

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



**TEAM ARMY**

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**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**19 July 2017**

**Wednesday**

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

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**19 JULY 2017**

<b>PAGE NR.</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>WRITER</b>	<b>NEWSPAPER</b>
1	Weather	-	Phil Star p. 18
<b>HEADLINE NEWS</b>			
2-3	Digong Martial law until Dec. 31	Philip Tubeza	PDI p.1
4-6	Martial Law extension backed	Genalyn Kabiling	Mla Bulletin p.1
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
7	CBCP gives P10 M for Marawi evacuees	Rudy Santos	Phil Star p. 18
8	Photo: Hardin ng Lunas	Lino Santos	Mla Standard p.A6
9	Army to recruit 1,000 indigenous folk	Lino de la Cruz	Phil Star p.18
10	NPA rebels raid vice mayor's house	Ben Serrano	Phil Star p.18
11	Vice Mayor abducted, them realeased by suspected NPAs	M.Crismundo	MlaBulletin p.17
12	1 Batalyon sundalo idedeploy sa SONA	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p.12
13	Army kulong sa illegal na baril, 'pekeng' ID	Bella Gamotea	Balita p.4
14	CAFGU member binistay sa bahay	M.Crismundo	Balita p.5
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
15	President turn over to the military 3,000 pistol for use in fight against terrorist	Philip Tubeza	PDI p.1
16	Turkish Group not Terrorist	Philip Tubeza	PDI p.A7
17	AFP clear turk group of terror tag	FSSolmerin	MlaStandard p.1
18	Rody to soldiers: Die rather than surrender	C.Mendez	PhilStar p.6
19	Stay away from Mindanao US state dep' warns Americans	Marlon Ramos	PDI p.A5
20	Airstrikes to continue in Marawi – military	Roel Pareño	PhilStar p.8
21	Mindanaoans Tell Duterte: Don't't extend Martial Law	Friston Lim	PDI p.A6
22-23	US providing spy planes to Phil troops	Jaime Laude	Phil Star p.1
24	AFP vehicle hits van: 6 dead, 10 hurt	Jaime Laude	Phil Star p.18
25	7 die, 8 hurt after Simba collides with passenger van	Aaron Recuenco	Mla Bulletin p.1
26	Military truck vs van, 6 patay	Jeff Gallos	Remate p.3
27-28	AFP to make final push as noose tightens on militant	Roy Mabasa	MlaBulletin p.18
29	IS Mosul veterans fighting in Marawi	Rey Requejo	MlaStandard p.29
30	RP seeks Singapore's cooperation in fighting terrorism	Mario Mallari	DTribune p.1

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

31	SC order Maute trials transfer to Taguig	Julius Leonen	DTribune p.1
32-33	Opposite nixes Duterte 's plea to extend ML until December	Ted Tuvera	DTribune p.1
34	Fire razes houses in Marawi 'cleared areas'	Moh Saaduddin	MlaTimes p.A7
35	Military Prepares for final assault	PNA	Tempo p.2
36	Tuloy tuloy ang tagumpay sa marawi –AFP Chief	Beth Camia	Balita p.2
37	Marawi malapit nang mabawi –AFP	Noel Abuel	Abante p.20
38	60 Miyembro pa ng Maute nakikipagbarkaban sa marawi	--	P.Tonight p.2
<b>EDITORIAL</b>			
39	Roll out Marawi rehab fund	Mario Fetalino	PTonight p.7
40	Wildlife trafficking	--	PTonight p.4
41	Extending martial law	A Del Rosario	Mla Standard p.A5
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			
42	Urban gardening at army headquarters	Avito C. Dalan	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
43	Duterte wants martial law extended till end-2017	PNA	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
44	Area controlled by Maute terrorists now shrinking - AFP chief	PFN/PNA	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
45	US offers 2 spy planes in PH fight vs terrorists	--	<a href="http://www.retiredanayst">www.retiredanayst</a>
46	7 killed in collision between military vehicle, van in Misamis	--	<a href="http://www.retiredanayst">www.retiredanayst</a>
47-48	Duterte turns over 3,000 pistols to AFP	Cielito M. Reganit	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
49	Enemy snipers biggest threat in Marawi City fighting	PFN/PNA	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>

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19 July 2017

# STATE

Page: 18

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**DZRH NEWS**  
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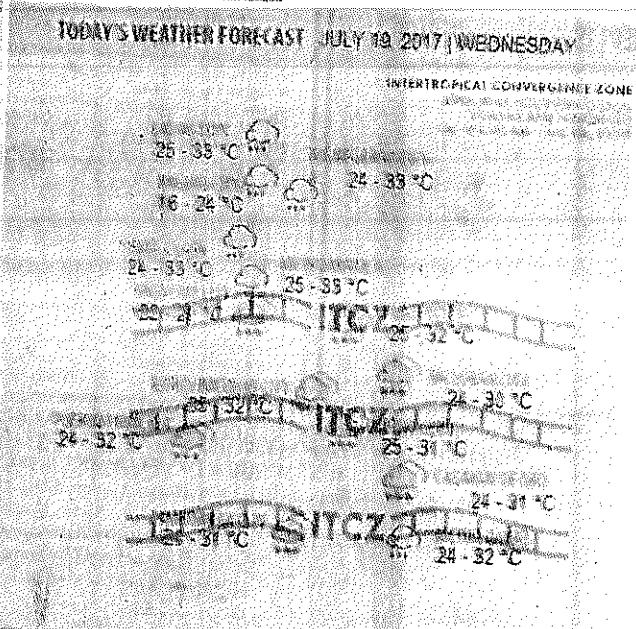
**PILIPINAS HD**  
WEEKDAYS  
6AM - 6:30 PM & 9PM  
WEEKENDS  
6AM

**TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL**

**AR21**  
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SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:36 AM	6:29 PM	1:08 AM	7:45 PM
LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUL 20			JUL 21			JUL 22			EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUL 20			JUL 21			JUL 22						
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METRO MANILA	25°C 32°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	24°C 31°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 33°C	TUGUEGARAO	24°C 32°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 34°C	LAOAG	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	BAGUO	16°C 25°C	16°C 25°C	16°C 25°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26°C 33°C	26°C 33°C	26°C 33°C	
SBMA/ CLARK	25°C 32°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 34°C	METRO CEBU	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	METRO DAVAO	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	26°C 33°C	LEGAZPI	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	TACLOBAN	25°C 31°C	24°C 31°C	24°C 32°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24°C 31°C	24°C 31°C	24°C 32°C
TAGAYTAY	22°C 29°C	21°C 30°C	21°C 30°C	ZAMBOANGA	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C																



19 July 2017

INQUIRER

Page: 1

# DIGONG: MARTIAL LAW UNTIL DEC. 31

**President says the main aim of the extension of emergency rule in Mindanao is to allow the military to clear Marawi of terrorists and focus on the rebuilding of the city.**

**By Philip C. Tubeza**  
@pctubezaINQ

President Duterte has asked Congress to extend his martial law proclamation and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao until Dec. 31, or for more than five months.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said on Tuesday that Mr. Duterte had sent a seven-page letter to the Senate and the House of Representatives seeking an extension because the rebellion in Mindanao could not be quelled by July 22, the day his proclamation, limited to 60 days under the Constitution, expires.

"The primary objective of the possible extension is to allow our forces to continue with their operations unhampered by deadlines and focus more on the liberation of Marawi and its rehabilitation and

rebuilding," Abella said.

Mr. Duterte declared martial law on May 23 after Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists overran Marawi City.

Congress is to hold a special ses-

sion on Saturday to consider Mr. Duterte's request.

Quoting the President's letter, Abella said Mr. Duterte made a "thorough personal assessment of the current situation in Marawi City and

other parts of Mindanao" and took into account the recommendations of Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, and Philippine National Police Director General Ronald dela Rosa.

2

## FROM A1

given their recommendations the President “made his own proposal.”

“Again and again, he has said that there’s a looming situation in Mindanao which needs to be totally and completely addressed,” he said.

“Whatever info he has is all related [to] ensuring public safety,” he said.

Abella said the President’s letter dealt with a threat that

was “not just locally confined ... it has to do with a network of forces that are all over Mindanao.”

“They’re addressing it Mindanao-wide. It’s a Mindanao-wide situation,” Abella said.

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, in a radio interview, dismissed suggestions that a martial law extension was limited to 60 days.

“If you read the provision in the Constitution, nothing is written that you need this or that, what is clear ... is Congress may extend the declaration of

martial law. So that’s open,” he said. “If no limit is provided ... [then] it depends on Congress until when they want to extend martial law.”

### Rebels restricted

Año said on Tuesday that there were still 800 Maute armed supporters scattered across Mindanao, including 24 foreign terrorists who slipped into the country through its southern back door before the crisis in Marawi.

“They’re spread out in different areas in Mindanao but

we have enough forces to confront them. This is also what’s good with martial law. We restrict and limit [the movement] of these armed groups,” Año told reporters.

“If there was no martial law, they could have easily reinforced [Marawi]. We were able to impose curfews and checkpoints in selected areas. It restricted the movements of armed groups,” he added.

“One thing is for sure, because of the prevailing situation in Mindanao, particularly in Marawi, we recommended

an extension,” Año said.

He, however, said that the military could recommend martial law’s “early termination” once the security situation in Mindanao “normalizes.”

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia dismissed fears that a prolonged martial law would disrupt economic activity in Mindanao. “In fact, martial law is also an environment that will make people safe,” he told reporters in Cagayan de Oro City.

—WITH REPORTS FROM DJ YAP AND BEN O. DEVERA INQ

19 July 2017

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

# Martial law extension backed

## Duterte admits rebellion in Mindanao can't be quelled by July 22

By **CHARISSA M. LUCI ATIENZA, ELLSON A. QUISMORIO, and GENALYN D. KABILING**

**H**ouse leaders on Tuesday rallied behind President Duterte's call to Congress to extend martial law in Mind-

anao until December 31, 2017.

Faced with the lingering threat of rebellion in Mindanao, President Duterte has sought the extension of martial law

in the troubled region until the end of the year. He admitted that the government is unable to put an end to the threat posed by terror groups by July 22.

Proclamation No. 216, which declared a state of martial law and suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the whole of Mindanao for 60 days, will expire on Saturday.

"I have come to the conclusion that

the existing rebellion in Mindanao, which has prompted me to issue Proclamation No. 216 on 23 May 2017 will not be quelled completely by 22 July 2017. The last day of the 60-day period provided under Section 18 Article ►6

## Martial law extension...

◀1

VII of the 1987 Constitution,” Duterte said in the letter.

“For this reason and because public safety requires it, I call upon the Congress to extend until 31st of December 2017 or for such a period of time as the Congress may determine, the proclamation of the martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the whole of Mindanao,” he said.

House Majority Leader Rudy Fariñas bared Monday evening Duterte’s request.

