

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

18 June 2017

Sunday

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

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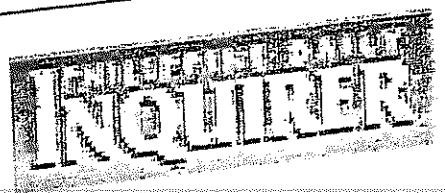
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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 18, 2017 | SUNDAY

**INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING SOUTHERN MINDANAO
(Affect 5:00 AM - 3 June 17, 2017)**

LAOAG CITY 26-33°C
TUGUEGARAO CITY 25-37°C
SBMA/CLARK 26-34°C
METRO MANILA 26-35°C
TAGAYTAY CITY 24-30°C
LEGAZPI CITY 27-33°C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25-34°C
BACOLOD CITY 26-34°C
TACLOBAN CITY 26-32°C
METRO CEBU 26-32°C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 25-32°C
METRO DAVAO 25-32°C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24-32°C

SUNRISE
5:27 AM

SUNSET
6:27 PM

MOONRISE
12:16 PM

MOONSET
12:36 AM

FULL MOON
10:10 PM

LAST QUARTER
7:03 PM

LOW TIDE (MANILA SOUTH HARBOR)
11:10 PM

HIGH TIDE
07:02 AM

Partly cloudy to all time cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy to clear with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

	JUNE 19	JUNE 20	JUNE 19	JUNE 20	JUNE 19	JUNE 20		
METRO MANILA	26-35°C	26-35°C	TAGAYTAY	24-30°C	24-30°C	TACLOBAN	26-32°C	26-31°C
TUGUEGARAO	25-35°C	25-35°C	LEGAZPI	26-33°C	26-33°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	25-32°C	25-32°C
LAOAG	26-33°C	25-33°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25-33°C	25-33°C	METRO DAVAO	25-32°C	25-32°C
BAGUIO	17-25°C	17-25°C	NEOILG/BACOLOD	26-33°C	26-33°C	ZAMBOANGA	24-32°C	24-32°C
SBMA/CLARK	25-35°C	26-34°C	METRO CEBU	26-32°C	26-32°C			

DZR NEWS

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

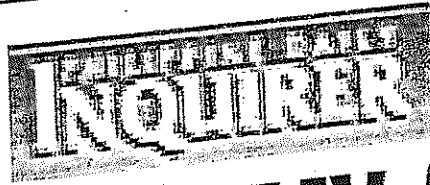
AIR 21

WEEKDAYS
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM

WEEKENDS
6AM

PILIPINAS HD

18 June 2017



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I WAS IN MY 'KAMA,' NOT IN COMA-DU30

STORY BY FRANKLIN CALIGUID

He's back! President Duterte was jovial and solemn when he showed up at two events in Mindanao on Saturday after a five-day break, saying he did not fall into a coma but was just resting in his 'kama.' If he was nowhere to be found after five days, that meant he's dead and Vice President Leni Robredo should be sworn in as President, he said.

FROM A1

By Franklin Caliguid
@Team_Inquirer

BUTUAN CITY—President Duterte was both jovial and solemn when he appeared at two separate events in Mindanao on Saturday after a five-day absence, quashing speculations that his health had deteriorated.

Speaking to reporters after addressing troops from the 4th Infantry Division Advance Command Post in Butuan City, the President made fun of rumors that he was in a coma. Instead, he said he was in his "kama" (bed).

"My state of health is what you see is what you get," he said. "To my countrymen, do not worry too much. Don't you want it? Maybe in one year, there would be a new President."

"If you can't find me after five days, that means [I'm] dead, so you swear in [Vice President Leni] Robredo. What's your problem? There is a Vice President," he said.

He also said that during his absence he traveled for two days "incognito" with his close aide to an undisclosed place in Mindanao.

"I traveled like a private citizen to go where I wanted to go," he told reporters. "I traveled at night because it was sub rosa."

Mr. Duterte was last seen in public on Sunday, June 11, when he attended ceremonies for Marines killed in a fierce gun battle in Marawi days earlier.

He missed the Independence Day rites the following day, sparking rumors about his health.

"I was really tired. It was not

AG

that I snubbed the Independence Day celebration," he said. The President spoke in a serious tone when he addressed the troops from the 4th Infantry Division in Butuan's Barangay Bancasi.

"I call on you to continue performing your duty to our country, especially as martial law remains in effect in Mindanao," he told soldiers as the military launched a fresh offensive to dislodge Islamic State (IS)-inspired fighters in Marawi on Saturday.

"Remember the valor ... of your fellow soldiers who offered their lives for their country."

"I am filled with nice feeling, I love you all," he said. "I am hurt whenever anyone of you gets into a bad fix."

He slammed "politicians" in Marawi, whom he did not identify, for helping the IS fighters bring firearms into the city surreptitiously.

"All the while, the Maute, with the connivance of the politicians there, the warlords, were stockpiling," he added.

This, he said, was the reason the terrorist gunmen have not ran out of ammunition, including rifle grenades.

"When government fires one, they fire back with five," he said. "So it was like they have endless supply when Maute rose to fight the government."

The President said the terrorist gunmen had waited for the right time to attack.

When the fighting erupted, "the Indonesian forces went down from the hills" backed also by a "conglomeration of Isis from Syria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Arabs

(Kuwaitis)," he said.

The President said the fighting was "winding up but at the cost of many soldiers."

Because the government has already lost more than 750 soldiers in the fighting, he said they have to "finish" the terrorists.

Mr. Duterte also assured the soldiers that government will provide everything they need.

"I am with you in everything," he said, adding that the soldiers' needs will be a "priority."

"I will not abandon you," he said, promising to raise a P50-billion trust fund for education of the soldiers' children.

"I know what's always on your mind—your family."

"Because you're always there out in the field, so my thoughts are always with you—how I can improve your lives and protect you," he said.

"I talk from the heart ... I have a dirty mouth, but when I say that it is all with sincerity," he added.

All throughout his speech to the troops the President did not utter one cuss word.

But it was a different President Duterte earlier that day in Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte, where he joined the celebrations of the 50th foundation day of the province.

He was his usual folksy self, cracking jokes as he spoke about his administration's war on drugs, the communist insurgency and the nearly month-long fighting in Marawi.

At one point, he called on stage the wife of a former classmate from way back in kindergarten in the town of Candelaria.

—WITH REPORTS FROM NICO ALCONABA AND LEILA B. SALAVERRIA INQ

18 June 2017

The Manila Times

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Troops pound Maute remnants

Deaths rise to 329

PHILIPPINE troops pounded Islamist militants holding parts of southern Marawi city with air strikes and artillery on Saturday as more soldiers were deployed and the death toll rose to more than 300 after nearly a month of fighting.

Fires erupted and dark plumes of smoke rose from enclaves still occupied by the militants as the air force staged bombing runs to support ground troops struggling to dislodge the fighters from entrenched positions, Agence France Presse journalists at the scene said.

MG520 attack helicopters and FA50 fighter jets were used in the raids, while sustained bursts of automatic gunfire could be heard in the distance, indicating the intensity of the fighting.

President Rodrigo Duterte, appearing in public for the first time in nearly a week, said the presence of foreign fighters from the Islamic State (IS) group among the militants in Marawi have made the fighting more difficult.

"You have a conglomeration there of ISIS fighters from Syria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Arabs," he told soldiers during a visit to a military camp in Butuan city, northeast of Marawi.

► Islamists A2

4

ISLAMISTS FROM A1 Troops pound

in the southern region of Mindanao. "We have to use the air assets because we are up against fighters from the Middle East and they have learned the art of brutal killing—they will burn you, behead you," he said.

Also on Saturday, 400 fresh troops were airlifted to Marawi from the central Philippines, ANC television said quoting military officials.

Television footage showed the soldiers bidding goodbye to their families before being flown to the conflict zone.

Hundreds of militants—supported by foreign fighters—rampaged through Marawi, the largely Christian Philippines' most important Muslim city, on May 23 waving black flags of the Islamic State (IS) group.

Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao to counter the attack, which he said was part of a plan by IS to establish a base in the country.

Such a base could be crucial for IS' ambitions to establish a caliphate in Southeast Asia, analysts say.

The military has said at least eight foreign fighters from Chechnya, Yemen, Malaysia and Indonesia were among the militants killed in the Marawi fighting.

Hundreds of thousands displaced

The overall death toll rose to 329 with 310—225 militants, 59 soldiers and 26 civilian—killed in the conflict, according to government figures.

The 19 other deaths came from those displaced by the fighting, said Mujiv Hataman, the governor of a Muslim autonomous region in the south.

Hataman said the deaths among the evacuees were caused by severe dehydration.

More than 309,000 people have been displaced in Marawi and nearby areas, the government said. Many have fled to the homes of friends and relatives and others are in evacuation centers.

"Our forces are moving towards the heart of the enemy," regional military spokesman Jo-ar Herrera told reporters in Marawi on Saturday, referring to the heavy fighting under urban conditions.

"It's the center of gravity. This is where the location of their command and control, the leadership of the enemy."

Ground commanders estimate "more than 100" militants are still holding out in at least four villages in Marawi, military spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said in Manila.

But he said the figures were based on estimates a few days ago "so this number could have dropped significantly."

Padilla said the military will no longer give any self-imposed deadlines on when the militants would be driven out after failing to meet previous ones they had set.

"We are trying our best to expedite [driving them out] without unduly compromising the lives of our soldiers and at the same time the remaining civilian there," he said.

Davao Gulf watch

Security forces at the Davao Gulf were alerted to prevent members of the Islamic State-linked Maute group from entering Eastern Mindanao by sea, the Philippine Navy said on Saturday.

In an interview, Lt. James Reyes, public affairs chief for the Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao (NFEEM), said navy vessels took over from the Philippine Coast Guard and were ordered to randomly check civilian boats and ships, especially those coming from Marawi City and neighboring areas.

"All the in-and-out boats, we check it randomly. Especially those registered as fishing boats boarding so many persons, that is really suspicious," Reyes said.

"If we see something suspicious, even if they are riding jet skis or yachts, we will surely check that," he added.

Mindanao was placed under martial law on May 23 following the attack on Marawi City by the Maute terrorists.

Reyes said patrol boats and gunboats have been placed along "strategic areas."

So far there has been no attempt by terror suspects to enter the jurisdiction of the NFEEM, which is headquartered in Davao City, through the sea route.

"We are not removing this kind of possibility that is why we heightened our maritime patrols," said Reyes.

Earlier, Brig. Gen. Gilbert Capay, martial law spokesman for Eastern Mindanao, said boats sailing in the Davao Gulf were being profiled and registered to prevent terrorists from entering the area.

This came after reports that some members of the Maute group who attacked Marawi City last month have begun fleeing to Eastern Mindanao.

Security forces were also mobilized to prevent any "spillover" from Marawi City and protect Eastern Mindanao from terrorists.

Eight supporters and members of the Maute have been arrested by the army and the police, Capay noted.

DEMPSEY REYES
AND AFP

5295

18 June 2017

THE DAILY
tribune
Official newspaper of the Army

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BUT NEXT ML TO BE 'ON MY TERMS'

Rody: If SC says stop, I'll pull out military

By Ted Tuvera

If the Supreme Court asks him to end martial law in Mindanao, President Duterte said that he will but added if anything goes wrong, he will impose it again but this time it would be on his terms and he would not consult anybody, and "there is no telling when it would end."

Turn to page 2

From page 1

Talking to reporters in Butuan City, the Chief Executive said that he will not disobey the SC if it strikes down his Proclamation 216.

"When the Supreme Court says stop, I will pull out the military (in Marawi) at once. I will obey them," he said.

The SC is currently holding oral arguments on petitions to invalidate Proclamation 216 that imposed martial law on Mindanao. The SC is expected to make a ruling early next month.

However, Mr. Duterte said that a constitutional crisis can't be prevented if an adverse ruling is released.

"But let me say this: I will have to declare another martial law. And that martial law, I will not consult anybody... Congress or the judiciary," the President said.

"That brand of martial law will be indefinite. I cannot say when it will end. Maybe, it will be similar to that of (former president Ferdinand) Marcos," he added.

Asked if he will lift the present martial law in Mindanao once the siege is over, Mr. Duterte said: "I will only end it if nobody will fire guns anymore in Mindanao."

He also challenged critics that if their petitions are successful, it is better for them to go and face the Islamic terrorists operating in Marawi.

Mr. Duterte also assailed the arguments raised against

Proclamation 216 in the ongoing oral arguments at the Supreme Court calling these "crazy."

"Judges (Supreme Court justices in the ongoing oral arguments on martial law) were arguing that only terrorism was present and not rebellion, the terrorists are committing rebellion, how did (they) saw it, what do (they) want?, that they burn half of Mindanao before we can call it a true blue rebellion?, It's crazy," he said.

"If they say it (martial law) does not have factual basis then I will ask the military to withdraw and we will not move, I'll let them solve this if they can," Mr. Duterte added.

"If anything goes wrong, I'll declare martial law again," he said.

ML to linger

Even if the government is confident that the Islamic State (IS) inspired Maute militants have dwindled, Malacañang insisted that martial law in Mindanao still has to remain.

In the Mindanao briefing aired over state-run radio, Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said there is no reason to end military rule yet even if state forces have contained members of groups sympathetic with the Islamic State (IS) in four remaining villages in war-torn Marawi City.

"As far as the Palace is concerned really, the Executive branch wishes for all of this to end as soon as possible. However, the

bottomline remains that martial law is for public safety (as) mandated by the Constitution," Abella said.

"We also take cognizance that enemy resistance continues to dwindle and enemy-held areas continues to grow smaller as the troops advance," he added.

The Constitution restricts the imposition of martial law to 60 days unless extended by Congress. Abella said "constraints" cited by troops fighting on the ground remain in Marawi City.

Today is the 27th day of the siege and the effectivity of President Duterte Proclamation no. 216.

"We are not giving martial law any timeline," Abella said.

"The schedule for the lifting of martial law is whether or not it is already totally, completely guaranteed or sufficiently guaranteed for the safety of the general public or not," he added.

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said last Friday that he'd rather want martial law to be in effect until Mr. Duterte's last year in office.

"I would like to extend this up to the end of the term of the President. My grounds: To really ensure the end of this conflict in Mindanao, and to fast-track the infrastructure projects. This is for our interest, isn't it?" Alvarez told reporters in Tagum City.

Presidential spokesman Abella, for his part, said that the Speaker's cited reasons were not the same for the administration's actual grounds for declaring martial law.

"Speaker Alvarez has voiced his opinion regarding the matter and we respect that. However, the provision of the Palace will be benchmarked upon the agreement on whether or not public safety is already sufficiently guaranteed," Abella said.

Mr. Duterte previously said if he declares martial law, "it will end all problems in Mindanao" which includes the Moro and communist insurgencies as well as illegal drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, the New York Times (NYT) is at it again on Mr. Duterte as it ran an editorial on June 15 saying that "Mr. Duterte's braggadocio is partly to blame for the escalation of the conflict."

In its piece entitled "How ISIS grew in the Philippines", the newspaper emphasized that the Maute militants merely gave in to Mr. Duterte's December challenge to "go down and burn Marawi City."

NYT, known as a critic of the Duterte government, called on Mr. Duterte to negotiate with the IS-linked militants.

"The most urgent need now is to ratchet down the fight in Marawi and press Mr. Duterte to restart negotiations with militant groups," the editorial said.

But Malacañang reminded the American newspaper that the President has repeatedly offered his hand to talk peace with the Islamists again and again before the crisis erupted to what it is now.

Abella said that the NYT failed

to be objective in assessing Mr. Duterte's objectives.

"The foremost attention of the President is peace within our borders. Peace, especially within Mindanao," Abella said.

"But he is also clear that he cannot go there every month and talk and agree on something such that when he turns his back, the killings continue," he added.

Orals wrapped up

Before wrapping up the three-day arguments on the petitions against Proclamation 216 last Thursday, the Supreme Court (SC) met with Solicitor-General Jose Calida, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año and the petitioners.

Lorenzana and Año appeared before the SC after one of the petitioners, Albay Representative Edcel Lagman on Wednesday requested their appearance.

Calida requested that if Lorenzana and Año are to answer questions from members of the high court, it must be conducted in a private session because of national security concerns.

Last Wednesday, Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno said she is open to having a closed-door meeting with the justices together with Calida, Año and Lorenzana.

"In deference to the sensitive (information) that may be shared by Sec. Lorenzana and Gen. Año, we are open to having an executive session," she said.

The three consolidated petitions were filed by opposition lawmakers led by Lagman, local Mindanao leaders led by Lumad leader Eufemia Campos Cullamat and a group of women from Marawi led by Norkaya Mohamad.

The petitioners claimed that the declaration was "baseless" as there was no rebellion or invasion committed in the ongoing crisis because it was triggered by a military operation against alleged ISIS Philippines emir Isnilon Hapilon.

Two other petitions were filed by separate groups led by former Senators Rene Saguisag and Wigberto Tañada both seeking issuance of a mandamus that would compel Senate and the House of Representatives to convene jointly to review the declaration. The SC has yet to act on these petitions.

Last June 8, the SC consolidated the two mandamus petitions asking the high court to order the Senate and the House of Representatives to convene in joint session and vote jointly on President Duterte's Proclamation 216 declaring martial law and suspending the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao.

Proclamation 216 was issued on May 23 declaring a state of martial law and suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in the whole of Mindanao. This was a result of the attack of the Maute group in Marawi City, which is still ongoing and is subject to military operations.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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2 NPA leaders arrested in Surigao

By MIKEL CRISMUNDO

BUTUAN CITY - A political and medical officer of the New People's Army-Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP-NPA) was arrested Thursday afternoon by the joint police and military forces in Sitio Tumanday II, Barangay Rizal, Surigao City.

The Surigao City police and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said Rowelyn M. Mahinay, alias "Apple," 28, reportedly the political officer/instructor of SPP-1 Guerilla-Front Committee 30 of the CPP-NPA North-

eastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC), was completely surprised when police and military arrived at her rented house at 5 p.m. on Thursday in Sitio Tumanday II, Barangay Rizal, Surigao City.

Likewise arrested was Mahinay's partner, identified only as "Kumander Puma," a resident of Barangay San Isidro, Tandag City, Surigao del Sur.

Seized from Mahinay was an improvised explosive device with blasting cap and detonating cord.

Chief Supt. Marcial Felix said the suspect has a pending case of rebellion

and frustrated murder in Surigao del Sur court.

The suspect was immediately brought to the regional office of the CIDG regional office based here for further tactical investigation before turning her over to Surigao del Sur courts, Felix said.

"Another case for violation of RA 9516 or the law on illegal/unlawful possession of firearms, ammunition or explosives is being prepared for inquest before the warrants of arrest will be returned to the issuing courts," the region's police chief added.

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Sayyaf bomb maker killed in Zambo — report

Government troops reportedly killed in Zamboanga City yesterday an Abu Sayyaf bomb expert and one of the trusted aides of Isnilon Hapilon, leader of the Islamic State (IS)-inspired group that attacked Marawi City last May 25.

Sketchy reports reaching Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman, identified the slain Abu Sayyaf member as Hamsi Amajad Marani.

Elements of the Joint Task Force (JTF) Zamboanga gunned down Hamsi at Puruk 4, Sitio Niyog-Niyog, Barangay Muli in Zamboanga City yesterday morning.

“Joint elements of JTF Zamboanga consisting of military and police elements successfully neutralized Hamsi, an Abu Sayyaf bomb expert under Isnilon Hapilon,” said Padilla, citing a military report.

Hapilon, reportedly the IS-designated emir in Southeast Asia, is currently the subject of military operations in Marawi City for leading the Maute group terrorists that attacked the Muslim dominated city.

While there has been no confirmation of his whereabouts, the military believes that Hapilon is still holed up with a handful of followers in Marawi City.

The military and police are still investigating why Hamsi moved to Zamboanga.

– Jaime Laude

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18 June 2017



Pahina. 2

Duterte sa mga sundalo: **MAHAL KO KAYO**

MATAPOS ang halos isang linggong pahinga ay muling naglibot si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa mga ikampo ng militar para kausapin ang mga sundalo at itaas ang kanilang moral sa harapan natin ng hindi natatapos na bakbakan sa Marawi City.

Sa kanyang talumpati kahapon sa 401st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Butuan City, ipinahayag ng pangulo ang kanyang pagmamahal sa mga sundalong nakikipaglaban sa mga teroristang grupo sa Mindanao.

"I love you all. Mahal ko kayong lahat. Nasasaktan ako kapag mayroong nadidisgrasya," ani Duterte.

"Binibigay ko sa inyo lahat talaga pati yung modern machines... Gamitin niyo yung eroplano ko, yung presidential planes to ferry the wounded," dagdag pa ng pangulo.

"Just be a clever soldier. Gamitin mo na lahat ng instincts mo to survive so you will have the time to see you grandchildren," arito. Binilinan ng pangulo ang

mga sundalo na maging matatino sa lahat ng pagkaka-taon at gamitin ang instincts o talas ng pakiramdam para makaligtas sa mga kalaban at magkaroon ng pagkakataon namakita pa ang mga anak o mga apo.

Arumado ang pangulo na hindi lahat ng mga sundalo ay suwerte dahil ang iba anya ay nagbubuwis ng buhay.

