

*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**

**18 July 2017**

**Tuesday**

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

# NEWS HEADLINES

18 JULY 2017

## Malaya



### Duterte wants 60-day extension of martial rule

President Duterte has asked the House to extend martial law in Mindanao for 60 days, saying it is necessary to bring peace to the region.



He said the extension is needed to allow the military to complete its operations against the Abu Sayyaf group and other militant organizations.

### Duterte ratings rise: 82% approval, 81% trust

Special session set Aug. 15 for House



### Rody: Noy to be cleared on SAF 44

Senate panel to hear testimony



Senate panel to hear testimony



Panel to hear testimony

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER


MY CONSCIENCE IS VERY CLEAR, SAYS AQUINO

### DUTERTE GETS 82% APPROVAL RATING

82% APPROVAL RATING AND 81% TRUST

According to the Pulse Asia survey from June 24 to 26, the President's approval and trust ratings remained above all political areas and sub-segments. Duterte of four other top officials and top.

### ANG IN TALKS TO BUY INQUIRER



Ang's group is in talks to buy the newspaper.

### HOW high was the increase in OPV confidence in Duterte?

82% approval rating and 81% trust.

### WHAT did Duterte say about talk on her live-in partner's 'DILIGENT'?

Duterte said she is 'DILIGENT' in her relationship.

### HERE'D SLEEPING WITH DUTERTE'S CIVILIAN PARTNER?

Ang's group is in talks to buy the newspaper.

### IS leader is alive, says Kuro official

IS leader is alive, says Kuro official.

### There shall be a Moro country

There shall be a Moro country.

### Painting helped her battle cancer

Painting helped her battle cancer.

### Federer bans 14th Wimbledon title

Federer bans 14th Wimbledon title.

### YENG CONSTANTINO LATEST WINNER

YENG CONSTANTINO LATEST WINNER

## The Manila Times

### Duterte to form 'Moro country'

Duterte to form 'Moro country'.



Duterte to form 'Moro country'.

### PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### ULTRALOTTO 6/49

ULTRALOTTO 6/49

### TURBOLOTO 6/54V 20P

TURBOLOTO 6/54V 20P

### LOTTO 6/49

LOTTO 6/49

### 5/39

5/39

### 4/20

4/20

### 3/10

3/10

### 2/5

2/5

### 1/1

1/1

### P144,000,000.00

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### BUY TICKETS NOW

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# BusinessMirror

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## BusinessMirror


Intercontinental Convergence Zone



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Davao Mindanao Weather  
Telling Latest  
News with  
Hatteria

**TODAY'S WEATHER** JULY 18, 2017 (TUESDAY)

**INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO**  
(As of 4:00 PM - July 17, 2017)



3-DAY EXTENDED FORECAST	JUL 19	JUL 20	JUL 21
	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
METRO MANILA	25-33°C	26-31°C	25-33°C
TUGUEGARAO	24-33°C	26-34°C	25-34°C
LAOAG	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
BAGUIO	16-24°C	16-25°C	16-24°C
SBMA/CLARK	25-33°C	25-30°C	25-32°C
TAGAYTAY	21-25°C	20-26°C	21-30°C
LEGAZPI	25-32°C	25-32°C	25-32°C
PUERTO PRINCESA	24-30°C	24-32°C	24-32°C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	25-32°C	26-33°C	26-32°C

5-DAY EXTENDED FORECAST	JUL 19	JUL 20	JUL 21
	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
METRO CEBU	25-31°C	26-31°C	25-31°C
TACLOBAN	26-30°C	26-31°C	26-31°C
CAGAYAN DEORO	24-32°C	24-32°C	24-32°C
METRO DAVAO	25-33°C	26-33°C	26-33°C
ZAMBOANGA	24-32°C	24-33°C	24-34°C

SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:36 AM	6:29 PM	12:28 AM	1:16 PM

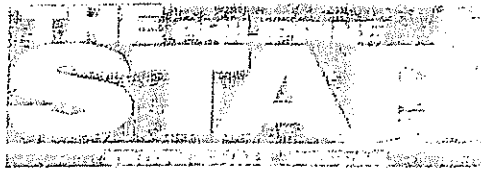
  

LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
JUL 17 3:29 AM	JUL 23 5:48 PM	JUL 17 11:51 PM	JUL 20 5:20 AM

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# Rody: Noy to be cleared on SAF 44

*'Usurpation charge silly, doomed to fail'*

By ALEXIS ROMERO

The cases to be filed against former president Benigno Aquino III over the Mamasapano clash in 2015 are doomed to fail, President Duterte said yesterday.

Duterte brushed aside the charges of graft and usurpation of authority to be filed in court by the Office

of the Ombudsman.

"You know, charging Aquino for that (is) silly. Actually, my term there, it's a silly charge," Duterte told reporters at Malacañang. "They are there to ensure its failure."

Duterte said as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, he can order anyone to help in a security or law enforcement operation.

"The police is a civilian entity

under the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government). Correct? Yes. But he is also the chief of the executive department. If I order an operation and from my mouth I would say, 'Go there and fight or arrest this person or maintain order,' that by itself is like the commander-in-chief, chief executive," the President said.

"You cannot call it usurpation

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of authority because everything he said are merged in one person, the chief executive, the president," he added.

Duterte was referring to Aquino's decision to ask then suspended Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Alan Purisima to oversee the operations against terrorists in Mamasapano.

"(The president) can call anybody to help him fight a criminal operation there... He was just asking for the advice from a professional police. I do not see anything wrong there. Nothing was signed, nothing was agreed by Purisima except that he was helping the president implement the law," Duterte said.

"Whoever he orders there, it's none of your business because he has the trust... Purisima was not in the operation... All of those powers are vested in the president. They (charges) are there to ensure its failure," he added.

Duterte also said all powers and offices "are merged into one person and that is the

president."

He believes Aquino will be acquitted of the charges.

Asked what charges should be filed against Aquino, Duterte said: "Wala ako... Wala. Talagang failure. Hindi naman lahat manaloch (None. It's really a failure. Not everyone wins)."

"It was an operation. It was a success in the sense that they were able to get the fingers of (terrorist) Marwan. And it was given directly to the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation), so they're waiting there," he added.

Duterte, however, believes Aquino had shortcomings in the Mamasapano operation.

"Talagang talo, malas (It was a defeat). But the shortcoming is the burden of Aquino," he said.

"There was no assistance, reinforcements, the military air assets, the cannons there, it could have reached... But then you cannot do it, because you will also kill the people, the women and children there."

When pressed on what he thought motivated Om-

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budsman Conchita Carpio-Morales to recommend the charges against Aquino, Duterte said: "Wala. Sabi ko, bugok 'yung nagdesisyon (None. The one who made the decision was wrong). There are maybe other damages but not criminal."

### Senators cool to new probe

Meanwhile, senators were cool to the proposal of Sen. Richard Gordon to reopen the Mamasapano clash probe since the matter was exhaustively taken up by the Senate in the previous administration.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said that he wants to find out from Gordon "what angle of the incident he wants to probe this time," considering that the inquiry was previously reopened upon the insistence of former Senate president Juan Ponce Enrile.

"Hence, this will be the third investigation. Let me talk to him first," Pimentel said.

Sen. Grace Poe, then chair of the Senate committee on public order and dangerous drugs which investigated the Mamasapano clash in 2015, said it is the prerogative of Gordon as chairman of the Blue Ribbon

committee to conduct his own inquiry.

But she said that "it would be in the best interest of the public and members of the Senate to know the clear objectives of Senator Gordon in putting forward such proposal."

"Whatever new and relevant information that can be unearthed from this inquiry, in aid of legislation, will be beneficial not only to the families of the SAF 44 (members of the PNP Special Action Force killed in the operation), but also to the Filipino people," she added.

Poe also appealed to the critics of decision of the Office of the Ombudsman to give the office the opportunity to review the case through the processes allowed by law and remedies given to the parties involved in the case.

She said that the people pushing for the reopening of the Senate inquiry should also be prepared for the possibility that former president Benigno Aquino III, if he will be invited to the hearing, could refuse to talk based on the legal principle of sub judice.

Sen. Sonny Angara urged Gordon to take into consideration the findings made during

the previous inquiry, along with all the testimonies given then, since these were exhaustive already.

He recalled how much time was spent for all the testimonies during those hearings, as well as the executive session conducted to hear the accounts of survivors from the SAF.

As for the side of Aquino, Angara noted that then executive secretary Pacquito Ochoa was present during the hearings where transcript of the text exchanges between Aquino and Purisima was bared.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian said so much time was already spent during the previous hearings so he would like to know what else has not been covered to justify the reopening of the probe.

Gatchalian said that it would be best for the senators to discuss this proposal of Gordon to determine if a new hearing would be necessary.

For Sen. Leila de Lima, the planned reopening of the inquiry is meant to crucify Aquino and nothing else.

"This investigation will have no other purpose than to once again crucify the former president, and squeeze this issue for

all the juice left and what it is still worth, in order to cover up for the present administration's own bunglings and incompetence," De Lima said in a handwritten note from her detention facility in Camp Crame.

"So, what for is the planned reopening of the probe, when the matter is going through its normal legal course in the Office of the Ombudsman. For all the circus objectives that the revived Mamasapano investigation has to offer, to me it's meant to be a mere distraction from the incompetence of this government and the subservience of Congress, and yet again, as a political leverage and harassment versus the opposition," she added.

De Lima said that she is torn by the move of the ombudsman to indict the former president in relation to the Mamasapano clash.

On the one hand, De Lima said that this is something that the families of the SAF members who were killed would welcome "as it could bring a sense of relief and justice for those who risked and lost their lives in the service of our country on that fateful day."

