

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

19 June 2017

Monday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS
19 JUNE 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A19
HEADLINE NEWS			
2-4	More troops sent to marawi fight	Nikko Dizon	PDI p.A1
5-7	Gov't, reds commit to stop offensives	Jennifer Rendon	Phil. Star p.1
8-10	Seige nearing end	Mike Crismundo	Mla. Bulletin p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
11	North Cotabato loses its 6 th soldier in Marawi clash	John Unson	Phil. Star p.3
12	Troops, NPA renew clashes despite ceasefire call	Sandy Araneta	Mla. Standard p.A1
13	NPA rebels 'killed' in Davao fighting	Al Jacinto	Mla. Times p.A7
AFP RELATED NEWS			
14	AFP opens 2 bank accounts for Marawi donations	Michael Punongbayan	Phil. Star p.4
15	Kids write letters thanking soldiers	Erika Sauler	PDI p.A1
16	AFP chief sumaludo sa mga sundalo sa father's Day	Francis Wakefield	Balita p.2
17	Photo: Dear soldier	AFP	Phil. Star p.1
18-19	More troops deployed for Marawi City mop-up	Mario Mallari	Tribune p.1
20-21	Maute razed their alma mater	AFP	PDI p.A1
22-23	Maute sister, fleeing terrorist nabbed	Roel Pareño	Phil. Star p.1
24	242 Maute men killed	Francis Wakefield	Tempo p.2
25-26	Duterte: MILF, MNLF may have armed Maute	Llanesca Panti	Mla. Times p.A1
27	Aguirre defends US technical aid to Philippine troops	Rey Panaligan	Mla. Bulletin p.2
28-29	Top Hapilon aid nabbed in Zamboanga	Francis Wakefield	Mla. Bulletin p.1
30-31	Troops capture Sayyaf camp in Basilan	Roel Pareño	Phil. Star p.14
32	Military seizes Abu Sayyaf lair in Basilan	Al Jacinto	Mla. Times p.A8
33	Duterte will adhere to supreme court decision on martial law- Abella	Philip Tubeza	PDI p.A2
34	Palace: Rody will adhere to rule of law on ML	Alexis Romero	Phil. Star p.10
35	'No rights violations in Mindanao amid martial law'	Argyll Cyrus Geducos	Mla. Bulletin p.3
36-37	NPA seize guns in Iloilo raid	Nestor Burgos	PDI p.A19
38	AFP neutralizes 50 NPAs	Francis Wakefield	Mla. Bulletin p.2

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


EDITORIAL			
39	Good cop, bad cop on ML issue	Raul Palabrica	PDI p.A17
40	Duterte explains Marawi conflict	Ellen Tordesillas	Malaya p.B4
41	Ang mga dahilan kung bakit nagtagal ang labanan sa Marawi	Bobi Tiglao	Bulgar p.6
42	Bakit Mindanao ang taget ng mga terorista?		PM p.3
43	Assistance from NPA		Malaya p.B4
44	Marawi Crisis: No rescue for gov't except martial law	Leonardo Lopez	PDI p.A18
ONLINE NEWS			
45	AFP chief lauds valor of Filipino troops on Father's Day		www.pna.gov.ph
46	PAF looking for P2.8M worth of S-211 jet spares		www.pna.gov.ph
47	3 rd ID deploys battalion in ongoing Marawi conflict		www.pna.gov.ph

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


19 June 2017



Page: A19



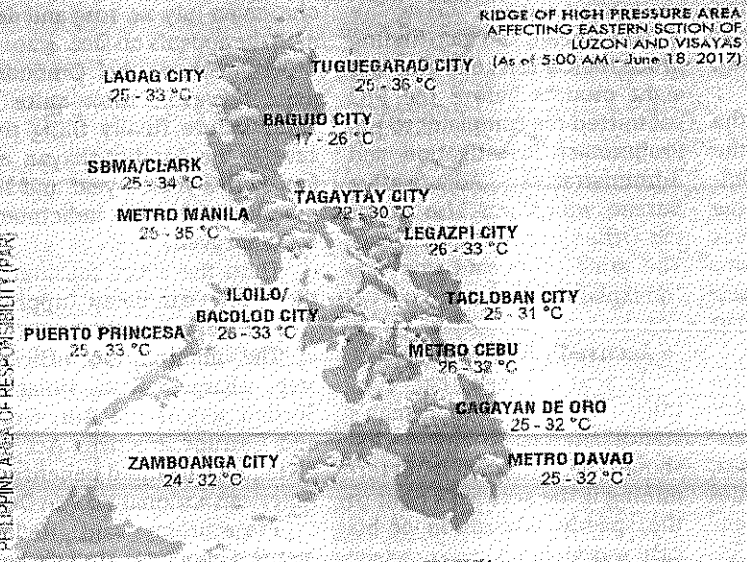
PANAHOON TV
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 19, 2017 | MONDAY

RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF LUZON AND VISAYAS (As of 5:00 AM - June 18, 2017)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:28 AM	6:27 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
1:00 AM	1:31 PM
LAST QUARTER <small>JUN 17 7:33 PM</small>	NEW MOON <small>JUN 24 10:31 AM</small>
LOW TIDE <small>11:18 PM</small>	HIGH TIDE <small>3:22 PM</small>
<small>0.20 Meter</small>	<small>0.83 Meter</small>

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

	JUNE 19	JUNE 20	JUNE 21	JUNE 20	JUNE 21
METRO MANILA	26 - 35 °C	26 - 35 °C	21 - 30 °C	21 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 25 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
LADAG	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 31 °C
BAGUIO	17 - 25 °C	17 - 25 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	26 - 32 °C	
TAGAYTAY					
LEGAZPI					
PUERTO PRINCESA					
ILOILO/BACOLOD					
METRO CEBU					
TACLOBAN					
CAGAYAN DE ORO					
METRO DAVAO					
ZAMBOANGA					

DZRH NEWS MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINAS HD

AIR 21
SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

WEEKDAYS
6 AM, 6:30 PM & 9 PM
WEEKENDS
6 AM

June 2017



Page: A1

MORE TROOPS SENT TO MARAWI FIGHT

'I will not negotiate,' President Duterte says as more soldiers are thrown into the battle zone. 'How about my soldiers who have died? How about [the terrorists]' murderous rampage?'

By Nikko Dizon, Franklin A. Caliguid and Nestor P. Burgos
@Team_Inquirer

The military has sent more troops to Marawi after President Duterte rejected the offer of Maranao religious and political leaders to negotiate

with Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists holed up in the city for an end to the crisis.

Troops from the Philippine Army's 82nd Infantry Battalion flew in two groups from Iloilo City on Saturday to reinforce security forces in Marawi, battling the terrorists who

seized the city on May 23 to establish an enclave for the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in southern Philippines.

A total of 327 people have been killed in four weeks of fighting, including 242 terrorists, 59 soldiers and 26 civilians.

The military deaths have angered

Mr. Duterte, who said he would not let this loss of lives pass unpunished.

Speaking to troops in Butuan City on Saturday, the President said he understood the desperation of Maranao religious and political leaders who had offered to talk to the terrorists to help bring the cri-

A15

FROM A1

sis to an end.

But he said any effort to bring the terrorists to the negotiating table might already be too late, as the terrorists appeared determined to fight to the death.

“If they go to the Maute to talk, talk about what? Surrender? Settlement? Just like that?” Mr. Duterte said.

“I will not [negotiate]. How about my soldiers who have died? How about [the terrorists’] murderous rampage?” he said.

The President said, however, that he would not block the plan of the Maranao religious and political leaders to talk to the terrorists.

“You do not need my permission to do that,” he said, adding that he would not apologize for the devastation caused by the fighting in Marawi because the Maranao leaders had failed to act swiftly to help contain the rise of the Maute group in the city.

“But I am not apologizing for anything there, because they brought the problem to themselves. Why didn’t they inform the police, me, the Armed Forces, that there were terrorists going in and out of the city?” he said.

Martial law stays

Mr. Duterte also said he would keep martial law until he was satisfied with the results of the military campaign to crush the terrorists in Marawi.

“Martial law stays as long as there’s fighting, until I am satisfied or we are satisfied that not a single shot will be fired ever again,” he said.

He defended the military’s bombing of targets in Marawi.

“There are places in Marawi that were bombed or are being

bombed now. And I am sorry to say that, it’s because it is really already a full-blown war. I cannot sacrifice one single soldier,” he said.

The death of a soldier last week as security forces advanced to step up pressure on the IS-inspired terrorists brought to 59 the government’s losses in the fighting.

The military, however, has not identified the latest soldier to be killed in action and has not yet disclosed the circumstances of his death.

Col. Edgard Arevalo said on Sunday that security forces had rescued 1,636 civilians and recovered 243 firearms.

Efforts to rescue civilians trapped in the fighting, as well as those taken hostage by the terrorists, continued, Arevalo

said.

Weakening resistance

“Enemy resistance continues to dwindle and enemy-held areas continue to get smaller as troops advance,” he said.

The military said earlier that the battle zone had been reduced to just four of the city’s 96 villages, an area of about 8.7 square kilometers.

But the military advance was proving difficult because the terrorists were using civilians as human shields and mosques as staging areas for attacks on government troops, Arevalo said.

Another job proving difficult for the military was recovering the bodies of civilian casualties, as snipers were busy trying to keep off rescuers.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

To hasten the clearing operation, the military sent in more than 800 troops of the Capiz-based 82nd "Bantay Laya" Infantry Battalion on Saturday.

The battalion was formed in Iloilo in 2009 and until Saturday had not been deployed outside of Western Visayas.

The troops have been assigned to internal security operations in Guimaras province, Iloilo City and parts of Iloilo and Antique provinces.

Lt. Col. Vener Morga, the battalion commander, said the troops were ready to be assigned to the front lines in Marawi.

Battle capable

Morga, former commander of the Army's 55th Infantry Battalion assigned to Butig

town in Lanao del Sur province that operated against the Maute group, said he apprised his troops of the situation in Marawi and the nature of the operation against the terrorist group.

"The troops are already capable. This deployment will further improve the battalion's capability," he said.

The battalion was supposed to be assigned to Marawi in January, but was asked to stay to help secure high-profile events in Western Visayas, including meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The troops were again put on notice two weeks ago for possible deployment to Marawi, but it was only on Friday that the order to go came.

A statement from the 3rd Infantry Division said among those who attended the sendoff ceremony on Saturday was Antique Gov. Rhodora Cadiao, who thanked the soldiers for their work that "paved the way" to make Antique "insurgency-free."

The 33rd Reconnaissance Company assigned to Negros Island has been brought to Iloilo to take over the area left by the 82nd Infantry Battalion.

Troops of the 61st Infantry Battalion based in Tapaz town in Capiz province have also been redeployed, according to Morga.

Reconstruction

With the battle against the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists turning into clearing operations, Gen. Eduardo Año, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the military was prepared to start discussing the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi.

The military has prepared the Combat Engineering Brigades from the Army and the Navy for immediate deployment "as soon as the clearing operations [are] completed," Arevalo said.

"Task Force Ranao, [which] has just been activated, is in full swing in ensuring that efforts to save lives of innocent noncombatant civilians remain a primary specific task to be complied with. It likewise takes charge in the collating and in the distribution of relief goods to evacuees in tandem with the [local governments]," Arevalo said. INQ



WATCH: Military launches fresh

offensive in Marawi

<http://inq.news/MarawiOffensive>

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

June 2017



Page: _____

Gov't, Reds commit to stop offensives

NPA raids Iloilo police station

By JENNIFER RENDON

The government will suspend offensives against communist rebels to pave the way for the resumption of formal peace talks, the chief negotiator announced yesterday.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said the move was meant to reciprocate a declaration of communist negotiators last Saturday that the New People's Army (NPA) would stop attacks to allow the military to focus on the fight against Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Marawi. He did not say when the cessation of offensives would start.

Bello made the announcement hours after NPA rebels raided a police station in Iloilo's Maasin town yesterday, seizing guns and robbing the police of personal belongings including cash, jewelry and laptops.

Last Saturday, the military
Turn to Page 10

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

Gov't From Page 1

killed three NPA members in Davao Oriental and two others in Compostela Valley.

"The Philippine government hereby correspondingly reciprocates with the same declaration of not undertaking offensive operations against the (NPA)," Bello declared.

In Maasin, officials said about 50 raiders arrived on a tarpaulin-covered truck, passing the town proper teeming with the usual Sunday crowd before stopping in front of the police station along Taft Street.

Initial reports said two women from the 50 heavily armed band entered the police station and pretended to file a blotter complaint. They surprised the nine policemen on duty at the precinct before announcing the attack.

Police reported no casualties, but the rebels took the weapons and personal belongings of the police including cash and laptops.

Vice Mayor Francis Amboy said he was prevented by armed men from going to the police station.

Amboy said he learned of the attack and immediately proceeded to the precinct near his house when armed men blocked his path.

Amboy said he took cover but heard the rebels warning over a megaphone that civilians should stay out of their way.

The rebels assured the crowd that they meant no harm and would only go after

the police station, he said.

"I was taking cover but as they were leaving, I saw around 40 to 50 persons on board the Elf truck. They also commandeered the station's police car," he said.

Amboy said he saw some of the rebels were wearing bonnets to cover their faces.

Some of them were shouting "Mabuhay ang NPA" before they escaped, Amboy said.