Sinabing pangulo na maging siya ay hindi exempted dahil lahat anya ay namamatay at nasa Diyos ang pagpapasya kung kailan siya kukunin.

Sinabing pangulo na maganda ang kanyang pakiramdam dahil nakita niya ang mga kawal at sinabing mahal niya lahat ang mga ito.

Nasasaktan aniya ang pangulo kapag may nadidisgrasyang sundalo kaya nangako ito na ibibigay ang mga de-kalibreg armas at kagamitan habang tinuyak nito ang kasiguruhan para sa edukasyon ng mga anak ng mga kawal, mabuhay man o mapatay ang mga ito habang tinutupad ang kanilang tungkulin. (Aileen Talping)

18 June 2017

The Manila Times

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Duterte shows up, visits troops in Butuan

AFTER "resting" for five days, President Rodrigo Duterte made his first public appearance on Saturday when he visited Agusan del Norte and delivered back-to-back speeches.

Duterte graced the 50th founding anniversary of Agusan del Norte held at the University of Cabadbaran where he delivered a speech at around 4:30 p.m.

The President then proceeded to Barangay Bancasi, Butuan City to meet troops of the 4th Infantry Division.

In his speech, Duterte explained that he was out of public sight for almost a week because he was "extremely tired."

Duterte, 72, was last seen in public at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City on June 11, where he honored eight of the 13 Marines killed in Marawi City.

He failed to lead the 119th Independence Day rites in Rizal Park the following day. Yesterday, Duterte did not directly answer speculations on his health.

"My last examination was last year. My state of health is what you see is what you get," he told reporters in Butuan City.

"You must learn from Davao media. I do not need anybody to ask where I am going. If you do not see me for five days, you speculate, he must be dead, so you swear in Robredo. What is your problem? We have a vice president," he added.

Shows AB

No failure

Speaking before troops in Butuan City, the President defended the military amid claims of intelligence failure on the Maute Group's attack in Marawi City.

"It was not a question of the failure on the part of the government because we already adopted a soft policy towards rebels," the President said.

He admitted that the government "took for granted" the entry of firearms in Marawi.

"The Maute [terrorists] were bringing the firearms surreptitiously at hindi natin nakulha na gaano na karami ang ammo pati bari sa loob (and we were not able to monitor how many guns and ammunition were being brought in). It was not a failure of intelligence," Duterte said.

The President said some local politicians helped in the stockpiling of firearms. This is the reason why the terrorists appeared to have an endless supply of firearms when they started battling government troops.

"The Maute, the connivance of the politicians there, warlords, were stockpiling [arms]," Duterte said.

This, he stressed, was one of the reasons why he declared martial law in Mindanao.

"So the fighting is going on

but of course, it's winding up, but at the cost of many soldiers also. And that is the danger of Maute and ISIS. You should watch out. They have so corrupted the name of God to kill many innocent persons and to destroy for nothing," he said.

During the oral arguments on petitions seeking to nullify the declaration of martial law in Mindanao, Supreme Court Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo said the military had a "total" failure of intelligence on Marawi siege.

Duterte slammed the justices for questioning his decision to declare martial law.

"The terrorists are committing rebellion. What do you want? That they devour half of Mindanao before we call it a true blue rebellion? It's crazy," he said.

But the President said he will abide by the High Court's ruling if it decides to declare his martial law decree unconstitutional.

"Kung ayaw nila, okay ako (If they don't want it, that's

okay with me). Sabihin nila na (If they say) there is no factual basis then I am ready to order the military to withdraw and we will not move," he added.

The President however said he would be forced to declare another martial law if "rebellion burns Mindanao and the other parts of the Philippines."

"This time I will do it on my own to preserve the nation," he said. "I will not consult anybody and there is no telling when it will end."

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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REMEMBERING FATHER - At their home in Gullmuyod, Ilocos Sur, Carmi Anne, left, and her children, Charm Emerald and Callen Elise pose with the picture of Corporal Elmer Maciling Anno, who was killed in a gunbattle between government forces and Islamist extremists at the start of the siege of Marawi City last May 23. (Freddie Lazaro)

18 June 2017



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AFP sees more ML arrests

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY - Authorities are set to make more arrests as martial law continues to be implemented in Mindanao following clashes in Marawi City with the Maute group.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Eastern Mindanao Command deputy chief Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay said there will be no letup in tracking down the over 300 personalities listed in the arrest order issued by the Department of National Defense (DND) as administrator of martial law.

"As the implementation of martial law continues, it is expected that there will be more arrests in the coming days as tracking and monitoring are intensified against the persons listed in the two orders of arrest issued by the martial law administrator," Gapay said.

The DND, using its martial law powers, has issued arrest orders against 310 alleged members, supporters, spies and couriers of four terrorist organizations in Mindanao.

All those in the list are accused of involvement in killings, kidnappings and bombings in Marawi City that altogether constitute the crime of rebellion under Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code.

Those to be arrested are tagged

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AFP sees

From Page 1

as members of the Maute group, Abu Sayyaf, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and Maguid group.

The arrest orders were issued after the proclamation of martial law placing the entire Mindanao region under military rule.

Security forces have rounded up several personalities under the arrest order.

They included Cayamora Maute, the father of brothers Omar and Abdullah leading the group of militants fighting government forces in Marawi, Ominta "Farhana" Romato, mother of the Maute brothers, their cousin Mohammad Na'im Maute and former Marawi City mayor Fajal Salic.

Gapay said the hunt for other Maute group members and supporters continues, particularly against the brothers Omar and Abdullah.

On top of the wanted list is Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, whom authorities believe is the leader of the Islamic State (IS) in the region.

Those in the arrest list are accused of "sowing terror to the populace" with the common design or goal of allegedly committing rebellion "for the purpose of removing Mindanao from the territory of the government of the Republic of the Philippines or its laws by establishing an independent Islamic State and /or deprive the Chief Executive of his powers and prerogatives as President of the Republic."

The arrest list contains 310 names of known members, supporters, spies and couriers of four terrorist organizations in Mindanao, particularly those directly involved in the clashes with government troops in Marawi City.

Gapay said there are about

10,000 checkpoints in eastern Mindanao with a total of 106 security operations to secure vital installations and critical infrastructure.

He said the military has established 3,628 informant networks to gather information against terrorists.

Gapay said 58 local government units in eastern Mindanao have imposed curfews implemented by the military and the Philippine National Police. This led to the arrest of 53 people violating the curfew hours, he said.

Copycat martial law

President Duterte imposed martial law across the entire region of Mindanao within hours after fighting broke out in Marawi City on May 23 in a bid to quickly crush the IS-inspired Maute group.

Duterte justified the declaration of martial law in Mindanao to contain the extremists who wanted to carve out a caliphate in the region.

He explained that he declared martial law because the AFP and the police told him that the crisis in Marawi City had reached its critical moment.

Duterte said he was forced to cut short his visit to Moscow because of the deteriorating security situation back home.

Several sectors, including opposition lawmakers, filed a petition before the Supreme Court questioning the validity of the declaration of martial law.

Members of the opposition and civil society groups have questioned Duterte's move and have also asked the Supreme Court to compel Congress to convene a joint session to review the President's basis for his declaration.

The declaration has sparked fears of human rights abuses, but officials maintained that all actions related to martial law would comply with the Constitution.

Duterte said he is ready to pull out troops from Marawi City if ordered by the Supreme Court but warned that if he had to declare martial law again, he would do it his way and it could be a "copycat" of that of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

"If they do not like it if they (Supreme Court) say there is no factual basis, then I'm ready to order the military to withdraw. We will let them be if they can. If the Supreme Court says it's wrong, I will withdraw," Duterte told reporters in Buntuan City yesterday.

Duterte said he has no problem if the judiciary rules against his martial law declaration, saying he can survive without it.

He maintained that terrorists and rebels in Marawi are committing rebellion one of the conditions that can justify the declaration of martial law.

"If that rebellion burns Mindanao, I'll be forced to declare martial law again. This time, I will do it on my own to preserve the nation. I'll not consult anybody. There's no telling when it will end," Duterte said.

"Then it could be a copycat of Marcos. *Wala akong magawa eh* (I was left with no choice)," he added.

Marcos placed the entire nation under martial law in 1972 supposedly to curb the threat posed by communist rebels. Critics said the declaration allowed human rights abuses, enforced disappearances and persecution of the political opposition.

Although nominally lifted

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

in 1981, the martial law apparatus continued to hold sway until Marcos was ousted from power in 1986.

Duterte also responded to justices who have questions about his administration's claim that there was a rebellion in Mindanao.

"What do you think? What do you want? That they devour half of Mindanao before we can call it a true blue rebellion?" he asked.

Duterte also chided critics of martial law, calling them "crybabies."

"They think the government is not doing anything right. Everything that we do is wrong and most of the time, they are the crybabies," he said.

Asked when he would lift martial law in Mindanao, Duterte replied: "The martial law won't be lifted until the fighting is over."

How long?

There had been questions on how long martial law would prevail in Mindanao. Under the Constitution, martial law should only last for 60 days.

Administration allies led by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez said they are open to extending martial law in Mindanao.

Alvarez said he wanted to extend martial law up to the end of the President's term in 2022.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, however, said any talk about extending martial law beyond the 60-day period should come only from the executive branch and not from Congress.

"This idea is something that should not come from us but from the President because he is the one who has all the intelligence reports," Pimentel said over *dwiZ* radio.

He said any move to extend

martial law would also have to be supported by an actual situation of rebellion or invasion as provided for in the Constitution.

"So let us just wait for the President to actually say this. Then we can talk about the desirability of granting the extension or not," Pimentel said.

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito previously aired his desire to extend the martial law period if only to totally address the peace and order situation in Mindanao.

Ejercito said he would like to have another briefing by the security officials for the senators before the end of the 60-day period in order to determine the actual situation.

Pimentel welcomed the idea of having regular briefings from security officials so that Congress would know how martial law is being implemented, as well as the status of conflict in Marawi City and the rest of the region.

Sen. Francis Escudero said the extension of martial law beyond the 60-day period is not something that should be volunteered by any member of Congress.

He agreed with the observations that this is the sole prerogative of the executive branch and Congress' only task is to decide on whether to grant this.

Escudero reiterated his position that martial law is unnecessary to quell the ongoing conflict in Marawi City.

He said the situation in Mindanao in general is no different from the time before martial law was declared and after it was implemented there.

According to Escudero, the soldiers were already in Mindanao even before martial law so there was actually no difference in the lives of the people when the President declared

military rule.

What would be different, Escudero said, is if martial law is declared in Metro Manila because the people in the national capital region are not used to seeing soldiers in the streets.

Escudero said that he does not like the idea of declaring martial law in general because it would only damage the image of the country before the international community and scare away tourists.

The fighting in Marawi has also triggered a humanitarian crisis with thousands of residents forced out of their homes.

The IS-aligned militants have displaced most of the more than 200,000 residents of Marawi City. More than 1,600 residents have been rescued from the scenes of heavy fighting, many of them still shell-shocked and starving while some were wounded.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development said more than 300,000 people were displaced by the clashes.

As of June 14, more than 69,055 families or 336,783 individuals are staying in 82 evacuation centers in Lanao del Sur and nearby provinces.

Some evacuees were accommodated in the towns of Saguaran and Balo-an in Lanao del Norte and Baras in Iligan City.

In Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, all of the 1,200 families staying in evacuation centers are farmers from villages in Marawi City who fled their homes to avoid being hit by airstrikes and ground operations of the military, according to an interfaith humanitarian mission who went to Mindanao to document the firefights between government forces and the Maute in Marawi City. - With Alexis Romero, Marvin Sy, Rhodina Villanueva

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MARTIAL LAW: PUBLIC SAFETY A PRIME FACTOR

By John Paolo Bencito and Maricel V. Cruz

MARTIAL...
From A1

THE Palace on Saturday insisted on the need to continuously impose martial law in Mindanao despite its assurance that the resistance coming from extremist groups was already "dwindling."

During the regular "Mindanao four" over state radio dzRB, Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said that the government likewise stressed the need to benchmark public safety amid the proposal of House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez to extend martial law until the end of the President's term.

"As far as the Palace is concerned, the Executive branch wishes for all

this to end as soon as possible. However, our bottomline (consideration in implementing) martial law is public safety. Public safety is mandated by the Constitution," Abella said.

"Speaker Alvarez has voiced his opinion regarding the matter and we respect that. However, the provision of the Palace will be benchmarked upon the agreement on whether or not public safety is already sufficiently guaranteed," he added.

On Thursday, Alvarez said that house leaders were open to extending the 60-day martial law period in Mindanao following the continued terrorist attacks of the Duterte group.

Turn to A2

But on Friday, the Davao del Norte representative and secretary-general of President Rodrigo Duterte's PDP-Laban said he was open to the idea of extending martial law in Mindanao until Duterte steps down in 2022, citing that it has been well-received by majority of the more than 20 million people in the Philippine south and that critics, particularly those who were not from Mindanao, had no reason to oppose or worry about it.

Alvarez's proposal drew support in the House, with at least five House leaders also voicing their agreement to extend martial law in the country's southernmost island.

Reps. Rodolfo Albano of Isabela, Robert Ace Barbers of Surigao del Norte, Gus Tambunting of Parañaque City, Ben Evardone of Eastern Samar and Harry Roque of Kabayan party-list said Alvarez and President Duterte would know better the situation in the South

being Mindanaoans.

"If the conditions warrant the prolonging of ML to save lives, who are we to (oppose)," Albano, majority leader for the House of Representatives' contingent to Commission on Appointments, said.

Albano said the President and his military and police personnel knows fully well the situation in Mindanao, especially in Marawi and so only they could tell the real score.

Barbers, chairman of the House committee on dangerous drugs, echoed Albano's expression of support to Alvarez.

"Yes, I will support any extension as long as there is still imminent threat of terrorism, rebellion and invasion perpetrated by ISIS, Maute and Abu Sayaf groups."

Evardone also said he is for the martial law extension "if the situation so warrants."

Tambunting, House committee on

ways and means chairperson, shares a similar view.

"If it remains necessary and the situation is still not under control, I will not object to an extension (of the 60-day martial law period) in Mindanao," Tambunting said.

Roque, for his part, said that Congress will support the President for peace's sake in the war-torn region.

"That is for President to declare. If he does, Congress will support him," Roque said.

But Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza said it is too early to discuss the martial law extension.

"We will assess the situation by then but it is still a month away," he said.

The President declared martial law in Mindanao on May 23. It will lapse on July 23.

Alvarez, secretary-general of the ruling Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan, said the House may approve

the martial law extension "if necessary" as the Armed Forces of the Philippines has yet to gain full control of the situation in Marawi City.

But more than three weeks since Duterte imposed martial rule in the whole island of Mindanao, Abella flaunted that "enemy resistance continues to dwindle and enemy-held areas continues to grow smaller as the troops advance" in Marawi city and proceed with clearing operations.

Abella, however, insisted that there are still "compounding developments" that necessitates the need to implement military rule, including the use of civilians as human shields and mosques being used as staging areas and safe havens.

"Therefore, the schedule for the lifting of martial law is whether or not it is already totally, completely guaranteed or sufficiently guaranteed for the safety of the general public or not," Abella said.



18 June 2017

GOV'T PRESSES WAR ON MAUTES

By Ayee Macaraig

MARAWI - Government troops pounded Islamist militants holding parts of southern Marawi City with air strikes and artillery Saturday, as more soldiers were deployed and the death toll rose to more than 300 after nearly a month of fighting.

Fires erupted and dark plumes of smoke rose from enclaves still occupied by the militants as the air force staged bombing runs to support ground troops struggling to dislodge the fighters from entrenched positions, AFP journalists at the scene said.

MG520 attack helicopters and FA50 fighter jets were used in the raids, while sustained bursts of automatic gunfire could be heard in the distance, indicating the intensity of the fighting.

Also on Saturday, 400 fresh troops were airlifted to Marawi from the central Philippines, ANC television said quoting military officials.

Television footage showed the soldiers bidding goodbye to their families before being flown to the conflict zone.

Hundreds of militants — supported by foreign fighters — rampaged through Marawi, the largely Christian Philippines' most important Muslim city, on May 23 waving black flags of the Islamic State (IS) group.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the entire southern region of Mindanao to counter the attack, which he said was part of a plan by IS to establish a base in the country.

Such a base could be crucial for IS' ambitions to establish a caliphate in Southeast Asia, analysts say.

The military has said eight foreign fighters from Chechnya, Yemen, Malaysia and Indonesia were among the militants killed in the Marawi fighting.

Hundreds of thousands displaced. The overall death toll rose to 329 with 310 — 225 militants, 59 soldiers and 26 civilians — killed in the conflict, according to government figures.

The 19 others deaths came from those displaced by the fighting, said Mujiv Hataman, the governor of a Muslim autonomous region in the south.

Hataman said the deaths among the evacuees were caused by severe dehydration from diarrhea.

More than 309,000 people have been displaced in Marawi and nearby areas, the government said. Many have fled to the homes of friends and relatives and others are in evacuation centers.

"Our forces are moving towards the heart of the enemy," regional military spokesman Joar Herrera told reporters in Marawi on Saturday, referring to the heavy fighting under urban conditions.

"It's the center of gravity. This is where the location of their command and control, the leadership of the enemy."

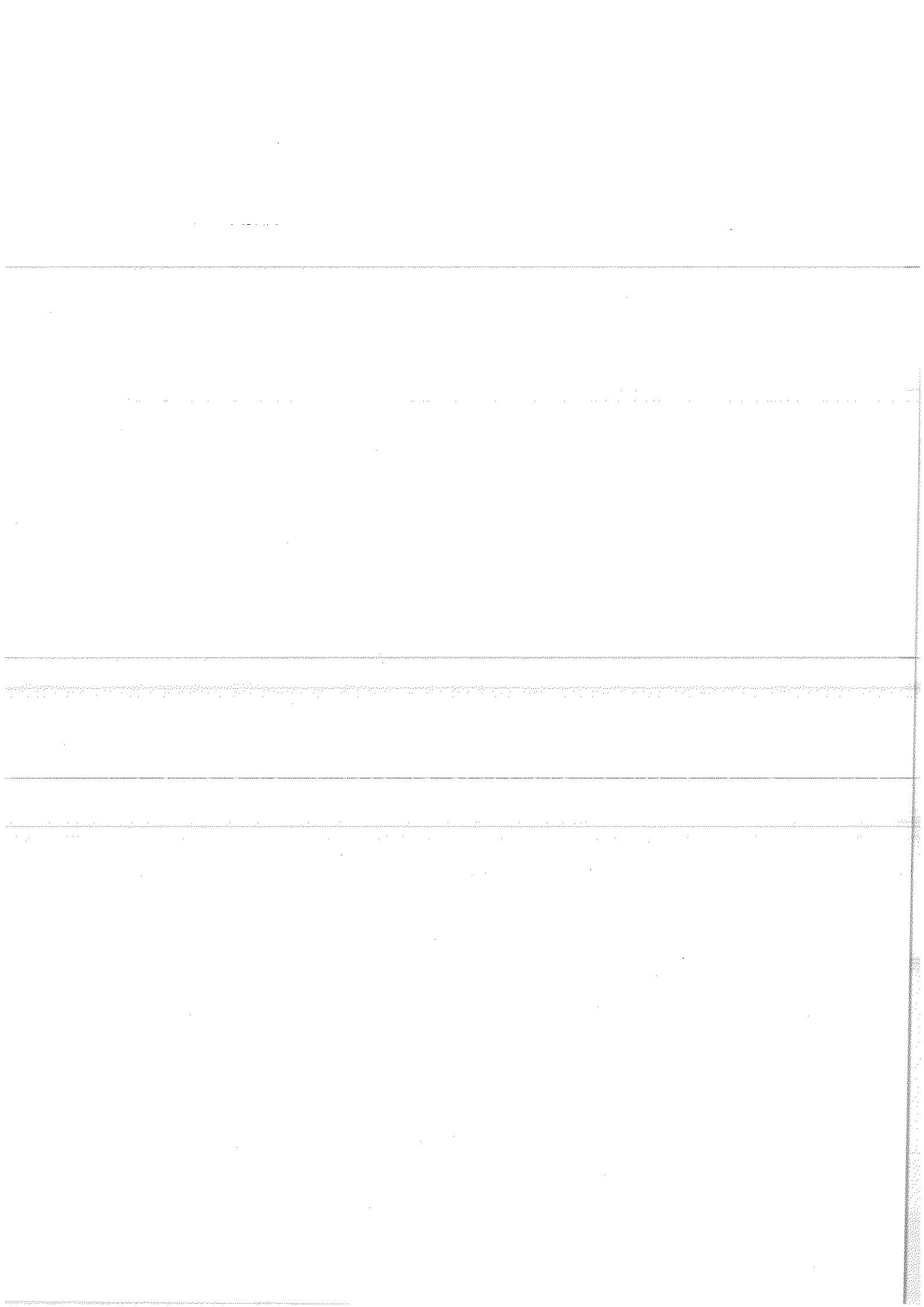
Ground commanders estimate "more than 100" militants are still holding out in at least four villages in Marawi, military spokesman Brigadier General Restitio Padilla said in Manila.

But he said the figures were based on estimates a few days ago "so this number could have dropped significantly."