– With Marvin Sy

18 July 2017



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# DUTERTE GETS 82% APPROVAL RATING

STORY BY INQUIRER RESEARCH AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO

**According to the Pulse Asia survey from June 24 to 29, the President's approval and trust ratings increased across all geographic areas and socioeconomic classes. Ratings of four other top officials also rose.**

A year into his term, President Duterte continued to enjoy high approval and trust ratings among Filipinos, according to the latest Pulse Asia survey

Results of the survey, conducted from June 24 to 29, showed that the President's overall approval and trust ratings and those of four other top government officials—the Vice President, Senate President, House Speaker and Chief Justice—increased between March and June.

Mr. Duterte's approval rating rose to 82 percent from 78 percent in March.

In the Pulse Asia survey that covered 1,200 adults, he also recorded high trust of 81 percent, up from 76 percent.

The survey had a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3 percentage points.

## Pleasant news

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella welcomed as "pleasant news" the high approval ratings of Mr. Duterte, saying the President "gets" the people who in turn "get" him.

Abella said a majority of the people, especially the masses, "really get (the President)."

"There are those who, of course, tend to zero in on certain details. But as far as the public is concerned, they find the President as somebody who understands them, who has their common interest, the common good, at heart.

## Across areas, classes

Abella said Mr. Duterte would not claim for himself the high approval rating. "He will give due credit to his Cabinet and to the participation of all agencies," he said of the President.



**APPROVAL AND TRUST RATINGS OF TOP NATIONAL OFFICIALS March and June 2017 (in percent)**

	Approval		Trust	
	March '17	June '17	March '17	June '17
Duterte	78	82	76	81
Robredo	58	61	56	60
Pimentel	55	62	51	58
Alvarez	40	43	37	41
Sereno	42	48	40	43

**APPROVAL AND TRUST RATINGS OF KEY GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS March and June 2017 (in percent)**

	Approval		Trust	
	March '17	June '17	March '17	June '17
Senate	55	59	54	57
House of Representatives	50	55	49	52
Supreme Court	57	58	54	56

SOURCE: Pulse Asia

The majority across geographic areas expressed approval of Mr. Duterte's performance (75 percent to 95 percent) and trust in him (73 percent to 97 percent).

In all socioeconomic classes, he also enjoyed big majority approval (79 percent to 84 percent) and trust (77 percent to 85 percent) ratings.

Vice President Leni Robredo and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III also scored majority approval and trust ratings.

Robredo's approval rating increased to 61 percent from 58 percent and her trust rating rose to 60 percent from 56 percent.

Pimentel scored 62 percent approval and 58 percent trust ratings in June.

**Alvarez, Sereno**

Approval and trust ratings for Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez

and Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno also increased in the second quarter.

Alvarez's approval rating went up to 43 percent from 40 percent. His trust rating rose to 41 percent from 37 percent.

Sereno had a 48-percent approval rating, up from 42 percent.

She scored a 43-percent trust rating, up from the 40 percent.

**Senate, House, SC**

The poll also found that the Senate (59 percent), House of Representatives (55 percent) and the Supreme Court (58 percent) had majority approval scores.

The three institutions also obtained majority trust scores with 56 percent for the Supreme Court, 57 percent for the Senate and 52 percent for the House.

—REPORTS FROM INQUIRER RESEARCH AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO INQ

18 July 2017

The Manila Times

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# 2 soldiers slain, 8 wounded in clashes with NPA

BY AL JACINTO AND JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

**ZAMBOANGA CITY:** Two Philippine Army soldiers were killed and eight others wounded in fierce clashes with communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels in a village in Zamboanga del Norte province in southern Mindanao.

Police said the fighting erupted over the weekend in Barangay Tinaplan, Sindangan town.

They added that the clashes between members of the 44th Infantry Battalion and the NPA also left a still undetermined number

of casualties on the rebel side.

"The second encounter resulted in the death of two soldiers and the wounding of eight members of the Philippine Army, with an undetermined body count on the enemy side. The wounded

men of the 44th Infantry Battalion were already transported via ambulance to Dipolog City for immediate medical treatment," the police said in a report.

They added that Special Forces soldiers also clashed with about 40 rebels in Leon Postigo town earlier in the day.

"The firefight lasted for ten minutes with no soldier reported harmed or injured after which the troops were able to recover three M203 [rifle grenade] ammunition, 15 improvised explosives, medical paraphernalia and subversive documents," the report said.

But the military's Western Mindanao Command said a rebel was killed and that six more gunmen had been wounded in the fighting in Leon Postigo town.

It did not report the government casualties.

Army Captain Jo-ann Petinglay, Army spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, said the rebels commandeered a vehicle and briefly held hostage its driver who allegedly told the military that the rebels escaped with their casualties.

"The driver who was forced by the communists to extract them away from the engagement area in-

formed the security forces that he saw them carrying one dead communist and six others wounded," according to Petinglay.

She said no soldiers were hurt in the fighting.

Peace talks between the government and the 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.

Meanwhile, an NPA rebel re-

portedly surrendered to the Joint Task Force Zampelan (Zamboanga Peninsula Lanao) on Sunday.

"Allen Andoloy Condez, a.k.a. Momar, a member of the Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee, yielded to Lt. Col. Virgilio Hamos Jr., commanding officer of the 53rd Infantry Battalion, in Camp Sabido, Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur, at 1 p.m.," Brig. Gen. Joselito Bautista, task force commander, said.

Condez, 23, of Sergio Osmeña, Zamboanga del Norte, is reportedly listed by the military as an active NPA member.

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# BusinessMirror

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## Govt troops kill NPA rebel in Zamboanga del Norte

By RENE ACOSTA

[@reneacostaBM](#)

**A** MEMBER of the New People's Army (NPA) was killed while six others were wounded last Saturday during a clash between soldiers and rebels in Zamboanga del Norte.

Col. Jacinto Bareng, commander of the 102nd Brigade, said elements of the 20th Special Forces Company were conducting security patrol when they encountered a band of rebels at around 5 a.m. at Sitio Biwa, Titik, Leon Postigo, Zamboanga del Norte.

The rebels were reportedly members of the NPA's Sentrong Committee Felix B in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Bareng said another team of soldiers, who were conducting a peace and development activity nearby, provided fire support to the engaged troops.

He said a driver, who was forced by the rebels to extract them away from the engagement area, informed the security forces that he saw the rebels carrying one dead body and six wounded comrades.

Soldier scouring the encounter site recovered three rounds of caliber 40mm ammunition, 15 improvised explosive devices, medical paraphernalia and subversive documents.

Meanwhile, another rebel surrendered to the troops of the Joint

Task Force Zampelan last Sunday afternoon.

Allen Andoloy Condez alias Momar, member of the Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee, surrendered to Lt. Col. Virgilio Hamos Jr., commander of the 53rd Infantry Battalion.

Brig. Gen. Joselito Bautista, commander of the Joint Task Force Zampelan, said Condez surrendered at Camp Sabido, Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur at around 1 p.m.

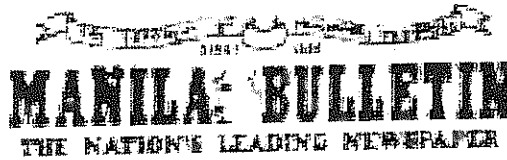
"Condez was immediately subjected to custodial debriefing to extract actionable information that will lead us to the other CTs [communist terrorists] and their encampments," Bautista said.

Condez, 23, resident of Sergio Osmena, Zamboanga del Norte, is listed under the periodic status report of the armed forces as an active member of the communist group.

"I congratulate our soldiers under Joint Task Force Zampelan for their persistent effort to neutralize the communist terrorists within their area of operations," Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. said.

"This accomplishment only proves that everyone in the team Westmincom is working doubly hard to sustain the gains and defeat the enemy, despite the present challenges the command is facing in Marawi and in other areas," he added.

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# Rebel killed, 6 wounded in Zamboanga del Norte

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

**Z**AMBOANGA CITY — A communist insurgent was killed, while six of his comrades were wounded after they engaged elements of Joint Task Force ZamPeLan in Zamboanga del Norte, Sunday.

In his report to the Western Mindanao Command (WesMinCom), Col. Jacinto Bareng, commander of the 102nd Brigade, said his men were conducting security patrol in Sitio Biwa, Titik, Leon B Postigo, Zamboanga del Norte at 5 a.m. when they encountered the members of the New People's Army (NPA).

Bareng added that a group of soldiers, who were conducting a peace and development activity near the area, provided fire support to the task force.

A driver, whose vehicle was commandeered by the insurgents, told the

government troops that he saw the Communists carrying a dead comrade, while six others were wounded.

No soldier was hurt in the encounter.

After scouring the area, soldiers were able to recover three rounds of CTG caliber-40mm ammunition, 15 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), medical paraphernalia, and subversive documents.

Meanwhile, another member of the communist group surrendered to the troops of the Joint Task Force Zampelan yesterday afternoon.

According to Joint Task Force ZamPeLan Commander Brig. Gen. Joselito Bautista, Allen Andoloy Condez, who is also known as Momar and a member of the Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee, yielded to Lt. Col. Virgilio Hamos, Jr., Commanding Officer of the 53rd Infantry Battalion, in Camp Sabido, Guipos, Zamboanga

del Sur at 1 p.m. yesterday.

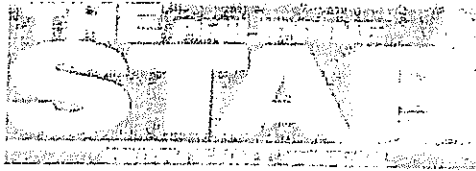
"Condez was immediately subjected to custodial debriefing in order to extract actionable information that will lead us to the other CTs and their encampments," Bautista said.

Condez, 23, and a resident of Sergio Osmeña, Zamboanga del Norte, is listed under the periodic status report of the military as an active member of the communists group.

"I congratulate our soldiers under Joint Task Force Zampelan for their persistent effort to neutralize the communist terrorists within their area of operations," said Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez Jr., WesMinCom chief.

"This accomplishment only proves that everyone in the WestMinCom team is working doubly hard to sustain the gains and defeat the enemy, despite the present challenges the command is facing in Marawi and in other areas," he said.