He said several residents went scampering to safety while several stores were forced to closed shop for the day.

Western Visayas police director Chief Supt. Cesar Hawthorne Binag said when a truckload of armed men arrived, there were two policemen outside the precinct.

They were pushed by the rebels to go inside where they joined their seven other colleagues who were disarmed, handcuffed and made to lie face down, he said.

Binag said Senior Inspector Ray Cordero, the Maasin police chief, was not on duty at the time of the attack.

"They were made to lie face down and the rebels stepped on their heads. In less than 15 minutes, it was done," Binag said.

The rebels took eight M16 rifles, four Glock pistols and five tactical radios.

They also carted away the policemen's jewelry, four mobile phones, two laptops and P29,000 cash.

"It was a case of robbery

They were there only to rob the policemen," Binag said.

He said the regional police are tracking down the attackers who abandoned their getaway vehicles. The police Toyota Hilux pick-up truck was found abandoned at Barangay Cagay, Alimodian while the Elf truck was found at Barangay Ingwan in the same town.

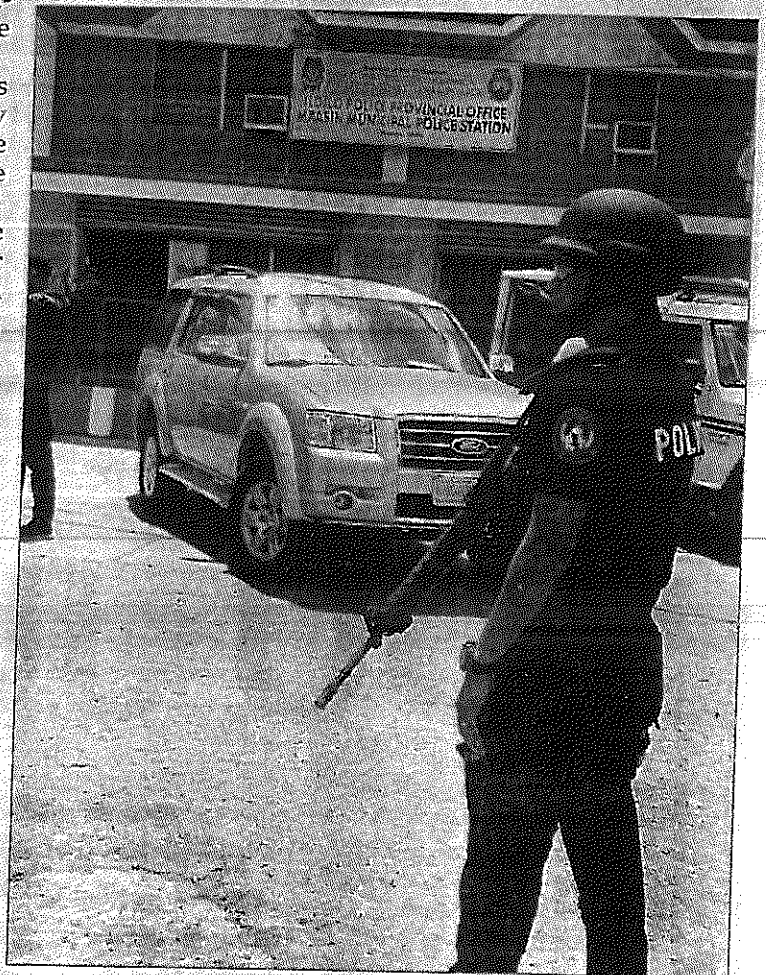
The incident came a week

after the provincial police had warned of an impending attack from the NPA in the region.

Regional police deputy director for operations Senior Supt. Christopher Tambungan said Maasin was among 15 towns being targeted for attack by communist rebels.

"They've been warned," Tambungan said.

"I inspected this police station on June 3.



Police patrol the Maasin police station after a raid by NPA rebels.

JENNIFER RENDON

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

I already told them of the strategies that the NPAs might employ in doing their attacks, including those who are pretending to make blotter reports,” he added.

Following the incident, all 23 policemen of the Maasin Police Station were ordered relieved and assigned to the regional police director.

They will be replaced by personnel from the Regional Public Safety Battalion 6, Tambungan said.

The government last month cancelled their peace dialogue with the communists following the spate of attacks on government troops throughout the country. Yesterday’s attack in central Visayas is the most recent.

Earlier, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) relayed their stance against the Maute group in Marawi, condemning the militants for laying siege on the city and their effort to carve an Islamic State caliphate in Mindanao.

The four weeks of fighting in Marawi have left more than 300 dead and thousands of families homeless.

Despite their sentiments, the NPA engaged in the attack on Maasin.

Sources said the attackers are from NPA’s Southern and Central front committees of the Komiteng Rehiyon-Panay.

They noted that one front committee could not handle the attack.

Less than an hour after the incident, the NPA’s Coronacion “Waling-Waling” Chiva Command owned up to the Maasin raid in its Facebook account.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said operations against the NPA continue despite the fighting in Marawi.

“While the AFP is busy combating the Maute-ISIS group in Marawi, significant developments are happening in our fight against the NPA, particularly after the government did not participate in the fifth round of peace negotiations with the communist terrorists,” AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

– With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Michael Punongbayan

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: _____

Siege nearing end

Gov't now
in control of
96 barangays
in Marawi
City – AFP

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**
and **ARGYLL CYRUS S. GEDUCOS**

BUTUAN CITY — The government is in control of the 96 urban and rural barangays in war-torn Marawi City and is now focusing on the remaining portions of the city's four barangays where an estimated 100 members of the Maute terror group are still hiding.

This was disclosed by Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) late Saturday afternoon who also revealed that the ground troops already recovered several firearms, cache of live ammunition. ▶4

Siege nearing end

communication facilities, and computers left by the Maute terror group in the war zone.

President Duterte, who ended his five-day private time by visiting troops in Barangay Bancasi, Butuan City, Saturday afternoon, said that the Marawi siege was not a result of failure of intelligence but admitted that the government has become soft when it comes to dealing with rebels.

The President said the Maute group was able to stock up on their arms and ammunition before challenging the government by laying siege in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, on May 23.

"It was not a question of failure on the part of the government. We have adopted a very soft policy towards rebels," he stressed.

"This came about because nagdadala sila ng baril eh (They were bringing firearms). And since we are thinking of getting peace with the MNLF and MILF, ang laro ng armas diyari (the existence of firearms there), we took it for granted," Duterte said, referring to the Moro rebel groups Moro Islamic and Moro National Liberation Fronts.

Padilla declined to divulge the number of combat maneuvering troops now penetrating the four barangays in Marawi City as tactical movement is still ongoing.

He also did not give the exact number of casualties on the side of the Maute terror group and even from the government forces as fighting, which is now on its 28th day, still rages.

"We don't want to give you the numbers for the meantime and probably after clearing operations, we can already determine the exact figures," he said.

He said air strikes will continue to cripple the remaining enemy positions and also to protect the troops on the ground.

Padilla also said ground commanders are verifying reports that the three Maute brothers were reportedly killed during the clashes. "We are still assessing and validating these reports as of this time," he said.

"Masigasig ang ating mga sundalo na matapos na ito, we're nearing to

a conclusion" he said, but refused to give the timeline to newsmen when the Marawi crisis will end.

The AFP spokesman also reiterated that the AFP is not blocking relief goods going to various evacuation centers in Lanao. "Our ground troops never blocked convoy delivering relief goods to Marawi evacuees," he said.

Padilla and AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo were with other top AFP and PNP officials when President Rodrigo Duterte, accompanied by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, visited the officers and men of the AFP and PNP at Camp Bancasi here late Saturday afternoon, June 16, 2017.

Failure of intelligence

President Duterte disclosed that the Maute group was surreptitiously bringing firearms into Marawi City that the government was not able to keep count.

The President also said that the siege was not a failure of intelligence because in case Maute members were seen bearing firearms and pretended to be members of the MILF or MNLF, the standing order was to try and talk to them to avoid trouble.

He also said that this enabled the Maute group to stock up on their arms and ammunition in Marawi City.

"But all the while, itong (the) Maute, with the connivance of politicians there, were stockpiling," Duterte said, adding that the group was just waiting for a reason and the right timing to stage their attack.

"Kaya hindi maubos ang mga bala at napakarami. Magputok ng isa ang gobyerno, ang ibabalik sa atin lima (That's why it seems like they are not running out of ammunition. We fire once, they return it five times)," he said.

"So parang (it was like an) endless supply when Maute rose to fight the government," he continued.

ISIS fighters

Duterte also said that there is a conglomeration of Islamic State (ISIS) fighters in Marawi City coming from Syria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Saudi Arabia.

"The fighting is going on, it is winding up but at the cost of so many

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

soldiers also. And that is the danger of Maute and ISIS. Bantay kayo diyari. Mahirap kalabanin 'yung taong gustong mamatay (Watch out for that. It's hard to fight with people who want to die)," he said.

Duterte also confirmed intelligence reports on terrorists killing anyone who does not practice the religion of Islam.

"They have so corrupted the name of God in a form of religion to kill many innocent persons and to destroy for nothing," he added.

The Chief Executive said the government is ready to find the root of the problem and finish it even if it means using all available resources.

"We have to use the air assets now because we are up against fighters, nanggaling 'yan diyari sa Middle East (who came from the Middle East), and learned the art of brutal killing," he said.

"Susunugin ka, putulan ka ng ulo, kung anu-ano. 'Pag hinayaan natin 'yan na ganon, patay ang Pilipino (They will torch you, behead you, anything. If we let them, then the Filipino will die)," he added.

According to Duterte, Islam is welcome in the country but warned about ideology which came from the Middle East.

"We welcome Islam. [Pero] Itong Islam na imported ang ideology galing ng Middle East, anak na ng-talagang huwag tayong magpauna dito (But the Islam with ideology imported from the

Middle East—we should not let that enter)," Duterte said.

"Mauna na lang tayon (Let's just get ahead of them first) and let's just resolve the problem or problems afterwards, we can discuss it," he added.

No apologies

Duterte also said that he will not be making any apologies for the ongoing conflict in Marawi as the citizens brought the problems on themselves.

This came after some Maranao and traditional leaders in Marawi and Lanao del Sur asked the President if they may be allowed to negotiate with the Mautes to end the hostilities.

According to Duterte, the leaders don't need his permission as they brought the problem upon themselves when they chose not to report the situation to the authorities early on.

"You do not need my permission to do that. Ang problema kasi nito (The problem here is), little did they realize that they are dealing with ISIS already," the President said.

"I am not apologizing for anything there because they brought the problem on themselves. Bakit hindi nila sinabi sa pulis, sa akin, sa Armed Forces na may mga foreign trade na pabalik-balik 'yan (Why didn't they report to the authorities or to me that there were foreign elements going back and forth in the city)," he added.

But if it were up to him, Duterte reiterated that he will not negotiate with the terrorists as the war has already resulted in the death of 59 government troopers.

"If they go to the Maute to talk about what? Surrender? O ano lang areglo? Ganon na lang (or negotiate? Then what? That's it?)" Duterte asked.

"Paano 'yung patay ko (How about the the government troops who have died)? How about the murderous rampage of --- 'yung natamaan ng mga sniper nila (those who were hit by their snipers)?"

Inmates skip meal

KIDAPAWAN CITY, North Cotabato — Inmates at the district jail here skipped one meal to be able to raise funds to buy relief goods for evacuees displaced by the ongoing conflict in Marawi City.

Jail warden Supt. Simeon Dolojo, said more than 1,400 inmates of the Kidapawan district jail here decided to skip their one meal ration and were able to raise some ₱28,000 out of their ₱20 per meal allocation which was used to purchase rice, noodles and sardines which they repacked as relief goods.

The relief goods will be delivered to the regional office of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in Koronadal City which will send the relief goods to Marawi City. (With a report from Joseph Jubelag)

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

June 2017



Page: 3

North Cotabato loses its 6th soldier in Marawi clashes

By JOHN UNSON

LANAO DEL SUR – North Cotabato is grieving over the death in Marawi City of another son, the sixth soldier from the province killed there in the line of duty since May 23.

First Lieutenant Junrich Legada, a nurse in an Army Special Forces unit fighting the Maute group, planned to marry his girlfriend of 10 years immediately after their operation in Marawi City.

“His girlfriend lost a good would-be husband and his family lost a member with good standing in the local community,” North Cotabato Vice Gov. Shirlyn Macasarte-Villanueva told **The STAR** yesterday.

Legada, born and raised in Midsayap, died last Friday in hospital, exactly four days after he was admitted for gunshot wounds.

Macasarte-Villanueva, from nearby Banisilan town, said like Legada’s friends she too is aware about his plan to propose marriage to his girlfriend as soon as the trouble in Marawi City wanes.

“The province lost another son. We are mourning his death. We lost in Marawi City six sons of North Cotabato who exemplified what ‘supreme sacrifice’ for country and God is all about,” Macasarte-Villanueva said.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmylou Taliño-Mendoza will extend cash assistance to Legada’s family and help facilitate his burial. The governor earlier extended help to the families of Capt. John Carl Morales, Sgt. Marlon Baldovino, Sgt. Eric Jason Coros, Sgt. Angelo Estores Jr. and Cpl. Elmer Bueno, all from North Cotabato.

