

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



**TEAM ARMY**  
Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 June 2017

Thursday

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

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 22, 2017 | THURSDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE  
AFFECTING SOUTHERN MINDANAO  
(As of 5:00 PM - June 21, 2017)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:28 AM	6:28 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
3:28 AM	4:31 PM
<b>LAST QUARTER</b>	<b>NEW MOON</b>
JUN 17 7:33 PM	JUN 24 10:21 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
4:00 PM	8:02 AM
0.00 Meter	1.14 Meter

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

	JUNE 21	JUNE 22	JUNE 23	JUNE 24
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	25 - 34 °C	26 - 35 °C	21 - 30 °C	21 - 30 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	25 - 35 °C	26 - 36 °C	27 - 34 °C	26 - 34 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	25 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	17 - 25 °C	17 - 25 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	25 - 34 °C	25 - 35 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C
<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	21 - 30 °C	21 - 30 °C	21 - 30 °C	21 - 30 °C
<b>TACLOBAN</b>	26 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C
<b>LEGAZPI</b>	27 - 34 °C	26 - 34 °C	27 - 34 °C	26 - 34 °C
<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C
<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C
<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
<b>METRO CEBU</b>	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C

**DZRH NEWS** MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11AM & 5PM

**PILIPINAS10**

**AIR 21**  
SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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

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# BIFF REBELS, SOLDIERS CLASH IN N. COTABATO

AFP says attack on Pigcawayan town an 'opportunistic activity,' not aid to terrorists in Marawi.

By **Leila B. Salaverria,**  
**Williamor Magbanua,**  
**Edwin O. Fernandez**  
and **Jeoffrey Maitem**  
@Team\_Inquirer

Hundreds of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) rebels attacked a militia outpost in North Cotabato province at dawn on Wednesday in what the military called an "oppor-

portunistic activity" designed to show off their capabilities.

But the BIFF rebels, numbering 200 to 300, were beaten back by security forces who had been expecting attacks intended to help Islamic State-inspired terrorists cornered by government troops in Marawi City.

The rebels attacked the Barangay People's Augmentation Team outpost at Malagakit village in Pigcawayan

town, which they probably believed was lightly defended because soldiers weren't regularly stationed there, said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"They were taking advantage of the situation that we have a very slight, lightly defended outpost and they [were thinking] our forces were elsewhere in the province," Padilla told re-

porters in Malacañang.

But military forces stationed in the area quickly arrived and repelled the attack, forcing the Moro rebels to pull back to an elementary school in the village before withdrawing.

There were no reports of casualties, but Capt. Nap Alcarioto, spokesperson for the 602nd Infantry Brigade, reported that the rebels took a number of civilians to cover their retreat.

"They've withdrawn from the area, they're no longer there. The school area is safe," Padilla said.

"The troops that have responded quickly to the incident are now [pursuing the rebels]," he said, adding the military was verifying the report about hostages.

But Capt. Arvin John Encinas, spokesperson for the 6th Infantry Division, reported that

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fighting was still going on as of 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

During a lull in the battle, 31 people, including a dozen children, were either allowed to dash to freedom or escaped from the school.

Many of the rebels managed to escape from the school after freeing the hostages, Encinas said.

Earlier, Abu Misri Mama, a BIFF spokesperson, acknowledged in a radio interview that his group staged the attack, but he said they did not intend to take hostages.

He said his group was just securing the civilians.

### Civilians to be released

"We protected them from the bullets of the Army. We will release them later. We did not use them as human shields," he said.

The BIFF, hiding in the marshy heartland of Mindanao, broke off from the largest Moro rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), in 2008 partly to protest peace talks with the government.

The breakaway rebels, however, have been weakened by battle setbacks and some commanders have tried to align themselves with the Islamic State (IS) in the hope of securing funding from the Middle East-based jihadist group, according to the military.

Padilla said terrorist groups, including the BIFF, had joined forces with the IS-inspired Maute group, whose fighters have been battling government forces in Marawi in neighboring Lanao del Sur province since May 23.

"That's why the Maute group increased in numbers, because of the attempt to unify these terrorists organizations who have pledged allegiance to [IS]," he said.

Padilla said the BIFF attack in Pigcawayan was not linked to the



Abu Misri Mama, spokesperson for the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, is shown in this file photo taken at the BIFF camp in Datu Saudi Ampatuan town, Maguindanao province.

—JEFFREY MAITEM

Maute siege of Marawi but was just an "opportunistic activity."

"This comes from those who in the past have been harassing and attacking our outposts," he said.

There was also no reason to believe that the attack on Pigcawayan could be part of an attempt by IS-inspired groups to open a new front to ease pressure on the Maute group cornered in Marawi.

"It's too small an effort. It was just a harassment case," he said, adding that armed groups in Mindanao had been harassing military positions even before the Maute attack on Marawi.

### Too far

Pigcawayan is 190 kilometers south of Marawi, too far to be used for a diversionary attack intended to disrupt the

military offensive against the Maute group in the predominantly Muslim city.

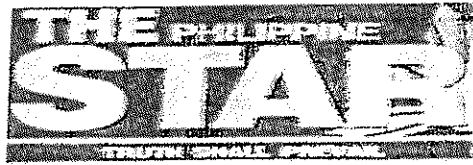
The Pigcawayan local government reported that 62 families, or 244 people, fled Malagakit and 15 families, or 59 people, left their homes in neighboring Banacagon village during the fighting between government security forces and BIFF rebels.

Chief Insp. Realan Mamon, the municipal police chief, said an undetermined number of people were trapped in their homes during the firefight.

School was called off throughout the town on Wednesday, said Omar Obas, Cotabato Schools Division superintendent.

He said the shutdown affected more than 15,000 elementary and high school students. —WITH REPORTS FROM AP AND REUTERS INQ

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# Remaining Maute positions breached

By ROEL PAREÑO

**ZAMBOANGA CITY –** Government troops have breached the remaining defensive positions of remnants of the Maute terror group in Marawi City, the military announced yesterday.

Lt Col Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesman for Task Force Marawi, said the soldiers have recovered the bodies of several slain terrorists along with their armaments.

He said bodies of civilians were also recovered, but did not say how many.

Herrera said there are still terrorists occupying buildings and mosques in four barangays in the commercial district of Marawi.

The military said the terrorists' resistance continues to wane and the areas they hold are getting fewer as government security forces press their advance.

Sustained air strikes have also softened the areas held by the terrorists.

Herrera said the troops have cleared 16 buildings and soldiers have entered two more to flush out the terrorists.

Advancing troops have taken control of strategic vantage points in tall buildings,

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## Remaining From Page 1

according to Herrera.

"Troops continue to get deeper into once enemy held positions as evidenced by the recovery of cadavers of terrorists and their firearms, computers and peripherals as well as communications equipment and accessories," Herrera said.

"If we will not clear this properly it will pose danger not only to our troops but also to the civilians who want to go back to their homes," Herrera said.

Herrera said the military has not set Eid'1 Fitr or the end of the holy month of Ramadan as another deadline for troops to clear Marawi.

"Wala po tayong (we have no) deadline" for clearing operations, according to Herrera.

The military is now preparing to assist the local government in the rehabilitation, reconstruction and rebuilding phase of Marawi as soon as the terrorist threat is quelled, he said.

He said Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief

Gen. Eduardo Año reiterated that the military is prepared to embark on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi.

Marine Col. Edgardo Arevalo, public affairs chief of the AFP, said the government now controls most of Marawi City, but that government forces would not stop using air assets against the terrorists.

"Generally, *nandiyan na sa atin yung* (we now have) control, so *ngayon* (now), we continue to use our air assets or assets of the government including our artillery," Arevalo said during the weekly "Insider Exclusive" forum of radio *dzRJ* in Makati City.

Two Army engineering battalions would be deployed to Marawi City for the reconstruction of damaged parts of the city as soon as hostilities between government troops and the Maute terror group stop, according to the military.

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. General Restituto Padilla said that military engineering equipment are now deployed

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to Marawi to prepare for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas destroyed by fighting and air strikes since the terrorists attacked the city last May 23.

Clashes between troopers and the bandits have resulted in the death of some 258 Maute fighters, 66 soldiers and policemen and 26 civilians.

President Duterte announced yesterday in Iligan City that P20 billion has been set aside for the rebuilding of the city and construction of housing for residents whose houses were destroyed.

### Rehabilitation

Public Works Secretary Mark Villar said the agency is on standby and ready to help with the reconstruction of Marawi City once the military has completed its operations against the terrorists.

Villar has alerted the regional offices, especially in Mindanao, to be prepared for rebuilding Marawi.

"After this incident is done, we would be able to focus on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi. We are ready, our regional offices in the area. Once the military has

completed its operation, we will come in," Villar said.

He said they would help in the rebuilding of roads and schools to help restore normalcy in the lives of residents.

Villar assured the residents that there are funds to spend for Marawi but admitted that they still do not know how much the total rehabilitation would cost. "We would only know the exact cost of the damage when we have entered the city," he said.

He said the department has funds for calamities and President Duterte is prioritizing the rebuilding of Marawi.

"Our disaster budget would be replenished by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). We started at P1 billion, but it will be replenished. The DBM is well-equipped. The President has announced P20 billion for Marawi," he added.

Arevalo said the military is now conducting clearing operations and searching each building and house in Marawi to flush out remnants of the terrorists.

He added that troops are not only clearing the areas, but also securing buildings and houses to make sure all

improvised explosive devices have been removed.

Despite the government's control over most parts of war-torn Marawi, Arevalo said the military would not stop operations against the remaining terrorist snipers.

"They are still capable of delivering sniper fire. *Mayroon pa rin silang* (they still have) improvised explosive devices *at ganun din kahit nagpapaputok ng* (and when they fire) rocket-propelled grenade, which could disable our tanks," he said.

As of yesterday, the AFP had secured 18 to 20 buildings in Marawi City and cleared all the terrorists inside.

He said they were able to rescue some 1,645 civilians in Marawi City, including eight residents only yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, Lanao del Sur Gov. Soraya Alonto Adiong has coordinated with the Philippine National Police and the Army to save whatever is left in the houses and buildings that the Maute groups and their Abu Sayyaf allies have looted.

Adiong said the Provincial Security Force have started inspecting and securing the

buildings and houses in the affected areas.

Assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is assisting the local government in the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

Arevalo said the military is prepared for terrorist threats in other key cities nationwide.

"That is part of our training. We have been practicing for this. We have been studying this. That's part of our preparation but as much as possible, we don't want to execute it. But if push comes to shove, if the need calls for it, we can execute all these trainings. We are ready to do it," Arevalo said.

There were recent reports that the Maute terrorists plan to launch attacks in key cities nationwide on June 30.

Arevalo described the report as unverified and therefore untrue.

But just the same, he stressed the military needs the support and help of the public in order to combat terrorist threats.

– With Robertzon Ramirez, Evelyn Macairan, Jaime Laude, Roel Pareño, Lino de la Cruz

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Pahina. 6

### ***NPA ambush: 4 sundalo sugatan***

Apat na sundalo ang nasugatan makaraang tambangan ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) sa liblib na hangganan ng Barangay Somoge at Barangay Polangi sa bayan ng Catarman, Northern Samar noong Martes ng gabi.

Sa ulat ng Army's 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, bandang alas-9:10 ng gabi nang maganap ang pananambang sa tropa ng Army's 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion sa nabanggit na lugar.

Kasalukuyang lulan ang pitong enlisted personnels ng Army's 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion sa KM250 military truck nang tambangan ng mga rebelde.

Gayunman, tumanggi muna si Major Gen. Raul Farnacio, commander ng Army's 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division na tukuyin ang pagkakakilanlan ng mga nasugatang sundalo dahil kailangan pang impormahan ang pamilya ng mga ito.