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## 5 dead, 16 hurt in AFP-NPA clash

By ROEL PAREÑO

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** - Three New People's Army (NPA) rebels and two soldiers were killed in an encounter in Zamboanga del Norte on Sunday.

A rebel died and six others were wounded when soldiers of the 44th Infantry Battalion and 20th Special Forces Company encountered the rebels in Sitio Biwa, Barangay Titik in Leon Postego town at about 4:50 a.m.

Soldiers recovered at least 15 improvised bombs, ammunition and medical equipment from the rebels.

Army troopers who conducted pursuit operations for the rebels were ambushed in Sitio Lubi, Barangay Tinaplan, Sindangan town, leaving two soldiers and two rebels dead.

Ten soldiers were also wounded while a military truck was damaged.

The identities of the slain soldiers were withheld pending notification of their respective families. The wounded were taken to the Dipolog Provincial Hospital for treatment.

### C. Valley cops on alert

Meanwhile, the Cagayan Valley police was placed on

alert following recent attacks by NPA rebels.

Police chiefs were ordered to heighten security and take precautionary measures. Police were ordered to wear their full battle uniform and always bring their service firearms.

"They were directed to execute a defense plan for the security of their police stations or units in anticipation of any attack by communist rebels," Chief Superintendent Robert Quenery, Cagayan Valley police director said yesterday.

"We will not allow our installations to be raided without putting up a fight. Let us

go back to the golden age of treating our firearms as our wife," said Quenery.

On Friday, five members of the Provincial Public Safety Company and a 60-year-old farmer were wounded in a landmine attack in Barangay Diduyon, Maddela, Quirino.

On Tuesday last week, six soldiers were wounded when a landmine exploded in Purok Abbag, Barangay Dipantín, Nagtipunan.

NPA rebels also raided police stations in Maddela in Quirino and Amulung, Cagayan recently, taking several firearms and police vehicles.

- With Victor Martin

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## PNP bares NPA plot to launch pre-Sona attacks

By Mario J. Mallari

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has unearthed a supposed plot by the communist New People's Army (NPA) to launch attacks in Davao area before President Duterte's second State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 24.

PNP chief Director General Ronald de la Rosa said that the 165,000-strong organization has already taken steps to thwart the alleged communist plot.

"We have monitored that the NPA will make some pre-Sona attacks, harassment in Davao. We uncovered that they will conduct atrocities in Davao before Sona," de la Rosa said.

"We are preparing for that," he added.

The chief PNP, however, stressed that they have not monitored any specific threats coming from terrorist groups in connection to the Sona.

But de la Rosa said that the PNP is not taking any chances despite the absence of direct threat.

"We cannot discount (anything) but as of now we have not received any specific...I just hope that the public will cooperate with us," he said.

Meanwhile, in Zamboanga del Norte, a NPA rebel was killed while six others were wounded during a clash with Army troops on Saturday.

Col. Jacinto Bareng, commander of the 102nd Brigade, said that elements of the 20th Special Forces Company were conducting security patrol when they encountered a band of rebels at around 5 a.m. at Sitio Biwa, Titik, Leon Postigo, Zamboanga del Norte.

The rebels were reportedly members of the Sentrong Committee Felix B of the New People's Army in the Zamboanga peninsula.

Bareng said another team of soldiers, who were conducting a peace and development activity nearby, provided

further fire support to the engaged troops after maneuvering to an advantage position.

He said a driver, who was forced by the rebels, to extract them away from the engagement area informed the security forces that he saw the rebels carrying one dead body and six wounded.

Soldiers, who were scouring the encounter site, recovered three rounds of caliber 40mm ammunition, 15 improvised explosive devices, medical paraphernalia and subversive documents.

Another rebel surrendered to the troops of the Joint Task Force Zampelan on Sunday afternoon.

Allen Andoloy Condez alias Momar, member of the Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee, yielded to Lt. Col. Virgilio Harnos, Jr., commander of the 53rd Infantry Battalion.

Brig. Gen. Joselito Bautista, commander of the Joint Task Force Zampelan, said Condez surrendered at Camp Sabido, Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur at around 1 p.m.

"Condez was immediately subjected to custodial debriefing in order to extract actionable information that will lead us to the other Cts (communist terrorist) and their encampments," Bautista said.

Condez, 23, resident of Sergio Osmeña, Zamboanga del Norte, is listed under the periodic status report of the armed forces as an active member of the communist group.

"I congratulate our soldiers under Joint Task Force Zampelan for their persistent effort to neutralize the communist terrorists within their area of operations," said Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr.

"This accomplishment only proves that everyone in the team WestMinCom is working doubly hard to sustain the gains and defeat the enemy, despite the present challenges the command is facing in Marawi and in other areas," he added.

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POLICE FILES

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### **3 dinukot na CAFGU pinakawalan ng NPA sa Surigao del Sur**

**BUTUAN CITY** – Ismailalim na sa medical examination at stress debriefing ang tatlong miyembro ng CAFGU na pinakawalan ng New People's Army (NPA) matapos ang ilang araw na pagkakabihag.

Ayon kay Col. Franco Gacal, commander ng 402nd Brigade, Philippine Army, nasa kani-kanilang pamilya na sina CAFGU members Mama Abao, Aljun Minano at Jerrick Quilano, na una nang dinukot sa kani-kanilang tahanan sa Barangay Bitagan sa bayan ng San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

Hindi pa matiyak ng opisyal kung makakabalik pa sa serbisyo ang nasabing mga indibidwal dahil dedepende umano ito sa resulta ng kanilang medical exam at sa rekomendasyon ng kanilang direct superior.

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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# Duterte wants 60-day extension of martial rule

**BY WENDEL VIGILIA  
AND JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR**

PRESIDENT Duterte has decided to ask Congress to extend for 60 days the effectivity of his martial law proclamation in Mindanao.

According to House majority leader Rodolfo Fariñas, the President will call Congress to a special session on Saturday “to consider the extension of martial law.”

The martial law declaration, embodied in Proclamation 216, is effective until Saturday.

“It will be a joint session as required by the Constitution for the Congress to consider the initiative of the President to extend martial law,” Fariñas also said in a text message last night to reporters as Duterte was meeting with senators in Malacañang.

Senate majority leader Vicente

Sotto III said Duterte will call a special session “to tackle the request of the President to extend martial law in Mindanao.” The request is for a 60-day extension, he also said.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement: “The President’s call for a special session is necessitated by the exigency to deliberate on the possible extension of the period of effectivity of Proclamation 216, which will end next week. Congress has to discuss and consider the actual parameters to extend martial law and suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.”

Earlier yesterday, Abella said Duterte still had to go through the recommendations made by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who is martial law administrator.

He also said among factors to be considered in deciding on whether

to extend martial law is threat to public safety.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año, in an interview at the launch of the book “Make Change Work” of former President Fidel Ramos, said the military’s assessment about martial law implementation in Mindanao covers only the “military aspect.”

“We cannot disclose our recommendation... The President will have to look at all other aspects and factors, even political. And whatever the decision of the President, the AFP will support it,” he said.

Duterte also attended the book launching.

At the mass oath-taking of appointees in Malacañang, Duterte reiterated that his heart bleeds every time he goes through reports about the situation in Marawi City.

Duterte declared martial law

covering the whole of Mindanao on May 23, hours after the Maute Group engaged government forces in a firefight. The conflict is ongoing.

Duterte said he is sad he had to declare martial law and even sadder he is losing soldiers in the fight. He reiterated drug money was used to fund the Maute.

PNP chief Ronald dela Rosa said the PNP recommended the extension of martial law to allow government forces to arrest all narco-politicians supporting the Maute Group and to recover all loose firearms in Lanao del Sur.

He did not say how many loose firearms there are and how many politicians are being targeted.

“But we did not include in the position paper as to the duration of the extension. The thing is we are for the extension of martial law,” he said in Pilipino. — *With Raymond Africa*



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## **Martial Law extension lulusot sa Kamara**

Simiguro ng ilang lider ng Kamara na lulusot sa Kongreso ang pagpapalawig ng Martial Law sa buong Mindanao

Ito ang sinabi ni House Deputy Speaker Fred Castro at simuportahan nila ang Proclamation 216 na nagpatupad ng Martial Law sa Mindanao kaya walang dahilan para hindi nila kaugan ang extension nito.

Iginuit pa ni Castro na mayroong mga basehan para palawigin pa ang Batas Militar sa nasabing rehiyon at una na dito ang hindi pa lubos na nadurog ang mga terorista na umatake sa Marawi na dahilan ng Martial Law declaration.

Ikalawa, kailangan pa umanong mahinto ang lawlessness at ikatlo, ay dapat na maibalik nang tuluyan ang peace and order sa lugar na sakop nito.

Anya, hindi dapat limitahan lamang sa Lanao ang extension ng Martial Law dahil para maging epektibo ito ay kailangang masakop pa rin ang buong Mindanao.

Sa ganitong paraan

umano ay mapuputol ang suporta at suplay sa umiiral na rebelyon.

Samaniala, mirekomenda rin ng liderato ng Philippine National Police (PNP) kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagpapalawig ng Martial Law upang maaresto ang mga narco-politicians na supporters ng Maute-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (Maute-ISIS) na nasa likod ng siege sa lungsod ng Marawi.

Ayon kay PNP Chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa, ang kanilang rekomendasyon ay nakasentro sa buong rehiyon ng Mindanao, pero hindi na idinetalye kung ilang araw ang kanilang rekomendasyon para sa pagpapalawig ng Martial Law.

Ang 60 araw na Martial Law ay idineklara ni Pangulong Duterte na nagumpisa noong Mayo 23 matapos ang pag-atake ng Maute-ISIS terrorists sa lungsod ng Marawi ay magtatapos ngayong Hulyo 22. *-Gemma Garcia at Joy Cantos-*

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## Martial law, inirekomendang palawigin

Nina Beth Camia, Francis Wakefield, at Fer Taboy

Kasalukuyan pang pinag-aaralan ni Pangulong Duterte ang rekomendasyon ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana kung babawin na o palalawigin pa ang martial law sa Mindanao.