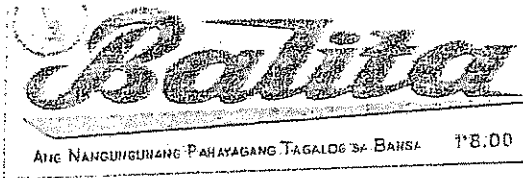
Padilla said in an interview with DZMM radio the military would no longer give any self-imposed deadlines on when the militants would be driven out after failing to meet previous ones they had set.

"We are trying our best to expedite (driving them out) without unduly compromising the lives of our soldiers and at the same time the remaining civilians there," he said.

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Malacañang: Martial law para sa kaligtasan ng publiko

Sa kabila ng kumakaunting bilang ng mga terorista sa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, inihayag ng Malacañang na mananatili ang batas militar sa Mindanao hanggang sa maitiyak ang kaligtasan ng publiko.

Ito ay matapos na tulat ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang pagbawi sa mga mas estratehikong vantage point na dating kontrolado ng Maute Group.

"As far as the Palace is concerned, the Executive branch wishes for all of this to end as soon as possible," sinabi

ni Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella kahapon sa 'Mindanao Now' press briefing sa Radyo ng Bayan.

"However po, ang bottomline parin po ng martial law is public safety. Public safety as mandated by the Constitution," dagdag niya.

"The provision of the Palace will be benchmarked po upon the agreement on whether or not public safety is already sufficiently guaranteed," ani Abella. "Therefore, the schedule po for the lifting of martial law is whether or not it is already totally, completely guaranteed

or sufficiently guaranteed for the safety of the general public or not.

"So, hindi po matin binibigyan ng timeline yan. Ang atin pong indicator ay whether safe na po talaga ang publiko," sabi pa ni Abella.

Una nang sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na tatalima siya sa anumang magiging pasya ng Korte Suprema tungkol sa idineklara niyang martial law.

Nakatakdang ilabas ng Korte Suprema sa Hulyo 5 ang desisyon nito tungkol sa pagiging valid ng batas militar.

Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos

18 June 2017

**Makaraan ang isang
linggong "private time"
Duterte nagpakita
na sa publiko**

BINISITA kahapon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga sundalo sa 4th Infantry Division's sa kanilang Advance Command Post sa Bancas sa Butuan City. Ininspektorin rin ng pangulo ang mga nabawing mga armas mula sa mga armed groups kasunod ng awarding ceremonies sa isang paglalaran ng militer at Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) members.

Sakanyang maikling talumpati ay muling pinaalala ng pangulo sa mga sundalo ang kahatagahan ng kanilang tungkulin para panatilihin ang maayos ang kalagayan ng bansa laban sa banta ng mga terorista.

Muli ring inulit ng pangulo na inibahanda na may ang iba pang mga dagdag na benepisyo para sa mga kawal at tauhan ng Philippine National Police (PNP).

Personal na mayang pinasalamatan ang mga sundalo na nag-aalay ng kanilang buhay para sa bayan.

Partikular na mayang pinapurihan ang mga sundalo mula sa 4th Infantry Division sa kanilang mga tagumpay laban sa komunista ang grupo at paglaban sa sindikato ng droga.

Mahigpit din ang kanyang paglalaran sa mga tauhan ng militar na mas magitingin ang sa pakikipaglaban sa mga terorista tulad ng ISIS at Maute group.

Mahirap kalaban ang taong gusto nang mamatay. "they corrupted the name of their god to kill matinding kalabanito", ayon pa sa pangulo.

Punayuhan rin niya ang mga sundalo na tapusin kaagad ang mga terorista sa oras na malaman nila ang kahalagayan ng mga ito para hindi namas lumaki pa ang problema ng bansa laban dito.

Naniniwala rin si Duterte na bukod sa mga grupo ng Maute ay nasa loob na rin ng bansa ang ilan pang mga terorista na kanabibilangan ng mga Arabo, Indonesian at Malaysians.

Tutuyak naman ng pangulo na hindi mayanwan sa laban ang mga sundalo bilang kanilang Commander-in-Chief.

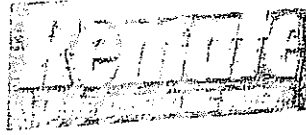
Dagdag pa ng pangulo, "Hindi na tayo bibili ng mga segunda manong mga armas. Titiyakin ko na war grade ang mga ibibigay sa inyong mga kagamitan para sa inyong laban."

Muli ring inulit ng pangulo na mayroon na siyang P20 Billion na initial trust fund para sa edukasyon ng mga anak ng mga sundalo maging silaman ay buhay para sa kanilang retirement o mapatay sa pagtupad sa kanilang tungkuli.

Kasamang nagpunta ng pangulo sa nasabing kampong militar sina AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año, Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana at Presidential Special Assistant na si Sec. Bong Go.

Nauna rito ay bumisita rin ang pangulo kahapon sa Cabadbaran City sa Agusan Del Norte.

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Pahina. 4

Obispo sumuporta sa martial law

HINIMOK ng isang arsobispo ng Simbahang Katoliko ang mga kritiko, partikular na sa mga taga-oposiyon, na bigyan muna ng pagkakataon ang umiiral na Martial Law sa Mindanao.

Ayon kay Ozamis Archbishop Martin Jumoad, sa kasalukuyan ay maganda ang epekto ng batas militar sa kanilang lugar kumpara sa Martial

Law na idineklara noon ni dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, dahil ang ngayon ay idineklara para matiyak ang kaligtasan ng mga mamamayan at masupil din ang mga ilegal na nagdadala ng baril, maging ang ilang private army.

"Hindi po, it gives specific as to what the military should do and what the civilian must do

also. "So mas maganda po ang martial law ngayon compared noon kay President Marcos.

"Ang pulis at military ay very professional," pahayag ni Jumoad sa panayam ng church-run Radio Veritas.

Sa kabila naman na sang-ayon sa umiiral na Martial Law, umaasa naman ang arsobispo na kaagad na tatanggain

ang batas militar, sa sandaling matapos na ang problema ng Mindanao laban sa mga teroristang Maute at Abu Sayyaf Group at mga dayuhang kapanalig ng mga ito.

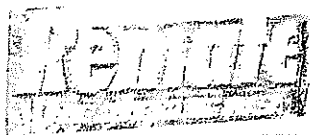
Hinimok rin niya ang mga biktima ng karahasan na ibaling sa Pangit noon ang kanilang paghihirap.

Giit niya, walang tamang salita na maaring

maitulong para pumamatag ang mga tumatanging na namatayan at mga nahihirapan dahil sa patuloy na digmaan.

Umaabot na sa mahigiti tatlong linggo ang kaguluhan sa Marawi City at ang pag-iral ng Martial law sa buong Mindanao na ikalawa sa pinakamalaking isla ng bansa na binubuo ng sa 25 lalawigan at 27 lungsod. MACS BORJA

18 June 2017



Pahina. 4

Paninisi ng New York times kay Pang. Duterte sa martial law pinalagan

PINALAGAN ng Malakanyang ang lumabas sa editoryal ng New York Times na "partly to blame" si Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte sa pagsiklab ng gulo at panggugulo ng Maute at Abu Sayyaf Group sa Marawi City.

Ayon kay Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella, kapakanan ng mga inosenteng sibilyan ang pangunahing concern ni Pang. Duterte, at hindi ang makipag-away at patulan ang baata ng Maute at Abu Sayyaf group.

Sinabi pa niya na makabubuti sa New York Times na alamin muna ang buong larawan ng sitwasyon sa bansa bago pa magpahayag ng kanilang saloobin.

Pangunahing interes aniya ni Pang. Duterte ang panatilihin ang kapayapaan, lalo na sa Mindanao at nagdesisyon ang Pangulo na tumakbo noong nakaraang halalan para maasikaso ang kapayapaan sa Mindanao.

"However, ang nangyari po ay nagkaroon po tayo ng mga outside threats. Pero maliban diyan, hindi ba nagsimula na tayo ng talks with both CPP - CPP-NDF, and NPA, at tsaka po sa MI and MN. Ngayon, meron pong mga outside forces who influenced some of our people - katulad yung mga Maute group, na na-inspire ng mga outside forces," paliwanag ni Usec. Abella.

Matatandaang sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte noong

dumalo ito sa 103rd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army sa Butig noong Nobyembre 16, 2016 na "What is very certain is that I do not want to wage war against my own countrymen. So makiusap ako sa lahat na tulungan niyo ako."

Sinabi pa niya ng Pangulo na "may hangganan ang kanyang pasensiya sa mga grupong kumakalaban sa estado. But there is a certain point na kung yung mga civilian at mga Christian and Moro alike ay ang sabi niya, yun ang sinasabi niya hindi niya matanggap. But lagi niyang sinasabi, "Ayokong makipag-usap, makipag-away sa inyo. Ayokong makipagpatayan, sabi niyang ganon. But please do not force my hand. Pero malinaw pong sinabi niya na hindi naman siya pwedeng patuloy na pabalik-balik doon and every month makikipag-usap, pagtalikod niya patayan na naman," anito.

Kaya, kung nasabi man ng Pangulo ang mga salitang ito ay mayroon aniya itong pinaghugutan.

"Sa totoo lang po, ang Presidente natin ay maging Filipino at lagi po niyang interes ang safety, lalo ng Christians and Muslims alike. Hindi po siya nakikipagmatigasan ang ulo. Hindi po. May konteksto po 'yan. It is always the public safety, it is always the public interest," lahad nito.

KRIS JOSE

18 June 2017

The Manila Times

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Palace: Still no deadline on martial law in Mindanao

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

DESPITE the military's claim that the capability of the Maute terrorists has been significantly degraded, alacañang on Saturday said the government was not yet eyeing the lifting of martial law in Mindanao.

As far as the Palace is concerned, the Executive branch has for all of this to end as soon as possible. However, the bottom line of martial law is public safety. Public safety as mandated by the constitution," Palace spokesman Ernesto Abella told government-owned RFB radio.

Therefore, the schedule for the lifting of martial law [depends on] whether or not [public safety] is ready totally, completely guaranteed or sufficiently guaranteed," he added.

The Maute terrorists attacked Marawi City on May 23, prompting President Rodrigo Duterte to issue Proclamation 216 declaring martial law in Mindanao for a 90-day period. The Palace official expressed optimism that state forces would

soon regain control of Marawi City, following "significant developments" in the besieged city.

"The clearing operations of the villages continue. We also take cognizance that enemy resistance continues to dwindle and enemy-held areas continue to grow smaller as the troops advance," Abella said.

"However, there are compounding developments that we mentioned earlier, like the use of civilians as human shields and mosques [as] staging areas and safe havens," he added.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Brig. Gen. Regino Padilla Jr. on Friday said "things are working to our advantage" following the declaration of martial law.

Padilla said the Maute no longer had the ability to replicate the Marawi siege in other areas like

Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City, as their capacities have been "significantly degraded."

The President on June 1 dispelled apprehensions over martial law, saying that he would be the first person to call for the lifting of military rule over Mindanao once the situation improves.

'Duterte not inciting outrage'

Abella also insisted that Duterte never intended to spark outrage in his previous pronouncements regarding the supposed alliance of the Islamic State with extremist groups in the Philippines.

This was after *The New York Times* partly blamed Duterte for the conflict in Mindanao.

"Frankly speaking, the President's main interest is to ensure the Filipinos' safety, most especially the Christians and Muslims. He's not compromising. The context here is always the public safety. It is always the public interest," Abella said.

In an editorial published on June 15, *The New York Times* Editorial Board wrote that "Duterte's braggadocio is partly to blame for

the escalation of the conflict" in Mindanao.

The New York Times claimed the IS took advantage and forged an alliance with militant groups in Mindanao.

The "successful" attempts of IS-linked terrorists to occupy areas in Mindanao "[threaten] the security of the entire region," the paper claimed, calling on the Philippine government to negotiate with the IS-linked fighters.

But Abella recalled that Duterte had attempted to hold talks with the Maute bandits. The number of government troops killed in the ongoing battle in Marawi City however forced Duterte to withdraw his peace offer, Abella said.

"He [Duterte] was quite open. He was asking them [extremists] not to wreak havoc. He appealed that to them. But their intentions continue. So he said, 'I will no longer talk to you,'" Abella said.

"So let us give the President enough credit that he was not picking a fight. Other people do not know that, especially those who are merely listening to the media. They just listen to what they want to hear," he added.

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Pahina. 2

Martial Law 'di pa tatanggalin

Sa kabila ng sinasabing paghina ng puwersa ng Maute sa Marawi, inihayag kahanon ni Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella na hindi pa tatanggalin ang umiiral na Martial Law sa Mindanao hangga't hindi natitiyak ang kaligtasan ng publiko. Ayon kay Abella, sa kasalukuyan ay wala pang garantiya na ligtas ang publiko kaya hindi pa maaaring bigyan ng timeline ang pagtanggali

ng martial law. Idinagdag ni Abella na kahit ang Executive branch ay nais na ring mawakasan ang martial law pero makasaad sa Konstitusyon ang pagtiyak sa kaligtasan ng publiko. Bagaman at humihina na umano ang puwersa ng Maute group, pero patuloy pa ring ginagamit ng mga ito ang mga sibilyan bilang panangga o human shields. Iniuulat rin ni Abella ang

pinakanuling development kung saan may na-rescue na pitong sibilyan sa Marawi at patuloy ang recovery at pagkontrol sa maraming 'strategic vantage points' ng tropa ng pamahalaan. Patuloy rin aniya ang pakikipag-dayalogo ng gobyerno sa mga mahalagang sektor at mga lokal na lider sa Marawi bilang paghahanda sa rehabilitasyon ng lugar. (Malou/Escudero)

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Public safety to lift Martial Law - Palace

Despite the dwindling number of enemies in the war-torn city of Marawi, Malacañang said yesterday that Martial Law will stay in Mindanao until public safety is guaranteed.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella echoed President Duterte's desire to lift Martial Law at the soonest possible time but expressed that public safety should be first guaranteed.

"As far as the Palace is concerned, the Executive branch wishes for all of this to end as soon as possible," Abella said during the Mindanao Hour press briefing over Radyo ng Bayan yesterday.

"However po, ang bottomline pa rin po ng Martial Law is public safety. Public safety as mandated by the Constitution," he added.

Abella also noted that due to the continued use of civilians as human shields by the terrorist groups and the use of mosques as staging areas and safe havens, there is no telling when Martial Law will be lifted.

"The provision of the Palace will be benchmarked po upon the agreement on whether or not

public safety is already sufficiently guaranteed," Abella said.

"Therefore, the schedule po for the lifting of Martial Law is whether or not it is already totally, completely guaranteed, or sufficiently guaranteed for the safety of the general public or not," he said.

"So hindi po natin binibigyan ng timeline 'yan. Ang atin pong indicator ay whether safe na po talaga ang publiko," he added.

Duterte, through Proclamation No. 216, placed Mindanao under Martial Law due to the attacks in Marawi last May 23. He also suspended the privilege of the Writ of Habeas corpus on the entire island for 60 days.

Duterte had said that Martial Law in Mindanao will stay until the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police have informed him that the situation on the island has returned to normal.

The Armed Forces has reported significant developments, including the recovery and control of more strategic vantage points by advancing troops, in Marawi in the past few days. (Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)

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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Marawi off-limits to civilians

Locally officials allowed try; security Iligan City, IO tightened

ARMY OFFICIALS REDUCES

The military has banned the entry of civilians in war-torn Marawi City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) bared Saturday in response to claims that the military blocked the delivery of relief goods to besieged residents of the city. AFP spokesman Restituto Padilla, in the Mindanao Hour press briefing, said it was not the intention of the military to block the delivery of the relief goods and explained that they do not allow the entry of civilians to ensure their safety. ▶5

"Let us not put our point fingers at our troops for blocking them. We did not block them," Padilla said.

Former congressman Teddy Casimiro had earlier claimed that the military blocked his group when they were about to deliver assistance to Marawi residents last Thursday.

According to Padilla, Casimiro's group, who were part of a convoy delivering relief goods, may not have coordinated with the local government or if they did, the local government did not coordinate with the military.

"The roadblock that they're saying is the checkpoint that is in between Iligan and Marawi and we have not been allowing anyone else other than local government and other officials to come in to Marawi because of the conflict that is ongoing," Padilla explained.

"But the local government did not coordinate with the military and the military would not have recommended it to push through. They would have been advised just to give it to those providing relief in Iligan and will be transported to Marawi itself," he added.

The army official said they have requested those who have been giving relief goods and those who want to give relief goods to channel the items through the local government.

"We have also requested all those who have been giving relief goods to channel the relief goods through the local government who can then distribute it in the evacuation centers without them going into the danger zone," he said.

Padilla also said that they are trying to avoid any collateral damage or any incident, citing the wounding of the Australian journalist who was grazed by a stray bullet in the neck.

"As you may have heard, there was an incident involving a media man right at the very heart of the capitol, where a stray grazed his neck," Padilla said.

"So we don't want anyone getting hit any of these stray bullets if they go to Marawi itself," he added.

"So in the interest of safety, we have been working closely with local government and its social welfare arm

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Broadcaster tells of encounter with Omar Maute

Frederick Maitem
freymaitem

DAVAO CITY—Had he known that Islamic State-inspired gunmen had already sealed the streets of Marawi, broadcast journalist Ana Mamutuk would not have gone to their radio station to rescue his Christian coworkers.

"This is my second life. Had I known they were in the streets, I would not have gone," he said.

Mamutuk, who was in Marawi when the clashes here broke up on May 23, said he wanted to rush back to Marawi the day to save his coworkers.

Recognized him

"As I was heading to the radio station (Ranao Radio Inc.) I saw no one in the streets. Only armed men. They stopped me for questioning. I saw Omar Maute from afar from where I was stopped. I know him ... I recognized him because of the 'Wanted' posters everywhere. He, too, recognized me because I have programs on radio and TV in Marawi," Mamutuk told the Inquirer on Saturday. Omar is Omarkhayam, one of the leaders of the Maute group.

"I was so scared. He came to me and asked if I was a Muslim. I said yes," he said.

To "calm" Omar down, Mamutuk told him that he was a friend of his father, Cayamora.

"I asked for a picture with him but he refused. I told him that I would interview him but he also refused," he added.

He said Omar instead asked him to interview their spokesperson, Abu Hafis.

In the interview, Abu Hafis

explained that they carried out the attack to forcibly implement the Islamic Sharia Law in Marawi.

Sacrifice for Sharia Law

Covering his face with a scarf, Abu Hafis said they wanted the people of Marawi to sacrifice lives and property for "the total implementation of Sharia Law."

He said the sacrifice "will be nothing compared to the favor Allah will give to us soon," Mamutuk quoted Abu Hafis as saying.

The spokesperson also denied reports that their actions had something to do with politics. The video interview was later posted on Mamutuk's Facebook account.

"I was thinking then that they won't let me go after the interview. I asked them to spare our radio station from destruction," he said. "After that, he allowed me to go and get my non-Muslim workers at the radio station."

Checkpoint password

Mamutuk said Omar also gave him the password for them to pass through at least seven checkpoints set up by the terrorist group.

The password was "Uztads," as Omar himself was recognized as Uztads in their group.

"That's what I said to the Maute men guarding the checkpoints. They did not question my four Christian coworkers. I also told them that Omar allowed them to pass through on their way to the capitol," he added.

He said around 20 to 25 gunmen were guarding each checkpoint. INQ

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INQUIRER

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Military launches fresh offensive in Marawi

By Allan Nawai
@anawai190

MARAWI CITY—Bombs and artillery shells rained on Marawi City anew on Saturday as ground troops were deployed for a fresh offensive to seize as many strategic positions as they could from the Islamic State (IS)-linked fighters who have been holding out in the Islamic city for nearly a month.

Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, spokesperson for the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the military was taking advantage of the dwindling resistance from the Abu Sayyaf and Maute group in fighting that has killed at least 310—225 gunmen, 59 soldiers and 26 civilians.

"Our forces are moving toward the heart of the enemy," Herrera said. "It's the center of gravity. This is where the location of their command and control, the leadership of the enemy."

Resistance

"There is still resistance but they are running out of bullets that's why we are taking advantage of that situation," he added.

Ground commanders estimate "more than 100" militants were still holding out in at least four villages in Marawi, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said in Manila.

But Padilla said the figures were based on estimates a few days ago "so this number could have dropped significantly."

Asked about the apparent change in the targets of the bomb runs—from Bangolo to areas near Lake Lanao—Herrera said it could mean that enemy positions had been sighted there.

Fires erupted and dark plumes of smoke rose from enclaves still occupied by the Abu

Savyaf and Maute fighters as the Air Force staged bombing runs to support ground troops struggling to dislodge the gunmen from entrenched positions.

MG-520 attack helicopters and RA-50 fighter jets were used in the raids while sustained bursts of automatic gunfire could be heard in the distance indicating intense firefights.

Herrera said the military continued to gain more ground but stopped short of saying the gunmen were now on the run.

"We are still facing the same problem that we had since Day One and that is the raise of mosques as staging areas or snipers' nest. And they are still holding hostages," he said.

Troops careful

Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesperson of Crisis Management Committee in Marawi, could not say when the crisis would end. He said it would depend on the military.

