

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



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

30 June 2017

Friday

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

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**30 JUNE 2017**

<b>PAGE NR.</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>WRITER</b>	<b>NEWSPAPER</b>
1	Weather	-	PDI p.A18
<b>HEADLINE NEWS</b>			
2-3	A roller coaster ride	Christina Mendez	Phil Star p.1
4-5	A year of 'highs and lows'	Genalyn Kabling	Mla Bulletin p.1
6-7	Duterte to actively oversee military ops in Marawi	Ted Tuvera	Daily Tribune p.1
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
8	Gunmakers for rebels nabbed in Maguindanao drug raid	Edwin Fernandez	PDI p.A23
9	MILF attacks N.Cotabato village	John USon	Phil Star p.6
10	MILF members attack barangay peacekeepers	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B4
11	Rody gives soldiers, cops medal, ride on presidential plane	Edith Regalado	Phil Star p.9
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
12	Duterte vows no IS-type brutality	Christina Mendez	Phil Star p.1
13	Duterte: Marawi conflict over 'in a matter of days'	Jocelyn Montemayor	Malaya p.B1
14	Marawi crisis to end 'in a matter of days'	Catherine Valente	Mla Times p.A1
15-16	Planned GenSan bombing foiled with arrest of local terrorist	Aaron Recuenco	Mla Bulletin p.16
17	Duterte: War against IS will go beyond 10 years	Ted Tuvera	Daily Tribune p.3
18	Duterte to spend more time in Mindanao until Marawi crisis is over	Tonette Orejas	PDI p.A21
19	Bomb try foiled in GenSan	Mario Mallari	D.Tribune p.2
20	Muslims fear Marawi fighting may deepen communal discord	Reuters	Mla Bulletin p.14
21	Defer talks with Reds – Davao traders	Anna Gonzales	Mla Standard p.A1
22	PH open to military drills in China	Catherine Valente	Mla Times p.A2
23	Gov't should also allot P20B for Marawi 'heroes' – Chiz	Angie Rosales	Daily Tribune p.3
24	Military: 17 bodies shot in the head	Francis Wakefield	Tempo p.2
25	Cases vs Maute hit snag	Hector LAwas	Peoples Journal p.2
26	Maute-ISIS kay Duterte : Payagan pumagitna ang MILF para matapos na ang bakbakan	-	Police Files p.2
27	Kambal na may link sa Maute sumuko	Betchai Julian	Abante p.6
<b>EDITORIAL</b>			
28-29	Honor our soldier killed in Marawi	Rigoberto Tiglao	Mla.Times p.A1

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30-31	<b>We can defeat the ISIS and the Mautes</b>	Omar Ali	Mla.Times p.A6
32	<b>Beyond the Marawi crisis</b>	Johny Dayang	Tempo p.7
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			
33	<b>China donates firearms to PH; signals 'new era of bilateral friendship'</b>	-	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
34	<b>Firearms, ammunitions from China to boost PH fight vs terrorism- Duterte</b>	-	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
35	<b>Valiant uniformed personnel honored</b>	-	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
36	<b>China eyes joint military exercises with PH</b>	-	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
37	<b>Government will not back down against terrorism-Duterte</b>	-	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>

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June 2017



Page: 418

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**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JUNE 30, 2017 | FRIDAY**

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING MINDANAO (As of 5:00 PM - June 29, 2017)

<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:30 AM	6:29 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
11:17 AM	11:43 PM
<b>NEW MOON</b>	<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>
JUN 24 10:31 AM	JUL 1 8:51 AM
<b>LOW TIDE</b>	<b>HIGH TIDE</b>
10:02 PM	1:58 PM
0.13 Meter      1.03 Meter	
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	

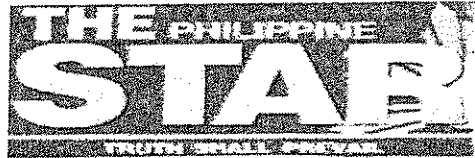
	JUL 1	JUL 2		JUL 1	JUL 2		JUL 1	JUL 2
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	25 - 33 °C	26 - 34 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	22 - 31 °C	22 - 31 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	25 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	25 - 34 °C	25 - 34 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	26 - 33 °C	26 - 33 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	24 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C
<b>LADAG</b>	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
<b>BAGUID</b>	16 - 25 °C	17 - 24 °C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	26 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	25 - 34 °C	26 - 35 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	25 - 32 °C	26 - 31 °C	 		

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

**PILIPINAS HD**

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

June 2017



Page: 1

# 'A roller coaster ride'

## *Rody to nation: Judge me fairly*

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ  
and EDITH REGALADO

Like a roller coaster ride, there's no telling how his administration has fared until the ride is over.