They belonged to different Army units and perished one after another in encounters with the Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen in Marawi.

The five of them have all been buried in their hometowns in North Cotabato with traditional military burial rites attended by local officials, traditional Muslim and Christian community elders.

Unexpected reinforcement

An unexpected reinforcement in the form of 2,000 bundles of food and letters of inspirational support from civilians came to the ground yesterday in Marawi to boost the morale of frontline troopers in fighting for the Islamic city’s freedom from the occupation of the Islamic State-inspired terrorist group.

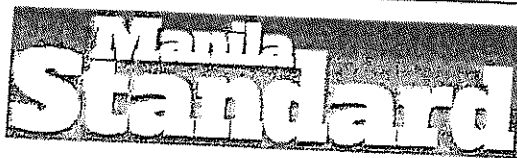
Col. Jose Maria Cuerpo, commander of the 8th Infantry Battalion, and his forces transported food packs containing fruits and drinks, which were accompanied by letters expressing love and concern for the soldiers.

In an interview over radio station dzBB, Cuerpo said the support came from civilian friends from all over the region, including Davao City, Cagayan de Oro City, and as far as Manila.

“It showed the concern of the people and how (the soldiers) are loved, especially on this occasion of Father’s Day,” he said.

– With Roel Pareño

19 June 2017



Page: 4

Troops, NPA renew clashes despite ceasefire call

By Sandy Araneta

THE chairman of the government's peace panel said the military would refrain from attacking communist rebels as a confidence-building measure, but clashes were reported over the weekend, casting doubts on the ability of both sides to control their forces on the ground.

In Iloilo, about 50 alleged members of the New People's Army attacked a police station in Maasin and took an undetermined number of firearms after handcuffing the policemen on duty.

In Davao Oriental, troops of

the 104th Division Recon Company and one platoon from the 67th Infantry Battalion exchanged fire with NPA rebels in Brgy Taytayan, Cateel, on Saturday. Three rebels were killed.

Another rebel was killed in an encounter with the 66th Infantry Battalion in Brgy. Araibo, Pantukan in Compostela Valley Province.

The head of the government peace panel, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, said Sunday the Armed Forces would refrain from combat operations against the NPA as a step toward a bilateral ceasefire agreement with the rebels.

Bello's statement came after the

communist National Democratic Front recommended to the Communist Party of the Philippines that it order all NPA units in Mindanao to stop attacks against the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police.

Bello also welcomed the NDF stand against terrorist groups.

"We welcome the recent statement of the National Democratic Front reaffirming its support to the Philippine government's fight against Maute, Abu Sayyaf, Ansar al-Khalifah Philippines (AKP) groups and other terrorist organizations wreaking havoc in Marawi City and other parts of the coun-

try," Bello said in a statement.

"We also appreciate the NDF's commitment in their declaration to refrain from undertaking offensive operations in Mindanao to enable the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to focus their attention on the war against terror groups," Bello said.

"These voluntary gestures and expressions from the NDF in solidarity with government against acts of terrorism augur well for the desired continuation of the stalled fifth round of peace talks as they provide, if sustained, the needed

Next page

Troops,...

From A1

enabling environment favorable to moving the peace negotiations forward," he said.

"The Philippine government hereby correspondingly reciprocates with the same declaration of not undertaking offensive operations against the New People's Army to pave way for the eventual signing of a mutually agreed bilateral ceasefire agreement and agreements on social and economic reforms, political and con-

stitutional reforms and end of hostilities and disposition of forces towards a just and lasting peace," Bello said.

Bello said the government continues to adhere to mutually acceptable principles enunciated in the Hague Joint Declaration, which was reaffirmed by both parties.

He also said the government "unequivocally recommit its adherence to all previously signed agreements, including specifically, but not limited to, the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees [Jasig]."

Members of the government

peace panel withdrew from the negotiating table during the fifth round of the peace talks last month due to a directive from the CPP that the NPA intensify its attacks on government troops to register its opposition to martial law in Mindanao.

President Rodrigo Duterte later appealed to the NPA to join the fight against the Maute group in Marawi City.

In response, the NDF said it will only cooperate if the Duterte administration withdraws its all-out war policy and the martial law declaration in Mindanao. **With PNA**

June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

NPA rebels 'killed' in Davao fighting

ZAMBOANGA CITY Soldiers clashed with communist insurgents from the New People's Army (NPA) on Sunday and killed a still undetermined number of rebel gunmen in Mati City in the southern Mindanao province of Davao Oriental, a military spokesman said.

Army Capt. Andrew Linao said no casualties were reported on the military side in a 45-minute gunfight in the village of Kauswagan.

The soldiers from the 28th Infantry Battalion recovered two automatic rifles, a rifle grenade, ammunition, radio communication sets and backpacks, according to Linao.

"There were no casualties from the government side while a still undetermined numbers of rebels were killed in the fighting," he said, adding that government troops were sent to the area after villagers tipped off the military on the presence of NPA rebels there.

On Saturday, three rebels were also killed in fighting in Taytayan village in Davao Oriental's Cateel town and soldiers recovered five automatic rifles

in the area.

The clash took place on the same day that the military battled it out with another group of NPA fighters in Araibo village in Pantukan town in Compostela Valley that also left one rebel leader dead.

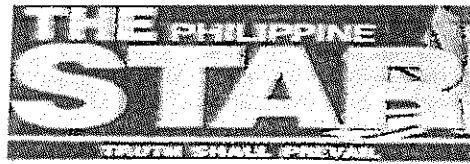
Colonel Reuben Basiao, commander of the 701st Infantry Brigade, confirmed the series of clashes with rebel forces and said operations against the NPA will continue.

"Troops are there in the area to secure the people as part of our efforts in conducting community support programs and delivering basic services to the people together with other government agencies. Your Philippine Army here in Davao Oriental will always secure your safety as part of our mandate of protecting the people and securing the land," he said.

The NPA has been waging a secessionist war for many decades now and despite the ongoing peace talks, fighting also continues in many areas in southern Mindanao.

AL JACINTO

June 2017



Page: _____

AFP opens 2 bank accounts for Marawi donations

By **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

Flooded with queries on how people can send financial help to displaced families of soldiers who have died in the Marawi conflict, the military has opened two bank accounts where donations can be placed.

"In response to the chorus of voices of people expressing their desire to help internally displaced persons and families of our troops killed-in-action during the rebellion in Marawi City, special accounts were opened at the Land Bank of the Philippines for those purposes," the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) announced yesterday.

Assistance may be given in cash or in kind, it said.

Giving assurance that financial aid will be accounted for properly, the AFP said Landbank Account Name AFP Marawi Casualty under Account Number 00000552107128 has been opened for donations for families of soldiers who have died in battle.

For evacuees from Marawi City, the military said those who want to help may deposit their money at Landbank Account Name:

Marawi IDP under Account Number 00000552107136

"For purposes of transparency, the AFP will be posting the amount of donations and the disbursements," the AFP said as it thanked the public.

House members donate P13 M

Meanwhile, allies of President Duterte in the House of Representatives led by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez have so far

pooled at least P13 million to help victims of the crossfire in Marawi City.

House Majority Leader Rodolfo Farinas made the disclosure nearly a month after the Islamic State-linked local terror group attacked Marawi.

The congressman from Ilocos Norte said the P13 million will be deposited under a trust fund until a committee comes up with a formula for its equitable distribution to help Marawi victims.

At least 200 lawmakers have donated

personal funds for victims. Isabela Gov. Bojie Dy, Isabela Vice Gov. Tony Pet Albano, Ilocos Sur Gov. Ryan Singson and Laoag board member Ria Farinas have also contributed to the fund – **With Delon Porcalla**

June 2017



Page: 4



NEWS

Kids write letters thanking soldiers

Soldiers fighting in Marawi City may soon be receiving not only socks and underwear but heart-warming thank-you letters as part of a campaign to keep their spirit up. Launched by Dr. Tiger Garrido on Facebook on Independence Day, the campaign "Oplan Malasakit" has gathered at least 600 pairs of socks and underwear, and thousands of letters from students and teachers.

—STORY BY ERIKA SAULER

A15

By Erika Sauler
@erikaINQ

More than 2,000 letters of gratitude have poured in from students in Metro Manila for soldiers fighting terrorists in Marawi City after a doctor started a donation drive for garments and thank-you notes to help keep their spirit up.

Dr. Tiger Garrido has gathered around 600 pairs of black socks and underwear after launching "Oplan Malasakit" drive on his Facebook account on June 12, Independence Day.

After delivering goods in Kampo Ranao in Marawi with his friend Joe Green, Garrido learned from the soldiers that they lacked socks and underwear.

A soldier, who is also his friend, told the doctor that receiving letters from their loved ones kept the soldiers' spirit high.

"We just want our heroes to get the recognition and support of the very people they are protecting and giving their lives for," Garrido told the Inquirer on Sunday.

Spreading the word

Rinz Araneta, an English teacher at PAREF Woodrose School in Muntinlupa City, learned about Garrido's efforts and helped spread the word to her students and fellow teachers.

Students from Woodrose, De La Salle Santiago Zobel School in Muntinlupa City, Veritas Catholic

School in Paranaque City, and Culiati Elementary School in Quezon City wrote letters of gratitude to the soldiers fighting in Marawi.

The teachers also accepted e-mails from other senders, which they wrote by hand to make the message more personal.

The garments and letters were supposed to be delivered to Marawi on Monday but the delivery was moved to later this week to accommodate more people who wanted to donate.

Writing not easy

In his Facebook account, Garrido posted the location of drop-off points in Alabang, Makati City, Pasig City, Quezon

City, Cebu and Bacolod.

"I thought it would be easy to write a letter but it was actually quite difficult," Araneta said.

"Other senders also told me it was very hard for them to start writing. What do you say to these people? How do we comfort them? We don't know what it's like to risk our lives for our country," she said.

"We just want them to know that we honor them and we are grateful for their sacrifice. We admire them for their bravery. The kids were able to express it very well in their cards," Araneta said.

One letter read, "We all pray for you. Take care. Thank you. Be brave." INQ



MESSAGES FROM KIDS Students from different schools in Metro Manila reach out to soldiers in Marawi City through letters of hope and encouragement. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

19 June 2017



Page. 2

AFP chief sumaludo sa mga sundalo sa Father's Day

Naghandog ng pasasalamat si **Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff General Eduardo Año** sa magiging na miyembro ng militar, lalo na sa mga ama na nasa **Marawi City** at sa iba pang bahagi ng bansa na nakikipagsagupaan sa mga terorista at iba pang mga kalaban.

Sa kanyang mensahe para sa lahat ng sundalo kahapon, **Father's Day**, sinabi ni Año na ang militar ang pinakamapanganib na trabaho dahil karamihan sa mga sundalo ay ipinadadala sa lugar na may kaguluhan.

Katunayan, libu-libong sundalo ang kasalukuyang nasa **Marawi City, Basilan at Sulu** at nakikipagbakbakan sa **Maute Group, Abu Sayyaf** at sa iba pang

lokal na terorista na nangingidnap, pumapatay, at nagsasagawa ng iba pang kaharasan.

Sa report mula sa AFP, napag-alaman na 59 na sundalo at pulis na ang napatay simula nang atakehin ng mga terorista ang **Marawi City**.

"Perhaps nobody can appreciate **Father's Day** better than the children of soldiers who understand that every day that their fathers stay alive is a blessing," ayon kay Año.