Kinumpirma kahapon ni Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella na natanggap na ng Malacañang ang rekomendasyon ni Lorenzana, siya ring martial law administrator, nitong Huwebes, Hulyo 13.

"The President will go through and will make a decision on the matter. As we all know, the President listens. He also considers not only the position of the military and the police, but also the interests of vital stakeholders," sinabi ni Abella sa 'Mindanao Hour' press briefing kahapon ng umaga.

"He [Lorenzana] already presented. It has to be studied by the President. It is being studied by the President, aniya.

Tiniyak naman ni Abella na ihahayag ng Pangulo ang desisyon nito sa usapin bago sumapit o trasmong sa Hulyo 23, isang araw matapos mapaso ang 60-araw na batas militar na iineklara ng Presidente sa Mindanao noong Mayo 23.

### REKOMENDASYON NG DND

Kinumpirma kahapon ni Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana na naisumite na ruya sa Pangulo ang rekomendasyon ng militar kung palalawigin o hindi ang batas militar sa Mindanao.

"We will have to wait for the President's final decision on the matter. What I submitted to him was my recommendation from the security sector as Administrator of Martial Law in Mindanao after

consulting with the AFP chief of Staff General Eduardo Año. The President has a lot more to consider including the inputs from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the government agencies and the people of Mindanao," ani Lorenzana.

"I fully trust the President's judgment on this whether he considers my recommendations or not," dagdag pa ng kalihim.

### PABOR SA EXTENSION

Inihayag din kahapon ni Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director Gen. Ronald dela Rosa na nagsumite na ang pulisya ng rekomendasyon sa Pangulo, at pabor silang palawigin pa ang martial law.

"Meron kaming position paper na isinumite noong Biyernes na pumapayag kami na magkaroon ng extension [ang martial law], pero hindi namin inilagay kung hanggang kailan," ani dela Rosa.

Sinabi ni Dela Rosa na inirekomenda niyang palawigin ang batas militar sa Mindanao dahil nakalalaya pa ang ilang tagasuporta ng Maute Group.

"Saka 'yung isa pang mabigat na problema na inilagay namin sa aming position paper is 'yung paglipana ng loose firearms dyan sa Mindanao, particularly sa Marawi City at Lanao del Sur," sabi pa ni dela Rosa.

Ilang beses nang sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na ang pagpapalawig o hindi sa martial law ay nakasalalay sa magiging rekomendasyon ng militar at pulisya, dahil ang mga ito ang higit na nakaaalam ng sitwasyon sa Marawi.

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# Duterte gets AFP, PNP take on martial law extension

By Mario J. Mallari and Ted Tuvera

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) have asked President Rodrigo Duterte to extend martial law in Mindanao, national police chief Ronald de la Rosa yesterday confirmed.

At a press conference, he said they submitted a position paper to the Commander-in-Chief “expressing our stand on extending the martial law.”

De la Rosa, however, stressed the PNP did not include the duration of the martial law extension.

“We have a position paper that we submitted last Friday expressing our stand on extending the martial law, but we did not put a period up to when. But we are for the extension,” he added.

The PNP chief stressed their recommendation did not expand the coverage of the military rule and remained within Mindanao.

On Sunday, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said they have also submitted their position on the martial



DELAROSA

rule to Mr. Duterte, but he declined to say whether they moved for its extension, pending the President’s decision.

According to him, they submitted their recommendation to the Commander-in-Chief on Thursday last week.

Mr. Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao last May 23 immediately after the Islamic State-inspired terrorists, led by Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute group, laid siege to Marawi City.

The martial law will expire on July 23, but leaders of the House of Representatives said

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## Duterte gets AFP, PNP take on martial law extension

**From page 1**

earlier they were favoring its extension.

Under the Constitution, martial law stays in place for a maximum of 60 days - or July 22 in this case. Should Duterte want it extended, he must secure the approval of Congress.

Lorenzana said they were leaving it up to the President to decide, but assured the military can be relied upon to implement and carry out the order should Mr. Duterte move for the extension.

"We will have to wait for the President's final decision on the matter. What I submitted to him was my recommendation from the security sector as administrator of Martial Law in Mindanao after consulting with the CSAFP (Chief-of-Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines) Gen. (Eduardo) Año. The President has a lot more to consider," he stressed.

These includes inputs from the Department of Interior and Local Government and PNP,

other government agencies and the people of Mindanao.

Lorenzana, who was also designated as head of Task Force "Bangon Marawi" to rebuild and rehabilitate Marawi, acknowledged that the work ahead after the fighting is even more daunting, considering the extent of damage to the city.

"While we have already begun laying the foundation for the reconstruction, recovery, and rehabilitation of Marawi City through community engagement, coordination with various agencies and making post disaster assessments, we earnestly look forward to the end of fighting because we want our Maranao brothers and sisters who have left their homes to go back, reconstitute their interrupted lives and partner with us on how we can best rebuild Marawi into a better and more beautiful city," he added.

"There is still a lot of work to do but I am very confident that together, as one nation, we can all help Marawi rise up from the ashes of conflict and

be a better place," the DND chief pointed out.

In recommending the extension of the martial law, dela Rosa said they pointed out to Mr. Duterte several reasons.

"Number one, those identified narco-politicians who are believed to be supporting the cause of the Maute are still at large. We still have to account them, we should arrest them first," he stressed.

The two arrest orders issued by Lorenzana as the administrator of the Martial Law identified more than 200 members, followers and supporters of the Maute-IS Group whom security forces were tasked to arrest.

The individuals included politicians from Mindanao, led by former Marawi City Mayor Fajad Salic, who was arrested after the issuance of the arrest orders. Also nabbed were Cayamora Maute and Farhana Romato-Maute, the parents of Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute - the leaders of the IS-inspired Maute group.

Malacañang, for its part,

confirmed that top Defense and security officials have submitted their recommendation to the President.

"The Department of National Defense has submitted its recommendation on martial law to the President last Thursday, July 13. The President will go through and will make a decision on the matter," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella told a press briefing.

He added Mr. Duterte will also have to listen to what other sectors have to say when it comes to either protracting or lifting martial law.

"As we all know, the President listens and he considers the position not only of the military and of the police, but also the interests of vital stakeholders," Abella stressed.

**'Wisdom of the President'**

At the House of Representatives, at least two officials of the lower chamber said their colleagues would most likely throw their support behind the President should he request for an extension of martial law in Mindanao. **With PNA**

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# BusinessMirror

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## PNP and DND ask Duterte to extend ML in Mindanao

**T**HE Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Monday it has already endorsed to President Duterte the extension martial law in Mindanao as the government winds down its operations in Marawi City by clearing the remaining areas still held by the Maute-Islamic State (IS) group.

"We have a position paper that we submitted last Friday expressing our stand on extending the martial law, but we did not put a period up to when. But we are for the extension," PNP Chief Director General Ronald M. dela Rosa said on Monday.

Dela Rosa said their recommendation still covers the whole area of Mindanao.

Last Sunday, Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana said they have also submitted their position on martial rule to Duterte, but he declined to say whether they moved for its extension, pending the Commander in Chief's decision.

Lorenzana said that they submitted their recommendation to Duterte on Thursday last week.

The martial-law declaration will expire on July 23, but leaders of the House of Representatives said earlier that they were favoring for its exten-



**DELA ROSA:**  
"Number one, those identified narcopoliticians who are believed to be supporting the cause of the Maute are still at-large. We still have to account them, we should arrest them first."

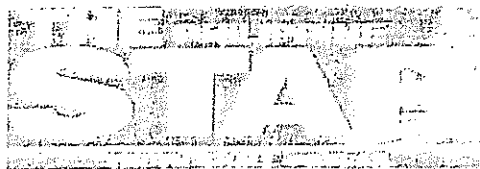
sion, even for a period of five years.

Lorenzana said they were leaving it up to Duterte to decide, but assured the military can be relied upon to implement and carry out the order should Duterte moves for the extension.

In recommending for the extension of martial law, dela Rosa said they enumerated several reasons. "Number one, those identified narcopoliticians who are believed to be supporting the cause of the Maute are still at-large. We still have to account them, we should arrest them first," he said.

The two arrest orders issued by Lorenzana as the administrator of the martial law identified more than 200 members, followers and supporters of the Maute-IS Group whom security forces were tasked to arrest. *Rene Acosta*

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## Bato wants ML extended to get narco-politicians backing Mautes

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

The need to ferret out narco-politician backers of the Maute militants in Marawi should justify an extension of the 60-day martial law in Mindanao, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said yesterday.

He said the PNP on Friday submitted to Malacañang a position paper on the matter.

He clarified the PNP's position paper did not say how

long it wanted martial law extended. He also did not name any narco-politician.

"We did not indicate a period up to when, basta we are for the extension," said Dela Rosa.

The PNP chief said he is leaving it up to President Duterte to decide how long an extension should last.

He stressed extending martial law would allow government troops to go after narco-politicians. "Number one is the identified narco-

politicians who are believed to be supporting the cause of the Maute are still at large. We still have to account for these narco-politicians. We have to arrest them first," he pointed out.

Dela Rosa also made it clear he doesn't want martial law in Mindanao to stretch to five years as some have proposed. "I don't think it is acceptable to the people," he said.

Aside from giving authorities more time to track down and arrest narco-politicians

supporting the Maute group, Dela Rosa said an extension of martial law would also facilitate the rehabilitation of the war-ravaged Marawi.

Earlier, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said he wanted martial law in Mindanao maintained up to the end of Duterte's term in 2022.

The President had said he would base his decision on whether to extend or end martial law on recommendations from the police and the military.

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## Congress sets special meeting on martial law

By Maricel V. Cruz and Francisco Tuyay

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte will call Congress to a special session on Saturday, July 22, to consider the extension of martial law in Mindanao, a notice sent by Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas to all members of the House of Representatives said Monday.