Agad namang sinakolohan ng Army's 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion ang mga sundalong nasugatan.

Kaugnay nito, inalerto na ni Farnacio ang tropa ng militar sa Eastern Visayas laban sa posible pang pag-atake ng NPA rebels.

Nabatid na ang AFP ay nasa defense mode na nirespeto ang mga kasunduan sa isinusulong na peace talks sa pagitan ng pamahalaan at ng komunistang grupo. **Joy Cantos**

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## **Soldier hurt as Reds attack troops on community service**

A SOLDIER was wounded in an encounter with suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) when the latter attacked the troops conducting community service the other night in Carigara, Leyte.

Taken to Saint Paul's Hospital in Tacloban City was Pfc Reynaldo C. Lemos, who sustained a gunshot wound in the left side of his stomach.

Reports said the encounter occurred at around 9:10 p.m. in Bgy. Paglaum, Carigara, Leyte.

Accordingly, a squad of Task Group Alpha of the Army's 78th Infantry Battalion was conducting community service in the said area when they were attacked by rebels.

A brief firefight occurred that lasted for a couple of minutes that resulted in the wounding of the soldier.

The victim was rushed to the hospital for treatment while the rebels fled.

Despite of the incident, Army's 8th Infantry Division (ID) commander Maj. Gen. Raul M. Farnacio assured the public that no matter what conflict may arise that needs to be addressed, the soldiers are ready to dedicate their lives.

"Your Army in Eastern Visayas will still pursue and continue its mandated duty to protect the welfare of the populace in the far-flung areas," he said.

**Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca**

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## NPA rebel in Compostela Valley caught planting IED

From the Sun Star-Davao (Jun 21): NPA rebel in Compostela Valley caught planting IED

GOVERNMENT troops arrested an alleged member of a communist group after he was caught in the act of planting an improvised explosive device (IED) in Compostela Valley on Sunday, June 18.

In a statement of the 60th Infantry Battalion (IB) on Tuesday, June 20, the apprehended rebel was identified as Randy Martin Magadan alias Andrew, 24, a resident of Barangay Bollucan, Laak, Compostela Valley.

The incident occurred a day after the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) directed its armed wing to refrain from conducting offensives.

Magadan was caught laying an IED at around 8 a.m., Sunday along a common route at Kilometer 26, Barangay Kidawa, Laak, Compostela Valley Province.

Magadan is the supply officer of the Pulang Bagani Command 4 under the Southern Mindanao Regional Committee of the New People's Army (NPA).

The combined operatives of the 72nd Infantry Battalion and 60th IB were conducting routine patrol and security operations at the area when they encountered Magadan and arrested him.

The army unit turned over the arrested NPA member to the Laak Municipal Police for blotter procedure and filing of appropriate charges and subjected him for a medical check-up to the Compostela Valley Provincial Hospital (Laak).

Charges are being prepared against the suspect for violating Republic Act (RA) 9516 or the law on the illegal possession, manufacture, dealing, acquisition or disposition of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

His act was also a clear violation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law or CARHRIHL (part III, Article II, 15), to which the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA-NDF is a co-signatory, and RA 9851 or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity.

It strictly prohibits "all forms of economic blockades, indiscriminate bombings, shelling, strafing, gunfire and the use of landmines" since it has the "nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering or which are inherently indiscriminate in violation of the international law of armed conflict.

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/local-news/2017/06/21/npa-rebel-compostela-valley-caught-planting-ied-548633>

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### 3rd ID ADC for reservists, retirees named

From the Visayan Daily Star (Jun 21): 3rd ID ADC for reservists, retirees named

Colonel Aniano Orap-Orap, former deputy commander of the 303rd Infantry Brigade, has been promoted as the 3rd Infantry Division assistant division commander for Reservist and Retiree Affairs.

Orap-Orap was installed Monday by Maj. Gen. Jon Aying, 3ID commanding general, in a ceremony held at Camp Macario Peralta in Jamindan, Capiz.

Lt. Col. Arnel Cabugon, 3ID Public Affairs Office chief, said that the ADC for Reservist and Retiree Affairs is a new position created by the Philippine Army in the Division level to invigorate the development program of the Army's Reserve component in its area of responsibility.

Aying emphasized the crucial roles of the RRA, not only to the AFP but to the country and the people.

"The utilization and employment of the AFP Reserve Forces in support to the AFP Development Support Security Plan must be given full support and attention," Aying said during the installation of Orap-Orap.

Two Army Geographical Battalions were also organized by Aying in the Negros Island Region to support the non-traditional military activities of the Army in the newly-created region.

Orap-Orap promised to do his best in the performance of his duties and responsibilities in support to the attainment of the objectives of the AFP's Development Support Plan.

Col. Inocencio Pasaporte replaced Orap-Orap as the 303rd Infantry Brigade deputy commander.

<http://www.visayandailystar.com/2017/June/21/negor3.htm>

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# INQUIRER

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## RC Makati conducts relief ops for Marawi evacuees

The Rotary Club of Makati, under Pres David Ackerman, partnered with RI District 3870 Rotary clubs for a humanitarian mission to help families affected by the conflict in Marawi City. In charge of the RC Makati operation was Community Service Dir. Chris Ferarezza.



The goods, which included food packs, t-shirts, blankets and towels, were distributed to over 600 families in two evacuation centers on June 4 through District 3870 Rotary Clubs under the supervision of PDG Tess Navales.

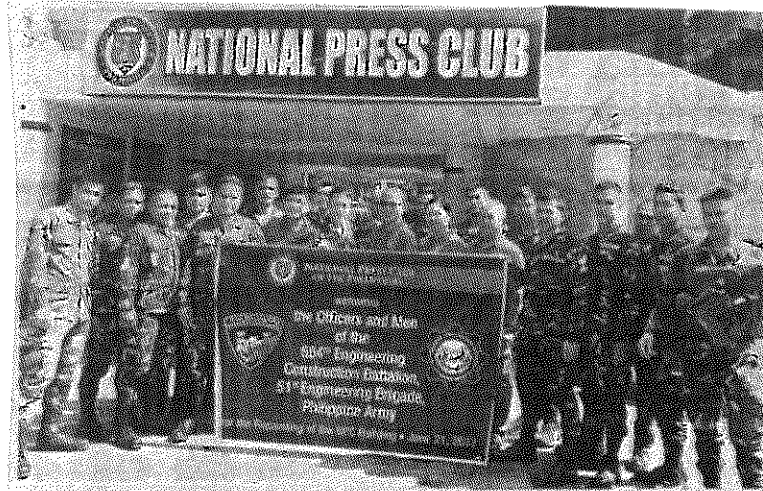
The mission was made possible with assistance from 2Go Freight Center, Philippine Army, Office of the Vice President through Rtn. Eddie Galvez, and Derrick Tan of St. Giles Hotel-Makati.

Check your air quality today: visit [airtoday.ph](http://airtoday.ph)

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Pahina. 2



MALUGOD na tinanggap ng mga opisyal ng National Press Club sa pamumuno ni Pres. Paul Gutierrez ang mga opisyal at tauhan ng 564th Engineering Construction Battalion, 51st Engineering Brigade ng Phil. Army sa pangunguna ni Major Mark Francisco Tioaquen para sa pagsisimula ng 'repainting project' ng limang palapag na gusali ng NPC na tinatayang aabutin ng 18 araw.

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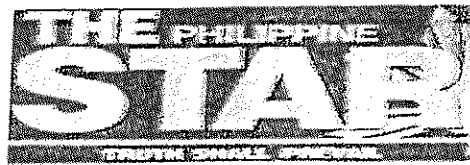
THE PHILIPPINE ARMY  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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**'ALL FOR ONE, ONE FOR ALL' — Soldiers pack a military truck on their way to the frontline in Marawi City where government forces and Maute Group terrorists have been locked in armed conflict for the fourth straight week. (AFP)**

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Soldiers help evacuated residents disembark from a military vehicle after arriving at a processing center near a hospital in Marawi City yesterday. AFP



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# Tales of horror in 'Heroes Ward'

Inside the "Heroes Ward" at AFP Medical Center-V Luna General Hospital in Quezon City, wounded soldiers read the Bible and recount horror stories of an unprecedented urban war against fighters linked to the Islamic State (IS) group.

A month of combat in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur province, has claimed the lives of 65 troops and injured hundreds of others, while raising fears that the Philippines has suddenly become a favorite new battleground for IS.

Twenty soldiers wounded in the fighting are confined at the military hospital, and they give harrowing examples of how government troops—with little experience in urban warfare—were caught unprepared for the enemy's tactics and brutality in house-to-house combat.

Marine Sgt. Sandy Benitez said he survived a battle that cost 13 other troops their lives by crawling for nearly five hours along a short stretch of street while trading fire with snipers, after a rocket-propelled grenade pierced his left foot.

## Worst firefight

"That was the worst firefight I've ever been in," said Benitez, a 13-year veteran who had previously battled Islamist bandits on remote and mountainous islands in southern Philippines.

"Some of my wounded colleagues, they were losing hope and getting rattled. Some were crying," he said.

Benitez, 34, said he was mostly calm throughout the ordeal, except for when he watched a rocket-propelled grenade kill one of his friends who had enlisted with him.

"When you see your classmate die, sir, you can't help but shed a tear," he said.

Benitez said his unit had been deployed in the evening to try and capture one of the terrorists' strongholds, supposedly with the advantage of night vision goggles.

"But they threw gasoline at us, Molotov bombs. They created fires, so they had visual on us as well," he said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has decades of experience battling Islamic insurgents and communist rebels, with those conflicts claiming tens of thousands of lives.

But those wars have been largely waged in rural and mountainous settings.

The nation's military chiefs and frontline troops such as Benitez said they had relatively little experience in the type of fighting being waged in Marawi, a city of 200,000 residents besieged by terrorists from the Maute group and

their allies from the Abu Sayyaf bandit band. Both groups have pledged allegiance to IS.

#### Learning on the job

The fighting began when hundreds of terrorists ram-paged through Marawi, the most important Islamic city in the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23, taking civilians hostage and then posting images online of Christians they said had been executed.

They have since defied a relentless, US-backed bombing campaign that has seen entire districts destroyed, with their snipers based in homes and mosques continuing to pick off ground forces, and civilians being used as human shields.

"If the fight was held in a mountain without its share of civilians roaming around the battleground it would have been very simple," Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesperson, told reporters last week.

A military commander overseeing the fighting in

Marawi who has fought many wars in Mindanao, but who asked not to be named to speak candidly, said most troops were learning on the job.

"We have a shallow pool of highly trained people for this specific situation," the commander said, as he described soldiers spending two days trying unsuccessfully to clear a single house and threats such as trip-wire bombs.

#### Foreign fighters

Authorities said the terrorists were mainly from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups, which had united behind IS.

Foreign fighters from places such as Chechnya and Libya have also joined, urged on by IS propaganda messages to descend on the Philippines, according to the military.

Soldiers have reported a newfound steel in their enemy in Marawi, with the terrorists staying and fighting for longer compared with previous battles in which fighters used more traditional guerrilla tactics and escaped quickly after carrying out attacks.

At AFP Medical Center-V. Luna Hospital, Army Cpl Benie Flores, 30, was sitting on a bed with his left shin snapped in two from a sniper bullet that hit him on the third day of the conflict.

Flores said he had never been injured during his seven years as a soldier, which included many battles against the Abu Sayyaf, a US-listed terrorist group based on Basilan, one of the remote southern islands made up mostly of mountains and jungles.