"Soldiers do secure the lands so that all other fathers in the country may be able to celebrate **Father's day** with their families peacefully

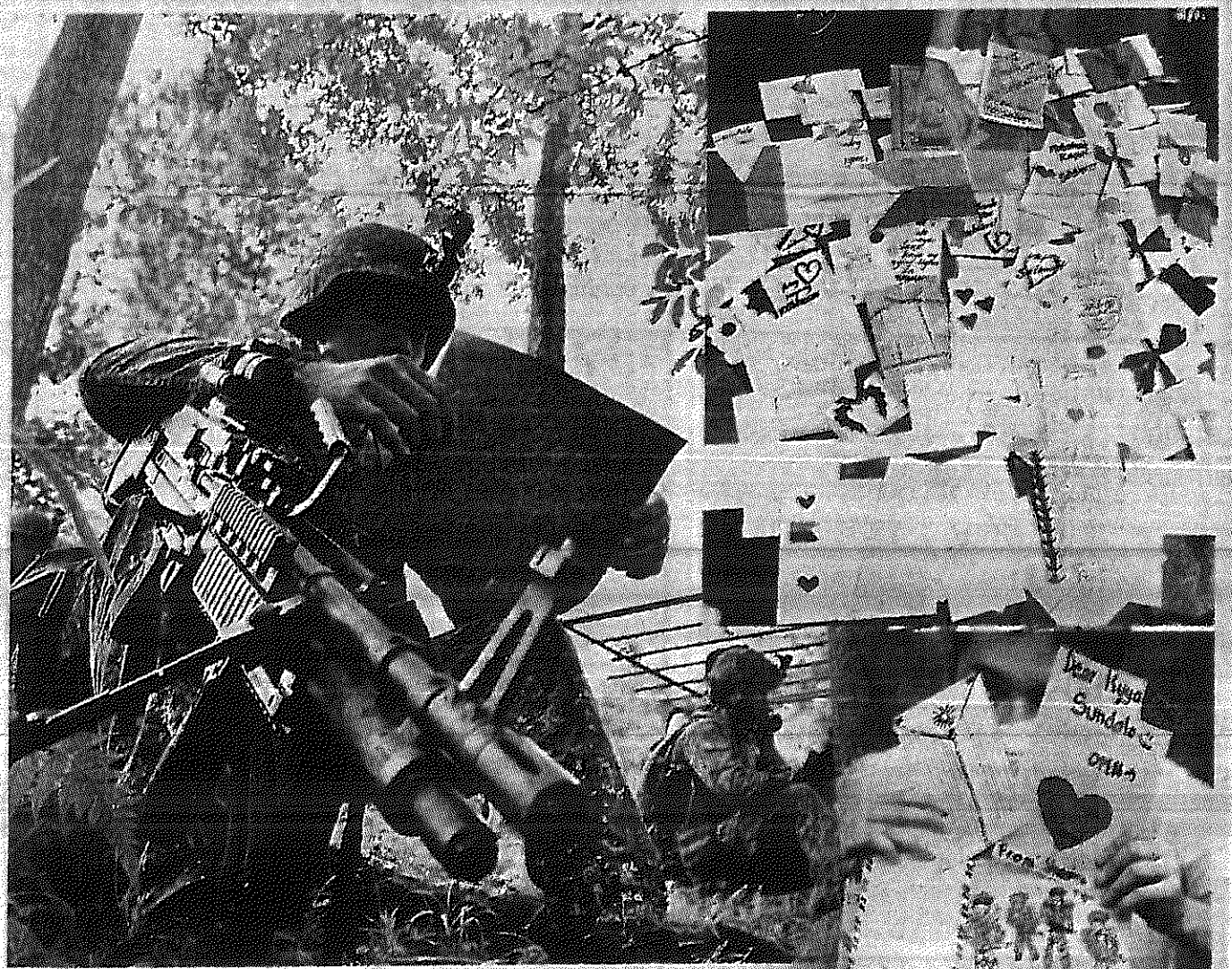
"To a gallant soldier as you are, **Happy Father's day** to everyone and God bless you!" sabi pa ni Año.

Francis T. Wakefield

June 2017



Page: _____



DEAR SOLDIER: A Marine reads a letter of support sent by a student while taking a break from battle in Marawi. Insets show the handwritten letters to troops from elementary school students in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

AFP, MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

June 2017



Page: _____

More troops deployed for Marawi City mop-up

By Mario J. Mallari

Fresh troops, composed of an Army battalion, were sent to Marawi City to augment government forces fighting Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists.

Lt. Col. Arnel Cabugon, public affairs officer of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division (ID), said the 82nd Infantry

Battalion (IB) was redeployed to Marawi City from Iloilo City.

Cabugon said that members of the 82nd IB, led by Lt. Col. Vener Murga, flew to Marawi City last Saturday.

"The 82IB was redeployed to Mindanao area as follow-on forces to augment operating troops of the Western Mindanao Command in suppressing the Marawi rebellion," said

Cabugon.

An Army battalion is composed of 300 to 500 soldiers.

The deployment of the 82nd IB in Marawi City was ordered as IS-inspired terrorists, led by Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute group, continued to put up resistance against advancing government troops.

The military said that only four of the 96 barangays in Marawi City are considered problematic areas where the

terrorists still offers resistance.

According to the military, about 200 terrorists were still holed up in highly-fortified buildings in Marawi City, and using mosques and madrasahs as safe havens and innocent civilians as human shields.

Soldiers, operating under Joint Task Force Marawi, and various police units are jointly conducting operations to flush out the terrorists from the Islamic city.

Cabugon said that 3rd ID

Turn to page 2

More troops deployed for Marawi City mop-up

From page 1

commander Maj. Gen. Jon Aying and Antique Gov. Rhodora Cadiiao led the send off ceremony for 82nd IB.

Aying, in his speech, urged the soldiers to focus, build teamwork and trust, and exhibit the desired military discipline at all times so that they could effectively work and fight as a team, squad, platoon, company and battalion as well.

The Marawi City siege, now entering its fourth week, started last May 23 when government forces attempted to arrest Hapilon, the acknowledged emir or leader of the IS in Southeast Asia.

The conflict has resulted in the killing of more than 300 terrorists, government troops and even civilians.

Maute 'bomb-maker' undergoes inquest

The Department of Justice (DoJ) yesterday conducted an inquest proceeding against suspected Maute terrorist group member and bomb manufacturer Mohammad Naom Maute, alias Abu Jadid, for charges of rebellion.

Justice Undersecretary Erickson Balmes said the inquest was conducted inside the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG)-Region 10 conference room at Camp Evangelista in Cagayan De Oro City.

The suspected bomb manufacturer was accompanied by two lawyers from the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) during the proceeding, Balmes said.

An inquest is an informal and summary investigation conducted by the public prosecutor in a criminal case involving persons arrested and detained without the benefit of a warrant of arrest.

The inquest establishes whether the evidence is sufficient enough to seek court approval to keep the

person in detention.

Jadid, 22, a suspected improvised explosive devices (IED) manufacturer, and a cousin of Maute group leaders Omar and Abdullah Maute, was apprehended last June 15.

He was captured by elements of the Martial Law Special Action Group (ML-SAG) during an operation in Sitio Sta. Cruz, Barangay Macasandig in Cagayan de Oro City at around 6:30 a.m.

Based on a police report, Jadid was using a fake ID of Mindanao State University bearing the name of Alfaiz Mamuntal to get through checkpoints.

Jadid is included in the Arrest Order 1 issued by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, martial law administrator in Mindanao, against those suspected of rebellion in the Marawi terror attacks.

In the DoJ's campaign to prosecute suspected rebels, Ominta Romato "Farhana" Maute, the mother of the Maute group's leaders, former Marawi City mayor Fahad Salic, and nine others have already been charged for the non-bailable offense of rebellion.

The criminal charges were filed before the Cagayan de Oro City Regional Trial Court (RTC).

This after government prosecutors found probable cause to accuse the respondents of rebellion after they underwent inquest proceedings at Camp Evangelista, headquarters of the Philippine Army 4th Infantry Division, in Cagayan De Oro City.

All 11 accused were included 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.

Salic was apprehended last

Friday in Misamis Oriental. He was included in the Department of National Defense's (DND) arrest order number two.

Authorities confiscated 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 live ammunition.

Farhana and nine others were arrested last Friday in Masiu, Lanao Del Sur.

They were caught in possession of one M14 rifle, seven M14 magazine assembly, 136 M14 live ammunition, one scope, two rifle propelled grenades and two smoke grenades.

Leila seeks stepped up rescue bid

Senator Leila de Lima yesterday urged the government to step up efforts in rescuing the remaining 300 to 1,700 civilians who are still trapped and yet to be rescued in Marawi City.

As the firefight between the military and Maute group continues, some of the trapped civilians who are reported to be already low on food and water supply were forced to eat cardboard boxes to survive, De Lima noted.

There were also reports that the Maute fighters have been using some civilians to either cook or carry ammunitions for them and had also allegedly recruited children, those already orphans of Muslim rebels, to fight along with them.

"This is now a humanitarian issue because a substantial number of innocent civilians are still trapped in the conflict areas. Some of them lack food to eat and clean water to drink, if they are lucky enough to survive the heavy exchanges of fire," she said.

De Lima noted that affected

residents have already lost their properties and livelihood while children's education, health and social welfare are adversely affected.

"Such are the horrors of war that have become so costly for all of us," she said.

De Lima expressed grave concern over the safety of the civilians as the military go on a heightened military operations against the ISIS-inspired Maute group.

The former justice secretary also noted the increasing number of internally-displaced persons (IDPs) who are also suffering in the crowded evacuation areas outside Marawi City with a bleak future for their families and children once the conflict ends.

Although Marawi City has a population of over 200,000 people, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported that as of June 13, about 65,198 families or 316,684 individuals have been displaced from Marawi City and Marantao in Lanao del Sur, 14,772 of whom are reportedly staying in 68 evacuation centers.

About 9,252 families or 43,159 individuals have also been evacuated from Marawi City to Iligan City where the local government unit has reportedly converted a covered court in Bgy. Buru-un as an evacuation center.

Noting that a regular covered court could only accommodate 50 families, De Lima said these evacuation areas are heavily congested at a greater risk to the health and sanity of the thousands of IDPs and their families and children.

To date, at least 290 people have reportedly died since the fighting began in May 23, which includes 206 militants, 58 soldiers and 26 civilians.

Julius N. Leonen, Angie M. Rosales

June 2017



Page: A1

Mautes razed their alma mater

MARAWI CITY—Maute brothers Omarkhayam and Abdullah became the most infamous high school alumni of Dansalan College, where they obtained Christian education, after they along with their recruits set fire to it in a rampage through Marawi City last month. The Protestant Church-run institution is a symbol of religious tolerance in the mostly Muslim city of 200,000 people. —STORY BY AFP

A14

RADICALIZED IN MIDEAST, THEY RAZED THEIR CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

MARAWI CITY—Twenty years after obtaining Christian education, Muslim brothers Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute returned to this Central Mindanao city with the black flags of the Islamic State (IS) group and set fire to their alma mater.

Hundreds of gunmen, many of them young locals recruited by the Maute brothers, destroyed Dansalan College in a rampage through Marawi City last month as they launched a brutal offensive to stamp their credentials as the IS leaders in the Philippines.

Their bold attack turned the Maute siblings, who are in their mid-30s, into the most infamous high school alumni of the Protestant Church-run institution, which had been a symbol of religious tolerance in the mostly Muslim city of 200,000 people.

The Maute brothers have since remained holed up in Marawi, using their local knowledge of tunnels and bombproof basements to withstand a military offensive that has left entire neighborhoods in ruins and claimed more than 300 lives.

Where is hate coming from?

"We do not understand where that hate is coming from," said Zia Alonto Adiong, a member of the legislative as-

sembly of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao that includes Marawi.

Duma Sani, a former dean of Mindanao State University whose daughter also went to Dansalan College with one of the Maute brothers, said most locals did not support their radical Islamic brand that mandated the killing of nonbelievers.

"These [Marawi gunmen] are young people who have their own interpretation of the Quran and who do not respect their own elders," Sani told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

The Maute group emerged as a small ragtag group around 2012 from a decades-old Moro separatist rebellion in Mindanao.

As the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the main

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295



TERROR PLOT Omarkhayam Maute (left) and his brother, Abdullah (right), plot the siege of Marawi with other terrorist leaders. —AP

rebel organization, sought to broker peace with the government, the Maute and other small hardline groups filled a vacuum for fanatics as they took inspiration from the atrocities of IS in Iraq and Syria.

"I think what transformed the Mautes from a small band of siblings to a real serious military threat was the emergence of Isis in the Middle East," security analyst Sidney Jones told AFP, using an alternative acronym for the extremist group.

Radicalized much earlier

But the Maute brothers were radicalized much earlier—while they were pursuing studies in the Middle East after college, according to Jones and Rommel Banlaoi, head of the

Manila-based Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research.

Omarkhayam headed to Egypt's Al-Azhar University, while Abdullah went to Jordan.

Banlaoi said the brothers returned to Mindanao after about a decade away to be mentored by a fugitive Indonesian militant, Ustadz Sanussi, who in turn put them in touch with other Southeast Asian jihadis, notably the Malaysian bomb maker Zulkifli bin Hir.

Family affair

With an engineer father and a mother involved in construction and property development, the Mautes are part of Muslim Mindanao's elite.

They also have blood ties to one of the top MILF leaders, Banlaoi said. "These connections gave the group a measure of protection."

Since the Marawi fighting broke out, the mother and father of the Mautes have been arrested. Authorities have said the arrest of the mother was particularly important, describing her as a financier of the Maute group.

All her seven sons are believed to be involved in the Marawi conflict, according to Banlaoi.

But Jones said the mother was not the driving force of

radicalism—rather, she and other family members had been led by Omarkhayam and Abdullah.

The Maute group's main ally is Isnilon Hapilon, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf extremist group who is on the US government's list of most wanted terrorists.

Hapilon, whom IS has named as its leader in the Philippines, is believed to be in Marawi with the Maute brothers.

Jones, director of Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, said leadership had effectively shifted to the Maute brothers because they were controlling events in Marawi.

New base for IS group

Regardless of whether the Maute brothers are driven out of Marawi, they have established the Philippines as a successful new base for IS, Jones said, pointing to foreign fighters who had been reported killed in the conflict.

The military has said that slain fighters have come from countries including Chechnya, Libya, Indonesia and Malaysia.

"Suddenly, foreign fighters who [have] never set foot in the Middle East [are] going to Mindanao," Jones said.

"Marawi in particular has become the new sexy destination for jihad," he added. —AFP

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

19 June 2017



Page: _____

Maute sister, fleeing terrorists nabbed

By ROEL PAREÑO

A sister of the brothers Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute was arrested on a ship with two suspected terrorists near the Iloilo port yesterday.

Capt. Leopoldo Panopio, Coast Guard commander in Northern Mindanao, withheld the name of the sister but said she was arrested while on board 2GO's MV *St. Therese of the Child Jesus*. The woman was first spotted at the port of Cagayan de Oro on Saturday night, Panopio said.

One of her two companions, identified as Miks Jadid Romato, reportedly had a newly amputated leg.