Earlier, lawmakers said they were open to a recommendation by Philippine National Police Director-General Ronald dela Rosa that the President extend martial law in Mindanao.

Reps. Ben Evardone of Eastern Samar, Robert Ace Barbers of Surigao del Sur and Harry Roque of Kabayan party-list said the military and the police know the situation in Marawi, which was overrun by Islamic State-inspired terrorists on May 23.

"I think Congress should support it until the problem is solved in Marawi. The government should not waver on this issue," Evardone said.

Barbers, a Mindanaoan, said an extension of martial law would be good for the people of Mindanao.

"Yes I will support it in the

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## Congress...

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event the President declares it," Barbers said of a possible extension.

But Roque, a House deputy minority leader, said he would support an extension based on a security briefing the executive department would give the lawmakers.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, one of the petitioners against martial law in Mindanao, on Monday reiterated that he and other opposition lawmakers will oppose any extension of military rule by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Lagman, during the Samahang Plaridel, Kapihan sa Manila Hotel, said any extension or new declaration of martial law by Duterte can be questioned as it will violate the Constitution.

"If there is an extension, it can be questioned. If there is a new declaration, it can be questioned. That is in the Constitution. The Supreme Court has the exclusive jurisdiction to check on the sufficiency, the factual basis of the declaration of martial law or its extension. It's in the Constitution," said Lagman.

The Supreme Court had ruled against Lagman and other petitioners who had questioned Duterte's martial law declaration.

Last week, ranking defense and law enforcement officials reached a consensus on the need to extend martial law at a meeting in Camp Aguinaldo.

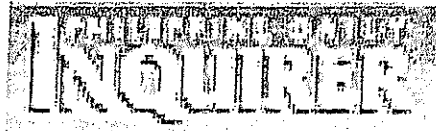
The recommendation was forwarded to Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año and subsequently to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who sent it on to the President.

President Duterte placed the entire Mindanao region under martial law on May 23 in an apparent attempt to contain the armed conflict in Marawi City perpetrated by Islamic State-inspired Maute group terrorists.

A source said there was no plan to expand the coverage of martial law beyond Mindanao.

With Sandy Araneta

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LAWMAKERS EXPECTED TO SUPPORT EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY RULE

# SPECIAL SESSION ON MARTIAL LAW SET ON JULY 22

By Vince F. Nonato  
@VinceNonatoINQ

President Duterte will call Congress to a special session on Saturday to “consider” extending martial law in Mindanao.

House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas said on Monday the House and the Senate would hold a joint session “as required by the Constitution... to consider the initiative of the President to extend martial law.”

Fariñas did not say how long the President intended to extend the enforcement of martial law or if it would continue to cover the entirety of Mindanao.

Fariñas made the announcement at 7:55 p.m. on Monday, after Malacañang invited members of the House to a meeting as the 60-day period for martial law declared on May 23 drew to an end this week.

Military rule in Mindanao expires on Saturday.

Earlier on Monday, Deputy Speaker Fredenil Castro said



PNP Director General Ronald dela Rosa —EDWIN BACASMAS

lawmakers would likely support an extension of martial law if “the basis for the proclamation is still there, the purpose of declaring martial law has not been accomplished.”

Fellow Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia said “the House has shown its full support and confidence in the wisdom of

our Commander in Chief.”

But Ifugao Rep. Teddy Baguilat Jr. of the opposition bloc said the special session should be held earlier to better assess the basis of an extension.

“There should be time for us to be apprised by the [military] or Malacañang of the situ-

ation in Marawi and the entire island of Mindanao before we even consider an extension,” Baguilat said.

He added that there should be enough discussion and martial law should not be “forcibly passed on the same day.”

“If [the military] proves martial law helped and they just could not fully control the situation, I might even agree to it,” Baguilat said.

The military submitted its recommendation to President Duterte on Thursday.

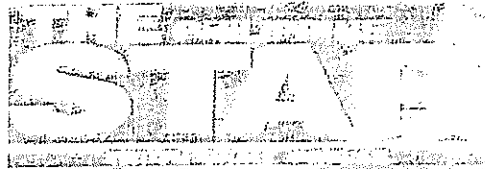
The Philippine National Police has recommended to Mr. Duterte the extension of martial law in Mindanao to clear the way for a crackdown on “narcopoliticians” supporting the Maute terrorist group that seized Marawi City.

In a press briefing on Monday, the PNP chief, Director General Ronald dela Rosa, said a position paper was submitted on Friday but it did not specify a period for the extension.

—WITH A REPORT FROM FRANCES MANGOSING INQ



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## Marawi rights victims urged to file cases vs soldiers

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has urged alleged victims of human rights abuses in Marawi City to come out and file appropriate complaints against those responsible.

"*Huwag po kayong matakot* (don't be afraid). If indeed some of our soldiers are found guilty of committing excesses under martial law, then we will not hesitate to administer the appropriate sanctions against these individuals, while en-

suring that due process is followed," he said yesterday.

Lorenzana said some groups and individuals have claimed that there are cases of human rights abuses under martial law in Mindanao but these were not reported.

"To this, I strongly encourage these groups and alleged victims of excesses by government security forces to come forward, present your evidence and file charges in the proper courts," he declared.

Lorenzana, the designated

administrator of martial law in Mindanao, said the government would never allow members of the security forces to tarnish the good image and reputation painstakingly built over the years.

Lorenzana said the Department of National Defense (DND) and the military have made it clear from the very start that all operations under martial law would be based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, regardless of religion, ethnicity or ideology.

He said DND and the military have opposed calls for the issuance of identification cards for Muslims in Central Luzon since it is discriminatory.

"We believe that if an ID system is adopted, it should be national in scope and should apply to every citizen of the republic," he stressed.

Lorenzana said to prevent abuses the government has deployed human rights officers of the military and lawyers on the ground to help guide soldiers in performing their expanded duties and responsi-

bilities under martial law.

The Armed Forces said 97 soldiers and policemen have so far been killed in clashes between troopers and members of the Maute group in Marawi City.

The military said another soldier has been listed as missing and some 852 have been wounded since the Maute group attacked Marawi last May 23.

Among the soldiers who died in combat were 12 troops accidentally hit in surgical air strikes by the Air Force.

The military said 411 Maute terrorist were killed 511 firearms recovered.

The terrorists as of July 16 also killed some 45 civilians.

President Duterte's 60-day martial law in Mindanao is scheduled to end on July 22 with no clear decision yet on whether it will be lifted or extended.

The military said the Maute group is still showing strong resistance in Marawi City but their numbers are definitely dwindling and with it their fighting capability.

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## Maute-controlled areas getting smaller: AFP chief

BY VICTOR REYES

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año yesterday said the area controlled by the Maute Group in Marawi City is now down to about a square kilometer.

In an ambush interview in Camp Aguinaldo, Año would not say when the military will be able to rid the city of the terrorists but said the continuing military operation is progressing well.

On July 2, Año said the battle area in Marawi City, which started on May 23, was confined to one to two square kilometers within four barangays. Officials on Sunday said about 60 to 70 Maute men are still occupying structures in portions of the four barangays.

Año said government forces on Sunday cleared 50 buildings previously occupied by the Maute although this was at the expense of two soldiers who died. Eight Maute members were also killed in the Sunday operation.

“Slowly, the number of buildings they occupy is getting smaller,” said Año, adding that one of the buildings cleared on Sunday was a “tall building.” He described the clearing of the buildings as a “big factor.”

Año said the military is looking forward to a “final push to really break their line and finally clear the whole area of Marawi.”

“The battleground is now down to less than a square kilometer area. But we cannot neglect or bypass buildings (in clearing). It’s fatal and dangerous to our soldiers and to the trapped civilians,” said Año.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office, said the conflict remains confined in portions of four barangays.

Año, asked if the military can accomplish the mission before President Duterte’s state of the nation address on July 24, said: “We do not see the SONA as the

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### MAUTE

deadline or timeline. As we have said, we will do it the military way, in accordance to our doctrines.”

Año said the military cannot set a deadline because the enemy is taking advantage of this. Incidentally, President Duterte said last July 11 that he needed 10 to 15 days to end the conflict.

Año said setting a timeline will also put additional pressure on the operating troops. “Unnecessarily, this leads to more casualties,” he said.

Arevalo said the military is satisfied with the progress of the operations despite the growing number of government battle casualties.

“This fight is more than just statistics,” he said.

Arevalo said 97 soldiers and policemen have been already killed, 852 others were wounded and one remains missing since the fighting broke out in May. The number of civilians killed remained at 45 and rescued civilians stayed at 1,723.

Arevalo also disclosed that the number of slain Maute members

rose to 411 and the recovered Maute firearms is now at 511.

Asked to rate the military’s performance in Marawi City given the number of government casualties, Arevalo said, “It’s not just passing grade, it’s more than passing grade.”

“What you are seeing are the numbers, statistics. But this is not just about numbers. We also have to see the nature of the fighting, the circumstances of (the fighting) and the peculiarity of the battle area,” he added.

Arevalo noted that the conflict is in an urban area and that the

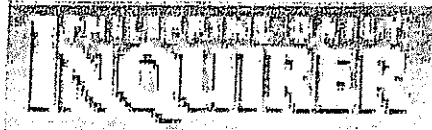
enemy has mastery of the terrain.

He stressed government forces are winning the fight and enemy resistance is waning.

“The (enemy) resistance is not that strong compared to the earlier weeks and we are confident that this is going to end very soon. We just couldn’t give an exact date or deadline when this will be over,” said Arevalo.