### Special session

As such, senators and congressmen will hold a special joint session on Saturday, two days before the official start of the second regular session of the 17th Congress.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III expressed optimism that Congress would approve President Duterte’s request. He said he and his colleagues would be guided by the President’s formal request, not by verbal reports.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Johnny Pimentel (2nd District), chairman of the Committee on Good Governance and Public Accountability, dubbed the extension of military rule as the solution to the problem in Marawi.

“We will support the request of President Duterte regarding the extension of martial law. We believe this is the solution to the Marawi crisis,” Pimentel said in a text message.

Supermajority solons Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (2nd District) and Davao City Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles (1st District) both noted that their fellow Mindanaoan Duterte has access to vital information regarding the crisis in Marawi City which in the first place led to the martial law declaration.

“No less than the President would know the real score on the ground. So if the President sees it fit to extend [martial law], I will support it,” said Barbers, chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Committee, in a text message.

Nograles, chairman of the Appropriations panel, said in a statement. “We are 100 percent behind the president in any decision concerning the present situation in Mindanao.”

“As commander-in-chief, the President has in his possession sensitive intel and the best information on the continuing threats of terrorism in the region,” he said.

Deputy Speaker and Batangas Rep. Raneo Abu and Citizens Battle against Corruption (CIBAC) party-list Rep. Sherwin Tugna, a lawyer, both said there is nothing illegal with the Chief Executive’s proposed five-month extension on martial law.

“I support President Duterte’s call to Congress for a special session on Saturday, July 22. It is in accordance with the Constitution. I fully believe that he considered all the available information and intelligence reports before coming up with such a decision,” Abu said.

“President Duterte’s action is compliant with the Constitution. I personally believe that Marawi needs the extension of martial law so that the military and police can weed out the Maute, ISIS and their collaborating sympathizers and terrorists,” said Tugna, chairman of the House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms.

“If the situation so warrants, I will support it. I think the problem on terrorism is so complex and so grave that (it) warrants a comprehensive and decisive campaign,” said Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, chairman of the House Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries.

Camarines Sur Rep. LRay Villafuerte (2nd District), in a separate text message, said he’ll also approve of a martial law extension in the southern islands if armed forces and police officials attest to its necessity.

5



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“If the PNP/ Armed Forces show there are valid justifications and necessity for the extension of martial law, I am in favor of it together with the majority of Filipinos who have given [Duterte] a higher approval and trust ratings after his declaration of martial law in Mindanao,” he said.

The President’s decision on the longer martial rule was reached after his “thorough personal assessment” of the situation in Marawi City and other parts of Mindanao as well as consideration of the recommendation given by top defense, military, and police officials.

#### Unhampered operations

By extending the martial rule in Mindanao, Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said troops could continue with their operations “unhampered with deadlines.” It would also allow government forces to focus more on the liberation of Marawi City and its eventual rebuilding plans, according to Abella.

“It will have to deal with the local terrorist groups and anything that threatens public safety in Mindanao,” he said about the proposed martial law extension.

Asked if the security threat was clear and present, Abella said. “Enough to be able to declare that it should be extended.”

“The President has been prescient in seeing this and so it’s something that while it can be of concern, we can also be confident in the fact that he’s taking – he’s taking a proactive action regarding the matter,” he said.

“He’s not being reactive. He’s actually being proactive regarding the declaration of martial law all over Mindanao,” he added.

While most lawmakers support martial extension, Sen. Antonio F. Trillanes IV, a member of the Senate minority bloc, said “is not justified.”

“The AFP itself said the (terrorist) Mautes are down to 60. So, in other words, the people of Mindanao would be inconvenienced by martial law just to neutralize the 60 Mautes who are cornered in Marawi?” he asked.

“That’s just a whimsical misuse of power. Then again, I have already forewarned the public of Duterte’s authoritarian tendencies and this is another proof of it,” he added.

#### Debate sought

The Makabayan bloc in the House of Representatives called for a thorough debate on President Duterte’s request for martial law extension, stressing it should not be railroaded.

“Bagamat kami ay bahagi ng Supermajority coalition, panawagan natin sa House leadership... walang sagasaan (Despite our being part of the Supermajority coalition, our appeal to the House leadership is... no railroading),” Anakpawis party-list Rep. Ariel Casilao said in a press conference.

Casilao specifically directed his appeal to House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and Fariñas.

“Allow each member of the two Houses to deliberate, to state whether or not in favor or against [the extension of martial law] as long as it is within the bounds of the subject matter,” he said.

Casilao insisted that a “comprehensive and substantive deliberation on the merits and demerits of whether or not to extend the implementation of martial law” must take place.

Other Makabayan solons Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Carlos Zarate and ACT Teachers party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio also underscored the propriety of having a thorough debate among the lawmakers this Saturday.

“Kung simpleng pagpapalit ng pangalan ng eskwelahan or daan ay pinagdedebatihan, lalo na itong extension ng martial law (If the simple name change of a school or highway entails debate, what more the extension of martial law),” he pointed out.

Zarate said that Congress “must exercise its role to review the reasons for the extension of military rule.”

For his part, Tinio said: “Kapag pumasa ito agad, railroaded yun. Hindi pwedeng ceremonial lang yung sa Sabado (If this is passed immediately then it was railroaded. The Saturday event should not be just merely ceremonial.” (With a report from Mario B. Casayuran)

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19 July 2017



Page: 18

## CBCP gives P10 M for Marawi evacuees



Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda and Tarlac Heritage Foundation chairperson Issa Suntay distribute vegetables harvested from a 1,500-square-meter lot at Fort Bonifacio yesterday.

RUDY SANTOS

The social arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) is providing P10 million in humanitarian assistance to some 3,000 families who fled their homes amid the crisis in Marawi City.

The CBCP-National Secretariat for Social Action or Caritas Manila said beneficiaries would receive food, household items as well as sleeping and hygiene kits. NASSA will also conduct psychosocial activities, hygiene promotion awareness and training on emergency preparedness.

"We are targeting home-based evacuees or those staying in the houses of their relatives," said Edu Gariguez, NASSA executive secretary.

The Office of Civil Defense said 97,883 families or 438,685 individuals displaced in the fighting between government troops and Maute militants are home-based or staying with their relatives across the country. A total of 102,860 families or 465,674 persons fled Marawi.

### Vegetable garden project

Meanwhile, the Tarlac Heritage Foundation in cooperation with the Philippine Army is bringing its vegetable garden project to Marawi.

"The goal here is to turn idle lands to more productive lands and teach the latest gardening skills," Lt. Col Ray Tiongson, Army public affairs chief, told The STAR yesterday.

Tiongson said Hardin ng Lunas would start in Marawi as soon as the threat of Maute militants is quelled.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda said they are identifying the areas where vegetable seeds can be planted.

Hardin ng Lunas, which also promotes the propagation of scientifically approved medicinal plants and organic vegetables, was launched at Camp O'Donnell in Tarlac in 2012.

Yesterday, workers harvested vegetables planted on a 1,500-square-meter lot at Fort Bonifacio. – Evelyn Macairan, Michael Punongbayan, Rudy Santos

7

19 July 2017

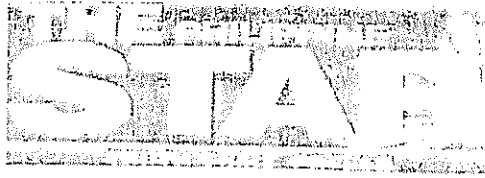
**Manila Standard**

Page. 110



**HARDIN NG LUNAS.** Tarlac Heritage Foundation chairman Isa Suntay (left), Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda (center), Army commanding general, and Brig. Gen. Rodel Alarcon (right), AFP commander headquarters and Headquarters Support Group, lead troops in a harvest festival at the Army headquarters in Taguig City. **Lino Santos**

19 July 2017



Page: 18

### **Army to recruit 1,000 indigenous folk**

ILIGAN CITY – The Army's 1st Infantry Division (ID) also known as the Tabak Division is recruiting 1,000 new soldiers, 350 of them from indigenous communities.

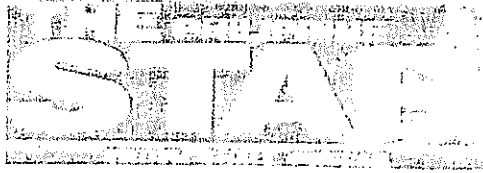
Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, 1st ID spokesman, said interested

parties should submit their applications at the 1st ID camp in Upper Pulacan, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur or at the 102nd Infantry Brigade in Barangay Sanito, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Members of tribal communities should bring a certification from the National Commission on Indigenous People.

– Lino de la Cruz

10 July 2017



Page: 18

### **NPA rebels raid vice mayor's house**

SURIGAO CITY – Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels stormed the house of Vice Mayor Emmanuel Suarez of Cortes town in Surigao del Sur yesterday and took several firearms.

At least 30 rebels said to be members of the Northeastern Mindanao regional committee arrived at Suarez's house in Barangay Mabahid at around 6:45 a.m. and held him and his granddaughter at gunpoint.

"Suarez and his granddaughter were not harmed. Only the firearms were seized," said Senior Inspector Clark Abiya, Cortes police chief.

Quoting Suarez, Abiya said the NPA rebels aired their gripes about the fishing ban in municipal waters and inaction on illegal logging.

– Ben Serrano

19

July 2017

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 17

## Vice mayor abducted, then released by suspected NPAs

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

**TANDAG CITY** — Three men, armed with hand guns and believed to be members of New People's Army (NPA) abducted Cortes town Vice Mayor Emmanuel Suarez Tuesday morning in Sitio Lubcon, Barangay Mabahin, Cortes town, Surigao del Sur.

However, Lt. Col. Randolph I. Rojas, commanding officer of the Army's 36th Infantry Battalion (36th IB) also confirmed that Suarez was released just an hour later.

The incident happened at 7 a.m., when Suarez and his family were about to have breakfast. Three men, brandishing high-powered firearms, entered their house and took the vice mayor with them.

"Dinala sya more than 500 meters away from his house then was returned to his house by the abductors unharmed," Rojas said.

The Cortes Municipal Police Station (MPS) is still determining the motive of the incident and identity of the perpetrators.

"We cannot speculate on the motive, and we cannot also, say at this time, if the incident was part of the extortion activity forcibly imposed by the NPAs," Rojas said.

"However, per instruction of Col. Franco Nemesio Gacal, commanding officer of the 402nd Infantry (Stingers) Brigade, we are in hot pursuit operations against the abductors of Vice Mayor Suarez," the 36th IB commander added.

Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix, regional director of Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 also ordered the commanders of the provincial mobile force and Surigao del Sur police provincial office to assist the 402nd Brigade in the pursuit operation against the NPAs in Cortes town.

On Sunday the NPAs also released three abducted members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit Active Auxiliary (CAA) after a week in captivity in the hinterland areas in Bitaugan, San Miguel town, Surigao del Sur province.

19 July 2017



Pahina. 2

## 1 batalyong sundalo idedeploy sa SONA

Isang batalyon o 500 sundalo ang idedeploy sa ika-2 State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Duterte sa darating na Hulyo 24

Sinabi ni Col. Vic Tomas, deputy commander ng Joint Task Force-National Capital Region, na bukod dito ay naka-standby ang mahigit pang isang batalyon ng AFP na binubuo ng Civil Disturbance Management (CDM) team, K9 units, Explosive and Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams.

