

Army Vision: By 2038, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

03 June 2017

Saturday

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

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

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03 JUNE 2017

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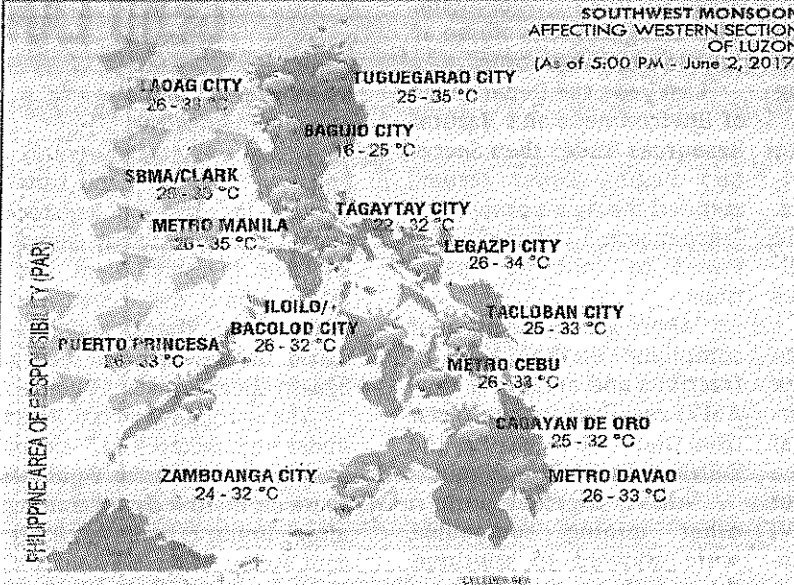
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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 3 | CITY | SATURDAY
































SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF LUZON
(As of 5:00 PM - June 2, 2017)

LAOAG CITY 26 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY 25 - 35 °C
BAGUIO CITY 16 - 25 °C
SBMA/CLARK 26 - 33 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 22 - 32 °C
METRO MANILA 26 - 35 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 26 - 34 °C
ILOILO/ BACOLOD CITY 26 - 32 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 25 - 33 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 26 - 33 °C
METRO CEBU 26 - 33 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 25 - 32 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO 26 - 33 °C




SUNRISE  5:26 AM	SUNSET  6:23 PM
MOONRISE  1:22 PM	MOONSET  1:04 AM
FIRST QUARTER JUN 1 3:51 AM	FULL MOON JUN 6 9:10 PM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 10:42 PM 0.57 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 4:32 PM 0.76 Meter

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

	JUN 3	JUN 4	JUN 5	JUN 6	JUN 7	
METRO MANILA	 25 - 35 °C	 26 - 34 °C	 22 - 32 °C	 22 - 31 °C	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	 25 - 36 °C	 25 - 35 °C	 26 - 34 °C	 26 - 34 °C	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C
LAOAG	 27 - 32 °C	 26 - 32 °C	 26 - 33 °C	 26 - 33 °C	 26 - 33 °C	 26 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	 17 - 25 °C	 17 - 25 °C	 26 - 33 °C	 26 - 33 °C	 24 - 33 °C	 25 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	 26 - 32 °C	 26 - 32 °C	 26 - 34 °C	 26 - 33 °C		



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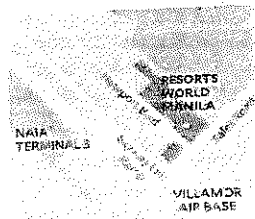
CASINO ATTACK: 38 DIE

STORY BY JASON GUTIERREZ, PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND LEILA B. SALAVERRIA

A lone gunman terrorized a hotel-casino complex near Ninoy Aquino International Airport early Friday, opening fire with an assault rifle and torching gambling tables. At the end of a long night, 37 guests and employees were dead from smoke inhalation. The gunman killed himself and police ruled out terrorism

A2-A3

LONE GUNMAN BREAKS THE BANK



Around midnight
A lone gunman barges into Resorts World Manila (RWM), firing shots and setting gaming tables on fire.

1:47 a.m.
RWM security says some guests of Maxims Hotel are evacuated and nearby Marriott and Remington Hotel are placed on lockdown by police.



CCTV image of gunman

37
deaths due to suffocation, 38th killed is the gunman

3:21 p.m.
In a press briefing, RWM officials provide names of employees and guests who died due to suffocation. RWM COO Stephen Reil, reiterates that there is only one gunman in the attack.



Charred remains of the gunman

8:40 a.m.
PNP Southern Police District (SPD) releases photo to media the charred remains of the gunman after he sets himself on fire in Room 510.

'Give me my daughter's body'

FROM A1

By Jason Gutierrez
@newshound16

When Gil Yongco heard that gunshots were being reported at Resorts World Manila's hotel-casino where his daughter, Hazel, worked, he immediately rushed to the scene—only to find chaos and the hotel in flames.

There was no one to approach for assistance, and Yongco had to fight off first responders with a desperate father's determination to see his daughter alive. "What should I do? No one could tell me anything. But my daughter is still there," he said, pointing to the hotel, where black smoke continued to billow out from its broken front windows.

"Where is Hazel?" he desperately called out to policemen who, while sympathetic, also did not know how to respond. Yongco stayed with the press pack with his wife Cathy.

A hotel employee later said she had grabbed Hazel's phone as they ran out because she dropped it. When she turned back, Hazel was gone.

Hazel, 29, was a table supervisor at Resorts World. She was among those missing since early Friday, when a gunman the police said appeared to be crazy walked into the hotel with an assault rifle and started shooting and setting the place ablaze.

Full combat regalia

Hundreds of policemen and soldiers in full combat regalia trooped to the hotel, one of the premier destinations in Manila fronting its main airport and just a stone's throw away from the military's Villamor Air Base. At least two armored personnel carriers were dispatched to scour the place for any sign of other fighters, but no one has yet been arrested.

Around 5:30 a.m., four people walked out of the hotel, one of them fainting to the ground and rushed to an ambulance. They were shell shocked, caught by surprise by the attack, which came on the 11th day that the

military has been battling to retake Marawi City in Mindanao from the Islamic State-linked Abu Sayyaf and Maute gunmen believed backed by a contingent of foreign fighters.

Yongco later conceded that his daughter may be among the 38 casualties in the attack. "Just give me the body please," he called on the authorities.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of my sister, Hazel," her brother Mark told the Inquirer. "There is complete chaos in lawlessness," in what transpired, he added.

Like Yongco, casino high roller Arianne Johnson, 39, was also searching for some of the eight people she used to hang out with at the casino. She said she only knew her friends by their first names, but that she had grown fond of them on the slot machine floor.

Lone shooter

When the alarm sounded, she said people started running from the second floor, as bursts

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of gunfire rang out. "We were running, people were shouting. It was chaos everywhere," she said.

"We rushed out when we heard at least four gunshots fired," Johnson said, adding that she was with a friend who worked at the security department of the casino. They watched the scene unfold on the closed circuit television camera.

The Philippine National Police chief, Director General Ronald dela Rosa, earlier said casino patrons ran screaming after a lone shooter fired an M4 carbine, a shorter version of the M-16 assault rifle, inside the Resorts World Manila complex across the road from Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

He said the crisis was over, hours before the smoke had cleared and the rest of the bodies were found.

"Up to this time, we can't say this is an act of terror. Why? Because [the gunman] had done no other violent act inside, aside

from stealing chips and shooting at a TV. He did not hurt anyone. If you were a terrorist, you want to sow terror. You would have gunned down people," Dela Rosa insisted.

Manhunt

The man was wearing a backpack and carrying a liter of gasoline which he poured on a gambling table before setting it alight.

"We reviewed [the video] recording, we did not see that he took any hostages. In fact, he passed by some people. He ignored some people," Dela Rosa said.

The incident sparked a manhunt and hours later, police announced that the gunman had killed himself after firing at security forces.

"He killed himself. At room 510. It looks like he was alone. He fired at our men," said Metropolitan Manila police chief Oscar Albayalde. "Our assessment is he burnt himself. He committed suicide," he said.

Dozens of soldiers and police officers in body armor and carrying rifles deployed around the hotel after reports of a shooting spread quickly through social media.

Two armored personnel carriers could be seen outside the hotel hours after the shooting which took place as government security forces were locked in a 10-day firefight with militants from the Maute group who were waving the black flag of the Islamic State (IS) in Marawi.

"Right now, we cannot say that he is a member of the Maute," Dela Rosa said of the casino gunman.

'Terror attack'

In Washington, US President Donald Trump opened a news conference at the White House by commenting on what he described as "the terror attack in Manila."

"We are closely monitoring the situation," Trump said. "It is really very sad as to what's going on throughout the world, with terror. Our thoughts and our prayers are with all of those affected."

The US-based SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors the online communications of extremist groups, reported that "an Islamic State Filipino operative who provides daily updates on the ongoing clashes in Marawi stated that the group (was) responsible for the attack at Resorts World Manila."

But the police said the claim could be propaganda.

"As far as the Philippine National Police is concerned, we can't attribute (the attack) to terrorism without concrete evidence. IS can claim anything as part of its propaganda, but until we know the man's motives, we can't tell at this early stage," Dela Rosa said, using another acronym for IS. INQ

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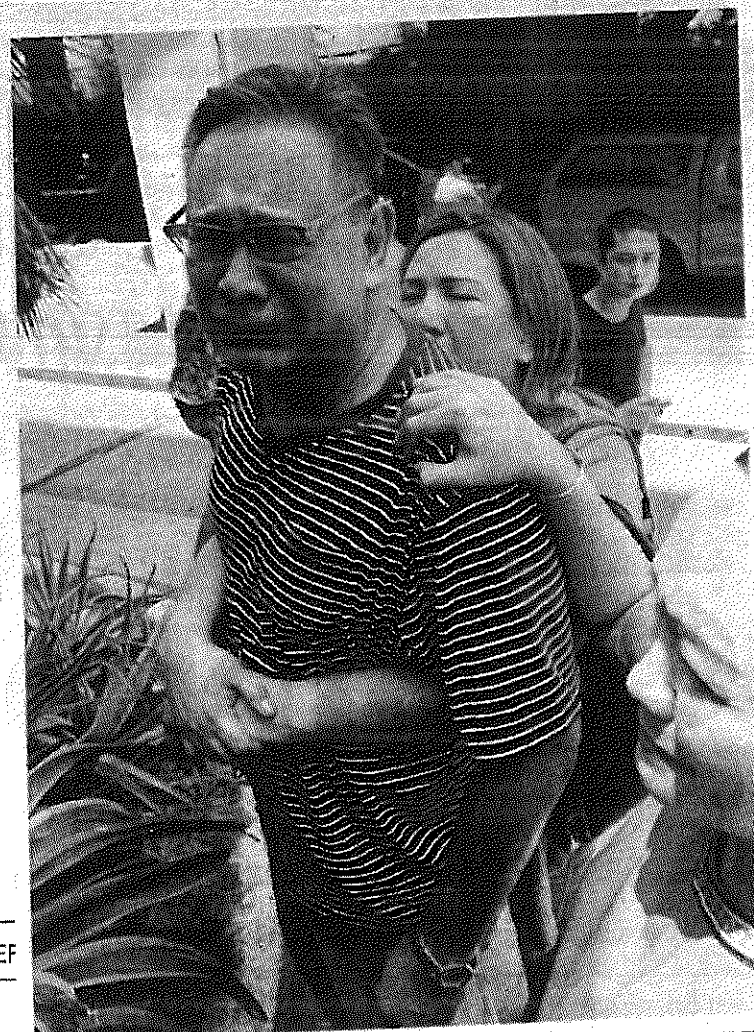
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HAZEL YONGCO Fellow employee said she grabbed Hazel's phone as they ran out. When she turned back, Hazel was gone. --PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK PAGE OF HAZEL YONGCO



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GRIEVING PARENTS Gil and Cathy Yongco --MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

nd.

5

LIST OF VICTIMS

SOLON'S WIFE AMONG CASINO FATALITIES

By DJ Yap
@deejayapINQ

One of the 37 victims who died of suffocation in the early Friday attack by a lone gunman at Resorts World Manila was the spouse of a congressman.

The death of Elizabeth Panlilio Gonzales, the wife of Pampanga Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr., was announced by House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas.

Fariñas divulged this to reporters after receiving a text message from Philippine National Police chief Ronald dela Rosa.

Quoting Dela Rosa, Fariñas said Elizabeth "died in the incident."

The grieving Gonzales' family could not be reached for comment.

Dela Rosa also told Fariñas

that the police were still locating the victim's sister, Consolacion Mijares, and that there was no report as to her whereabouts.

Mijares, however, was not on the list of confirmed fatalities released on Friday afternoon (see list below).

Victims' list

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, hotel officials announced the identities of 29 of the 37 casualties.

They are:

Employees

1. Hazel Yongco
2. Jellah Ramos
3. Melvin Herrera
4. Arvi Gavino
5. BJ Pagsibigan
6. Rojie S Uy
7. Jessica Alindogan
8. Merylle Gwen Ala
9. Lea Grace Mozo
10. Loudette Santos
11. Kay Nuguerra

(*Two employees have yet to be identified.)

Guests

1. Caccam Katherine Cervantes
2. P Ling Hung Lee
3. Pacita Guillermo Comquil-la
4. Pomenciano Vargas Jr.
5. Susan Abulencia
6. Lai Wei Chung
7. Jaime Gaboy Jr.
8. Ariel Abrogar
9. Lai Yu Cheeh
10. Cliff Reyneira
11. Rolando Pena Sison
12. Eluterio Reyes
13. Antonina Yuzon Allanigue
14. Sheila Malicse
15. Carmelita Taylo Delacruz
16. Mielle Oliveros
17. Pamela Silvestre
18. Elizabeth Gonzales

(Four guests have yet to be identified. Later yesterday, police added two more fatalities, both unidentified.) INQ

Deadly night in the casino

9555 Local: 5285, 5295

FROM A1

By Philip C. Tubeza and Leila B. Salaverria
Team Inquirer

Security guards shot and wounded the gunman who attacked Resorts World Manila early on Friday before he forced his way into a room of an adjoining hotel and killed himself, the top official of the hotel-casino complex said.

Stephen Reilly, chief operating officer of Resorts World Manila, also said 13 employees and 24 guests, one of them the wife of Pampanga Rep. Aurelio Gonzales, died from suffocation and smoke inhalation after the gunman torched gambling tables in the casino.

Police said 38 people, including the gunman, died in the attack on Resorts World Manila, a complex of hotels, restaurants, stores and a sprawling multi-floor gambling area near Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Two of the dead employees and six of the dead guests remained unidentified on Friday night.

Not terrorism

The attack sent hundreds of people fleeing into the night outside the Resorts World Manila complex in Pasay City and produced a claim of terrorism that Malacañang and the Philippine National Police stressed had no evidence to support it.

US President Donald Trump referred to the attack as an act of terror, but Malacañang and police officials said the attack was the work of an "apparently emotionally disturbed individual" who acted alone.

They also cautioned people against spreading false claims that the Islamic State (IS) group was behind the attack.

"All indications point to a criminal act by an apparently emotionally disturbed individual. Although the perpetrator gave warning shots, there apparently was no indication that he wanted to harm or shoot anyone," presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella told reporters.

Abella also said authorities found no link between the attack and the terrorist siege of Marawi City that entered its 11th day on Friday.

Robbery?

IS claimed responsibility for the attack, according to the group's Amaq news agency, but Philippine authorities suspected that robbery was the gunman's motive.

Authorities suspect the man, who stuffed his backpack with P113 million in stolen casino chips, was trying to rob the casino at Resorts World and fired an M4 assault rifle at TV screens and set fire to gambling tables to cover his escape.

"Either he lost in the casino and wanted to recoup his losses or he went totally nuts," said Director Oscar Albayalde, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

While there was a claim on social media that a "lone wolf soldier" of IS was behind the attack, police noted that the gunman did not shoot anyone he encountered.

"He would have shot all the people gambling," if his goal was terrorism, said the PNP chief, Director General Ronald dela Rosa.

The attack happened just after midnight, police said.

Dela Rosa said security footage showed the gunman ignoring a guard who tried to question him at the complex's entrance, then going straight to the casino.

The man stuffed his backpack with gambling chips, fired

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his assault rifle at TV screens and set gambling tables on fire by pouring gasoline onto them from a 2-liter bottle he carried, Dela Rosa said.

It was not clear how the man smuggled the gasoline and rifle into the crowded casino.

Albayaalde said the gunman may have an extra container of gasoline as well.

Caucasian

The gunman, who Dela Rosa described as "white, with a mustache," about 1.8 meters tall and English speaking, fled the gambling area and barged into a room on the fifth floor of Maxims Hotel, which is part of the Resorts World complex.

He laid down on the bed, covered himself with a blanket, doused himself with gasoline and then set himself on fire, Dela Rosa said.

The gunman carried no identity documents, police said.

The bag of high-value gambling chips—with an estimated worth of P113 million to P130 million, or more than \$2 million—was found in a toilet.

Reilly said hotel security guards shot and hit the gunman in the leg.

"Testimonies of responding members of Resorts World Manila security team confirm that we were able to shoot and wound the gunman," Reilly said.

"Severe loss of blood from a gunshot wound significantly slowed down the assailant and resulted [in] his holing up in a room where he took his own life," he added.

Reilly said reports that the gunman had lost heavily in the casino were "sheer speculation."

He also denied reports that a security guard accidentally shot himself.

Reilly said the report of an attempted robbery was being investigated, but insisted that "all of the resort's gambling chips" were in the management's possession.

Reilly said the man was already armed when he approached from the parking lot the "security point" on the second floor of Newport mall, which leads to the casino.

world-cla
mail add: oa

"With his firearm forward, he unloaded a number of shots. He was in military attire. A security guard who was at the door of X-ray screening tried to slow the assault down but unfortunately could not do so," he said.

Only one gunman

Reilly also denied online reports that there were two gunmen.

"On behalf of the victims' families and loved ones, we request everyone to refrain from spreading hurtful speculation and false information," he said.

More than 70 people suffered mostly minor injuries in the stampede to escape, police said.

A South Korean died of a possible heart attack suffered during the evacuation, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Albayaalde said the gambling room was carpeted and the tables were combustible, and all the bodies were found in the smoky room.