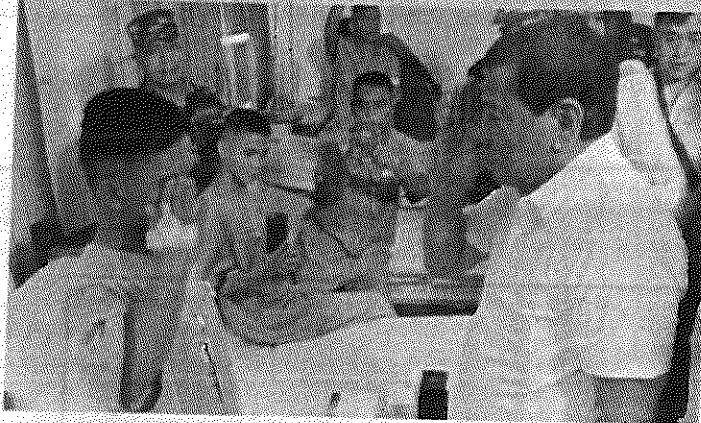
As to the 852 soldiers and policemen wounded in the conflict, Arevalo said more than half have returned to the frontline, fighting the Maute members, after receiving treatment.

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### HEROISM AWARD



President Duterte salutes one of the soldiers wounded in a clash with Abu Sayyaf and now recuperating at an army camp in Jolo, Sulu. —PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

## 12 SOLDIERS GET WOUNDED MEDAL PINNED BY DUTERTE

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Twelve government soldiers were given Wounded Personnel Medals by their commander-in-chief in Jolo on Saturday.

President Duterte visited the soldiers—two officers and 10 enlisted men—at the headquarters of Joint Task Force Sulu in Camp Teodulfo Bautista in the village of Busbus.

Joint Task Force Sulu is a multiagency team formed to combat banditry and kidnappings in the province.

Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay, spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said the President had pinned the medals on the soldiers.

The awardees were First Lieutenants Nino John Paner and Ian Solatre, Corporals Alan Bartolome and Jeric Ghil S. Villaruz and Privates First Class Reynan Maristela, Vergel

Bali, Rhenievon Saliw-an, Jaifiryll Tamayao, Polard Banggawan, Jeremy Ganagan, Tonie Mar Talatayud and John Paul B. Annang.

They were all members of the Army's 21st Infantry Battalion.

The soldiers were wounded in a clash with an Abu Sayyaf group led by a certain Almujeer Yaddah in Patikul town on July 8.

The President immediately left after awarding the medals. He also skipped the scheduled "talk to the troops" session.

The Armed Forces had been fighting Abu Sayyaf for years but the terror group which was believed allied with the terror network al-Qaeda had continued to survive.

Several key Sayyaf leaders had already been killed but other leaders are still alive.

—JULIES. ALIPALA INQ

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## EDITORIAL

# To extend ML or not

### WOULD he or won't he?

The decision is to be made by him and him alone.

After all, the authority or power to declare martial law—locally or nationally—is vested by the Constitution exclusively on the Commander-in-Chief.

True, he can seek and take the advice of his advisers, aides, Cabinet official's military top brass, and consultants.

But he alone, after a thorough assessment of the situation on the ground, can decide whether to extend or terminate martial law in Mindanao.

While not giving any details so as not to preempt President Duterte, the Department of National Defense announced that it has already forwarded its recommendation to the Chief Executive on whether or not to extend martial law in Marawi and the rest of Mindanao.

Submission took place last July 13, Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana said in a statement Sunday.

This is six days ahead of the 60-day martial law period (Proclamation No. 216) ends on July 22.

Martial law in Marawi and the rest of Mindanao was declared on May 23 following the attacks of Maute group terrorists in the city.

"We have submitted our position on martial law in Mindanao to the President," the defense chief said.

Lorenzana, however, did not give additional details so as not to preempt the President.

"We will have to wait for the President's final decision on the matter. What I submitted to him was my recommendation from the security sector as Administrator of Martial Law in Mindanao after consulting with the Chief-of-Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines Gen. (Eduardo) Año. The President has a lot more to consider," he said.

This includes inputs from the Department of Interior and Local Government and National Police, other government agencies and the people of Mindanao.

"I fully trust the President's judgment on this whether he considers my recommendations or not," the DND chief stated.

Lorenzana, who was also designated as Chairperson of Task Force "Bangon Marawi" to rebuild and rehabilitate Marawi, acknowledges that the work ahead after the fighting is even more daunting considering the extent of damage wrought to the city.

"While we have already begun laying the foundation for the reconstruction, recovery, and rehabilitation of Marawi City through community engagement, coordination with various agencies and making post disaster assessments, we earnestly look forward to the end of fighting because we want our Maranao brothers and sisters who have left their homes to go back, reconstitute their interrupted lives and partner with us on how we can best rebuild Marawi into a better and more beautiful city," he added.

"There is still a lot of work to do but I am very confident that together, as one nation, we can all help Marawi rise up from the ashes of conflict and be a better place," the DND chief pointed out.

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## SANDIGAN, SANDALAN



### Ni Cong. RICKY SANDOVAL

**ISANG** malaking karangalan na maimbitahan kami ni Vice Mayor Jeannie Sandoval sa ika-70 na anibersaryo ng ating Philippine Air Force. Ginanap ang simpleng pagdiriwang sa Clark Air Base sa Pampanga.

Nakakahanga nga ang pinakitang dedikasyon ng mga miyembrong Air Force sa okasyon na 'yun. Hindi sila natinag sa malakas na pagbuhos ng ulan habang nagtatalumpati ang panauhing pandangal na si Pangulong Duterte.

Kapansin-pansin din ang malasakit ng Pangulo sa tropa dahil tinapos niya agad ang kanyang talumpati dahil, ani niya, hindi siya kumportable na nauulanan at giniginaw ang kasundaluhan. Alam kong alam ni Pangulong Duterte na balewala sa mga tropa ang

## Support our Philippine Air Force

ulan dahil kasama naman talaga sa training nila ang sumabak sa anumang sungit ng panahon. Pero ang mga simpleng pahayag na ito ang dahilan kung bakit nananatiling mataas ang tiwala ng mga sundalo sa kanilang Commander-in-Chief.

Mas ipinaramdam pa ng Commander-in-Chief ang malasakit sa Air Force nang inanunsyo niya ang pagsuporta sa modernisasyon ng Philippine Air Force. Alam niyo ba na noong 2005, ay wala nang fighter jets ang Air Force? Noong 2005, pinagretiro na dahil hindi na ligtas gamitin dahil sa kalummaan ng mga Northrop F-5s. Ang masaklap dito, pinagretiro ang mga Northrop F-5s nang walang nakaplanong replacement.

Ang ginawang remedya dito ay ang paggamit sa Aermacchi S-211 para punan ang kawalan ng fighter jets. Subalit, ang mga Aermacchi S-211 ay trainer jets lang. Samakatuwid, iyong ginagamit ng mga Air Force para sa kanilang practice ay nilagyan lang ng kaunting armas para naman may 'fighter jet' tayu.

Kaya nga naging tam-pulan ng biro ang Air

Force dati na panay 'Air' lang pero walang 'Force'. Pero may malaking pagbabago na sa PAF.

May ginawang modernization plan ang PAF na tinatawag nilang Philippine Air Force Flight Plan 2028. Isa itong long-term na plano para maging world-class ang ating PAF hindi lang sa kagamitan kung hindi pati sa kakayanan ng mga sundalo.

Ayon kasi sa datos, isa ang Pilipinas sa maliit ang ginagastos para sa military. Nangunguna siyempre ang bansa gaya ng China. Pero dahil sa New AFP Modernization Act, naka-programa na gugugol ang pamahalaan ng P85 billion sa loob ng limang taon para sa Armed Forces of the Philippines. Hindi lang sa PAF nakalaan ito dahil kahati rin sa budget na ito ang Philippine Army at Philippine Navy.

Pero sapat na ito para makabili ang PAF ng fighter jets at Ground-based Air Defense System noong 2016. At makakabili na rin ang PAF ng karagdagang fighter jets at Long Range Patrol Aircraft nitong 2017.

Paunti-unti ang pagbili ng makabagong gamit pero ang mahalaga ay umuusad ang PAF sa

plano nitong modernisasyon. Kitang-kita naman natin ang kahalagahan nito dahil sa agawang teritoryo sa West Philippine Sea at sa nangyayaring kaguluhan sa Marawi. Dagdag pa rito ang pangangailangang protektahan ang Benham Rise na pinangalanan nang Philippine Rise ng pangulo. Hitik ang Philippine Rise sa yamang-dagat kaya tiyak na maraming gustong umangkin dito.

Hindi maikakaila ang malaking papel ng PAF hindi lang sa pagprotektahan sa ating teritoryo kung hindi pati na rin sa disaster response and rescue. Sila ang pangunahing naghahatid ng relief goods sa mga lugar na tinatamaan ng kalamidad. Kaya nga sisiguruhin ko, bilang Senior Vice Chairman ng House Appropriations Committee, na patuloy ang alokasyon ng Kongreso ng kinakailangang pondo ng PAF at buong Armed Forces. Alam kong suportado ako dito ng mga kasamahan ko sa Kongreso lalo na't pparating nang muli ang budget deliberations.

*(I-follow sa Twitter si Cong. Ricky Sandoval: @Rep\_Sandoval i-like sa Facebook @RickySandovalMalabon)*

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**POLICE FILES**

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### **Pagkontrol daw ng AFP sa mga info ng pangyayari sa Marawi City**

- Sa isang artikulo ng Philippine Revolution Web Central, inihayag dito ang umano ay pagkontrol sa impormasyon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines sa tunay na kaganapan sa Marawi City. Ito umano ang isa sa tungkulin ng AFP sa ilalim ng batas militar. Ang resulta, tikom umano ang mamamayan sa paglalahad ng tunay na pangyayari at tanging AFP lang umano ang

tanging pagkukunan ng balita dahil sa patuloy na martial law.

Bilang isang mamamayan na nag-ooberba sa mga pangyayari sa Marawi, may mga pinupunto ang makakaliwang grupo na lihis sa tunay na pangyayari. Inilahad ng AFP ang tunay na bilang ng mga nasawing terorista, sibilyan at maging ng sarili nilang katropa na umabot na sa 90. Ayon sakanila, ang buong katotohanan ay nakabaon sa hukay hangga't ipinatutupad ang martial law. Kung gayon para saan ang 'Mindanao hour' na nagsisilbing mapagkakatiwalaan na pagkukunan ng impormasyon?