Ayon kay Tomas, ang karagdagang tropa ng militar na bahagi ng augmentation forces ay handa rin nilang idedeploy sakaling kailanganin.

Samantala mahigpit namang babantayan ng security forces ang walong lugar na pagdarausan at daragsain ng mga rallyista kabilang ang Jockey Building sa kahabaan ng Commonwealth Avenue, Ever Gotesco, Sandiganbayan, IBP road sa panulukan ng Sinagtala Street, San Mateo road, North Gate ng Batasan Complex, Everlasting Street at Katuparan Street.

Naka-standby din ang Bureau of Fire Protection rescue teams, Special Weapons and Tactics, Civil Disturbance Management Units at Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

Ipatutupad din ang "no-fly zone" sa loob ng 6 kilometer radius sa venue ng SONA at bawal rin ang mga drones sa bahagi ng Batasan.

Ayon kay National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Chief P/Director Oscar Albayalde, mahigpit ding ipagbabawal ang paglipad ng mga drones o Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAVs).

Makakalapit naman ang mga rallyista sa layong 15 hanggang 20 metro sa Batasan Complex, hindi maglalagay ng mga barb wires at container yans dahil makapagpatindi lamang ito sa daloy ng trapiko sa lugar.

Nilinaw naman ni Albayalde na hindi na ipapuputol ang signal sa area o maglalagay ng signal jammer.

(by Carlos)

19 July 2017



Page. 4

## Army kulong sa ilegal na baril, 'pekeng' ID

Sa selda ang bagsak ng isang miyembro ng Philippine Army (PA) makaraang makumpiskahan ng hindi lisensiyadong baril at mga bala sa Makati City, kahapon ng madaling araw.

Nakapiit ngayon sa Makati City Police si 2nd Lt. Sonney Boy Paran y Monogay (reserve), 38, VIP security, ng No. 633 Biñan, Laguna.

Sa ulat ng Southern Police District (SPD), naganap ang insidente sa Barangay Southside, Makati City, dakong 1:00 ng madaling araw.

Sinuta ng awtoridad si Paran at narekober sa kanya ang hinihinalang

pekeng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) identification (ID) card, hindi lisensiyadong caliber .45 baril na kargado ng 12 bala, dalawang magazine, isang pellet gun, assorted camouflage uniform at combat shoes.

Bago idiniretso sa Criminal Investigation Division ng Makati City Police, dinala muna si Paran sa Ospital ng Makati at isinailalim sa medical examination.

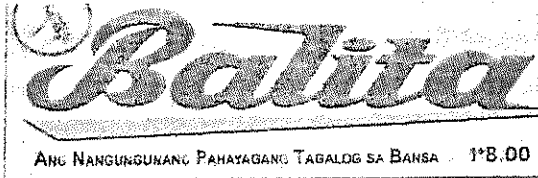
Kasong paglabag sa RA 10591 o illegal possession of firearm and ammunition ang isinampa laban kay Paran.

**Bella Gamotea**

13



19 July 2017



Page. 5

### CAFGU member binistay sa bahay

BUTUAN CITY – Isang umano'y dating miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA), na sumuko sa pamahalaan at operatiba na ngayon ng Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU), ang niratrat sa harap ng kanyang nasindak na pamilya sa Purok 4, Sitio Iyao sa Barangay Anticala, Butuan City.

Ayon sa paunang report ng Ampayon Police, nagtamo ng siyam na tama ng bala ng hinihinalang .45 caliber pistol sa iba't ibang bahagi ng katawan si Saturnino D. Lumacang, 59, miyembro ng CAFGU.

Ayon sa paunang imbestigasyon ng Barangay Ampayon Police, nanonood ng telebisyon si Lumacang kasama ang ilang kaanak nang tatlong hindi nakilalang armado ang purnasok sa kanyang bahay bandang 7:00 ng gabi nitong Linggo at pinagbabani siya.

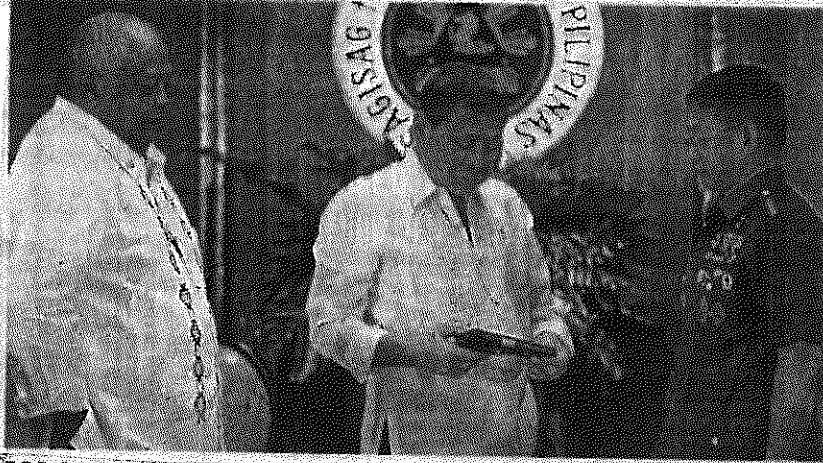
**Mike U. Crismundo**

19 July 2017

# INQUIRER

Page: 1

## PRESIDENT TURNS OVER TO THE MILITARY 3,000 PISTOLS FOR USE IN FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISTS



**FOR SOLDIERS** President Duterte examines an M1911 pistol, 3,000 pieces of which he handed over to the military. —JOAN BONDOC

**By Philip C. Tubeza**  
@pctubezaINQ

Don't get captured alive.

President Duterte gave this advice to soldiers on Tuesday as he turned over 3,000 .45 cal.

M1911 pistols to the military.

"I will give you all guns with two magazines in reserve and one deployed. One of those magazines is for you. The other two are for the enemy," Mr. Duterte said during a ceremony in Malacañang.

"Don't surrender while still alive. If you're cornered, all you have to do is to raise your right hand with a [dirty finger] sign and put the gun in your mouth," he said, drawing laughter from the soldiers present.

The 3,000 pistols were acquired by the Department of Budget and Management Procurement Service under a negotiated procurement deal with Arm Scor Global Defense.

Mr. Duterte pledged to provide pistols to all soldiers during his term.

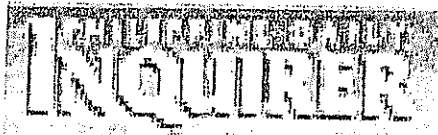
"I do not mind losing the gun to the enemy but do not give it to them alive. Give it to them when you're already dead, especially there in Jolo and Zam-

boanga area," he said.

"Do not let them cut off your head," he added. "And your family will see that. That is a very horrifying or traumatic—that is why the third magazine... that is for you." INQ

15

1A July 2017



Page: A7

**AFP REPORT**

## **TURKISH GROUP NOT TERRORISTS**

The military does not consider the Fetullah Gulen movement as a terrorist group, the head of the Armed Forces of the Philippines said yesterday.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año told reporters in Malacanang that the Turkish group's activities in the Philippines were "helping the community."

"The Fetullah Gulen movement we do not consider that as a terrorist group. Right now, their activities here are helping the community," the military chief said.

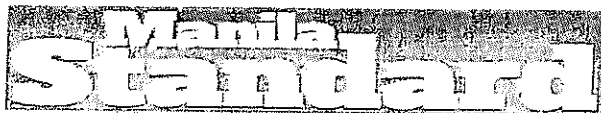
Turkish Ambassador Esra Cankorur earlier warned against the activities of Turkish terrorists "particularly the Fetullah Gulen Movement" in the Philippines. She said the group has been in the Philippines since the late 1990s.

"Probably, the ambassador of Turkey has her own basis why she said that," Año said. —PHILIP C. TUBEZA INQ

10

1A

July 2017



Page. 1

## AFP clears Turk group of terror tag

ARMED Forces Chief Eduardo Año said Tuesday they were not considering the Fetullah Gullen movement as a terrorist group, contrary to the claims made by the Turkish Ambassador to Manila.

He made the statement even as the Turkish nationals in the Philippines who had been accused by their government of being terrorists on Tuesday insisted they were not.

Still, Malacañang said it will

### AFP...

*From A1*

probe Turkish Ambassador Esra Cankorur's revelations against them.

"Definitely, we're not terrorists," Bora Aslan, president of the Integrative Center for Alternative Development or ICAD Foundation, told reporters at the foundation's Fountain International School beside the Flying V Arena in Greenhills, San Juan City.

ICAD and its sister group, the Pacific Dialogue Foundation led by Cihangir Arslan as president, together with their Filipino employees and partners have denied the terror tag placed against them by the Turkish government.

In a chance interview at the Palace, Año said they had not monitored anything unusual about the group accused by Ambassador Esra Cankorur to have branched out to the Philippines conducting terror activities.

"The Fetullah Gullen movement, we do not consider them as a terrorist group. Right now their activities here are helping the community," Año said.

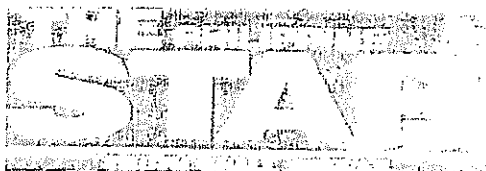
But he acknowledged that Cankorur might have other information that the military was not privy to.

"Maybe the Turkish Ambassador has a basis on why she said that," Año said, but added they would rather not get entangled with Turkey's internal matters.

"They had an attempted coup [before] and they believe this coup was staged or inspired by this Fetullah Gullen movement, but that is an internal affair of Turkey. We do not want to get entangled with that."

Cankorur said the Fetullah Gullen Movement had affiliates in 50 countries including the Philippines **John Paolo Bencito and Florante S. Solmerin**

19 July 2017



Page: 4

# Rody to soldiers: Die rather than surrender

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte ordered soldiers to be ready to die

fighting enemies of the state rather than surrender as he led the turnover of 3,000 45-caliber pistols to the Armed Forces

of the Philippines (AFP) at Malacañang yesterday.

*"Ang ayaw ko doon, patayin nila yung tao walang kalaban-laban. Sabi ko hindi puwede ito,"*

Duterte said, stressing he does not want soldiers to be killed without a fight, and neither should they surrender but die holding their guns. *"Wag kayo mag surrender ng buhay, makuha man yang baril niyo, patay na kayo (Don't surrender, if they*

*get your gun, you're dead)"*

Each soldier will get a 45-caliber pistol with two extra magazines, the President said.

Duterte lamented how soldiers were sidelined by a past order that banned members of the military from carrying their firearms outside their camps.

*"I do not mind losing the gun to the enemy. But do not give it to them alive, especially in Jolo and Zamboanga area*

*Don't let the enemies behead you," he said.*

The firearms were acquired by the Department of Budget and Management under a negotiated procurement deal with ARMSCOR Global Defence Inc.

Interviewed on the sidelines of the turnover ceremony, Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the money used for the emergency procurement was sourced from the AFP's P25-

billion modernization fund.