Investigators were going check if the water sprinklers in the hotel worked.

Chief Supt. Tomas Apolinario, chief of the Southern Police District, said investigators were checking out a person of interest whose identity they based on the registration papers of a vehicle the gunman allegedly used in going to Resorts World Manila.

Apolinario said security footage images showed the person of interest resembled the gunman. —WITH REPORTS FROM DEXTER CABALZA, AP AND REUTERS INQ

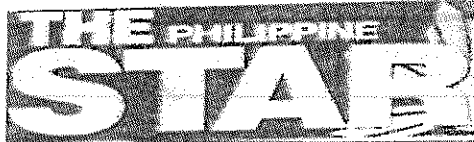
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03 June 2017



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38 dead in casino rampage

PNP: No IS hand in Resorts World attack

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

38 dead From Page 1

Thirty-eight bodies were found inside a casino in Pasay City after a masked man burst in with an automatic rifle and set fire to a gaming room early yesterday.

Dozens of others were injured in a stampede as they rushed to leave Resorts World Manila after the man fired what police said was an M4 assault rifle and started the fire around midnight.

The burnt body of the gunman was found in a hotel room inside the complex about five hours later, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said.

Dela Rosa said the gunman only fired at a television screen and did not take aim at anyone.

Responding lawmen initially found 36 bodies in the casino, who they said died from inhaling smoke that had

Turn to Page 6

become toxic because of the carpet on the gaming room floors.

"The victims who suffered from suffocation went up to 36," National Capital Region Police Office director Chief Supt. Oscar Albayalde told reporters.

"Practically, (the bodies were found) in the gaming area of casino. They were all recovered from the gaming area. None were found in the rooms," he said.

Two more victims were later found in the second floor of the building yesterday afternoon. One of the victims was buried by debris from a portion of the ceiling that fell, while the other was found in one of the rooms covered with a blanket.

The gunman initially disappeared into the chaos of smoke and running people, leading to a manhunt through the complex that ended just after dawn when he was found dead in Room 510, according to Dela Rosa.

"He lay down on the bed, covered himself with a thick blanket, apparently poured petrol on the blanket and burned himself," Dela Rosa said.

Police said it appeared the suspect had killed himself after firing at officers searching the still-smoking building.

"Our assessment is he burned himself. He committed suicide," Albayalde added.

Police said earlier the man's

motive was likely robbery and that the incident was not terror-related

Security footage showed the gunman ignoring a guard who tried to question him at the complex's entrance, then going straight to the casino. He stuffed a backpack with gambling chips, fired his assault rifle at TV screens and set gambling tables on fire by pouring gasoline from a two-liter bottle he carried.

It was not clear how he smuggled the gasoline and rifle into the crowded casino.

"We are looking into a robbery angle because he did not hurt any people and went straight to the casino chips storage room. He parked at the second floor and barged into the casino, shooting large TV screens and poured gasoline on a table, setting it on fire," Dela Rosa said.

"He went crazy and ransacked the storage room," he stressed.

Police described the gunman as tall with pale complexion and a mustache and spoke English.

The gunman, who was initially described as a foreigner, carried no identification documents. The bag of high-value gambling chips that he carried - with an estimated value of P113 million to P130 million - was later found in a toilet.

Terrorism fears

Before the gunman had been killed and police had con-

firmed possible motive, there were fears that the incident was a terror attack.

Albayaalde and military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla downplayed the incident as a mere "police matter," not a terror attack.

Albayaalde and Padilla told a press briefing at Malacañang that they have not monitored any terror threat in Metro Manila.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella also downplayed insinuations of a terror attack.

"Initial findings of police investigation of the Resorts World incident... show that there are no indications of terrorist activity," Abella said.

"All indications point to a criminal act by an apparently emotionally disturbed individual. Although the perpetrator gave warning shots, there apparently was no indication that he wanted to harm or shoot anyone," he said.

Abella also said the casino incident is not connected to the ongoing military campaign against the Islamic State-inspired Maute group in Marawi City.

Abella noted the gunman tried to grab millions worth of gambling chips before he died.

He said authorities are looking into the robbery angle.

"We really could not tell the motive of the perpetrator but apparently, he is mentally disturbed and as we can see, that's why we could not relate it to... We cannot relate it to terrorism is because he did not shoot anybody," Albayaalde said.

"He just went inside, he burned the gaming tables opened fire at the doorknob of the storage where the chips were kept and he stole P113 million worth of casino chips," he added.

Albayaalde said CCTV footage showed how the gunman entered the casino complex through the parking level and into the gaming area past midnight.

No lapses

The attack sent hundreds of people fleeing through the complex and out into the night. More than 70 people suffered mostly minor injuries in the stampede to escape.

Resorts World Manila chief operating officer Stephen Reilly said 22 guests and 13 employees initially died in the incident.

"It is with deep regrets that we confirm there were 35 casualties in this tragic incident, of which 13 are employees and 22 are guests," Reilly read from a prepared statement.

Reilly said they are doing everything to extend assistance to the families of the victims.

"This is also a very difficult time for all of us here in Resorts World Manila. We consider our guests, patrons and our employees as family," he said.

According to Reilly, the gunman initially figured in a firefight with casino security men. He said the gunman managed to escape though severely wounded, and was later found in a room where he had set himself ablaze.

Reilly stood firm that there were no security lapses on

their part.

He said the security guards inside the complex were not provided firearms as a rule.

"We had an armed intruder who entered into the property. He fired his firearm. He was in combat attire. Security inside the premises do not carry firearms only on the outside of the premises," Reilly said.

"They (security guards) did not engage because you've seen that it would escalate the situation. Unfortunately, the situation did escalate a bit further, moving towards gaming areas," he added.

Reilly also maintained their fire safety measures "had worked as it should do."

He pointed out the issue was not about the fire, but the thick smoke that engulfed the gaming section of the establishment and eventually killed their patrons.

"There is proper ventilation in the property. Unfortunately, I think a lot there was a degree of panic, which I understand when people hear gunshots they are going to hide for cover, evacuating the property quickly. They seek shelter and that is why they were overwhelmed by smoke," Reilly said.

"Unfortunately, those victims suffer from smoke inhalation," he added.

Resorts World officials led by Reilly read the names of the victims.

Among the fatalities were P Ling Hung Lee, Lai Wai Chung and Lai Yu Cheeh while the other 15 identified guests are Filipinos. They are Caccam Katherine Cervantes, Paci-

ta Comquilla, Pomenciano Vargas Jr., Susan Abulencia, Jaime Gaboy Jr., Ariel Abrogar, Cliff Reyneira, Rolando Sison, Eluterio Reyes, Antonina Alanigue, Sheila Malicse, Carmelita de la Cruz, Mielle Oliveros, Pamela Silvestre and Elizabeth Gonzales.

Four of the victims remain unidentified, Reilly said.

He also identified 11 of the dead casino employees as Hazel Yangco, Jallah Ramos, Melvin Herrera, Arvi Gavino, BJ Pagsibigan, Rojie S Uy, Jessica Alindogan Merylle Gwen Ala, Lea Grace Mozo, Loudette Santos and Kay Nuguerra.

Reilly branded as speculation reports that the suspect was a previous guest at the casino who lost in gambling. He noted the police claim that the motive could have been simple robbery since the gunman tried to grab casino chips.

Reilly also hailed the police and security forces for immediately responding to the scene.

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) said the incident was an isolated case of random violence "and was caused by a foreign-looking man who appeared to be deranged."

Pagcor said it will coordinate with operators of other casinos to ensure the safety of all guests and employees to prevent a similar incident from happening.

- Christina Mendez, Robertzon Ramirez, Perseus Echeminada, Iris Gonzales, AFP, AP, Reuters



PNP photo shows the remains of the gunman who set himself on fire inside Room 510 of the Maxims Hotel in the Resorts World complex. At right, CCTV photos show the suspect carrying an M4 rifle and resting on the stairs after being wounded by hotel security guards.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Soldier killed in Marawi on final journey home

DUMAGUETE CITY – The remains of the Army officer slain in Marawi City who was from Bais City, Negros Oriental, arrived here Thursday on a Philippine Air Force plane.

2 Lt. MacGlen Abuyabor, 28, was killed by sniper fire Wednesday morning during a clash with members of the Maute group in Marawi.

Abuyabor received full military honors from the Army's 79th Infantry Battalion and the 2nd Negros Island Geographical Battalion at the Dumaguete-Sibulan airport.

In an interview, Police Officer 1 Jaykel Abuyabor, the younger brother of the slain soldier, said MacGlen visited them just last week in Bais from Lapu-lapu City in Cebu after complying with some requirements for his promotion.

MacGlen had already come from Marawi before working on his promotion but was asked to return, the brother said.

The soldier's last message to him when they accompanied him to the bus stop was to take care of their parents and not to leave them alone, said PO1 Abuyabor.

His last text message, according to the brother, was to send roses this Saturday to a girl in Dumaguete that 2Lt. Abuyabor appeared to have interest in, he added.

The police officer said he would send the flowers to the girl this Saturday.

According to him, the family first knew on Wednesday through social media that Abuyabor was wounded but later the classmates called him and somebody from G-1 of the Philippine Army also called to confirm that he had died.

Abuyabor was assigned to the Light Ranger Regiment of the SOCOM (Special Operations Command), his brother said.

Initial reports reaching the family said the soldier was shot twice on the right side of his body around 6 a.m. Wednesday, but his body was recovered several hours later because of the presence of terrorist snipers.

Evangeline and Alex, Abuyabor's parents, said he was too young to die. Evangeline appealed to President Duterte to do all that it takes to end the crisis in Marawi or more soldiers could be killed.

Addressing the Maute group, she said they were ruthless in killing his son.

Abuyabor was in the Army for three years and had graduated cum laude with a degree in business administration from the Negros Oriental State University in Bais.

The soldier will be buried in about three days, his brother said. (PNA)

03 June 2017

The Manila Times

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Army sacks 103rd Brigade commander

THE Philippine Army (PA) on Friday announced the removal of the 103rd Infantry Brigade commander.

In an interview, Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson, Army spokesman, said the sacking of Brig. Gen. Nixon Fortes does not have anything to do with ongoing military operations in Marawi City.

Col. Generoso Ponio is set to head the 103rd Infantry Brigade as acting chief.

Fortes has been designated as assistant division commander of the 1st Infantry Division.

Ponio is the former deputy commander of the 103rd Infantry Brigade, according to Tiongson.

"This [Fortes' removal] is integral to and part of the dynamism of the service," Tiongson told reporters.

He said the change of command will take effect on Monday.

DEMPSEY REYES

03 June 2017



Pahina. 2

Commander ng Army sa Marawi, sinibak

Sa kabila ng hindi pa tapos ang krisis sa Marawi City, sinibak sa puwesto ang Commander ng Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade (IB) na pangunahing sumasabak ang mga tauhan sa Maute-ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) sa lungsod.

Si Brig. Gen. Nixon Fortes, Commander ng Army's 103rd IB ay pansamantalang pinalitan ni Col. Generoso Ponio bilang

acting commander ng nasabing military unit.

Nabatid na si Ponio ay dating deputy ng Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade na siyang pangunahing may hurisdiksyon sa Marawi na sinalakay ng Maute-ISIS terrorist noong Mayo 23.

Sa tala, karaniwan nang hindi basta tinatangal ng liderato ng AFP ang kanilang mga opisyal sa kainitan ng anumang combat operation laio na

sa mga panahon ng krisis na siya ring dahilan kung bakit napalawig pa ang panunungkulan ni AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Afo na dapat sana'y pinagretiro ngayong araw ni Pangulong Duterte.

Nang matanong si Tiongson, sinabi nito na si Fortes ay itinalaga bilang Assistant Division Commander ng Army's 1st Infantry Division (ID) na nakabase sa Labangan,

Zamboanga del Sur.

Sa kabila nito, iginilit naman ni Tiongson na walang kinalaman sa krisis sa Marawi City ang pagtatanggali sa puwesto kay Fortes. (Joy Santos)

03 June 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 3

Army at Caggu detachment sinalakay ng BIFF sa Maguindanao

COTABATO CITY – Inatake ng mga armadong grupo ang isang Army at Caggu detachment kamakalawa ng gabi sa probinsya ng Maguindanao.

Ayon kay 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division spokesman Captain Arvin Encinas, dakong 9:45 ng gabi nang salakayin ng mga miyembro ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) ang Army at Caggu detachment sa Barangay Magaslong, Datu Piang, Maguindanao.

Agad itong natunugan ng mga sundalo at Caggu na gumanti ng putok sa mga rebelde.

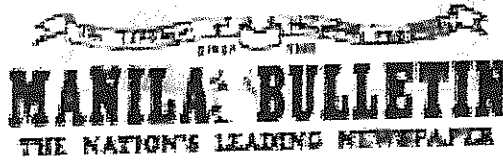
Tumagal ng kalahating oras ang palitan ng bala sa magkabilang panig gamit ang mga matataas na uri ng armas.

Umatras ang mga rebelde nang matunugan nito ang paparating na karagdagang pwersa ng militar.

Walang naiulat na sugatan at nasawi sa tropa ng pamahalaan habang hindi matiyak sa BIFF.

Patuloy ang clearing operation ng militar sa bayan ng Datu Piang, Maguindanao.

03 June 2017



Page: 1

Maute using human shields, prevents troops from clearing Marawi of extremists

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

Martial Law administrator Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana gave ground troops until yesterday to resolve the Marawi crisis.

But the self-imposed deadline was not met.

Armed Forces spokesperson Resituto Padilla said efforts to flush out Maute extremists were hampered by their use of civilians as human shields.

Padilla admitted the troops have calibrated their movements to avoid endangering the lives of civilians trapped in the conflict.

“Based on the report that we’re getting, I don’t think we can meet that deadline today (June 2) to completely — I’d like to qualify that — to completely free Marawi of every single armed element on every street,” he said in a Palace press conference.

“Compounding the situation on the ground is the use ▶4

Maute using human...

◀1

of these forces, these armed elements, of children and civilians as human shields," he added.

Padilla said the troops would abide by the rules of engagement when faced with such "complexity of war," citing their commitment to ensure the safety and protection of women and children.

"Sinisigurado na wala silang kasama. Mahirap gumalaw kapag may dalang sibilyan na gamit na shield. Yung sundalo hindi talaga magpapaputok (We make sure that they are alone. It's difficult to move if these militants use civilians as human shields. The soldiers will surely not engage)," he said.

Sniper nest

"There are international protocols related to this kaya nag-iingat tayo. We have to protect children, we have to protect women, we have to protect innocent lives," he said.

Apart from the use of human shields, Padilla said the militants have also turned the madrasahs into staging areas and the mosque as sniper nest. Such tactics were employed by the rebels in their hope "to limit the movement of our forces and their capability to neutralize them," he added.

Padilla made clear that deadlines are "relative to the amount of resistance that still exists and the threat in the area."

"It was a deadline that was set forth and provided by the Secretary of National Defense so we can aim for it. But the final decision actually rests on the ground commander," he said.

For now, Padilla said the military is doing its best to accomplish their mission, mainly to clear Marawi of armed elements and rescue trapped residents immediately. And they will never run out of ammunition.

"And even if they want to keep this fight up to the end of this month, or this week, or whatever, we are determined to take care of all these forces that have brought and disturb the peace, brought violence and disturb the peace to the peace-loving community of Marawi," he said.

He said the military will continue to apply commensurate power on these threats as pockets of resistance, including the use of air strikes despite the recent botched bomb run that left 11

soldiers dead.

The enemies have presently occupied commercial buildings as their "defensible enemy lairs" which are now the subject of military action, Padilla explained.

He said the botched air strike in Marawi City is currently under investigation by the Board of Inquiry "The aircraft and the crew involved have all been pulled out and are administratively back in their headquarters for debriefing as well as counseling," he said.

Relieved

Meanwhile, Reuters reported that the Army general leading the offensive against pro-Islamic State militants holed up in Marawi has been relieved of his command, an army spokesman said on Friday, the 11th day of the country's biggest security crisis in years.

The removal of Brigadier General Nixon Fortes as commander of the Army brigade in Marawi City was not related to the battle that has raged in the city, the spokesman said. He was replaced by his deputy, Colonel Generoso Ponio.

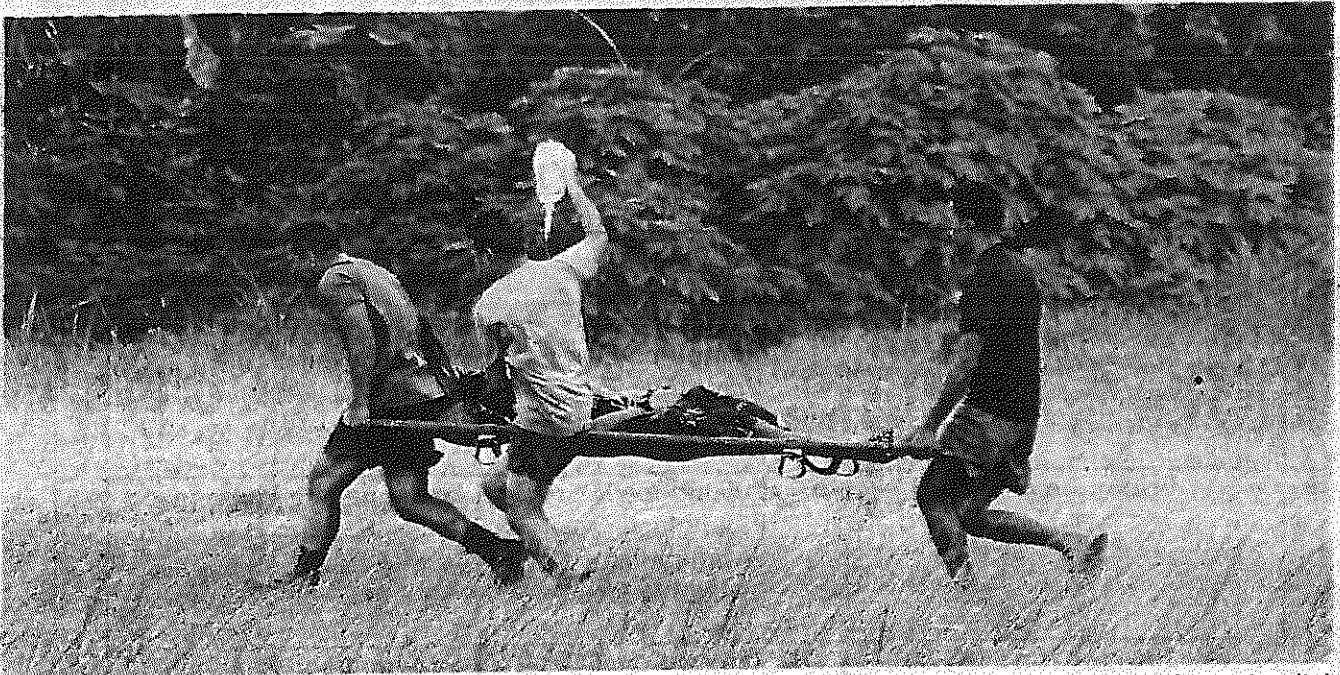
On Wednesday, an air strike aimed at flushing out rebels killed 10 troops, a major blow that the army said was an accident of the sort that sometimes happens in the "fog of war."