In Zamboanga del Sur, police arrested over the weekend 13 suspected Maute militants in a hospital in Pagadian City.

Regional police director Chief

Turn to Page 5

Maute sister From Page 1

Supt. Billy Beltran said the suspects, including three women, were arrested at the Zamboanga del Sur Medical Center while being treated for wounds on Friday. One of the suspects is reportedly in critical condition.

The 13 reportedly came from Marawi City where government troops have been fighting Maute terrorists for almost four weeks.

Beltran said the hospital staff alerted the police about the suspects, two of them with wounds and injuries apparently sustained in gunbattle.

Beltran said the

local police immediately conducted investigation and confirmed the suspects came from Marawi City.

Police identified the sus-

pects as Junaid Dimarugong, who is in critical condition, Racma Macatuon Talib, Cosnia Talib, Yusoph Taha Halil, Sapacan Sabar Talib, Mansawi

Imam Gumobat, Amerodin Capga Ameril, Lambo Ampaso Ameril, Huwarda Macatuon Talib, Sanabae Saliling Macatuon, Dima Ampaso Ali, Halil

Saliling Ali and Alanoden Macatuon Dimarugong.

Zamboanga del Sur provincial police director

Supt. Sofronio Elcadre said

Dimarugong and Halil Ali were found positive of gunpowder burns during a paraffin test.

Turn to Page 8

Maute sister From Page 5

Beltran said the 13 suspects were immediately placed under tight security.

Provincial police director Senior Supt. Alan Navarro said the profiles of the 11 others who accompanied Dimarug to the hospital have been sent to the regional police for confirmation if they are members of the Maute group.

Government security forces continued their alert in the province following information that some of the Islamic State-inspired Maute and Abu Sayyaf gunmen who stormed Marawi City last month reportedly slipped through the military dragnet.

The military said some of the extremists may have mingled with the evacuees and slipped away during the battle of Marawi that enters its fifth week Tuesday.

Security had been tightened in the cities of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro and authorities there are on the lookout for escaping Maute gunmen.

Last week, Mohammad Noaim Maute, alias Abu Jadid,

a cousin of brother Omar and Abdullah leading the extremist group fighting government troops in Marawi, was arrested in Cagayan de Oro City.

Officials said Jadid is a bomb maker of the Maute group.

The Department of Justice indicted Jadid for rebellion under the arrest order issued by the Department of National Defense acting as martial law implementer.

Earlier, the DOJ has already indicted several arrested members and supporters of Maute, including Cayamora Maute and Ominta Romato, alias Farhana, parents of the Maute brothers who led the group behind the attack in Marawi City last May 23.

Also charged with rebellion before the Cagayan de Oro Regional Trial Court was former Marawi City mayor Fajad Salic.

They have been brought to Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig for more secured detention.

- With Evelyn Macairan, Edu Punay

10 June 2017



Page. 2

242 Maute men killed

Two-hundred forty-two Maute Group terrorists have been killed in the ongoing clashes in Marawi City, the Joint Task Force Marawi said yesterday.

The task force said that as of 6 p.m. Saturday, 59 government troops and 26 civilians were killed while 243 firearms were recovered.

One-thousand six-hundred thirty-six civilians trapped in the fighting were rescued.

Armed Forces Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo said the military continues clearing operations in Marawi against remaining armed terrorists who continue to resist advancing troops.

Arevalo added that rescue of trapped residents and hostages also continue, including the recovery of the bodies of civilian casualties.

(Francis T. Wakefield)

June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

Duterte: MILF, MNLF may have armed Maute

BY LLANESCA T. PANTI

THE Maute Group may have acquired its huge stockpile of weapons from other rebel groups such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), President Rodrigo Duterte said over the weekend as government troops continued their operations to drive out islamists in Marawi City.

Duterte admitted that the government knew that Muslim rebels were stockpiling firearms and ammunition in Marawi City but authorities did not intervene because of the peace negotiations with the MILF and MNLF.

"It was not a question of failure on the part of government. It was not a failure of intelligence. It is because we have adopted a very soft policy toward the rebels. These rebels carry firearms. And since we are thinking of getting [a] peace [deal] with the MNLF

► Maute A2

■ MAUTE FROM A1

Duterte

and MILF, the deal with arms, we really took it for granted," Duterte said when he visited the 401st Infantry Brigade in Butuan City.

"But we know these [firearms] are high powered because we never knew at that time who is the real enemy. Are these just warring politicians? Clan war? Between private armies of politicians? It turned out Maute members were bringing the firearms surreptitiously and we were not able to know how many ammunitions did they have," the President added.

"All the while, the Maute group, with the connivance of the politicians there, the warlords...they were stockpiling. That's why they don't run out of M-203 bullets. The government will fire one, and they will fire back five. It's like Maute has an endless supply to fight the government," Duterte said.

Rep. Gary Alejano of Magdalo party-list said it is possible that the Maute Group could have gotten its powerful weapons from the MILF.

"The statement of the President is partly correct according to my information. There were reports in the past that the MILF manufacture their own weapons and even sell them to other rebels and politicians. I believe this did not stop during the peace talks and even after the peace agreement was signed," Alejano, a former Marine captain who fought MILF rebels, told The Manila Times.

He was referring to the peace agreement signed between the Philippine government and the MILF in March 2014 under the Aquino administration. The peace agreement resulted in the creation of a proposed Bangsamoro law that was supposed to abolish the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and establish



SEIZED President Rodrigo Duterte looks at a sniper's rifle, one of several firearms recovered by soldiers of the Fourth Infantry Division, during his visit to Butuan City. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

a new Bangsamoro Region that will enjoy fiscal autonomy and be governed by the Bangsamoro Parliament.

The measure was not passed because of the killing of 44 police commandos in Mamasapano, Maguindanao in 2015 by MILF rebels and other armed men.

"I raised this issue during the proposed Bangsamoro bill deliberations in the last Congress. I said partly because weapons could be bought in the black market and considering our porous borders particularly in the south and some corrupt government officials, these arms and ammo could easily be smuggled in the country," Alejano said.

As the siege in Marawi entered its second week, the MILF and MNLF offered to help government troops fight the Maute members.

A statement issued by MILF chairman Al Haj Murad said the rebel group is willing to extend humanitarian assistance to the civilians affected by the fighting.

The MNLF also said its fighters are ready to battle the ter-

rorists in Marawi.

Duterte assured soldiers fighting the Maute Group in Marawi that even if the enemy appears to have an endless source of ammunition, government forces will never lack weapons.

"I assure you [soldiers], you will never run out of weapons...in everything you need. I won't let you down," the President said.

Military knew

Political analyst Ramon Casiple said Duterte was right in saying that there was no failure of intelligence on the part of the government because the military was aware of the entry of firearms and ammunition in known MILF areas.

He said the military knew of the movement of weapons in Mindanao but it assumed that the firearms were for the MILF, not the Maute Group.

Casiple explained that the government was not being "soft" on the MILF for allowing it to stockpile firearms because of the

ceasefire agreement.

"That is the problem with ceasefire, it only prevents combat, but parties can continue to build up their forces and beef up their armaments. It is also true with the New People's Army (NPA)," he said.

Casiple said the MILF does not consider the Maute Group as an enemy.

He explained that the MILF is very loose and there are other groups that are friendly to the organization including the Maute, which is also an ally of MILF commander Abdullah Macapaar alias "Commander Bravo."

"The MILF has no reason to be anti-Maute, and they also don't have an obligation to the government to report what the group has been up to," Casiple added.

Since the MILF has not yet signed a peace agreement with the government, it has no obligation to provide information to the government although it can help if its wants to.

WITH JEFFERSON
ANTIPORDA

June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 2

Aguirre defends US technical aid to Philippine troops

By REY G. PANALIGAN

The Constitution does not prevent United States troops from giving technical assistance to Philippine forces who are battling Islamist extremists in Marawi City, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said Sunday.

“What is prohibited under the Constitution is the joining of US troops

in actual combat. But sharing of intelligence and equipment is allowed under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA),” Aguirre said in an interview.

He said EDCA satisfies the requirement in Section 25, Article 18 of the 1987 Constitution that after the military bases agreement between the Philippines and US expired in 1991, the presence of foreign troops are banned

in the country “except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate...”

Aguirre pointed out that the US also provided technical to Philippine police commandos who assaulted a lair of Islamist terrorists in Mamasapano, Maguindanao, to capture or kill Malaysian terrorist and bombmaker Zulkifi Abdhir on January 25, 2015.

The assault turned into a bloodbath where 44 police commandos were

killed.

The technical assistance to Filipino troops was later confirmed by US Embassy Spokesperson Molly Koscina.

Last June 9, a US P3 Orion surveillance plane flew high above Marawi.

In a related development, the Department of Justice (DOJ) conducted inquest proceedings for rebellion against Mohammad Naoim Maute at Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City.

Naoim is believed to be the youngest brother of Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute, leaders of the Maute group.

Reports submitted to the DOJ indicated that Naoim was arrested in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City, last June 15.

Naoim was using a fake ID of Mindanao State University bearing the name of Alfaiz Mamintal to get through checkpoints, the reports said.

June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Top Hapilon aide nabbed in Zamboanga

FRANCIS T. WAKELING
RONALD E. LACSON
AND RETIENNA KAE UNITE

A notorious bomb expert of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and close aide to ASG leader Isnilon Hapilon was arrested by the joint forces of the military and police in Zamboanga City on Saturday.

It was learned that mem-
bers of Joint Task Force Zam-

►4

Top Hapilon aide nabbed... ◀1

boanga and the Zamboanga City Police Office arrested Abu Sayyaf member Hamsi Amajad Marani alias Hamsi, an ASG bomb expert at Purok 4, Sitio Niyog-Niyog, Brgy. Muti, Zamboanga City at 1:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Reports from the JTF Zamboanga disclosed that Marani was spotted by a concerned citizen who immediately notified the authorities leading to the bomber's arrest. Marani is a notorious member of the ASG, and is a trained bomber by an Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah bomb expert.

Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) spokesman Army Capt Jo-Ann Petinglay said recovered from Marani were paraphernalia for making Improvised Explosive Devices.

Marani was also involved in a series of encounters with government forces in Sulu and Basilan.

"This successful operation is done in close coordination with the members of the Zamboanga City Police Office," Colonel Leonel Nicolas, the commander of the Joint Task Force Zamboanga, said.

"The vigilant people of Zamboanga City will never allow any notorious group or individuals to thrive and stay within their peaceful and progressive place," Nicolas added.

Marani is in the custody of the Zamboanga Police Office and is undergoing debriefing.

"I would like to laud our soldiers and policemen for this recent accomplishment," Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., the commander of the Western Mindanao Command, said.

"The capture of Marani will somehow cripple any possible support being given by Marani to Hapilon as he struggles to leave Marawi to safety."

"Your WestMinCom forces will continue to hunt down the remaining Abu Sayyaf terrorists until they are incapable of instilling fear to our communities and cities," he added.

Boat numbering system

Once the boat numbering system on all vessels in Mindanao is completed, terrorists will have a smaller chance of escaping, Commodore Joel Garcia, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) officer-in-charge, said.

He added that once the Safety, Security, and Environmental Numbering System or the boat numbering and

marking system under the Department of Transportation has covered all vessels in the country, especially in Mindanao, the terrorist groups Maute and Abu Sayyaf (ASG) and kidnap-for-ransom bandits at sea may soon run out of escape boats for their illegal operations.

"The Abu Sayyaf in Southwest Mindanao, we know that they use ships and fast ships in their piracy activities. If you remove the tools of the trade, the fast boats, then we will be able to isolate the boats that the Abu Sayyaf are using and they would not be able to conduct kidnap for ransom," Garcia said.

Data from the PCG showed that from March, 2016 until March this year, 22 incidents of abductions in Sulu, Celebes Sea, and Sibutu Sea area were reported.

Garcia disclosed that the only alternative solution is for the PCG to resort to the numbering system in order to augment the incapability of all vessel owners operating a three gross tonnage (GTN) boat to buy transponder, a device that could receive and transmit radio signals, which cost ₱15,000.

It was also revealed that out of the estimated 400,000 vessels that only have three GTN, about 30,000 boats are in Mindanao.

Garcia also warned that boats will be impounded if they fail to register under the DOTR regulations on boat numbering and marking system within three months from its implementation last June 2, 2017.

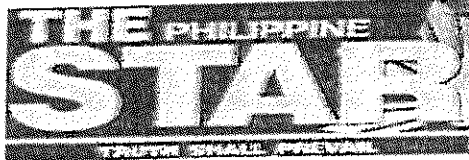
"Even from a distance, if the PCG, Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) would notice that a boat is not properly marked, the authorities can apprehend the boat because it could be used for illegal activities and we could include the boat owner as a respondent in the case," Garcia said.

He further said that since Martial Law is still in effect in Mindanao, they are expecting full cooperation from all government agencies and local government units.

Boat owners were encouraged to comply since the directive is covered by a department circular.

The PCG has already ordered its 12 districts, 75 stations, and close to 300 sub-stations to initiate the marking of the boats using long-lasting marine paint.

June 2017



Page: 14

Troops capture Sayyaf camp in Basilan

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Government forces captured an Abu Sayyaf camp in Basilan Friday following intense air and ground strikes aimed to prevent the militants from providing refuge to members of the Maute terror group who might slip out of Marawi City, a security official said.