Diokno said the procurement paved the way for a simplified bidding to boost the firepower of the military, especially those fighting the terrorist Maute group in Marawi City.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año welcomed the distribution of the firearms, which he described as the "first horizon" of the military's modernization project.

19 July 2017



Page: 15

## Stay away from Mindanao, US state dep't warns Americans

By Marlon Ramos  
@MRamosINQ

The US state department on Tuesday cautioned its citizens against traveling to southern Philippines in the wake of continuing skirmishes between government forces and the Is-

lamic State-linked Maute terror group in Marawi City.

In a travel advisory posted on the website of the US Embassy in Manila, Washington told Americans to shun "all nonessential travel to the city of Marawi, Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago including the southern Sulu Sea."

The warning also cited President Duterte's martial law declaration in the entire Mindanao after terrorists stormed Marawi on May 23 and other security-related incidents that may place them in danger.

"There have been no reports of US citizens in Mindanao tar-

geted specifically for their nationality. However, general threats to US citizens and other foreigners throughout Mindanao remain a concern," warned the US state department.

"Recent terrorist threats, kidnappings and bombings have occurred throughout the Philip-

pines. [The] US Embassy [in] Manila received credible information that terrorists planned to conduct kidnappings in Palawan, Cebu and Bohol provinces in 2017," it said.

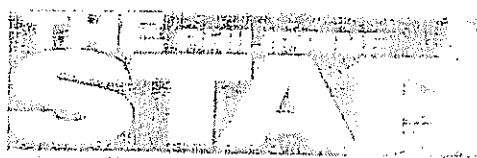
The US authorities also mentioned that terror and rebel groups based in the Sulu archipelago may carry out kid-

napping for ransom of American travelers and other foreign nationals.

"This area stretches from the southern tip of Palawan, along the coast of eastern Sabah, Malaysia and the islands of the Sulu archipelago, up to Zamboanga City," it said. INQ

19

M July 2017



Page: 4

# Air strikes to continue in Marawi - military

By ROEL PAREÑO

Air strikes would continue to take down the remaining positions and flush out members of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups in Marawi City, the military said yesterday.

The terrorists are still occupying several buildings in four barangays in Marawi.

Air Force planes would stage more air strikes to pound enemy positions.

"The more we push forward towards the center of gravity, the more there is the need to take down enemy positions," said Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesman for Joint Task Force Marawi (JTFM).

He said the air strikes would be conducted upon

the request of ground forces.

"As long as we get request from ground troops then we continue the air strikes," Herrera said.

He said what is needed now is "surgical air strike" due to the different posi-

tions occupied by the Maute group in the Marawi central district.

Government troopers have cleared 50 buildings previously occupied by the snipers of the Maute group that attacked the city last

May 23

Some 411 bandits, 97 soldiers and policemen and 45 civilians have been killed while over 800 others wounded in nearly eight weeks of clashes between the military and the terrorists.

20

19 July 2017

# INQUIRER

Page: AL

## DIFFICULT LIFE

### MINDANAOANS TELL DUTERTE: DON'T EXTEND MARTIAL LAW

Marawi residents who had fled to Saguiaran town in Lanao del Sur said President Duterte's move to extend martial law meant a prolonged stay in evacuation camps.

Jalal Dipatuan, 49, told the Inquirer that he and other evacuees had been living in an evacuation center for nearly two months already and life had not been easy for them since May 23.

"It's difficult on our part. We cannot go to Marawi anymore," Dipatuan said.

"It's cold here in the evacuation center. Please Mr. President, don't extend martial law anymore, we want to go home," said Asliah Bandrang, 34, a mother of seven children.

In Zamboanga City, former Human Rights Commissioner Jose Manuel Mamaug said there was no basis, in substance and purpose, to extend martial law.

He said Mr. Duterte's plan could be a "wrong prescription or medicine because there is no clear and present danger."

Rey Luis Banagudos, a peace advocate, said: "There's not enough basis at this time to predict that threats will last for five more months. If after Marawi had been retaken and the Maute attacks persisted, then another martial law may be warranted. But only then."

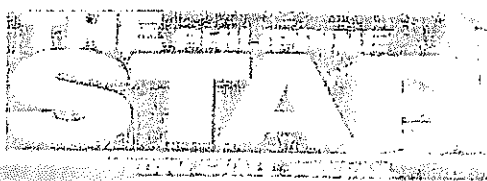
Human rights group Karapatan claimed it had documented at least 10 cases of extrajudicial killings of farmers and peasant activists in Mindanao since the imposition of martial law.

The Communist Party of the Philippines on Tuesday called on the "entire Filipino people to vigorously oppose" a prolonged martial law. —REPORTS FROM JULIE ALIPALA, FRINSTON LIM, GEOFFREY MAITEM, EDWIN FERNANDEZ, CHARLIE SEÑASE AND NIKKO DIZON INQ

21



19 July 2017



Page: 1

## US providing spy planes to Phl troops

By JAIME LAUDE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday welcomed any help from allies, such as the two spy planes being offered by the US government to combat terrorists in Marawi City.

Ambassador Sung Kim has said the US will provide two surveillance planes to the Philippines to assist troops fighting the Islamic State-inspired Maute group.

"All activities with the US, to include assistance on technical intelligence, are all part of

Turn to Page 11

the Mutual Defense Board-Security Engagement Board (MDB-SEB) agreed to actions/events under the provision of the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT). If they can help to fight terrorism, then it's great," AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año said.

While the US offer of help is a welcome development, Año said any support to be provided by allies, especially the US, has to be approved by President Duterte.

The US would deploy in Mindanao in a couple of weeks two Cessna 208 aircraft with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

Government forces are still battling the Maute terrorists in Marawi City, and the urban setting is making it harder for ground troops to penetrate the zone of conflict without any aerial intelligence data on the possible locations of terrorists.

In an interview on ANC's Headstart, Kim said the Cessna 208 aircraft have intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

"We're going to do everything possible to support the AFP as it tries to secure the area," Kim said.

The surveillance planes, he said, will be deployed to the Philippines in a couple of weeks.

The ambassador stressed that the Philippines and the US have a "very, very strong alliance."

"We're partners, allies and friends, and we help our friends and partners in time of need, and the Marawi situation is clearly a very difficult situation for the Philippines," he added.

In his speech at the 241st anniversary of the US Independence Day reception held last July 6 at the Makati Shangri-La, Kim said the US is deeply committed to the alliance with the Philippines.

Kim believes the Philippines is likewise "committed" to the long-standing alliance between the two countries.

The Philippines and the US are bound by a 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty and two other agreements that allow US troops to have rotating presence in the country.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office chief, said the military is grateful for the US offer to send two surveillance aircraft to assist in fighting terrorists in the country.

"As it has always been said and it has always been expressed by the AFP, the matter of combating terrorism itself is a global concern. It's everybody's concern. It's every nation's desire to quell, that is why we welcome every pronouncement of expression of assistance and actual giving of assistance to the AFP with regard to this kind of help for us to be able to defeat the terrorist group," Arevalo said.

Aside from the assistance that the AFP is getting from the US and Australia in fighting the Maute in Marawi, the defense department received an offer from the Singaporean government to also provide Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance support.

Source said the offer was made by visiting Singaporean defense minister Ng Eng Hen during his meeting with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday at the Marriott Hotel in Pasay City.

In principle, Lorenzana, the source said, welcomed the offer of help but the defense chief has to seek clearance first from Macaláng before officially accepting this form of assistance.

22

## US travel advisory

Meanwhile, the US warned its citizens from embarking on non-essential trips to Marawi City and the Sulu archipelago due to attack and kidnapping by separatist and terrorist groups.

The State Department issued the travel warning on Monday, urging Americans to exercise extreme caution when traveling to other regions of Mindanao, due to terrorist threats, insurgent activities and kidnappings.

The travel warning said there is a threat of kidnapping-for-ransom of foreigners, including US citizens, from terrorist and insurgent groups based in Sulu and the southern Sulu Sea. This area stretches from the southern tip of Palawan, along the coast of eastern Sabah, Malaysia and the islands of the Sulu archipelago, up to Zamboanga City, Mindanao.

"Separatist and terrorist groups continue to attack and kidnap civilians, foreigners, political leaders and Philippine security forces in Mindanao," the travel warning said.

It mentioned the declaration of martial law throughout the Mindanao region on May 23.

The travel warning also mentioned that in September 2016, a terrorist group detonated a bomb in Davao City, killing 15 and wounding at least 70 people. Following the attack, the Philippine government declared a "State of National Emergency on Account of Lawless Violence in Mindanao."

In May 2017, an ongoing conflict erupted between terrorist groups and Philippine security forces in Marawi City, resulting in multiple dead and injured.

In central Mindanao, the travel warning said extremist groups aligned with the Islamic State, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and other armed groups have carried out attacks on local government institutions, civilians and security forces in the Cotabato City area and in Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan

Kudarat provinces, where the government maintains a state of emergency and a greater police presence.

In Mindanao, terrorists, insurgents and criminal gangs regularly conduct kidnappings for ransom. Since January 2017, at least six separate kidnappings have been reported.

Brig Gen. Cerilito Sobejana, commander of the military's Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS), assured foreigners that security forces are in full control of Sulu and the surrounding waters.

Sobejana gave the assurance in the wake of the latest travel advisory issued by the US.

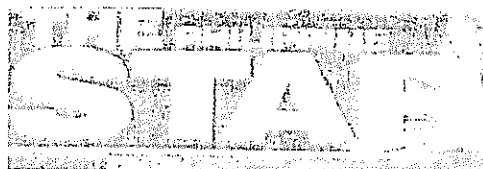
"We are dominating control of the security situation here in Sulu. The public is behind us in our effort against lawless elements and all forms of criminalities,"

Sobejana said.

He added that JTFS has created an Interagency Task Group to address concerns affecting the populace in the island province.

– With Pia Lee-Brago

19 July 2017



Page: 18

# AFP vehicle hits van; 6 dead, 10 hurt

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

Six persons died and 10 others were injured when a military vehicle collided with a passenger van in Misamis Oriental on Monday night.

Reports reaching Camp Crame identified the victims as van driver Hadji Amin Bangcola and passengers Hadji Latiff Macaumbos, Rey Dacoa Mancao, Siete Guimba, Jocelyn Oclarit and an unidentified woman in her 30s. They died at the scene.

Chief Superintendent Timoteo Paclib, Northern Mindanao police director, said the Simba armored personnel carrier hit the van and a motorcycle while overtaking a trailer truck in Purok 15, Barangay Poblacion in Manticao town at

around 8:30 p.m.

Initial investigation showed the armored vehicle was with a convoy of six military vehicles led by a certain Captain Frias when the accident occurred. The convoy was traveling from Iligan City to the Lagundi-ngan airport to get logistical supplies, which would be sent to Marawi.

The injured van passengers – Renzo Von Pagayon, Raima Tangote, Nethaya Ampaan, Hadji Aspiya Lanto, Reham

Dom Lanto, Abdul Ratiph Lanto, Dimpinto Noriama, Nobalsa Domapo, Raima Tangote and Samsodin Domapo – were taken to various hospitals in Iligan and Cagayan de Oro for treatment.