Herrera said troops were making careful and calculated maneuvers to avoid jeopardizing the lives of hostages.

While fighting continued, the military also helped in rescuing civilians trapped in the battle zones.

Three civilians were rescued on Friday by a joint government-Moro Islamic Liberation Front team through the "peace corridor" project of the Office of the Presidential Assistant on the Peace Process (Opapp).

Opapp said it has helped rescue 240 civilians who were trapped in the battle zone.

The hunt for the IS-linked gunmen and their supporters has expanded to nearby areas.

The Iligan City police on Friday went house-to-house in Barangay Ubaldo Laya where a large number of residents were native Maranaos in

search of IS-linked gunmen or their supporters.

Iligan police chief Senior Supt. Leony Roy Ga said the search was requested by village officials, who inspected the houses in the barangay with support from the police.

More than 309,000 people have been displaced from Marawi and nearby areas since fighting erupted on May 23, according to officials.

Many have fled to the homes of friends and relatives, and others were in evacuation centers where they receive aid.

Strict protocols

The military did not impose a food blockade on Marawi but merely followed strict protocols in the delivery of relief supplies, Herrera said after Bayan Muna complained its aid convoy was stopped by troops from entering Marawi.

Herrera said food and other assistance should be brought to the central operations center in Iligan where a large number of displaced Marawi residents had taken shelter.

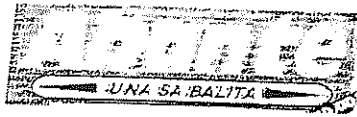
"This is not the decision of the Armed Forces alone but [in] collaboration with local government units to facilitate the seamless distribution of relief assistance," he said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate on Thursday said soldiers barred Kalinaw Mindanao National Interfaith Humanitarian Mission from Marawi despite "adequate papers from the Office of the Civil Defense" while several relief trucks from other agencies and organizations were allowed to pass through.

"Clearly, this goes beyond refusal of humanitarian relief for the victims. What is the AFP hiding from us in Marawi City?" he asked. —WITH REPORTS

FROM GEOFFREY MAITEM, RICHEL UMEL AND AFP INQ

18 June 2017



Pahina. 2

Marawi warzone binomba ulit

Kasabay ng pag-deploy ng karagdagang mga sundalo ay muling nagsagawa ng airstrikes at artillery ang mga tropa ng pamahalaan sa kanaroonan ng mga terorista sa Marawi City.

Sunud-sunod na maring kahapon nagmadaling araw ang malalakas na pagsabog ng unihuhulog na mga bomba. Kasunod nito ang sunud-sunod na

putukan sa warzone ng siyudad dahil sa patuloy na bakbakan sa pagitan ng mga tropa ng gobyerno at mga terorista.

Gumamit ang pamahalaan ng MG520 attack helicopters at RA50 fighter jets sa pag-atake.

Umakyat na umano sa 225 ang bilang ng mga teroristang mapatay sa bahos apat na linggo mang pagtugis sa kanilang mih-

stars. Ito ay isa gitna pa rin ng "close-quarter battle" o malapitang labanap sa pagitan ng mga tropa ng pamahalaan at mga terorista na nagtatago sa ilang matataas na gusali sa Marawi City.

Malungko namang inanim na Philippine Army's Infantry Division spokesperson Lt Col Joar Herrera na nasa 59 government forces na ang nasawi sa labanan habang nasa mahigit 200 sundalo ang sugatan. Nananatili naman sa 26 ang bilang ng mga sibilyan na nasawi.

Kahapon ay nagpadala ng karagdagang 400 mga sundalo sa Marawi.

"Our forces are moving towards the heart of the enemy," ayon kay Herrera ukol sa lugar kung saan may nagaganap na matinding bakbakan kung saan pinaniniwalaang naroroon ang mga teroristang lider.

Samantala, tinatayang nasa 300 hanggang 500 pang mga sibilyan ang tinatangkang i-rescue ng mga awtoridad sa Marawi City. (JG Tumbado/AFP Wires)



Tinatanao ng mga residente ang usok mula sa mga kabahayan na tinamaan ng aerial bombings ng Philippine Air Force sa Marawi City kahapon. (AFP)

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No failure of intelligence in Marawi

The crisis in Marawi City is not caused by a failure of intelligence but by connivance between local warlords and terrorists who stockpiled firearms in the city and the "soft" policy towards rebels, President Duterte said yesterday. Duterte said the government is aware that firearms were

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No failure

From Page 1

being stockpiled in Mindanao but took it for granted because of the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

"We have adopted a very soft policy towards the rebels and this came about because they were bringing firearms. Since we are thinking of getting peace with the MNLF and MILF. The game there involves firearms. We took it for granted. We just allowed it to happen because we never knew until that time who was really the enemy," Duterte told the troops in Butuan City.

"When they see firearms and they were told that it's for MILF or MNLF, the standing order was maybe we can talk to our brothers so there will be no trouble (but) it turned out that the Maute were bringing the firearms surreptitiously and we did not know how much ammunition and firearms were stockpiled, and besides it was not a failure of intelligence," he added.

Appearing in public for the first time in nearly a week, Duterte said the terrorists seem to have an "endless supply" of firearms and ammunition because of the assistance of corrupt local warlords.

"But all the while, the Maute (was conniving with) politicians there, the warlords, and were stockpiling. That's why they do not run out of M203 bullets," he said, noting many soldiers were hit by that type of bullet.

Duterte confirmed extremists from Indonesia, Syria, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Kuwait joined the Maute terrorists in the clashes with government troops.

He said the presence of foreign fighters from the Islamic State (IS) group among the Maute militants in Marawi has made the fighting more difficult.

"You have a conglomeration there of ISIS fighters from Syria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Arabs," Duterte said.

"We have to use the air assets because we are up against fighters from the Middle East and they have learned the art of brutal killing - they will burn you, behead you," he said.

Duterte expressed wonder why local officials did not report to him the presence of foreigners in their area. He stressed that the IS brought a "corrupted" form of Islam that endorses the killing of innocent persons.

"The fighting is going on. It is winding up but at the cost of the soldier also. That is the danger posed by the Maute and ISIS. Be watchful of that," he said.

Duterte said the war against Islamist militants is proving to be difficult.

"It's hard to fight with people who want to die," he said, referring to the Islamic extremists' belief that they would go to paradise if they die fighting infidels or non-Muslims.

The President has ordered the military to nip extremism in the bud and to use air assets to flush out the militants from the city.

Center of gravity

Government troops yesterday pounded the Maute militants holding parts of southern Marawi City with air strikes and artillery as more soldiers were deployed and the death toll exceeded 300 after nearly

a month of fighting.

Fires erupted and dark plumes of smoke rose from enclaves still occupied by the militants as the Air Force staged bombing runs to support ground troops struggling to dislodge the fighters from entrenched positions.

MG520 attack helicopters and FA50 fighter jets were used in the raids, while sustained bursts of automatic gunfire could be heard in the distance, indicating the intensity of the fighting.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday deployed 400 fresh troops to Marawi to help the already exhausted soldiers there.

The overall death toll rose to 329, with 310 - 225 militants, 59 soldiers and 26 civilians - killed in the conflict, according to government figures.

The 19 others deaths came from those displaced by the fighting, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Mujib Hataman said.

Hataman said the deaths among the evacuees were caused by severe dehydration from diarrhea.

More than 309,000 people have been displaced in Marawi and nearby areas, the government said. Many have fled to the homes of friends and relatives and others are in evacuation centers.

"Our forces are moving towards the heart of the enemy," regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera said, referring to the heavy fighting under urban conditions.

"It's the center of gravity. This is where the location of their command and control, the leadership of the enemy," he said. - Alexis Romero, Edith Regalado, Jaime Laude, Gerry Lee-Gorit, Roel Pareño, AFP

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POLICE FILES

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Duterte: Walang failure of intelligence sa Marawi, napabayaang lang ang pagpasok ng Maute

IBINIGYANG-DIIN ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na walang 'failure of intelligence' sa pagkakapasok ng ISIS Maute terrorist group sa Marawi City. Ginawa ni Pangulong Duterte ang pahayag sa kanyang pakikipagharap ng 4th Infantry Division (ID) Advance Command Post sa Bancasi, Butuan City.

Ayon kay Duterte, sadyang naging malambor lamang ang gobyerno sa mga rebelde sa hangaring kapayapaan kaya naging 'taken for granted' ang pagpasok ng mga armas o armadong grupo sa Marawi.

Pahayag ng Pangulo, alam ng gobyerno ang pagpasok ng mga armas sa lungsod pero inakalang private armed groups lamang itong mga nag-aaway na pulitiko orido ng mga nag-aaway na angkan.

Sakaling nagpakilalang MNLF o MILF ang mga pumapasok ... noon,

posibleng hinayaan na lang sa kagustuhang mapakiusapan at magkaroon ng kapayapaan.

Pero hindi na umano nang malamang mga terorista ang nakapasok at nakapag-imbak ng maling bilang ng armas at bala kaya mistulang hindi sila nauubusan ng ayoning fire-power.

Kaya iginilit ni Pangulong Duterte na dapat tapusin na ang giyera sa Marawi City at gamitin ang lahat ng air assets para durugin ang mga terorista.

Kung hindi raw maagapan ang problema sa Marawi, patay na ang Pilipinas kapag ikumalat na ang ISIS ideology.

Inihayag din ni Pangulong Duterte na alam nitong tuwing sumasabak sa giyera ang mga sundalo, iniisip nila ang kalagayan ng pamilyang naiwanakaya kanyang muling tiniyak na sagot ng pamahalaan ang pangangailangan ng kaniyang mahal sa buhay.

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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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NDF moves for ceasefire with gov't,

cooperation against Maute

DAVAO CITY - The National Democratic Front (NDF) has urged the New People's Army (NPA) to refrain from carrying out attacks against Philip-

pine government (GRP) forces as it expressed willingness to discuss a ceasefire and potential teamwork against the Maute Group in Marawi City.

In a statement released Friday, June 16, NDF chair Fidel Agcaoili said

he made the recommendation to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) that the Reds halt offensives but maintain defensive operations against Maute, Abu Sayyaf, and Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines (AKP).

"For all forces to be able to concentrate against Maute, Abu Sayyaf, and AKP groups, the NDF has recommended to the CPP to order all other NPA units in Mindanao to refrain from carrying out offensive opera- ▶ 22

tions against the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP), provided that the GRP order the AFP and PNP likewise to refrain from carrying out offensive operations against the NPA and people's militia," he said.

The NDF is the CPP's negotiating arm, while the NPA is its military wing.

Agcaoili said the NDF has already instructed the Moro Resistance and Liberation Organization (MRLO) within Marawi to assume home defense tasks while the CPP redeployed

NPA units close to the besieged city "for the purpose of mopping up, holding and blocking operations, if necessary."

But in an interview with CPP founder and NDF consultant Jose Maria Sison last month, he admitted that the communist negotiating panel does not exercise control over the NPA.

Ready to negotiate

He said they are ready to discuss ceasefire with the government as well as how coordination and cooperation

can be achieved in Marawi with both forces "unilaterally keeping safe distances between each other."

During the Mindanao Hour at the Royal Mandaya Hotel last June 8, Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said cooperation between the government and communist forces was unlikely if the latter insists on lifting martial law and the all-out war policy against them.

It can be recalled that President Rodrigo Duterte placed Mindanao under military rule last May 23, a few hours after the ISIS-linked Maute oc-

cupied Marawi.

"To show that the CPP-NPA-NDF is truly in pursuit of peaceful coexistence, they must stand against a common enemy without conditions. A potential cooperation is unlikely with the statement of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines that it would cooperate with the government in fighting the Maute group if we would lift the declaration of martial law and withdraw our all out war policy. The Duterte administration would rather pursue that path of genuine dialogue to build the nation worthy of its citizens," Abella said.

Agcaoili said the NDF has supported the government in its efforts

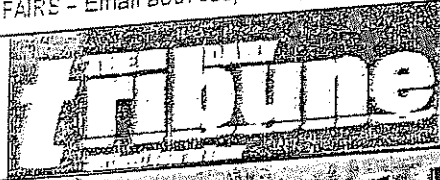
to fight terrorism.

He maintained that they condemn terrorism, which he described as "actions that intimidate, terrorize, harm and murder civilians solely or mainly and in violation of human rights and international humanitarian law."

"We condemn and are resolved and determined to counteract the Maute, Abu Sayyaf and Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines groups which are wreaking havoc in Marawi City. These are terrorist groups linked to local reactionary forces, affiliated with ISIS and supported by US-CIA (United States-Central Intelligence Agency) and other foreign entities," he said.

Local: 5285, 5295

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Duterte open again to talks with NPA

ed Tuvera

President Duterte, back from his long retreat, yesterday milled he is open to talking to communist rebels anew. Contrary to his previous tough stance rejecting negotiations with Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-

NPA), the President in a speech in Butuan City invited rebels to prove that they are willing to be friends with him. "Is anyone from the NPA here? We'll eventually talk. If you want to be friends at the end, we should talk," Mr. Duterte said. "This war with the NPA has been going on for the past 50 years. Do

you want to keep going? You don't see your families anymore," he added. A self-styled socialist, Mr. Duterte said that he wants to make it sure that putting an end to the nearly half-a-century Maoist insurgency will be just legacy. "I still have five years to make this effort fruitful. After that, maybe

we can have peace forever," he said. The President, nonetheless, gave two options for the rebels: surrender or join the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). "Those who are able bodied will become part of the AFP. Whatever your rank in NPA, it will be the same in AFP," he said.

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Just lay down your arms and surrender. Approach the mayors in your towns," he added.

Meanwhile, communist rebels vowed to lessen its offensives against government forces.

In a statement issued yesterday, the National Democratic Front (NDF) said that it has ordered the CPP-NPA to finally take down its position to "intensify attacks" against the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) late last month following President Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

NDF chairperson Fidel Agcaoili said the bid was meant to prepare grounds for their proposed cooperation with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) in fighting Islamic extremists in Marawi City.

"The NDF has recommended to the CPP to order all other NPA units in Mindanao to refrain from carrying out offensive operations against the AFP and PNP," Agcaoili said.

"The NDF is ready to discuss and agree in detail with the GRP on how ceasefire, coordination and cooperation can be achieved in Marawi City by both forces unilaterally keeping safe distances between each other," he added.

The senior communist leader said that state security forces should allow CPP-NPA combatants to position themselves along Marawi City to distract the common terrorist enemies.

"We condemn and are resolved and determined to counteract the Maute, Abu Sayyaf and Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines (AKP) groups which are wreaking havoc in Marawi City," Agcaoili said.

"For all forces to be able to concentrate against Maute, Abu Sayyaf and AKP groups... the GRP [should] order the AFP and PNP likewise to refrain from carrying out offensive

operations against the NPA," he added.

While talking about cooperation, the NDF did not mention the restoration of the stalled peace talks with the GRP.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who is also the martial law administrator, has repeatedly denied the services offered by the communist rebels.

Talking to reporters in Marawi City on June 8, Lorenzana said that the Reds are not welcome to take part in the government's planned offensives against the terrorist group.

He even called the NPA as a terrorist group, saying that its better for the commies to lay down their arms instead.

"No, we are not open for their help. We brand them as terrorists," Lorenzana said.

"They have arms. We will ask them to surrender. They should not be meddling here," he added.

In a presser in Butuan City, the President said Lumads are being recruited by the communist rebels to be their combatants against state forces.

"The NPAs, they only exploit you Lumads. They deceive you," Mr. Duterte said.

"You are supposed to live in your communities as peace loving people, but here they come with their arms and join their cause," he added.

It is known that in 2015, alleged militia men gunned down tribal leaders in Surigao over claims that a community school they're running is run by "rebels".

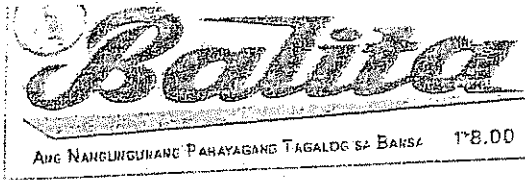
Such Lumads were then sheltered in a Church sanctuary in Davao City and were promised security and protection by self-proclaimed leftist and then City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

Lumads from Mindanao in 2015 and also last year were flocked by left-wing activist groups usually associated with the CPP and the NPA to launch demonstrations in Metro Manila.

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TUTULONG VS MAUTE, ABU SAYYAF NDFP sa NPA: Tigilan na ang opensiba!

DAVAO CITY - Nais ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) na tigilan na ng New People's Army (NPA) ang opensiba nito laban sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at nagpahayag ng ikagustuhang italakayin ang "ceasefire" at pagtutulungan laban sa Maute Group sa Marawi City.

Sa pahayag na inilabas nitong Biyernes, sinabi ni NDFP Chairman Fidel V. Agcaoili na inirekomenda niva sa Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) ang pagpapahinto sa mga opensiba ng NPA laban sa militar, ngunit panatilihin ang defensive operations kontra Maute, Abu Sayyaf, at Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines (AKP).

"For all forces to be able to

concentrate against Maute, Abu Sayyaf and AKP groups, the NDFP has recommended to the CPP to order all other NPA units in Mindanao to refrain from carrying out offensive operations against the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP), provided that the GRP order the AFP and PNP likewise to refrain from carrying out offensive operations against the NPA and people's militia," ari Agcaoili.

Aniya, inatasan na ng NDFP ang Moro Resistance and Liberation Organization (MRLO) sa loob ng Marawi City na akuin ang trabaho sa depensa habang itinalaga ng CPP ang ilang unit ng NPA malapit sa Marawi City "for the purpose of mopping up, holding and blocking

operations, if necessary.

Sinabi rin niyang handa ang NDFP na talakayin ang tigilang putikan sa gobyerno at kung paano ang pagtutulungan para tuluyan nang malipol ang mga terorista sa Marawi.

Iginiti rin Agcaoili na suportado ng NDFP ang gobyerno sa mga pagsisikap nito laban sa terorismo.

"We condemn and are resolved and determined to counteract the Maute, Abu Sayyaf and Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines (AKP) groups which are wreaking havoc in Marawi City. These are terrorist groups linked to local reactionary forces, affiliated with ISIS and supported by US-CIA and other foreign entities," aniya.

Antonio L. Colina IV

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NDF wants NPA to stop operations

DAVAO CITY — The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) wants the New People's Army (NPA) to refrain from carrying out offensive operations against government forces and expressed their willingness to discuss "cease-fire" and cooperations against the Maute Group in Marawi.

In a statement released on June 16, the NDFP chair Fidel V. Agcaoli said he made the recommendation to Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) that the communist forces halt offensives but maintain defensive operations against Mmaute, Abu Sayyaf, and Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines (AKP).

"For all forces to be able to concentrate against Maute, Abu Sayyaf and AKP groups, the NDFP has recommended to the CPP to order all other NPA units in Mindanao to refrain from carrying out offensive operations against the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP), provided that the GRP order the AFP and PNP likewise to refrain from carrying out offensive operations against the NPA and people's militia," he said.

Agcaoli said they are ready to discuss ceasefire with government and how coordination and cooperation can be achieved in Marawi City by both forces "unilaterally keeping safe distances between each other."
(Antonio L. Colina IV)

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Soldier's life: Staring death in the face

MARAWI CITY—Government soldiers fighting to finish off members of a homegrown terror group had stared death in the face during clashes here, trading gunfire with what some soldiers described as suicidal gunmen in close quarter battles that brought them as near as five meters to their enemies.

One soldier, Army Sgt. Erlito Pacaña, said he and other soldiers were sent as reinforcements for government forces pinned down by Maute Group members on May 23 when they saw how the terrorists fought.

Pacaña, 29 and native of Dipolog City, said he and other soldiers were on their way to help an Army team taking heavy fire when they were met by an explosion.

"We were immediately fired upon by the enemies. We re-

turned fire," said Pacaña, who only later felt pain on his shoulder and realized he had been wounded in the blast.

"The enemies were so aggressive. They were willing to die," Pacaña said.

He said while no one in his team was killed, he and several other soldiers had been wounded and had to be evacuated amid heavy gunfire.

Surrounded

Pfc. Mark Erwin Rule, 24 and native of Zamboanga del Sur, was with several other soldiers when they received an order to proceed to the village of Basak Malutlut.

"When we arrived in Malutlut, we found that we were surrounded by enemies," said Rule. "They were behind us, in front of us and on both sides of us," he said.

Rule said he led his fellow soldiers to a narrow road where two masked men in black overalls suddenly emerged.

"The other one fired his gun and I also fired mine and hit them both. We were about five to seven meters apart," he said.

Rule said he was sure he hit the two men but was not certain if he killed them.

He and his team sought refuge behind a wall, where the gunmen tried to pin them down.

Like Pacaña, he learned only later that he had been wounded on the right arm.

"All I thought of was to hold on to our position and hit as many enemies," Rule said. His wound was treated three days later.

He described the Maute gun-

men as well-positioned in tall buildings and roofs of houses.

"We fought them for more than three days. I did not mind my injury. I just fought the best I can," Rule said.

He said the gunmen were almost suicidal.

Call of duty

Sgt. Christopher Tamparong said he and other soldiers had to "hold the line" against "determined" gunmen.

"I cannot say how many of them were killed but even if some of their companions had fallen, they continued to move toward us," he said.

