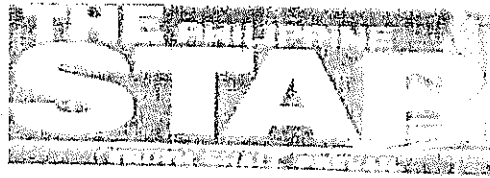
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THE PHILIPPINE STAR
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DZRH NEWS
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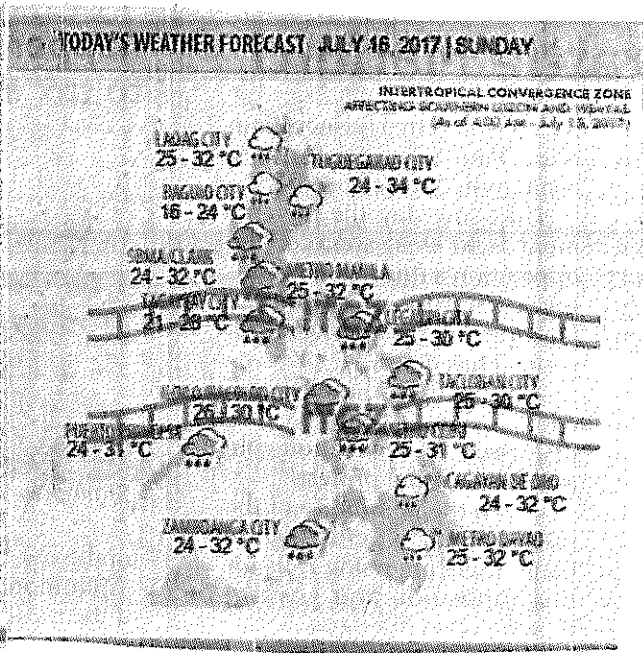
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MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
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EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUL 17 MON	JUL 18 TUE	JUL 19 WED	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUL 17 MON	JUL 18 TUE	JUL 19 WED
METRO MANILA	25°C 32°C	25°C 30°C	25°C 33°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 33°C
TUGUEGARAO	24°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	25°C 34°C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C
LAAG	25°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	METRO CEBU	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C
BAGUIO	16°C 24°C	17°C 25°C	17°C 25°C	TACLOBAN	25°C 30°C	24°C 31°C	24°C 31°C
SBMA/CLARK	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	25°C 33°C
TAGAYTAY	21°C 29°C	22°C 30°C	22°C 30°C	METRO DAVAO	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C
LEGAZPI	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	ZAMBOANGA	24°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	24°C 33°C

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Duterte thanks the Superpowers

US, Russia, China cited in fight against terrorists in Marawi

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

President Duterte has acknowledged the assistance provided by long-time ally the United States (US) to the Armed

Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in its operations against the terrorists that laid siege on Marawi City, Lanao del Sur since May 23.

In his speech in Davao City Friday evening, Duterte also recognized the

support given by new allies China and Russia which has also signified its intention to extend assistance.

"Let us give where credit is due. The United States helped the Armed Forces in this fight," Duterte said.

The President also cited the P30 million worth of ammunition China has donated last June 28 in support of the country's counterterrorism efforts in Marawi City.

He also said Russian President

Vladimir Putin expressed willingness to help the Philippines fight the present threat of terrorism brought about by pro-Islamic-State Maute group in Marawi City.

"China committed and deliv- ▶ 4

ered a lot of firearms for us — 'yung mga sniper (the snipers) I don't know about Russia but Putin, sabi niya tutulong siya (he said he will help)," Duterte said.

Duterte noted that the help extended by the two Asian giants does not have any strings attached.

"Walang attachment diyan (There are no strings attached) Walang head of state — si Putin o si President Xi Jinping magsabi, 'O, bigyan kita but you should be loyal (Neither President Xi nor President Putin said that we should be loyal to them after giving us help)," Duterte said.

He, however, reiterated that his going to Russia and China for help does not mean he is eyeing a military alliance with them. He said he is not allowed to do so because of the existing RP-US Military pact which was formed in 1950.

"So I cannot enter into military alliances with other nations because I would be violating the US-RP agreement. Dito lang tayo sa Amerikano (We will stick with the Americans)," Duterte said.

"Do not make the mistake of putting something on my behavior. I like talking to people. You have to make friends, and there is a need for you to acquire the kind of firearms at nandiyan sila (and they are there)," he added.

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Duterte on Thursday boasted the country's improved relationship his administration has established with China and Russia, saying when it comes to economy and terrorism, he can always go to other countries aside from the United States.

"I can always go to other nations for help and that is why I went to China and I went to Russia," he said.

Duterte earlier thanked the United States for providing technical assistance to the AFP in their fight against the terrorists in Marawi despite not knowing about the assistance being given to the government troops.

"I am not aware of that until they arrived. When I declared martial law I gave the power to the defense department.

I am not the pious type, but I got my education from karamihan sa pari (mostly from priests). So, I grew up with my religion, the values that go with it," he said.

'I'm going back there'

So near, and yet, so far, Duterte expressed his desire to visit Marawi City, Lanao del Sur after two failed attempts to enter the war-torn city before the war ends.

The President said he does not like the thought that he would only visit the city once the people are already celebrating the government's victory over the Maute Group.

"I'm going back there for the twice I was not able to penetrate the — ulan

kasi palagi (because of the rain). Maybe I'll have a good weather in the next few days," Duterte said during his speech in Davao City.

"I have to be there. I will not go there when there is already a celebration of peace," he added.

Duterte said even if the Presidential Security Group (PSG) is against the idea of him going into the strife-torn city, he does not mind the dangers.

"It's always God's call. If your time is up, it is stopped. Maski saan ka pumunta. 'Pag hindi mo pa panahon, hindi mo pa talaga panahon (Wherever you go, if it's not yet your time to die, it won't happen yet)," he said.

Duterte said that he will talk to the government troops and also try out the guns they are using against the terrorists if his visit pushes through.

"I have to go there and just talk to the soldiers on the frontline. And maybe, paputok-paputok ka rin diyan to see if the gun that you are carrying is really [of good quality]," he said.

Duterte made his first attempt to visit Marawi City on June 8 but his trip was cancelled due to the bad weather according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

He made another attempt to visit government troops in Marawi on July 7 but the bad weather once again foiled his plans, prompting him to go to Iligan City instead.

Duterte thanks...



Di ako nakikialam (I did not interfere),” Duterte had said

He also said that he never approached America or any organization of countries for help in the Philippines’ fight against terrorism

Misgivings

As Duterte thanked the US for their help in Marawi City, the President also cited his misgivings about the Philippines’ long-time ally.

“Dito lang tayo sa Amerikano (We stick with the Americans). Now, ano ang misgivings ko (what are my misgivings)? Give me two minutes,” Duterte said in his speech Friday evening.

According to Duterte, he is performing his duty as president to preserve and defend the Philippines and its people but US called him out on policy, particularly on his bloody war against illegal drugs.

“Nobody should teach me how I should do it,” Duterte said, referring to former US President Barack Obama.

“Do not tell me what to do, giving me admonitions. I am not a Federal Postal employee. So if you want something, go to the United Nations then you can talk there until kingdom come and file a case against me and let the United Nations do it,” he added.

According to Duterte, he does not mind being criticized but he prefers that criticisms not be done in an authoritative manner.

“If I have committed a wrong before your eyes, your estimation, that’s your problem. I have my problems to solve,” he said.

“If you think that you are the guardians of all the souls of this universe, go ahead. But do it in the proper way,” he added.

Duterte explained that he does not like the term “extrajudicial killing” as he hates killing people.

“I do not enjoy the extrajudicial killing term. I do not relish killing people. I

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INQUIRER

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'OCCUPY MARAWI' GROUP TOLD: NOT YET

STORY BY ALLAN NAWAL AND RICHEL UMEL

Military and civilian officials said plans to 'Occupy Marawi' were premature and dangerous while government forces continued to battle Islamic State-inspired gunmen in the Islamic city. Hundreds of thousands who fled Marawi and nearby areas have grown weary and anxious about what happened to the homes and livelihoods they had left behind.