Patunay lang ito na naghahanap sila ng butas upang kontrahin ang martial law na malaking agam-agam sa kanila. Alam ng mamamayan ang katotohanan na prayoridad ng AFP ang kaligtasan ng mga sibilyan kung kaya't nilimitahan ang pag papahintulot sa midya na sumuong sa kritikal na lugar ng bakbakan at hindi upang ikubli ang kahit na anong impormasyon. Tunay na baluktot ang pag-iisip ng CPP-NPA-NDF. - Jamaica R. Rey, Compostela Valley

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Standard

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## Summing up in Mindanao



GENERAL Ed Año, the Armed Forces chief of staff, has submitted his report on the security situation in Mindanao to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. The contents of this report, according to President Duterte, are what he will rely upon in deciding whether or not to extend martial law in Mindanao.

With a whole week to go before the State of the Nation Address next Monday, the President has enough time to fully reflect upon a decision that he can already disclose in his second annual report to the nation. If he's inclined to lift martial law, an announcement to that effect would put a perfect highlight on what is expected to be a very well-received speech, framed by the record-high ratings he still enjoys after a year in office.

There are a good number of reasons why the AFP might support the outright lifting of martial law either on its 60th day, as required, or very shortly thereafter. Among them:

Wholesale rout of the enemy in Marawi. True, it still isn't safe for every one of the thousands of civilian evacuees to return to their homes. Not every building has been cleared, not every sniper post taken out. But at this point, the question is no longer "if," nor even "when," but "how soon" complete

normalcy can return to the damaged city.

Lopsided kill stats. At last count, the fatalities on the Maute/ISIS side exceeded 400 and counting, while losses on the government side were less than a hundred. This is only to be expected whenever rebels engage in frontal and positional warfare with a numerically and logistically superior opponent.

Ending civilian casualties. What is truly distressing though is the still-uncounted number of civilian casualties, with bodies still being unearthed here and there. The toll this will take on the community's morale is bound to be heavy. Nonetheless, we can at least be comforted by the thought that this human tragedy will inoculate potential recruits and their relatives to the blandishments of imported jihadist terrorism.

Exemplary AFP. Contrary to the doomsday warnings of martial law critics, especially of the red and yellow varieties, the military behaved with utmost decorum, given the circumstances. No mosques were bombed. No abuses of civilians or prisoners were reported. The AFP even went so far as to chide their PNP brothers for promulgating a Muslims-only ID policy in Tarlac, or for sending scalawag cops to Mindanao duty as some form of punishment. As Secretary Lorenzana rightly pointed out, it is precisely hot spots like Marawi that demand the best cops, not the worst ones.

International support. The incursion of ISIS into Marawi quickly

persuaded other countries to offer new resources that we can now rely upon. Our closest neighbors, Indonesia and Malaysia, arranged to run joint sea and air patrols together with our forces. The United States, though unsolicited, sent firearms and materiel. The Chinese were profuse with pledges of aid, which we are still waiting for them to make good on.

The high likelihood of Duterte's lifting martial law in Mindanao can be gauged from the desperate lengths that yellow media outlets like Rappler and the Inquirer have gone to in order to keep alive the bogeyman of Marcos-style martial law being declared throughout the entire country. It's pathetic, the sight of grown-ups trying to scare other grown-ups like little children.

On the other hand, there is still a residual case that can be made for extending martial law in Mindanao, whether in full or only in the highest-risk areas. Among them:

ISIS threat. In the wake of actual complete defeat in Mosul, Iraq and a similar imminent defeat in Raqqa, Syria, the ISIS terrorists have few other places to go. One of them is Southeast Asia, home to many Muslim-majority countries and the never-vanquished Muslim minority of Mindanao. In fact, the Philippines has already been declared as the next battlefield of the caliphate armies. Coming here will be much more convenient for Indonesian and Malaysian recruits to their bloody cause.

Pan-Mindanao terror networks. The entire island is still host to a wide variety of rebellious groups, apart from the mainstreamed MNLF and MILF who are now deeply engaged in the peace process. Incident are still being reported from Sulu and Tawi Tawi to Lanao, Compostela, and Zamboanga. Breaking up these terror networks is vastly simplified by simple interdictory measures like roadblocks—which have already netted a large number of high-value suspects—as well as aggressive measures like suspending habeas corpus, which buys more time to extract and act upon usable intel from captured rebels.

Drugs and politicians. The huge cash hoard discovered in Marawi in the early days of the fighting there can only have come from the drug trade and/or well-heeled local politicians who support the rebels for a variety of reasons. Allowing these politicians to reclaim and again unrestrictedly lord it over their fiefdoms may simply mark the return of instability, increasingly fuelled by the easy money made from drugs.

We may see in the next few days how the President has decided to deal with this issue. The country's recent experience with the trauma of Marawi, coupled with the remarkably high trust reposed in Duterte, should at least help to quickly build public consensus behind whatever course of action he chooses.

Readers can write me at [gbolivar1952@yahoo.com](mailto:gbolivar1952@yahoo.com).

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The Manila Times

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## Training for loving the country, defending the nation, and serving the people

I TOOK ROTC, or four semesters of military science, in college.

Frankly speaking, it did not teach me love of country, nor did it foster a sense of duty to defend it.

What it taught me instead was to hate the drill. It led me to associate Saturday mornings with inconvenience so much so that I dreaded the thought of Friday evening because of what came next. It also made me look forward to 12 noon of Saturdays as an end to misery.

And I am sure I am not alone here. Thus, this idea of resurrecting the ROTC and junking the NSTP-CWTS program which took its place, as a way to teach nationalism among the young needs serious study.

Nationalism and love of country is not going to be optimally cultivated by coercive, sexist measures which the ROTC was, for aside from being a requirement, it was only for male students and not for all.

What I propose is a national program with four major modules.

The real place to teach duty to serve is in a civilian defense module where college students are given training to acquire the appreciation of service to the people during times of need, such as disasters and calamities. Modules on emergency and relief operations, traffic management that includes driving, first aid and public health literacy, and disaster preparedness could be one set of activities.

Another major component should be a community service module. However, the current NSTP-CWTS has to be re-imag-



ON THE CONTRARY  
**ANTONIO CONTRERAS**

ined. Instead of students being taken to areas to momentarily immerse in communities in need, a more sustained and focused approach should be adopted. Students must, as a requirement for graduation, and working through local government units, government agencies, or NGOs, render service in real communities over a given, continuous period, which is different from their on-the-job training or practicum requirements.

To prepare students for military service, to become a reserve corps in case the country would need it, I would also agree that a component of this should be a military training module. A one-time summer training program in military science for all and not just for male students, focusing not only on the mechanics of a drill, but also on the science and the art behind soldiering for the nation, would be an optimal way to do this.

However, these modules on civilian defense, community service and military service require a deeper understanding of our sense of being a nation and the process of nation-building. This can be accomplished by a more focused, non-academic module on inter-cultural education, where students will be

required to learn the cultures and history of ethnic groups other than their own.

For example, it's about time that non-Muslims learn the culture and history of the Muslims, even as the latter should also get an appreciation of the culture and history of other ethnic and cultural groups. I would even go so far as to require students to learn at least two other Philippine languages other than their native language or dialect and Filipino. This can provide an avenue by which college students will learn to appreciate otherness and difference, and value the fact that we are a country with differences.

It is in understanding these differences that we can strengthen our nation-building process that rests on recognition of the diverse cultures that we have, and that these differences should not divide us, but instead should be the substrate for our national unity.

Our brand of nationalism should not subsist on the celebration of one narrative, considering that we are a multi-ethnic country, but with a very low level of ethnic consciousness. We do not declare our ethnicity in official forms and documents, unlike in other countries. One way of looking at this is that perhaps we do not put much value on our ethnic identities. But a more insidious implication of this is that perhaps it is also the outcome of a process that has pushed aside our ethnic identities because we assume that we are all Filipinos, even if we do not have a clear understanding of the differences that threaten to silently divide us.

Our differences are silenced and made invisible, when what we should do is to appreciate these as realities to affirm the many identities that make the Filipino.

We have always assumed that we are one country, one nation, when in reality we are a country with many nations.

The process of nation-building, which is not completed, could easily descend into a process of nation-destroying if the modality we pursue is the propagation of a dominant and homogenous narrative for a singular nation. What should be fostered is the recognition of our differences, and a celebration of this diversity.

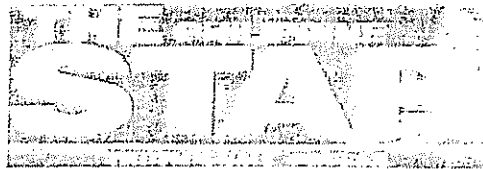
We have to be reminded that what made us into a nation is a colonial narrative that imposed imagined representations on our collective psyche. We have always presumed that there is only one Filipino, one which the colonizers left behind.

In order for us to truly love, serve and defend our country, we must have an authentic understanding of what makes us one. Otherwise, we will remain captured by an illusory sense of nation that makes us delude ourselves that we are one big happy family.

An inter-cultural learning module can serve as the anchor from which other modules on civilian defense, community service and military service would derive their logic and reason. This can truly make the Filipino youth prepared to love the country, defend the nations that comprise it, and serve the different peoples that we call Filipinos.



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## POSTSCRIPT

FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

### Cut the pretense, extend martial law

**M**ARTIAL LAW talk is already oozing out of my ears. At this point, I don't care anymore if President Rodrigo Duterte places the entire country - including the West Philippine Sea (if his Chinese BFF would allow him) - under his military control as Commander-in-Chief.



All assessment inputs on the situation in Marawi City and the rest of Mindanao can be ignored for being irrelevant. Whatever the reports say anyway, Mr. Duterte will do as he pleases according to his ulterior designs.

Those numbers on the briefing board are just that - numbers, not unlike the kill scores of his bloody anti-narcotics drive. Statistics do not tell the whole story nor give a justification for the dictatorial drift of presidential thinking on Mindanao and the rest of the country.