Tamparong was hit by a bullet in the buttocks and might soon be re-deployed to the war zone. "That's a soldier's life, sir," he said.

Even noncombatants were being targeted by terrorists' snipers, said Sgt. Ronnie Halasan, who served as driver for a combat service support unit.

"I was bringing logistical support when sniper fire nearly hit me," he said. He dodged several sniper bullets since the battle began on May 23.

"Even the job of a combat support driver was not easy," said Halasan, who had been to many battles, including the Zamboanga siege.

"I'm nervous but it's a soldier's life," he said. "You really don't know if you get to live another day or die today," he added.

Cpl. Joel Bejasa, a medic, said soldiers have to ignore their families' fears. "This is call of duty," he said. —ALLANAWAL INQ

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Soldiers told: Don't lose heart

"I love you all!" President Rodrigo Duterte told the soldiers in Butuan City as he gave them a pep talk, urging them not to lose heart as offensives against Islamic State-linked terror groups in Marawi City continued amid a rising death toll.

"I love you all! Mahal ko kayong lahat. Nasasaktan ako kapag mayroong nadiidigrasya," Duterte told troops in Butuan City.

"Don't fear death and leave everything up to God," Duterte also said.

It was the second in his back-to-back engagements after five days of absence from the public eye since taking a break following an exhausting camp tour last week.

Duterte, who is AFP commander-in-chief, renewed his commitment to buy brand new air assets and "war-grade" weapons for the military to ensure that government forces would not be at a disadvantage against the terrorists, apparently backed by foreign fighters.

"Binibigay ko sa inyo lahat talaga pati'yung modern machines... Gamitin ninyo'yung eroplano ako

ayung presidential planes to help the wounded," he said.

Duterte also told soldiers not to worry about the future of their families as the government would pour in funds to put up cooperatives for uniformed men's spouses, and an educational program for their children.

"Just be a clever soldier. Gamitin mo na lahat ng instincts mo to survive so you will have the time to see your grandchildren," he said.

Duterte also urged Agusan del Norte residents not to let members of the Islamic State-linked Maute Group gain new ground in the province amid reports that extremists were slipping out of war-torn Marawi City.

Duterte made the call in a speech in the province, his first public appearance after taking a break from his taxing schedule as Chief Executive.

"Itong Maute at ISIS, ang kanilang alam-ay pagpatay. Huwag ninyong pasukin," Duterte said in a speech delivered during Agusan del Norte's 50th founding anniversary.

Duterte told his fellow Mindanacans not to believe in the extremists' ideology

of killing non-Muslims.

"Huwag ninyong isipin ang idea na tayong lahat ay magpatayan. You rise to become the symbol of unity and cooperation in the region," Duterte said.

"I ask for your continued vigilance as we resist for public order in the fight against terrorism," he added.

Military officials said on Friday that some of the Islamist militants who stormed Marawi City may have already left the conflict zone by mingling with fleeing residents.

Efren Montano

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Fallen Ilocano soldier a hero to country and family

FREDDIE LAYARD

GALIMUYOD, Ilocos Sur — Two young children here will mark Father's Day today, sadly, without their father, who last month was killed in action while battling local terrorists in Marawi City in faraway Mindanao. Corporal Elmer Maching Anno, 32, described by family and friends as a doting father, caring husband and responsible man, perished while trying to thwart members of the Maute terrorist group who invaded Marawi City on May 23.

A husband, a father, a hero
Teary-eyed Carmi Lachica Anno, 28, the fallen soldier's widow, said that she really misses her husband's affection, but realized that she has to move on in life and accept her husband's

fate. "It's very sad especially since he left our children at a young age, but I need to accept that his life was taken for the sake of peace and freedom in our country," said Carmi.

Carmi, a native of Pola, Oriental Mindoro, and Elmer got married on December 24, 2015. The couple had two children, Charm Emerald, 3 and Caitlen Elise, 1.

Anno, a member of the 4th Light Reaction Company of the Light Reaction Regiment of the Philippine Army, was recognized by the national government for his heroism and patriotism.

From a grateful nation
On June 8, 2017, Corporal Anno was accorded a hero's burial at the Galimuyod cemetery with the assistance of the national and local govern-

ment. "I thanked President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for his assistance and for giving a hero's recognition to my husband as well as the Air Materiel Wing Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AMWSLAI) and the Hannah's Beach Resort and Convention Center headed by retired Colonel Ricardo Nolasco for their aid to us while we are deeply grieving the untimely death of my husband," Carmi said.

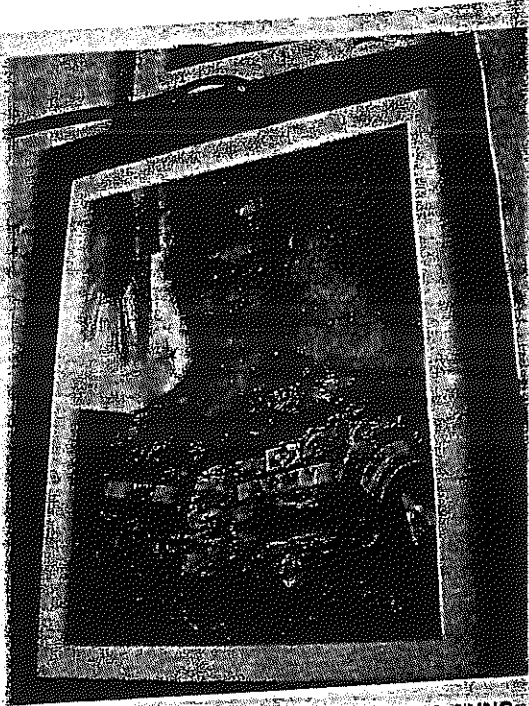
"Aside from the cash assistance, the national government gave us a certificate of scholarship for the study of my children until college," she added.

Gallantry in action
He and his unit were tasked with securing a hospital in Marawi City. His unit, however, was met with a volley of gunfire from the Maute fighters.

Anno was badly wounded but was airlifted to hospital a day later due to heavy fighting in the area. Carmi learned that her husband was wounded after a fellow soldier sent her a message.

"My husband's colleague eased my fear by telling me that my husband will soon reply to my text messages upon his recovery," said Carmi.

Bitter twist
Sensing that her husband needs her help, she decided to travel to Mindanao on May 27 to attend to her husband's needs and to boost his morale. Unfortunately, she re-



CORPORAL ELMER MACLIING ANNO

ceived another text message that her husband expired at around 2 p.m.

It was also the first birth anniversary of their daughter, Caitlen Elise.

"Instead of going to Mindanao, I waited for the arrival of the cadaver of my husband in Manila," she said.

'Good night, pray for Marawi'

She said that she didn't expect the death of her husband but she recalled that during their last conversation on May 22, the hero soldier in characteristically said "good night" and asked her wife to pray for Marawi.

Anno was enlisted to the Philippine Army in 2008; he was trained as a member of the Special Forces and a graduate of the counterterrorism course of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

"This July 30, 2017, my husband was set to have a vacation for the 3rd year birth anniversary of my eldest child and at the same time for the christening of my youngest one, but unfortunately he died on the birthday of my eldest child," she said.

Posthumous award

Meanwhile, the provincial government of Ilocos Sur will award a posthumous Father Jose Burgos award to Corporal Anno for his heroism and valor in Marawi.

"I am appealing to each and everyone in Mindanao especially the Maute terror group to surrender and stop the Marawi crisis to avoid the sacrifice of more lives, have mercy on the families who have to bear with the loss of loved ones during the armed conflict in the area," the fallen soldier's widow appealed.

Pangasinan's hero

Pangasinenses are also mourning the death of Private First Class Eddie C. Cardona, Jr. who died in Marawi City on June 9.

Cardona is a proud son of Barangay Goyoden, Santiago Island in Bolinao town.

Gov. Amado I. Espino III said that "there is no greater love than to offer one's life for others and for his country."

Since Thursday, the Pangasinan provincial government hoisted the Philippine flag at half mast at the Capitol Plaza.

Cardona, 28, completed his criminology studies at the Philippine College of Criminology in Manila and joined the Philippine Marines in 2012.

Cardona, was among the 13 Marines who were killed during a raging gunfight with Maute terror group members in Barangay Lilod Madaya.

He was posthumously awarded the Military Merit Medal by President Duterte on June 12.

Cardona volunteered to serve in Marawi after he was not picked at random to do battle with the local terror group. (with a report from Liezle Basa-Inigo)

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A tale of two Marines who missed Father's Day

By **NONDYE LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Corporal Jobert Cofino and 1st Lt. Raymond Abad.

These are the names of two Philippine Marine members from this city who will miss today's celebration of Father's Day after they sacrificed their lives with dozens of other government troops in terrorist-occupied Marawi.

Cofino, a member of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 7 (MBLT 7), was supposed to celebrate his first Father's Day with his 11-month-old son Peter John and 21-year-old wife Pronielyn.

On the other hand, Abad was supposed to have been reunited with his father, Anecito Abad, as early as Monday. It was supposed to have been a very happy week for Anecito as June 12 - six days before Father's Day - was both his and his son's birthday.

Cofino and Abad never came back to Zamboanga.

Cofino died on June 9 during a gun battle with members of the Maute, the ISIS-linked local terrorist group (LTG) that marched into Marawi last May 23.

"It is so painful that me and my son

will celebrate Father's Day without my husband," said Pronielyn, a fourth year student of Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) taking up social work.

Last conversation

At around 1 p.m. last June 8, Cofino called his spouse to assure her that he was OK.

"Don't worry about me here, I am fine. Just pray for my safety while here fighting the Maute Group. Just take care of our son. I will just call you again," Pronielyn recalled the Marine saying. Cofino never called again.

"He failed to call me. I tried to call him but his cellular phone was already out of coverage. I started to worry about his safety since he never put off his cellular phone," she said.

Pronielyn's worst fears were soon confirmed after she received a call from the Philippine Marine Corps in Manila. It turned out Cofino was among the 13 soldiers killed during an encounter with Maute.

The news crushed the young woman, who at 21 was already a widow.

Cofino will be laid to rest Tuesday, June 20 at the old San Roque Cem-

etery here, she said.

Cancelled celebration

Abad is also scheduled to be interred on June 20, but at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani (LNMB) in Taguig City.

Anecito preferred to have his son buried in Zamboanga but ultimately gave way the wishes of his daughter-in-law for her husband to be buried at the hallowed LNMB.

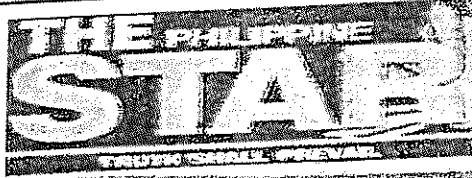
Abad was killed along with Cofino in that particular skirmish with Maute rebels.

Although the elder Abad was suddenly left with nothing to celebrate, he swelled with pride whenever he thinks of his son's courage in defending the Marawi City from terrorists.

The remains of the other fallen soldiers were brought last June 12 to the Philippine Marine Corps Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig where they were welcomed by their families and President Rodrigo Duterte. They were accorded military honors.

How many more special occasions do these brave government servicemen need to miss in order to free Marawi from the clutches of terror?

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Hero's burial for Marine officer killed in Marawi

By JAIME LAUDE

Junior Marine officer 1/Lt. John Frederick Savellano was looking forward to marrying his fiancée this year, a plan snuffed out by a hail of gunfire from the Maute terrorists holed up in Marawi City.

Twelve other Marine officers were killed in that incident, considered one of the most ferocious encounters in the almost month-long clash.

Instead of wedding bells, a 21-gun salute and taps honored Savellano as he was accorded a hero's burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City at noon yesterday.

Savellano, platoon commander of the 37th Marine Company of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-7, was leading his men in a firefight against the terrorists on June 9 when he was killed.

His fiancée is also a Marine officer with a different battalion.

A nursing graduate from the Far Eastern University, Savellano practiced his profession briefly before joining the Naval Officer Candidate Course Class of 2001.

Aside from taking up several Marine officers' training courses, Savellano was also a graduate of the United States Marine Officer Basic course.

When his battalion was deployed in Marawi, the Marine officer showed his men the true essence of leadership by leading them in several successful operations in the city.

Among the key achievements of Savellano and his team was the capture of the machine gun and sniper nests of the Maute terrorists and the discovery of P52 million in cash as well as checks amounting to P24 million.

Savellano and his team turned over the cash and checks to his superiors, which earned them accolades both from their colleagues and the public.

Before he was laid to rest, his family, relatives and friends offered a mass for him at the Sta. Rita de Cacia Parish at PhilAm Homes, South Triangle in Quezon City.



The parents and siblings of Marine 1/Lt. John Frederick Savellano pay their last respects to the fallen soldier during his burial yesterday at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City. AP

During the burial, Savellano's parents Mercy and Freddie said they are saddened by the death of their son, but are consoled that he died a hero.

They expressed hope they would be the last parents of a soldier to mourn for the loss of a son.

"Sana wala nang iba pang makaranas ng sama ng loob na dinaranas namin," Mercy said in an interview.

Freddie said his son has completed his mission here on earth and it's time for him to face the Creator.

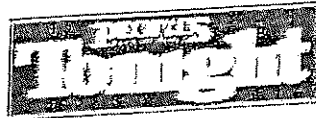
He said that instead of the usual condolences, the family would prefer congratulatory messages for the heroism of his son.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, himself a Marine officer and chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Public Affairs Office, said that fellow Marines would like to remember Savellano in a happy light.

"We would like to remember the many likes of 1/Lt. Savellano and celebrate not his death, but his life well lived," Arevalo said.

He lauded the parents of the fallen officer for taking pride in their son's heroic deeds.

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AFP pounds militants as more soldiers deployed

PHILIPPINE troops pounded Islamist militants holding parts of southern Marawi City with air strikes and artillery yesterday as more soldiers were deployed and the death toll rose to more than 300 after nearly a month of fighting.

Fires erupted and dark plumes of smoke rose from enclaves still occupied by the militants as the air force staged bombing runs to support ground troops struggling to dislodge the fighters from entrenched positions, AFP journalists at the scene said.

MG520 attack helicopters and FA50 fighter jets were used in the raids while sustained bursts of automatic gunfire could be heard in the distance, indicating the intensity of the fighting.

Also yesterday, 400 fresh troops were airlifted to Marawi from the central Philippines, ANI television said quoting military officials.

The television footage showed the soldiers bidding goodbye to their families before being flown to the conflict zone.

Hundreds of militants, supported by foreign fighters, rampaged through Marawi, the largely Christian Philippines' most important Muslim city, on May 28, waving black flags of the Islamic State (IS) group.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the entire southern region of Mindanao to counter the attack, which he said was part of a plan by IS to establish a base in the country.

Such a base could be

crucial for IS' ambitions to establish a caliphate in Southeast Asia, analysts say.

The military has said eight foreign fighters from Chechnya, Yemen, Malaysia and Indonesia were among the militants killed in the Marawi fighting.

The overall death toll rose to 329 with 310 -- 225 militants, 59 soldiers and 26 civilians -- killed in the conflict, according to government figures.

The 19 other deaths came from those displaced by the fighting, said Mujib Hataman, the governor of a Muslim autonomous region in the south.

Hataman said the deaths among the evacuees were caused by severe dehydration from diarrhea.

More than 300,000 people have been displaced in Marawi and near-

by areas, the government said. Many have fled to the homes of friends and relatives and other government evacuation centers.

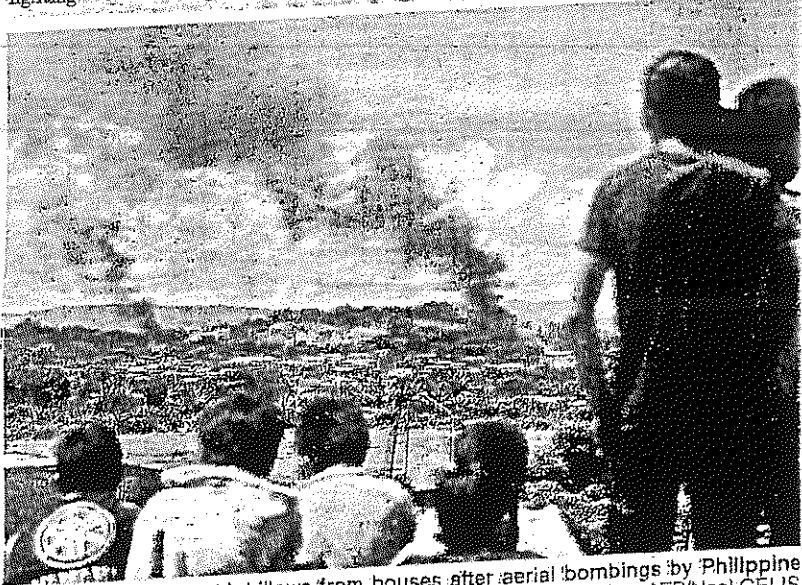
"Our forces are moving towards the heart of the enemy," regional military spokesman Oscar Hernandez told reporters in Marawi yesterday, referring to the heavy fighting under urban conditions.

It's the center of gravity. This is where the location of their command and control, the leadership of the enemy.

Ground commanders estimate "more than 100" militants are still holding out in at least four villages in Marawi, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said in Manila.

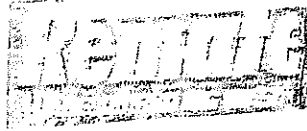
But he said the figures were based on estimates a few days ago "so this number could have dropped significantly."

Padilla said in an interview with DZMM radio, the military would no longer give any self-imposed deadlines on when the militants would be driven out after failing to meet previous ones they had set. AFP



People watch as smoke billows from houses after aerial bombings by Philippine Airforce planes on Islamist militant positions in Marawi yesterday. AFP/Noel CELIS

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Pahina. 2

Mga biktima ng krimen sa Marawi tatanggap ng kompensasyon

MAY matatanggap na kompensasyon ang mga biktima ng pag-atake ng teroristang grupo sa Marawi City. Kaugnay nito, isinakilos na ni Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre ang Board of Claims, Parole and Probation Administration para magproseso ng mga aplikasyon ng mga nasabing biktima.

Sa ilalim ng Republic Act 7308, bukod sa mga biktima ng hindi makalalangang pagkabilanggo, ang mga biktima ng marahas na krimen ay maaaring tumanggap ng kompensasyon mula sa Board of Claims.

Kasama sa mga hanap na biktima ng marahas na krimen ay iyong mga dumanas

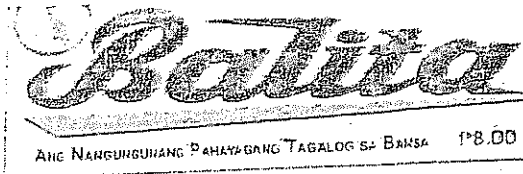
ng panggagahasa, at mga biktima ng krimen na nagresulta sa kamatayan, malinding pinsala sa kalawian, dumanae ng psychological injury, naging balado, seryosong trauma at iyong mga biktima ng krimen na isinakatu-paran sa pamamagitan ng pagpapahirap, itonure, pagmamalupit at iba pang pamamaraan.

Kahapon pa sinimulan ang pagproseso sa claims sa Camp Evangelista na headquarters ng 4th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army na nasa Cagayan de Oro City.

Makatatanggap ang mga biktima ng karahasan ng hangang P10,000, pero dapat ay iproseso niya ang kanyang aplikasyon para sa kompensasyon.

TERESA TAVARES

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Ilang Maute kunwaring evacuees para makatakas

Iti hayag ng militar na ilan sa mga miyembro ng Maute Group ang nakikihalo sa mga residenteng Jumilikas upang makalabas sa Marawi City, kung saan magpapatuloy ang mag-aapat na linggo nang ibakbakan.

Sinabi ni Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, tagapagsalita ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), na pinaigting na nila ang seguridad sa mga siyudad ng Iligan at Cagayan de Oro laban sa mga kahina-hinalang taon.

"We're not denying that there's probably a few who may have shipped along with the evacuees from Marawi going to Iligan and

Cagayan de Oro," sabi ni Padilla. Umabot na sa 310 ang masasawi sa ibakbakan sa Marawi, kabilang ang 26 na sibilyan.

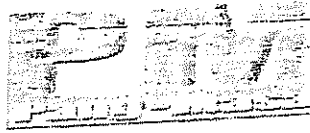
Kasabay nito, mariang namang pinabulaanan ni Health Secretary Paulyn Ubial ang naglabasang ulat na may 59 mula sa Marawi ang namatay sa mga evacuation center dahil sa iba't ibang karamdaman.

Ayon kay Ubial, lamang niya kailanman sinabi na may 59 bakwit na namatay sa evacuations centers sa Iligan.

AP at Mary Ann Santiago

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18 June 2017



Pahina. 2

Isis huli sa Malaysia, sasaklolo sa Marawi... **AFP umalerto vs foreign jihadists** **na papasok sa Phi**

Todo bantay ngayon ang Philippine Navy sa mga coastline sa Mindanao Region kasunod ng pagkakaaresto sa Sandakan Sabah, Malaysia ng tatlong foreign jihadists o mga pinaghihimalaang miyembro ng Islamic State terrorists nitong Biyernes habang nagtatangkang pumasok sa Pilipinas para sumaklolo sa Maute terror group sa Marawi City.