A2

FROM A1

By Allan Nawal
and Richel Umel
@Team_Inquirer

MARAWI CITY—Lanao del Sur Vice Gov. Mamintal Adiong Jr. on Saturday urged organizers of the so-called "Occupy Marawi" to think twice before they force their way into the battle-scarred city as the plan would put people's lives in danger.

"They said they already want to go home. We all want to go home, but how can we? The fighting is continuing," Adiong told the Inquirer.

He said unless the military gave its clearance, the safety of civilians who would return home could not be guaranteed.

Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, spokesperson for Task Force Marawi, reminded those planning to go

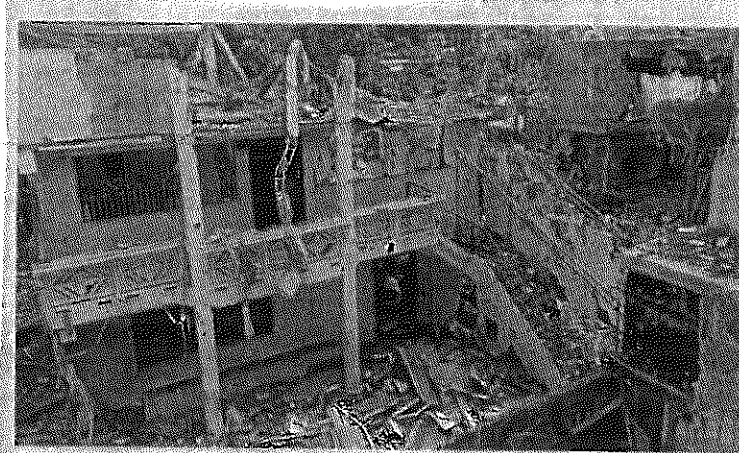
back to Marawi that nearly two months of fighting, which has left more than 500 people dead, has not stopped.

"Even in the capitol, which is considered relatively safe because it is outside of the main battle area, there are people being hit by stray bullets," Herrera said.

A group of women earlier said they planned to head back to the city on July 24, the day President Duterte was to deliver his second State of the Nation Address.

"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," said Bai Sittie Marohomsar, a 52-year-old evacuee who echoed sentiments typically expressed by others displaced by the Marawi conflict.

Marohomsar said they just want to go home. "We are not going to kill anyone... we are not go-



IN RUINS What remains of Marawi after a month of fighting.
—JOSHUA MORALES/RADYO INQUIRER

ing to fight with the government,” she said during a debriefing by a group of women in a Cagayan de Oro City hotel on Thursday.

Adiong said he would help people return home, “but not now, not until the military gives clearance.”

He said some quarters were

taking advantage of the situation to push their own agenda and that certain civil society organizations, which he did not identify, “were not thinking about the welfare of the people.”

“Please do not inject politics into this crisis. This is not the time to be politicking,” he added



But not now, not until the military gives clearance

Mamintal Adiong Jr.
Lanao del Sur vice governor

without elaborating.

Adiong said stray bullets have “rained” on the capitol site and wounded at least three people since fighting between government forces and Islamic State-inspired gunmen from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups erupted on May 23.

The latest victim was Sulaiman Mangorsi, a 55-year-old evacuee who was hit by a bullet

while resting at his family’s assigned quarters on the second floor of a building inside the capitol compound on Thursday.

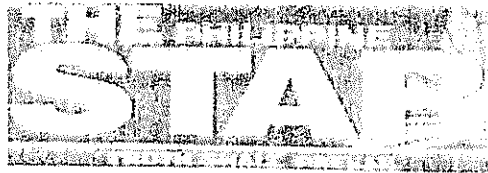
Mangorsi was lying beside his wife when he suddenly felt a stinging pain on his upper left arm, which then felt numb. He saw blood running down his arm and yelled for help.

He was taken to Amai Pakpak Medical Center about a kilometer away where doctors removed a 5.56 cal. slug that had hit the surface of a bone before lodging in a muscle.

The Inquirer had learned that a few hours before Mangorsi was hit, a stray bullet had wounded a soldier at an Army brigade headquarter close to the capitol compound. The military did not confirm or deny the report.

Australian journalist Adam Harvey was the first stray bullet victim. He survived a bullet to the neck. INQ

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Soldiers hurt in Sulu clash receive medals

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – President Duterte yesterday awarded medals to 12 soldiers wounded in an encounter with the Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu last week.

Duterte flew to Jolo to visit the soldiers at the headquarters of the Joint Task Force Sulu in Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Barangay Bus-bus.

The President pinned the medals on First Lts. Niño John Paner and Ian Solatre, Cpls. Alan Bartolome and Jeric Ghil Villaruz, Private First Class Reynan Maristela, Vergel Bali, Rhenievon Saliw-an, Jaifiryll Tamayao, Polard Banggawan, Jeremy Ganagan, and Tonie Mar Talatayud, and Private John Paul Annang. They are all from the 21st Infantry Battalion.

Duterte was accompanied by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

The 12 soldiers were wounded in the encounter in Patikul town while they were attempting to rescue seven victims kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf.

Four Abu Sayyaf members were killed in the encounter.

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Abu men kidnap 6 construction workers

ZAMBOANGA CITY, – Gunmen believed to be Abu Sayyaf bandits seized six Zamboangueno construction workers in Sulu at dawn Saturday.

The incident happened around 2 a.m. along Martinez Street, Jolo, Sulu, according to police authorities and relatives of the victims.

But one of the six workers identified as Larry Velasquez has managed to escape although he was shot and wounded in the leg.

Taken captives by the Abu Sayyaf bandits were Edmundo Ramos, 37, Jayson Baylasis, Joker Adanza, Jun

Guerrero and the fifth one remain unidentified.

Two of the victim's relatives, namely Amy Guerrero and Dayang Ramos, told the *Philippines News Agency* that the Abu Sayyaf bandits have demanded P1 million ransom in exchange for the release of each victim.

Guerrero and Ramos said the ransom demand was relayed to them through a mobile phone by a man who identified himself as a member of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

The Abu Sayyaf bandits behind the incident belong to the Ajang-Ajang group

Turn to page 2

Abu men kidnap 6 construction workers

From page 1

led by bandit sub-leader Ben Saudi.

The bandits abducted the victims who were sleeping at the second floor of the building they were constructing since the project engineer, who was the main target and is sleeping at the ground floor, was not around at the time to the

incident.

Relatives said that the victims had been working for three months already in Jolo, Sulu.

The relatives said they preferred to work in Jolo, Sulu since they are being paid with good salary compared to the other construction firms in this city.

PNA

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Manila
Standard

Page. A1

ABU LOSES 2, HOLDS 6 HOSTAGES

By Florante Solmerin

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Gunmen believed to be Abu Sayyaf bandits seized six Zamboangueno construction workers in Sulu at dawn Saturday.

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Two of the victim's relatives—Amy Guerrero and Dayang Ramos—told the Philippines News Agency the Abu Sayyaf bandits had demanded P1-million ransom in exchange for the release of each victim. **Turn to A2**

Meanwhile, an Abu Sayyaf Group sub-leader and another member involved in several abduction incidents of seafarers in the Philippine-Malaysia border were nabbed Thursday in two separate locations by security forces in Tawi-Tawi.

Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi commander Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon Jr. identified the arrested terrorists as ASG sub-leader Omad Harun alias Halipa and Ara Samindi alias Apo Mike.

He said the simultaneous amphibious operations arrested Samindi at his hideout in Lagaan Island, Taganak while Harun was nabbed in Barangay Poblacion, also in Taganak.

They were brought to the police station in Bongao town in Tawi-Tawi.

"Samindi and Harun are connected to ASG sub-leaders Alden Bagadi alias Sayning, Majan Sahijuan alias Apo Mike and the late Abraham Hanid and Alhabsy Misaya, all Sulu-based," Parcon said.