After the Social Weather Stations sang a 1,200-voice *vox populi* chorus for nationwide martial law, Mr. Duterte needs only the agreement of the armed forces ("my soldiers") and nobody else. Not even his lapdogs in the Congress.

Note, btw, that supposed poll interviewees in Metro Manila and Luzon (if you're willing to accept table surveys) approve of martial law in Mindanao. *Siyempre!* It's not their backyard anyway. Besides, what's the point in saying No when one's opinion won't matter?

Mr. Duterte's problem, as pointed out in our *Postscript* of July 11, is the dilemma between (1) keeping the Marawi rebellion raging so as to justify martial law and (2) pretending to maintain normalcy so as not to scare away investors and tourists. See: <http://tinyurl.com/yb4lt6z6>

If the President claims to have quelled the rebellion and restored normalcy, he would have no more legal excuse for martial law. But for him to continue battling an "ISIS-inspired" insurrection would impact adversely on the nation's political and economic stability - and global image.

In the final analysis - or "at the end of the day," as our favorite TV analyst would quip - this national debate *kuno* to which many of us have been baited to join is largely irrelevant to Mr. Duterte. He'll just go ahead and do what he wants to do.

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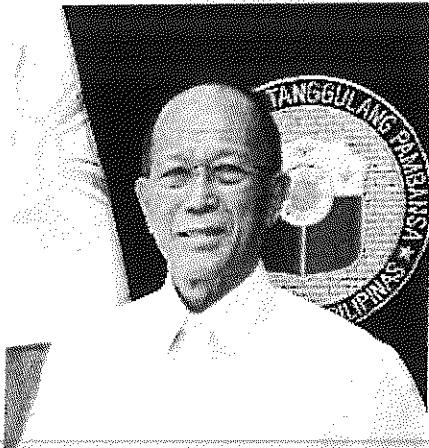
Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

## ONLINE NEWS 18 JULY 2017

[www.dwdd.cpm.ph](http://www.dwdd.cpm.ph)

# Lorenzana submits ML recommendation to Malacañang

Posted by [Lui Claudio](#)



Sec. Delfin Lorenzana

The Department of National Defense has submitted to the Office of the President its recommendation on July 13 whether or not to extend Martial Law in Marawi and the whole of Mindanao.

This was confirmed by Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana today, 16 July 2017, six days ahead of the 60-day Martial Law period per Proclamation No. 216, which ends on 22 July 2017.

"We have submitted our position on Martial Law in Mindanao to the President," the Defense Chief said.

Secretary Lorenzana, however, did not give additional details so as not to pre-empt the President.

"We will have to wait for the President's final decision on the matter. What I submitted to him was my recommendation from the security sector as Administrator of Martial Law in Mindanao after consulting with the CSAFP Gen Año. The President has a lot more to consider," he said, including the inputs from the DILG/PNP, other government agencies and the people of Mindanao. "I fully trust the President's judgment on this whether he considers my recommendations or not," Secretary Lorenzana added.

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

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

Secretary Lorenzana, who was also designated as Chairperson of Task Force Bangon Marawi to rebuild and rehabilitate Marawi, acknowledges that the work ahead after the fighting is even more daunting considering the extent of damage wrought into the city.

"While we have already begun laying the foundation for the reconstruction, recovery, and rehabilitation of Marawi City through community engagement, coordination with various agencies and making post disaster assessments, we earnestly look forward to the end of fighting because we want our Maranao brothers and sisters who have left their homes to go back, reconstitute their interrupted lives and partner with us on how we can best rebuild Marawi into a better and more beautiful city," Secretary Lorenzana said.

"There is still a lot of work to do but I am very confident that together, as one nation, we can all help Marawi rise up from the ashes of conflict and be a better place," Secretary Lorenzana added

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[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## House leaders to support martial law extension

Two deputy speakers on Monday said members of the House of Representatives would most likely throw their support behind President Rodrigo Duterte should he request for an extension of martial law in Mindanao.

In a news conference, Deputy Speaker Fredenil Castro said Congress may support the martial law extension, especially if its purpose to crush the threats of rising terrorism and restoring peace and order in the region has not been achieved.

"I can only surmise that lawmakers are out there to support the President's request because if they supported the proclamation of martial law and the basis for the proclamation is still there, including the fact that the purpose of declaring martial law has not yet been accomplished, I do not see of any reason why the Senate and the House of Representatives would withhold its support for an extension requested by the President," Castro said.

For her part, Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia would defer to the wisdom of President Duterte, who has access to all the information on the situation in the Southern Philippines.

"Kung kailangan i-extend and for how long, we leave that to the wisdom of the President and as to the area, the territories that need to be included, we leave that to the wisdom of the president," Garcia said.

"The House of Representatives has shown its full support and full confidence in the wisdom of the leadership of our commander-in-chief. And, so that whatever the president may deem necessary for the good of the country in the extension of martial law then the House of Representatives will stand fully in support of his decision," she added.

On May 23, President Duterte declared the entire Mindanao island under the state of martial law following clashes between government troops and members of the Maute group in Marawi City.

Under the 1987 Constitution, the President may only declare martial law in cases of invasion or rebellion when the public safety requires it. The effectivity of the declaration can only last for 60 days, and its extension requires the concurrence of Congress. (Filane Mikee Cervantes/PNA)

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

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## Lorenzana fully trusts President Duterte decision on ML in Mindanao

Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he fully trusts whatever decision President President Rodrigo Duterte will make on the matter of extending the implementation of martial law in Marawi and the rest of Mindanao.

"I fully trust the President's judgment on this whether he considers my recommendations or not," the defense chief said in a statement Sunday night.

Lorenzana said they have already forwarded their recommendations to Duterte last July 13.

This is six days ahead of the 60-day Martial Law period Proclamation No. 216, which ends on Saturday.

Martial Law in Marawi and the rest of Mindanao was declared nighttime of May 23 following the attacks of Maute Group terrorists in the locality.

"We have submitted our position on Martial Law in Mindanao to the President," the defense chief said.

Lorenzana, however, did not give additional details so as not to pre-empt the President.

"We will have to wait for the President's final decision on the matter. What I submitted to him was my recommendation from the security sector as Administrator of Martial Law in Mindanao after consulting with the CSAFP (Chief-of-Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines) Gen. (Eduardo) Año. The President has a lot more to consider," he said,

These includes inputs from the Department of Interior and Local Government and Philippine National Police, other government agencies and the people of Mindanao.

Lorenzana, who is also designated as chairperson of Task Force "Bangon Marawi" to rebuild and rehabilitate Marawi, acknowledges that the work ahead after the fighting is even more daunting considering the extent of damage wrought into the city.

"While we have already begun laying the foundation for the reconstruction, recovery, and rehabilitation of Marawi City through community engagement, coordination with various agencies and making post disaster assessments, we earnestly look forward to the end of fighting because we want our Maranao brothers and sisters who have left their homes to go back, reconstitute their interrupted lives and partner with us on how we can best rebuild Marawi into a better and more beautiful city," he added.

"There is still a lot of work to do but I am very confident that together, as one nation, we can all help Marawi rise up from the ashes of conflict and be a better place," the DND chief pointed out. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

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## Wounded troops in Marawi City tiff now at 852

The number of troops wounded in the ongoing battle to clear Marawi City of the remaining Maute Group terrorists is now placed at 852, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said Monday.

This was offset by the number of lawless elements killed which is now placed at 411, he added.

Arevalo said that these figures are as of 7 p.m. Sunday.

Troopers killed in action were placed at 97 along with 45 civilians.

Arevalo said that number of recovered firearms is placed at 511 while civilians rescued from the clutches of the terrorists is pegged at 1,723.

A soldier is also reported missing-in-action but this is still being confirmed.

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)

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## DND chief dares ML 'victims' in Mindanao: Show up, file raps

While skeptical of reports claiming human rights abuses being perpetuated by security troops deployed for martial law duty in Mindanao, Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has urged alleged victims to surface and file complaints so that they can be given legal redress.

To this, I strongly encourage these groups and alleged victims of excesses by government security forces to come forward, present your evidence, and file charges in the proper courts. Huwag po kayong matakot. If indeed some of our soldiers are found guilty of committing excesses under martial law, then we will not hesitate to administer the appropriate sanctions against these individuals, while ensuring that due process is followed," he said in a statement Monday.

In the same vein, the DND chief stressed that they will never condone such violations, adding that such acts damage the reputation of the military and defense establishments.

"We will never allow anyone within the defense and security establishments to tarnish the good image and reputation that we have painstakingly built over the years. That is why we have decided in the past that only our best men and women should be allowed to operate in critical areas such as Marawi City and elsewhere in Mindanao, and that our Muslim brothers and sisters should not be singled out in our operations since terrorism goes beyond any religion or creed," he added.

Martial law in Mindanao was declared after Maute Group terrorists conducted a series of unprovoked attacks against civilian and military targets in Marawi City after a botched attempt to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader and ISIS emir in Southeast Asia, Isnilon Hapilon, last May 23.

"We have made it clear from the very start that all our operations under martial law will be based on the rule of law and respect for human rights of all, regardless of religion, ethnicity or ideology. That is why we have also opposed calls for an ID system for Muslims only since this is discriminatory. We believe that if an ID system is adopted, it should be national in scope, and should apply to every citizen of the republic," Lorenzana pointed out.

And in line with efforts to prevent abuses, the DND chief said the military has deployed human rights officers and lawyers on the ground to help soldiers in performing their expanded duties and responsibilities under martial law.

"My trust and confidence in the professionalism and integrity of the Armed Forces, however, remains strong. Naniniwala akong gagawin ng ating kasundaluhan kung ano ang nararapat alinsunod sa batas at hindi nila kailanman tataikuran ang kanilang sinumpaang tungkulin - ang ipagtanggol ang bansa at sambayanang Pilipino, kahit kapalit ang sarili nilang buhay," Lorenzana pointed out. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)