"The difference is Basilan is full of trees while Marawi is full of rooms and civilians," he said. —AFP



WATCH VIDEO: AFP video of wounded Marawi soldiers in "Heroes Ward"  
<http://inq-news/HeroesWard>

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**WOUNDED IN ACTION** S/Sgt. Daniel Campills, Sgt. Acasio Daloyon and Pfc. Diosdado Alamo recover from wounds from bullets and mortar shrapnel when they battled Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi City. They were airlifted to the “Heroes Ward” at AFP Medical Center-V. Luna Hospital in Quezon City –EDWIN BACASMAS

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## 9 wounded soldiers transported to Manila

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – The presidential plane was used to transport nine soldiers wounded in the clashes in Marawi City to receive further medical treatment in Manila.

The nine wounded soldiers were confined at the Camp Edilberto Evangelista Station Hospital in Cagayan de Oro City. They were transported to Manila on Tuesday night after President Duterte offered the use of his plane.

The President also sent off the wounded soldiers and talked to them while they were in the ambulance going from the station hospital to the tarmac of the airport in Cagayan de Oro City.

In a speech last year, Duterte promised to use the presidential aircraft as an air ambu-



Handout photo shows President Duterte visiting wounded soldiers at Camp Edilberto Evangelista Station Hospital in Cagayan de Oro City on Tuesday.

EPA

lance.

Duterte rode another aircraft to return to his home in Davao City on Tuesday night.

Earlier in the afternoon,

Duterte awarded Wounded Personal Medals to at least 79 soldiers confined at the Camp Edilberto Evangelista Station Hospital.

Wounded soldiers also received Samsung J1 smartphones, P100,000 in cash assistance and Armscor Caliber 45 pistols.

The President also assured the soldiers of his support, including the establishment of a P50-billion trust fund for the education of the children of all soldiers and policemen.

Duterte likewise promised the military that he would provide them with brand new and high-standard equipment and weapons, helicopters and fighter jets.

Before visiting the wounded soldiers, the President checked on the internally displaced persons in an evacuation center in Iligan City. He gave food and cash to the Muslim evacuees to use for breaking the fast marking the end of Ramadan on June 26.

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# The Manila Times

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## Stars perform before injured troops in QC

CELEBRITIES threw their support behind troops fighting terrorists in Marawi City on Wednesday, and entertained wounded soldiers at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Health Service Command in Quezon City.

Entertainers Ogie Alcasid, Noel Cabangon, Chad Borja, Karla Estrada, K Brosas and Davey Langit, among others, gave the "unsung heroes" a treat through music and laughs, while actress Snooky Serna gave them free lunch.

"*Kaunting salo-salo* [A little party] with our heroes, with our soldiers. This is really out of a sincere intention to show our appreciation. I am thankful that I was given this chance. *na nakapiling ko ang ating mga sundalo na tunay na mga bayani* [to be with our soldiers who are true heroes]," Serna said.

The soldiers did not miss the chance to take "selfies" with the stars, and said the visit was a big confidence and morale booster.

► **PerformA2**

## Stars perform

Private Adrian Arguelles, of the 44th Infantry Battalion of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, was caught in "friendly fire" on May 31 in his first field mission after finishing military training last December.

Arguelles, who has a leg injury, was among the eight government troops injured following a military air strike in Marawi City. Ten soldiers died.

"*First time ko na'n sa Marawi. Katapos lang namin ng tanghalian, naghuhugas ako ng pinggan, siguro kung umalis ako sa puwesto nun, kasali rin ako sa mga namatay* [It was my first time in Marawi.

We just had lunch, and I was washing the dishes. I could have died if I left the post]," Arguelles said in an interview.

He was brought to Cagayan de Oro City and immediately flown to Manila.

The 26-year-old Negros Oriental native considers himself "blessed" to have survived. Arguelles said he was willing to go back and fight if his health improves.

*The Manila Times* also saw Corporal Richard Amor, who suffered four gunshot wounds: two on his leg, one on his hip, and another on the side of his forehead, after the Maute terrorist group attacked

killed while two were wounded in that attack.

Amor is the father of three kids, aged 2, 4 and 7, who believe their dad is just sick. His wife Rizel came to Manila from Lanao del Sur to take care of him.

Asked if she would let her husband go back to the war zone, the teary-eyed Rizel said: "*Nasa kanya na yun. Susuportahan na lang namin siya* [It's up to him. We'll just give him our support]."

The AFP Health Service Command started to admit wounded soldiers on June 2. There are 97 military men are recuperating in the hospital. The Veterans Memorial Medical Center earlier said it was ready to treat injured troops.

**KIMBERLY LIBRERO**

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Public warned on groups soliciting funds for Marawi

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

MALACANANG and the military yesterday warned the public against unscrupulous persons or groups soliciting donations supposedly for soldiers and communities in Marawi City.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella and Armed Forces spokesman Brig Gen. Restituto Padilla said there are only two

official bank accounts for the soldiers and for the communities in Marawi, and these are at the Land Bank of the Philippines

They said anyone or any groups soliciting donation by phone or other means should be reported to authorities.

Padilla said there had been "an observable increase in scam-

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## PUBLIC

mers trying to raise money for our soldiers by way of benefit dinners, lunches or what have you." He said the public should not believe them.

"So just as a warning to the public, again we would like to ask everybody to be on the lookout for these scammers and let your telcos know of the numbers they're using so that they can be blocked and cannot go on with their nefarious activities," he said.

Abella said the official ac-

counts at the LandBank are "AFP Marawi Casualty" with account No. 00000552107128, and "Marawi IDP" with account No. 00000552107136.

He said that as of June 20, deposits for the families of the soldiers killed in action have reached P508,500 and those for the IDPs, or internally-displaced persons, P187,500.

"Please be reminded that this is the only official depository account and please do not give especially financial donations to any other

supposed solicitations," he said.

The AFP Civil Relations Service said shirts bearing the mark "Support our troops" are being produced by the military to show support for the troops, especially those battling the Maute group in Marawi City.

Maj. Gen. Ronnie Evangelista, CRS commander, said the shirts are not meant for fund-raising for the soldiers. He said the cost of each shirt covers just the price of the material and the printing.

The shirts, which come in black

and grey, are sold for P130 to P150 each, depending on the size.

"The purpose is not really to generate fund that is why we are selling it at cost... The idea is for you to wear it... if you are wearing the shirt, you are already supporting the troops... and anybody who reads it are being encouraged to buy one and support the troops," Evangelista said.

He added that the message of the shirt also boosts the morale of soldiers especially if they meet people wearing it.

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## AFP opposes arming of civilians amid Marawi conflict

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said on Wednesday arming civilians in Mindanao to fight terrorists would do more harm than good, a day after the President raised the specter of civil war in

the restive island.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said arming civilians could exacerbate the ongoing fighting in Marawi City, which entered its 30th day on Wednesday.

“Some civilians have requested to be allowed to arm themselves against the armed groups there in Marawi. But we cannot allow that as this may do more harm than good,” Padilla told reporters.

“You have duly armed elements of the government. These are the Armed Forces, police and other security sector partners. If we go beyond that, it will be more chaotic,” he added. **▶ ArmingA8**

■ ARMING FROM A1

## AFP opposes arming of civilians

Speaking to wounded soldiers in Cagayan de Oro City on Tuesday, the President warned that should the violence unleashed by the Maute terrorists in Marawi spill over to other parts of Mindanao, Christians could decide to arm themselves and a civil war could ensue between Christians and Muslims.

"That would be a mess because the Christians in Mindanao will also arm themselves. We cannot allow that because if civilians also arm themselves, it will be a civil war," he said.

President Duterte on May 23 declared martial law in the entire Mindanao after Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute terrorists attacked Marawi City.

The death toll from the Marawi siege rose to 360 as of 12 noon on June 20: 26 civilians, 268 extremists, and 66 government troops, according to a government report.

State forces were able to recover 271 firearms and clear 16

buildings in Marawi City.

On Tuesday, Duterte also warned that the IS could launch "retaliatory" attacks after many of their members were killed in the military offensives in Marawi City.

"And the retaliatory moves of the ISIS, better keep watch. I'm not saying that it's happening, but it will happen in the near future because of the inroads of ISIS into Mindanao," he said, using another name for IS.

The President also warned of the possible spillover of IS-linked terrorist groups outside Marawi City.

"Whether you like it or not, the sentiments of a spillover there. And they are escaping in all directions in Davao. So you have to keep watch and control the movements. Just because the fighting has stopped in Marawi, it does not mean that we are already safe," Duterte said.

But the President said government troops were capable of

dealing with the IS problem.

"Let the Armed Forces and the police deal with the problem. I know that they're capable of doing it," Duterte said.

### More than 2,000 refugees sent to hospitals

Also on Wednesday, Health Secretary Paulyñ Jean Rosell-Ubial said 2,351 people displaced by the conflict in Marawi City have been given medical attention in hospitals in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

"The present living conditions of the IDPs (internally displaced persons) expose them to respiratory, gastrointestinal, and other illnesses or diseases of outbreak potentials," said Ubial in a statement.

The Health department said 368 people remain confined in hospitals, while 1,362 received outpatient treatment.

The department has also validated and verified 24 deaths in hospitals where the patients had been referred to, mostly for pre-

existing ailments such as cancer as well as respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses. A baby born prematurely also died.

Ubial said health teams continue to address concerns in evacuation camps through interventions such as administering flu and pneumonia vaccines to the elderly and measles vaccines to children less than five years old; providing chlorine tablets to disinfect water, jerry cans for water storage, and pit latrines and portable toilets to prevent open defecation; encouraging early referrals for women in the third trimester of their pregnancy, and giving psychosocial therapy to children.

The Health department has a Unified Command Center in Iligan City housing personnel from Northern Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"The command center shall continuously consolidate reports and deploy public health and composite teams to ensure that health services are provided to the IDPs," Ubial said.

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE  
AND KENNETH HERNANDEZ**



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## Maute recruiter's house raided; two sons missing

By Nash B. Maulana

DATU ODIN SINSUAT, Maguindanao—Authorities raided Tuesday the residence of an alleged recruiter for a local terrorist group said to be responsible for the ongoing Marawi siege.

Municipal police director Chief Inspector Achmad Alibonga identified the house owner in Baran-

gay Semba as Nasser Dilangalen, 55, a government employee.

Authorities had earlier arrested Dilangalen at his workplace. His place of detention has not been disclosed to his kin.

An investigator, who did not want to be named for lack of authority to speak to reporters, said an ongoing probe also centered

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### Maute...

*From A1*

on the alleged disappearance of Dilangalen's two sons, who authorities believe have joined the Maute jihadists in Marawi.

On Tuesday, police said they recovered 40 mm live mortar ammunition, cellular phones and a cal.45 pistol with magazines.

Meanwhile, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II replaced the chairman of the panel of prosecutors handling the rebellion cases against the Maute group terrorists who attacked Marawi City.

Mangontawar Gubat will be replaced by Celso M. Sarsaba, deputy city prosecutor of Iligan City.

In a separate department order, Aguirre ordered five additional prosecutors—three from Cagayan de Oro City and two

from Misamis Oriental—to help the current team.

On Tuesday, 12 suspected members of the Maute terrorist group who were arrested June 16 in a hospital in Pagadian City, underwent inquest proceedings for rebellion in Cagayan de Oro city.

Justice Undersecretary Erickson Balmes said originally 13 suspects would have to undergo the proceedings but one of them died in the hospital while undergoing treatment.

On Wednesday, an organization of local investors in Mindanao called on the government and the private sector to help rebuild Marawi City and heal the wounds of war when the siege is over.

At a news conference in Quezon City, Abdulgani Macatoman, Bangsa Moro Federal Business Council Inc. chairman, however, said he believed

the Marawi battle would soon be over.