Misaya was recently killed by government security forces in Bohol. His group entered Bohol to kidnap tourists.

According to Parcon, since the implementation of the border cooperation of the militaries of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (IndoMalPhi) to combat kidnap-for-ransom and ASG activities, the cooperation has been successful so far in some of its operations.

Parcon said the arrest of the two was a "significant" one under the Maritime Coordination Center of the three Asean countries.

Guerrero and Ramos said the ransom demand was relayed to them through a mobile phone by a man who identified himself as a member of the Abu Sayyaf Group.

With PNA

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10 July 2017

The Manila Times

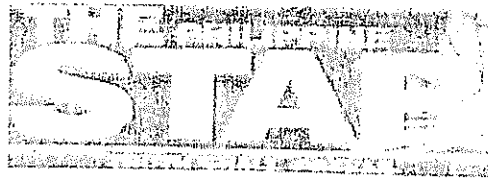
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3 NPA REBELS YIELD IN ILOCOS SUR

SANTA CRUZ, Ilocos Sur: Three members of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered recently to the officers here at the headquarters of the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division. Lt. Col. Eugenio Julio Osias 4th, head of the Division's 81st Infantry Battalion, identified the surrenderers only as alias "Ka Winter," "Ka Somer" and "Ka Paul" for security reasons pending the processing of their status. The NPA cadres now make 11 surrenderers here during the first semester of 2017. A statement of the rebels obtained by The Manila Times showed that among the reasons they surrendered were hard life in the mountains – scarce food and the rainy season – and the Army's assistance to former rebels through the government's Comprehensive Local Integration Program. Maj. Gen. Angelito De Leon, commander of the 7th Infantry Division, commended the surrenderers for their decision to lay down their arms in exchange for a peaceful life with their families.

JAIME G. AQUINO

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6 hurt in landmine attack

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya – Five policemen were wounded when a landmine exploded in Maddela, Quirino on Friday.

Police Officers 2 Sonny Tadeo, Artemio Vino and Vicente Macabadbad and PO1s Omli Bruno and Marvin Cabanilla of the Quirino Provincial Public Safety Company were in a Toyota Hilux when a landmine believed to be planted by New People's Army (NPA) rebels exploded in Barangay Diduyon, Maddela at about 3:10 p.m.

Farmer Jolly Juan, 60, who was in his farm around 30 meters away from the scene, was also wounded in the blast.

The victims were taken to the Quirino Medical Center in Cabbaroguis town for treatment.

On Tuesday, six soldiers were wounded in another landmine attack also by suspected NPA rebels in Purok Abbag, Barangay Dipantin, Nagtipunan.

– Victor Martin, Raymund Catindig

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Pahina. 2

SUNDAO PINAGSASAKSAK

KRITIKAL ang isa umang Army official at detachment commander nang pag-sasaksakm ito ng isang helper ng bakery shop sa Bgy. Poblacion East, Natividad, Pangasinan, kamakalawa.

Patuloy na ginagamot ang biktima si Major Abe Masadao, 42, isang Army detachment commander, tibong Naguilian, Abra, sanhi ng ilang tama ng saksak sa kanyang katawan.

Batay sa imbestigasyon, selos umano ang dahilan kaya pinagsasaksak ng 23-anyos na suspek na si Jomar

Baldimor ang biktima

Nilapitan umano ng isang serbidora ang biktima Army official na nakasibilyan at customer lamang sa bakery at tiyempo namang dumating ang suspek sa lugar na lango sa alak.

Nabatid na wala namang relasyon ang dalawa at malaki lamang umano ang gusto ng suspek sa babae na katrabaho nito sa nasabing bakery shop.

Kasalukuyang nakakulong ang suspek at nahaharap sa kaukulang kaso.

(Jeff Tombado)

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Pahina. 3

Sundalo sinaksak ng selosong helper

KRITIKAL sa pagamutan ang isang sundalo matapos saksakin ng helper dahil umano sa matinding selos, iniulat kahapon sa bayan ng Natividad, Pangasinan.

Inoobserbahan ngayon sa Western Pangasinan District Hospital ang biktima ng si Abe Masadao, 42-anyos, nakatalagang Army detachment commander at tubong Naguilian, Abra.

Nadakip naman ang suspek na nakilalang si Jomari Baldimor, 23, helper sa isang bakery sa Brgy. Poblacion

East, ng nasabing bayan.

Balay sa report, nagtungo ang biktima sa bakery kung saan nagtatrabaho ang suspek at agad itong inasikaso ng babaeng service crew.

Dito na lumapit ang suspek na armado ng patalim at tinarakan ang sundalo. Dumanong, may lihim na pagtingin ang suspek sa sundalo at sa pag-aakalang kursunada nito ang kanyang katrabaho sa bakery ay nagselos ito.

Kalaboso na ang suspek habang hinihintay ang isasampang kaso laban sa kanya.

MARY SAPICO

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Pahina. 5

Dalagitang NPA fighter na-rescue

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet – Isang dalagitang mandingma ng New People's Army (NPA) ang nasugatan sa engkuwentro kamakailan ang naligtas sa bayan ng Boliney sa Abra, ayon sa Police Regional Office-Cordillera (PRO-COR) sa La Trinidad, Benguet.

Ang 17-anyos na high school student sa Malibcong, Abra, ay pinaniniwalaang kabilang sa mga rebeldeng naka-engkuwentro ng militar sa Boliney nitong Hulyo 1.

Ayon kay PRO-COR director Chief Supt. Elmo Sarona, bago ang pagre-rescue ay nakatanggap ng text message ang pulisya mula sa isang concerned citizen na nagsabing nagtatago ang sugatang dalagita sa bahay ni Wilson Lawad sa Barangay Armti, Boliney.

Kasama ang mga magulang ng dalagita at mga kinatawan ng Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, natunton ang bata sa bahay ni Dino Tucyapao, kagawad ng Bgy. Armti, at dinala sa Abra Provincial Hospital sa Bangued.

Rizaldy Comanda

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Pahina. 4

10 REBELDE SUMURENDER

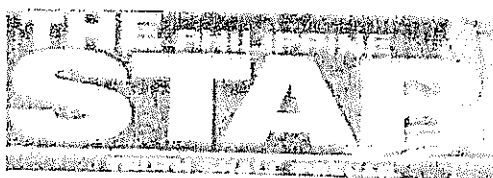
SULTAN KUDARAT—Sampung miyembro ng rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) ang sumuko sa mga awtoridad, kamakalawa sa lalawigang ito.

Para sa kanilang seguridad, hindi na pinangalanan ng mga awtoridad ang mga sumukong NPA.

Nabatid na isinuko rin ng mga rebelde ang mga dala nilang armas at mga subersibong dokumento.

Ayon sa mga rebelde, hirap na umano sila sa pamumuhay sa bundok kaya nagpasya silang magbalik-loob sa pamahalaan.

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'AFP has submitted ML report to DND'

By JAIME LAUDE

The military's much-awaited assessment and recommendation on martial law in Mindanao was submitted on Friday to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, the military said yesterday.

"The chief of staff (Gen. Eduardo Año) has submitted it to the secretary of national defense," military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

President Duterte has designated Lorenzana as administrator of martial law and Año as enforcer of military rule.

But the military is keeping the contents of the martial law report under wraps. Duterte earlier said that report would be the basis for his decision on whether to lift or extend the imple-

mentation of martial law in Mindanao.

"I am not privy to the contents and hence, can't comment on it," Padilla said amid talks that the military leadership has recommended the extension of the life of the 60-day martial law.

There are also talks that the Duterte administration is not only extending martial rule in Mindanao, but will also expand its coverage to other regions.

Duterte placed the entire Mindanao under martial law last May 23 to quell the rebellion in Marawi City staged by the Maute group, which has links to the terrorist organization Islamic State.