This was President Duterte's take on his first year in office as he declined to assess his performance as the country's chief executive.

"I do not make any assessment. I only make assessment after my term," the President told reporters in an interview in Clark, Pampanga Wednesday night.

"It's a roller coaster actually. While you are there, it's a roller coaster. So, it should be at the end of the ride," the 72-year-old Duterte said.

If he is unable to finish his term, Duterte said he is leaving it up to the public to judge his administration with "fairness."

"If I don't exist anymore by that time, you make your own assessment. Just be fair," he said. "If I get to live, then I'll tell you."

The President marks his first year in office today in Davao City where he plans to spend most of his time in the next few weeks.

His Communications Secretary

Turn to Page 2

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Martin Andanar said he would rather have survey firms measure the Chief Executive's performance.

"It's hard to grade oneself. Like what you said, it is self-serving," Andanar told reporters.

"Let us just look at the results of the latest surveys on our President. The trust ratings of SWS and Pulse Asia, where 75 percent all the way to 72 percent who believe in President Duterte, supports his policies," Andanar added.

Communications Assistant Marie Banaag said the President wants to spend his first year anniversary with soldiers in Marawi City if permitted by his security advisers.

"The President wished to be in Marawi but, of course, that is tentative. The President wished to make the people of Marawi feel that we are behind them, the government is behind them and the President has never left Marawi," Banaag said.

The Palace also scoffed at an assessment made by the Human Rights Watch that Duterte's first year was a "human rights calamity."

"We don't feel good about the comments of the Human Rights Watch. But we have also to be firm – and we have to realize that the President stood and won on a platform of genuine change," she explained. "He wanted a better life for the Filipino people."

"Well, Human Rights Watch should not brush aside all the programs, especially the enforcement side. How many operations have been conducted by the enforcement agencies, anti-drug agencies? It is not a joke to enforce 62,000 anti-drug operations in a year," Banaag said.

"That's so much sacrifice. And of course, also, we have around 1.3 million drug surrenderers," she added.

"The government is doing something about these through the inter-agency committee on anti-illegal drugs," she pointed out.

Banaag reiterated that the government has been acting on cases of illegal drugs and working vigorously to ensure that lives are not wasted.

### High grades

Not surprisingly, House allies have given Duterte high grades, with Ako Bicol Rep. Rodel Batocabe giving him an 8.7 mark in a scale of one to 10, with 10 being the highest.

Allies dominate the House, led by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

1-Ang Edukasyon Rep. Salvador Belaró Jr. gave the President 8.0 while Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo lauded Duterte for what he believed was his skillful handling of martial law.

Batocabe, president of the Party-list Coalition Foundation, noted the substantial improvement in the country's peace and order, the infrastructure boom, as

well as Duterte's being a "good communicator."

"The economic reforms initiated by his predecessors are being continued by his economic managers, thereby making the Philippines a rising economic star," the Bicolano lawmaker pointed out.

Assistant Majority Leader Belaró, for his part, said the 8.0 grade "gives ample room for more accomplishments in the years ahead" or the remaining five years of the Duterte administration.

Castelo commended Duterte and the security forces for their "professionalism" amid the conflict in Marawi City, as attested to by the Commission on Human Rights in a report last June 24.

For Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez, the leader of the pro-administration minority, the President was in the learning stage and should be given more time to adjust.

"Let's give it to him. His first year was his learning curve. Remember that he was a reluctant candidate," Suarez told a news forum in Quezon City. On a scale of 1 to 10, he would give Duterte a six.

"He wasn't prepared, unlike the candidate I supported, who lost, unfortunately," he said. Suarez backed then vice president Jejomar Binay.