Col. Juvymax Uy, Joint Task Force Basilan (JTFB) head, said ground forces from the 4th Special Forces Battalion under Lt. Col. Andrew Bacala overran the Abu Sayyaf lair at the border of Ungkaya Pukan town.

Uy said the group of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Furuji Indama and Radzmi Janatul retreated and abandoned their camp with heavy casualties.

The government forces launched heavy artillery and air strikes Thursday that were subsequently followed by assault from

ground troops.

Bacala said he noticed 42 makeshift huts and the surroundings with heavy bloodstains and littered human flesh, an indication of heavy casualties from the Abu Sayyaf.

The soldiers also recovered four high-powered firearms – two M16 rifles, a Baby Armalite rifle and an M1 Garand – four sacks of rice, solar panels and improvised bomb components.

Uy said the troops also recovered personal items and documents believed to be from a Vietnamese captive.

Troops had rescued on Thursday Hoang Vo, one of six Vietnamese sailors abducted by the Abu Sayyaf during a hijacking incident last November off Sibagu Island, according to Uy.

Uy said offensive operation continued as part of the security measure to preempt the return of the group of Basilan-based Abu

OFFIC

Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon from Marawi. Hapilon, the designated emir of the Islamic State-inspired terror group, led the siege on May 23 in Marawi with the Maute group in its attempt to establish a caliphate.

There were speculations that some of the terrorists from Marawi might have slipped military operations and are returning to Basilan or Sulu and other parts of Central Mindanao.

Uy said they were verifying all the information.

The military commander said the pursuit against the Abu Sayyaf also continued to thwart any plan to return to the island.

"The joint task forces are doing their best to address these concerns, acting jointly with coordination to prevent them from going back," Uy said.

Uy said the military forces also have a strong coordinative mechanism with local

government units who lead the fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

"In fact, the strong participation led the surrender of close to 80 Abu Sayyaf members now in Basilan," Uy added.

Meanwhile, one of Hapilon's most trusted aides was arrested (not killed as earlier reported) here Saturday afternoon.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said Hamsi Amajad Marani, a bomb expert, was nabbed at Furok 4, Sitio Niyog-Niyog in Barangay Muti.

Joint operating forces of the military and the police in Zamboanga City said the Abu Sayyaf member was spotted by a concerned citizen who immediately notified the authorities.

Marani was tagged as a trained bomber by an Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah bomb expert among Hapilon's escorts.

Recovered from his possession during the arrest were various paraphernalia used in making improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said Marani was also involved in a series of military encounters against government forces in Sulu and Basilan.

But the military could not say if Marani is with Hapilon in this city or was sent to conduct a diversionary attack.

"This successful operation is done in close coordination with the members of the Zamboanga City Police Office," Col. Leonel Nicolas, commander of the Joint Task Force Zamboanga, said.

"The vigilant people of Zamboanga City will never allow any notorious group or individuals to thrive and stay within their peaceful and progressive place," he added.

The AFP, as of yesterday, said Marani was turned over to the custody of the Zamboanga Police Office to undergo debriefing.

"I would like to laud our soldiers and policemen for this recent accomplishment," Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said.

"The capture of Marani will somehow cripple any possible support being given to Hapilon as he struggles to leave Marawi to safety. Your Westmincom forces will continue to hunt down the remaining Abu Sayyaf terrorists until they are incapable of instilling fear in our communities and cities," he added.

- With Michael Punongbayan

5285, 5295

19 June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A8

Military seizes Abu Sayyaf lair in Basilan

BY AL JACINTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Backed by a barrage of artillery fire, government forces captured an Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) encampment on Sunday in a hinterland village in the restive province of Basilan in southern Philippines.

Troops also recovered four automatic weapons left behind by the terrorist group in the town of Ungkaya Pukan.

The encampment was believed under mid-level commander Puruji Indama.

Military operations were continuing in the province, just 30 minutes by boat from the port city of Zamboanga in Mindanao.

The military said it killed an undetermined number of militants before taking their camp but troops had not recovered a single body of a slain Abu Sayyaf fighter.

On Friday, the bandit group freed one of their six Vietnamese hostages. Hoang Vo, 28, who was recovered by soldiers near Sumisip town of Basilan.

Vo, a native of Ngh An province, had a wound on his back and was immediately taken to hospital, according to the military.

The bandit group hijacked a Vietnamese cargo ship in November last year and seized six crew, including its captain.

The Abu Sayyaf is also holding over a dozen hostages in the troubled Muslim autonomous region.

June 2017



Page: A2

DUTERTE WILL ADHERE TO SUPREME COURT DECISION ON MARTIAL LAW-ABELLA

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

President Duterte's statement that he would pull out the military from Marawi City if the Supreme court ruled against his declaration of martial law meant he would adhere to the rule of law, Malacañang said on Sunday.

"The President's media interview after visiting the troops in Butuan underscores that he adheres to the rule of law and judicial independence," presidential spokes-

person Ernesto Abella said, referring to Mr. Duterte's remarks on Saturday.

Another rebellion case

"President Duterte made it clear that if the Supreme Court decided against the declaration of martial law, he would pull out the military in Marawi City on the ground that the high court does not believe there is a rebellion," he added.

Abella noted that the President made it clear that if and when there would be another

similar incident of rebellion, he would again declare martial law.

"When the public safety requires it, the President and Commander in Chief would again declare martial law and police power given to the Executive by no less than our Constitution," Abella said.

No telling the end

Speaking to reporters after visiting the Army's 401st Brigade in Butuan, Mr. Duterte said that, if he declared martial for the second time, there

would be "no telling when it would end."

"If that rebellion burns Mindanao and the other parts of the Philippines, and I will be forced to declare martial law again, this time, I will do it on my own to preserve my nation," the President said.

Marcos copycat

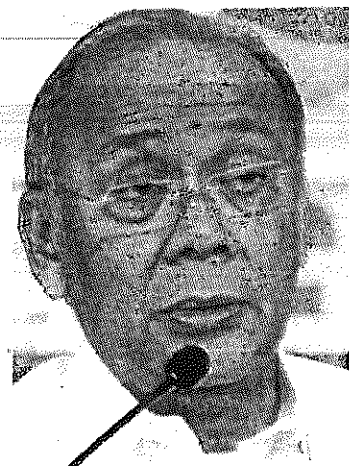
"I will not consult anybody and there is no telling when it will end ... then it could be a copycat of Marcos," he added.

Mr. Duterte was referring

to the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who ruled the country under martial law from Sept. 21, 1972 to Jan. 17, 1981.

Mr. Duterte placed Mindanao under martial law on May 23 after Abu Sayyaf bandits and members of the Maute terror group went on a rampage through Marawi and overran the city.

"Martial law will not be over while there is still fighting, until I am satisfied or we are satisfied that not a single shot will be fired again," he said on Saturday. INQ



Ernesto Abella

1 June 2017



Page: 10

Palace: Rody will adhere to rule of law on ML

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Despite his threat that he would no longer listen to anyone if he declares martial law for the second time, President Duterte's readiness to pull out troops from Marawi City if the Supreme Court orders him to do so indicates his respect for the rule of law, Malacañang said yesterday.

Speaking to the media in Butuan City last Saturday, Duterte said he would withdraw military forces from Marawi if the SC will declare that his martial law declaration has no factual basis.

The President, however, warned that if violence erupts anew in Mindanao and he declares martial law again, he would do it his way and would no longer listen to anyone.

He said the martial law he would declare could even be a "copycat" of that of former president Ferdinand Marcos, who has been accused of condoning human rights violations and silencing his critics.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, however, made no mention of Duterte's warning in the statement he issued yesterday, focusing only on the President's willingness

to pull out troops in Marawi.

"The President's media interview (on June 17) after visiting the troops in Butuan underscores that he adheres to the rule of law and judicial independence," Abella said.

"President Duterte made it clear that if the Supreme Court decides against the declaration of martial law, he would pull out the military in Marawi City on the ground that the high court does not believe there is a rebellion," he added.

Abella reiterated, though that Duterte is ready to declare martial law if "public safety requires it."

"The President likewise made it clear that if and when there is another similar incident of rebellion... the President and commander-in-chief would again declare martial law and (exercise) police power given to the executive by no less than our Constitution," the Palace spokesman said.

Duterte placed the whole Mindanao under martial law last May 23 after Islamic State-inspired Maute terrorists attacked Marawi to protect Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon from government forces.

June 2017



Page: 3

'No rights violations in Mindanao amid martial law'

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

Malacañang yesterday said that rumors regarding abuses and human rights violations as a result of the declaration of martial law in Mindanao

can now be put to rest after the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) reported that it hasn't received reports on the matter.

"We welcome the remarks of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) that there have been no reports of hu-

man rights abuses and/or violations committed by authorities after the President placed the whole island of Mindanao under martial law," Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella

said over Radyo ng Bayan.

Abella also echoed the ear-

lier statement of President Duterte that he did not declare martial law to stay in power but to protect the country and its people.

"As we said in previous occasions, public safety is foremost in the President's mind in light of the continuing rebellion in Marawi," Abella said.

June 2017



Page: 119

NPA rebels seize guns in Iloilo raid

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—Heavily armed rebels of the communist-led New People's Army (NPA) raided a police station in Maasin town in Iloilo province on Sunday morning, taking at least 12 firearms, including eight high-powered rifles.

Not a single shot was fired and none of the nine police personnel was harmed in Maasin, 31 kilometers northwest of this capital city, a day after 428 soldiers from the Army's 82nd Infantry Battalion based here were deployed to beef up troops battling terrorists in Marawi City.

The NPA rebels, numbering between 40 and 50 including women, took eight M-16 rifles and nine Glock 9-mm pistols, according to Chief Supt. Cesar Hawthorne Binag, Western Visayas police director.

Three rebels, including two women, first entered the station around 10:30 a.m. and pretended to be residents who were filing a complaint. Several others then rushed to the station from the back entrance, Binag said.

Other comrades who came on board an Elf truck surrounded the police station beside the public market. The nine policemen were then ordered to lie down and handcuffed.

One rebel, using a megaphone, told residents to stay calm as they were only after the firearms.

Over in 15 minutes

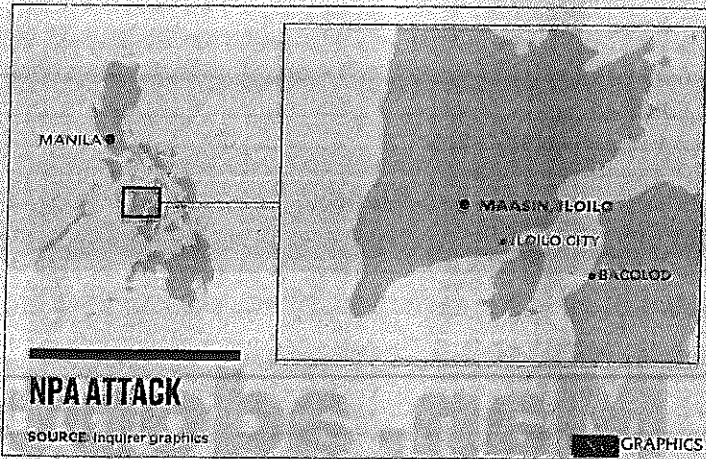
The operation was "swift" and was over in 15 minutes, according to Binag.

He condemned the attack and said that the police would file robbery complaints against the rebels after they also commandeered a patrol car, radio, a laptop computer and personal items including cash and jewelry.

The patrol car and the truck were recovered later in the neighboring Alimodian town.

The NPA Coronacion "Waling-Waling" Chiva Command issued a statement through its Facebook page confirming that a unit of the NPA Napoleon Tu-

OFFICE OF THE ARMY



magtang Command carried out the attack.

Police 'extortion'

Its spokesperson, Ka Julio Montana, accused the municipal police force of extorting from small vendors and allowing the proliferation of illegal drugs and gambling.

The raid was also in response to the "all-out war" of the police and military against the rebels, according to Montana.

Binag ordered the immediate relief of the entire 23-member police force of Maasin. He said they would be investigated for possible lapses.

Maasin Mayor Mariano Malones said this was the first time that the rebels raided the town center.

"There were encounters before during the 1980s but they never reached here," Malones told Inquirer.

Davao clashes

Two gun battles between NPA rebels and government troops also broke out on Saturday in Southern Mindanao where an alleged ranking communist rebel and four insurgents were killed, military officials said.

Peace negotiators on both sides earlier agreed to halt offensives and cooperate instead in fighting Islamic State-inspired terror groups in southern Philippines.

Three communist guerrillas were killed in a 45-minute clash in Taytayan village, Cateel town, Davao Oriental, before dawn on Saturday, while a front secretary and another rebel

were killed in an encounter at Pantukan town, Compostela Valley, also on the same day, according to Capt. Rhyan Batchar, public affairs chief of the Army's 10th Infantry Division.

Government troops also recovered five assault rifles, two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and backpacks containing personal belongings, medical kits and cellular phones from the rebels.

NDFP statement

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) earlier recommended that the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) order the NPA to "refrain" from attacking government forces and instead focus on the proposed cooperation in neutralizing terror groups in the country.

In a statement on Sunday, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III welcomed the NDFP support of the government's campaign against the Marawi terrorists.

"The Philippine government hereby correspondingly reciprocates with the same declaration of not undertaking offensive operations against the New People's Army," said Bello, the chief government peace negotiator.