Despite the massive deployment of government security forces to Marawi, the fighting continues with just several days left before the expiration of the 60-day martial rule period on July 22.

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Death came through a tiny hole in the wall

By Arlyn dela Cruz
@MsADelaCruzINO

As a young and newly designated officer in the Armed Forces, 2nd Lt. Rex Busilan had faced the Abu Sayyaf forces under Radhdullan Sahiron. But the battle in Marawi where he and his men from the 15th Scout Ranger "Mandirigma" company faced the Islamic State-linked Maute group was nothing like the encounters in Sulu, he said.

Sulu was a jungle setting, which they were trained for, while the Marawi crisis presented an urban battleground.

"In terms of encounter, this was very different. It was a close quarter battle, like shooting your next-door neighbors, when all the while, we were trained to fight in the mountains," he said.

The battle in Marawi also gave him a most painful lesson. Death, he found out, could come anywhere—even the tiniest hole in the wall.

Among the men that Busilan lost in the Marawi battle was Pfc. Jethro Vincent Carlos, who was hit by the enemy through such a hole. "*Sakto sa butas, yung pinanggalingan ng bala ng kalaban* (the hole was exactly the size of the enemy's bullet). No one noticed it, no one thought it was possible for a bullet to come from there. Carlos was hit at the back, at his nape."

Carlos was rushed to the Seventh Day Adventist Sanctuary Hospital in Iligan City, but died minutes later. His last words were "Mama! Mama!," according to Busilan who was holding the soldier's hands when he breathed his last.

The words made Busilan think of his own mother. "*Humihingi ako ng pang-unawa, trabaho ko po ito, sundalo po ako, ito po ang pinili kong buhay* (I appeal for your understanding. I'm a soldier, this is my job. It's the life I chose)," he said, addressing her.

Overwhelming

When he was deployed to Marawi City, Busilan thought he and his men would be there for just a week or two. But to their surprise, they found an overwhelming number of enemy forces.

"*Grabe pala ang kapal ng kalaban. Ang dami nila talaga, hindi namin inaasahan,*" (They were so many. We did not expect such numbers,)" Busilan



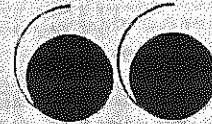
BACK TO THE FRONT LINE 2nd Lt. Rex Busilan

told Radyo Inquirer

The fighting was at such close range that it felt like neighbors were shooting at each other, Busilan added. The main difference, he said, was how well-armed the enemies were. "We take aim and then we shoot. But they would just keep shooting.

They were trigger happy, and their main purpose, it seemed, was to lower our morale by hitting our troops with stray bullets," the young officer said.

Despite all those adjustments and getting wounded in one of the encounters, the young officer from Makati



'Mama! Mama!' were [soldier's] last words

Rex Busilan
Second lieutenant, AFP

wants to go back to the front line. "There is no other way to go but back in action," he said, citing Carlos' death and those of at least 90 other officers and men killed in Marawi.

But more than fighting for those killed in action, Busilan said he wants to finish the mission to liberate Marawi from the terrorist group so that the Maranaos can now go back to their beloved city.

Sadly, however, that city now lies in ruins. INQ

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Drone to assess Marawi damage

By Allan Nawal
@anawalINO

MARAWI CITY—The Lanao del Sur provincial government is planning to use an aerial drone to assess the damage caused by the ongoing conflict and identify areas needing priority rehabilitation.

Vice Gov. Mamintal Adiong Jr. said the capitol forged the drone mapping contract at less than 95 percent of the original price.

"We will only be paying about P1 million because the contractor also wants to contribute to the rebuilding of the city," he told the

Inquirer. "[But] we have to wait for the clearance of the military before we can do that."

"The aerial mapping will really help us assess the damage and what areas will be given priority in the rehabilitation phase," he said.

Adiong made the remark a day after Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the national government will release at least P15 billion to rehabilitate Marawi City over the next two years.

Adiong said he would be meeting later in the week with some rehabilitation experts who offered their help in re-

building the war-torn city.

"We are currently in the process of discussion with the firm of Architect [Felino] Palafox and we are grateful that he shows interest in extending technical assistance relative to the rehabilitation of Marawi City although we have yet to officially agree on the terms and the extent of his participation," said the vice governor's brother Zia Adiong.

Zia, an assemblyman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and spokesperson of the Lanao del Sur crisis management committee, said the damage and reconstruction needs as-

essment of the city and the province have yet to be finalized.

This he said would be dependent "on the actual assessment which can only be made possible once the fighting is over."

Satellite images of the city have shown that many areas have been left in ruins since the start of the fighting on May 23.

"The severity of damage incurred against both civilian and public properties are concentrated in the eastern side of the river, an area [where] up to now our government troops are still [fighting] the Maute group," Adiong said. INQ

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Troops push deeper into Maute-held areas

MARAWI CITY—Government forces continued to encounter resistance as they pushed deeper into four villages with hold-outs of a homegrown terror group that wanted to turn this predominantly Muslim city into an Islamic State vassal.

Ground troops, backed by helicopters and bomber planes, pushed farther inward into areas of the city where remnants of Maute group are holed up, according to the Joint Task Force Marawi.

Artillery fire targeted Maute positions in the villages of Marianut, Lilod, Raya Madaya and

Bangolo as the military tries to complete its mission to retake the city, said the task force, a multiagency team.

In a statement on Saturday, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the government lost 93 men in the war on Maute as of Friday.

The figure included police-

men and soldiers killed in two cases of "friendly fire," said Padilla, Armed Forces spokesperson.

He said more areas are being cleared and the number of terrorists slain had reached 399.

The military swears by the accuracy of its casualty figures because these are based on vi-

suals and actual body count.

Since the war started, Padilla said soldiers had recovered ammunition and more than 500 firearms from the terrorists.

Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, spokesperson of Joint Task Force Marawi, said in a separate statement on Saturday that sol-

diers are continuing efforts to rescue civilians still trapped in the war zone.

At least 2,000 civilians were believed to have been trapped in the main battle area since May 23. Herrera said at least 1,723 had already been rescued as of Friday. —ALLAN NAWAL INQ.

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TERRORISTS' CHALLENGE

4 WORKERS KIDNAPPED ON DAY OF DUTERTE VISIT TO SULU

By Julie S. Alipala
@Team_Inquirer

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Gunmen believed to be members of the Abu Sayyaf kidnapped four construction workers in Sulu while government troops killed a suspected member of the bandit group in Tawi-Tawi in separate incidents on Saturday.

The police in Patikul town said it received a report on the kidnapping at around 1:30 a.m. from one worker who escaped from the 20 gunmen who had seized them.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesperson for the Western Mindanao Command, said the military had yet to receive reports of Saturday's kidnapping ahead of a visit to Sulu by President Duterte.

Also on Saturday, Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon, commander of Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi, said Ibno Moro, an alleged Abu Sayyaf member, was killed during a raid on his hideout in Barangay Kamagong in the provincial capital of Bongao.

Parcon said Moro was involved in the massacre of a

family in Tawi-Tawi in 1989 and in several kidnappings, including of Mayor Kuyoh Pajiji in Sibutu town in 2004.

The Patikul police identified the four workers seized by the gunmen as Joel Adanza, Felimon Cordero, Edmundo Ramos and Jayson Baylouis—all residents of Tumaga village in Zamboanga City. The worker who escaped was identified as Larry Velasquez.

The victims were painters hired to work on the Kawmpang Elementary School in Bangkal village in Patikul.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of Joint Task Force Sulu, said they were preparing for the President's visit and had no comment.

Petinglay said several soldiers received wounded personnel medals from the President. The soldiers clashed with Abu Sayyaf bandits in Patikul town last week.

The President immediately left after awarding the medals in ceremonies at Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Barangay Busbus in Jolo late in the afternoon.

He skipped the scheduled "Talk to the troops" session. INQ

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DU30 thanks Americans for Marawi help

By Ted Tuvera

Veering away from his usual rants against the United States, President Duterte said on Friday night that he was grateful to the Americans for helping in government's efforts to recover Marawi City from the hands of Islamic State (IS)-inspired militants.