Asked if the course of the conflict was the reason for Fortes' replacement, spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Tiongson said: "That's not the reason."

A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Fortes was dismissed because not all his forces were in the city when the rebels began their rampage, even though military intelligence had indicated that Islamist militants, including foreign fighters, were amassing there.

The source said some of Fortes' forces were busy fighting a small band of communist insurgents in a nearby town when some 400 militants took over some barangays last Tuesday after a botched military raid to capture their leader, Isnilon Hapilon.

Thirty-nine members of the security forces have been killed in the Marawi battles, as well as 19 civilians and 120 Maute fighters. (With a report from Reuters)



ANOTHER CASUALTY— An Army trooper wounded during the fighting in Marawi City is rushed to a helicopter for transfer to a hospital on Friday. For the 10th day, government forces battled Islamic extremists who have defied threats by authorities for them to surrender or die. (Mark Balmores)

03 June 2017



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Hapilon group using civilians as human shields amid military offensive

by Mario J. Mallari and Gerry Baldo

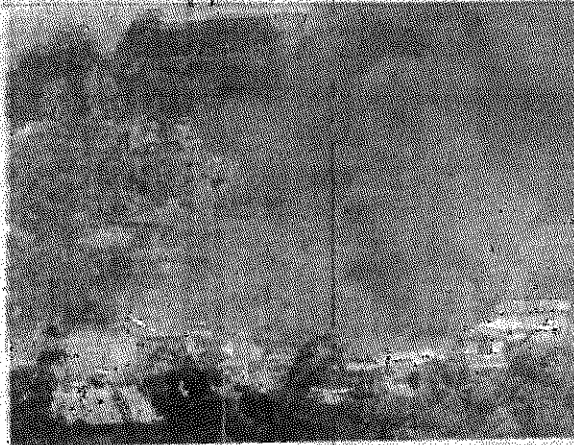
The Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists, led by Isnilon Hapilon, are now using children and other innocent civilians and even mosques to gain advantage against government troops in Marawi City.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), yesterday said the terrorists continued to set up a fight at press time yesterday – the timeframe earlier given by the Department of Defense to address the siege.

“The enemy continues to occupy commercial buildings as their defensible enemy lairs and this is the subject of military action being conducted from the past few days until now,” he stressed.

Hapilon and his IS-inspired followers from the Abu Sayyaf and

Turn to page 7



Smoke billows from houses after aerial bombings by Philippine Airforce planes on Islamist militant positions in Marawi, on the southern island of Mindanao yesterday. Militants have destroyed two tanks and damaged two others in a battle with Philippine security forces over a southern city that has claimed nearly 200 lives, the military said yesterday. AFP

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OFFICE OF

Hapilon group using civilians as human shields amid military offensive

Local: 5285, 5295

From page 1

Maute group have launched wide-scale atrocities in Marawi City last May 23 after government troops attempted to arrest him.

Military forces have been pounding identified positions of the terrorists at the heart of Marawi City with air strikes and ground assaults.

Apart from occupying vantage positions, Padilla said the terrorists are now using innocent civilians as human shields.

"Compounding the situation on the ground is the use of these forces, these armed elements of children and civilians as human shields," he noted.

"Apart from that, they have also been turning into the madrasahs as staging areas and the mosque as sniper nest thereby hoping to limit the movement of our forces and their capability to neutralize them," he added.

Padilla stressed the military

continued to apply "commensurate military power" on these existing threats and pockets of resistance.

He said the AFP will continue to conduct air strike against the terrorists even after Wednesday's friendly fire that killed 10 Army soldiers and wounded seven others.

Padilla clarified only 10 soldiers, not 11 as earlier reported, were killed in the friendly fire. He said another soldier was killed in a firefight with the terrorists also on Wednesday.

As of yesterday, Padilla said a total of 120 terrorists have been killed since the atrocities started while the government suffered 36 casualties. More than 80 others were wounded.

Padilla said civilian death toll remains at 19, pending the continuing clearing operations despite reports that more were likely killed.

"The reports remain for validation and until such time that these are validated accordingly, we

cannot include them," he added.

Civilians rescued in the ongoing operations have also increased to 1,024.

Maute to blame for 'friendly fire'

Allies of President Rodrigo Duterte in the House of Representatives, meanwhile, blamed the Maute group for the "friendly fire" that killed 10 soldiers in Marawi City.

House Deputy Minority Leader Alfredo Garbin cited the legal principle of "proximate cause" in pinning the blame on the Maute for the soldiers' death.

"He who is the cause of the cause is the cause of the evil cause," he stressed.

A Philippine Air Force plane was doing bombing rounds to flush the terrorists out of the city when the incident happened.

According to Garbin, under the proximate cause tenet, the person who caused something bad to happen is the person who should

be charged in court.

"But then again AFP should be extra cautious and improve its capability and intelligence on the ground to avoid similar incidence and the continued loss of precious lives, including our soldiers," he said.

Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles also believes the guilty party is the Maute.

"Casualties resulting to unexpected mishaps are certainly something that we should frown on but in war, things like these can happen. Miscommunication can happen amid the chaos of war and our soldiers in the field, no matter how hard they train, may commit mistakes," he said.

Nograles, who is a lawyer like Garbin, added: "We have no one else to blame for his incident but the terrorists who are spreading this wickedness."

The lawmakers came out with the statement even as the AFP started its own investigation on the incident.

Sources of terrorist weaponry

The military, for its part, said it will trace the source of the Maute group's high-powered firearms and ammunition once Marawi City has been cleared of terrorists.

"On the firearms they are using against government security troops, it looks like they have stockpiled them for some time, and we have captured a lot of them in the past few days. We will know where they acquired them once our investigation starts," Padilla said in Filipino.

While he did not identify any possible supplier, the military official said they are not discounting the possibility that the group's weapons and ammunition are sourced from the black market or from undisciplined government security force personnel.

He added some of these weapons could have come from police and jail facilities that they attacked, looted and set afire after freeing the prisoners last week.

PNA

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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

03 June 2017

INQUIRER

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Marawi airstrikes to continue

By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

Despite an accident that killed 10 soldiers (not 11 as the military earlier reported) during a bombing run on Wednesday, the military will continue airstrikes in Marawi City, where government troops are locked in battle with pro-Islamic State terror groups.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson, said the incident was being investigated while the crew involved had been pulled out of the battle zone so they could undergo debriefing and counseling.

The debacle, Padilla said, would not suspend airstrikes.

"We continue to apply commensurate military power on these existing threats and pockets of resistance, and will continue to do so, including the use of airstrike," Padilla said in a press briefing in Malacañang on Friday.

He said the military was not likely to meet the deadline imposed by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to end clashes in Marawi by Friday, the 11th day

of fighting between government troops and the terrorists.

The final decision on what happens on the ground rests with the commander in the area, Padilla said.

"And based on the report that we're getting I don't think we can meet that deadline today (Friday) to completely—I'd like to qualify that—to completely free Marawi of every single armed element on every street," he said.

"So until such time that every member of this armed group, this rebellious group that still wants to make a stand inside Marawi exists, we cannot totally say we have cleared Marawi," he added.

A Reuters report said 39 soldiers had been killed in the Marawi clashes, as well as 19 civilians and 120 terrorists.

Army commander sacked

On Friday, a military spokesperson announced the relief of Brig. Gen. Nixon Fortes as commander of the Army brigade in Marawi City.

Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson, who was speaking for the military, said Fortes' removal was not re-

lated to the fighting in the city.

Fortes' deputy, Col. Generoso Ponio, took over command of the brigade.

A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Fortes was dismissed because not all his forces were in the city when terrorists from the Maute group began their rampage last week, even though military intelligence had indicated that Islamist gunmen, including foreign fighters, were massing up there.

Victory

The source told Reuters that some of Fortes' forces were busy fighting a small band of communist insurgents in a nearby town when some 400 gunmen overran Marawi City on May 23 after a botched military raid to capture one of their leaders, Isnilon Hapilon.

President Duterte on Friday assured soldiers of victory in the fight against extremism, saying they would prevail in the end even if they suffered losses.

"When it comes to extremism, we will win. We will have losses, that's how life is governed in this universe, you would never

know when. But to say we will lose, that's impossible," the President told soldiers in Ipil town in Zamboanga Sibugay province.

He said he was willing to step up government efforts against the extremists and promised them that the government would acquire more jets and new military equipment.

"It has to be brand new. I would no longer accept second-hand military equipment. The ones being given by the Americans, I don't want them, even if I have to spend double the money," he said.

Mr. Duterte told the soldiers that the fight the government was waging would be longer because unlike its enemies, the government cared about protecting civilians.

"We are a government and we are bound by rules and even treaties," he said.

If the government waged war like the terrorists, the conflict would have long been over because it could have just bombed everything, he said.

"This is a rebellion where we fight [in a] civilized way of dealing with the problems of the

country," Mr. Duterte said.

"We should carry on for as long as we can accept this. If not, then we raise the fighting to a higher degree—raise it one bar," he said.

This does not mean, though, that the government would be like its enemies.

"We cannot say that we will follow them. We are a civilized nation and we have a well-disciplined military and we also value human life even if we have to destroy sometime," he said.

Padilla said the military was doing its best to complete its mission quickly.

Among the things hindering the swifter completion of military operations in Marawi was the caution troops had to take to ensure that civilians would not be harmed, he said.

Padilla said the armed groups in Marawi were using children and civilians as human shields. The terror groups have also been using madrasahs (learning centers) and mosques as staging areas and sniper nests, he said.

As the fighting raged, the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) set

up the peace corridor in Marawi to provide a safe zone for those displaced by the conflict, said Irene Santiago, chair for the Bangsamoro peace process.

Santiago said they would also put up joint coordinating, monitoring and assistance centers in Marawi and in Malabang town, Lanao del Sur province, as well as a mobile center that would go around evacuation centers in the peace corridor.

She said 300 members of the joint peace and security teams would be deployed throughout the length of the corridor. More forces would be added as the need arises.

"The peace corridor is a manifestation of the shared vision of [the] government and the MILF of what our society should look like, one that is open, inclusive, compassionate, just and cooperative," she said.

The corridor seeks to offer a safe space for civilians, including the wounded and evacuees, as well as for relief goods. It was created to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to those affected by the fighting. —WITH RE-

PORTS FROM ALLAN NAWAL, FRIN-STON LIM AND REUTERS INQ

a3 June 2017



Page: 2

Military resumes airstrikes in Marawi

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The military resumed Thursday its airstrikes against pockets of defensive posi-

tions of the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute group, barely hours after a bomb run accidentally hit and killed 10 soldiers in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

This time, after 10 days of intense clearing operations, the Philippine Air Force (PAF) unleashed its FA-50 sonic jets to assist ground forces battling the well-positioned Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups backed by foreign-based terrorists.

It grounded Thursday the Italian-made SF260 Marchetti trainers' plane following the bomb run that accidentally hit the troops' position, killing 10 soldiers and wounding seven others who were manning the blocking posts.

Yesterday afternoon, President Duterte went to Ipil town in Zamboanga Sibugay to boost the morale of the 102nd Infantry Brigade, saying the government will win over terrorism.

"We choose to be in government so we are always in jeopardy. But that's beside the point. The point is we are fighting for a principle and that is what it is... but to say that we would lose (this), that's impossible. It will just

take a longer period (to win)," Duterte said, pointing out that unlike terrorists, government forces need to adhere to the Geneva Convention and lessen collateral damage.

The President was also scheduled to visit the wake of Cpl. Nilo Donato Jr., who was among those killed in the accidental airstrike.

The government's five-day deadline, set by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, to end the Marawi conflict ended yesterday with no clear signs that the fighting would be over soon, as authorities say the Maute gunmen along with their IS cohorts continue to put up pockets of resistance.

"Deadlines just add pressure to the heavily burdened field commanders and soldiers on the frontlines," a source told **The STAR**.

In a related development, Brig. Gen. Nixon Fortes, the Army commander whose unit has operational jurisdiction over Marawi City, was relieved from his post and

replaced by Col. Generoso Ponio, according to Army spokesman Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson.

However, Tiongson maintained that the change of command was not due to the friendly fire incident now being investigated by the military.

Brigadier Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman, said in a briefing at Malacañang yesterday that the current military focus is to clear Marawi

of terrorists.

"We continue to apply commensurate military power on these existing threats and pockets of resistance, and we'll continue to do so, including the use of airstrikes," Padilla stressed.

He added that terrorists have converted commercial buildings into defensive and staging positions, and the madrasas (Islamic schools) and mosques as snipers' nests.

As of Thursday, the military placed the terrorists' death toll at 120 and the government's at 36 soldiers, including those who died from Wednesday's friendly fire. Earlier, 19 civilians were killed by the terrorists.

Troops clearing the area have rescued 1,024 civilians who were either trapped or used as human shields.

Surrender or die

Padilla reiterated the AFP's call for the local terrorists to surrender.

"Finally, we continue to call on the remaining terrorists to consider their position, surrender or experience the dire consequence of military action. That is all I have for now," he said.

The AFP, he added, will not waver in going after the enemies of state.

"Even if they want to keep this fight up to the end of this month, or this week, or whatever, we are determined to take care of all these forces that have brought and disturbed the peace, brought violence and disturbed the peace to the peace-loving community of Marawi," Padilla said.

In the same briefing, government peace implementing panel chair Irene Morada San-

tiago urged those caught in the Marawi crisis to use the peace corridor set up by the government for safety of innocent civilians.

"The peace corridor is a safe and secure corridor for women, men and children fleeing the crisis in Marawi, as well as a reliable space for humanitarian assistance to pass through," Santiago said.

More than 300 trained members of the joint peace and security teams, she added, are being deployed throughout the length of the corridor and would be augmented if needed.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has directed its Iligan City branch to help families and soldiers affected by the clashes by giving them relief and medical assistance.

Alexander Balutan, PCSO general manager, also directed all employees nationwide, including those of Small Town Lottery authorized agent corporations, to observe and participate in the implementation of security measures in Mindanao.

"Protect yourselves, the PCSO assets and properties in your respective areas of operations and workplace," Balutan said as he instructed them to immediately inform his office of any incident affecting safety and security for action.

Balutan stressed that all of the PCSO must "coordinate with local government units, government agencies, law enforcement units and other government security forces whenever the situation requires." - **With Perseus Echeminada, Christina Mendez, Jaime Laude**

03 June 2017

The Manila Times

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MARAWI DEATH TOLL REACHES 175

'Maute using kids as human shields'

THE military on Friday accused the Maute terrorist group of using children as human shields, as the death toll in Marawi City reached 175 on the 11th day of fighting

Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman, also said soldiers have seized 98 firearms from the gunmen, and raised the possibility that these were obtained

from rogue military men

"Compounding developments in the battle remain as follows: (a) that the enemy is using children/civilians

► Shields A8

SHIELDS FROM A1

'Maute using kids as human shields'

as human shields. (b) that the enemy is using *madrassahs* (Islamic schools) as staging areas and mosques as sniper nest," Padilla said in a report released to the media.

Padilla said 36 government troops have been killed in action during the ongoing clearing operations in Marawi, a Muslim majority city in Lanao del Sur province that is part of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The number Maute members killed remained at 120, but gunmen continue to occupy some

commercial establishments "defensible enemy lairs," he said.

Padilla said the military's focus is on clearing operations, the rescue of trapped residents, recovery of civilian casualties, and assistance to local government units, civil society organizations and nongovernment organizations conducting relief operations.

"[We] continue [to] call on the remaining terrorists to surrender while there is an opportunity, or face the dire consequence of military action," Padilla added.

DEMPSEY REYES

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The Manila Times

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Marawi students to get psychosocial support

THE Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Health (DoH) will provide psychosocial assistance to school children who have been displaced by clashes between government troops and militants in Marawi City in Lanao del Sur province.

Education Secretary Leonor Briones said public elementary and high school students from Marawi City will be given "psychosocial" support to help them cope with the trauma brought upon by days of fighting in Marawi.

"Yes, we are going to require that. We will provide them psychosocial assistance intervention through dancing and other physical activities to be able to work them out the trauma," Briones said.

"We asked the Department of Health to help us out," she added.

The Health department said that it has deployed personnel in the

cities of Marawi and Iligan.

"We have already mobilized our mental psychosocial assistance task group so that we will be able to address it directly on the ground," Arnel Rivera, Medical Officer V at the DoH's Emergency Management Bureau Response Division, said.

"In case there would be a need for further support, questions or other concerns, we are ready to assist the Department of Education," Rivera added.

The Education department expects an influx of students in the cities of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro as a result of the fighting in Marawi City.

The department has postponed for two weeks the opening of classes in public elementary and high schools in Marawi City to ensure the safety of students.

NEIL A. ALCOBER

03 June 2017



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'Human shields' stall Marawi clearance

By **EFREN MONTANO**

THE use of human shields have made the military helpless to free Marawi City of ISIS-linked Maute group bandits yesterday.

"Compounding the situation on the ground is the use of these forces, these armed elements of children and civilians as human shields," AFP spokesman Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla said at a news briefing yesterday.