The driver of the military vehicle, Staff Sgt. Danny Tenezo, was arrested. He faces charges for reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries.

– With Jaime Laude

24

19 July 2017

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

## 7 die, 8 hurt after Simba collides with passenger van

By AARON B. RECUENCO

The lead vehicle of a military convoy tasked with collecting supplies for soldiers fighting in Marawi figured in a road accident Monday evening that left seven civilians dead and eight injured in Manticao, Misamis Oriental.

The convoy, made up of three Simba armored vehicles and two trucks, was on its way to Laguindingan airport to get the supplies when the lead vehicle, a Simba, collided head-on with a passenger van at around 8:30 p.m. along the national highway.

Police said the driver of the ►6

## 7 die, 8 hurt after Simba... ◀1

Simba tried to overtake a slow-moving truck and failed to notice the van cruising on the opposite lane.

The crash instantly killed five passengers of the van, including the driver. They were identified as Hadji Latiff Macaumbos, Rey Mancao, Siete Guimba, Jocelyn Baldoz, and Hadji Amin Bangcola, the driver.

Another unnamed passenger did not reach the hospital alive while another died while undergoing treatment.

Among those injured was the driver of a motorcycle that collided with the van following the crash.

Police Officer 2 Mario Cano Ani-

non, the lead investigator, said the survivors were rushed to hospitals in Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City in critical condition.

They were identified as Renzonon Pagayon, Raima Pangote, Norjaya Ampan, Hazja Asthia Lanto, Abdul Latiff Lanto, Reham Dom Lanto, Norjana Dimapinto and Samsudin Domado.

Aninon said the victims were heading to Iligan from Cagayan de Oro.

The driver of the military vehicle was taken into custody and the Simba vehicle was impounded by police pending investigation.

The rest of the convoy was allowed to proceed to their destination.

25

19 July 2017



Pahina. 3

### **Military truck vs van, 6 patay**

**PATAY** ang anim na indibidwal makaraang magsalpuhan ang van at military truck sa Manticao, Misamis Oriental kamakalawa.

Kabilang sa convoy na patungong Cagayan de Oro City ang military truck na nakasalpuhan ng van na papuntang Iligan City, bandang alas-dyes ng gabi.

Batay sa paunang imbestigasyon, limang pasahero ng van ang agad namatay matapos ang aksidente. Isa ang nasawi habang isinusugod sa ospital sa naturang bayan.

Ilang pasahero pa ng van ang nasugatan at naisugod na sa mga pagamutan. Hindi pa ipinalalabas ng mga otoridad ang pagkakakilanlan ng mga biktima.

Wala ring inilabas na pahayag ang panig ng militar patungkol sa aksidente habang nagpapatuloy pa ang pagsisiyasat upang matukoy kung sino ang dapat managot at ano ang sanhi ng trahedyang. **JEFF GALLOS**

24

19 July 2017

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 18

## AFP to make one final push as noose tightens on militants

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD and REY G. PANALIGAN

General Eduardo Año, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff said government forces will make one final push to break the Maute

Group's line and finally clear Marawi City of terrorists

In a chance interview at the launch of former President Fidel V. Ra- ▶6

## AFP to make one final... ◀1

mos' newest book "Make Change Work" in Camp Aguinaldo Monday, Año, citing field reports said security forces have cleared another set of 50 buildings, including a tall building used by Maute snipers to target government troops.

Over the weekend, eight more terrorists were killed bringing the total number of neutralized militants to 411. Government forces, however lost two foot soldiers.

The continuing air and ground assault has advanced the position of government troops leaving the militants with less than a square kilometer to maneuver

"Slowly, kumukunti na lang iyung building na hawak nila (Slowly, the number of buildings they have control is decreasing). We were able to secure one tall building the other day, malaking factor iyun (that's a big factor)," Año said.

"Less than one square kilometer iyung area na pinaglalaman natin (we are fighting for) but we cannot neglect or bypass buildings. It's fatal and dangerous to our soldiers and to the trapped civilians," he added.

Año said they are not setting a timeline for the troops to finish the mission in Marawi City to take pressure off their backs.

"Tini-take advantage ng kalaban iyun tapos napipressure yung tropa natin, unnecessarily tumataas din yung casualty natin (The enemy takes advantage of that, also our troops are getting pressured and unnecessarily our casualty also increases)," Año explained.

"We'll do it properly, deliberately and orderly, ensuring that we'll be able to clear all buildings that will not compromise our civilians and our soldiers. But as far as our pacing, we are on schedule," he said.

### Added US support

As the AFP approaches the final phase of its mission to clean Marawi of terrorists, the United States has committed to deploy two surveillance planes to assist ground troops fulfill its mission

In an interview, US Ambassador to Manila Sung Kim expressed the "deep concern" of the US "about the security situation in Marawi" and will deploy Cessna 208 aircrafts "in a couple of weeks" under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty and two other defense agreements.

"This is a very, very strong alliance," said Kim. "We're partners, allies, and friends, and we help our friends and partners in time of need, and the Marawi situation is clearly a very difficult situation for the Philippines."

The top US diplomat in Manila further announced that the US government will help build Marawi.

"We're going to do everything possible to support the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) as it tries to secure the area," Kim

27

Meanwhile, the US Department of State warned US citizens to avoid all non-essential travel to Marawi City, Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago including the southern Sulu Sea, and to exercise extreme caution when traveling to other regions of Mindanao, due to terrorist threats, insurgent activities, and kidnappings.

Martial law is currently in place over the entire Mindanao.

“There is a threat of kidnappings-for-ransom of foreigners, including US citizens, from terrorist and insurgent groups based in the Sulu Archipelago and in the southern Sulu Sea area,” the State Department said in its travel warning issued earlier this week.

“This area stretches from the southern tip of Palawan, along the coast of eastern Sabah, Malaysia and the islands of the Sulu Archipelago, up to Zamboanga City, Mindanao.”

According to the US Embassy, US government personnel are required to obtain “special authorization” before traveling to Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago.

#### **Transfer of venue**

As this developed, the Supreme Court (SC) has ordered the transfer of the trial and detention of arrested supporters and members of the Maute Group from Cagayan de Oro City to Taguig City.

In a full court resolution released yesterday, the SC directed the Taguig City regional trial court (RTC) to “speedily act on all prosecutions and incidents arising from the violent incidents in Marawi City involving the Maute Group.”

In the same resolution, the SC “designated the Special Intensive Care Area (SICA) located at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City, instead of Camp Evangelista, Patag, Cagayan de Oro City, as the temporary detention facility of any suspects, subject to the instruction to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to expedite the relocation of any suspects to a suitable detention facility.”

In ordering the transfer of the trial and detention of the suspects in the Marawi City siege, the SC acted on two letters sent to Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P.A. Sereno by Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II.

In both letters, Aguirre requested the transfer of the cases of the suspects outside Cagayan de Oro City because of its proximity to Marawi City and Lanao del Norte.

Aguirre had designated 30 prosecutors to handle the prosecution of the cases.

Reacting to the SC resolution, Aguirre said: “It will solve a lot of problems like where the detainees are to be confined and wherever we are going to rent a new place to hold the inquest and conduct preliminary investigations.” (With a report from AFP and Roy Mabasa)

20

19 July 2017

Mindanao  
**Standard**

Page. 1

# IS Mosul veterans fighting in Marawi

By Rey E. Requejo

TEN Islamic State veterans of the fighting in Mosul, Iraq have been seen fighting alongside members of the Maute group in Marawi City, a military official said Monday.

In a TV interview with GMA-7, Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez said the 10 fighters, who looked Caucasian, were seen by civilians who were recently rescued from the war zone.

Mosul was the stronghold of the Islamic State in Iraq for almost a year, until Iraqi forces retook the city from the terrorists.

Galvez said the foreign fighters were "suicidal."

The same report quoted military officials as saying that the government forces have retaken Abbas Hospital from the Maute terrorists.

Armed Forces chief Gen.

*Next page*

## IS...

**From A1**

Eduardo Año said the terrorists are now boxed into an area less than one square kilometer in Marawi City.

"So we'll have one final push to really break their line and finally clear the whole area of Marawi," Año said.

As of 7 p.m. Sunday, the military said 411 terrorists have been killed in the fighting, while 97 government soldiers have died. Some 45 civilians have also been killed.

Fighting broke out in Marawi City after government troops tried to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and ISIS "emir" in Southeast Asia on May 23.

Also on Tuesday, the Supreme Court ordered the trial of rebellion cases filed against members and supporters of the Maute group transferred from Cagayan de Oro to Taguig City.

In an administrative order dated June 27, but released only Tuesday, the Court also ordered the transfer of the accused from their current detention in Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro to the Special Intensive Care Area inside Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

The Court also ordered the Taguig Regional Trial Court to "speedily act on all prosecutions and incidents arising from the violent incidents in Marawi City involving the Maute group."

The Court said Camp Bagong Diwa was just a temporary detention facility as it ordered the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to expedite the relocation of the suspects to a suitable detention facility.

The Justice Department earlier asked the Court to designate special courts in Luzon or the Visayas to hear the cases due to the security threat in Mindanao, which remains under martial law.

But the Court designated the Cagayan de Oro Regional Trial Court to take on the cases from the Marawi courts.

The Justice department asked the Court to reconsider its decision, however, saying that there was a lack of proper detention facilities in Camp Evangelista. Through its latest order, the Court granted the department's appeal. **With PNA**

29



July 2017



Page: 1

## RP seeks Singapore's cooperation in fighting terrorism

By Mario J. Mallari

Amid the dragging siege in Marawi City laid by Islamic State-inspired terrorists, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday called for regionwide collaborative efforts to counter violent extremism in Southeast Asia.

In his meeting with Singaporean Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen, Lorenzana stressed the need for countries like the Philippines and Singapore to work together in combating terrorism which is becoming a regional problem.

"This is a problem that we all share, and our efforts should likewise

be collaborative," Lorenzana told his Singaporean counterpart, who is on a two-day working visit in Manila.

Lorenzana recognized that Islamic extremism has grown in the region as shown by the Philippines' ongoing battle with members of the Maute-IS group in Marawi City. **Turn to page 2**



### From page 1

The terrorists are joined by fighters from Singapore and neighboring Malaysia and Indonesia, and even as far as Morocco and Chechnya.

"Violent extremism has certainly taken stride, and our own fight against it is taking place

as we speak," Lorenzana said.

The defense chief thanked his counterpart over Singapore's support to Manila's efforts against terrorism.

During the meeting, Lorenzana also told Ng that the country could learn from Singapore's experience in dealing with Islamic militants.

"We could certainly learn from Singapore's own approaches in countering violent extremism, specifically in the way it deals with Islamic schools and returning foreign fighters," Lorenzana said.

He said the Philippines is interested in Singapore's methods of proactively preventing their

citizens from imbibing radical views and in reforming those that have been radicalized.

"I look forward to further discussing this during our bilateral meeting," he said.