Sa phone interview, sinabi ni Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Commander ng AFP Western Mindanao Command ipinarting na sa kanila ni Inspector General Police Khalid Abu Bakar ang pagkakaaresto kamakalawa sa mga dayuhang ISIS ng Sandakan Police sa Malaysia.

Kabilang sa mga naaresto ay dalawang Sabah terrorists at dalawang Indonesians na sa

interogasyon ay nabatid na tutungo sa Marawi City para tumulong sa kanilang mga teroristang Maute-ISIS na nakakabakbakan ng tropa ng militar.

"We have a good tripartite agreement in cross border patrols with our Indonesian and Malaysian counterpart and it's working," pahayag ni Galvez matapos maharang at maaresto ang nasabing mga terorista.

Sinabi ni Galvez na inalerto na niya ang mga elemento ng Philippine Navy na mahigpit na nagbabantay sa mga coastline upang mapigilan sakaling may mga dayuhang terorista pang magtangkang pumasok sa katimugang bahagi ng Mindanao.

Hinggil naman sa bakbakan sa lungsod ng Marawi sinabi ni Galvez na determinado silang

tapusin na ang krisis sa lalong madaling panahon upang masimulan na ang rehabilitasyon sa lugar. Sa kabuuang 96 barangay ay nasa apat na lamang ang konsentrasyon ng labanan ayon pa sa opisyal.

Ayon naman kay Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay, Spokesman ng Martial Law sa Eastern Mindanao, pinaigting na rin ang maritime patrol operations sa kanilang hurisdiksyon upang mapigilan ang mga terorista na makapaghasik ng kaguluhan dito. Sa katunayan ayon pa sa opisyal, 58 bayan sa Eastern Mindanao ay nagpapatupad ng curfew hours at maging ng total gun ban.

Magugunita na simula ng sumiklab ang Marawi siege noong Mayo 23 ng taong ito ay umaabot na sa 225 terorista ang napaslang, 59 sundalo ang nasawi at 26 naman sa hanay ng mga sibilyan.

18 June 2017

NGAYON

Pahina. 2

3 foreign ISIS sasaklolo sa Maute naaresto!

Tatlong foreign terrorists na hinihinalang miyembro ng ISIS ang naaresto sa Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia nitong Biyernes habang nagtatangkang pumasok sa Pilipinas para sumaklolo sa Maute terror group sa Marawi City.

Sa phone interview, sinabi ni Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander ng AFP Western Mindanao Command, na ipinarating na sa kanila ni Inspector General Police Khalid Abu Bakar ang pagkakaaresto sa mga dayuhang ISIS ng Sandakan Police sa Malaysia.

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para tumulong sa Maute na nakababakan ng tropa ng militar.

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Sinabi ni Galvez na inalerto na niya ang Philippine Navy na mahigpit na nagbabantay sa mga coastline at pinaigting na rin ang maritime patrol upang mapigilan ang mga terorista na makapasok sa Eastern Mindanao.

Sa katunayan, 58 bayan sa Eastern Mindanao ay nagpapatupad ng cur-

few hours at total gun ban

Samantala, isa-isa nang darakpin ang mahigit 300 personalidad na sabit sa rebelyon sa Marawi City kaugnay ng Martial Law sa buong Mindanao.

Ayon kay Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay, AFP spokesman ng Eastern Mindanao Command, nasa walong indibidwal na ang nasasakote na inisyuhan ng arrest order ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, administrator ng Martial Law.

Nauna nang naaresto si Cayamora Maute, ama ng magkapatid na Omar at Abdullah Maute na nasuko kasama ang pamilya nito sa checkpoint sa Toril District sa Davao City

noong Hunyo 6.

Arestado rin si dating Marawi City Mayor Fajad Salic na itinuro namang supporter ng Maute terrorists.

Sa Iligan City ay may 20 kabahayan ang kinatok ng mga awtoridad sa gitna na rin ng mga ulat na nagsitakas at nagsisipagtago na umano ang Maute sa Iligan at Cagayan de Oro City. Gayunman, wala ni isa mang miyembro ng Maute ang nahuli.

Nag-iinspeksyon na rin sila sa mga evacuation centers sa Iligan City upang alamin kung may Maute na nagpapanggap na mga nagsilikas na residente.

Ang Iligan City ay nasa 37 kilometro lamang o nasa isang oras ang biyahe mula sa Marawi City.

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Military denies blocking relief mission for Marawi

The Armed Forces clarified yesterday that they did not block a relief mission for evacuees in Marawi, saying they just do not allow the entry of civilians into the war-torn city.

A relief mission led by former Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño has said the military blocked them as they were about to deliver relief goods to evacuees in Marawi.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, during the Mindanao Hour press briefing yesterday, said that it was not the intention of the military to block the delivery of relief goods and said that they just do not allow the entry of civilians to ensure their safety.

"Let us not put or point fingers at our troops for blocking them. We did not block them," Padilla said.

According to Padilla, Casiño's group may not have coordinated with the city government, or if they did, the city government did not coordinate with the military.

"The roadblock that they're saying is the checkpoint that is in between Iligan and Marawi and we have not been allowing anyone else other than local government and other officials to come in to Marawi because of the conflict that is ongoing," Padilla explained.

"But the local government did

not coordinate with the military and the military would not have recommended it to push through. They would have been advised just to give it to those providing relief in Iligan and will be transported to Marawi itself," he added.

Padilla said they have requested those who have been giving and those who want to give relief goods to channel the items through the city government.

"We have also requested all

those who have been giving relief goods to channel the relief goods through the local government who can then distribute it in the evacuation centers, without them going into the danger zone," he said.

Padilla also said that they are trying to avoid any collateral damage or any incident, citing the Australian journalist who was grazed by a stray bullet in the neck last Thursday. **(Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)**

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CDO at Iligan, napasok na ng Maute - AFP

TINIYAK ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang mas mahigpit na seguridad ng Cagayan de Oro at Iligan City.

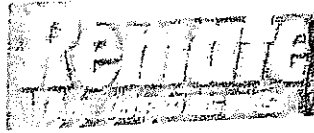
Kasunod ito ng pag-amin ni AFP Spokesperson Brigadier General Restituto Padilla na posibleng nakalusot na ang ilang mga miyembro ng Maute Group sa dalawang lugar lalo pa't naaresto na ang binihinalang bomb maker na si Mohammad Noaim Abdul Maute na kilala rin bilang Abu Jadid.

Ayon kay Padilla, walang dapat ikaalarma ang mga residente dahil mas pangitnagin pa nila ang mga checkpoint sa lugar para sigurado-

sin na hindi na madaragdagan ang bilang ng mga nakalusot na Maute.

Dahil dito ay humihingi sila ng pang-unawa sa publiko na maaaring mas tumagal at humaba pa ang pila sa mga checkpoint dahil mas bubusisin na nila ang mga sasakyan at bawat indibidwal na papasok o lalabas sa CdeO at sa Iligan.

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Pahina. 3

AIRSTRIKE PATULUY

MULING nagpakawala na naman ng "conventional bombs" ang Philippine Air Force sa Marawi City.

Mula kahapon ng madaling-araw ay sunod-sunod na narinig ang malalakas na pagsambulat ng inihuhulog na mga bomba sa ilang serje ng air-strike ng militar.

Ibinagsak umano sa mismong kinaroroonan ng Maute-ISIS terror group ang mga bomba sa tiwalang mapupuruhan ang mga bandido.

Pagkatapos ng air-strike ay sunod-sunod naman ilong sinundan na putukan mula sa warzone ng siyudad sa patuloy na bakbakan sa pagitan ng security forces at mga terorista.

Sinasabing apat na barangay pa ang hawak ng Maute pero inalayang nasa 10-porsyento na lang ito sa kabuuang sakop ng lungsod bagamat aminado ang militar na pahirapan ang pagpasok sa naturang mga lugar.

House-to-house search

Samanlala, inilisa-isa na ng mga pulis ang bawal-pinto ng mga bahay sa Iligan City, ang katabing bayan ng Marawi, para alamin kung may mga miyembro ng Maute na nagtago sa kani-kanilang mga kamag-anak.

Ayon kay Police Sr. Supt. Leony Roy Ga, director ng Iligan City Police Office, hindi bababa sa 20 bahay ang kanilang kinatok simula kahapon.

Sa dalawang oras na pag-iinspeksyon, wala silang natuntun na mga terorista pero tiniyak nitong patuloy pa rin ang kanilang paggalugad sa mga bahay na hinihinalang may mga miyembro ng Maute at Abu Sayyaf Group.

Nasa 37 kilometro lang o isang oras na biyahe patu-

ngong Iligan City mula sa Marawi City.

Nasawi dumarami pa

Umakyat na sa bilang na 225 teronsiang Maute kasma ang Abu Sayyaf group ang napatay sa halos apat na linggong pagtugis ng militar sa Marawi City.

Itô'y sa gitna pa rin ng mapitang labanan sa pagitan ng government forces na nasa grounds laban sa mga terorista na nakatago sa ilang high rise buildings sa nasabing lugar.

Sinabi ni 1st Infantry Division, Philippine Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Joar Herrera, nasa 150 hanggang 200 mga terorista na lang ang napalilibutan nila sa war zone.

Kinumpirma rin ni Herrera na sumanib ang mga kasapi ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters at private armed groups upang langkain na mapalakas ang grupo ng Maute at ASG.

Nakumpiska rin ng gobyerno mula sa mga napatay na terorista ang umaabot sa 172 firearms.

Malungkot namang inamin ni Herrera na nasa 59 government forces na ang namatay habang nasa humigit-kumulang 200 sundalo ang nasugatan kung saan ilan sa mga ito ay naka-confine sa Camp Evangelista Station Hospital ng 4th ID, Philippine Army ng Cagayan de Oro City.

Nananatili naman sa 26 ang bilang ng mga sibilyan na nasawi habang nasa 1,629 na mga nasasagip sa ilang linggong pagkakaipit sa war zone simula nang sumiklab ang karahasan.

Tinatayang nasa 300 hanggang 500 pang sibilyan ang tinatangkang i-rescue ng mga otoridad. JEFF GALLOS

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313 NA PATAY SA MARAWI SIEGE

UMAKYAT na sa 313 ang bilang ng mga patay sa nagpapatuloy na bakbakan sa Marawi City ayon sa Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Kasama sa nasabing bilang ang 59 na napatay mula sa tropa ng pamahalaan na kinabibilangan ng mga sundalo at mga pulis.

Pinakahuli sa mga nadagdag sa listahan ng casualties si Lt Junrich Legada na miyembro ng Special Forces Operations Group ng Philippine Army at tubong Mid-

sayap, North Cotabato. Sa kabuuan, sinabi ni AFP Spokesman BGen. Restituto Padilla na umakyat na sa 228 ang bilang ng mga napatay na miyembro ng Maute Terror Group at Abu Sayyaf Group.

Nanatili naman sa 26 ang bilang ng mga patay na sibilyan ayon sa tala ng

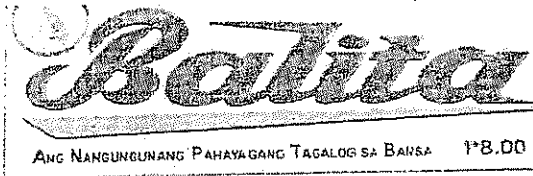
AFP at ng Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Sa kanyang ulat, nauna nang sinabi ni Health Sec. Paulyn Ubial na umakyat na sa 59 ang mga namatay sa iba't ibang mga evacuation centers na pinagdalan ng mga inilikas mula sa Marawi City.

Karamihan sa mga ito ay namatay dulot ng kamilang mga sakit ayon pa sa opisyal.

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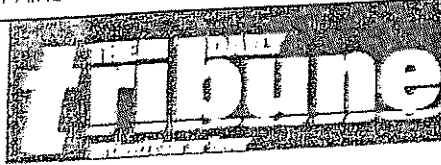
Page. 4



'DI MALILIMUTANG KABAYANIHAN Dumagsa ang mga kaanak at kaibigan sa libing ni Marine 1 Lt. Frederick Savellano sa Libingan ng mga Bayani sa Taguig City kahapon. Si Savellano ang platoon commander ng grupong nakasamsam sa P79 milyon pera ng Maute Group sa Marawi City, at nanguna rin sa 13 Marines na sumugod sa puwesto ng mga terorista na ikinasawi ng kanyang grupo.

CZAR DANCEL

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Indecision causes death

The session of the Supreme Court (SC) justices with security officials may just be the tipping point for the tribunal to give way to Rody's Proclamation 216 imposing martial law in Mindanao.

The SC ended last Thursday the oral arguments on petitions to invalidate the proclamation that Rody had issued in response to the occupation of Marawi City by Islamic State (IS)-inspired militants.

Mostly yellow groups and their allies filed the petition against martial law questioning the basis for it.

The basic argument of the petitioners claimed that the declaration was baseless as there was no rebellion or invasion committed in the ongoing crisis because it was triggered by a military operation against alleged Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) Philippines emir Isnilon Hapilon.

Some of the justices also inquired with the government defense panel if indeed the constitutional requirements for the imposition were met or if rebellion or invasion are the only two cases where the extreme measure can be applied were present.

The magistrates had a discussion away from media with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año together with Solicitor-General Jose Calida and Albay Representative Edcel Lagman representative of the petitioners in the final day of the arguments but Calida came out of it extremely confident that the SC will rule in favor of the proclamation.

No information on the presentation, however, was made public due to national security issues.

State forces have been fighting the IS sympathizers in Marawi City for almost four weeks now.

Rody designated Lorenzana as the martial law administrator and Año as its implementor.

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The SC justices tried to get full appreciation of what was happening in Marawi City in the internal discussion with the security officials.

The SC also gave in to Calida's request that the session be held behind closed-doors.

Calida said Lorenzana and Año presented intelligence information that bolstered the basis for Proclamation 216 but he did not reveal details but he, nonetheless, said the presentation "will help the government's case."

The ongoing conflict was the proof in itself that extreme solutions are needed to preempt what could be the spread of a deadly movement which had shown its wicked capability in other parts of the world.

Calida in arguing for the government said elements of rebellion, raising arms against the government and intent of removing allegiance from the government, were present in the Marawi crisis.

He said the officials were able to show that Maute and other rebel groups in Mindanao like Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighter and Abu Sayyaf have already established linkages with the IS terror group, which in turn, has expressed its interest in setting up a base in Mindanao.

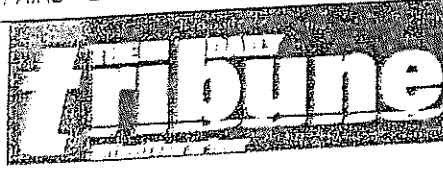
Critics of Rody have been accusing him and his security officials of neglecting the Marawi City situation to reach a critical level when all of them went to Moscow for Rody official visit while admitting that they have then information of an imminent threat from the Maute group.

Their logic then takes a 180-degree turn in assailing martial law saying that the situation was not that serious to warrant an extreme measure.

The arguments they presented were similar to the amateurish decision during the term of Noyoy that resulted in chaos and unnecessary deaths such as what happened in the 2010 Luneta bus tragedy that involved Hong Kong tourists and the Mamasapano massacre of 44 Special Action Force commandos in 2015.

Just imagine if these incompetents were still the ones running government and sending soldiers to the battlefield while not even making up their mind on the grim extent of the problem.

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Philippine war babies to live with 'Martial' law legacy

FOCUS

MARAWI, Philippines — Raisah Labay gently cradles her newborn. A boy who was named Martial to mark her flight from a war-torn Philippine city and his birth under newly imposed military rule.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law across the southern third of the Philippines last month in response to Islamist militants going on a rampage in her home city of Marawi, which triggered deadly clashes that show no signs of ending.

Nearly all of the Islamic city's 200,000 residents have fled the fighting and are now living in overcrowded evacuation centers, where babies sleep on gymnasium floors and makeshift cribs suspended from basketball rings or relatives' homes.

"I named him Martial as a sign that he was born in the time of war," Labay, 21, told *AFP* while seated on the bleachers of an evacuation camp in a nearby city.

"During martial law, our lives collapsed. Someday I want to tell him about the painful ordeal I went through: going into labor while evacuating our family and telling myself: 'No, don't push him out yet.'"

The urban battle began on May 23 when hundreds of militants waving black flags of the Islamic State (IS) group occupied parts of Marawi in what authorities said was a bid to declare a caliphate in the region.

Despite a US-backed bombing campaign that has destroyed large parts of Marawi, many militants remain holed up in pockets of

the city protected by hundreds of human shields and they are continuing to surprise with their enduring firepower.

Twenty-six civilians, 50 security forces and 225 militants have been confirmed killed in the fighting, according to the government.

Outside the combat zone, refugees are dying from disease and dehydration, with women and children bearing the brunt of the humanitarian crisis, according to local officials and aid groups.

"Almost every day, some people in evacuation centres die. Children, the elderly. They get sick but our hospitals are full because of the bulk of the evacuees," provincial Vice Gov. Mamintal Adiong told *AFP*.

Nothing but breast milk

In the gymnasium where Labay was staying, 220 people shared a lone toilet and lacked potable water while women were in need of underwear and hygiene kits, social workers told *AFP*.

Only boxes of relief goods separated families who were huddled on mats, where they crammed in for a humid afternoon doze.

Labay, whose family ran an eatery in Marawi, carried nothing but her two-year-old firstborn in the exodus.

She was lucky to reach a government

hospital in time to give birth to Martial, and there were no complications. But now Labay feels desperate.

"We have no money for diapers, milk or clothes for my baby. The only thing I can give him is breast milk," she said.

Rosalyn Arat, 30, another pregnant woman, said she wanted to get an ultrasound but could not. She said the extent of her medical care at the evacuation center was some vitamins.

She is set to give birth this month and also plans to name her baby Martial if it's a boy, or Martiala if it's a girl.

"It started as a joke for my husband and I but then we thought it was a fitting name," Arat told *AFP*.

"What happened in Marawi was a nightmare we never imagined. But we try to be strong because even if we lost our belongings, we are still together as one family."

With their homes and livelihood ravaged by airstrikes and street-to-street fighting, evacuees face an uncertain future but cling to hopes for their children.

Raisah Labay is determined to ensure a peaceful life for Martial — nicknamed Marmar — to also include a reference to Marawi — even if she does not know how right now.

"This is my first time to be an evacuee and I do not want my baby to experience this," she said.

"If you've gone through such difficulty, would you want your child to suffer if too?" *AFP*

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Win-win decision on martial law

On June 13, 14 and 15, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on three consolidated petitions challenging the validity of Proclamation No. 216 "DECLARING A STATE OF MARTIAL LAW AND SUSPENDING THE PRIVILEGE OF THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN THE WHOLE OF MINDANAO" (all caps in original).

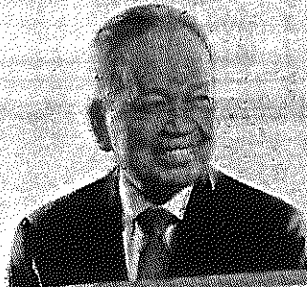
Protecting the nation. Constitutional-ly understood and implemented, martial law (ML) and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus (suspension) need not be feared. Verily, they are designed as temporary measures to assist the President in protecting the nation from devastation or dismemberment.

Unfortunately, President Ferdinand Marcos misused ML and the suspension to perpetuate himself in power, to loot the treasury, and to deprive our people of their basic rights to life, liberty and property without due process of law.

To prevent a repetition of these excesses, the 1987 Constitution limited the grounds to only two: "invasion or rebellion, when the public safety requires it," and obligated both the Congress and the Supreme Court to check, and if needed, to nullify the proclamation/suspension.

Specifically, it mandated the Court to "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 or the extension thereof and must promulgate its decision thereon within thirty days from its filing."

Main issue. In an advisory to the parties dated June 12, 2017, the Court listed 10 issues. But the key issue, I think, is whether there is "factual basis" to show "actual,"



WITH DUE RESPECT

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

not just threatened or anticipated or imagined, rebellion; and if so, whether the rebellion is of such magnitude as to justify covering "the whole of Mindanao."

Citing Art. 134 of the Revised Penal Code, Proclamation 216 itself provides the answer: The "Maute terrorist group" has actually taken up arms against the government, "burned down certain government and private facilities and inflicted casualties... and started flying the flag of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in several areas, thereby openly attempting to remove from the allegiance to the Philippine Government this part of Mindanao and deprive the Chief Executive of his powers and prerogatives to enforce the laws of the land and to maintain public order and safety in Mindanao, constituting the crime of rebellion."

Separately, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Gen. Eduardo Año briefed the justices with confidential information on the uprising during an executive session.

Decision for future. During the orals, the petitioners were hard put to deny the

existence of actual rebellion, at the very least in Marawi City. The extensive daily media coverage of the prolonged fighting depicts the determined attempt of the "terrorist groups" to take over a portion of Philippine territory and to deprive the President of his powers to enforce our laws there.

Moreover, there is a legal presumption that the official duty of the President has been regularly performed. On the petitioners lay the burden of proof to show the opposite, i.e., that he gravely abused his discretion in making his factual finding.

That the acts complained of amount to "terrorism" is of no moment, provided they also constitute, as Solicitor General Jose C. Calida argued they do, the elements of the crime of rebellion as defined by the Revised Penal Code.