Padilla said terrorists continued to occupy commercial buildings. He added they had also turned madrasahs as staging areas and the mosque as sniper nest.

"We continue to apply commensurate military power on these existing

threats and pockets of resistance and will continue to do so including the use of airstrike," Padilla said.

Padilla stressed that the goal of the military offensives remain to clear Marawi from armed elements, rescue trapped residents, recover civilian victims and other potential casualties, and assist local government units as well as civil and non-government organizations conducting relief operations.

Padilla earlier this week told reporters after a four-hour closed-door executive session with senators that the military committed to accomplish the mission in Marawi City in the "fastest" way possible.

Padilla said the death toll in the Marawi City siege has reached 175 after 11 more

soldiers died Wednesday.

The AFP Spokesperson said the civilian and enemy death toll still stood at 19 and 120, respectively, while the number of those killed from the government side rose to 36.

Among the latest deaths, 10 were killed after a fighter plane mistakenly hit troops on the ground with a conventional bomb, Padilla said. An ensuing gunbattle then killed another soldier.

Padilla clarified that the earlier report of 11 deaths from the "friendly fire" was wrong, as one of these men apparently died in the gunbattle that erupted after the bungled air strike.

He said the AFP Board of Inquiry has been tasked to investigate the incident,

even as the military continued to extend support to the families of the slain soldiers and help personnel involved in the bungled air strike deal with the unfortunate incident through debriefing and counseling.

Padilla said troops continued clearing operations in Marawi City, as terrorists including members of the Maute and the Abu Sayyaf groups remained holed up in concrete structures, shielding them from military bomb runs.

"Apart from that, they have also been turning to the madrasahs as staging areas and the mosque as sniper nests, thereby hoping to limit the movement of our forces and their capability to neutralize them," he said.

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Balita

Page. 2

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSA ₱8.00

Sibilyan gamit na human shield ng Maute

Nina GENALYN KABILING at MARY ANN SANTIAGO

Bigo ang gobyerno na matupad ang itinakda nitong deadline na Hunyo 2, Biyernes, sa paglipol sa mga miyembro ng Maute Group sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur matapos na mahirapan ang mga operatiba ng pamahalaan, partikular na sa paggamit ng mga terorista ng mga sibilyan bilang mga human shield.

Inamin ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla na bahagya nilang limitahan ang kanilang mga pagkilos upang hindi malagay sa alanganin ang buhay ng mga sibilyang naupit sa kaguluhan.

"Based on the report that we're getting I don't think we can meet that deadline today (Hunyo 2) to completely – I'd like to qualify that – to completely free Marawi of every single armed element in every street," sinabi ni Padilla sa press conference sa Malacañang.

"Compounding the situation on the ground is the use of these forces, these armed elements of children and civilians as human shields," ani Padilla.

Aniya, tatalima ang militar at pulisya sa mga patakaran sa harap ng "complexity of war", at iginuit na determinado silang tiyakin ang kaligtasan at proteksiyon ng kababaihan at mga bata.

"Sinisigurado na wala silang kasama. Mahirap gumalaw kapag may dalang sibilyan na gamit na shield. 'Yung sundalo hindi talaga magpapaputok," sabi ni Padilla. "There are international protocols related to this kaya nag-iingat tayo. We have to protect children, we have to protect women, we have to protect innocent lives."

Bukod sa paggamit ng human shields, sinabi ni Padilla na ginawa na ring staging area ng mga terorista ang mga madrasah, habang sa mga mosque naman nakapuwesto ang mga sniper ng Maute.

Matatandaang inihayag kamakailan ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, martial law administrator, na malilipol ng militar ang Maute sa Marawi sa Hunyo 2.

BUHAY PA LAHAT
Samantala, nakatanggap ng

balita si Marawi Bishop Edwin Dela Peña mula sa ilang peace advocate na naging kasama noon ni Father Chito Sukanob na buhay pa ang lahat ng bihag ng Maute, kasama ang huli.

"We are getting stories from outside, regarding the hostages at saka kung ano ang ginagawa ng ibang mga grupo to negotiate for their release," pahayag ni Dela Peña sa panayam ng Radio Veritas. "May mga Muslim na tumutulong, without us knowing it, on their own they are doing their own work."

Natutuwa naman ang Obispo sa ipinakitang malasakit ng mga kapatid na Muslim na gumagawa ng "back channel negotiations" para matiyak ang kaligtasan ng mga bihag at mabawi ang mga ito nang ligtas.

"We don't know exactly kasi di naman kami nag-coordinate and also delicate itong process, so they are doing on their own, and we are very thankful for that. Akala namin nag-isa lang kami, marami palang tumutulong sa amin," pasasalamat ng Obispo.

03 June 2017

Tempo

Page. 2

Gov't misses deadline to end siege

The government has been unable to meet its self-imposed June 2 deadline to flush out extremists in Marawi City after the troops faced some difficulties, including the rebels' use of civilians as human shields.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla admitted the troops have calibrated their movement to avoid endangering the lives of civilians trapped in the conflict.

"Based on the report that we're getting, I don't think we can meet that deadline today to completely – I'd like to qualify that – to completely free Marawi of every single armed element in every street," Padilla said in a Palace press conference.

"Compounding the situation on the ground is the use of these forces, these armed elements of

children and civilians as human shields," he said.

Padilla said the troops would abide by the rules of engagement when faced with such "complexity of war," citing their commitment to ensure the safety and protection of women and children.

"Sinisigurado na wala silang kasama. Mahirap gumalaw kapag may dalang sibilyan na gamit na shield. Yung sundalo hindi talaga magpapaputok," he said.

"There are international protocols related to this kaya nag-iingat tayo. We have to protect children, we have to protect women, we have to protect innocent lives," Padilla said.

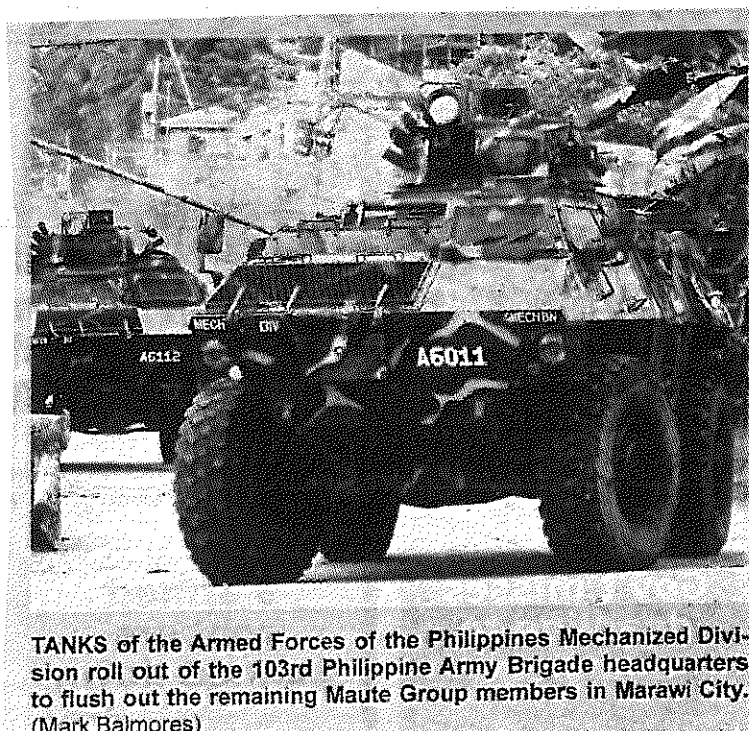
Apart from the use of human shields, Padilla said the armed groups have also turned the madrasahs into staging areas and the

mosque as sniper nest. Such tactics were employed by the rebels in their hope "to limit the movement of our forces and their capability to neutralize them," he added.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana earlier set June 2 as the government's deadline to end the Marawi siege launched by the Maute Group more than a week ago. Lorenzana is the Martial Law administrator.

Padilla made clear that deadlines are "relative to the amount of resistance that still exists and the threat in the area."

"It was a deadline that was set forth and provided by the Secretary of National Defense so we can aim for it. But the final decision actually rests on the ground commander," he added. **(Genalyn D. Kabiling)**



TANKS of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Mechanized Division roll out of the 103rd Philippine Army Brigade headquarters to flush out the remaining Maute Group members in Marawi City. (Mark Balmores)

03 June 2017

The Manila Times

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END MARAWI CRISIS

AFP fails to meet June 2 deadline

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) admitted on Friday that it could not meet the June 2 deadline set by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to clear Marawi City of militants.

In a news conference in Malacanang, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said that no deadline has been set on defeating the Maute Group forces.

"We are doing our best to accomplish this mission immediately," he said.

"No deadlines are relative to the amount of resistance that still exists and the threat in the area. It was a deadline that was set forth

and provided by the Secretary of National Defense so we can aim for it. But the final decision actually rests on the ground commander. And based on the report that we're getting, I don't think we can meet that deadline today to completely free Marawi of every single armed element in every street," Padilla told reporters.

"So until such time that every member of this armed group, this

rebellious group that still wants to make a stand inside Marawi exists, we cannot totally say we have cleared Marawi," he added.

Lorenzana, the administrator of martial law, earlier set the June 2 deadline for security forces to finish the Marawi crisis.

As of the latest reports from ground commanders, Padilla said members of the Maute group still occupy some commercial establishments in the city.

Padilla said the military will continue their air strikes despite the bungled bombing that accidentally killed 10 soldiers.

"We continue to apply commensurate military power on these existing threats and pockets of resistance and will continue to do so including the use of air

strike," he said.

He added that the aircraft and crew involved in the air strike that killed government troops have been pulled out of Marawi.

"The worst scenario that can be likened to the worst nightmare for every pilot who tries to assist his fellow uniformed services on the ground is to have a case or an incident like this," he said.

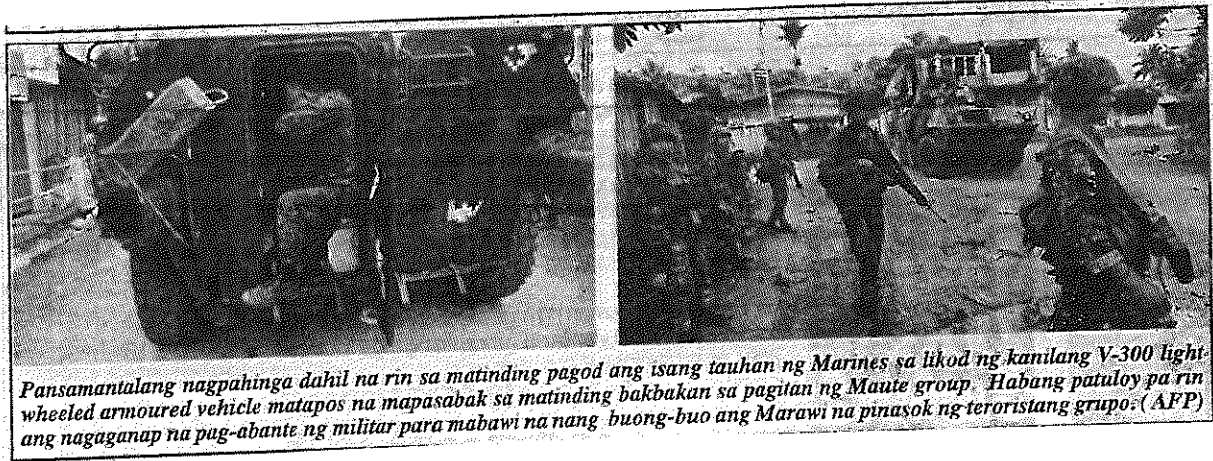
Padilla clarified that only 10 soldiers were killed by "friendly fire."

"Continued efforts also is being exerted in our collaboration and coordination with other concerned agencies to ascertain the status of victims whose families continue to ask for assistance on their whereabouts, as well as those of the hostages that are known to us," Padilla said.

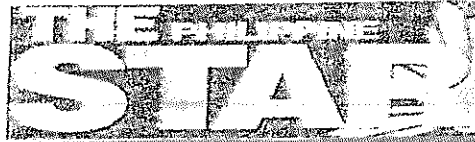
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NGAYON

Pahina. 7



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Arrest orders out for narco pols behind IS-Maute

By **CHRISTINA MENDEZ**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is now ready to conduct arrest operations against suspected drug personalities linked with the Maute group following President Duterte's statements that the Maute brothers have been using drug money to bankroll their goal to make Marawi City and the rest of Mindanao part of an Islamic State (IS) caliphate.

"There has been a list that has been approved, that in effect indicates identified personalities that need to be arrested," AFP spokesman Gen. Restituto Padilla said yesterday in a Palace briefing.

Padilla said he is not privy to the details "but this will be

the subject of implementation in the coming days."

"I cannot divulge the names for security reasons. And whatever else that we can find in the next few days as potential supporters of this armed rebellion will be dealt with accordingly," he said.

Padilla also said once the Marawi conflict is finally over, the military will shift its focus to hunting down individuals or groups who may have supported the Maute gunmen and their foreign cohorts in attacking the city Tuesday last week.

Padilla said an investigation will be conducted to determine the sources of high-powered firearms used by the Maute-IS terrorists.

"On the firearms they have been using against government security forces, it looks that they have stockpiled for some time, and we have (seized) a lot of them in the past few days," Padilla said.

Initially, the military said the high-powered firearms were acquired by the terrorists from the black market.

But Padilla said the defense and military leadership are also not discounting the possibility that some of these weapons came from rogue members of the uniformed services.

On top of this, the terrorists were also able to seize government-issued ammunition and firearms when they raided and ransacked the provincial jail in the city.

The terrorists also seized a number of high-powered firearms from policemen after their armored personnel carriers were disabled by rocket propelled grenades.

There were talks that, aside from their IS backers in the Middle East, key personalities in Mindanao supportive of the Mautes have provided the terrorists with logistical support.

Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao last May 23 following the breakout of hostilities in Marawi. He also suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

The other day, Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said the government has ordered the arrest of members of the Maute and

Abu Sayyaf groups and their suspected supporters.

The defense department issued the arrest order in its capacity as administrator of martial law.

Asked if the military leadership will recommend that the drug issue be included in the coverage of martial law now being implemented in Mindanao, Padilla explained rebellion and invasion are the only two conditions under the Constitution that would warrant martial law declaration.

"There are no conditions other than those. The conditions prevailing right now in Marawi and elsewhere in Mindanao constitute rebellion and partly invasion and that is where martial law was based,"

Padilla noted.

The DOJ also said it is in the process of selecting the members of the four panels of prosecutors that would handle the cases to be filed against members of the Maute group.

Each panel will be composed of three members.

Aguirre likewise said they were thankful that prosecutors from Marawi City are safe.

"We need to provide them with all that we can to help them start serving the people again. Justice is a 24/7 commitment of the DOJ. The airlift of equipment and supplies to our prosecutors is our way of ensuring that we honor that commitment," Aguirre said.

-With Jaime Laude, Evelyn Macairan

03 June 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Reds offer to join fight vs Maute

By Karlos Manlupig
@kmanlupigINQ

NOORDWIJK—Communist negotiators have offered a ceasefire and the deployment of New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas against local terrorists in a bid to revive the suspended peace talks.

"The GRP and [National Democratic Front] must act in consonance with the Filipino people's clamor for peace [and] reforms," the NDF said in a statement.

The NDF issued the statement on Thursday after com-

munist leaders Jose Maria Sison, Fidel Agcaoili and Benito Tiamzon met with government negotiator and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello and government negotiator Angela Librado.

Agcaoili, who signed the statement, said the "fruitful" three-hour meeting resulted in an agreement on a common stand against terrorism and a commitment to resume talks.

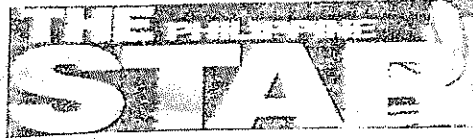
He said both the government and the communist movement must "stand together to oppose and fight terrorism, terrorist groups and acts of terrorism."

"We must condemn and must be resolved and determined to counteract the Maute group and (Abu) Sayyaf, which are wreaking havoc in Marawi City," the statement said.

He said the NPA's counteraction against terrorism "must be appropriate and proportional to the degree of danger and threat and/or harm" by extremists behind the Marawi City siege.

"Upon the success of the counterterrorist measure, these must cease to allow normalcy and full respect for human rights as soon as possible," Agcaoili added. INQ

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Duterte rejects Reds' offer to fight with AFP

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte rejected last night the offer of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) to deploy rebel fighters in Marawi ostensibly to show a united front against the Maute group, now the subject of military operations in the city after the

declaration of martial law in Mindanao. Addressing members of the Army's 102nd Infantry Brigade in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, Duterte said he could not allow the NPA to "fight alongside government" until the rebels have signed a commitment for a peace agreement. National Democratic Front (NDF) peace panel chairman Fidel Agcaoili sent

a letter, offering to help the government fight the Maute, the President said.

"I don't know but I am not so keen about it. Anyway, it's a show of goodwill," he said.

Duterte said he would not authorize presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza and government chief negotiator Labor

Turn to Page 2

Duterte From Page 1

Secretary Silvestre Bello III to go back to the negotiating table yet.

Duterte has been keen on having communist leader Jose Maria Sison and other leaders sign a document declaring a unilateral ceasefire.

"I will just be frank with them right now, either we continue to talk about peace but we have to stop fighting. I will not allow any talks on my behalf, or myself, since Dureza and Bello are there (in the Netherlands)," Duterte said, adding he had done his part by releasing old communist prisoners upon his assumption in office.

"I will not allow or authorize them to go back to the negotiating table without them signing a document of unilateral (ceasefire), they would say that they will stop fighting," he added.

He recognized that there have been "pockets of rebellion everywhere," but these are not "large-scale."

During the opening of the fifth round of talks between the government and the CPP leaders last week, Dureza and Bello notified their counterparts that the government would not participate in the talks until it got an assurance that the rebels will not engage in atrocities in the countryside.

Duterte said the Islamic State will never allow the NPA or any group to join their ranks - in case the Islamic

groups emerge victorious against the government.

The President also expressed confidence that the government will win over extremism in spite of the headway the militant groups have made recently in the southern part of the country, particularly in Marawi City and Jolo.