Asked in what areas Duterte did well, Suarez said it was in the anti-drug war.

"His election campaign promise was to rid the country of illegal drugs by killing all drug lords. So far, 2,600 drug suspects have been killed in police operations, while 7,500 have died under mysterious circumstances," he said.

But he lamented none of the more than 10,000 killed was a drug lord. "The big-time drug personalities are still pursuing their illegal activities, partly because they are protected by the police. I hope the President will focus his attention on them and their protectors," he said.

Iligao lawmaker Teodoro Baguilat Jr., for his part, gave Duterte a grade of four but lauded his achievements in the peace talks, economy and infrastructure.

Duterte, Baguilat said, "needs to drastically improve his performance if he really wants to use his considerable political capital to deliver on his promise of real and effective change."

Meanwhile, the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) will lead a march to Mendiola today to press for more reforms under the Duterte administration.

"We are pressing President Duterte to fulfill his promise of change amid the worsening economic and political crisis. The people demand nationalist and progressive change, not another slew of broken promises," Bayan secretary-general Renato Reyes said.

"While there have been some positive developments the past year, these remain secondary to the more dominant reactionary, anti-people, pro-foreign trends in the regime," he said.

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70 June 2017

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

Page: 1

# A year of 'highs and lows'

## Duterte describes first year in office as a roller-coaster journey

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

**A** year after becoming the country's highest government official, President Duterte said it has been so far a "roller-coaster" ride in leading the country.

The President has viewed his first year in office as a journey of "highs and lows" as he let the public make a "fair" assessment of his leadership at the end of his term.

"It's a roller coaster actually. While you are there, it's a roller coaster," Duterte said

in an interview with reporters after accepting China's military equipment donation in Clark, Pampanga, last Wednesday.

The President, however, declined to assess his performance in the past year and instead asked the public to review his term later on.

"I do not make any assessment. I only make assessment after my term," said the President, who currently leads government efforts in quelling a rebellion by Islamic militants in Marawi City.

"So, it should be at ▶8

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the end of the ride – If I get to live, then I'll tell you. If I don't exist anymore by that time, you make your own assessment. Just be fair," he added.

The President had earlier said he might visit war-torn Marawi City on Friday to mark his first year in office.

"The President wished to be in Marawi but, of course, that is tentative," said Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Assistant Secretary Ana Marie Banaag.

"The President wished to make the people of Marawi feel that we are behind them, the government is behind them, and the President has never left Marawi," she added.

Duterte said it was too late in the day to hesitate to go to Marawi, adding the Vice President is on standby in case something bad happens to him.

Wednesday night, Duterte said that the public will see less of him as he will spend most of his time in Mindanao to attend to the developments in Marawi City.

It has been a tumultuous first year in office for the President after being rocked with Islamic State-sponsored rebellion in Marawi City and allegations of extrajudicial killings linked to his brutal war on illegal drugs.

The President has placed Mindanao under martial law for 60 days effective May 23 after IS militants launched a deadly attack on Marawi City. The conflict has so far resulted in the deaths of 299 militants, and 71 troops as well as displaced thousands of families from their homes.

#### Martial law extension

Duterte said he might seek the exten-

sion of martial law for another 60 days if the defense and security officials recommend that the country is not yet safe from terror threats. He even hinted on expanding its coverage to some parts of Visayas if there is a spillover of attacks in Marawi amid reports some militants have escaped the besieged city.

"Pag sinabi nila, 'huwag muna,' eh 'di wala tayong magawa. Now, for the 60 days, eh 'di magpunta ako sa Congress, another 60 days. Give me another 60 days but maybe I'd be able to eliminate all of them," he said in Manila Wednesday night.

Government troops have also been directed to finish off the militants to prevent any spillover of attacks in other parts of the country. Duterte told them not to hesitate to kill even in the presence of civilians in the area.

He said the enemies of the state, whose aim was to kill and destroy, must be dealt with "same ferocity but not brutality."

"We do not decapitate. We do not hang people. All we need is one shot and if he goes down, that's it," he said, adding the country must follow certain rules as a democratic state and member of the United Nations.