He said this would pave the way for the eventual signing of a mutually agreed bilateral ceasefire agreement and agreements on social reform and economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms, and the end of hostilities and disposition of forces "toward a just and lasting peace."

—WITH REPORTS FROM PHILIP C. TUBEZA, KARLOS MANLUPIG AND FRINSTON LIM INQ

OFFICE OF THE ARMY

2) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

19 June 2017



Page: 2

AFP neutralizes 50 NPAs

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said it neutralized 50 guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA) and recovered 16 firearms in separate operations amid intense operations against the Maute Group in Marawi City.

AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, said they were significant in their fight against the NPA, particularly after the government did not participate in the fifth round of peace negotiations with communist organizations.

Arevalo said military forces had successful operations against the NPA, mostly in northeastern Mindanao.

Of the 50 neutralized rebels, 36 voluntarily surrendered to govern-

ment forces, nine were killed, and five were arrested in separate encounters starting May 23, the day the terrorists attacked Marawi.

Government troops also recovered 16 firearms. On the other hand, 15 firearms were turned over by NPA surrenderers.

The most recent encounter took place on June 11 in Paquibato District, Davao City, where elements of the Army's 16th Infantry Battalion killed an NPA fighter.

The military saw a surge of surrenderers from the NPA starting May 23. Significant of which were five NPAs who voluntarily surrendered in Talaingod, Davao del Norte on June 13, and six members with high-powered firearms who surrendered in Maguindanao on June 6.

June 2017



Page: 17

Good cop, bad cop on ML issue

President Duterte's statement that he will respect the decision of the Supreme Court on the legality of his martial law proclamation in Mindanao has minimized the risks of a constitutional crisis arising from his action.

It's nice to hear about the President's intention to comply with the constitutional provisions on the delineation of authority among the three branches of government on the issue of martial law. Earlier, he said he would listen only to the military and police on when to lift martial law ostensibly because they are familiar with the situation on the ground.

On the other hand, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez has served notice that he would ignore the high court if it rules in favor of the petition calling for Congress to meet in joint session to discuss the martial law declaration.

But Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III has refrained from discussing the merit of the petitions. He simply said the Senate acted properly when it decided not to call a joint session to discuss the martial law declaration after a majority of the senators endorsed it.

With the President recognizing the high court's power to pass upon the validity of his action, it is not far-fetched that Alvarez would later pull back from his antagonistic posture and similarly acknowledge the judiciary's review authority over martial law.

Recall that last year, in the wake of Vice President Leni Robredo's video message to the United Nations Human Rights Commission to investigate extrajudicial killings in the Philippines, Alvarez threatened to file impeachment charges against her supposedly for betrayal of public trust.

COMMENTARY

RAUL J. PALABRICA

Then the President publicly called on those planning to impeach Robredo to desist from doing so. His call was taken seriously by his congressional allies. No House member endorsed the impeachment complaint filed against the Vice President by two grandstanding lawyers.

When Alvarez was later asked about his plan to have Robredo impeached, he said he was merely studying that possibility. From then on, nothing was heard anymore about the matter.

The difference in stance on the martial law petitions by two of the highest ranking officials in the government has put a "good cop, bad cop" look on this political issue.

Mr. Duterte appears to be the "good cop" who wants to keep faith with his oath to preserve and defend the Constitution, while Alvarez comes out as the "bad cop" who thinks the high court, in spite of the explicit provisions of the Constitution, has no business telling Congress how to do its job on the matter.

Although the President's statement about honoring the high court's ruling on his martial law decree is reassuring, there is no telling whether he will remain firm on his stand for the long haul. Note that he earlier had a change of mind on significant issues—e.g., ceasefire with the New People's Army, military aid from the United States, and the participation of the Moro National Liberation Front and Moro

Islamic Liberation in the fight against the terrorist Maute group.

The reasons Mr. Duterte, or his spokesperson, cited to explain or justify the 180-degree turnaround on the incidents mentioned were plausible, but they raised concerns about consistency in the administration's policymaking process.

If things do not get out of hand in Marawi and the high court upholds the validity of the martial law declaration in Mindanao, or even only in the Islamic City, the President would, no doubt, quickly declare his acceptance of the decision.

But a lot of things can happen between now and the day the high court renders its ruling that may alter that favorable scenario.

In case the Filipino followers of the Islamic State heed its call to conduct more attacks in Mindanao and other parts of the Philippines during the holy month of Ramadan, and the high court strikes down the martial law proclamation, the President may be forced to backtrack from his earlier commitment to respect its decision.

If that happens (knock on wood), a constitutional crisis will most likely happen. It is hoped we don't get to that stage.

Raul J. Palabrica (rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph) writes a weekly column in the Business section of the Inquirer.

THERE'S THE RUB

CONRADO DE QUIROS IS ON MEDICAL LEAVE. —Ed.



June 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 04

Duterte explains Marawi conflict

ELLEN TORDESILLAS



'There was no lapse of intelligence, it's just appreciation of the intelligence that was lacking.'

IN his re-appearance speech five days after he went missing, President Duterte gave an explanation for the military's "mis-appreciation" of intelligence that has been blamed for the difficulty being encountered by government forces in the ongoing war against the Islamist militants in Marawi.

It will be recalled that Solicitor General Jose Calida said that the military had received intel reports about possible Maute, Abu Sayyaf attacks in Marawi five days before May 23, when the fighting started sparked by the serving of warrant of arrest to ASG leader Isnilon Hapilon. The fierce fighting was the basis of the declaration of Martial Law in Mindanao by Duterte on May 23.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who was in Moscow with the President together with other high ranking security officials said, "I don't think there's a lapse of intelligence, it's just appreciation of the intelligence that was lacking there."

The President speaking before soldiers that compose the 401st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division Advance Command post Bancasi, Butuan City, gave his version of the armed conflict that has claimed the lives of at least 58 soldiers, 191 terrorists and a number of civilians. Thousands have been

displaced.

Duterte explained: "It was not a question of failure on the part of government. Kasi naman tayo, we have adapted a very soft policy towards sa mga rebels. And this came about because nagdadala sila ng baril eh. And since we are thinking of getting peace with the MNLF and MI, ang laro ng armas diyari, we took it for granted. We took it really for granted na. Pero alam natin na mabibigat. Pero hinayaan kasi natin because we never knew at that time kung sino talaga ang kaiaban. Iyon bang mga pulitikong nag-aaway, nagri-rido sila, o iyong mga itong private army ba ito ng politicians?"

Now, he said they realized, "Kalabas-labasan, itong Maute

were bringing the firearms surreptitiously at hindi natin nakuha na gaano na karami ang ammo pati baril sa loob."

He stressed, "It was not a failure of intelligence. Kasi kung makita pa silang may armas, tapos sabihin nila, MI, MN, ang standing order naman is 'huwag ninyong galawin.' Baka, baka sakali mapakiusapan pa natin ang mga kapatid natin, na walang gulo. But all the while, itong Maute, with the connivance of the politicians there, iyong mga warlords, were stockpiling."

That's why he said, the Islamic terrorist don't seem to run out of arms and ammunition in the almost a month of fighting." Kaya ni hindi maubos iyong

M-203 na bala at napakarami. Magputok ang isa ng gobyerno, dadagdagan na—ibabalik sa atin, lima. So parang endless supply when Maute rose to fight against government."

He said the militants were ready last month and they were just waiting for an opportune time to attack. They got it in the attempted arrest of Hapilon. "Naghihintay lang sila noon ng 'bikil' tawag nila, iyong rason at mag-serve ng warrant of arrest which is an everyday occurrence anywhere in the Philippines, lumaban. Ayun, nagkabakbakan. At iyong forces ng mga Indonesian nasa bukid-bukid, nagbabaan. So you have a conglomeration there of ISIS fighters from Syria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka at iyong mga Arabo na --- maputi. Maputi iyong Arabo eh, na... Kuwait."

If the President knew the things that he said last Saturday, would he have dared the Maute last December when he said "They (Maute) are in there in the forest. I don't know where and I said, they would stop fighting, provided we stop the offensive or not, they said that they will go down upon Marawi to burn the place. And I said, "Go ahead, do it."

Blog: www.ellentordesillas.com
E-mail: ellentordesillas@gmail.com

19 June 2017

BULGAR

BOBAC NG MACA, MATA NG BAYAN

Pahina. 6



NI BOBI TIGLAO

Ang mga dahilan kung bakit nagtatagal ang labanan sa Marawi

HALOS isang buwan na ang labanan sa Marawi at bagama't humama ang puwersa ng mga teroristang Maute-ISIS, may hawak pa rin silang ilang lugar sa kawawang siyudad.

Ibig sabihin nito ay talagang napaglamuhan ng Maute ang geyrang ito. Marawi silang naipong armas, mga bala at nagtukay pa raw ng mga tunnel sa ilalim ng mga bahay para madaling makatakas.

Ang mga sundalo ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ay dapat bigyan ng tolong-suporta at pagpapagay sa kanilang pakikipaglaban para sa bayan. Dapat ay ugilan na ang mga batikos dahil hindi biro ang himarap sa kaaway, lalo na sa bayalenteng Maute-ISIS na hindi magdadalawang-isip na mamagot.

Sa palagay natin ay masyadong mangat ang ating militar kaya tumatagal ang geyra. Halimbawa, ayaw nilang galawn ang mga mosque bagaman, may balitang doon daw nagtatago ang mga terorista. Prayondad din ng AFP ang kaligtasan ng mga sibilyan na nanipit pa sa lungsod.

Mabuti na nagapan agad ng ating mga awtonidad ang problema sa Marawi - maintandaang, umuwi agad si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte noon mula sa Russia at dahil dito ay hindi na kumalat ang mga lugar na hawak ng Maute.

Kung hindi agad nahawakan ng gobyerno ang problemang ito, kabilang na ang desisyon na mag-deklara ng Martial Law sa Mindanao ay baka lumala pa ito.

Balak kasi ng grupong Maute na kaalyado ng Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) - na sumugin at siram nang husto ang Marawi at pagkatapos ay magtatayo raw sila roon ng caliphate tulad ng ginawa nila sa Mosul, Iraq.

Saming hindi nakasubaybay sa balita, ang ISIS ang numero-unong kaaway ng bawat sibilisadong bansa sa buong mundo. Nais ng ISIS nama-convert ang bawat tao sa mundo sa kanilang estilo na makalumang Islam, kung saan ang mga babae ay walang mga karapatan at kinakailangan pang nakatalukbong

Para sa inyong katanungan, suhestiyon at reaksiyon sumulat sa BANAT ni Bobi Tiglao, BUI GAR Bldg., 538 Quezon Ave., Quezon City o mag-email sa banat@bulgar.com.ph

mula ulo hanggang paa at kung saan ang mga nagkakasala ay pinipugutan.

Kaya't hindi katanggap-tanggap ang pagpapensa ng ilang dilaw na pulitiko sa Maute-ISIS. Kessyo kawawa naman daw ang Maute kaya dapat daw ugilan na ng AFP ang operasyon nito. Nasisiraan ba silang ulo?

Gusto ba nila na ang Marawi at Mindanao ay bumagsak sa ilalim ng impluwensiya ng ISIS? Pag nangyari ito ay susunod na rito ang Visayas at pagkatapos ang Metro Manila at buong Luzon.

Matinding kaaway ang ISIS. Kung ang US na malakas na ang militar ay hindi nito malinis nang husto ang Iraq at Syria ng ISIS.

Kailangang mindingin nang husto ng tambayan kung bakit natatagan ang labanan sa Marawi. Unang punto, mahirap talagang maglunsad ng operasyon dito dahil dikit-dikit ang mga gusali at bahay. Ayaw naman ng AFP na bombahin na lang ang buong siyudad dahil maraming maaapektuhang sibilyan.

Dahil din sa esilong dikit-dikit na gusali ay madaling nakatago ang mga teroristang Maute at madali rin silang magpalpat-lipat ng bahay. Kaya't ginagawa ng military ay sinusiyod ang bawat bahay, bawat kuwarto at palapag.

Pangalawang punto: Hindi 'small-time' na kaaway ang Maute-ISIS, tulad ng animo'y gusto raw palabasin ng mga dilawang pulitiko. Dahil sa pag-suporta ng ISIS ay biglang nagkapera ang Maute.

Nabisto ito nang nakuha ng militar mula sa isang hideout ng Maute ang 79 milyong pisong pera at mga tseke. Ang mga armas din ng Maute ay mamahalin at malalakas, mga machine gun at mga rifle na may grenade projectiles. Paano silang nakabibilangit kung walang mayaman na grupo at mga tao na nagpopondo sa kanila?

Ang internasyunal na grupong ISIS ay napakayaman. Ito ay sa dahilang nakuha nito noong 2014 ang lahat ng kayamanan ng Mosul, kasama ang central bank at iba pang bangko sa pangalawang pinakamalaking lungsod ng Iraq.

Ang ISIS na rin daw ang may-ari ng walong oil fields at yumayaman pa raw silang lalo sa pagbebenta ng gasolina sa buong mundo.

Ang estima ay mga tatlong bilyong dolar ang hawak ng ISIS. Kaya't magaan lang sa kanilakung magbigay ito ng kontribusyon sa pakikibaka nila sa Pilipinas. Kung may \$3 bilyon ka ba naman, kahit bigyan mo ng \$10 milyon ang Maute, hindi masakit sa bulsa ayon.