In Marawi City, fighting continued on the 59th day yesterday between advancing government forces and the IS-

inspired terrorists.

More than 500 government troops, civilians and terrorists have already been killed since the siege erupted last May 23.

For weeks now, the military is struggling to flush out the terrorists from downtown Marawi City where they continue to put up pockets of resistance.

30

19 July 2017

# THE DAILY Tribune

Page: 1

## SC orders Maute trial transfer to Taguig

By Julius N. Leonen

The Supreme Court (SC) has approved the request of the Department of Justice (DoJ) to transfer the court proceedings of the rebellion cases filed against members of the Maute terrorist group to the Taguig Regional Trial Court (RTC).

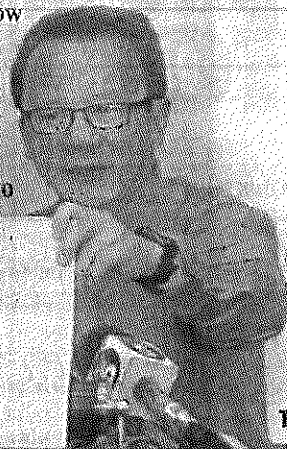
During a press briefing yesterday, SC spokesman Theodore Te said the SC has designated the Taguig RTC, instead of the Cagayan de Oro RTC, to handle the rebellion cases filed

against the terrorist group.

Te said the Taguig RTC is now ordered "to speedily act on all prosecutions and incidents arising from the violent incidents in Marawi City involving the Maute group."

The High Court has also designated the Special Intensive Care Area (SICA) located along Camp

Turn to page 2



## SC orders Maute trial transfer to Taguig

From page 1

Bagong Diwa in Taguig City as the temporary detention facility of the detained members of the terrorist group.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II welcomed the SC's resolution, saying that it "is great news for the DoJ and its panels of prosecutors in Cagayan de Oro City."

"It will solve a lot of problems like where the detainees are to be confined and whether we are going to rent a new place to hold the inquests and conduct preliminary investigations," Aguirre said.

Earlier, Aguirre appealed to the High Court for the transfer of the cases' trial from Cagayan de Oro City to Metro Manila because of security concerns and lack of adequate detention facilities.

The DoJ also set aside the trial of the Maute group when it was still awaiting the High Court's decision on Aguirre's request to transfer the trial.

In a letter to Chief Justice Ma Lourdes Sereno last month, Aguirre said that members of the Judiciary and the National Prosecution Service feared for

their safety amid the inquest, preliminary investigation and trial of the Maute cases.

Aguirre said that Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro does not have proper detention facilities to take hold of Maute group members while the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) does not have adequate training to provide proper jail management.

Aguirre said in the letter that there is clear and present danger to the security of police escort and detainees subject of the inquest proceeding for rebellion as shown in the recent ambush of the police convoy in neighboring Lanao del Norte on June 10, 2017, which wounded three police escorts and killed four detainees.

Aguirre's request was announced after Ominta "Farhana" Maute, mother of the Maute terrorist group leaders Abdullah and Omar, underwent inquest proceedings at the DoJ Prosecutor Office in Cagayan de Oro.

The High Tribunal previously designated Camp Evangelista as the detention area for suspected Maute terrorists who will be charged for rebellion in the Marawi

terror siege

During the talks between the DoJ and the SC, Aguirre said Sereno supported a speedy trial in Metro Manila through the continuous trial system of the detained members of the Maute group.

Aguirre said that Sereno proposed the application of the continuous trial system to expedite the proceedings of the trial of the suspected members and sympathizers of the terrorist group.

Sereno had initiated the application of the continuous trial system when she became Chief Justice to enable the speedy disposition of cases and decongest the country's courts.

Under the continuous trial system, trial is conducted from Monday to Thursday and courts must call the cases at exactly 8:30 a.m. and at 2 p.m. This is designed to cut trial duration in criminal cases from the usual three to five years to just around three months.

Postponements of hearings are prohibited unless on exceptional grounds. Courts are directed to promulgate the decision not later than 90 days from the submission of the case for decision.

19

July 2017



Page: 1

# Opposition nixes Duterte's plea to extend ML until December

Critics of President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday warned that the country could be edging toward a dictatorship following Malacañang's announcement that the Commander-in-Chief plans to extend martial law in Mindanao to defeat Islamist militants who have seized Marawi City.

Congress is set to convene on Saturday to discuss the request of Mr. Duterte who met with congressional leaders late Monday.

"This is not only a step back, but several steps back for our democracy," said opposition lawmaker and prominent martial law critic Edcel Lagman who called the President's request illegal.

"That would indicate the possibility of extending the coverage of martial law outside Mindanao," he noted.

Lagman also warned of a potential repeat of the military abuses and political repression during the martial law regime of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos whose 20-year rule ended with a bloodless popular revolt in 1986.

The Constitution allows the President to impose martial law for up to 60 days as well as allowing authorities to detain suspects for up to three days without charges to

suppress invasion or rebellion.

Beyond two months, the President can extend it "for a period to be determined by the Congress."

Another opposition member in the lower chamber, Akbayan partylist Rep. Tom Villarin branded Mr. Duterte's proposal as "whimsical."

"It's a whimsical proposal that has no substantive grounds other than the President's wishes. From verbalizing 60 days in a dinner with congressional leaders, now the President wants to make it five months," he said in a statement.

"It seems they are (neither) sure when to end martial law nor do they have clear outcomes. It is sending jitters to everyone who (doesn't) want it extended or expanded," Villarin stressed.

Ifugao Rep. Teddy Baguilat Jr., one of the petitioners who challenged Mr. Duterte's Proclamation No. 216 before the Supreme Court, questioned the government's justification for declaring martial law in Mindanao.

"Has the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) presented solid and concrete reasons it needs five months to annihilate



Turn to page 3

32

## Opposition nixes Duterte's plea to extend ML until December

From page 1

Maute and (Islamic State)-aligned terrorists in Marawi? Are both AFP and PNP (Philippine National Police) saying that the terrorist threat has expanded beyond Lanao to include all of Mindanao and that five months of martial law is needed to control that threat?" he said in a separate statement.

"I still can't understand what extraordinary powers has ML (martial law) added to the combative prowess of the AFP in fighting terrorism," Baguilat noted. At the upper chamber, opposition Sen. Francis Pangilinan said martial rule was an "extraordinary and temporary measure" and that any extension could not be more than 60 days.

Mr. Duterte should consider limiting martial law to the Muslim

regions of Mindanao, he added.

Both Pangilinan and former President Fidel Ramos, a Duterte supporter who has become critical of the administration, warned that extended martial rule may scare off investments.

"Martial law was necessary in the beginning but any extension should now be considered very carefully," Ramos told reporters.

Security forces have been conducting a US-backed offensive to root out the gunmen, using air strikes and artillery fire, and early this week the military said about 60-80 gunmen remained over a one square-kilometer area of downtown Marawi.

On Tuesday, US Ambassador to Manila Sung Kim said Tuesday his government would give its Philippine military ally two Cessna surveillance aircraft to be used in Marawi.

"We are deeply concerned about

the security situation in Marawi," Kim told ABS-CBN television.

But communist rebels yesterday expressed alarm for their safety following Mr. Duterte's request for a martial law extension until December 31.

In a statement, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), appears to be the inevitable target of the government's extended purge of state enemies.

Apart from its ranks, the communist group also noted that martial law extension will also run after Bangsamoro insurgents.

"Martial law in Mindanao is directed at the NPA and the party-led forces as much as the Moro people," it stressed.

The leftist group also said it will lead to human rights abuses. **Ted Tuvera, Angie M. Rosales and AFP**

19 July 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

# Fire razes houses in Marawi 'cleared areas'

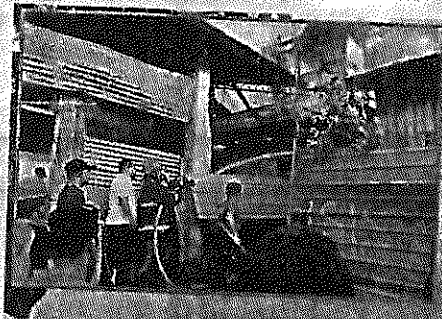
**MARAWI CITY:** Authorities are investigating the cause of two separate fire incidents here on Monday that razed several houses in abandoned villages in the western part of this city earlier declared "clear" of the Maute group.

Photos of the burning houses went viral on social media where netizens said the houses could have been set ablaze purposely as residents were not allowed to return to their homes.

Authorities confirmed the reports but denied the claims saying they were still investigating the incidents in the villages of Pangaw Saduc and Saber at about 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The two villages were among those earlier declared clear of Maute-IS bandits who continuously resisted government forces on Tuesday in the eastern part of the city since conflict broke out on May 23.

Authorities in Lanao del Sur said the provincial government and Provincial Bureau of Fire Protection



■ Fire fighters (inset) try to contain the blaze that engulfed two villages in a Marawi City "cleared area" amid war between government forces and the Maute group. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

with the police, the Army, and other fire responding units from Baloi town and Iligan City in Lanao del

Norte responded to the incidents. No casualties were recorded and cost of damage was still being

determined, the local government said in a public statement online.

**MOH SAADUDDIN**

19 July 2017



Page. 2

## Military prepares for final assault

**MARAWI (PNA)** – The remaining Maute Group terrorists are now just pocketed in an area measuring less than one-square kilometer in Marawi City, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año said late Monday.

Also, he reported that military units, engaged in the ongoing clearing operations, have captured 50 more buildings, including a very tall one, during operations Sunday.

"So we'll have one final push to really break their line and finally clear the whole area of Marawi. (Maute Group resistance) is confined to less than one-square kilometer. But we cannot neglect or bypass (buildings) as its fatal and dangerous to our soldiers and the trapped civilians," the AFP chief stressed.

As of 7 p.m. Sunday, the number of troops wounded in the ongoing conflict in Marawi City is now at 852.

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

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

The 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.

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.

35

19 July 2017



Page. 2

## Tuluy-tuloy ang tagumpay sa Marawi—AFP chief

Inihayag ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff General Eduardo Año na magsasagawa ng pinal na operasyon ang puwersa ng gobyerno upang tuluyan nang malipol ang ISIS-inspired na Maute Group sa Marawi City.

Sinabi ito ni Año nang ma-ambush interview siya ng mga reporter sa paglulunsad ng bagong aklat ni dating Pangulong Fidel V. Ramos na "Make Change Work" sa Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, nitong Lunes.

Sinabi ni Año na batay sa mga ulat na kanyang natanggap mula sa kanilang field commanders, naisagawa na ng mga tropa ng pamahalaan ang clearing operations sa panibagong 50 gusali at nakapatay ng walong

Maute terrorists nitong weekend. Gayunpaman, dalawa pang sundalo ang napadagdag sa casualty list.

Sinabi rin ni Año na batay sa kanilang operasyon, araw-araw ay patuloy na sumisikap ang lugar na okupado ng Maute Group.

"Slowly, kumokonti na lang 'yung building na hawak nila. We were able to secure one tall building the other day, malaking factor 'yun," sabi ni Año.