"Let us give where credit is due. The United States helped the Armed Forces in this fight," he said.

"And China committed and delivered a lot of firearms for us. I don't know about Russia, but (President Vladimir) Putin, told me that he'll help," Mr. Duterte said in his speech in Davao City.

"Everybody is welcome. Now, do not make the mistake of, you know, putting something on my behavior," he added.

While recognizing American assistance, and as well as the commitments made by China and Russia, the President stressed that any help should not constitute any

DU30 thanks Americans for Marawi help

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form of conditions for loyalty. Saying that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russia's Putin are not asking him for loyalty, Mr. Duterte zeroed in on Americans anew, particularly on former US president Barack Obama.

"Nobody should teach me how I should do it. They (Americans) were talking before the public through media with the admonition and criticizing me," he said.

"Obama talked publicly about me and how I run this country. I told him that he's a son of a bitch. Do not tell me what to do and do not just... you know, giving me admonitions. I am not a Federal postal employee," the 72-year-old Mr. Duterte said.

The President, meanwhile, clarified that the Philippines cannot enter into military alliances with other nations because he would be violating the US-Philippines pact.

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The Manila Times

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President cites US, China for Marawi aid

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has recognized the United States and China for providing aid to the Philippine government in the fight against Islamic State-linked terrorists in Marawi City.

"Let us give where credit is due. The United States helped the Armed Forces in this fight," Duterte told Filipino-American tourists during the 11th Ambassadors' Tour Philippine reception in Davao City on Friday.

The President then mentioned the first batch of firearms and ammunition that China delivered late last month.

"And China committed and delivered a lot of firearms for us," Duterte said, adding Russia has also expressed its intention to extend assistance.

"I don't know about Russia but [President Vladimir] Putin, *sabi niya tutulong sya* [he said he would also help]," he said.

Duterte said neither Putin nor Chinese President Xi Jinping sought something in return for their help.

"*Walang attachment diyan. Walang head of state, si Putin o si President Xi Jinping magsabi, 'O, bigyan kita but you should be loyal'* [No attachments. Putin or Xi did not say, 'I would give you this but you should be loyal'].," he said.

Duterte also said the country would abide by the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty between Manila and Washington even as he had reached out to non-traditional allies.

"I welcome them all. Now, do not make the mistake of, you know, putting something on my behavior. I like talking to people. You have to make friends, and there is a need for you to acquire the

► **Marawi A8**

President cites US, China for Marawi aid

offirearms and they are there," he explained.

"So, we have an RP-US Military Pact, that was in 1950. It's still there. So I cannot enter into military alliances with other nations because I would be violating the US-RP agreement," he added.

In the Marawi offensive, the US provided technical support such as aerial surveillance to Filipino troops on the ground, while China provided arms and ammunition worth P370 million. Both countries also pledged help for the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

While highlighting America's help in fighting terrorists, the President took another swipe at former US president Barack Obama for the latter's criticism of his bloody war on drugs.

"[Obama] talked publicly about me, and how I run this country. Do not tell me what to do, and do not just—you know—give me admonition. I am not a federal postal employee, so if you want something, go to the United Nations. Then, you can talk there until kingdom come and file a case against me," he said.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

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DUTERTE ACKNOWLEDGES US, CHINA MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN MARAWI SIEGE

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

President Duterte has acknowledged military assistance from the United States and China, and said he would welcome any aid from Russia in the fight against Islamic State (IS)-inspired militants in Mindanao where he had declared martial law.

Addressing diplomats in Davao City on Friday, the President said the Philippines would "stay with the Americans" under a 66-year-old defense treaty, but he again reminded Washington not to meddle with the way he runs the country, especially his

human rights record and his bloody war on drugs.

"Let us give credit where credit is due. The United States helped the Armed Forces in this fight, and China committed and delivered a lot of firearms for us," Mr. Duterte said in a speech to delegates attending the 11th Ambassadors' Tour.

"I don't know about Russia but [Russian President Vladimir] Putin, he said he will help. I welcome all of that," he added.

He told diplomats there were no strings attached to the P370 million worth of arms and ammunition from China that he had personally received on

June 28 during turnover ceremonies at Clark Air Base in Pampanga province.

"You have to make friends, and there is a need for you to acquire the kind of firearms and they are there. There are no attachments there," he said.

He said no head of state would say, "Oh, I'll give you but you should be loyal."

"There's nothing like that," he said, adding that leaders would just say, "Yes, we can help you." That is all.

The US Embassy had earlier donated counterterrorism weapons and equipment to the Philippines. These included 300

M4 carbines, 200 Glock 21 pistols, four M134D Gatling-style machine guns and 100 M203 grenade launchers.

Philippine defense officials said US Special Forces also were helping government troops fighting IS-linked gunmen in Marawi City by flying surveillance planes and drones. The Americans were not involved in ground combat, which is prohibited by the Constitution, they said.

The government has also accepted similar assistance from the Australian government.

Mr. Duterte said the 1951 Philippines-US Mutual Defense Treaty was "still there, so I cannot

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enter into military alliances with other nations because I would be violating the US-RP agreement.”

“We stay here with the Americans,” he added.

However, the President said he had “misgivings” about the alliance, especially with Americans lecturing him on human rights.

“Nobody should teach me how I should do it. America started with these human rights commissions. They were talking before the public through media ... with the admonition and criticizing me,” he said.

“So, I just let it pass. It’s the media. But then, the US Department of State and then the

spokesperson of their presidential office criticized me and castigated me. I fought back,” he said.

He said former US President Barack Obama then talked publicly about him and his leadership.

“So I told him—and these [are] my exact words ... ‘Son of a bitch. Do not tell me what to do,’” Mr. Duterte said. “I am not a Federal Postal employee. I said, ‘You can go to hell, Mr. Obama.’”

“Why would you scold me? I am a head of state, you are a head of state. You are a President. I am a President. You have your own race, your tribe to protect, I have mine,” he added. INQ

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AFP readies Marawi siege assessment report

ARMED Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año is already finalizing the military's assessment of the Mindanao martial law.

"Ito po'y naibigay na at naisumite na sa ating Chief of Staff at kanyang sinusuri at kanyang ilalagay ang kanyang inputs para maisumite sa kalihim ng Tanggulang Pambansa," AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

He said additional inputs are expected to be made by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana before the report is submitted to Malacañang.

The military spokesman however could not say if the AFP would recommend the extension of the martial law declaration which President Rodrigo Duterte issued last May 23 following the attack of Maute Group-led militants in Marawi City.

Last week, Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said the PNP and the AFP are inclined to recommend the extension of martial law in Mindanao.

Dela Rosa said he and Año discussed the possible recommendation in a meeting on July 3.

Padilla had said that the AFP will submit its recommendation to Duterte this coming week or before the martial law declaration expires on July 22.

Meanwhile, Padilla said the military will continue its airstrikes in Marawi City despite the second friendly fire that left two soldiers dead and 11 others wounded.

He insisted that airstrikes are needed to flush out members of the Maute Group, particularly militant snipers, hiding in buildings in the besieged city.

The military spokesman clarified that in the latest incident, the bomb that missed its target did not directly hit the troops.

Padilla said an ongoing inquiry is being conducted on the second incident.

Meanwhile, one more soldier and seven more militants have been killed in the ongoing conflict in Marawi City.

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Sayyaf kidnaps 6 construction workers

ZAMBOANGA CITY (PNA) — Gunmen believed to be Abu Sayyaf bandits seized six Zamboangueno construction workers in Sulu at dawn Saturday.

The incident happened around 2 a.m. along Martirez Street, Jolo, Sulu,

according to police authorities and relatives of the victims.

But one of the six workers identified as Larry Velasquez has managed to escape although he was shot and wounded in the leg. ▶4

Sayyaf kidnaps 6...