Kaya't ito ang kalaban ng ating mga sundalo at pulis sa Marawi. Mga terorista na maraming pera, armas at may mga 'import' pa rin na tumutulong sa kanila, mga terorista mula sa Malaysia, Chechnya, Indonesia at iba pang lugar.

Kung ikukumpara, kaunti lang ang armas ng ating AFP at Philippine National Police dahil ngayon lang daw naayos ang kanilang pangangailangan, matapos maihalal si Pangulong Duterte, na malaki ang mala-

sakit sa mga sundalo at pulis hindi raw tulad ng nakaraang liderato.

Mahalaga na pangalagaan ang ating militar at kapuhisan dahil sila ang nakikipaglaban at nagbu-buwis ng buhay para maipagtaggol ang ating Republika laban sa mga teroristang gustong pabagsakin ito.

19 June 2017



Pahina. 3

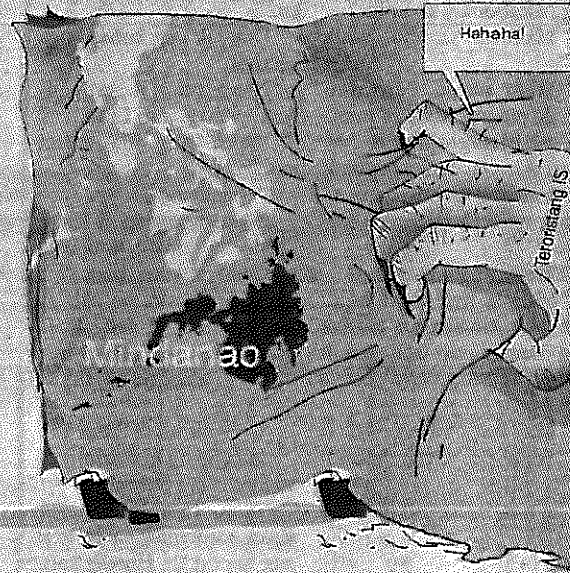
Editorial

Bakit Mindanao ang target ng mga terorista?

NASA ika-28 araw na ang bakbakan sa Marawi City at wala pang mga palatandaan kung matatapos na ito. Sabi ng Armed Forces of the Philippines, 20 percent pa ng siyudad ang hawak ng teroristang Maute. Kamakalawa, sinabi ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte, na patuloy ang pagdurog sa Maute.

Maraming nagtataka kung bakit hindi madurog sa isang iglap ang Maute. Dahil siguro mahusay ang pagkakapuwesto nila sa siyudad. Talagang pinagplanuhan. Alam na alam ang gagawin. Kabisado kung papaano tatargetin ang mga paparating na sundalo. Pati mga eroplano na naghuhulog ng bomba ay muntik-muntikang matarget ng snipers.

Sabagay, sa nakuhang video habang nagmi-meeting ang Maute at Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, nakita kung paano ang gagawing pagsalakay sa Marawi. Kabilang sa mga nagplano ang magkaka-



Larry goy '17
6.19.17

patid na Maute at ilan pang matataas na lider. Sa takbo ng usapan, kabisadung-kabisado na nila ang lugar at alam ang magiging depensa.

Hanggang magulantang ang mga taga-Marawi na kubkob na sila ng Maute kasama si Hapilon na ang balak ay gawing probinsiya ng Islamic State (IS) ang Marawi o Mindanao mismo. Sinusuportahan ng IS ang Maute at Abu Sayyaf at si Hapilon ang gagawing top leader.

Ang presensiya ng IS ay ilang beses nang binanggit ni Duterte sa kanyang mga talumpati. Sabi niya, nasa Mindanao na umano ang IS. Pero ang nakapagtataka ay kung bakit hindi ito sineryoso. Bakit hindi naramdaman na nakaposisyon na ang Maute sa Marawi. Sabi noon ng AFP at Philippine National Police (PNP), walang IS sa bansa. Wala raw katotohanan ang balita. Pero nang sabihin kamakailan ng Presidente na ang IS leader na si Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi ang nag-order na magsagawa ng terroristic activities sa Mindanao na isang patunay na nasa bansa na ang international terrorists.

Hindi naman nababahag ang buntot ni Duterte. Tuloy ang pagdurog sa Maute at iba pang terorista. Kapag napagtagumpayan ito ni Duterte, ang isunod niyang harapin ay ang mga dahilan kung bakit gusto ng mga terorista na magpugad sa Mindanao. Dahil kaya madaling makumbinsi ang mga mahihirap na mamamayan doon?

19 June 2017

Malaya

The National News

Page: BL

EDITORIAL

A member of the
PPPI Philippine
Press
Institute
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Assistance from NPA

THE government received over the weekend two welcome developments in its long-running battle with radical Islamism in Marawi. First, the National Democratic Front has asked the New People's Army to refrain from carrying out offensive attacks against government forces. Second, the NDF has recommended to the Communist Party of the Philippines to maintain defensive operations against the Maute, Abu Sayyaf and Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines

'There is still hope that with the assistance of all armed groups in the Philippines, the Filipino people will annihilate the Islamist rebels.'

(AKP), the three groups of armed Islamists still holding parts of Marawi City.

The NDF's gesture of government support at least in its war in Marawi City is a most positive development, especially if the NPA accepts its recommendation. The downside, reported only recently, is CPP founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison's tacit admission in an interview that the NDF peace panel does not have operational control over the NPA.

NDF spokesman Fidel Agcaoili assured that even before the Marawi siege, the communist rebels had been cooperating with the government in fighting terrorism.

In fact, he said, an NDF organization called Moro Resistance and Liberation Organization (MRLO) which is based in Marawi and suburbs has assumed home defense tasks while NPA units have been deployed close to the besieged city "for the purpose of mopping up, holding and blocking operations if necessary."

In the wake of the stalled peace talks, this cooperation between the government and the NDF in fighting the Maute group and other Islamists in Marawi engenders other problems.

President Duterte's spokesman, Ernesto Abella, says this kind of cooperation would not be possible as long as the NDF, CPP and NPA maintain their policy of opposing martial law in Mindanao, or elsewhere in the Philippines.

"The Duterte administration would rather pursue the path of genuine dialogue to build the nation worthy of its citizens," Abella said.

Agcaoili, on the other hand, maintains emphatically that the NDF has been fighting terrorism, and pushes a view of who the enemy is which is otherwise unacknowledged by the military. The NDF spokesman said the well-armed Islamists are terrorists with strong links to local reactionary forces (meaning the economic and political elite in Mindanao), affiliated with the Islamic State and supported by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

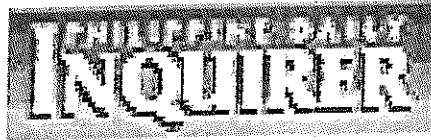
With help from within the country and from outside, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police should be able to finish off whatever remnants the Maute group has in Marawi.

While President Duterte has suffered great humiliation with his announcements of deadlines, all unmet, there is still hope that with the assistance of all armed groups in the Philippines, the Filipino people will annihilate the Islamist rebels.

This could be the first time that government troopers and their traditional adversaries, the NPA and the MNLF, will unite in the fight to preserve the integrity of Philippine territory.

19

June 2017



Page: 118

MARAWI CRISIS: NO RECOURSE FOR GOV'T EXCEPT MARTIAL LAW

When a person commits a crime, he is accountable for all the consequences of their act. Case in point: Jessie Carlos, the gunman at Resorts World casino, would have been answerable for the death of 37 people even if he did not kill any one of them.

The Mautes and a band of foreign terrorists went on a rampage in Marawi City in Mindanao, killing hapless civilians and destroying billions of pesos worth of property. Thousands of Marawi residents were displaced, and a great part of the city itself is now in ruins.

Our government is not to blame for this, it did

what it had to do. In its solemn pledge to protect the people, it has no recourse but to declare a watered-down martial law and conduct airstrikes. These are strategic and tactical measures intended to facilitate the defeat of the enemy. Otherwise, the conflict will drag on and there can only be more deaths and destruction.

In sum, the Maute terrorists and those who supported them are to blame for this crisis and tragedy. The blood is in their hands.

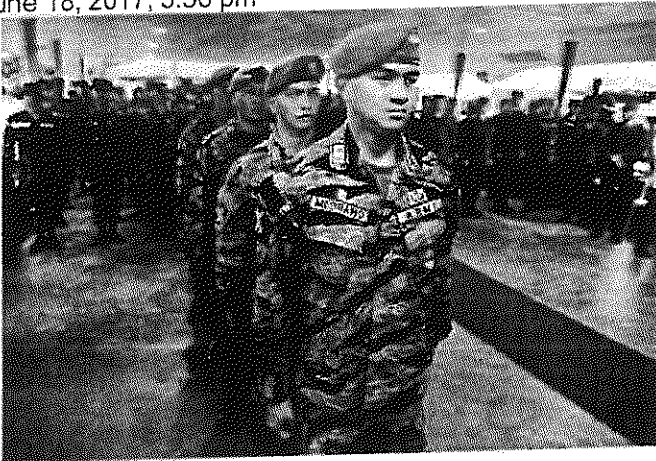
LEONARDO P. LOPEZ,
retired brigadier general, AFP

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

ONLINE NEWS 19 JUNE 2017

AFP chief lauds valor of Filipino troops on Father's Day

June 18, 2017, 3:56 pm



MANILA, June 18 -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday recognized the bravery of Filipino soldiers in line with the celebration of Father's Day.

In a text message to the PNA, AFP Chief Gen. Eduardo Año lauded the sacrifices and heroism of government troops who put their lives on the line in order to preserve peace and order in the country.

"Soldiers do secure the lands so that all the other fathers in the country may be able to celebrate Father's day with their families peacefully," Año stressed.

He said the children of soldiers are the ones who are thankful for this occasion the most, noting that the fact that their fathers remain alive each day is already a blessing.

"Military has the deadliest jobs for fathers. Perhaps nobody can appreciate Father's day better than the children of soldiers who understand that everyday that their fathers stay alive is a blessing," Año said.

"To a gallant soldier as you are, Happy Father's day to everyone and God bless you," he added. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

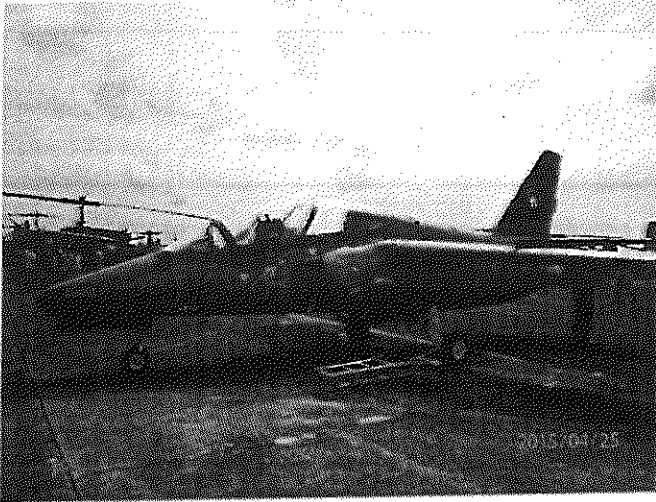
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

45

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

PAF looking for P2.8M worth of S-211 jet spares

June 18, 2017, 8:22 am



MANILA, June 18 -- The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has allocated PHP2,880,000 to acquire spare parts for four of its SIAI-Marchetti S-211 jet trainers.

This was announced by PAF Bids and Awards Committee chair Brig. Gen. Nicolas Parilla in a bid bulletin posted at the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System. Pre-bid conference is scheduled for June 22, 11 a.m. at the PAF Procurement Center Conference Room, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

While submission and opening of bids is on July 7, 9 a.m. at the same venue.

The spares are intended for S-211 jet aircraft with tail numbers 008, 021, 801 and 802.

The S-211 is one of the PAF's two jet-powered aircraft after the Korea Aerospace Industries FA-50PH "Fighting Eagle".

It is primarily used for air-to-ground and surveillance missions with the PAF known to be operating between three to five units. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

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

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

3rd ID deploys battalion in ongoing Marawi conflict

June 18, 2017, 7:44 am

MANILA, June 18 -- As government forces move in to neutralize the remaining Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City, the Capiz-based 3rd Infantry Division has deployed its 82nd Infantry Battalion on Saturday to help in the mopping-up operation.

Fighting in Marawi City broke out when government forces tried to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, a key ally of the terrorists, last May 23.

The unit was given the ceremonial send-off at the Iloilo International Airport, Cabatuan, Iloilo, unit public affairs office chief Lt. Col. Arnel Cabugon said in a statement.

He added the 82nd Infantry Division was deployed to Mindanao as follow-on-forces to augment Western Mindanao Command units engaged in the Marawi City conflict.

3rd Infantry Division commander Major Gen. Jon Aying told officers and personnel of the unit to focus, build teamwork and trust, and exhibit the desired military discipline at all times so that they could effectively work and fight as a team, squad, platoon, company and battalion as well.

"We are doing this for God, our country and our people," he added.

The 82nd Infantry Battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Vener Morga.

The unit's development support efforts in its former area of operations will be assumed by the 33rd Division Reconnaissance Company led by 1st Lt. Joseph Labrador. (Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

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