"We will win over extremism. There is no way that extremists will win over us, over government," he told the soldiers.

The President explained that what is happening now in the fight against the extremism of IS-affiliated Maute group and Abu Sayyaf is that the collateral damage is rather huge, given the loss of lives from the military as well as civilians caught in the crossfire during skirmishes or attacks.

Duterte said the problem is extremists kill civilians without any care at all, which he said government cannot do.

The President said the Philippines is a civilized nation and could not do what the terrorists are doing.

"We are a civilized nation and we have a military that is well-disciplined, that is why. Sometimes we are in a quandary," he added.

But the President vowed that when he steps down from office, the country will have a strong Armed Forces.

The President also promised a P50-billion trust fund for the education of the children of the soldiers and the police.

- With Edith Regalado

03 June 2017



Page: 1

Reds offer help, Du30 sets terms

By John Paolo Bencito

COMMUNIST rebels on Friday offered to “cooperate and coordinate” with the Duterte administration in its fight against terrorism should the government return to the negotiating table, but President Rodrigo Duterte demanded they first rescind its orders to the New People’s Army to intensify attacks on government troops.

After last-minute backchannel talks between negotiators of the government and the National Democratic Front in The Netherlands, the NDF said the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the NPA may be bound by a ceasefire agreement in specific areas to “counteract the Maute group and the Abu Sayyaf.”

“In this connection, all panelists, legal and political consultants and other personnel in the peace negotiations must be

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Reds...

From A1

allowed to return to the Philippines and subsequently attend the fifth round of formal talks,” Fidel Agcaoili, chairman of the rebel panel, said in a statement.

Agcaoili also suggested a ceasefire agreement “in specific areas of cooperation and coordination ... pending the issuance of ceasefire declarations that are

unilateral but simultaneous and reciprocal.”

He said both sides “must stand together to oppose and fight terrorism, terrorist groups and acts of terrorism.”

“We must condemn and must be resolved and determined to counteract the Maute group and Abu Sayyaf which are wreaking havoc in Marawi City,” he said.

“By terrorism we mean actions that intimidate, terrorize and harm civilians solely or

mainly in violation of human rights and international humanitarian law,” he added.

The fifth round of formal talks originally scheduled to end June 2, Friday was aborted May 28 as a result of a rebel call to increase attacks on government troops as a way of opposing martial law, which Duterte declared in Mindanao to combat the Maute group terrorists.

Duterte, however, said that he would not allow Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza and

government chief negotiator and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello to proceed with the fifth round of talks unless the Communist Party of the Philippines signs a unilateral ceasefire document.

“On our fight with the NPA, I don’t know what will be the developments because Agcaoili wrote to me and I’ve shown it to the officers. They have offered to fight alongside us against terrorism,” Duterte said.

“I will not allow any talks on

my behalf, [by either] Dureza or Bello. I will not allow them or authorize to go back to the negotiating table without them [the communists] signing a document [saying they] would stop fighting,” he added.

Duterte also said he was not keen about the latest communist proposal.

Duterte earlier threatened to arrest and jail NDF consultants who might return to the Philippines after the aborted talks.

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No to Reds' offer to join fight vs terrorists

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte is not buying the Reds' offer to fight alongside with government troops against terrorism.

"They have offered to fight alongside with us against terrorism. Maybe they realized na kung manalo -- we are overwhelmed and manalo -- the ISIS will prevail in Mindanao or even a part of Mindanao, wala silang kasali sa gobyerno," the President said, pointing out that the ISIS would not allow any group with a different ideology join them.

"I don't know, but I'm not so keen about it. Anyway, it's a show of goodwill," he added, referring to the offer.

The National Democratic Front recently offered to help the government quell terrorism in Mindanao but only in "specific areas of cooperation and coordination" through a ceasefire agreement, pending the issuance of ceasefire declarations that are unilateral, simultaneous, and reciprocal.

Duterte reminded his peace adviser Secretary Jesus Dureza and the government's chief negotiator Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III that a document that would stop hostilities must be signed before they go back to the negotiating table.

"Kasi ako magprangka naman sa kanila ngayon, it's either we continue to talk about peace but we have to stop fighting. I will not allow any talks on my behalf or ako kasi nandoon

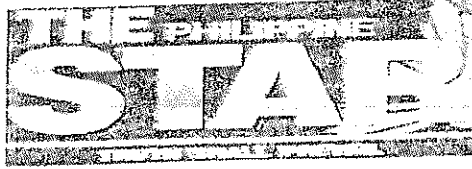
si Dureza at Bello. I will not allow them or authorize them to go back to the negotiating table without them signing a document, unilateral, kanila, they say they'll stop fighting because ako tapos na ako. Ako ang nauna," he said.

The government canceled the fifth round of talks with the communists after the party called on its

armed wing, New People's Army to intensify operations, after Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao over an attack on Marawi City.

Duterte responded that if the communists aid terrorists amid the Marawi crisis, their peace consultants released for the negotiations will be arrested once they return to the Philippines. **Efren Montano**

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Rody to MNLF: Integrate before helping AFP

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Integrate into the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) first.

President Duterte made this call to fighters of the Moro National Liberation Front as he clarified his statement regarding the offer of MNLF chief Nur Misuari to deploy 5,000 MNLF fighters in military operations against Maute militants and other terrorists in Mindanao.

"The President said MNLF members who would be accepted have to be integrated and placed under military control before they will help the government fight against terrorists," said Mayor Ma Isabelle Climaco-Salazar, citing her conversation with the President when she welcomed him at the Andrews Air Base yesterday on his way to Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Salazar had expressed concern over the President's statement that he had accepted Misuari's offer. Misuari and his men are

facing criminal charges in connection with the MNLF siege in this city in 2013.

Misuari and around 300 of his men were charged with rebellion and violation of the Humanitarian Law, genocide and other crimes against humanity over the siege that left more than 200 people dead and displaced over 120,000 residents.

"As far as Zamboanga City is concerned, we only recognize police and military forces to carry firearms. All others not belonging to the Philippine National Police and AFP will be apprehended if they are caught carrying firearms in the city," Salazar said.

She also urged Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza to set the guidelines on the possible deployment of MNLF fighters.

On Tuesday, 11 MNLF members were spotted in a village here. They told police they are residents of Parang, Maguindanao and were on their way to attend a wedding in Basilan.

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BusinessMirror

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MARAWI SIEGE SEEN AS ISIS'S FIRST ATTEMPT TO FOMENT WAR IN PHL

ISIS WAR IN PHL HAS BEGUN

By RENE ACOSTA

THERE may be logic behind President Duterte's decision to put Mindanao under martial rule—even as some still see other motives—as reports and developments tend to lend credence to the belief that the raging conflict in Marawi City may just be the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria's (ISIS) initial battle in a war that it wants to stir in the country.

No less than Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana admitted on Wednesday that the imposition of martial law was not only meant to end the raging operations in Lanao del Sur's capital, but also to address the rebellion and the Islamic militancy-borne terrorism in the southern part of the country.

"The situation currently being dealt with by state security forces goes beyond Marawi City. President Duterte's imposition of martial law aims to put an end to the long-running rebellion in various provinces in the South," a statement released by his office quoted Lorenzana as saying.

The statement also mentioned Lorenzana's recollection of the

Commander in Chief's repeated statements that if and when he declares martial law, he would use it to end all security-related problems in the region, including the terrorism posed by "local and foreign terrorist groups".

Same group

DURING the first day of the government operations, the defense chief admitted that the conflict in Marawi City was a "Maute Group/ISIS" campaign "because they are the same group", suggesting even that the pictures that have been exhibited by the militants in Mindanao's city were no different from the photographs of ISIS in Iraq.



A PHILIPPINE Marine guards high-powered firearms, including a 50-caliber machine gun, ammunition, uniforms and black ISIS-style flags on Tuesday in Marawi City. AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

OFF

SEE "ISIS," A2

ISIS... CONTINUED FROM A1

While the Armed Forces continue to maintain its stance that the war in Mindanao's key Islamic city—an offshoot of the joint police and military operations to arrest Isnilon Hapilon—was waged by the homegrown Maute terrorist group for domestic atrocities, bigger reasons painted it rather differently.

For one, Maute's call is for an Islamic caliphate in the South after it has affiliated itself, or has been recognized by the ISIS, and its recognized leader is Hapilon, the acknowledged leader of the ISIS, not only in the country, but in the whole of Southeast Asia.

Hapilon, the commander of the Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf Group, has bonded together factions from all the three homegrown terrorist groups, which included the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), for a single flag and for a single purpose, both under the ISIS.

Foreign jihadists

WHILE the war in Marawi City is being waged and resisted by the predominantly Maute with its local Islamic fighters, the military, however, noted the involvement of foreign jihadists in the fighting, most of them from neighboring Malaysia, Indonesia and

Singapore, and even other "Arab-looking" militants.

The presence of an unusually big number of foreign fighters in the clashes was something that the government has never seen or experienced in its years of dealing with the local terrorist groups in Mindanao, wherein, in some of its previous operations, it has killed one or even maybe two foreign fighters.

At the start of the operations in Marawi City, military Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said security forces have killed at least six Indonesians and Malaysians, with the possibility that the number could grow, as government forces move to completely clear the city.

"There are certain foreign elements here who have been in the country for a long time aiding these terrorists in skills related to terrorism, primarily bomb making," Padilla said.

"There are also Malaysians, Singaporeans, and in the fight that has been ongoing in Marawi, we are continuously verifying that there have been a number of them who have been killed...so that confirms the presence of these foreign terrorists," the military spokesman also said in an earlier statement.

Before the weekend, various

reports in Malaysia claimed that at least 28 Malaysians have joined the Maute Group in the battle against government forces, confirming the statements of Padilla and other government officials about the involvement of foreign militants in the war.

Other than Malaysians, at least 10 Indonesians and Singaporeans, reports said, have joined the Lanao del Sur-based terrorist group.

The Malaysians reportedly arrived in Marawi City days before the fighting broke out, suggesting that the Maute and Southeast Asian jihadists were gearing up for a showdown with the Philippine government, with Marawi City as the scene and their object of conquest.

Heightened regional security

REPORTS also quoted an alarmed Malaysian Defense Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin as saying he was in communication with Lorenzana, and even with his other counterparts in the region, as the battle in Marawi City unfolds.

All the officials have also agreed to further heighten security within their borders with the Philippines, as they moved to quell the exodus of foreign fighters to Mindanao.

ISIS province?

AS the presence of foreign fighters in Marawi City alarms the country's neighbors, Padilla said they were still confirming the number of Malaysians, Indonesians and Singaporeans who were involved in the war, although their presence cannot be denied, as shown by battle casualty reports.

"We cannot confirm it still because they all looked the same. All the recovered bodies showed the same features and they do not have identification. So we still have to identify them, [a] process [to be undertaken] by the intelligence," Padilla said.

He emphasized that, while they could not deny the presence and involvement of foreign jihadists in Marawi as shown by the recovered bodies, they, however, need to have proofs to ascertain their so-called presence in big number and the extent of their involvement.

"For Marawi, there could be, but we have to ascertain first because we could not show proof," Padilla said, adding when the military says the foreign

fighters were in the city, it must be backed by facts. "We cannot show proof, except from the information coming from no less than the network of foreign terrorists that they are there."

However, a clearer statement on the involvement of foreign fighters in Mindanao had been put up by Solicitor General Jose C. Calida, where he defined the rebellion in Marawi City as an "ISIS call".

He said, "What is happening in Mindanao is no longer a rebellion of Filipino citizens. It has transmogrified into an invasion by foreign fighters," whose players are Malaysian, Indonesians, Singaporeans and other foreign jihadists.

Calida said foreign Islamic fighters are responding to the call of the ISIS to travel to Mindanao and put up a *wilayat*, or an ISIS province.

Base

NOTWITHSTANDING the country's varied positions, security and counterterrorism experts in the region believe the Marawi City operations were part of the grand plan of Southeast Asian jihadists, who have fought with the ISIS in Syria and Iraq, to establish a base in the Philippines.

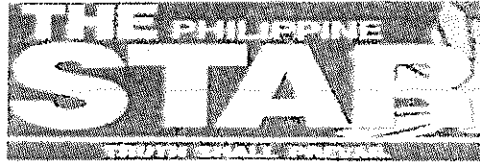
This idea cropped up during the security conference held in April in Singapore by the Milipol, wherein experts advanced the notion that Mindanao was an ideal base for jihadists returning from the Middle East because of its unstable condition and porous border, which could facilitate the easy transport of firearms and war materials.

Rohan Gunaratna, a Singaporean counterterrorism analyst, told the conference that the ISIS was already moving to "creating a territory in southern Philippines."

"The most recent communication issued by Islamic State [IS] has announced that they have formally declared an East Asia division of IS in the southern Philippines," he said.

On the other hand, Singapore's Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam declared that with the Philippine government's difficulty in controlling Mindanao despite its efforts, the country's southern region can become a sanctuary for returning ISIS fighters.

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3 Sayyaf men surrender

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Three Abu Sayyaf bandits surrendered in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan on Thursday

Tarsan Pimping Tong, Otsoy Harisul Subhan and Teban Pasalun Abdulaji surrendered to Tipo-Tipo Vice Mayor Tong Istarul. The bandits were presented to the 18th and 74th Infantry Battalions and Senior Inspector Mujahid Asmawil, Tipo-Tipo police chief.

The bandits said they decided to surrender for fear of their lives amid sustained military operations.

Around 50 Abu Sayyaf members have surrendered in Basilan since January

– Roel Pareño

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Hoax messages about Maute presence decried

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is urging the public to stop spreading hoax messages that claim that members of the Maute terrorist group were in Western Visayas.

“There is no truth to that,” said Supt. Gilbert Gorero, spokesman of Police Regional Office for Western Visayas.

Since terrorists attacked Marawi City last month, false text messages and posts on social networking sites have spread.

According to the false message, a Maute member has been spotted at a shopping mall, but did not specify the

location. This particular shopping chain has branches in all four provinces of Panay Island—Aklan, Antique, Capiz, and Iloilo.

Gorero also clarified that many Muslims in the region were law-abiding citizens who run legitimate businesses and are unlikely to be involved in terrorist activities.

Gorero added that Chief Supt. Cesar Hawthorne Binag, the regional police director, said local Muslim communities in the region help collect intelligence for the authorities.

There is also a proposal to create a database of various local Muslim groups that easily identifies law-abiding Muslims and those that may pose a threat.

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'Be wary of Visayas martial law plan'

By CARLA N. CANET

BACOLOD CITY — A priest is urging the public to be vigilant following the pronouncement of President Duterte that he is considering placing Visayas under martial law.

"The situation in our place is still normal. There are incidents, but these are not related to the Maute group," said Rev. Fr. Jonas Sumagaysay, spokesperson of the Diocese of Bacolod.

Sumagaysay said Negros Island is too far from Marawi City, where government forces are trying to re-

gain control from the Maute terrorist group.

Rafael Coscolluela, former governor of Negros Occidental, agreed with Sumagaysay.

"For now, I do not see any verifiable or urgent reason for martial law outside of Mindanao," Coscolluela said.

"There is no threat that cannot be addressed adequately by our Department of Defense without having to resort to such a drastic measure," Coscolluela added.

Sumagaysay and Coscolluela also said the plan to suspend the writ of habeas corpus was unnecessary.

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Marawi rehab plan tinatrabaho na ng ARMM

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Nakatakdang mag-alok ng three-phase recovery and rehabilitation plan ang Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) para sa Marawi City, na nakatakdang isapinal sa pakikipagtulungan sa city government at sa provincial government ng Lanao del Sur.

Tinawag na 'Unified Plan for Marawi City', sinabi ni ARMM Regional Governor Mujiv Hataman na ang recovery and rehabilitation initiative ay

iuugnay sa mga plano ng kalapit na munisipalidad.

Aniya, ang nasabing plano ay magkatuwang na pamumunuan ng Regional Planning and Development Office ng ARMM at ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Marawi, at gagamit ng "Build-Better-Now" approach para sa mas magandang plano at urban design.

Ipatutupad ang plano sa oras na matapos ang krisis sa Marawi, ayon sa ARMM governor.

"As we continue to deliver

relief to those affected by this crisis, we also need to plan and to prepare to build the future that the people of Marawi are holding on to," ani Hataman.

"Marawi is home to our brothers and sisters in the Bangsamoro, and it is our responsibility to make sure that it continues to be home for our people. We cannot let terror drive us away from the places we have built for ourselves and our family," dagdag niya.

Nonoy E. Lacson

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Health chief Ubial denies IS link

By **GERRY LEE GORIT**

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Health Secretary Paulyn Jean Ubial denied yesterday any links to the international terrorist group Islamic State (IS) through her dealings with a Kuwaiti-owned visa processing company Winston Q8

based in Manila.

Speaking to reporters at a hotel here, Ubial said she is willing to shed light on the issue and expressed her willingness to cooperate with any investigation to look into allegations that the Department of Health sanctioned the continuing operations of Win-

ston Q8.

The Maute group, now fighting government troops in Marawi City since May 23, has pledged allegiance to IS.

Reports said Winston Q8 was allegedly managed by people who have connections to IS, but the accusation by some lawmakers in

the House of Representatives that Ubial has “ties” to the company is not only false but highly malicious and libelous, said a DOH statement released yesterday.

Ubial was accused of colluding with Winston Q8 for failing to stop the firm’s accredited clinics from collecting exorbitant fees.

The DOH, through the Office of Health Regulations and Health Facilities, said it has revoked the accreditation of medical clinics contracted by Winston Q8 due to violations of existing laws, among them the collection of additional medical certification and visa accreditation fees to Kuwait-bound overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) on behalf of Winston Q8.

The agency noted eight of these medical clinics have since ceased operation. DOH also clarified it has no authority over Winston Q8.

The collection of extra fees reached the attention of the DOH last year and on Sept. 23, 2016, the agency issued Memorandum Circular 2016-0267 prohibiting all OFW clinics from doing the same.

The DOH said the OFWs “must get full protection on their rights to choose relevant medical clinics for screening.

The collusion between these clinics and Winston Q8 has to stop.”