“Of the 96 barangays in Marawi, only four of them are under the control of the Maute-Islamic State. The way I see things are, the siege will end before the holy month of Ramadan ends,” he told reporters.

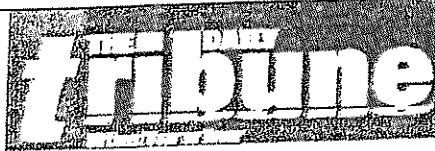
“Nothing is left. What happened to Marawi is too painful,” he said.

“We appeal to the government to provide the residents with available jobs to rebuild the place once reconstruction begins,” he said.

He called on the Duterte administration and the business sector to accelerate and intensify the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction of Marawi City, and address the possible outbreak of diseases brought about by the decomposing bodies of those killed in the battle.

**With Rio N. Araja**

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# Rapid AFP response foils BIFF occupation

By Mario J. Mallari and Ted Tuvera

The military foiled an attempt of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) to occupy a town in North Cotabato yesterday morning but the military said the Islamic State (IS)-inspired militants occupied a primary school and took hostages.

The assault was also believed to be a diversionary tactic as North Cotabato was a few hours drive from Marawi City where other jihadists were believed to be cornered in a few barangays after fighting a month-long war.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said during the Mindanao Hour briefing in Malacñang that Malagaki Elementary School in Pigcawayan town was immediately declared safe as troops forced the bandits to flee after quickly responding to the situation.

"So it's already resolved actually. They have withdrawn from the area. They are no longer there. The school area is again safe. The patrol base is well-secured," Padilla said.

Padilla said that elements of the Army's 6th Infantry Division were able to rescue the civilians who were used by the BIFF as

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# Rapid AFP response foils BIFF occupation

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OFFICE O

human shields in their way out of the school.

"There were only a few civilians but unfortunately, in the withdrawal phase of the armed elements, of the armed group, they used some civilians to cover their withdrawal," the AFP official said.

The attackers numbered about 300 BIFF members who harassed military detachments in North Cotabato and took hostages from a public elementary school after they were engaged by government forces.

Report said that the BIFF, led by Abunawas Damlog, alias commander Bayawak, and commanders Abu Zaiden and Sala, started harassing the Malagakit outpost and Sinsiman Civilian Armed Auxillary (CAA) detachment both in Pigcawayan town at around 5:45 a.m.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division (ID), said that elements of the 34th Infantry Battalion (IB) immediately reinforced the village watchmen and CAAs - engaging the BIFF rebels in a firefight.

"An encounter erupted and hot pursuit operation was launched but our troops had difficulty tracking them down because they held civilians," said Encinas.

Initial report, Encinas said, showed that the BIFF took about 12 students from a nearby Malagakit Elementary School.

Encinas said that blocking and checkpoints were also established to run after the BIFF men.

As of noon time yesterday, Encinas said that firefight had died down but pursuit operations were continuing.

There was no reported casualty on the government side.

Encinas said that the Army managed to react immediately due to constant monitoring of the BIFF movement in the area.

"They did not succeed in their harassment that's why they withdrew immediately but the sad thing was that they used civilians as human shields during their withdrawal," said Encinas.

Supt. Romeo Galgo, spokesman of the Central Mindanao police, said that the harassment prompted more than 500 civilians in the area to leave their homes for safety.

Galgo said that a total of 513 individuals evacuated from barangays Malagakit, Banucagon and Panatn.

He said elements of the Regional

Public Safety Battalion-12 were also deployed to assist the military in conducting checkpoint operations.

The BIFF is a breakaway faction of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). There are reports that some BIFF members are currently fighting with the IS-inspired terrorists, led by Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute group, in Marawi City.

## BIFF opportunism

"What the BIFF did was an opportunistic activity. They saw the chance to show that they are capable of doing such attack. Fortunately, they did not succeed in doing so this time around," Padilla said.

"They were taking advantage of the situation that we have a very slight - lightly defended outpost and that they think our forces are elsewhere in the province," he added.

Meanwhile, the AFP official confirmed that some members of the BIFF joined the Dawlaah Islamiyaah or the IS movement in Marawi City, along with the Maute, Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines (AKP) and Abu Sayyaf groups.

But Padilla stressed that the Pigcawayan incident was not an attempt to establish another IS-inspired front outside Marawi City.

"This attack was not a spillover nor was it a diversionary tactic by the IS," he said.

Captain Arvin Encinas, spokesman for the army division with responsibility for the area, said the gunmen had planted improvised bombs around the school.

Encinas said he did not know how many hostages had been taken, or if they included children.

Local police said the BIFF attack may have been intended to help the militants in Marawi by distracting the military.

Padilla said the gunmen attacked the outpost at daybreak, then, exchanged fire with troops in the morning before retreating in a hit-and-run assault typical of BIFF fighters.

"It's already resolved. The enemy has withdrawn... they failed," Padilla said late on Wednesday morning.

However about six hours later Encinas reported the hostage crisis at the school. Padilla then appeared on television and confirmed militants were occupying the school.

Encinas and Padilla said there had also been skirmishes throughout the day outside of Pigcawayan, which is surrounded by marshlands, mountains and farmlands.

## 'No ID, no entry'

Police have required identification cards from commuters and motorists passing major routes leading to the capital city of Koronadal in South Cotabato in a bid to enhance security in the area.

Sr. Supt. Franklin Alvero, South Cotabato police director, said the move is part of the security measures that they adopted in the wake of the conflict in Marawi City and the prevailing martial law in Mindanao.

He said they decided to adopt such policy, which is also being implemented in this city and other key areas in Mindanao, following a meeting with Koronadal City officials last week.

Koronadal City Mayor Peter Miguel earlier called for stricter measures on the movements of people in the city due to the influx of evacuees from Marawi City.

Aside from the implementation of the "no ID, no entry" policy, Alvero said they established additional checkpoints in key entry and exit points of the city and province in major highways.

"This is to counter and limit the possibility of splinter groups or personalities involved in terrorism from entering the province, especially Koronadal City," he said in an interview.

He said the possibility remains high of lawless groups taking advantage of the situation in Marawi to stage terror-attacks in other areas.

Owing to this, the police official said he directed personnel manning the security checkpoints to inspect all passing commuters, motorists and vehicles.

He said they were ordered to check and verify their identities through a gallery of wanted terror leaders and members.

"This way, we could check the personalities that would enter and verify if they might be members of the Maute, BIFF, or other groups," he said.

Those who do not carry any identification cards or documents will have to be validated properly, he said.

Alvero said the operations of checkpoints will have no limitation or time frame and could even be extended longer depending on the situation.

He cited the implementation of stricter checkpoint operations is also in preparation for South Cotabato province's 18th T'nalak Festival and 51st foundation anniversary celebration slated July 12 to 18.

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# AFP HANDA SA BIFF!

**Nina Betchai Julian, Aries Cano,  
Noel Abuel at Al Jacinto**

Bigo ang pag-atake ng daan-daang miyembro ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa Pigcawayan, Cotabato kahapon ng umaga dahil nakaalerto na ang mga tropa ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa buong Mindanao simula pa lang nang sumiklab ang sagupaan sa Marawi City.

"They were taking advantage of the situation that we have a very slight --- lightly defended outpost and that they think our forces are elsewhere in the province. But that's not the case. Our forces are spread all over. We may be facing many fronts, ibig sabihin madami tayong kinakaharap na kalaban ipeto maayos po nating nai-assign ang lahat ng ating mga pwersa para harapin po itong mga iba't ibang banta... at hindi po magtatagumpay itong mga grupong to dahil patuloy tayong nakaalerto't handang tugunan kung anumang yung gagawin nila," ayon kay AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

Sinabi pa nito na pangha-harass lamang o nagpapapansin lang ang BIFF para ipakitang "existing" pa sila. Katunayan anya, nagulat ang BIFF dahil mabilis ang response ng militar at agad silang naitaboy.

"Umatras naman po agad ang mga BIFF dahil nagulat sila sa mabilis na aksyon ng military," wika ni Padilla.

Itinuturing lamang umano nila ang insidente na maliit na bagay lang kumpara sa

ginawa ng Maute Group sa Marawi City. Binigyan-diin pa ni Padilla na walang koneksyon ang pag-atake sa BIFF sa nangyayari ngayon sa Marawi City at hindi umano "spillover" ng bakbakan sa lungsod ang pagsalakay sa Pigcawayan.

Bago pa man umano ang krisis sa Marawi City ay patuloy na ang ginagawang harassment ng BIFF.

### HIT-AND-RUN ATTACK

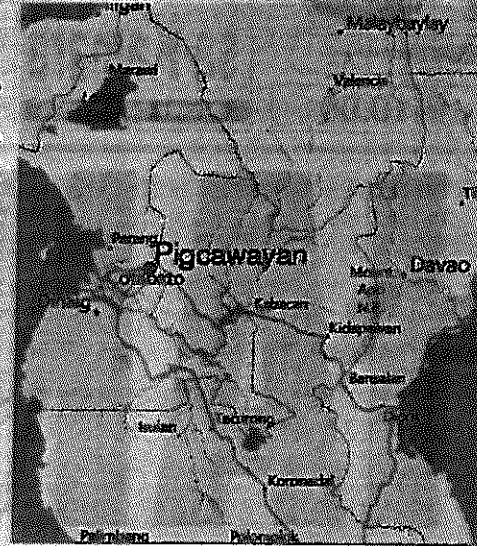
Sa inisyal na ulat ni Chief Inspector Reyhan Mamon, hepe ng Pigcawayan Police, bandang alas-5:45 ng madaling-araw kahapon nang makatanggap sila ng impormasyon sa umano'y pagkubkob ng hindi pa mabilang na mga armadong suspek sa Malagakit Elementary School sa Brgy. Malagakit at ilang katao ang binihag.

Agad namang nagpadalang mga tropa mula sa 34th Infantry Battalion at malapos ang halos anin na oras na putukan ay nailigtas sa gulo ang Brgy. Malagakit maging ang dalawa pang katabing barangay nito.

Bagama't walang naiulat na nasawi sa labanan ay ipinag-utos ng militar ang pagtugis sa mga BIFF.

Kinumpirma naman ni Abu Misty Mama, spokesman ng BIFF, na nilusob nga ng kanilang pwersa ang mga detachment sa Pigcawayan at hawak din nila ang ilang mga bihag. Pero nilinaw ni Mama na dinala nila ang mga sibilyan hindi o bihagin kundi para mailigtas ang mga ito sa palitan ng putok.

Sinabi naman ni Pigcawayan Mayor Eliseo Garcesa na patuloy pang



maalam kung may mga sibilyan bang nasugatan sa nangyaring bakbakan.

Batay kay Mayor Garcesa ay nasa 200 gunmen ang sumalakay subalit sinabi sa police report na nasa 300 katao ang mga ito.

### 3 ISKUL ANG KINUBKOB

Kinumpirma naman ni Fr. Dominic Villa, parish priest ng Pigcawayan at in-charge ng Malagakit Chapel kung saan matatagpuan ang mga paaralan na matake ng BIFF na tatlong eskwelahan ang inokupang mga ito.

Aniya, nakubkob ng BIFF ang Simsiman Elementary School at Simsiman High School gavundin ang kalapit na Malagakit Elementary School.

### ALAM NA MAY AATAKE

Inihayag din ni Fr. Villa na balos dalawang linggo na nilang natanggap ang impormasyon hinggil sa pag-atake kaya tuwing gabi ay lumilikas ang mga residente mula sa mga barangay ng Simsiman at Malagakit para makitulog sa kanilang mga kaanak.