"Less than one square kilometer 'yung area na pinaglalaman natin, but we cannot neglect or bypass buildings. It's fatal and dangerous to our soldiers and to the trapped civilians," dagdag niya.

Sinabi rin ni Año na hindi sila nagtatakda ng panahon kung

kailan tuluyang matatalo sa Marawi City ang mga teroristang Maute upang hindi magkaroon ng pressure sa mga tropa ng pamahalaan sa lugar.

Samantala, naglabas ng travel warning ang United States sa mga mamamayan nito na bibiyahe sa ilang lugar sa Pilipinas.

Nagbabala ang US State Department sa mga mamamayan nito na iwasan ang Marawi City at Sulu.

Dahil ito sa banta ng pagdukot sa mga banyaga ng mga terorista at mga rebeldeng grupo.

Kinakailangan din munang kumuhang "special authorization" mula sa US Embassy ang mga tauhan ng gobyerno ng US.

**Francis Wakefield  
at Beth Camia**

34

19 July 2017



Pahina. 20

## Marawi malapit nang mabawi -- AFP

Umaabot na sa 110 gusali sa Marawi City ang nabawi ng militar mula sa teroristang Maute Group.

Ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen Eduardo Año, nasa 50 gusali na lamang ang isinasailaim sa clearing operation ng mga sundalo.

Sinabi ni Año na isang matinding tulak na lamang ang kailangan para tuluyan nang mabawi ng mga tropa ng gobyerno ang lungsod na magdadalawang buwan nang apektado ng gulo. Una nang iniulat ng AFP na 60 gusali na pinuwes-tuhan ng mga terorista ang kanilang nabawi noong nakaraang linggo.

Samantala, naglaan ng P10 milyon ang Simbahang Katolika para magamit sa humanitarian aid sa mga pamilyang lumikas mula sa Marawi.

Ayon kay National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA)/Caritas Philippines Executive Secretary Fr. Edwin Gari-guez, ibibigay ang tulong sa 3,000 pamilya o 15,000 indibidwal sa Iligan City kabilang ang halal food, at non-food items tulad ng hygiene kits, household items at sleeping kits.

Magsasagawa rin ang Caritas ng psychosocial activities, hygiene promotion awareness, emergency preparedness, at accountability trainings (Betchai Julian/Noel Abuel).

37



19 July 2017



Page. 2

## 60 miyembro pa ng Maute nakikipagbak-bakan sa Marawi

**HINDI** bababa sa 60 miyembro pa ng Maute Group ang nakakalaban pa rin ng mga tropa ng pamahalaan sa pagpapatuloy ng kanilang opensiba sa Marawi City.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, tuluy-tuloy pa rin ang pambobomba at pagpapaputok nila sa mga natitira pang lugar na pinakukublihan ng mga terorista.

Ani pa Herrera, nitong Lunes, nasa mahigit 500 gusaling kinubkob ng Maute Group at Abu Sayyaf ang na-

clear na ng mga sundalo.

Mas lumalawak na aniya ang teritoryong nababawi ng pamahalaan, at lalo pang lumiliit ang mundo ng mga terorista.

Ayon naman kay Col. Edgard Arevalo, anim na miyembro ng Maute at Abu Sayyaf Group ang napatay ng mga sundalo noong Linggo, habang dalawa naman ang nasawi sa pang ng gobyerno.

Samantala, nasa 511 na armas naman na ang narekober ng mga sundalo mula sa mga kalaban.

## Roll out Marawi rehab fund

### THE LAST MOHICAN



By MARIO FETALINO JR.

**THERE** is sense in a call of a House member to expedite the Marawi rehabilitation fund even as fighting continues in the war-torn Islamic city of Mindanao.

There should be funds to rebuild Marawi City and restore its past glory, according to Quezon City Rep. Winston 'Winnie' Castelo.

The Department of Public Works and Highways earlier announced it would already start repairing Marawi City, starting with the construction of emergency shelters and rebuilding of government offices and places of worship.

Knowing the capacity of DPWH chief Mark Villar to perform such herculean task, nothing can go wrong in the process. But a specific budget for the undertaking will spell success for the project.

Just like in any infrastructure project, a budget is estimated to avoid underspending or overspending. It sets the perimeters in building a structure or a city in the case of Marawi. Such fund preparation helps for activities to be systematic and realistic.

It's also important that all government agencies

involved should prepare budget estimates to rebuild Marawi. This will make the effort well-coordinated and well-funded. The point is that we won't just rebuild Marawi. We can make Marawi City better, a work of art or even a tourist destination.

According to Castelo, the redevelopment of the city will send the message to Mindanao and Islamic countries that the government is committed to sustain the Southern portion of the country and to improve it.

Of course, the inspiration to achieve the mission is President Duterte's commitment to help Marawi and its people get back to its own feet. Castelo commended Duterte for his vow to expedite the Marawi

rebuilding budget.

The lawmaker is not new to projects that support Muslim people. He hails from Quezon City which is home to many Muslim communities like Payatas, Culiati and other barangays in Novaliches.

And by the way, the solon is supportive of an extended martial law in Mindanao. He recently called on his colleagues to support the extension of President Duterte's proclamation of martial law in Mindanao in a bid to end the bloody fighting in Marawi City.

He said the Chief Executive needs help to preserve peace in Mindanao.

While he understands some quarters' doubts and fears on martial law, Castelo pointed out that

the President knows a lot of vital information that the public does not know for security reasons.

I agree that we should support a President who enjoys a very huge acceptance rating in a recent survey.

Besides, martial law was properly implemented in Mindanao. "There was no abuse of authority from the military or any government entity in the almost 60-day mar-

tial law," Castelo said.

A special session is necessary because Proclamation 216, which placed Mindanao under martial law and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, will expire at midnight on Saturday, July 22.

President Duterte proclaimed martial law in Mindanao on May 23 for a period not exceeding 30 days in accordance with Article VII, Section 18 of

the Constitution.

Congress is officially adjourned from June 2 to July 24, Monday, when the second regular session will open and the President will deliver his state-of-the-nation address.

The Constitution allows Congress to extend the proclamation of martial law beyond 60 days "upon the initiative of the President."

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For comments, please call or text 09055080126 or email lastmohican-2004@yahoo.com.

39

19 July 2017



Page. 4

## EDITORIAL

# Wildlife trafficking

“ENVIRONMENTAL terrorism,” more popularly known as “wildlife trafficking,” is something well-meaning people in this manpower-exporting but poverty-stricken nation will never, never tolerate.

In fact, a leading member of the House of Representatives has called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to intensify the campaign against wildlife smugglers.

As a former head of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu is in a position to crush wildlife trafficking syndicates, according to Occ. Mindoro Rep. Josephine R. Sato.

Sato, a member of the powerful Commission on Appointments, issued the call after the Philippine National Police (PNP) recovered at least 70 dead marine turtles in the town of Dumaran in Palawan.

Locally called “pawikan,” the turtles were seized from a large motorboat off the shore of Barangay Bacio in Dumaran.

Police operatives arrested two individuals, identified as Rico Gonzales and Kim Aristotiles, both of Taytay, Rizal. They will be charged with violation of the Wildlife Act, according to the lady lawmaker.

“I appeal to Secretary Cimatu to do something to protect our precious wildlife, too. Prevention is always better than cure,” said Sato, who is also a member of the House committee on ecology.

Favorite destinations of foreign and local tourists, Palawan and the island of Mindoro (Occidental and Oriental) are teeming with natural wonders and diversity of wildlife.

Mindoro is home to the world famous Philippine Tamaraw or dwarf buffalo, a critically endangered specie found only on the island.

The government, through concerned offices and agencies, needs to hit hard at unscrupulous individuals who mercilessly hunt our threatened wildlife if we are to stop wildlife trafficking.

They need to be shocked into realization that the authorities are determined to protect the country’s remaining wildlife.

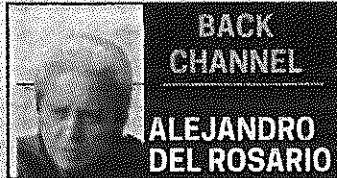
40

14 July 2017

Mindanao  
**Standard**

Page. 15

## Extending martial law



THERE appears to be haste in extending martial law in Mindanao beyond the constitutional 60-day period. Ifugao Rep. Teddy Baguilat wants a full briefing by Armed Forces of the Philippines officials for the basis of such an extension. A joint session of Congress has been called for Saturday by President Rodrigo Duterte for this purpose apparently to form part of his State of the Nation Address on July 24.

Senator Miguel Zubiri, one of 17 senators invited to dinner in Malacañang the other day, said the Senate is in favor of extending martial law in Mindanao. The Duterte-controlled House of Representatives, no doubt will support an extension of martial law. Zubiri is the proponent of a national ID system that does not specify the religious affiliation of the card holder to avoid profiling Muslims and Christians.

The 60-day limit to martial law is prescribed in the 1987 Constitution. So too is the calling of a joint session of Congress to determine its lawful basis for its declaration and possible extension.

Declared by President

Duterte in response to the siege of Marawi by the ISIS-assisted Maute terror group, there are questions to martial law's extension in Mindanao in light of the AFP's pronouncement that government troops are winding up clearing operations to rid the remnants of the raiders still holed up in the southern city.

The President's imposition of martial law in Mindanao seems to have the support of the people. A recent Pulse Asia and Social Weather Stations poll surveys showed Duterte enjoying 80-percent acceptance ratings.

I, for one, support the President on the imposition of martial law in Mindanao to deal with the threat of global terrorism. To extend it another month for mop-up operations in the Mindanao region is justifiable considering we are dealing with a cunning, evil force that wants to establish a caliphate in Mindanao. But it is the fear of a nationwide martial law that the populace is wary about. The people are confident the AFP can cope with challenges from international terrorists without the government pushing the panic button.

### **Aquino accountability**

The Office of the Ombudsman has made known it would charge former President Benigno Aquino III for the Mamasapano massacre that claimed the lives of 44 members of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force two years ago.