Last March 9, the health department issued a preventive suspension order to the eight medical clinics involved in processing of medical certificates after receiving complaints of their continued activities despite the early directives.

On May 9, Ubial finally ordered these clinics closed.

“It is clear and of common knowledge to anyone involved in the industry that the DOH under my watch definitely shut down Winston Q8 and never at any time facilitated their continued operation in the Philippines,” she said.

Ubial said: “It should be understood by all that we at the DOH cannot have people or companies that we like and those that we don’t like when we deal with sectors that we serve.”

She said her office has to deal with everyone justly and fairly as public servants and that they are trying to eliminate the culture of favoritism and patronage politics.

“We welcome any investigation; it will clear our name. My conscience is clear, I have not done anything wrong,” she added.

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FLEEING THE FIGHTING – Evacuees from strife-torn Marawi City disembark from the ferry MV Trans Asia after it docked in Cebu City from Iligan City Friday. (Juan Carlo de Vela)

Marawi evacuees arrive in Cebu

By MARS W. MOSQUEDA JR.

CEBU CITY – At least 14 families composed of 62 individuals arrived in this city Friday after fleeing war-torn Marawi City.

The evacuees arrived on the MV Trans Asia 8 at Pier 5. They were met by personnel from the Cebu City government for profiling.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office VII has sent 20,000 family food packs to Mindanao for families affected by the fighting in Marawi.

Last May 25 and 26, DSWD 7 sent

10,000 food packs to Iligan City and on May 28 and 29, another 10,000 packs were delivered to Cagayan de Oro City.

The agency provided support to DSWD ARMM and Northern Mindanao as part of government efforts to provide assistance to those affected, said DSWD Regional Director Evelyn Macapobre.

Each family food pack contains six kilos rice, four cans of sardines, for cans of corned beef or beef loaf and six sachets of instant coffee.

“Through the Visayas Disaster Response Center (VDRC), we were able to improve the production of

food packs using the mechanized production system, storage of food packs and warehousing of food and non-food commodities,” Macapobre said.

DSWD put up the center to improve emergency response through assistance from the United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) and the governments of Australia and the United Kingdom.

Since the center opened in April 2016, DSWD has sent relief assistance to Region 2 for Typhoon Lawin, Regions 5 and 8 for Typhoon Nina, and Region 13 for the 6.7 magnitude earthquake in Surigao del Norte.

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The young distinguish between martial law in Mindanao—and in entire PH

By Dominique Zurbano
Student correspondent
Mirtam College

On May 23, 2017, a band of rebels called the Maute group, invaded the city of Marawi, Lanao del Sur. Since then, disturbing images of destruction and violence in the city known as the Summer Capital of the South have flooded television, print and social media.

Insurgents took over a school and city hall, set a church on fire and held a Catholic priest and some parishioners hostage. Hundreds have been killed in the senseless battles that appear to have no end in sight just yet.

The spate of violence has led President Duterte to declare martial law in the whole of Mindanao—and he may just impose it “throughout the country to protect the people,” he said.

Fearing a repeat of the abuses during 14 years of martial rule under then President Ferdinand Marcos, various groups staged street protests, while netizens expressed their views and frustrations about the situation. One notable online reaction came from some residents of Mindanao, who were annoyed by the protests of people who “aren’t even from Mindanao.”

We asked students their opinions about the Marawi conflict and President Duterte’s decision to declare martial law.

Bomb threats

Are you for or against martial law?

“Yes. With what’s happening in Mindanao now, especially in the Lanao areas, we need martial law. So far, since President Digong declared martial law, we’ve been 100 percent okay with it. So far, the effects of martial law here have been posi-

tive.” —**JJ Blasco, Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology**

“Yes, I agree with the declaration of martial law, given that the Marawi clash happened so suddenly. If the President did not put the whole of Mindanao under martial rule, the chances of terrorists invading Marawi’s closest cities are great. In fact, before the clash, neighboring cities were already getting bomb threats in their churches and malls. One thing I hope and pray for is that this martial law would not be as damaging as the martial law under Ferdinand Marcos.”

—**Phillip Embate, Cagayan de Oro**

“It’s OK as long as it is not abused. Seeing martial law as a right of sovereignty, it should operate to ensure the safety of people in a situation of terrorism. And since martial law is founded on necessity, it should not extend beyond what is required of the emergency that calls for it.” —**Name withheld, University of Santo Tomas**

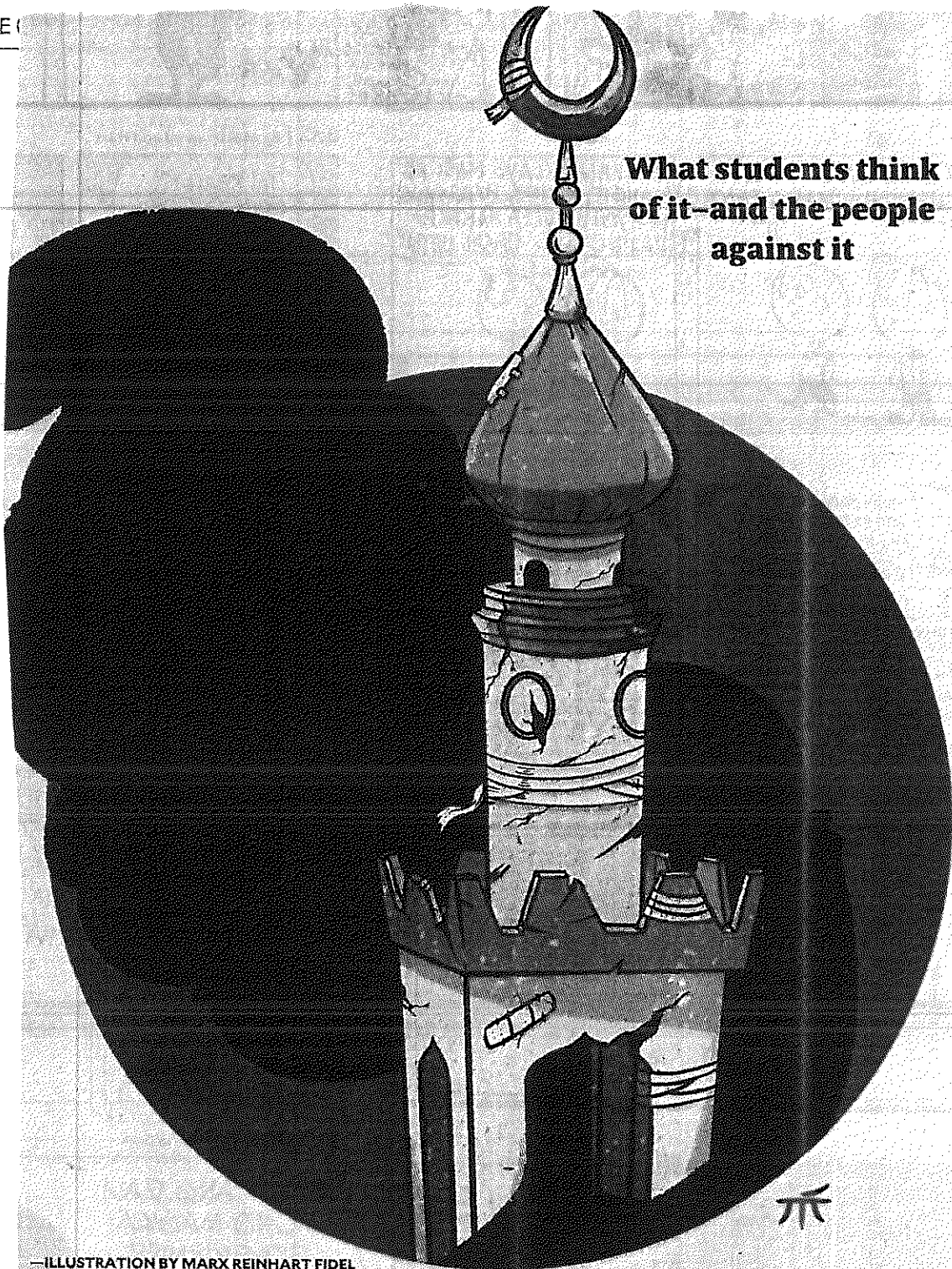
Protect the people
Do you support its nationwide implementation?

“No. The government has laws on antiterrorism and ample funding to implement them. The job of the Armed Forces [of the Philippines] is to protect the Filipino people. To implement martial law nationwide endangers the lives of ordinary citizens more than the rebels and terrorists.

“Unlike lawless elements such as terrorists and rebels, ordinary citizens do not have the means of protecting themselves. In light of the suspension of habeas corpus, they are defenseless against warrantless arrests.

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**What students think
of it—and the people
against it**

—ILLUSTRATION BY MARX REINHART FIDEL

torture and extrajudicial killings. "The implementation of martial law risks a gross violation of human rights, particularly among civilians. I believe there are less drastic actions that can be done to address the issue in Marawi. I also believe that the

implementation of martial law does not come without Duterte's hidden agendas. Lastly, it does not address the root of these terrorist attacks, it will only lead to more conflict and violence." —**Amina Matavia, Philippine High School For the Arts**

"No, I don't. I believe martial law in itself is OK, but given that it's under the Duterte administration (which may implement it in the same manner as Marcos did), I think it is dangerous for the country and the people." —**Kath-**

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lene Navia, University of the Philippines Los Baños

“Nationwide implementation is a different story and I don’t think it is needed. The islands of Mindanao are enough. As someone who calls Marawi City home, I think martial law is one of the best ways to solve the ongoing terrorism. Right now, Mindanaoans can only hope and pray that through this period of martial law, we can attain peace and eradicate the evil in Mindanao. We trust our government and expect it to do its best.” —**Jamillah Macabalang, Lourdes College Cagayan de Oro**

“Based on its implementation in 1972, I do not. I do not support martial law because I do not trust those who are in government. They have a habit of misusing their power.” —**Anonymous, De La Salle University-Manila**

More harm

Do you think those who are against martial law have valid concerns?

“Yes, martial law is a dangerous state for any given country. To look back at our own experience with it is enough to convince anyone that martial law does more harm than good.” —**Justin Daniel Aguiting, San Beda College Manila**

“If the protestors are from Mindanao, they must know something that outsiders don’t. I think it is insensitive of some people to protest because they hate the President or believe in conspiracy theories. Martial law promotes discipline here as well. No one is jaywalking and no one is cat-calling. It basically keeps us safe.” —**Name withheld, Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology**
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'US pullout from Paris climate deal troubles Phi'

By JANVIC MATEO

The decision of US President Donald Trump to pull the United States out of the Paris climate agreement could have an adverse effect on efforts to address climate change, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said yesterday.

In a statement, the climate body said the Philippines is "deeply troubled" by Trump's move and urged him to reconsider his decision.

An official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said developing countries must unite and pressure the US not to withdraw from the landmark 2015 global agreement to fight climate change.

Two senators and the In-

stitute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) also assailed Trump's decision, calling it a step backwards.

Trump's decision drew anger and condemnation from world leaders and heads of industry.

The US president, tapping into the "America First" message he used when he was elected president last year, said the Paris accord would undermine the US economy, cost jobs, weaken American national sovereignty and put the country at a permanent disadvantage to other countries of the world.

But the CCC said "the US, as the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases and, more importantly, one of the world leaders, would have played a key role in creating the much

needed global paradigm shift towards a more climate-resilient and climate-smart future."

The DENR official, who requested anonymity, said the US is a major contributor in terms of financial and technological support to agreements such as the Paris accord.

"Imagine if the US will withdraw its commitment, we will also lose the support it is providing," the official said.

"The Philippines, though it gave its full commitment to the agreement, doesn't have the capability to execute the terms of the agreement even if combined with the efforts of other countries... given the lack of resources," the official said.

"Global protection should be everybody's concern. Let us convince the US not to turn its back on the agreement."

The CCC said the Philippines, as one of the most vulnerable countries to the adverse effects of climate change, "affirms its commitment to the Paris Agreement."

"We recognize the need for all countries to work together to address the increases in global temperature, which have resulted and will continue to result in more intense and frequent typhoons and droughts for the Philippines, threatening the security of our people, the food and water needed to sustain them and their livelihoods," the climate body said.

"We call on all other countries that are parties to the Paris Agreement to become even more vigilant in ensuring that the Paris Agreement achieves its goal, as the future of our children and this world

depends on it," it added.

The US was one of 195 nations that agreed to the accord in Paris in December 2015, a deal that former US president Barack Obama was instrumental in brokering. The US has committed to reduce its emissions by 26 percent to 28 percent from 2005 levels by 2025. The US, exceeded only by China in greenhouse gas emissions, accounts for more than 15 percent of the worldwide total.

Sens Loren Legarda and Juan Miguel Zubiri also lamented Trump's decision, saying the rest of world would have to work harder to reduce greenhouse gases.

"It is unfortunate that Mr. Trump decided to pull out from the Paris Agreement. The decision reeks of ignorance and condemns US foreign pol-

icy into infamy. It is truly a sad day, but we are not hopeless," Legarda said in a statement.

Legarda, who chairs the Senate committee on climate change, said one way to mitigate the effects of Trump's move is for US cities and states to enforce the Paris Agreement.

She noted the Americans are even eager to do their share to reduce greenhouse gases and they can continue to demand from their leaders and lead themselves along with the private sector.

Zubiri, a member of the committee, said other parties to the agreement must make sure they comply with the pact within the agreed timetable to help compensate for the US withdrawal. — With Paolo Romero, Helen Flores, Rhodina Villanueva, Reuters

See main story on Page 15.

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EDITORIAL

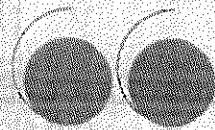
Friendly fire

As of Thursday, 171 people have died in the fighting in Marawi City—19 of them civilians and 32 government forces. Of those soldiers who perished in battle, 11 carry an additional tinge of tragedy due to the unfortunate circumstances of their death. They were not hit in a fire fight with the enemy; it was a wayward bomb intended for the bandits and terrorists holed up nearby that killed them, and wounded seven others. A military investigation is now underway to look into the mishap.

“It’s very sad to be hitting our own troops,” Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said. “There must be a mistake somewhere, either someone directing from the ground, or the pilot.”

The incident complicates the already thorny nature of the relentless air strikes that the government has ordered against the bandits and terrorists. Some 218,665 people have been displaced by the strife as of May 31, according to the Humanitarian and Emergency Response Team of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The Red Cross adds that about 3,700 residents are still trapped in Marawi, unable to leave their hiding places as sporadic gun battles continue in the streets between government forces and the terrorists. The latter’s position is located in a dense area of the city, said Lorenzana, making it hard for the military to hit targets with artillery.

In the “friendly fire” incident that involved 11 soldiers, the Maute and Army groups were reportedly hunkered down near each other in close-range combat in a cluster of buildings and houses. The aircraft that dropped the wayward bomb had earlier made three successful air strikes in the area, only for the fourth one to miss and hit the troops. The jets were using conventional bombs, not the precision bombs that the military had earlier said would make for



HOW HEART-WRENCHING FOR THE FAMILIES TO LEARN THAT THEIR LOVED ONES DIED, NOT IN A HEROIC BATTLE WITH THE ENEMY—THE SINGULAR TASK FOR WHICH THEY HAD TRAINED AND DEDICATED THEIR LIVES—BUT FROM A RANDOM MISTAKE BY SOMEONE ON THE SAME SIDE

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“surgical” air strikes that would not result in large-scale damage to Marawi and its trapped residents.

The military has announced that the aircraft and its pilots are now grounded pending formal investigation of the incident. “It was very unfortunate and no one wanted it to happen,” said Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año.

Indeed, it must be heart-wrenching for the families of the soldiers to learn that their loved ones died, not in a heroic battle with the enemies of the nation—the singular task for which they had trained and dedicated their lives—but from a random mistake by someone on the same side. “Friendly fire” is an innocuously phrased but cruel-sounding euphemism for such incidents; friends and comrades on the battlefield are not supposed to end up killing each other, and the accidental nature of such circumstances, in the frantic heat of the moment when a soldier’s split-second decisions may mean life or death, makes for a particularly harrowing kind of tragedy. The bombers and air controllers who made the apparent mistake that felled their comrades on the ground must also be in enormous pain over this accident—a deeply saddening event all around.

The violence in Marawi is in its second week. Clouds of dark smoke periodically rise to indicate the intensity of the conflict. Public support for the fight against the bandits and terrorists is palpable, though also tempered by fears that the fierce air strikes being done will eventually hit noncombatants and friendly forces, or flatten Marawi and leave its residents returning to rubble once the dust clears.

There should be no question that the military must accomplish its mission of freeing the city and the rest of Mindanao from the bandits and terrorists; that’s what the island-wide martial law declaration is for, according to Malacañang, despite the fighting being currently limited to Marawi. But as the swells of displaced Filipinos streaming into Iligan, Cagayan de Oro and other places grow by the hour, and the fighting goes on without letup, more trying days are ahead. We need to steel our souls, and reach out to help.

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MARTIAL LAW ENDANGERS WOMEN

The Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau (WLB) adds to the voices of many groups condemning the proclamation of martial law and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in the wake of the Marawi crisis.

We are appalled by yet another rape joke made by President Duterte that, in effect, exonerates soldiers raping women as part of military actions. The President's obstinate and consistent sexist remarks are an affront to women and exacerbate the already grave condition that women and girls are in, in times of armed conflict.

Martial law emboldens and allows abuse of power by the military. Let us not forget the atrocities under the Marcos dictatorship. Martial law is an assault to democracy and human

rights, including women's rights. We recall how women who opposed the dictatorial rule were sexually violated by the military.

We detest the proliferation of inaccurate and false accounts of the situation in Marawi made by government officials to create the illusion of security as justification for martial law.

We reiterate the obligations of the government as provided in international human rights law and domestic legislation. The Magna Carta of Women Act of 2010 (Republic Act No. 9710) obliges the government to protect women from all forms of gender-based violence, such as rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all forms of violence in situations of armed conflict.

There must be an end to the

culture of impunity that normalizes sexual violence in armed conflict situations. The government, as the primary duty-bearer, must be held accountable for acts of violence committed against women by military, nonmilitary, state and nonstate actors.