At bottom, I believe that even if the petitioners—led by Rep. Edcel C. Lagman—fail in their bid to nullify Proclamation 216, they would still have served the public interest for affording the Court the precious opportunity to define the parameters of ML under the 1987 Constitution.

Indeed, a comprehensive and clear decision will guide our officials on the constitutional way to impose and implement ML (whether in Marawi only, or in the "whole of Mindanao," the Visayas, Luzon, or in the entire country), to safeguard our people's rights when the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus is suspended, and to exorcise the feared abuses and excesses.

Crafted with this valuable teaching, the decision would be a landmark win-win for all.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

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'Papa, papa'

Thus cooed Peter John "PJ" Cofino, all of 11 months old, as he patted the glass panel of his father's coffin. Those were the only words he could speak yet, and he was saying them to the man lying under the glass, Sgt. Jobert Cofino, one of 13 Marines killed in action on June 9 in Marawi City.

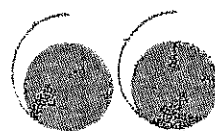
PJ's father made regular calls, often video calls, to him, his mother Promelyn told Inquirer reporter Julie Alipala in Zamboanga City. The baby knew his father's face, and knew what to call him. "Papa, papa." But Sergeant Cofino, dead at 28, never got to celebrate what would have been his first Father's Day.

Another Marine, Pfc. Gener Tinangag, was to marry his fiancée and witness the baptism of their 2-year-old Clark Mayner next year. He was killed by a Maute sniper's bullet after pulling a wounded comrade to safety on the same day.

Family being central to life in these parts, Filipinos have come to make a big fuss about Father's Day, which is marked by most countries on the planet on the third Sunday of June. Understandably, a family gets particularly emotional when the father is away toiling in another country to make a proper living for the ones left behind. That said, think of the emotion unleashed by young fathers pulled so suddenly and tragically from their families for good by the fighting in Marawi.

Some are forced to endure more pain than most, such as the family members of Insp. Edwin Placido, 48, who have called on President Duterte to help them find his body. The Placidos received a memo informing them of his death, and also stating that the body had not been recovered. "I hope the death of my father and many others would not be in vain. I'm hoping for peace not only in Mindanao but for the entire country," Ariane Placido said. "Although we are mourning for his loss, we are very proud of [him] ... because he died a hero."

Spare a thought, too, for the fathers missing in Marawi, or already lost in this extended period of fighting. Omalia Baunto, while sheltered along with many others in a secure government building, is waiting in anguish for word on her husband Nixon. The Bauntos were visiting family in a nearby town when the violence erupted. Omalia stayed in relative safety but Nixon returned to the city to check on their home and now remains trapped there. He had managed to call her only



HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS WITH FOUR OTHER MEN WHO WERE WOUNDED. THEY WERE MOVING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE. I HAVE NOT LOST ALL HOPE AND IN MY HEART I BELIEVE HE WILL RETURN. HE HASN'T EATEN. HE HASN'T SLEPT. A BOMB HERE, AN EXPLOSION THERE. HE IS GETTING WEAK

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twice since the fighting began on May 23. "He told me that he was with four other men who were wounded. They were moving from house to house," Omalia said. "I have not lost all hope and in my heart I believe he will return. He hasn't eaten. He hasn't slept. A bomb here, an explosion there. He is getting weak."

Spare a thought as well for the fathers felled in the paroxysms of the war on drugs, all but forgotten by the public but mourned still. Fr. Gilbert Billena, parish priest of San Isidro Labrador in Barangay Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, recalled the stories told by children whose fathers were gunned down in front of their very eyes. The grief and misery haunt those left behind, who now have to fend for themselves. Said Billena: "It's so sad, my brothers and sisters, but in Quezon City I bless the body of their dead almost every week. And they all cry out: 'Why? Why did they kill my father or my son without giving them a chance?'"

And then there's "Sally Antonio," described in an Agence France-Presse report as a "typical drug war widow" whose son—the family breadwinner—and husband were killed during a police raid. "When they killed my husband and son, they also killed me," Antonio said. She now has to work three jobs to sustain five other children and one grandson. "I'm angry. Why did they have to kill my husband and son and leave families like ours to sacrifice?"

On this day of joy and grief, of many faces and fates, let's take a moment to reflect on the fathers unable to be with their families, and the families who can never be with their fathers again. Enjoy the opportunity to break bread or shoot the breeze with your Tatay, Papa, or Dad. Be grateful. Others are not as fortunate.

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THE HERO FATHERS OF MARAWI



Through their widows, meet the hero fathers who will be celebrating Fathers' Day in heaven

18 June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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By LORAIN BALITA-CENTENO

As the Marawi conflict rages on, we are seeing more of what our soldiers are willing to do for the nation. We are witnessing gallant warriors in battle, saving civilians, clearing the besieged city of the local terrorist group Mante. These soldiers have sworn to protect the flag and the nation with honor. They are willing to die so others may live.

But what some of us might have forgotten is that underneath the camouflage and full battle gear is a husband, a father, a son, a brother. Every day we see the numbers of casualties flashed on our screens. But what we are not seeing behind those numbers is a son who lost his idol, a daughter who lost her favorite playmate, and a wife who lost the love of her life.

Most of these fallen soldiers are so young with little children who will now have to grow up without their father. Some didn't even live long enough to see the birth of their child, one of whom is Cpl. Benito Serrano of Conner, Kalinga Apayao.



THE UNBORN CHILD HE DIDN'T GET TO SEE



CPL. BENITO SERRANO

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On the night of May 22, 33-year-old Cpl Benito Serrano called his wife Ligaya, who's eight months pregnant. They talked about their plans, their four-year-old daughter and him coming home in July in time for the birth of their baby. The soldier, who was supposed to come home in May, chose to stay in Marawi and save his leave credits for when his wife gives birth. They talked for hours. By midnight he asked his wife not to hang up, he wanted for them to keep the call going as they slept. "At 2 a.m. I woke up and heard him snoring on the other line," Ligaya recalls.

The following day Cpl Benito Serrano was killed in battle. He and his team went into a house occupied by Maute members where a terrorist was hiding inside, ready to shoot. He was shot in the chest and died on the spot.

"I kept texting him that night 'Budz, reply ka naman nag aalala na ako' but there was no reply," Ligaya says, sobbing. The following day she was told the devastating news. "*Sigaw ako nang sigaw, tinatawag ko ang pangalan niya* [I kept screaming, calling out his name]" she cries. It felt like a nightmare for Ligaya from which she was hoping she would soon wake up, but she never did—it was all too real. Her husband, the father of her daughter and unborn child, was gone.

"He was my best friend," she says. The couple called each other Budz short for Buddy. "He was my *sumbungan*, my *kakwentuhan*," she adds.

Cpl Serrano, who was known among his friends and family as Arnold, was a hands-on father. "When he's home he's the one who takes care of our daughter," Ligaya says. "He likes playing with her. He would tie a string around my daughter's cart and they would pull it by the side of the road."

What breaks Ligaya's heart now is how many dreams Arnold still had for himself, for his family, and for his daughter. "He

wanted his daughter to be a doctor someday," she says.

Arnold was a Computer Science graduate who took automotive courses. His dream was to someday put up an automotive and electrical parts shop. He was also planning to start saving up next year to get his family a home. "He wanted to buy a house for us. It was really our dream," she says.

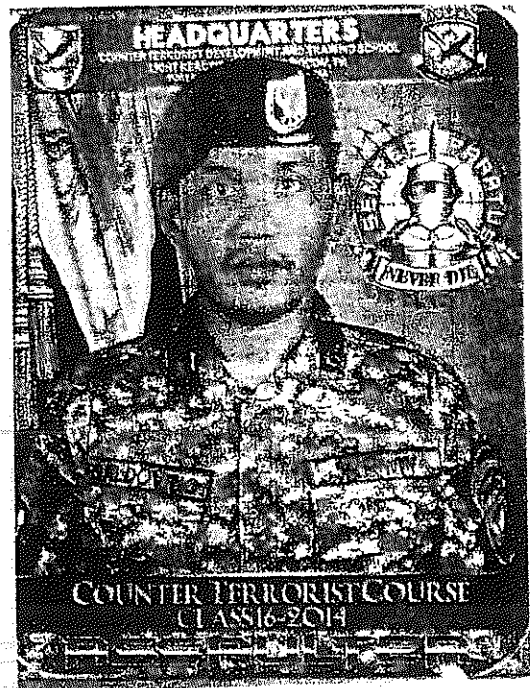
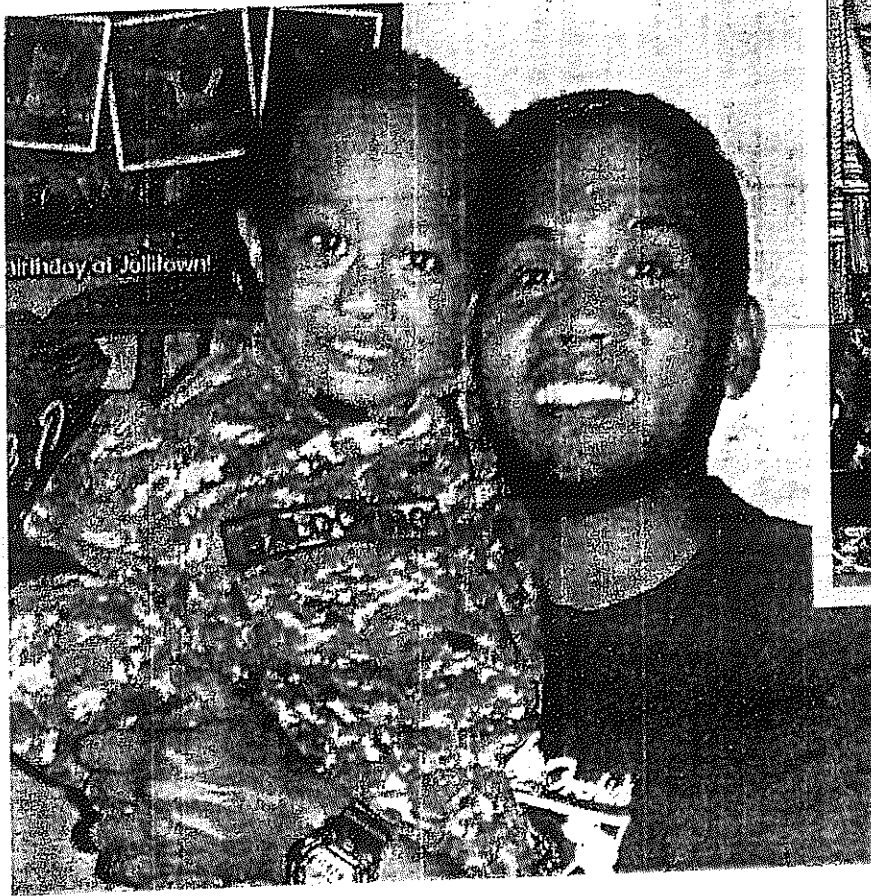
What she would miss most about her husband though is how he would wake her up in the morning with coffee in hand. "*Sasabihin niyan, Budz gising na ito na ang coffee mo*, [Budz wake up, your coffee's ready]," she recalls. Arnold was a loving father who wanted a better future for his children. His dream was for his kids to finish college someday and Ligaya, a high-school teacher, promises to try her best to fulfill that.

Asked how she would want her husband to be remembered, she says "*Mapagkumbaba, mabait*, and dedicated sa *trabaho*." At first being a soldier to him was just a job, a means to make ends meet, but eventually Cpl. Serrano felt that he was fighting for a greater purpose. "*Naramdaman niya ang layunin ng ginagawa niyang paglaban*, he felt like he was really fighting for something important," she adds.

Arnold is just one of the many soldiers who were expecting to go home to their families, those who intended to fulfill promises when they got back. Promises that they didn't live long enough to keep.

Sgt. Marlon Baldovino's wife Mylene held on to one such promise.

THE HERO FATHER... <L1



SGT. MARLON BALDOVINO

A SOLDIER'S BIRTHDAY PROMISE

When news of the insurgency in Marawi broke, Sgt. Marlon Baldovino was among the first ones to fight there. He left his wife Mylene, 39, and their three-year-old son, to go to Mindanao on April 12.

On May 23, Mylene got a call from her husband telling her about their mission that day. "He called me at noon and told me he was off to a mission. They are going to a [Maute] camp," she says.

"I asked him when he would be back because my birthday was coming up on May 26," she narrates. Marlon assured her though that he would be back in time to greet her for her birthday. "*Mababati pa raw 'nya ako pag-balik. Balikan lang daw 'nyong mission* [He said he could still greet me when he got back. It was supposed to be a short mission]." Mylene says.

That night, news broke out about the casualties in Marawi, including two soldiers who died in battle. The news report didn't include the names of the casualties but Mylene knew in her heart that something bad had happened to Marlon. "I couldn't sleep that night. I was frantic and worried. I stayed up 'till 2 a.m. watching the news," she says.

The following day, her fear was confirmed when she got a call from her husband's commanding officer (CO). "I almost dropped the phone. I didn't even get to finish talking to the CO," she tearfully recalls.

Sgt. Marlon Baldovino of Cabaacan, North Cotabato was part of the 4th Light Reaction Company—among the first who fought the

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Maute terrorists during the first day of the Marawi siege. He was one of the two soldiers who died on May 23. "Tinamaan sya ng bala ng kalaban sa tagiliran [He was hit by a bullet on his side]," says Mylene.

He never got back to greet his wife on her birthday.

"I will miss how sweet and thoughtful he was," Mylene says, trying to keep her composure, her voice cracking.

When Sgt. Baldovino was not away fighting, he was at home cooking. "When he's here he cooks for us," Mylene recalls. "He loves *pinakbet*, the only thing I cook for him, but everything else he cooks for us. *Sobrang maasikaso siya* [He's very attentive]."

The loving dad also had so many dreams for his three-year-old boy. He wanted for him to also be in the military. He dreamed of someday sending his Junior to the PMA. "He used to call our boy his future general," says Mylene.

Among his other plans was to also apply for a salary loan to get back the *bukid* his father, a rice farmer, had mortgaged to be able to send him to college. "*Yun ang ginamit ng mga magulang niya para makatapos siya ng pag-aaral* [that's what his parents used to send him to college]." Mylene says. Aside from the farm lot, his parents also had part of their home lot mortgaged and used it for Marlon's tuition. He had originally planned on being a seaman after college but jobs became hard to come by so instead he enlisted in the army. The soldier promised his parents he'd find a way

to get the half-hectare farm land back, which was their family's only source of livelihood.

"*Ngayon wala na siya* [Now he's gone]," Mylene says.

As for the little boy Sgt. Baldovino has left behind, "he knows his father's gone but I'm not sure he understands what had happened. Just yesterday he kept asking me and looking for his father," Mylene says. While it breaks her heart to see her child so small who will grow up without his Daddy, she knows she has to accept what has happened.

"Although it's painful to accept, I have to be strong for my son. He's still so young. I know Marlon wouldn't want to see me weak and he would want me to carry on and take care of our Junior," she says. "I hope people will remember Marlon as a hero, who endured being away from his family and sacrificed his life for the country."

Like Sgt. Baldovino, Sgt. Eric Coros had to bear being away from his family for months on end. He, too, had to endure so much in the battlefield and, in the end, make the ultimate sacrifice.



Sgt. Baldovino with his wife Mylene

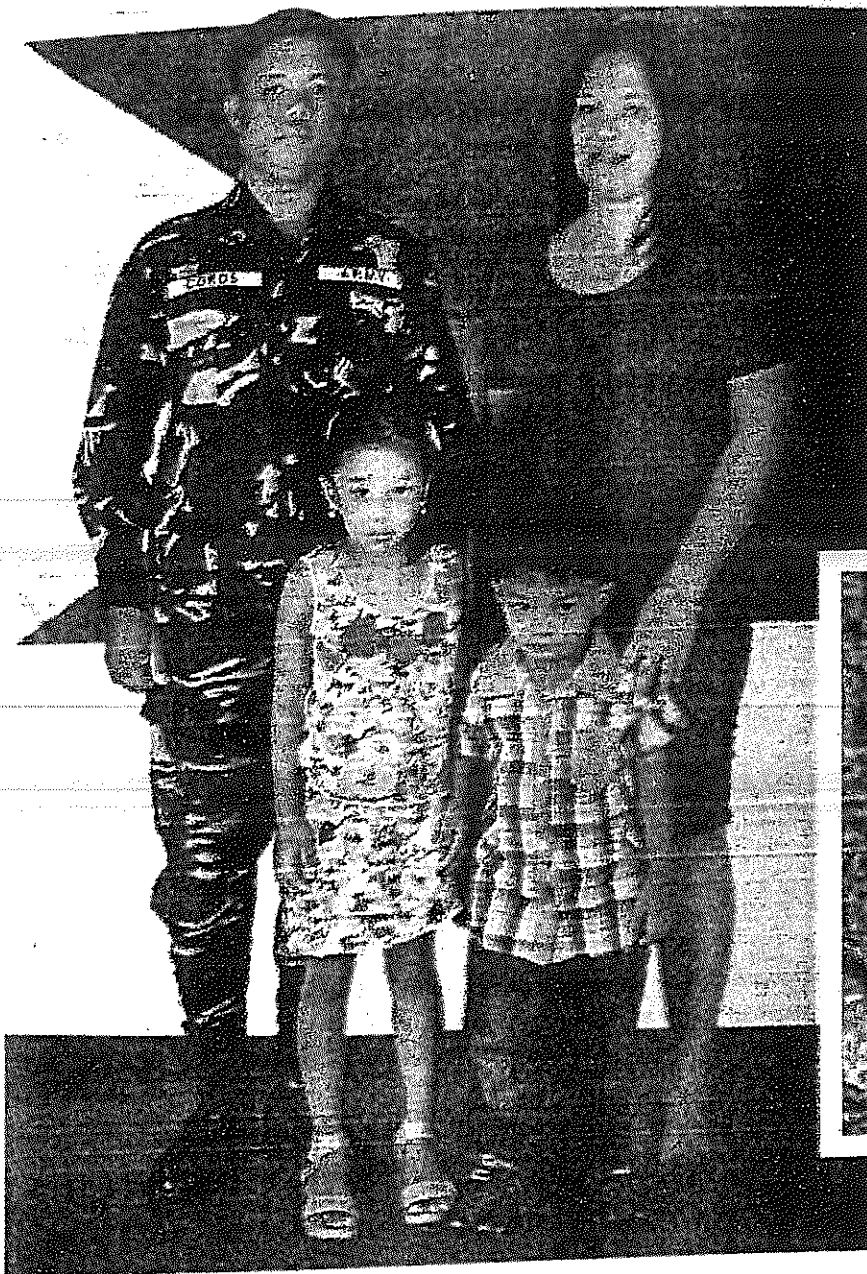
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NO BREAKFAST FOR WAR CHAMPIONS



The night before his deployment Sgt. Eric Jason Coros talked about retiring soon. This came as good news for Juliet, 40, his wife who has been having a hard time rearing their two young children on her own since her husband was almost always away for work. He promised Juliet he would retire soon and be with his family.

On May 22, Sgt. Coros, like many other soldiers, was called to fight in Marawi. He left at 4:30 a.m. as Juliet, an elementary school teacher, and their children bid their father goodbye. He hugged his wife tight, kissed the children, and told them “*Magpakabait kayo* [Always be good].”



SGT. ERIC JASON COROS

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In the morning of May 28 Juliet got a text from her husband. "He was telling me that they didn't even have the chance to grab breakfast because they had to go to battle right away," she shares.

The mission that day was to recover a SAF tank that was seized by terrorists. Sgt. Coros, of the 6th Light Reaction Company of the Philippine Army, led his team to the site. Unfortunately he was shot by a Maute sniper.

At 5:30 in the afternoon, Juliet got the call she had long dreaded. "The officer informed me that my husband was one of the soldiers who died that day," she recounts. "He said his body was in Marawi".

Juliet, grief stricken and at a loss, couldn't believe that it was her husband. "I told him, there must have been a mistake. *Nagkamali kayo.*" she says. It took a while before it finally dawned on her that her husband was gone. "*Napakasakit tanggapin na wala na siya* [It was so painful to accept that he's gone]," says Juliet.

Dada, as his kids fondly called him, was a thoughtful and loving father, says Juliet. "A few days before he was deployed to Marawi, we took the children to the doctor for a checkup. And while he was there in battle he would find time to text me to remind me about the children's medications," Juliet recalls.

"Even in battle he would often check on me and the kids. He would text to check if we were safe," says the mother of two.

When he's not out in battle, Sgt. Coros likes going to the beach. "He loved the beach!" Juliet recalls. He would never miss the chance to visit the beach when he was back home in Sarangani. He would often take the kids to the beach or the playground.

What Juliet would miss most about her husband was his sweetness and his surprises. "He wouldn't tell us when he'd come home he would often just surprise us," she says. "One time I came home and, to my surprise, he was in our room!"

The widow wants others to remember Sgt. Coros as a brave soldier, who was very dedicated to his job. She would also like people to remember him as a loving son and a responsible brother. Eric, the eldest among four children and the only boy, was a consistent honor student, who would take care of his siblings after school while their parents are away. "He was the kind of *kuya* his sisters could turn to for almost anything," says Juliet.