Taken captives by the Abu Sayyaf bandits were Edmundo Ramos, 37, Jayson Baylosis, Joker Adanza, Jun Guerrero and the fifth one remain unidentified.

Two of the victims' relatives, namely Amy Guerrero and Dayang Ramos, told the Philippines News Agency that the Abu Sayyaf bandits have demanded ₱1-million ransom in exchange for the release of each

victim

Guerrero and Ramos said the ransom demand was relayed to them through a mobile phone by a man who identified himself as a member of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

The Abu Sayyaf bandits behind the incident belong to the Ajang-Ajang group led by bandit sub-leader Ben Saudi.

The bandits abducted the victims

who were sleeping at the second floor of the building they were constructing since the project engineer, who was the main target and is sleeping at the ground floor, was not around at the time of the incident.

Relatives said that the victims had been working for three months already in Jolo, Sulu.

The relatives said they preferred to work in Jolo, Sulu since they are being paid good salaries as compared with the other construction firms in this city.

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Rody admits US supplying weapons to Phi

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – After repeated tirades against the United States, President Duterte admitted the US has been supplying weaponry to the Philippine government to fight the Maute terrorists in Marawi City.

Duterte added China is also supplying weapons and ammunition.

But the President was also quick to point out there are no new military alliances with other nations even if he has other sources of weapons and ammunition, citing the decades-old defense treaty between the US and the Philippines.

“So I cannot enter into military alliances with other nations because I would be violating the US-RP agreement. We would stay with the Americans. So what are my misgivings? You know I have a duty to perform. As I have said, my duty is to preserve and defend the Filipino nation,” Duterte said.

“We just bought additional firepower. No more bidding. And besides, I have two sources of weaponry and to my credit, let us give where credit is due. The United States helped the Armed Forces in this fight. And China committed and delivered a lot of firearms for us,” he said.

As for Russia, Duterte admitted he still doesn't know but added Russian President Vladimir Putin had told him they are going to help.

Duterte said he welcomes all the help for additional firepower that would come from other countries.

“They are welcome. Now, do not make the mistake of, you know, putting something on my behavior, I like talking to people. You have to make friends, and there is a need for you to acquire the kind of firearms and they are there,” he said.

Duterte said the arms assistance from China and Russia has no strings attached.

The President stressed that nobody should teach him how to run the country, again criticizing former US president Barack Obama.

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Soldiers recapture 15 Maute-occupied buildings

Government security forces have recaptured 15 more buildings formerly occupied by the Maute terrorists as fighting continued in Marawi City, leaving another soldier dead, the military said yesterday.

There are around 600 more structures located in the city's central business district, the theater of the military operations, that still have to be cleared by government troops.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said that as of yesterday, the government fatalities had increased to 93.

"Government fatalities is now 93 while enemies killed, the number is now at 399 and 502 of the terrorists firearms have been recovered," Padilla said.

He added the number of civilians believed to have been executed by the terrorists were at 45 while 1,723 others were rescued by government troops.

As the fighting winds down, the Army has deployed its Civil-Military Operations Regiment in Marawi City.

The Army regiment is currently coordinating with local officials and state agencies in the initial step to restore peace and uplift the people's welfare.

President Duterte has vowed to rebuild Marawi from the ashes of war.

"While our troops are courageously fighting in the frontline to totally liberate the city against the self-proclaimed terrorists, we've started visiting the different evacuation centers to see for ourselves our people's condition and assess their needs," said Col. Thomas Sedano Jr., commander of the Joint Task Group Tabang under the Army regiment. – **Jaime Laude**

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Pahina. 3

300 missing sa battle zone sa Marawi

Tatlong daan (300) pang mga sibilyan kabilang ang hinostage na pang Katoliko ang missing kaugnay ng patuloy na bakbakan sa pagitan ng tropa ng pamahalaan at ng Maute-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) kung saan pumalo na sa ika-54 araw ang krisis sa lungsod ng Marawi kahapon.

Sinabi ni AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., na ang nasabing bilang ay base sa testimonya ng mga naghahanap na pamilya at rekord ng pamahalaang lungsod.

Ayon kay Padilla sa kasalukuyan ay hindi pa batid kung ang nasabing mga sibilyan ay hostage, na-trap o nasawi sa battle zone.

Sa kasalukuyan, marami pa ring mga bangkay na sinasabing nagkalat ang hindi pa marekober sa war zone dahil hindi pa tapos ang clearing operations at marami pa ang mga snipers ng mga terorista na nakapuwesto sa ibabaw ng mga gusali.

Sinabi ni Padilla na nasa 1,723 na ang bilang ng mga sibilyang hostage at na-trap sa bakbakan ang nasagip ng tropang gobyerno.

Aabot naman sa halos 200,000 ang mga nagsilikas na residente sa takot na maipit sa bakbakan simula ng sumiklab ang krisis noong Mayo 23 ng taong ito matapos na lusubin ng daang puwersa ng Maute-ISIS na naghask ng terorismo ang lungsod.

Inihayag ng opisyal na umaabot na sa 537 ang death toll matapos na lima pa sa mga terorista ang mapatay sa operasyon base na tin sa ibinigay na data ng Joint Task Force (JTF) Marawi.

Sa tala, nasa 399 ng mga terorista ang napapatay, 93 ang nagbuwis ng buhay sa security forces at 45 naman sa hanay ng mga sibilyan. Nakarekober din ang tropang gobyerno ng 502 mga armas mula sa mga kalaban - *Jay Cantos* -

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MNLF's Bangsamoro Armed Forces plan in Palawan nixed

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Palawan – Palawan Gov. Jose Alvarez has raised the possibility that the Muslim communities in the province will face difficulty accessing the P96-million livelihood support fund if the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) factions will continue to assert the Bangsamoro Armed Forces (BAF).

Alvarez's statement came in the wake of reports that MNLF factions in the province are recruiting members to toughen the BAF by offering fancy compensation, other perks, and President Duterte's campaign for Federalism.

The province's leader staunchly stated there is no "Bangsamoro" self-directed political entity in Palawan that he recognizes, only "Muslim brothers."

"There is nothing like that. They need to go to the Western Command (Wescom), and ask permission there. In OPAPP (Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process) it's not allowed," Alvarez stated in an interview.

Organization activities are okay, he added, provided "they are for livelihood and peace and order, not toughening the Bangsamoro army."

"If our brother Muslims organize for livelihood and peace and order, we will support. I will immensely support them. But if you don't like peace and order in

Palawan, then what you are doing is wrong," he said. He added Palawan is non-combatant and does not belong to the Bangsamoro territory, neither is it part of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

Juanito Lacubtan, spokesman for the Palawan Unified Command (PUC) said that it "is sad to learn" about Alvarez's statement.

PUC is the alliance that fosters goodwill between the Yusop Jikiri and Nur Misuari MNLF factions in the province.

"We want to clarify everything to the governor, and we have written to him two weeks ago to make clarifications, but until today we have not received any call for a meeting with him," Lacubtan said.

On the exclusion of the Bangsamoro army, Lacubtan said the OPAPP should make clarification about it to Misuari and to local government officials in Palawan.

The Palawan Unified Command-Bangsamoro Armed Forces-Moro National Liberation Front (PUC-BAF-MNLF), he stated, is headed in the province by Sahak Antoyong, their commanding general.

"We are waiting for OPAPP so this can be clarified," said Lacubtan, who at a media conference last Wednesday, vehemently denied they are recruiting members. **PNA**

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Marawi crisis death toll climbs to 537

By Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca

THE death toll from the continuing firefight between Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-inspired Maute Group as climbed to 537 including 399 terrorist, 93 government soldiers and 45 civilians, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said.

Padilla said clearing operations of government forces in the war-torn city have resulted in the recovery of 502 high powered firearms.

A total of 1,723 civilians were rescued after being trapped in the city at the height of the clashes.

Fifteen buildings that were formerly occupied by Maute-ISIS group are already cleared of the enemy.