"I will not be part of any cruelty or brutality but we will have the ferocity to defend our values of democracy and our sovereignty. That I can assure the enemies of the state," he added.

The President recognized that country was in a "very dangerous" situation amid the threat of the Islamic State but remained hopeful the conflict will be over soon.

"I pray to God that this fight will be short," the commander-in-chief said.

"Through the unrelenting efforts of

the brave men and women of the AFP and PNP and the assistance of our friends and allies, I am confident that we can end this dark episode and move on to restoring peace and order throughout Mindanao," he said.

Apart from the controversial martial law declaration, the President has also drawn intense criticisms here and abroad for the rising death toll linked to the government's anti-drug operations during his first year in office.

He has repeatedly launched profanity-laced tirade against the United States, European parliament, other human rights groups for their criticisms on his war on drugs, insisting he was not tolerating the murder of people.

Duterte also faced his first impeachment complaint for allegedly orchestrating mass murder of drug suspects. The complaint, however, was thrown out by his Congress allies for lack of form and substance. As a result, he can no longer be ousted for a year, given a ban on multiple impeachment complaints.

#### Saving grace

Meanwhile, Anakpawis party-list Rep. Ariel Casilao on Thursday said the resumption of the formal peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) would be a "saving grace" for the Duterte presidency.

Casilao sought the resumption of the peace talks with the Reds on the eve of Duterte's first year anniversary in the Palace.

The NDFP is the negotiating arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which has engaged the Philippine government in a bloody, decades-long insurgency through its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA). (With report from Argylly Cyrus B. Geducos and Ellson A. Quismorio)

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June 2017

THE DAILY  
**tribune**

Page: 1

# Duterte to actively oversee military ops in Marawi

By Ted Tuvera, Mario J. Mallari, Angie M. Rosales and Julius Leonen

Until the government resolves the Marawi crisis, expect President Rodrigo Duterte to remain largely out of the public eye.

The Commander-in-Chief, in a speech late Wednesday night at the Manila Hotel, said he had decided to personally oversee military operations against Islamic State (IS)-inspired militants in Mindanao, ongoing for over a month now.

A ranking military official has conceded that the ongoing military operation in Marawi City

is complex.

The siege started last May 23 when government security forces attempted to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, the recognized "emir" or leader of the IS in Southeast Asia.

To make sure government forces know they have his support, Mr. Duterte said: "Every now

**Turn to page 2**

A. and then, I go to the brigades to check on their morale, readiness and everything... I will be there in (military) camps. Every day, I will be really flying to camps just to raise the troops' morale."

"You know, you will see me less... until the Marawi incident is over," the President stressed.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), for its part, yesterday assured that it is doing everything to hasten the resolution of the Marawi City siege.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, said while the military is anxious to flush all the terrorists from the Islamic City and start rehabilitation, the civilians still being held as hostages by the terrorists and the planting of booby traps hinder the advancing troops.

"We want the public to understand that we are in a very sensitive situation in Marawi...there are still civilians there, and we are always on guard and continuously clearing IEDs (improvised explosive devices) planted by the enemies," he added.

"We don't want to take any chances and compromise the safety of our soldiers and the civilians," he stressed.

Padilla said government security forces have intensified further the ongoing clearing operations and tracking down of the remaining terrorists.

"The intensity of the government offensive has not waned, we have kept up the tempo and this is supposed to be as it is until we get to the last armed element," the military official added.

As of Wednesday, the military said there are still about 100 terrorists, including foreign jihadists, putting up pockets of resistance in four barangays of Marawi City.

"We are also anxious to finish this fight and that's why even your wounded soldiers are willing to go back to battle just to finish it," said Padilla.

"We are doing everything to hasten it but the complexity of the battlefield remains to be a main consideration because we don't like to put our troops unnecessarily at risk and at the same time the (innocent) lives that are still there," he added.

Government troops, backed by air strikes and artillery, have battled for over a month to drive

the extremists out of Marawi but the militants have fought back.

Nearly 400 persons have been killed, including 290 militants and 70 troops, according to official figures. Most of Marawi's 200,000 residents have fled and much of the city is in ruins.