Now left with two young children to raise, aged five and seven, Juliet recognizes the responsibility that rests on her shoulders. She understands that it's tough but she believes that she will make it through. "*Mahirap pero kakayanin* [It's hard but I know I can do this]," she says. "Eric was a strong man and I learned a lot from him."

Cpl. Serrano, Sgt. Baldovino, and Sgt. Coros are just three of the many hero fathers who have sworn to keep, not just their families, but everyone's families safe. They are among the many who have lost their lives fighting in Mindanao.

So the next time you hear news about the casualties think about this: While you're here comfortably seated in the safety of your home, there's a soldier somewhere fighting under the sweltering heat of the sun or under the pouring rain amid deadly bullets and ear-shattering explosions. These men chose to be there so you could be here.

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HERO DAD OF SULU



LT. RAULITO TAGO-ON

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While some of our troops are fighting Maute in Marawi, others are fighting the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in other parts of Mindanao, one of whom is Lt. Raulito Tago-on who had to leave his pregnant wife and six children to fight in Mindanao.

"The last time I talked to him we he was asking me if I had already booked his plane ticket so he could come home," says his wife Mary Joy who gave birth last Thursday. Lt. Tago-on was about to take his paternity leave, excited to be by his wife's side, when she gives birth to their seventh child.

But on June 2, Maryjoy got the news she never wanted to hear. "*Nung unang tawag ang sabi sa akin natamaan siya ng bala and tina-try nila i- revive* [When they first called me they told me he was wounded, he got hit, and they were trying to revive him]," she says. A few minutes later she was told that her husband Lt. Tago-on did not survive.

Lt. Raulito Tago-on of the 41st Infantry Battalion was fatally hit on the back while conducting focused military operations against the ASG in Patikul, Sulu. He was taken to a hospital in Jolo but was declared dead upon arrival.

"*Napakapasensyoso niya sa mga anak namin. Siya ang nagbabanatay pag andito siya and hindi siya nagagalit kahit minsan sa sobrang laro nasasaktan siya* [He was a very patient father. He was the one who took care of our kids whenever

he was home. He wouldn't get mad even when the kids got too playful," recalls Mary Joy.

The mother of six remembers one time when her husband was too tired but didn't want to disappoint the kids. "He was tired, so tired, so he rested against a wall, while the kids used his back as a slide," she recounts.

"*Mahilig talaga siya sa mga bata, maawain siya sa malilit na bata kahit doon sa Mindanao* [He really loved kids and took pity on small children even in Mindanao]," says Mary Joy. He loved children so much that when he was not off to a mission with his troops he would visit barangays in Mindanao to teach young children to read and write. "*Naawa siya lalo na sa mga bata na 'di makapag-aral. Malambot ang puso niya sa ganun kaya nagtitiyaga siya magturo* [He felt bad for those children who couldn't go to school. He had a soft spot for those children. That was why he taught in his spare time]," Mary Joy says.

A stay-at-home mom who's now left with six children, the oldest of whom is only 10 years old, Mary joy feels positive that they would make it through with the help of her husband's friends and family. "My husband was always happy and positive, which is what I learned from him. Even amid big problems he taught me how to look at the bright side," she says. "He was a good person, an amazing father, a loving husband, and a hero."

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ONLINE NEWS 18 JUNE 2017

Posted by; Retired Analyst

Soldiers capture Maute sniper, machinegun nests

From Malaya Business Insight (Jun 15): Soldiers capture Maute sniper, machinegun nests

GOVERNMENT forces have gained control of eight high-rise buildings in Marawi City, where the Maute Group had set up machinegun and sniper nests.

Operations to clear the city of the terrorist group are in the "final stages," said Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office.

Arevalo said the recovery of the eight buildings is significant as the presence of enemy snipers is one of factors delaying the clearing operations.

He said the eight buildings, "their former strongholds," were recovered by the military in operations yesterday and Tuesday.

One of the buildings is the "tallest in the area, overlooking the city where they've established a machinegun nest and sniper nest," he said.

Arevalo said the Maute members are still occupying "many" buildings in the city but could not give exact figures.

The fighting broke out last May 23 when Maute members fought it out with government forces out to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria like the Maute. Hapilon has reportedly been anointed by the ISIS as its head in Southeast Asia.

The fighting has so far killed 206 Maute members, 58 soldiers and policemen, and 26 civilians. About 200 soldiers and policemen were also wounded in the conflict.

"We are nearing its ending, meaning we are nearing the conclusion (of the operations). We are in the final stage of our operations in Marawi... We're getting close to it, we're getting nearer (in accomplishing the job)," said Arevalo.

Arevalo also said enemy resistance continues to dwindle "but we are not going to take this lightly."

"We cannot be imprudent. We have to very careful with our actions because there are still civilians in the area, they have hostages, trapped civilians... We're very careful, we are inching our way forward in order to ensure the attainment of our three-fold objective," he said.

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The three objectives are to clear the city of Maute members and degrade their capability to launch more attacks, rescue civilians who are trapped and being held captive by the group, and set the condition for reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi.

"We are now looking at the third option because we see that we are nearing the conclusion of this conflict," said Arevalo.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said military will no longer set any deadline for clearing Marawi City, and will instead focus on liberating the city at the soonest time possible.

Padilla urged the public to be patient, explaining there are challenges that confront the troops on the ground.

"So it will entail a bit of time before we clear every house of any armed element," he said.

The AFP has set target dates or several deadlines, the last of which was on Independence Day, June 12.

"We will not set deadlines. We will ensure that we are able to clear it of any armed element that still exists and it may take some time," Padilla said.

Padilla also said that the military is now monitoring close to 80 social media accounts that are allegedly being used by the Maute-Abu Sayyaf group and efforts are being taken to take down these accounts. He declined to provide more details but said it is possible that only one person or group is handling all the media accounts.

The Department of Information Communication and Technology (DICT) on Tuesday said government forces were set to arrest at least one person for "cyber sedition" in connection with the attack in Marawi.

The military last week said that it has asked Facebook Philippines to take down 63 accounts being used by the Maute and the Abu Sayyaf and their sympathizers to spread propaganda.

Padilla appealed to the public to unite against terrorism and to condemn what has been happening in Marawi City which he said is no longer a simple matter but a "fight between good and evil."

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella echoed Padilla's call, saying Filipinos must set aside differences and make a united stand against terrorism.

"This is no longer intramurals within ourselves, but we need to be united against a common enemy. And in the words of the general (Padilla), it's a fight between good and evil... Our sovereignty is being confronted and I believe it's time to set aside petty politics and the things that separate us. It's really high time and I believe it's a call to the Filipino nation to be able to stand together as one. It's high time we do that," he said.

<http://www.malaya.com.ph/business-news/news/soldiers-capture-maute-sniper-machinegun-nests>

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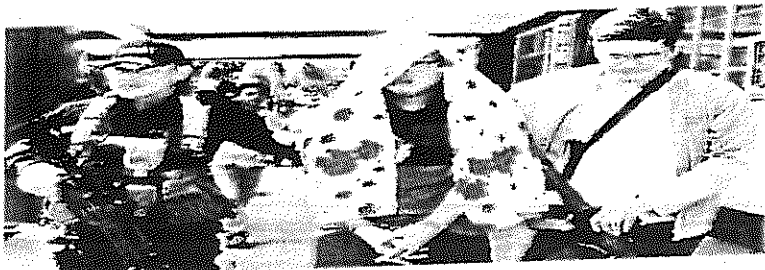
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Posted by Retired Analyst

Maute bomb-maker nabbed

From Malaya Business Insight (Jun 16): Maute bomb-maker nabbed



A BOMB-MAKER of the local terrorist Maute Group was arrested yesterday in a safehouse in Cagayan de Oro City.

Mohammad Noaim Maute alias Abu Jadid, who was nabbed by soldiers and policemen at around 7 a.m. in Barangay Macasandig, is a cousin of Maute Group leaders Abdullah and Omarkhayam Maute who led the attack on Marawi City last month.

The May 23 attack led to clashes that prompted President to place Mindanao under martial law. Operations to clear the city of Maute men are ongoing. Almost 300 people have been killed in the more than three weeks of fighting, including 206 Maute men, 58 soldiers and 26 civilians.

Noaim Maute was earlier identified as a brother of Abdullah and Omar.

Most of the seven Maute brothers, including Abdullah and Omarkhayam, are believed to be in Marawi City which is about 100 km south of Cagayan de Oro. Their parents were recently arrested.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Noaim Maute was among those who attacked Marawi City on May 23 but he later fled, joining civilians who evacuated.

Maute was also involved in the beheading of two sawmill workers in Butig town in Lanao del Sur in May 2016, Padilla said.

"He is part of the network of terrorists that have been wreaking havoc in Mindanao so it (arrest) is a plus for our troops, for our police and the people of Mindanao that they have one less terrorist roaming in their midst, who may inflict harm in the communities," he said.

Brig. Gen. Gilbert Gapay, deputy commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command and martial law spokesman in Eastern Mindanao, said Noaim Maute was arrested by virtue of Arrest Order No. 1 issued by Defense Secretary and martial law administrator Delfin Lorenzana.

Gapay said Maute is an Arabic teacher in Marawi. He said Maute initially tried to conceal his identity, using a fake student ID of the Mindanao State University under the name of Alfaiz P.

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Mamintal.

During investigation, Maute admitted he is Mohammad Maute and cousin of the Maute Group leaders. Maute is in the custody of the Cagayan de Oro City police.

Gapay said the Eastmincom is "expecting more arrests in the coming days as tracking and monitoring are intensified against the persons listed in the two orders of arrest issued by the martial law administrator."

The Maute patriarch, Cayamora, was arrested at a checkpoint in Davao City on June 6, and his wife Ominta Romato "Farhana" Maute, in Lanao del Sur on June 10.

Padilla said government forces are making "headway" as they are moving to the inner areas of four Marawi barangays, portions of which are controlled by the Maute.

"Our troops are moving progressively into the interiors of enemy-held areas and this is confined to four barangays. Of 96 barangays in the city of Marawi, four remain to be problematic," he said.

Padilla clarified that the four barangays are not under the complete control of the Maute. He said the group is holding "portions" of the barangay but could not immediately say how big.

"Our troops are making headway into the inner areas of these barangays where they continue to hole up or retreat to. The reason for these barangays being problematic areas is because of the presence of built-up buildings that are made of strong materials that can resist any kind of assault by our troops," he said.

Padilla stressed that the military establishment is no longer setting a deadline for clearing the city of Maute members "because of the urban terrain which is becoming more complicated."

"This has to be done in a very careful and deliberate manner so as to avoid the loss of innocent lives as well as not put in danger the lives of potential hostages that may still be in the hands of these criminals," said Padilla.

Asked how the Maute members are able to sustain the more than three weeks of fighting, Padilla said, "They planned for this for a long time and may have laid caches of arms in certain areas that will sustain them as they move into the interiors when they make a retreat or consolidation."

Padilla also said the Maute members were able to get hold of arms and ammunition from a jail and police installations that they raided.

"The sum of all these items is a sizeable cache that may have been sustaining them for sometime," said Padilla.

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AUSSIE JOURNALIST HIT BY STRAY BULLET

Padilla reported that an Australian journalist, Adam Harvey, a correspondent of the Australian Broadcasting Network, was hit by a stray bullet from the enemy while covering the conflict near the provincial capitol yesterday morning.

"Thank God he is out danger and it's not life threatening. He was just grazed by a stray bullet coming from the other side of the capitol where the area is still a battlefield, and he has been attended to and has been released from the clinic," said Padilla.

In his twitter account, Harvey said: "Lucky." He posted a picture of his x-ray showing a bullet stuck in the neck area. "Thanks everyone - I'm okay. Bullet is still in my neck but it missed everything important."

Padilla said the stray bullet may have come from an enemy sniper.

"In the course of the fight at the other side of the capitol, there have been sniper bullets that may have strayed in the area and accidentally hit the journalist... Hopefully, we will push (the Maute) into the inner areas a little bit more and keep the battlefield further from the capitol," said Padilla.

Padilla said the city, particularly in the four problematic areas, remains a "dangerous place" because of the presence of enemy snipers. He asked journalists covering the conflict to remain in the "safe zones."

"Please do not violate it for your own safety and you know the reason why, as what happened this morning. Even if it was a safe zone, there are possibilities of stray bullets getting into your areas and potentially causing harm to any member of the media and we would like to avoid that," said Padilla.

UNRECOVERED BODIES

The bodies of persons killed in the Marawi conflict have yet to be recovered due because intense fighting between government forces and Maute continues.

Zia Alonto Adiong, a member of the regional assembly of ARRM representing the first district of Lanao del Sur, said the report came from witnesses and trapped residents rescued from the conflict areas.

Adiong, also a spokeswoman man for the provincial crisis committee, said government and civilian volunteers could not recover the cadavers due to the continuing fighting.

"This is based on the accounts of witnesses and residents. The estimate of the bodies they saw is at least a hundred. Some of them (cadavers) are already under a state of decomposition," said Adiong.

Adiong said there is no information if the bodies are from civilians, Maute members, or government security forces.

Adiong also said at least 233,000 persons have been displaced by the armed conflict. She said the evacuees, who are from Marawi City and nearby towns, are staying in evacuation centers or in the

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homes of their relatives and friends.

He said majority of the displaced residents are from Marawi City which has a population of about 200,000.

"They (evacuees from nearby towns) have nowhere to buy provisions because Marawi is the capital city of Lanao del Sur. This is where supplies come from. Because of the crisis, security measures like checkpoints have been set up, there is an economic crisis in other towns so they started to move out also," he said.

TENT CITY

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said government may set up a tent city if the number of displaced individuals in Marawi City and surrounding areas continues to increase.

NDRRMC executive director Ricardo Jalad said there are some 66,700 displaced families (about 324,400 individuals) from Marawi City and Marantao town in Lanao del Sur.

He said 5 percent of the internally displaced persons are staying in the 79 evacuation centers while the rest are staying with friends and relatives.

He also said government has provided the evacuees some P84 million worth of assistance.

<http://www.malaya.com.ph/business-news/news/maute-bomb-maker-nabbed>

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www.pna.gov.com.ph

Military Ordinariate Tumulak passes away

MANILA, June 17 -- The Military Ordinariate of the Philippines Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak passed away on Saturday afternoon at the age of 72.

In an article posted on the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) news website, the Catholic prelate died at around 1:26 p.m, June 17 at the Cardinal Santos Hospital in San Juan City where he was rushed Friday night.

Tumulak, who had led the diocese since 2005, was in and out of the hospital. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer early this year.

As military ordinary, he served as ecclesiastical pastor of the jurisdiction serving all military and police personnel, their dependents and civilian employees.

The Catholic bishop was also the chairman of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care (ECPPC).

A native of Santander town in Cebu province, Tumulak was ordained priest in March 1971.

In January 1987, he was appointed Auxilliary Bishop of Cebu which he served for five years. In 1992, Tumulak was named the bishop of Tagbilaran.

The Military Ordinariate has at least 130 priests, 126 of whom are diocesan clergy, while four are religious.

On the other hand, CBCP-ECPPC Executive Secretary Rodolfo Diamante expressed sadness over the passing away of their leader.

"It is a sad day for the jail and prison ministry because we lost not only a chair in our commission but one who truly is a father to us all. Bp. Leo has reflected the image of a compassionate God who really cares about his people," he said.

Diamante added, "Up to his last minute he wanted to spend his remaining days with his flock and spent quality time with them. His life of service will be etched in our hearts. We will never forget him."

(Ferdinand G. Patinio/PNA)

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Law enforcers monitoring Islamic communities in QC to prevent entry of Maute group

MANILA, June 17 -- Law enforcers are closely monitoring two Islamic communities in Quezon City as an early step to prevent the Maute terrorist group from infiltrating Metro Manila.

Mayor Herbert Bautista directed Quezon City Police chief Senior Supt. Guillermo Eleazar to ensure that the Muslim communities of Culiat and Novaliches would not be infiltrated by any bad elements, more particularly by the Maute terrorist group.

There are some unconfirmed reports that some members of Maute group have reached Manila after they managed to slip from the tight cordon of government security forces by mixing up with Marawi City evacuees.

"The reports are still under verification. It is still a raw information, There is no proof yet they have landed in Manila," Eleazar assured Bautista.

With this, police are closely monitoring Culiat and Novaliches where Islamic big communities can be found in Quezon City.

He said it was only a precaution to avoid further problems in the future as he assured that police were on top of the situation.

As of 6 p.m. Friday, 225 terrorists have been killed since fighting between government troops and the Maute Islamist militants erupted on May 23.

The military suffered 59 killed in action, while 26 civilians were also slain during the same period. So far, the military has rescued 1,629 civilians trapped in buildings in the war-torn city.

There are still an undetermined number of civilians being held as human shields by the terrorists.
(SFM/PNA)

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AFP intensifies its war on terror vs Maute terrorists in Marawi

By Ben Cal

ShareMANILA, June 17 -- The military has two noble missions it must accomplish in its war on terror against the Maute terrorists in Marawi City as fighting entered its 26th day on Saturday.

One is to preserve the republic by wiping out the terror group, who wanted to establish a caliphate in Marawi .

Secondly, while the soldiers are busy fighting their other mission is to rescue civilians trapped in the fighting and are being used as human shields by the Islamic militants.

Brig. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines said that as of 6 p.m. Friday, 225 terrorists have been killed since fighting erupted on May 23.

The military suffered 59 killed in action, while 26 civilians were also slain during the same period. So far, the military has rescued 1,629 civilians trapped in buildings in the war-torn city.

There are still an undetermined number of civilians being held as human shields by the terrorists.

Government forces have to be extra careful in their offensive because aside from civilians being used as human shields, the terrorists have planted improvised explosive devices (IED) in strategic areas and in buildings occupied by the Maute group.

Padilla also said that most of the casualties suffered by government forces came from terrorist snipers, who are posted in tall buildings in the city.

An Australian journalist, identified as Adam Harvey of the Australian Broadcasting Company, who was hit by shrapnel that pierced his neck just after he took off his armored vest and helmet upon reaching the capitol building.

Harvey was immediately rushed to the city hospital. Harvey was the first journalist who was wounded while covering the fighting in Marawi City.

Since Day One of the fighting, Philippine Air Force (PAF) planes and helicopter gunships, including the newly acquired F50 jets have been used in surgical airstrikes that killed most of the 225 terrorist casualties.

Padilla said airstrikes would continue to be used by the AFP to cripple once and for all the remaining Maute terrorists still holed out in four barangays in Marawi.

Government forces have recaptured 96 per cent of Marawi City since fighting started more than three weeks ago.

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Padilla also said that government troops captured more than 200 high-powered weapons left behind by slain terrorists since fighting erupted more than three weeks ago.

Padilla said these heartless terrorists using civilians as human shields had prevented government forces from firing their gun for fear the civilians would be killed.

On Wednesday (June 14), five civilians and five policemen dashed to freedom when they saw an opportunity to escape.

They sustained bruises in various parts of their bodies during their daring escape.

Last week, the military arrested Ominta Romato Maute, alias Farhana, mother of terrorist leaders Omar and Abdulla Maute, who is allegedly the financier of the Maute terrorist group.

Also arrested were Fajad Salic, former mayor of Marawi, and nine others.

They were intercepted at a checkpoint manned by Philippine Army troopers.

Rebellion charges have been filed against them. The charges were filed after prosecutors found probable cause against the accused for conniving with the Maute group by actively engaging "in an armed rebellion against the government," according to Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana tagged Farhana as the Maute group's adviser and financier, given her "vast financial resources drawn locally and abroad."

Farhana is the first wife of Cayamora Maute, who was arrested at a checkpoint in Davao City on June 6. She was arrested in Masiu, Lanao del Sur, along with two wounded Maute group members, last Friday.

Aside from Salic and Maute, also charged in court were Sumaya Bangkit Masakal, Radiea Tugosa Asire, Mariam Ibnu Abubakar, Zafeerah Rosales Musa, Nehreen Macaraya Abdul, Nora Moctar Limgas, Mardiyya Haji Ali, Sumayya Lawi Ali and Noronisa Haji Camal.

All 11 accused are in the list of over 300 individuals identified as members of the Maute group, the Abu Sayyaf group, and their sympathizers earlier ordered arrested by the government for the crime of rebellion.

Authorities confiscated from Farhana one M14 rifle, seven M14 magazine assembly, 136 M14 live ammunition, one scope, two rifle grenades, two improvised rocket propelled grenades and two smoke grenades.

On the other hand, seized from Salic four units of M203 grenade, one M16 rifle loaded with 29 pieces of live ammunition and three pieces of long magazine with each loaded with 30 pieces of 5.56 bullets.

When Maute terrorists lay siege on Marawi City, they waved the black Islamic State flag, and at the same time killed civilians and took hundreds of hostages.

This prompted President Rodrigo R. Duterte to declare martial law the whole of Mindanao to prevent the terrorists from spreading their deadly tentacles to the region Mindanao.

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Duterte was visiting Russia at the time when Maute terrorists seized Marawi.

He said that the Maute group wanted to establish an ISIS province in southern Philippines. The military has uncovered a plot that Maute terrorist group was planning to attack the nearby Iligan City after Marawi. (PNA)

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