Military engineering personnel have been deployed to the city to help in the rehabilitation of areas devastated by the on-going conflict as ordered by President Rodrigo Duterte.

On Tuesday, Duterte said 10 to 15 days more are needed to end the conflict in Marawi City.

On the part of the AFP, Colonel Edgared Arevalo, Chief of Public Affairs Office (PAO), said they are doing their best to crush the rebellion of the Maute-ISIS Group in the area to bring back peace and normalcy to the city.

As of this morning, the Marawi crisis is now on its 55th day.

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Pahina. 2

53 days ng bakbakan sa Marawi

537 NA PATAY!

PATULOY sa paglobo ang bilang ng mga namamatay sa panig man ng terorista o pamahalaan sa ikalimampu't tatlong araw na bakbakan sa Marawi City.

Batay sa datos na ibinahagi ni Armed Forces of the Philippines Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla sa Radyo Inquirer, umaabot na sa 537 ang nasawi. Siyamnapu't tatlo dito

ay mula sa hanay ng pamahalaan samantalang 399 ang nasawi mula sa panig ng mga terorista.

Dagdag pa niya, pumalo na rin sa 45 sibil-yan ang napatay sa walang

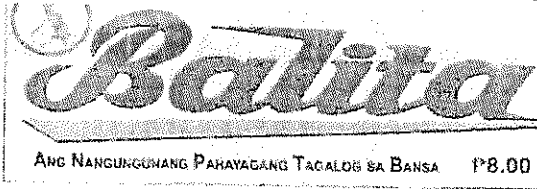
tigil na bakbakan.

Samantala, mayroon na ring 502 na mga baril ang nakumpiska at narekober mula sa mga bandido.

Sa 600 na bahay at buildings na kailangang inspeksyunin ng militar ay umaabot na sa labinglima sa mga ito ang nasailalim sa clearing operations.

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Islamic State head ibinulagta sa strike

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Patay ang tagapamuno ng Islamic State sa Afghanistan, si Abu Sayed, sa isinagawang strike sa headquarters ng grupo sa probinsya ng Kunar, kinumpirma ng Pentagon nitong Biyernes.

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ni Pentagon spokeswoman Daria White na ang ibang miyembro ng Islamic State group ay napatay din sa protesta noong Martes.

"The significance is you kill a leader of one of these groups and it sets them back. It is obviously a victory on our side in terms of setting them back. It is the right direction." Sinabi ni U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis sa mga mamahayag.

Si Sayed ang ikatlong Islamic State leader sa Afghanistan na napatay simula noong Hulyo 2016.

Si dating leader Abdul Hasib ay nasawi sa isang joint U.S. at Afghan operation noong Abril 27 sa probinsya ng Nangarhar.

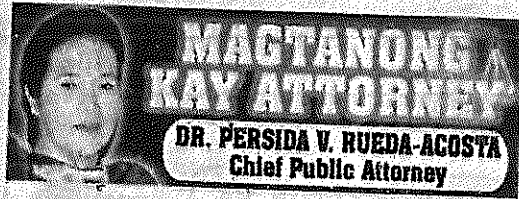
Napatay nanan si Hafiz Saeed Khan sa U.S. drone strike noong 2016.

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Pahina. 4



KARAPATAN NG ATING MGA SUNDALO

SA lahat ng oras at pagkakataon, ang ating hukbong sandatahan ang nagsisilbing tagabantay ng ating kaligtasan saanmang sulok tayo ng ating bansa. Sila ang ipinadadala sa mga malalayong lugar — mapahimpapawid, karagatan at kabundukan upang panatilihin ang kapayapaan sa lahat ng oras. Ang katumbas ng kanilang pagbabantay para sa ating kalayaan at kaligtasan ay ang kanilang buhay. Buhay ang kanilang ibinubuwis upang mapangalagaan ang kasarinlan ng ating bayan. Sa bawat buhay na nalalagas nang dahil sa pangangalaga ng ating kaligtasan, may mga pamilyang naglululksa at nawawalan ng mga mahal sa buhay.

Sa pagkakapasa ng *Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7898 (An Act Providing for the Modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and for Other Purposes)* na inanyendahan ng R.A. No. 10349, layunin nito na palakasin ang *Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)* upang magampanan nito nang maayos ang mandatong pangalagaan ang kapangyarihan at kalayaan ng ating bansa maging ang pagsugpo sa iba't ibang krimen tulad ng *piracy, white slavery, smuggling, drug trafficking at hijacking*. Maliban sa pagsugpo ng mga krimen, tinatawagan din ang ating mga kasundaluhan upang magbigay ng tulong sa ating mga kababayan na nasalanta ng iba't ibang uri ng kalamidad, natural man ito o gawa ng tao.

Nakasaad sa *Section 3 ng R.A. No. 7898* o mas

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Kilala sa tawag na “AFP Modernization Act” ang mga layunin ng nasabing batas ay tulad ng mga sumusunod:

Sec. 3 Objectives of the AFP Modernization Program — The AFP modernization program shall be implemented in accordance with the following objectives

- (a) To develop its capability to uphold the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic and to secure the national territory from all forms of intrusion and encroachment,*
- (b) To develop its capability to assist civilian agencies in the preservation of the national patrimony, including the country's living and non-living marine, submarine, mineral, forest and other natural resources located within its territory and its exclusive economic zone (EEZ),*
- (c) To enhance its capability to fulfill its mandate to protect the Filipino people not only from armed threats but from the ill effects of life-threatening and destructive consequences of natural and man-made disasters and calamities, including typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, major accidents in far-flung or inaccessible terrain or at sea and from all forms of ecological damage;*
- (d) To improve its capability to as-*

sist other agencies in the enforcement of domestic and foreign policies as well as international covenants against piracy, white slavery, smuggling, drug trafficking, hijacking of aircraft and seacraft and the transport of toxic and other ecologically-harmful substances taking place in or through Philippine territory,

(e) To enhance its capability to assist the Philippine National Police in law enforcement and internal security operations,

(f) To enhance its capability to fulfill the country's international commitments, and

(g) To develop its capability to support national development.”

Nang dahil sa lumawak ang naging tungkulin at mandato ng AFP, marapat lamang na pangalagaan din ng ating pamahalaan ang kanilang kapakanan. Kaya naman bahagi ng modernisasyon ng AFP ang pagpapalakas sa kanilang manpower at magpapaunlad ng kalidad ng pamumuhay ng ating mga sundalo at ng kanilang pamilya.

Sa ating kasalukuyang administrasyon, tunay ngang binibigyang-halaga ng estado ang kapakanan ng ating mga sundalong sa ngayon ay nahaharap sa pagsugpo sa lahat ng uri ng banta sa kasamulan at kaligtasan ng ating bayan.

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Balita

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ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSA ₱8.00



PAGTANAW AT PANANAW Bert de Guzman

BINATIKOS ng dalawang Bmiyembro ng legal team ng Pilipinas sa arbitration case sa West Philippine Sea (WPS) laban sa China, ang Duterte administration dahil sa tila pagbalewala sa tagumpay ng Pilipinas sa kasong inihain sa Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). Tahasang sinabi nina Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio at ex-Solicitor General Florin Hilbay ang malambot at matamlay na patakaran (policy) ng DU30 administration sa panalo ng Pilipinas tungkol sa claims ng ating bansa sa WPS. "I was aghast that the President used the term 'setting aside' (the PCA award)," pahayag ni Carpio noong Miyerkules.

Si Carpio ay isa sa mga speaker sa forum na inorganisa ng ADR Institute na pinangunahan ni ex-DFA Sec. Albert del Rosario sa unang anibersaryo ng tagumpay ng Pinas sa PCA sa The Hague. "Nilaglag ng Pilipinas (ng Pangulo) ang bola,"

dagdag ni Carpio na ang ibig sabihin ay nasa ating panig ang desisyon ng PCA, pero ayaw kumilos ni Mano Digong. Labis ang hirap at pagsisikap ni Sec. Del Rosario para ipanalo ang kaso ng Pilipinas.