"Actually matagal na yang info na talagang

may mag-atake sa amin sa part ng marshland (Liguasan Marsh), last Christian barangay sa marshland. Kung di ako nagkakamali mga two weeks nang nagbabakwit ang mga tao, naiwan ang mga lalaki, ang mga kababaihan nagpupunta sa town sa kanilang mga kamag-anak, ang iba sa munisipyo Pista sa kanila (Malagakit) pero hindi ako pinayagan na magmisa dahil may mga information na sila na naring. Kaya instead na doon magmisa, dito na lang sa Pigcawayan Parish" ayon kay Villa.

Kinumpirma rin ni Mayor Garcesa na nakatanggap ng mga text message ang mga lokal na opisyal ng Pigcawayan sa nakalipas na ilang araw hinggil sa magaganap na pag-atake sa kanilang lugar.

Hindi pa matiyak kung may nasawi o nasugatan sa putukan. Hindi rin matiyak pa kung may mga bihag nga ang BIFF o pinakawalan na.

Ang Pigcawayan ay mayroong 160 kilometro o 100 milya ang layo sa Marawi City.

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## Gov't agencies urged to employ dependents of soldiers, cops, killed or wounded in action

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has called on concerned agencies to employ qualified dependents of the soldiers and police officers killed or wounded in the almost month-long Marawi City clash between government forces and terrorist group Maute.

DILG officer-in-charge (OIC) Catalino Cuy issued the appeal in behalf of the kin of law enforcers killed or wounded in action or in police operations (KIA-WIA/KIPO-WIPO).

He noted that quick response and commitment to assist the dependents is needed as the DILG

targets to accommodate a number of qualified beneficiaries.

Out of the 261 beneficiaries, 196 are dependents of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), including the soldiers who died in the Marawi siege, and 65 are from the Philippine National Police (PNP).

"We are doing the rounds to assist the families of KIA-WIA/KIPO-WIPO and we need all the help that we can get. This is the least that we can do to the families of our heroes," Cuy said.

The DILG estimated that ₱28.2-million is needed to fund the salaries of the 261 dependents of KIA-WIA/KIPO-WIPO for six months as each dependent stands to receive ₱18,000.

On May 3, the DILG submitted a financial subsidy request of ₱3.5-million to the DBM for the 21 dependents employed in the DILG.

Earlier, Presidential Management Staff Acting Head Ferdinand B. Cui, Jr. stressed that agencies should abide with the president's standing order to extend all the possible assistance that could be provided to the dependents of fallen or wounded soldiers and policemen.

As a response, Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary for Regional Operations Zenaida Maglaya expressed support in hiring dependents by enlisting the small and medium enterprise (SMEs) as viable employers.

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## DUTERTE READY TO ORDER 'CARPET BOMBING' OF MARAWI IF NEEDED

**By Philip C. Tubeza**  
@pctubezaINQ

President Duterte said on Tuesday that he would order the "carpet bombing" of Marawi to put an end to the fighting between government forces and Islamic State-inspired terrorists in the city, now in its fifth week.

Speaking to the reporters in Cagayan de Oro City, Mr. Duterte said the terrorists were apparently prepared for battle in the city, stockpiling guns and munitions in buildings as early as three years ago.

"As early as last year, it was already difficult to enter Marawi ... You don't invade it with men. You really crush it with bombs," Mr. Duterte said.

"I will not put the soldiers at high risk. If I have to bomb the ... if I have to flatten the place, I

will do it. And I will take full responsibility for it," he added.

### 'I will destroy everything'

"I will order the bombing ... carpet already, carpet ah ... I will really destroy everything," he said.

"And I will really do that because I have a bigger responsibility and that is to the Republic of the Philippines," he added.

The crisis began on May 23 when gunmen from the Maute terrorist group and their allies from the Abu Sayyaf bandit group rampaged through Marawi.

The fighting erupted after a failed military attempt to capture Isnilon Hapilon, an Abu Sayyaf leader who had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Iraq and Syria.

As of Tuesday, the government said, 360 people have died

in the fighting—268 terrorists, 66 soldiers and policemen, and 26 civilians.

The fighting has left most of the lakeside city in ruins and forced most of its 200,000 residents to flee to Iligan City and other surrounding areas.

Visiting the evacuees in Iligan on Tuesday, Mr. Duterte apologized to them for the devastation of their city.

"I have apologized to the Maranaos, for those who died unnecessarily, and for the loss of properties and those who said that they are ... [I] ask your pardon," he said.

### Communal war

Mr. Duterte also warned that if the violence in Marawi spilled over to other parts of Mindanao, Christians would arm themselves and a civil or

communal war could ensue between Christians and Muslims.

"If there's civil war, there would be killings. Here in Mindanao, there are more Christians and they have better guns. They are buying. The rich ones, they're stockpiling guns," he said.

"That's what's dangerous. To prevent a communal war, we really need to stop this ... I did not expect [the number] of our casualties to be this high," Mr. Duterte said, referring to the government losses in Marawi.

In a communal war, he said, the military would have to deal with not just the Maute terrorists but also with armed Christians.

The President said the country's hope in ending the violence in Mindanao lay in expediting the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro Na-

tional Liberation Front (MNLF).

Once the peace process proceeds, he will tell the MILF to deal with the Maute rebels and their Abu Sayyaf allies, he said.

"That is why [we] hope there is fast-tracking [of] the peace process. I will tell (MILF chair) Murad (Ebrahim) and the MI(LF), 'You take care of that since that is the area you want—central Mindanao, Lanao, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat,'" Mr. Duterte said.

#### Cornered

The military said on Wednesday that troops had cornered the terrorists in Marawi.

"They're running out of place to run," said Brig. Gen. Ramiro Manuel Rey, the commander of the military's Task Force Ranao.

Rey said the terrorists' resis-

tance continued to weaken, although they could still engage government troops in occasionally heavy fighting.

Lt Col Jo-Ar Herrera, spokesperson for the Army's 1st Infantry Division, also said the terrorists' resistance was "waning."

"We continue to recover and control strategic areas in the cleared area and the enemy resistance is waning, their controlled area diminishing," he said.

Herrera said, however, that none of the leaders of the Maute terror group—brothers Omar-khayam and Abdullah Maute—and of the Abu Sayyaf had been confirmed killed in the fighting.

"They are still in the area, based on our monitoring and reports we get," he said. —WITH

REPORTS FROM ALLAN NAWAL AND RICHELUMEL INQ

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## AFP pumiyok: May banta sa bansa

**INAMIN** ni AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. na may banta sa bansa.

Subalit, nilinaw nito sa Mindanao Hour briefing sa Malekanyang na banta sa holdaper, kidnaper, magnanakaw ng mga cellphone at kung ano-ano pa ang naglipanang banta sa iba't ibang lugar lalo na sa Metro Manila subalit wala aniyang banta ng terorismo.

"Threats remain. Lagi pong may banta na naratili. Hindi po nawawala 'yung mga banta. Maski saan po tayo may banta na nariyan. So, mga banta po yan na parte sa hinaharap natin sa pang-araw-araw," aniya.

Wala naman aniyang dapat

na ipangamba ang publiko at mga taga-Metro Manila dahil patukoy na pinangangalagaan nila ang kalahimikan dito at maigting aniya ang inilalagay nilang nilalang seguridad.

Kaya nga aniya dapat na palaging maging handa sa lahat ng oras, araw at pagkakalaon.

Dito aniya pumapasok ang tinatawag na "shared responsibility" sa security, na ang bawal mamamayan ay kabahagi aniya dapat sa seguridad.

"Sa sarili niyang kakayahian, dapat binabantayan niya at nagigi siyang mapagmasid, nagiging alerto at mapanuri sa kanyang kapaligiran. Kasi itong mga bantang ito maaari sa anumang oras ay maaaring maging akti-

bo. Kaya itong kahandaan natin para tugunan itong mga bantang ito, hindi lang po dapat nakasalalay sa poder ng Armed Forces o ng pulis," ani BGen. Padilla.

**Malakanyang nagbabala vs nagso-solicit para sa Marawi soldiers, evacuees**  
NAGBABALA ang Malakanyang sa publiko laban sa mga naglipanang indibidwal o grupo na nagso-solicit para sa mga pamilya ng namatay na sundalo sa Marawi City at sa evacuees.

Sinabi ni Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella na walang pinapayagan ang gobyerno lalo na ang AFP na mag-solicit ang kahit na sinoman para sa mga naapekiuhan ng Ma-

rawi siege.

Please be reminded that this is the only official depository account and please do not give especially financial donations to any other supposed solicitations. Please take note that the only depository bank is Land Bank of the Philippines," ani Usec. Abella.

Kaugnay nito, umabot na sa P508,500 mula P224,000 ang perang nakadeposito ngayon sa Land Bank para sa pamilya ng mga sundalo na namatay sa aksyon.

Ang opisyal na pangalan ng bank account ay AFP Marawi Casualty na ang account number ay 0000552107128.

Para sa evacuees mula sa Marawi na may account name Marawi IDP at Account number na 0000552107136 ay may nakadeposito nang P187,500 mula sa dating P21,000.

Nauna nito, personal na binisita ni Pangulong Duterte ang wounded-in-action soldiers at pinagkalooban niya ang mga ito ng Wounded Personnel Medals.

Nakatanggap din sila ng cash aid.

**Duterte nag-sorry sa mga Maranao**

NAG-SORRY si Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte sa mga Maranao dahil sa idineklara niyang martial law dahil sa nararanasang kaguluhan na idinulot ng nagpapatuloy na bakbakan sa pagitan ng Maute terror group at tropa ng pamahalaan sa Marawi City.

Sinabi nito na unti-unti nang nasisira ang Marawi dahil sa gulo ng Maute group kung saan ang tanging paraan na lang na naisip niyang gawin ay ang pagdedeklarang batas militar para masupil ang Maute group.

Nangako naman ang Chief Executive na tutulong siya sa isasagawang rehabilitasyon sa Marawi City at maging sa mga residenteng inilikas dahil sa kaguluhan.

Binigyang diin nito na hindi na magtatagal ay babalik na rin sa normal at maayos na buhay ang mga taga-Marawi City.

KRIS JOSE



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# Duterte urges lumads to leave NPA

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

**C**AMP BANCASI, Butuan City – President Rodrigo R. Duterte called on tribesmen, who continue to fight with the New People's Army (NPA), to surrender and avail of the government's peace and development program.

Before the officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) at Camp Bancasi here, the President urged the tribesmen from different parts of the Caraga region to "surrender peacefully," as he also pledged that they will be welcome to join the government's military or police force.

The President noted that some young tribesmen are being exploited

by the NPAs in the underground movement.

He pointed out that a portion of the NPA cadres in Caraga were lumads or indigenous peoples (IPs) and were just being lured into the rebel movement because of poverty and lack of opportunities in rural areas.

"They should stop fighting (against the government)," the President said.

"Lay down your arms and avail of the services offered by the government," he stressed.

The President also said those who wish to serve in the armed forces will be trained and be integrated into the military service.

Before the start of his traditional "Talk to Troops" with the men and women of the AFP and PNP held at the Fourth Infantry (Diamond) Division

Advance Command Post (4IDACP) here last Saturday, the President likewise inspected the seized high-powered firearms from the Marawi City crisis displayed at the Kalayan Pastoral Hall here.

In the same occasion, the President assured the officers and men of the AFP and PNP that he will try his best before the end of his term to look for a P50-billion trust fund that will be utilized for immediate support to soldiers, livelihood and educational assistance.

The President noted the sacrifices of the soldiers, and said: "I know you are doing your job. You take the risks when you are in the field, that's how determined and committed you are in fighting against crime and terror that is brought by the terrorist group."

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## 29 Sayyaf arrested in Patikul raid

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Government forces arrested 29 members of the Abu Sayyaf group during a raid on Tuesday in a village of Patikul town, Sulu, the military said yesterday.