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## ONLINE NEWS 19 JULY 2017

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

### Urban gardening at army headquarters

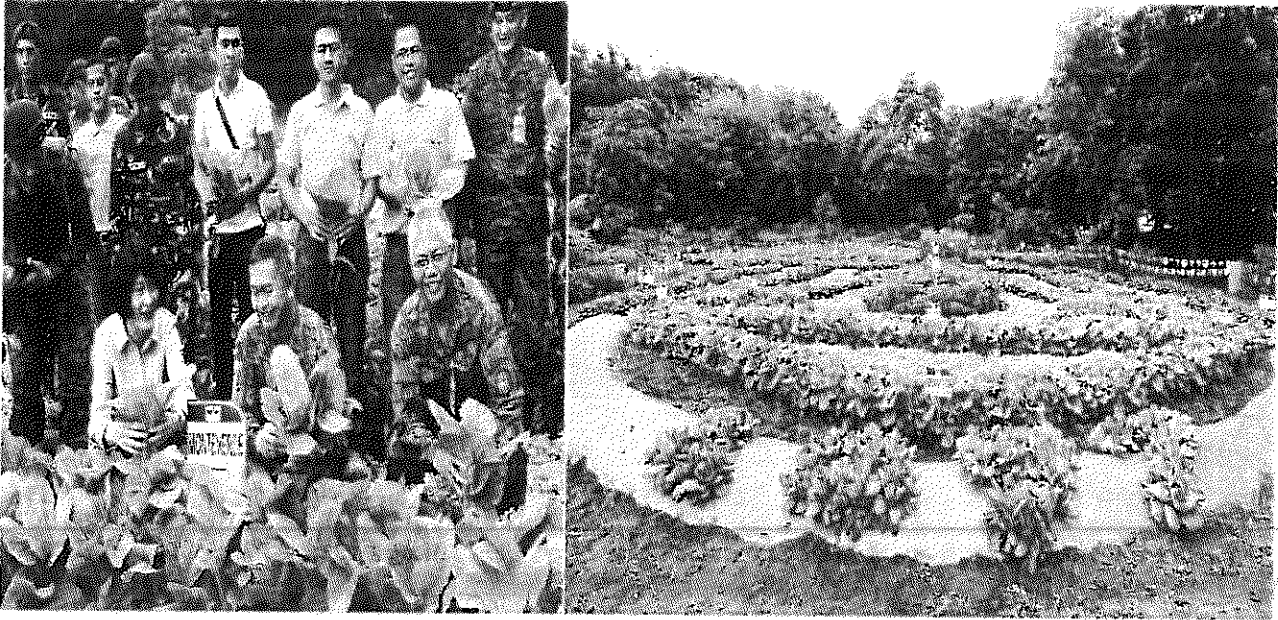


Photo (seated from left) shows Tarlac Heritage Foundation Chairman Dr. Isa Cojuangco Suntay; Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, commanding general of the Philippine Army; BGen. Rodel Mauro Alarcon of the AFP Headquarters Support Group; harvesting fresh vegetables from the 1,500-square meter garden of the Hardin ng Lunas at the Philippine Army headquarters in Taguig City on Tuesday (July 18, 2017). The urban gardening project aims to encourage the public to use their idle time and space to produce their own food and minimize expenses. (PNA photos by Avito C. Dalan)

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

## Duterte wants martial law extended till end-2017

MANILA, July 18 -- President Rodrigo Duterte has asked Congress to extend the period of Martial Law in Mindanao until the end of the year, Malacañang said Tuesday.

At a Palace briefing, Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said that in the letter sent by the President to the leaders of Congress Monday evening, the extension was called for as the "existing rebellion in Mindanao will not be quelled completely by the July 22," the expiration of the 60-day period of the initial martial law proclamation.

"Upon a thorough personal assessment of the current situation in Marawi City and other parts of Mindanao and taking into account the reports and recommendations of the Secretary of National Defense as martial law administrator, the chief-of-staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as martial law implementor and the chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), I have come to the conclusion that the existing rebellion in Mindanao which prompted me to issue Proclamation 216 on 23rd May 2017, will not be quelled completely by the 22nd July 2017 -- the last day of 60-day period provided under Section 18 Article VII of the 1987 Constitution," President Duterte said in the letter read by Abella.

"For this reason and because public safety requires it, I call upon the Congress to extend until 31st December 2017 or for such a period of time as the Congress may determine the proclamation of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the whole of Mindanao," the President's message said.

Duterte has also called on Congress to convene in a special session Saturday to deliberate and consider his request.

In the meantime, Abella said that "the primary objective of the possible extension of martial law is to allow government forces to continue with their operation, unhampered by deadlines and to focus more on the liberation of Marawi and its rehabilitation and rebuilding."

He also clarified that it is up to Congress to decide on the actual duration of the extension.

"Ito po 'yung sinabi ng sulat, 'yan po ang nire-request niya (Duterte) -- until 31st of December or for such period of time as the Congress may determine. Nasa Kongreso po in order to decide," Abella said.

President Duterte declared martial law and suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the whole of Mindanao last May 23 following an attack by the Islamic State-inspired Maute group in Marawi City.

According to the latest update provided by Malacañang on the Marawi siege, 413 militants have been killed while 511 high-powered firearms have been recovered from the terror group.

In the meantime, 98 government forces have died in fighting while 45 civilians have so far been confirmed to have died in the hands of the terrorists. (PNA)

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

## Area controlled by Maute terrorists now shrinking - AFP chief

MANILA, July 18 --- The remaining Maute Group terrorists are now just pocketed in an area measuring less than one-square kilometer in Marawi City, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año said late Monday.

Also, he reported that military units, engaged in the ongoing clearing operations, have captured 50 more buildings, including a very tall one, during operations Sunday.

"So we'll have one final push to really break their line and finally clear the whole area of Marawi, (Maute Group resistance) is confined to less than one-square kilometer. But we cannot neglect or bypass (buildings) as its fatal and dangerous to our soldiers and the trapped civilians," the AFP chief stressed.

As of 7 p.m. Sunday, the number of troops wounded in the ongoing conflict in Marawi City is now at 852.

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

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

The 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 as of this posting.

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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[www.retiredanayst](http://www.retiredanayst)

## US offers 2 spy planes in PH fight vs terrorists

The US will provide 2 surveillance planes to the Philippines to aid troops fighting Islamic State-inspired militants in the south, Washington's envoy to Manila said Tuesday.

The Cessna 208 aircraft have intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities and will be deployed "in a couple of weeks," Ambassador Sung Kim.

"We're going to do everything possible to support the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) as it tries to secure the area," Kim told ANC's Headstart.

Some 500 people have been killed in nearly 2 months of fighting in Marawi City that has led to President Rodrigo Duterte declaring martial law in the entire Mindanao.

The Philippines and the US are bound by the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty and two other agreements that allow US troops to have rotating presence in the country.

"This is a very, very strong alliance. We're partners, allies, and friends, and we help our friends and partners in time of need, and the Marawi situation is clearly a very difficult situation for the Philippines," said Kim.

Kim said the US would also help rebuild Marawi. Duterte has earmarked at least P20 billion to rehabilitate the area.



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[www.retiredanavst](http://www.retiredanavst)

## **7 killed in collision between military vehicle, van in Misamis**

Seven people were killed in an accident between a military vehicle and a van along a highway in Manticao, Misamis Oriental on Monday night.

A Balitanghali report said a Philippine Army Simba vehicle driven by Staff Sergeant Danny Tenezo was overtaking along the highway when it collided head-on with the van.

The accident happened in Barangay Poblacion at past 9 p.m.

The report said among the fatalities was the driver of the van identified as Hadji Amin Bangcolan.

Five of the van's passengers died on the spot while the other two fatalities died while being treated in a hospital.

Eight more passengers of the van were brought to hospitals in Iligan City and Cagayan de Oro City.

The report said the Simba was in a convoy with three other military vehicles when the accident happened. The military convoy was heading to the Laquindingan Airport in Cagayan de Oro City to get logistics supplies.

Tenezo has been brought to the Manticao police station.

Charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries are being prepared against the soldier.

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## Duterte turns over 3,000 pistols to AFP

By Cielito M. Reganit

MANILA, July 18 (PNA) — In fulfillment of his promise to Filipino soldiers, President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday turned over 3,000 units of caliber .45 pistols to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in a simple ceremonies held in Malacañang.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año received the A2 Tac Ultra FS-Armcor pistols on behalf of the military.

According to a Palace press release, the pistols were acquired through the Procurement Service-Department of Budget and Management under the negotiated procurement mode with ARMSCOR Global Defense Inc., pursuant to Section 53.2 (emergency cases) of the revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act. No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Act.

Duterte has promised during his visits to various military camps throughout the country that he would provide pistols to the 120,000 soldiers of the AFP within his term.

The President has repeatedly emphasized the need for military personnel to have handguns that they can use to protect themselves and their families from threats coming from the enemies of the state, especially after actual military operations or whenever they are outside military camps and even during their authorized rest and recreation period.

In his speech during the turnover rites, Duterte said he wanted uniformed personnel of the AFP to have pistols aside from their rifles to be on equal footing with the enemies of the state, even when they are outside the military camps.

"Noon pa nakikita ko, I was just wondering, bakit ang Army walang baril na sidearm? Maliit pa ako, I'm just wondering. And I would speculate what will happen if the rifle jams or pagka nasira. For whatever reason, among gagamitin nitong mga "to?" the President said.

He said that even during his 23 years as mayor of Davao City, he had observed that soldiers are not allowed to bring their firearms outside of the camp.

"Ang problema kasi nitong military, unang- una, though no fault of yours, labas kayo ng kampo, wala man kayong baril. Then you go to the town proper, you go there, maybe you drink and you enjoy. Pag-uwi ninyo, inaabangan kayo ng mga NPA (New People's Army)," the President said.

"Ang ayaw ko doon, 'yung patayin nila ang tao na walang armas. Walang kalaban-laban. So sabi ko, hindi pwede ito. Kailangan ko talaga to place my soldiers on equal footing with them. Kasi sila (rebels), nakakadala ng armas, sidearms. Eh maiwan nila (soldiers) 'yung M16 nila. So, I decided, sabi ko na bigyan ko kayo lahat ng sidearms," Duterte said.

On the other hand, President Duterte said that while he wanted soldiers to carry pistols outside of their official duty, he reminded them to always practice discipline.

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"I am not in favor of the rule that you cannot bring your sidearm outside of your camp residence. I will overrule that kind of regulations because it is stupid," he said.

"Ang panlaban lang talaga ninyo is not to let anybody know na may baril ka. Huwag mong i-display 'yan kasi kukunin talaga 'yan sa iyo. Sa mga NPA 'yan --- ano 'yan eh, parang irresistible force. Hahanapan ka talaga ng paraan niyan," Duterte said.

He also urged them not to use their guns on fellow security forces and on civilians.

"At huwag kayong makipag-away --- 'yang mga kapulisan diyan kay numero uno rin 'yan. Walang ginawa kung hindi mag-inom diyan sa bar.... I hope that this would go a long way para magbuo 'yung maski saan. Just do not use it against innocent civilians," Duterte said. (PNA)

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## Enemy snipers biggest threat in Marawi City fighting

MANILA, July 18 – Enemy snipers carefully concealed in Marawi City's buildings and other urban features are causing most of the casualties of military units tasked to neutralize the remaining Maute Group terrorists.

"(The fighting) in Marawi City can be considered as urban fighting and in urban warfare, snipers can cause a lot of casualties (as they can conceal themselves in the buildings and houses)," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said in Filipino late Monday.

He added that a few snipers, placed in strategic locations, can slowdown or immobilize a company or even a battalion of troops.

"(If the conflict) is in the jungle, I believed we would have not incur such losses as we are used to fighting there," Arevalo stressed.

But he clarified that counter-sniping of the AFP is starting to bear fruit as Maute Group terrorists are now being encircled by military units.

As of 7 p.m. Sunday, number of troops wounded in the ongoing conflict in Marawi City is now at 852

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

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

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 as of this time.

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)