We call on everyone to remain vigilant. We must not be complacent and wait until the full reign of martial law causes further harm and devastation, and more human rights violations with impunity.

Let not history repeat itself. We call on the President to lift martial law now.

JELLEN C. PACLARIN
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Women's Legal and Human
Rights Bureau, Quezon City
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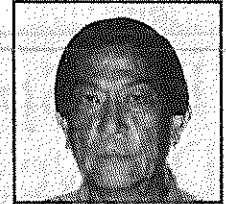
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Visayan revolutionary forces during our wars of independence



P. FELIANDO P. CINCO

SOME of them are unknown, but their full recognition is due as the country marks the 115th anniversary this year of their roles in history – the Philippine-Spanish War of 1896-1898, and the Philippine-American War 1899-1902.

Their heroic exploits are documented in history books.

Some of the heroes' descendants have now organized themselves into the Visayan Heroes and Revolutionaries Descendants Association. It is led by lawyer Jose M. Villegas, a grandson of the late Gen. Miguel Malvar who was the last revolutionary general to surrender to the Americans in 1902.

The response from descendants around the country to an invitation to join VHRDA is overwhelming, according to the organizers. They now meet regularly to "fraternize with each other and discuss valuable contributions of their ancestors' roles in repulsing foreign domination" in the Philippines.

Ms. Mala Jean A. Luga who has done exhaustive research work on these somehow forgotten heroes, said there were also personalities who used other means to win independence for the country.

One was Graciano Lopez-Jaena of Jaro, Iloilo. He used his pen in the Philippines' pursuit of self-rule, while in exile in Spain. He was a journalist, orator, propagandist. He was the editor of *La Solidaridad*, the newspaper that gained wide circulation abroad in 1889, and was secretly distributed in the country.

The Visayan revolutionary forces were divided into three areas, with their respective commanders, thus:

1. WESTERN VISAYAS COMMAND (Iloilo, Panay, Aklan, Capiz, Antique, Negros Occidental) – Gen. Martin Delgado of Sta. Barbara, Iloilo; Gen. Adriano Hernandez, military strategist of Western Visayas (Camp

Hernandez, the present headquarters of the 301st Infantry Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Div. of the Philippine Army in Dingle, Iloilo, was named in his honor); Gen. Teresa Magbanua of Pototan, Iloilo, known as the "Joan of Arc" of the Visayas; Gen. Pablo Araneta of the Panay Revolutionary Forces; Gen. Quintin Salas of the Iloilo and Panay Revolutionary Forces; Gen. Vicente Locsin, confidential intelligence emissary officer of the Central Revolutionary Committee based in Iloilo. (He coordinated with Panay and Negros Revolutionary Councils, the Cuartel General of the Spanish forces in Mangkas, now La Carlota City, Negros Occidental); Gen. Ananias Diokno, reputedly to be the only Tagalog general to lead a full-scale military expedition in the Visayas against Spanish forces (During the Philippine-American War, he was appointed civil and military governor of Capiz); Gen. Aniceto Ledesma Lacson, known as the sugar baron and businessman (He was notable for leading the Negros revolution along with Gen. Juan Araneta. He was also president of the short-lived Republic of Negros); Gen. Juan Anacleto Araneta y Torres, the Secretary of War for the Republic of Negros; Gen. Leandro Fullon, who joined the Katipunan in 1896 and was appointed by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo to lead the Panay expedition up to Libertad, Antique; Gen. Francisco del Castillo with the martyrs of the Aklan Revolution, he was tasked by Andres Bonifacio to establish the Katipunan in Panay Island; Gen. Esteban Contreras, leader of the *Revolucionarios* in Capiz, Col. Diego de Diaz of Romblon (In 1898, He became the commander of the revolutionary forces in Romblon, then a part of Capiz province, in the island of Panay; Dionisio Sigobeyla of Cauayan, Negros Occidental, known as the "Lion of Kanlaon" (An ordinary plantation worker, he was called "Papa Isio." He led a religious-military section which waged one of the longest rebellions against foreign colonizers

in Negros Island).

2. CENTRAL VISAYAS COMMAND (Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental, Siquijor) – Gen. Mateo Noriel Luga, the only Ibanag-Isabelino in the Visayan revolutionary Forces, he was personally handpicked by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and, then secretary of war Gen. Antonio Luna, to be the Katipunan's personal adviser to the Revolutionary Government of Cebu; Gen. Pantaleon del Rosario—of Scottish and English ancestry on his maternal side and lived in Imus, Cavite. (He was a key figure of the 2nd Revolutionary Center. A street is named in his honor, where the present University of San Carlos in Cebu is situated.)

Gen. Gavino Sepulveda -- A native of Cebu who responded to call of arms during the Philippine-American War; Gen. Arcadio Maxilom -- a teacher by profession, he was head of the Cebu Revolutionary Government. Gen. Troadio Galicano, originally entered the Seminary College of San Carlos for the priesthood, but joined the forces when the Philippine-American War broke out.

Gen. Pantaleon Villegas -- Known as "Leon Kilat," he led the 1898 revolt in Cebu; Gen. Luis Perez -- one of the earliest Cebuanos to join the Katipunan.

3. EASTERN VISAYAS COMMAND (LEYTE AND SAMAR) – Gen. Eugenio S. Daza, commander of the Eastern Samar Revolutionary Forces; Gen. Vicente Lukban. (Camp Lukban, home of the Army's 8th Infantry Division, or 8 ID in Barangay Maulong, Catbalogan, Samar, was named after him.)

Ms. MJ Luga, on account of her extensive research effort on the above information, can well qualify as a history teacher and an archives annotator. She is the daughter of Col. Mateo H. Luga, a retired officer of the Philippine Army corps of engineers, and the former Lita Alviar Luga, a noted government PRO before her retirement.

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HOTSPOT

Martial law watch: Week 1



BY TONYO CRUZ

THE country's biggest human rights alliance KARAPATAN released on Thursday its initial report on President Duterte's martial law and suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao (population: about 20 million).

The initial report – gathered by KARAPATAN through its network of human rights advocates, paralegals and allied organizations – should give pause to to everyone.

May 25

In the early morning of May 25, around 240 elements of the 39th and 72nd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army rained bombs and shot at Moro communities in sitios Pectobawan, Campo, Apulan, and Centro Salat in Barangay Salat, and in sitio Libpas in Barangay Tuae, all in the town of President Roxas, North Cotabato. 105 howitzer cannons were mounted at Barangay Kisupaan, also in the same town.

Aerial bombardment was also reported in the Bukidnon barangays of Tangkulan, Anggaan, and Damulog.

These areas are at least 100 kilometers away from Marawi City.

Residents said they saw military helicopters at around 10:00 am. The choppers dropped six bombs and airborne soldiers strafed houses. Six 105 cannons were fired at the communities.

Four more bombs were dropped at 3:00 pm, and also another round of strafing and six 105 cannons unleashed.

Aerial strikes were again unleashed at around 7:00 pm.

"The bombings, as confirmed by Abdillah Makalang, barangay captain of Barangay Salata, resulted to the death of Abdullah Mamansag, 34, farmer, Maguindanaoan and resident of the said village. Mamansag was hit by a shrapnel in his spine and his right leg was cut off after being hit by a cannon," said KARAPATAN.

Two more Maguindanaoan residents of Barangay Salata -- Norhamin Taligapin, 25 and Dodong (not his real name), 14 -- were brought to the Amas Provincial Hospital after they were hit by shrapnels in the stomach and chest.

In Barangay Tuae, also in President Roxas, North Cotabato, and in Barangays Tangkulan and Anggaan, in the town of Damulog, Bukidnon, the 39th IBPA elements went on a firing spree attacking homes of residents with 50 caliber machine guns.

Elsewhere on the same day, at least 30 Lumad, Moro, and Christian women who participated in a gathering entitled "Leadership Development and Capacity Building for Gender and Ecological Justice" by the Ecumeni-

cal Women's Forum, were accosted and held for at least one hour and 30 minutes by the 6th Marine Landing Battalion in a checkpoint in Barangay Domulon, Sultan Kudarat

The leaders were interrogated, forbidden to take down notes, asked to produce identification cards, questioned on their "permit to travel", told to write their names, had their photographs taken by a soldier, and endured sexist remarks

Still on May 25, police arrested at least 260 persons from Barangays 76-A and 23 in Davao City - President Duterte's hometown and supposed most peaceful city - just because they failed to show IDs.

May 26

In Matanao, Davao del Sur, five gunmen on board three motorcycles shot to death Daniel Lasid, 58, a Blaan council member of Akma Aksasatu Matanao (Unity of Matanao)

Lasid, who was on his way to visit his child at Dalapo medical clinic, didn't survive the ambush. He sustained 11 gunshot wounds, mostly on his head.

Witnesses tagged members of the 73rd IBPA as the perpetrators.

Also on May 26, the PNP Regional Office of Region 11 threatened to arrest leaders of people's organizations and organizers of rallies, citing the declaration of martial law.

In Manila, the Armed Forces of the Philippines released a statement stating the military's intent to exercise its "right to censure"

May 27

Nestor Quintano, 51, and Ramon Rodela, 25, were forcibly taken by elements of the 66th IBPA. They are members of the Unyon sa mga Mag-uuma nga Nakigbisog (UMANA) and residents of Barangay Poblacion, Maragusan town, Compostela Valley.

Their wives who witnessed the incident said the soldiers barged into their homes at the break of dawn and mauled their husbands. Soldiers kicked them to the ground, stepped on their faces and tied their hands

The wives denied accusations that their husbands were members of the New People's Army. They said Nestor was a farmer and Remon a small-scale miner.

The two were taken to the 66th IBPA camp before they were turned over to the Maragusan police station. Their families were not allowed to visit them while in the police station.

Meanwhile, a lone assailant gunned down Ana Marie Digaynon Aumada, 29, was gunned down inside her house in Barangay Lucod, Banganga, Davao Oriental.

Prior to the incident, on May 25, 2017, Digaynon was called in at the 67th IBPA Battalion Command headquarters by Lt. Jake Obligado, purportedly to "clear" her name. Two days later, she was killed. Digaynon

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AIRES - Email add

is a Mandaya and an active member of Alyansa sa mga Mag-uuma sa Sidlakang Davao (ALMASID).

May 28

In a report dated May 28, 2017, the Department of Social Welfare and Development - Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center said that the situation in Marawi - as a combination of the result of the firefight and AFP air strikes - has already displaced at least 54,335 individuals

Military operations which spilled over to nearby provinces have also caused the evacuation of 895 individuals in Saguiran and a total of 4,445 evacuees in the whole of Lanao del Norte. The bombings in Marawi and nearby areas have also

resulted in damages in civilian structures and people's homes.

May 29

Combined elements of 60th IBPA and the Bagani paramilitary group illegally arrested peasant couple Kidjol Marcelo Antay Sr. and Noeme Antay in Barangay Andap, Laak, Compostela Valley

The same group also illegally arrested another couple, Otik Catalino and Maricho Catalino, in Barangay Malinao, also in Laak, Compostela Valley

Both couples are active members of the Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma sa Laak (NAMULAK), a local peasant organization.

Witnesses said the two couples were brought to the 60th IBPA camp in Dona Andrea Asuncion, Davao del Norte.

KARAPATAN also noted that military and police set up checkpoints in Mindanao, Tacloban City, and in Metro Manila, while curfews were imposed in parts of Mindanao.

At the rate things are going, we must keep Mindanao in mind, speak freely and courageously, and remember the rally chant: "Never again, never again, never again to martial law!"

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Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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Editorial

Is Marawi burning?

THEY probably want to end their summer with a big bang.

That could be the reason behind the "North Luzon Inspection Trip" of at least 90 lawmakers that would take them across the region's "roads and highways, vital infrastructure and installations" to "ensure the maximum benefit, comfort and safety of the Filipino people."

The inspection trip that is also billed as a "working travel expedition" looks like a junket and these congressmen seem to be sending the message that they would be making a big sacrifice by traipsing through rough terrain and dangerous curves in the remotest parts of the country.

The expedition, for one, would stop at "tourist destinations," such as Vitalis (an exclusive resort that recalls ancient Greece in Ilocos Sur), the Banaue Rice Terraces, Baguio City, Subic (where the road inspectors are expected to go "yachting" or embark on a "cruise") and Fontana Resort at Clark (in Pampanga where there is a casino for high rollers).

Did these lawmakers just usurp the job of the Department of Tourism or were they thinking that they can no longer take being strangers in their own beloved Philippines, hence, they hied off to some distant shores or Mad Max country?

Rey Umali of Oriental Mindoro, Cesar Sarmiento of Catanduanes, Rodito Albano of Isabela, Mylene Albano of Davao City, Rimpay Bondoc and Aurelio Gonzales of Pampanga, Nancy Catamco of North Cotabato and Eileen Ermita-Buhain of Batangas were among those "spotted" in the first batch of lawmakers who are participating in the travel expedition, which kicked off on June 1.

Even if these lawmakers themselves shouldered the costs of this expensive trip to see the state of the infrastructure across Northern Luzon, it would still be a waste of time and money because they could just as well have invited the governors or mayors to a probe at the House of Representatives "in aid of legislation," of course, to give them the lowdown on this and that infrastructure project for the benefit of the local officials' "constituents."

If the government paid the tab, it would make the road inspection more unconscionable because the money spent for the inspection could have gone to more productive endeavors, such as to help the thousands of evacuees from Marawi City who are fleeing the terrorist Maute Group.

Better still, the lawmakers, who are led by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez of Davao del Norte in the expedition that ends on June 6, could consider a "Southern Mindanao Inspection Trip" to show their concern for the women, the elderly and the children in the southern Mindanao city who will never be able to even imagine a trip to the Thunderbird Resort in San Fernando City, La Union, or the sand dunes of Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, the two other tourist destinations in the lawmakers' itinerary.

In La Union, incidentally, Umali and company will have witnessed the "oath-taking of mayors [there] as new members of the ruling PDP-Laban" on June 1.

And we thought that the road inspection was all about, well, inspection.

Meanwhile, is Marawi burning?

No, it is not.

The "bad" news is that the "North Luzon Inspection Trip" is to be joined "officials" from the interior, public works, tourism and transportation departments; and the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Ports Authority.

The more, the merrier?

03 June 2017

The Manila Times

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Supreme Court power to review martial law proclamation: A political analysis

IN response to the tirades from law students and lawyers, instead of backing off from this issue, I will push further my line of argument on the problematic nature of the power of the Supreme Court vis-à-vis a martial law proclamation.

Lawyers may dispute my arguments on the basis of their knowledge of the law. But I am a political scientist, and I do not intend to make this into a legal treatise, but one that draws its logic from political analysis, which I can confidently claim as the academic province where I have built my comfortable nest.

Let me start with the pertinent provision of the 1987 Constitution, on the power of the Supreme Court vis-à-vis a martial law proclamation, which states that:

"The Supreme Court may review, in an appropriate proceeding filed by any citizen, the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or the extension thereof, and must promulgate its decision thereon within thirty days from its filing."

A simple analysis of the phrase "the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation" indicates that what is brought to the attention of the court is the factual basis of the proclamation only at the time it was issued by the President. This is the only issue that will be adjudicated in any petition that will be brought to the court. In fact, the Court has even



ON THE CONTRARY
ANTONIO CONTRERAS

ruled in two settled cases, G.R. No. 141284 and G.R. No. 171396, that on matters of ascertaining sufficiency of factual basis in relation to the President's exercise of his commander-in-chief powers, under which a martial law proclamation would fall, the court could not go beyond what is contained in the pleadings.

The dynamics of political violence becomes significant in understanding the issue. Any scholar of political violence, which includes terrorism, rebellion or invasion, will tell you that conditions attending these are so fluid and dynamic, and that they can change for the better or the worse. Furthermore, new information may emerge which are unknown at the time any President would declare martial law.

The high court is not a trier of facts. But in this instance, it is tasked by the Constitution to pass judgment on the sufficiency of the factual basis which was prevailing at the time the President proclaimed martial law.

On this alone, I can grant the argument that the Supreme Court prevails over Congress. But this superiority of interpretation, as revealed by the exchange between Commissioners

Bengzon and Bernas during the constitutional convention deliberations, is only on the matter of the sufficiency of the factual basis at the time the proclamation was made.

Thirty days, the time the SC is given to issue a decision, in addition to the days elapsed from the time martial law was proclaimed until the time the SC receives a petition, is enough for factual conditions to change. Whatever was the factual basis for the martial law proclamation, and the arguments used to assail this in any petition that is filed questioning that basis, which by nature is expected to be limited only to those which the President has invoked, may be rendered moot and academic by either or any of the following:

—When conditions have improved that there is no more need to continue martial law, which Congress can now address by refusing to extend it beyond 60 days, if it is asked by the President.

—Or when conditions have worsened that even if the factual basis when the time martial law was proclaimed may have been insufficient, that such has now been overtaken by severe developments that would warrant the continuation of the declaration, which again only Congress is empowered to extend, upon the request of the President.

Political violence is a highly stochastic and indeterminate political phenomenon. Scholars of political violence, mostly political

scientists, have diverse theories and explanations as to its causes, processes and consequences.

Terrorism, rebellion and invasion are continuing and highly dynamic political processes.

And what complicates the matter is that the act of proclaiming martial law, the basis of which the court is being asked to judge as sufficient, could trigger a series of events that could alter prevailing conditions. This can influence the dynamic unfolding of the violent acts which martial law is designed to address.

This brings us to the conundrum that Commissioners Bengzon and Bernas addressed during the deliberations for the 1987 Constitution, where the latter indicated that the power of the court, while supreme on ascertaining factual basis at a given time, is also transitory in nature since those conditions may change.

Such conundrum emerges when a political event such as martial law declared at a given time to address a dynamic political process is subjected to judicial review. Courts are institutions that are designed to judge completed acts and time-based facts.

Forcing the court to render judgment on a complex and dynamic political process such as an ongoing rebellion, or invasion, or acts of terrorism, where what is factual today may no longer be tomorrow, creates contradictions and exposes loopholes that can only but reveal its vulnerabilities and the limits to its powers.