Brig Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of Joint Task Force Sulu, said combined military and police forces staged the raid around 5:30 a.m. in Barangay Bangkal.

No firefight occurred as the suspects did not resist arrest, Sobejana said.

He said the suspects were mostly members of the Ajang-ajang, a faction of the Abu

Sayyaf that served as spotter for a kidnapping target.

The raid was launched following the release Monday of a nine-year-old kidnap victim.

Sobejana said they received information on the presence of the Abu Sayyaf involved in kidnapping in the village.

“We did the operational plan and with my joint forces and the police we were able to apprehend 29 individuals,” Sobejana said.

He said witnesses and the victim positively identified four of the suspects.

Sobejana said police have been handling the case to determine the suspects’ possible involvement in other crimes.

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## Ex-AFP official indicted for misuse of funds

By Rio N. Araja

THE Office of the Ombudsman disclosed on Wednesday the conviction of a former high ranking Armed Forces of the Philippines official for misuse of over P24 million in soldiers' contributions to the AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System 25 years ago.

The Sandiganbayan convicted former AFP-RSBS president (ret.) general Jose Ramiscal Jr. of two counts of violation of Section 3(i) of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act or Republic Act No. 3019.

He was sentenced to suffer a jail term of six to 10 years for each count, with perpetual disqualification from holding public office.

In 1992, the AFP-RSBS and DM Wenceslao and Associates Inc. entered into a joint venture to establish the Bay Resources Development Corp. for the pur-

pose of acquiring and developing a 10-hectare property in the Manila-Cavite coastal road and reclamation project.

During the Dec. 29, 1995 trial, the Ombudsman prosecutors testified that the corporation sold and transferred the property to AFP-RSBS with the pension fund footing the payment of taxes.

On the other hand, Ramiscal approved the payment and release of P24,198,070 to the corporation without any board approval. The cash advances between the AFP-RSBS and BRADCO were earlier placed under scrutiny in a Senate investigation on the utilization of the pension funds.

"As the vendor, it is clearly BradCo's sole responsibility to pay all the taxes, including the documentary stamp taxes due on the properties sold to the AFP-RSBS. Thus, it is highly anomalous for the AFP-RSBS to advance the payments thereof," the decision read.

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**PRESIDENTIAL RIDE – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte walks along the aisle as he talks with wounded soldiers he personally accompanied back to Manila from Cagayan de Oro onboard the presidential plane Tuesday night. (Malacañang Photo)**

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The Manila Times

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## Editorial

### Unconditional surrender

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) prides itself in having supposedly known about the plan of the terrorist Maute Group to swoop down on Marawi City ahead of the actual attack on May 23.

Perhaps it did. But the fact is that the bandit band affiliated with the Islamic State (IS) had been digging in for 31 days in the capital of Lanao del Sur in southern Mindanao and continuing to spring surprises on the evidently embarrassed military authorities.

And then there were the millions in cash, the shabu, the high-powered firearms and ammunition and who knows what other resources and materiel that government troops would stumble on as they battled it out with an enemy whom the bemedaled AFP generals had obviously underestimated as a ragtag band that supposedly emerged from the separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), or the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), or both.

One telling surprise was that the AFP apparently did not realize that the Maute terrorists seemed to have been versatile enough to engage soldiers in both guerrilla and conventional warfare, with which the Armed Forces is more familiar and for which it suffered the bloody consequences.

It was, therefore, a no-brainer for the military to be reportedly finding tunnels and other underground passages that summon images of the people's armies of Mao or Ho Chi Minh fighting and eventually winning their wars of liberation from Asian and Western colonizers.

The tunnels' presence would mean that their builders had all the time in the world to build them and that they were completed with inside help, probably from members of the families of the Maute bandits and their extended families in the MNLF or MILF or both.

The possibility of the apparently never-say-die stance of the Maute Group terrorists rooted in blood being thicker than water cannot, therefore, be discounted.

Wonder no more why, in what the Armed Forces calls clearing-up operations in Marawi—which also means that it is all over but for the shouting for the bandits—no reports on the civilian population of the city tipping off the government troops on the whereabouts and wherewithal of the attackers have been recorded.

In contrast, an attempt by the Abu Sayyaf, another IS-affiliated terrorist band, to sneak into Bohol province in the Central Visayas last month immediately fizzled out because rural folk lost no time in informing local authorities about sightings of armed men in their communities.

But Bohol being a Christian-majority area—it is not known if there are any Muslim communities there—can easily explain the action taken by the people of the province.

Over the weekend, President Duterte said the government knew that Muslim rebels were accumulating guns and ammunition in Marawi City but that authorities did not intervene because of the peace negotiations with the MNLF and the MILF.

For that hesitation, the Duterte administration is paying the price, with the President saying the Maute Group may have acquired its stash from the two secessionist groups, among other sources.

While it is ironing out a peace agreement with the MILF, the government earlier said that it won't be talking with the MNLF on the peace pact that the Nur Misuari-led group forged with the Ramos administration in 1996.

Better for President Duterte to rethink twice or even thrice what good resuming talks with the MILF will bring when the separatists are arming themselves with a shadow warrior in the Maute Group.

Meanwhile, the President has assured soldiers they "will never run out of weapons... in everything you need, I won't let you down."

Of course, they won't, even if he seems to be talking about a protracted war that, who knows, could outlast his six-year term that ends in 2022.

But if by chance the government were to end soon the stand-off in Marawi City, it should ask for nothing less than the unconditional surrender of the Maute Group. And then it should run after those who harbored its combatants and supporters and caused the death of soldiers and civilians, and not allow itself to be held back by the prospect of a peace agreement miraculously rising from the ashes of the city.

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## The Islamic terrorists in Marawi City

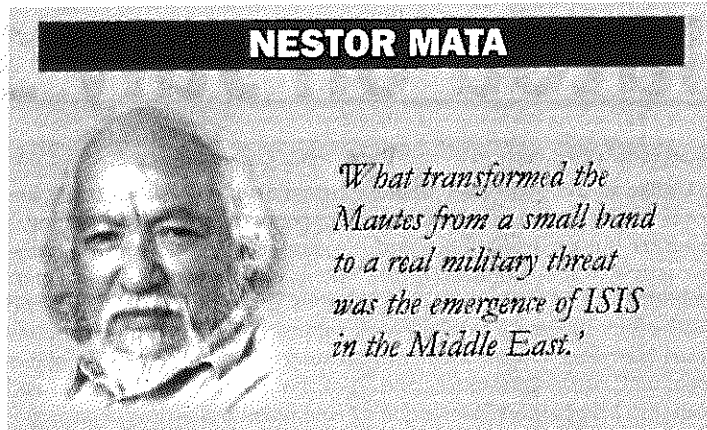
**A** NEW base has been set up for the Islamic State (IS) group in that capital of Lanao del Sur by the Maute brothers.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte may have to extend the period of martial rule in Mindanao, especially in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, where a new base has been set up for the Islamic State (IS) by the notorious Maute brothers.

The two Muslim brothers – Omarkhayan and Abdullah Maute – controlled the terroristic events in Marawi. They first obtained Christian education at the Dansalan College, but, when they returned to Marawi City after a decade from their studies in the Middle East where they were radicalized, they raised the black flag of the IS and set on fire their alma mater.

They recruited hundreds of gunmen, many of them young locals and destroyed Dansalan College in a rampage across Marawi City last month. They launched a brutal offensive to stamp their credentials as leaders of IS.

The Maute group emerged as a



small rag-tag group around 2012 from a decades-long-old Muslim separatist rebellion in Mindanao. The Maute and other small hardline groups filled a vacuum for fanatics as they took inspiration from IS's atrocities in Iraq and Syria.

"I think what transformed the Mautes from a small band to a real military threat was the emergence of ISIS in the Middle East," according to security analyst Sidney Jones, director of the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict.

However, he said, leadership had effectively shifted to the Maute brothers because they were controlling terroristic events in Marawi.

Their main ally is Isnilon Hapilon, leader of another hardline group called the Abu Sayyaf, who is on the United States government's list of most-wanted terrorists. IS named Hapilon as its leader in the Philippines and he is believed to be in Marawi with the Maute brothers.

Regardless of whether the

Maute brothers are driven out of Marawi, Jones noted, they have established the Philippines as a successful new base for IS, pointing to foreign fighters who have been reported killed in the conflict. The military has said that the slain fighters came from Chechnya, Libya, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Finally, Jones concluded, "everybody has been concerned up till now about the threat of foreign fighters coming back from Syria and Iraq. Suddenly, the bigger threat is that foreign fighters coming who never set foot in the Middle East are going to Mindanao."

The military must have informed President Duterte that, along with the Maute terrorist group, about the presence of those foreign fighters in Mindanao.

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Quote of the Day: "The Manute brothers were mentored by a fugitive Indonesian militant, Ustadz San-nussi, who in turn put them in touch with other Southeast Asian jihadists." – Rommel Banlaoi, head of the Manila-based Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Research.

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# Charter's ML provisions watered-down

**D**eserving utmost clarity is the issue of when rebellion may be said to have started

## COMMENT

in Mindanao, in the search for the factual basis of Proclamation 216 that declared martial law over the largest island of the country

The issue may be rephrased, *videlicet*, "was there already rebellion when government forces entered Marawi City last May 23?"

Government lawyers have orally argued before the Supreme Court that military intelligence reports unearthing rebellious activities had caused the sending of troops to protect the city and its residents, and that when they got there, the city was already well under siege by enemy forces (*i.e.*, the IS-oriented ASG-BIFF-Hapilon-Maute Group), with rebel units already positioned for combat operations that included beheading, sniping and using civilians as human shields.

### Conspiracy to commit rebellion

It is this writer's two cents' worth of opinion that the cited military intelligence reports were reliable, as verified by a video clip showing Islamic State (IS)-oriented rebels – led by top ASG rebel Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute brothers Abdulla and Omar, along with others – planning a siege of Marawi City, and it was during this planning conference that the terrorists can be reckoned to have started their rebellion by "conspiring to commit the same."

It appears to be the stand of martial law oppositionists that, the cited circumstances notwithstanding, Proclamation 216 was a constitutional violation.

In other words: for the proclamation to be valid, should massive destruction/forcible occupation of the city by the enemy have first taken place before government forces moved in to protect the beleaguered city? What balderdash is this?

Although having practically won the battle at Marawi City, the death toll among our fighters continues to rise amid reports that, like a virus, the IS scourge has spread over Iligan City and other nearby areas. When will the conflicts stop?!

### Insensitive misappreciation

And what sucks is: Instead of getting words of encouragement and sympathy, government forces hear Chief Justice Sereno insensitively telling them they could be charged criminally or civilly for fighting an unauthorized war. Yes, she, Sereno ... for whom and for whose loved ones ... they are dying and getting wounded!

Let an analogy be permitted at this point. A group of masked men enters a mall. Garbed in

combat uniform, the masked men march around waving ISIS flags and chanting praises to Allah.

According to Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, a certified Yellow, people in the mall shouldn't panic because there's still no proof that the men are IS jihadists (for they could be just playful pranksters?) – implying you have to wait first for them to explode the entire place.

### Paranoiac overreaction

In this grim scenario, over a dozen security guards freeze under the watchful eyes of well-known human rights personalities who happen to be around. Suddenly, four bombs are thrown by the intruders, and the ground floor becomes a total wreck with bodies strewn around. These hypothetical circumstances, it is submitted, would be the tragic effect of the ML provisions of Corazon Aquino's Constitution, as interpreted by her present-day yellow adherents.