Binanggit ni Carpio ang 'malambot' na panurundigan ni Pres. Rody upang pigilan ang reklamasyon ng dambuhalang China sa WPS o South China Sea (SCS), partikular sa Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal). Lagi kasing ikinakatwiran ni Mano Digong na walang kakayahan ang Pilipinas sakaling iguit ang pag-angkin sa Panatag Shoal na ikinagalit ng China at magbanta ng digmaan sa sisw na bansa. Bigla siyang nagiging tameme basta nagbanta ang China ng digmaan.

Maging si ex-Rep. Roilo Golez ng Pararaque City, dating National Security Adviser, ay nagtataka sa reaksyon ng Pangulo hinggil sa WPS-SCS issue dahil lundi naman makikipagdigmaan ang ating bansa sa dragong China sakaling maghain tayo ng protesta laban dito. Ang nais lang nina Carpio, Hilbay at Golez ay kumibo, kumilos at magprotesta ang

Pinas sa patuloy na reklamasyon ng dambuhala sa WPS gayong pinagbabawalan sila ng PCA. "Hindi komo maghahain tayo ng protesta sa ginagawa ng China ay gusto nating makikipagdigmaan sa kanila," sabi ni Golez.

Dismayado si Hilbay sa parang "foot-dragging" o pag-uulik-ulik ng DU30 administration sa patuloy na pagtatayo ng mga balangkas (structures) at reklamasyon sa Panatag Shoal. "The current administration seems to have adopted a policy of defeatism and a mindset of non-enforcement of the award," bulalas ni Hilbay. Takot daw kasi si PRRD na maubos lang ang kawal at pulis kapag nagalit ang China.

Dagdag pa ni Hilbay, "Ang unang anibersaryo ng tribunal's award ay minarkahan ng pagkadinaya ng mga Pinoy matapos tayong manalo sa The Hague." Para raw sa taumbayan, hindi kumikilos ang administrasyon upang maangkin ng Pilipinas ang teritoryo natin sa WPS-SCS kahit pabor sa atin ang kapasiyahan ng PCA.

Basta sinabi ng hari, hindi mababali. Ito ay kasabihang parang

angkop kay Pres. Rody. Sinabi niya na dapat nang ibalik (reinstate) si Supt. Marvin Marcos, akusado sa pagpatay kay Albueria Mayor Espinosa, matapos alisin ang kanyang suspensiyon nang ibaba ng DoJ ang kasong murder laban sa kanya at kasamang mga pulis upang maging homicide na lang. Walang magagawa si PNP Chief Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa kundi ibalik sa puwesto si Marcos. "Di ba sinabi noon ni PRRD na walang makukulong na pulis basta tinutupad nila ang tungkulin laban sa illegal drugs?"

Nais ni Pres. Rody na tapusin na ng military at police ang Marawi City siege sa loob ng 10 hanggang 15 araw. Humihingi siya ng ganitong mga araw upang ganap na mapuksa ang teroristang Maute-IS Group. Well, kung talagang hindi mababali ang salita ni Haring Duterte, este Pres. Rody, dapat na sa loob ng 10-15 araw, pulbos na ang Maute Group at ang bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group ni Isnilon Hapilon, ang Emir ng IS sa Mindanao. Ano ang masasabi mo rito, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Jr., AFP spokesman?

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Editorial

'Child warriors' sinasanay ng Maute

LABINLIMANG araw ang taning ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) para tapusin ang teroristang Maute. At sabi ng AFP, kakayanin nila ito. Ayon pa sa AFP, nasa 80 hanggang 100 teroristang Maute ang naglulungga sa Marawi City at patuloy na nakikipaglaban sa kanila. Pero ang nakakagimbal sa sinabi ng AFP, pawang mga bata at teenager ang nakikipaglaban at nakakasagupa nila mismo. Ang rebelasyon ng AFP ay pinatotohanan ng mga nakatakas na hostages ng Maute na pawang mga bata at teenager ang nakikipaglaban. Sanay na sanay umanong humawak ng high-powered firearms ang mga teenager at ilan sa mga ito ang sniper. Karamihan sa mga teenager ay nahasa nang gumamit ng baril mula pa noong mga bata ito. Maaga umanong na-recruit ng Maute ang mga teenager kaya magagaling humawak ng baril. Sa isang interbyu sa TV, sinabi ng isang teenager na na-recruit ng Maute na isa sa mga itinuturo sa kanila ay ang pamumugot ng ulo. Iyon daw ang utos sa kanila at wala silang magawa kundi sundin iyon.

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

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

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

16 July 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 4



Bakbakan sa Marawi tapusin na

SANA naman magkatotoo ang sinabi ni Pres. Digong Duterte na susubukan nilang tapusin sa loob ng dalawang linggo ang Marawi siege. Ang tanging maitutulong natin dito mga kababayan ay dasal na sana'y matapos na ang kaguluhang nilikha ng Maute-ISIS at Abu Sayyaf. Hindi biro ang hirap na dinaranas ngayon ng mga kapatid nating Muslim sa mga evacuation center. May mga dinapuan ng mga sakit. At ang higit na dumaranas ng hirap ngayon ay ang mga bihag ng mga terorista. Sila ngayon ang nailipit sa labanan, ginagawa pa yata silang alipin ng Maute-ISIS.

Kung tayo'y nanonood ng TV, nagbabasa ng mga pahayagan at may social media, dito natin makikita ang kalunus-lunos na dinanas ng Marawi City. Ang mga gusali at naggagandahang mga bahay ay hindi na napapakinabangan dahil tadtad ng mga tama ng bala. Ang iba ay durog-durog na dahil sa mga binabagsak na bomba. Ang masakit dito kapwa Pilipino nagpapatayan. Ano pa ba naman ang dapat patunayan ng Maute brothers? Gusto pala nilang sumanib sa ISIS bakit hindi na lang sila pumunta sa Syria at doon makipagpatayan. Doon nila ipakita ang angas.

Tama ang ginawa ni Pres. Digong hindi niya pinatos ang alok ng Maute na palit-ulo para sa mga magulang ng mga ito. Sang-ayon din ako sa kautusan niyang kapag nakahuli ng terorista ay patayin na ito. Kunsabagay siksikan na ang mga kulungan sa ating bansa, dapat sana kung paano nila pinatay yung mga bihag nila ay ganundin ang gawin sa kanila kapag sila'y nahuli nang buhay, pugutan ng ulo.

Sana matapos na ang gulo para naman makabalik na ang mga kapatid nating Muslim sa Marawi at mailibing nang maayos ang mga bangkay na nagkalat sa war zone.

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

ONLINE NEWS

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www.pna.gov.ph

Slain Mautes' now at 399 as fighting in Marawi reaches 53rd day

MANILA, July 15 - As fighting in Marawi City reaches its 53rd day, the number of Maute Group terrorists killed in ongoing military operations reached 399 with the number of slain government troops now at 93, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, said Saturday.

Padilla said 502 firearms so far were recovered from Maute group.

Some 45 civilians were executed by The lawless elements had executed 45 civilians while government troopers rescued 1,713 individuals.

Fighting broke out in Marawi City after government troops tried to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and ISIS "emir" in Southeast Asia last May 23. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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

www.pna.gov.ph

PH Army personnel join 3rd Metro Manila Shake Drill

MANILA, July 15 -- Officers, enlisted personnel and civilians at the Philippine Army (PA) headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City took part in the metro-wide earthquake drill Friday afternoon.

This was the third Metro Manila Shake Drill led by the Metro Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the Manila Metropolitan Development Authority this year, Army spokesperson, Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson, said.

The scenario during the drill was a 7.2 magnitude earthquake generated by the movement of the West Valley Fault.

Army chief, Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, headed the activity which began at 4 p.m.

Tiongson said the Army's participation focused on providing Army personnel with adequate knowledge on facing natural disasters that could strike anytime. (PFN/PNA)