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Set Marawi free



POWER POINT
ELIZABETH ANGSIOCO

MARAWI has a special place in my heart. I have visited this city many times in the course of my involvement with community women and my former political party. It is the home of friends and comrades, women and men I have worked with for decades.

Many of them were former leaders and active Moro National Liberation Front fighters under Nur Misuari. The women were members of the MNLF Women's Committee. I became friends with many, calling them by their real names, not knowing their "nom de guerre." It turned out that among my friends that I would spend time joking and laughing with, were "legendary" fighters who were feared by many. I only discovered this

when other Moro friends told me that so-and-so was actually the feared so-and-so. Often, such information came as a big surprise because they were really kind, gentle, jolly men.

We did numerous training among Maranao women. We talked about gender sensitivity, violence against women, women's political participation, and sexual and reproductive health and rights at a time when organizing Moro women was virtually unheard of. I personally learned a lot about the Maranao culture from my sisters in Marawi. (Well, they also revealed their skin regimen when I wondered aloud about their fair, smooth skin). Oh, we had many beautiful and happy times together!

Marawi is where I learned to eat and like "palapa," which I still crave to this day. Each time, along the road from Cagayan de Oro City going there, I would check if I could get Durian or Marang. Whenever available, my Moro sisters and

brothers would oblige to get me some that I would consume during the trip. They knew how much I liked these fruits.

Marawi was also where I would get my beautiful handwoven Malongs, shawls, and scarves. My sisters would bring me to their friends' shops and would haggle for me for items I

“Maranaos do not deserve what is happening in their city.”

wanted to buy.

By the time that we were beginning to organize these women in Lanao de Sur, I was already familiar with the longstanding Mindanao problem. The many first-hand stories of

injustice I got from my comrades taught me many valuable lessons, including why they wanted to be called Moros rather than Muslims. My own readings and our political discussions on the struggle of the Moro people were given substance by those who actually experienced how they, as a people, were abused and discriminated against for many decades. Thus, organizing the women was something that I became passionate about.

Marawi was our base. This was a not-so-safe-time to go because of reports of kidnappings and fighting in the area. We knew the danger but we were confident that we were adequately protected. We would fly to Cagayan de Oro City and would be fetched from there. We were not allowed to directly go to, or leave Marawi on our own. I knew that each time we travelled, the men with us were armed but they were always very discreet. We never really got to see any guns, at least, I

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did not in these instances

For the duration of our visits, we were not supposed to go out without companions no matter if we were just going to walk around their area.

We were told that most, if not all homes and families in Marawi had guns. This was just how things were, and I guess, still are. We would stay in the homes of our women leaders when we were there. One night, while my companions were fast asleep, I needed to go to the toilet which was outside our room. As soon as I was out of the door, I was surprised to see a group of at least five heavily armed men huddled over a radio transmitter (mobile phones were still rare then). They smiled at me as these were men I personally knew and was friends with. It was my first time to see them armed and it was a bit disconcerting. In the morning I told the homeowner what I saw. She smiled and said that the men

Turn to A5

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Set...

From A4

where securing us, and that there were always at least two with, or near us for protection. This was how they operated when friends, especially non-Moro ones, come over.

This set-up went on for a few years. At some point, I guess it was when things were much better, our brothers and sisters felt confident that we could already safely go on our own to

Marawi, and we did. After the women's groups were established and operational on their own, my visits became less frequent. Over the past years, I only got to see my sisters when they went to Manila.

This year, I have plans of going back to meet with the groups there. And then Maute happened. When I first heard about the ISIS flag being displayed in Marawi, I immediately contacted the daughter of one of our leaders and she confirmed that things are bad. My

Maranao sisters and brothers are always on my mind as I follow the horrific events happening there. I can only hope that they are all unharmed.

It saddens and angers me that innocent people are getting killed, families are forced to leave their homes for their dear life, and that the city has become a warzone. When I heard that Maranaos were hiding Christians in their homes to keep them safe, I got emotional and memories of having been protected by my Moro sisters

and brothers came back like it only happened yesterday.

The Moro people have always been at the receiving end of injustice. This so-called Mindanao problem is caused by longstanding social injustice. I do not pretend to have the solution but I do know that Maranaos do not deserve what is happening to their city.

Set Marawi free.

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03 June 2017

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Standard

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Sobriety. Now.

IT HAS been deleted from the official site, but many were able to save the video released Wednesday by the Presidential Communications Operation Office exhorting the people to support President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao. Martial law is a way to fight extremist [sic], the video said.

The controversial message was delivered haphazardly using bad cartoons and baffling language. "In the free society, there are groups who don't want to give independence. They are adamant on detaining peaceful spirits. They are distressing feelings with fears. Let us not allow

them to terrify us. We will all fight in unity. Martial law should be the rule of the land. Martial law. Now."

It's an utter waste of taxpayer's money. Even the presidential spokesman has distanced himself from the video and has pointed to the communication secretary

who has been committing so many gaffes it is a marvel he still has a job.

Such blunders are unacceptable, per se, but even more so during uncertain times like this. Many are at a loss on what is truly happening in Marawi City, for instance, and it is easy to give in to confusion, fear, speculation—even hysteria.

And these do not just happen in places remote from the capital.

Friday morning's incident at Resorts World Manila, a stone's throw away from the international airport and a

showcase of the country's tourism, hospitality and gaming industry, showed us that wrong information could be just as bad as no information. In Friday's early hours when hardly any details were yet available, social media was flooded with theories and speculation about what was happening and what will yet occur. The acrimonious exchange of views among influencers, impassioned social media users and trolls also did not help.

We must also see past the hype. These things occur because they have root causes.

They are symptoms of a bigger problem, which will continue long after we become weary talking about them. Getting carried away by the tide or making this all about politics will not do us any good. Instead, we have to look into the causes, break them down into their components, and address them, squarely and without fanfare.

These are challenging times for the Philippines. Now, more than ever, everybody from the leader of the land to the most ordinary citizens need a level head on his or her shoulders.

June 2017



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Positibo ang martial law para sa mga taga-Mindanao

HALA BIRA!



NI ALLAN ENCARNACION

WALA nang sagabal sa martial law implementation sa Mindanao matapos ang pag-suporta ng mayoryang Senado at Kongreso.

Burahun na natin sa ating isip ang tinatawag na "fear of the unknown" dahil magkaibang-magkaiba ang sitwasyon noong 1972 sa 2017.

Nakakabuwisit lang

dahil iyong mga taga-Luzon at taga-Visayas ang nag-iingay laban sa ipinatupad na batas militar ni Pangulong Duterte gayong ang mga mamamayan ng Mindanao ay sobra ang pasasalamat.

Mismong mga taga-Mindanao na nakakausap natin nang personal ang nagsasabi na malaki ang ipinagbago ng sitwasyon ng kanilang rehiyon magmula nang umiral ang martial law.

Noong walang martial law, sinasabi nila na mga armado ang pakalat-kalat sa kanilang mga komunidad kaya puro takot ang kanilang nararamdaman kaya ayaw nilang lumabas ng bahay. Ngayong may martial law, nagtago na ang mga armado at silang mga sibilyan na ang nasa labas.

Sa mga naglalabasan sa social media na nag-papa-selfie pa ang mga mamamayan ng Mindanao sa mga sundalo at sa mga tangke na nag-iikot ay malaking indikasyon na positibo ang pagtanggap nila sa sistemang binabantayan sila ng pulis at mga sundalo.

Maraming dekada nang napabayaang ang peace and order sa Mindanao. Si Pangulong Duterte lang ang may political will na lutasin ang problemang ito. Bagama't masasabi nating madugo, mukhang walang choice ang gobyerno dahil naghahasik na ng lagim ang mga terorista. Inaagaw na ng mga rebelde ang bahagi ng Mindanao gamit ang armas at sariling bandila.

Naniniwala tayong nasa puso ng mga sun-

dalo at pulis natin ang pagsagip sa mga kababayan natin sa Mindanao, lalo na ang mga naiipit sa Marawi City. Walang puwang ang pag-aabuso sa martial law tulad ng kinatatakutan ng iba.

Mismong si Pangulong Duterte ang makakalaban ng mga mang-aabuso sa batas militar kaya dapat ay ipanatag ng mga kritiko ang kanilang kalooban.

Kapag nakilala n'yo ng up-close and personal si Digong, hindi kayo makakaisip mang-abuso sa kanyang tiwala dahil may kalalagyan ang sinumang lalabis sa kanyang direktiba.

Sa ngayon, ang matutulong natin sa mga sundalo at pulis ay ipag-dasal ang kanilang kaligtasan habang sinusagip

ang mga kapatid nating Muslim at Kristiyano na napit sa digmaan.

Hindi nakakatulong ang anumang panggulog at paghahalo ng pulitika sa tunay na isyu sa Mindanao.

May dahilan para sumaya ang mga kababayan natin mula sa Rizal-Eastern part ng Metro Manila at iyong mga nasa Manila-Quezon City na dinadaan ng LRT2.

Sisimulan na sa susunod na linggo ang konstruksiyon ng dalawang bagong istasyon ng LRT2 na magbibigay ng ginhaw sa mga bihiyahe sa naturang mga ruta.

Ang mga itatayo ay ang Emerald station sa harap ng Robinson Metro East at Sta. Lucia sa Cainta, Masinag,

bago makarating sa Masinag Junction sa Antipolo City.

Binabanggit ni DoTr Secretary Art Tugade na ang kasalukuyang 240,000 daily passengers ng LRT2 ay madadagdagan pa ng 80,000 kapag natapos na ang konstruksiyon ng dalawang bagong istasyon na ang haba ay 4 kilometers.

May mga kritiko lamang na masyadong mainipin sa build, build, build project ng Duterte administration gayong isang taon pa lamang sila sa posisyon.

Seryoso si Tugade na tuparin ang big ticket projects gaya ng subway, North Rail from Calocan to Clark to Subic kaya tahimik lang itong nagtatrabaho.

Ang MRT 7 mula North Ave., QC hang-

gang San Jose del Monte, Bulacan ay ongoing na rin ang constructions samantalang anim na taon itong nakatengga.

Ang NLEX at SLEX connector ay sinisikap ding tapusin ng tandem nina Tugade at Public Works Secretary Mark Villar hanggang sa susunod na taon or early 2019.

Dapat nating ipag-pasalamat ang ginagawa ng Duterte government dahil sa loob ng anim na taon ng nakaraang administrasyon ay wala namang naitayo kung hindi ang monumento ng kanilang kapalpakan.

Tiis-tiis lang ng konti, may limang taon pa ang bagong pamahalaan para tuparin ang kanilang mga pangako sa bayan.
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Army V

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Ano ang masasabi mo sa
sumablay na air strike na
ikinamatay ng 11 sundalo?

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03 June 2017



NOBODY'S perfect. Humans are subject to commit errors. Isang pagkakamaling walang may gustong mangyari. Masakit man sa kalooban, kailangang tanggapin ang katotohanan na ganyan talaga ang buhay. — 0919-5881***

SOBRANG palpak naman ng air strike na 'yan? Imbes na mga kalabang terorista ang napuruhan, eh, mga kakampi ang mga tinamaan at namatay. Mas masahol pa sa Mamasapano SAF 44 na talagang namatay sa armas ng mga kalaban. Balikatan pa more para 'di na pumalpak ang ating mga magigiting na kasundaluhan. — Carding

HUMAN error. The pilot involved was already grounded. Even big countries like U.S., Russia etc. ay may friendly fires na hindi maiwasan. This is not a perfect world. Moving forward, dapat maparusahan ang nagkamali at i-improve ang technology para maiwasan ang ganitong pangyayari. — Steve Maranan

HINDI naman imposible hindi mangyari ang mga ganyang insidente. Wala namang may kagustuhan niyan at still, salute to the army na namatay while they're fighting on duty. — Lilian

KAHIT sa ibang air strikes na ginagawa sa ibang bansa, nagkakaroon din ng pagpalya. It's either human error o ru'n na mismo sa mga gamit nila. Sobrang luma na kasi ng mga armas ng Pilipinas kaya normal na magkaroon ng

ganyang insidente. 'Wag na lang tayong manisi dahil pareparecho namang nasa alanganin ang buhay ng mga sundalo. — Diego

NORMAL lang 'yan, para sa akin, walang dapat sisihin. Ipagdasal na lang natin na huwag nang maulit at wala nang mamatay sa tropa ng militar. — Kevin

ACCIDENTS happens talaga. I think, miscommunication lang 'yun. Hindi dapat sisihin ang mga nagpasahog ng bomba kasi sumusunod lang din sila sa utos. Bakit naman sila magpapatayan, 'di ba? Ganu'n talaga. — Riza

SO, sino ang responsible riyan? Grabe, dapat kasi nagkakaroon muna ng paglilinanaw. Kawawa naman 'yung mga namatay. — Nina

IPAGDASAL na lang natin ang mga namatay. Friendly attack 'yun kasi wala namang may kasalanan. Normal ang pagpalpak sa mga operasyon. We are all humans at hindi tayo perpekto. Sana lang ay matapos na ang kaguluhan sa Marawi at wala nang masaktan o mamatay pa mula sa mga sundalo. — Jessica

NANINIWALA ako na isa itong human error. So, dapat managot pa rin sila kahit na aksidente lang ang nangyaring pagpalya. Nagkakaroon lang ng mga miscommunication kung pangit ang mga gamit, kailangan na talaga ng firearms at technological upgrade. Please, P-Duterte, gawan mo na ito ng paraan para hindi na maulit pa. — Nick

WALA, eh, hindi naman maiwasang hindi magkamali. Human error 'yan, hindi talaga maiwasan. Sana sa susunod, mas pag-igihan na lang nila ang mga ganyang galaw kasi napakadelikado. Tulad niyan, ang daming namatay. Dapat bigyang-pansin nila 'yan para hindi na maulit pa. — Min

SINO ang may kasalanan? Dapat may managot kasi mga buhay ng sundalo na sana ay nakikipaglaban ang nawala dahil sa kapalpakan na 'yan. Kahit na walang may gusto ng nangyari, hindi dapat ito nangyari kung labis lang ang pag-iingat at maayos na nakukuha ang command. Hay, naku! — Anton

GANU'N talagaminan, nagkakamali, sana lang 'di na maulit at saka mas i-train pa sila kasi 'di naman ganu'n lang ang pagsasagawa ng air strike para iwasdisgrasya na rin sa susunod. — Cecil

HINDI naman na maibabalik ang buhay ng mga namatay na sundalo dahil sa kamalian na 'yan. 'Wag na lang magsisihan. Hindi naman 'yan ginusto. Nangyayari talaga 'yan. — Jorem

WALANG may gusto sa nangyari pero moving forward, dapat na maging mas maingat ang mga taong naaatasan sa paggawa ng mga delikadong pagkilos tulad ng air strikes. Alam naman nating buhay ang nakataya sa ganyang aksiyon at hindi biro ang pagsasagawa nito. Makatutulong din na piliing mabuti ang mga taong isasabak sa giyera para maiwasan ang disgrasyang ikapapahamak ng mga dapat ay maghiligtas sa bayan sa kapahamakan. — Elmer

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Sikat na sikat na ang ISIS sa Pinas

BUKAMBIBIG na ang teroristang ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) sa Pilipinas.

Paano naman kasi... si Pangulong Rody Duterte mismo ang nag-aanunsiyo nito. Sa bawat talumpati niya, binabanggit ang ISIS. Nandito na raw sa Pilipinas.

Ayon! Nakapag-isip tuloy ang mga bandidong grupo sa Mindanao na magwagayway ng bandera ng ISIS sa bawat paghahasik ng terorismo. Nagbilis-ISIS narin ang mga ito tulad ng ginawa nila sa Marawi siege. Nakagawa ng paraan ang mga demonyo para matawag ang atensyon ng international terrorist. Nakakuha na nga raw ito ng suporta sa notoryus na ISIS.

Si Isnilon Hapilon, lider ng bandidong Abu Sayyaf mula sa Basilan, ang sinasabing nagkaroon ng kaugnayan sa grupo ng ISIS sa Iraq at Syria. At nagawa nitong pagsanibin ang kanyang grupong ASG sa Maute Group sa Marawi na pinamumunuan naman ng Maute brothers, pati na sa BIFF sa Maguindanao.

Ang BIFF ay grupo ng mga tiwalag na miyembro ng MILF na naging bandido narin.

Kaya ngayon, sa bawat paghahasik ng grupo ng terorismo sa Mindanao, ISIS ang kanilang isinisigaw. ISIS! ISIS!

At dahil panay naman ang anunsiyo ni Pangulong Digong sa ISIS, naging bukambibig na ito sa bawat nangyayaring kaguluhian.

Sa bawat may sumabog na bomba, ISIS daw ang may gawa! Kamakalawa lamang, nang may isang armadong buang na pumasok sa casino, Resorts World sa Pasay City, obviously ay para magnakaw, ang initial reactions agad ng mga otoridad ay ISIS!

Nagkalat agad ito sa social media. ISIS daw, ISIS!

Pero lumabas sa imbestigasyon na pagnanakaw lang pala ang target ng suspek. Hinakot nito ang chips na nagkakahalaga raw ng P130 million, nakagalay sa backpack. Pero nabawi rin ito. At natagpuan ang suspek na nagsunog sa sarili, patay, sa isang kuwarte ng hotel sa 5th floor.

Sa tingin ko ay nabuang ang suspek dahil naubos ang kanyang kayamanan sa pagsusugal sa casino. Kaya nakapag-isip itong pagnakawan ang Resorts World.

Maliwanag namang hindi ito terorista. Dahil hindi naman ito namaril ng kanyang bitbit na baby armalite. Gumawa lamang ito ng pampa-panik, nagsunog ng gaming tables sa pamamagitan ng dalang gasolina at nagpapatok sa itaas para sana makatakas.

Kung ISIS ang suspek, dili sana'y niratrat niya ang mga nagsusugal. Pero hindi. Dumiretso lang ito sa pinagkukuman ng chips at inilagay sa kanyang dalang bag.

Ang isa pang malinaw dito, mahina ang seguridad ng casino. Yes! Mantakin mo nakapasok ang isang lalaking naka-armalite nang hindi manlang napigilan ng mga private intel at sekyu ng casino-hotel.

Ay... ISIS! Eheh!