The trouble with Cory's basic charter ML provisions is that they reflect a paranoid overreaction to the martial rule of the late President Ferdinand Marcos. The 1987 Charter recognizes the authority to declare ML as presidential, and yet Chief Executive Duterte, who is also the Commander-in-Chief, is not given ample elbow room to manage a war against the most dangerous enemies of democracy ever known in history, namely, the Islamic jihadists and their worldwide armed followers.

**Charter change, a "must"**

Cory's basic charter is virtually toothless as an instrument for protecting the citizenry against these barbaric enemies of the State; in fact, it even makes it easy for them to achieve their evil ends through its imposition of checks and controls on the way wars should be waged by those who have been professionally trained to offer their lives in defense of country: the officers and men of our armed forces, not to mention heroic civilian volunteers.

It bears noting that, when the Constitution was ratified almost 50 years ago, international terrorism was not yet around. Therefore, it must be revised to conform to current realities, in specific reference to the greatest-ever menace known to Man, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

However, beware!!! Charter change may be too timid for Digong!!

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## Why martial law for Mindanao?



**Ariel Nepomuceno**

### DECISION TIME

**D**ONE in the Russian Federation on May 23, Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea, on behalf of President Duterte, declared a state of martial law and suspended the writ of habeas corpus in Mindanao via Proclamation 216.

As basis, the President referred to acts of invasion and rebellion in the region, which had its early underpinnings when the Maute Group allegedly violently attacked a military outpost in Lanao del Sur in February 2016, and the mass jailbreak in Marawi City in August 2016. The proclamation then focused on the May 23 incidents, where the same terrorist group took over a hospital in Marawi City, established checkpoints within the city, burned government and private facilities and flew the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria flag in several areas.

This narrative was used to lay the foundations of a factual finding of invasion and rebellion, which are deplorable criminal acts under Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code. To make the scenario complete, the President called out the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to fulfill its constitutional function of preventing and suppressing lawless violence. Each step in the constitutional provision was dissected and brought to life.

#### Trauma in our past

THE trauma produced by the Marcosian martial law stirred the usual public outcry against Proclamation 216 and its potential horrors and pitfalls. Various groups went to the Supreme Court (SC) to question the validity of the proclamation. The group of Rep. Edcel C. Lagman of Albay stated that the Maute terrorist acts are not synonymous to a rebellion, because it has no intention to take arms for the purpose of removing allegiance to the government or depriving the President or the legislature its powers. At most, the government itself, in fact, launched the war in Marawi City. It was essentially a military operation and not a crusade to topple the administration. On the other hand, other petitioners belonging to the Human Rights and Activists segment allege that there was no actual rebellion, but only a looming threat. Most of petitioners argued that the President was given a fact sheet that was inaccurate and its contents, even denied by some key personalities, like the medical director of the Marawi City hospital.

#### Rationale for the declaration

THE government's position was fully articulated by Solicitor General Jose C. Calida, who categorically denied that the martial law in Mindanao is akin to that of Marcos's

Proclamation 1081. He even assured the SC that the human rights of the Filipino people, especially those in Mindanao, shall be fully respected and protected. Calida explained that the Marawi attack staged by the Maute Group was a clear case of rebellion and a part of a bigger plot to make Mindanao an Islamic state. He mentioned that all the important elements for the crime of rebellion were present. The facts on the ground were established and communicated by the AFP to the President and the latter had to act decisively and quickly to address the growing crisis. The linkage between the Maute and other terrorist groups in the Asian region cannot be underestimated.

### Highest legal imprimatur

THE SC now has an extremely difficult but significant task, as any ruling on this matter will impact so many lives and the economic and political future not only of Mindanao, but the entire nation, as well. The closed door interpellation facilitated by the High Court for it to fully appreciate the intelligence and confidential information provided by the Department of National Defense and the AFP may fill the gaps in the factual basis for the martial-law declaration.

Those who are on the ground, actually supervising and leading our military operations must be trusted by the courts to tell the story. Our President has spoken that his action was not a knee-jerk or flimsy reaction to the Maute offensive. Martial law is not a simple matter. We have loads of history on this issue and our government is fully aware of that. In the meantime, the Marawi war is now on its fifth week, and about 350 people have died. Ordinary citizens and our military are suffering because of this terrorist menace. The risk of it spreading to other areas is present. Those in the area live it and feel it. Day by day, we are confronted with a rising number of

Maute militants, with some foreigners even joining the fray. We wonder why there appears to be more of them in every nook and cranny in Marawi City and nearby places. The blatant attack against the state must end.

Clarity on the legal framework to fully enable our government to fight terrorists and lawless elements will certainly help. So help us God.

For comments and suggestions: anelnepo.businessmirror@gmail.com.

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Editorial

## Hindi na kayang rendahan ng CPP ang NPA

**H**INDI na sinusunod ng New People's Army (NPA) ang Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) at National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). Balewala ang kanilang order sa kanilang military arm na huwag sumalakay sa tropa ng gobyerno at sa halip magpokus sa pakikipag-isa sa mga ito kung paano mapupukso ang terrorist group na Maute na hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay nakikipagbambakan pa sa mga sundalo. Mag-iisang buwan na mula nang sumalakay ang Maute sa Marawi.

Balewala ang panawagan ng CPP-NDFP sa NPA na huwag sumalakay sa mga army detachment o police station. Noong Linggo, dalawang beses nagsagawa ng pagsalakay ang NPA - isa sa Maasin, Iloilo at sa Catanauan, Quezon. Sinalakay ng 40 NPA na kinabibilangan ng mga lalaki at babae ang police sta-



tion sa Maasin at nasorpresa ang mga pulis na agad dinisarmahan. Nakakuha ng walong M-16 rifles at siyam na Glock 9-mm pistols. Ayon sa report, tatlong babae muna ang pumasok sa station at nagkumwaring magpa-file ng reklamo. At kasunod nyon ay ang pagsalakay na ng mga rebelde na ang iba ay nagdaan pa sa likuran ng station. Walang putok na nangyari sa pagsalakay. Nakunan pa ng retrato ng ilang residente ang pagsalakay at pag-alis ng mga rebelde dala ang high-powered firearms.

Halos kasabay nang pagsalakay sa Maasin, isang army truck ang inambush ng NPA sa Catanauan, Quezon na ikinasugat ng dalawang sundalo. Magre-sonde umano ang mga sundalo sa isang nangyayaring sunog sa Globe cell site na kagagawan din ng NPA nang maganap ang ambush. Ganunman, nakipagbaril ang mga sundalo at napaatras ang mga rebelde.

Ang traidor na pagsalakay ng mga NPA sa kabila na may utos mula sa NDFP-CPP na huwag magsagawa ng opensiba ay nagpapakita lamang na wala nang control ang communist group sa kanilang military arm. Hindi na nila kayang rendahan. Kanya-kanya nang lakad ang grupo. Wala nang kinikilala at wala nang pakialam kahit may kaguluhang hinaharap laban sa terorista. Wala na ring ipinagkaiba ang NPA sa mga terorista kaya tama lamang na huwag nang makipag-negosasyon sa kanila. Sayang lamang ang pakikipag-usap sa mga "traidor".

22 June 2017



Pahina. 5

## Nais tapusin na

HINDI raw suportado ng mga Maranao ng Marawi ang grupong Maute at si Isnilon Hapilon, kontra sa mga pahayag ni President Duterte. Umangal sa pahayag ni Duterte na "galit talaga ako sa Marawi na yan kung bakit 'yung mga Maranao, pinayagan mga tao na pumasok doon at manggulo. Galit ako sa mga Maranao na nagdala roon ng ibang klaseng tao, 'yung iba hindi pa Pilipino." Ni hindi raw Maranao si Hapilon, kundi Tausog, kaya mali raw sabihin na suportado siya sa Marawi.

Habang tumatagal nga ang krisis sa Marawi ay ganito na nga ang nangyayari. Mag-iisang buwan na. Nagkakaroon na ng turuan at sisihan. Ayon naman sa militar, higit 100 na lang daw ang mga Maute sa Marawi at nauubusan na ng bala. Pero ang mga bala nila ay nakakapatay pa ng mga sundalo natin. Tatlo pa ang nadagdagan sa mga patay na sundalo itong nakaraang mga araw. Nasa 62 na ang namamatay sa panig ng gobyerno. Sana nga ay wala silang nakukuhang suporta kahit saan, para matapos na ang krisis.

Nadagdagan pa ang mga sundalo sa Marawi. Naglunsad nang malaking opensiba ang militar. Ang nais ay matapos na ang labanan itong linggo. Ang pangamba ay kapag natapos na ang Ramadan sa Lunes, baka may mga manlalaban na tumulong na rin sa Maute. Huwag naman sana. Naaalarma na nga raw ang mga bansa sa rehiyon sa nagaganap sa Marawi. Ang pangamba ay baka rito na gustong magpalakas ang ISIS, na tila natatalo na sa Iraq at Syria. Kampante ako na hindi magaganap iyan. Lalabanan natin ang pagpasok ng anumang teroristang organisasyon sa bansa. Handa na ring tumulong ang Indonesia at Malaysia para labanan ang terorismo. Sabay-sabay nilang babantayan ang karagatan, kung saan aktibo ang mga terorista. Dito nagaganap ang pagdukot sa mga mandaragat, at maaaring dito na rin dumadaan ang pagpasok ng mga armas at manlalaban. Dapat lang ay magsanib-pwersa na ang mga bansa para mahinto ang paglaganap ng ISIS.

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## ONLINE NEWS

### 22 JUNE 2017

#### AFP deploys equipment, personnel for Marawi City rehab

From Update Philippines (Jun 21): AFP deploys equipment, personnel for Marawi City rehab

Military engineering equipment and personnel are now being deployed to Marawi City to help in the rehabilitation of areas devastated by the ongoing conflict with Maute Group terrorists, said Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla on Tuesday.

This deployment is based on an earlier order by AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año, he added.

Military engineering units and personnel will help other government agencies in the proposed rehabilitation once the last Maute Group terrorists is neutralized or driven away.

"They are preparing (engineering units) already. In fact, there are already engineering personnel in the area... They are slowly building up (personnel and assets)... They are readying for the rehab," Padilla pointed out.

However, the AFP spokesperson cannot give exact figures for engineering equipment and personnel already in Marawi City but added that the military is planning to deploy at least two engineering battalions.

In the fourth week of the conflict which started May 23, a total of 258 Maute Group terrorists have been killed along with 65 troops and police officers, and 26 civilians.

Also, Padilla said a total of 16 buildings, formerly occupied by the lawless elements, have been captured in the past few days.

However, he declined to comment on how many buildings are needed to be captured to ensure the total elimination of the lawless bandits in Marawi City.

"Enemy resistance continues to wane and the enemy held areas continue to diminish as government security forces press its advance... Troops continue to get deeper into once enemy held positions," the AFP spokesperson pointed out.

<https://www.update.ph/2017/06/afp-deploys-equipment-personnel-for-marawi-city-rehab/18295>

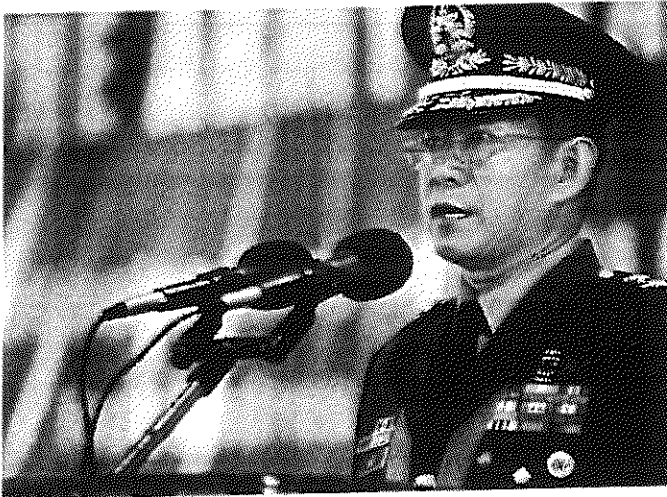
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## AFP downplayed ISIS threat as part of psychological ops – Año

From Rappler (Jun 21): AFP downplayed ISIS threat as part of psychological ops – Año

*AFP chief General Eduardo Año cites an order to the military to downplay 'news or information' on ISIS 'so as not to give them recognition and fan the flames of rebellion'*



*PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE. AFP Chief General Eduardo Año is a veteran intelligence officer who scored big arrests of communist leaders. Photo from Malacañang*

As part of its psychological operations in its war on terror, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was ordered to downplay the presence of global terror group ISIS in the Philippines, according to its chief.

AFP Chief General Eduardo Año admitted this in his affidavit quoted by Solicitor General Jose Calida in a memorandum submitted to the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday, June 19.

"That despite the actual threat of ISIS in the Philippines, there had been a directive to all AFP spokesperson and personnel to downplay any news or information pertaining to this collective group. This is so as not to give them recognition and fan the flames of rebellion," Año said in his affidavit quoted by Calida.

The AFP chief was referring to the repeated statements of AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo on May 24 that the military was in "full control of the situation" of the siege in Marawi City.

In the same statement, Arevalo also said "the armed men we are dealing with are not ISIS but members of a local terrorist group."

After May 24, the military would admit the ISIS links of the Maute terror group which would become the main defense of the government for the sufficient factual basis of President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

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Año also said in his affidavit that the statements downplaying ISIS' presence in the country "were made to encourage foreign investments and maintain confidence in the Philippine economy."

According to Calida, this is part of the military's psychological operations in its war against terrorists "to mislead, intimidate, demoralize, or otherwise influence the thinking or behavior of an opponent."

"What Petitioners failed to consider is that while the conflict is real, these statements were made as part of the AFP's psychological operations," Calida said.

Therefore, Calida said, Arevalo's statements quoted by news reports and used by petitioners against the government are not valid because they were just part of the so-called psywar.

"The unreliability of these news reports to establish facts in a judicial proceeding becomes even more evident in the face of psychological warfare," Calida said.

During the oral arguments on petitions against martial law in Mindanao, Solicitor General had revealed that the military had prior knowledge of a plot to establish an ISIS caliphate in Mindanao, and even the plot to attack Marawi City.

Calida also claimed there were 20 ISIS cell groups operating in Mindanao, though Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told Rappler these groups have been reduced to an insignificant number and not a cause for panic.

Rommel Banlaoi, chairman of the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research, had also said that Calida's list of ISIS cell groups may be inaccurate because it includes double entries and the Balik-Islam Group, which is dominated by Muslim converts who "very peaceful, very democratic, and very tolerant."

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/173571-ph-military-downplay-isis-threat-psychological-operations>

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## Duterte kept promise to use presidential plane as air ambulance — AFP

June 21, 2017, 5:36 pm

MANILA, June 21 -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Wednesday expressed gratitude to President Rodrigo Duterte for fulfilling his promise to use his presidential plane to ferry soldiers wounded in the battlefield.

"I'd like to give notice that as the President has promised, for the use of his presidential aircraft last night on our way back to Manila from Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. Those who were required by our medical professionals to be evacuated to Manila, used the presidential aircraft and other aircraft of the Air Force to be transported to Manila," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said at the Mindanao Hour press briefing in Malacañang.

"A fulfillment of his commitment to have the presidential plane used by the soldiers. And we'd like to pass on the thanks of our Armed Forces on behalf of the Chief of Staff and the wounded warriors that we brought to Manila for further treatment," Padilla said.

According to Palace officials, President Duterte took nine wounded soldiers with him aboard the F-28 presidential plane on the way to Manila after his visit to troops at Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City Tuesday night.

The nine soldiers were among security forces battling terrorist in Marawi City.

After winning the elections, Duterte said he wants all aircraft assigned to the Presidential Airlift Wing to be converted as "air ambulances".

He followed it up sometime in August 2016 when he asked Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana to convert the presidential plane into an air ambulance. (Cielito M. Reganit/PNA)

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## Joint AFP-PNP council tackle Marawi security, Martial Law

From the Mindanao Times (Jun 21): Joint AFP-PNP council tackle Marawi security, Martial Law

TOP MILITARY and police officials the current peace and order situation and Martial Law implementation during the Mindanao-wide AFP-PNP Joint Peace and Security Coordinating Council meeting in Cagayan de Oro City.

Gen. Eduardo Ano, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), told TIMES yesterday that they discussed updates on the ongoing Marawi crisis.

Ano said they also agreed on signing of additional operational guidelines for the AFP and PNP on the implementation of Martial Law.

"The implementation already include the roles of each unit in the arrest or search of target personalities," he added.

Ano and PNP Director General Ronald Dela Rosa, the the national co-chairs of the council, gave their respective messages during the meeting.

Present also during the meeting were Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, commander of Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom); Brig. Gen. Ramiro Manuel Rey, commander of Joint Task Force Ranao; Brig. Gen. Isidro Purisima, chief of operations of AFP.

They presented the proposed operational guidelines for the Martial Law implementation in Mindanao, the concept plan for the post-conflict and rehab phase for Marawi city, and the Daesh link to local terrorist groups.

Aside from using and peddling illegal drugs—with the recovery of 11 kilos of shabu in the Maute stronghold in Marawi City—the Maute and ASG terrorists are also using Mosques as sniper positions, logistics hub, and safe havens for the command and control of their core group.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista, commander of 1st Infantry Division, slammed the terrorists for their continued use of mosques as battle positions and the use of drugs.

"We condemn the acts of the Maute/ASG in using Mosques as battle positions as we deplore their use of illegal drugs that is equally evil as both are Un-Islamic," said Bautista.

<http://mindanaotimes.net/joint-afp-pnp-council-tackle-marawi-security-martial-law/>

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# Situation in Marawi continues to improve, says AFP

June 21, 2017, 5:33 pm

MANILA, June 21 -- As fighting in Marawi entered its fifth week, the situation in the strife-torn city continues to improve, a military spokesman said Wednesday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Spokesperson Brigadier General Restituto Padilla Jr. reported that government security forces continue to gain foothold in areas previously under the control of the Maute terror group.

"There are areas that we have not covered before that we have already overcome at this moment and the process of clearing is what we are concentrating on in the succeeding days," Padilla said during the regular Mindanao Hour press briefing in Malacañang.

The military official said as of Tuesday, at least 16 buildings have already been cleared of the presence of the militants, who laid siege in Marawi City last May 23.

"We are prioritizing the areas that are built up or heavily built up which means to say those that are constructed well and can withstand attacks and bombardments and potentially may have basement areas or hidden areas underneath that can protect them from any kind of assault from the air," Padilla said.

He also said government troops are also carefully assessing the situation in the outlying areas in preparation for the rehabilitation of Marawi but he has yet to give concrete estimate of the damage in the once peaceful and orderly city.

Padilla said Joint Task Force Lanao led by its commander Brigadier General Ramiro Rey is continuously conducting consultations with other members of the community to iron out their participation in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi once the hostilities have ended.

Asked by reporters about possible threats in different parts of the country, Padilla said threats will remain even after the Marawi crisis is resolved calling on the public to remain vigilant and alert at all times.

"But as we have been saying previously, threats remain. Lagi pong may banta na nanatili. Hindi po nawawala 'yung mga banta. Maski saan po tayo may banta na nariyan," he said.

He stressed anew the importance of shared responsibility and security to prevent any untoward incident.

"At nais ko lang pong ulitin 'no, pagkatapos po na maresolba itong Marawi crisis, hindi po mawawala ang banta na ha harapin natin," he said.

During the same briefing, Padilla said the military fended off attack by Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato on Wednesday morning forcing the rebels to withdraw.

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"Now, ito pong ginawa ng BIFF ay isang opportunistic activity. Nakita nila na may pagkakataon so ipinamalas nila 'yung kanilang kakayahan na kaya nilang gawin ito pero sa mabuting palad, hindi nila matagumpay na nagawa ito," Padilla said.

The BIFF harassed a barangay augmentation team in North Cotabato. The attack was not successful, Padilla said, citing the readiness of military forces.

"So sinubukan nilang pasukin ito at hindi sila nagtagumpay dahil simula't sapul na nagsimula po itong Marawi crisis eh handa na po lahat ng pwersa sa buong Mindanano na harapin kung anuman 'yung mga bantang nangyayari," he said.

Reports said the rebels used civilians to cover their withdrawal. The military, however, is assessing whether the BIFF has freed the civilians, according to Padilla.

Meanwhile, Padilla issued a warning to the public regarding the increase in number of scammers trying to deceive people by raising money for the soldiers killed or injured in the Marawi fighting.

He encouraged the public to report these scammers to telecommunications companies who might then block the cellphone numbers they were using.

Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella reminded the public that the two accounts the government setup in Land Bank of the Philippines are the only official depository account for families of soldiers killed-in-action and for internally displaced persons.

The account names are: AFP Marawi Casualty for slain soldiers (account no: 00000552107128) and Marawi IDP (account no: 00000552107136) for evacuees.

Abella reported that the donation for the families of the fallen soldiers has increased to P508,500 from P224,000 as of June 20, while donation for the evacuees went up to P187,500 from P21,000.

The Palace official also gave an update on the situation in Marawi noting that as of 12 noon Tuesday, June 20, there are 1,645 civilians rescued or an increase of 8 from 1,637 while government casualties grew by one to 66.

The recovered firearms by government troops from terrorists increased to 271 from 255, while the number of terrorists killed rose by 10 to 268. (PND/PNA)

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## AFP: North Cotabato school cleared of BIFF

By Cielito M. Reganit June 21, 2017, 5:06 pm

MANILA, June 21 -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Wednesday announced that responding security forces have already cleared the school in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and are now conducting pursuit operations.

AFP spokesperson Restituto Padilla Jr. said that BIFF bandits who had earlier tried to harass a Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) outpost near Malagkit Elementary School have retreated with no casualties reported.

"It's already resolved actually. They (BIFF) have withdrawn from the area. They are no longer there. The school area is again safe. The patrol base is well-secured," Padilla said during the Mindanao Hour press briefing in Malacañang.

The bandits staged the attack early Wednesday morning at the barangay augmentation team outpost before retreating to the nearby school after a firefight with quick responding Army troopers.

Padilla branded the attack as an "opportunistic activity" by the BIFF.

"They were taking advantage of the situation that we have a very lightly defended outpost and that they think our forces are elsewhere in the province," he said.

"So sinubukan nilang pasukin ito at hindi sila nagtagumpay dahil simula't sapul na nagsimula po itong Marawi crisis eh handa na po lahat ng pwersa sa buong Mindanao na harapin kung anuman 'yung mga bantang nangyayari," Padilla said.

However, the military official confirmed that five civilians are being held as human shields by the retreating bandits to slow down pursuing troops.

"Unfortunately, in the withdrawal phase of the armed elements, of the armed group, they used some civilians to cover their withdrawal. Ginamit nilang human shield kaya medyo pigil po 'yung mga pwersa na humabol," Padilla said.

Earlier, a BIFF spokesman said the civilians are safe and would be released later.

Padilla said state forces are currently ascertaining if the BIFF have already released the five civilians that they have held.

In the meantime, the AFP spokesman assured that the military have enough forces in Mindanao to respond to any threats posed by various rebel groups.

"Our forces are spread all over. We may be facing many fronts, ibig sabihin madami tayong kinakaharap na kalaban pero maayos po nating na-i-assign ang lahat ng ating mga pwersa para harapin po itong mga iba't-ibang banta," Padilla said. (PNA)

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