#### Expanded, extended ML

Mr. Duterte, who had declared martial law in Mindanao due to the Marawi siege, said he would not lift it until the military and police say conditions are safe.

Former President and now Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, for his part, yesterday said he is in favor of extending the implementation of martial law in Mindanao.

With the 60-day martial law now on its halfway period, Estrada stressed the ongoing armed conflict in Marawi City and the age-old problem of terrorism in the region take more time to be effectively addressed.

"Yes. He (President Duterte) knows better," the Manila mayor said when asked if he approves the idea of extending the military rule in the war-torn Mindanao at the sidelines of the recognition ceremonies for street children who completed the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program at the Manila Boystown Complex.

"I believe it takes time. He needs some more time...That's why he has all the advisers there, the military think tank, right? They know better than anyone of us, including me," Estrada added.

When he was President and battling the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in 2000, he pointed out that, he, too, was advised to "go all-out" against the Muslim insurgents.

When asked if he would also give the same advice to Mr. Duterte, Estrada said: "Well, I'm not his adviser."

He, however, stressed that there's no substitute for peace and order.

Asked how he views Mr. Duterte's handling of the Marawi crisis, Estrada said: "He's good, he's good."

#### DUI30's prerogative

The decision of the President to make himself scarce, at least until the situation in Marawi has normalized, is within his prerogative, Sen. Francis Escudero said.

But what Malacañang and the Executive cannot turn their back on is public demand, if and when the Chief Executive's whereabouts

are already a matter of their concern, he stressed.

"If there's anyone who will ask (Duterte's whereabouts), it's the obligation of Malacañang or the (Palace) press office to respond to the query in the interest of transparency - where exactly is the President, what are his activities besides his private time - and unless they (Executive) will invoke national security, they have every right to refuse to answer the question," Escudero added.

As to the members of the press covering Malacañang, the senator said it's quite understandable to seek clarification especially if they raise issues that they find "newsworthy."

"If (any member of the) media will ask any information, again in the interest of transparency, they should provide the needed information," he said.

It's within the prerogative of the President whether to allow himself to be seen by the public or make public appearances as he or any of his so-called alter egos as their respective job is limited to the regular office hours.

Escudero said it's high time that the public should start getting used to the kind of personality of Mr. Duterte, who, unlike the previous Presidents, the incumbent Chief Executive is someone who refuses to be confined in his office.

The senator said it's obvious that Mr. Duterte is yet to get over the practices he has been used to while he was still mayor of Davao City where he would make the rounds in the city, sometimes unrecognizable to his constituents.

#### DND welcomes Chinese rifles

Relatedly, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday welcomed the delivery of RMB Yuan 50 million worth of firearms and ammunition from China as a huge boost to the AFP's firepower.

The urgent gratis military assistance, composed of 90 pieces of sniper rifles, 3,000 units of M-4 rifle and six million rounds of ammunition, arrived Wednesday in Clark.

Mr. Duterte was present during the handover ceremony with Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua in attendance.

"On behalf of the Filipino people who are indeed the ultimate beneficiaries of Chinese's magnanimity, I accept this donation from the people of China with a deep sense of

gratitude as well as renewed sense of hope for our nation's safety and security," said Lorenzana.

"We assure you that these donations will be put to productive utilization by our Armed Forces," he added.

Lorenzana stressed the firearms and ammunition will certainly improve the capabilities of the AFP for internal security operations particularly in southern Philippines.

The Chinese envoy said a "second batch" of weapons would soon be delivered.

"The donation is not big but it is big in the sense that it marks a new era in relations between our two militaries," the ambassador said.

"The Chinese side would like to explore the possibility of joint training, intelligence sharing and joint military exercises in the area of fighting terrorism," he added.

#### DoJ sets aside trial vs Maute members

Meanwhile, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II yesterday said they will set aside the trial of the suspected members of the Maute group as they are still awaiting the Supreme Court's (SC) ruling on his request to transfer the trial to the Taguig City Regional Trial Court (RTC).

Aguirre earlier made an appeal to the SC to transfer the proceedings of the trial to Metro Manila, specifically to the Taguig City RTC, and the detention center of the suspected Maute members to the Special Intensive Care Area (SICA) in Camp Bagong Diwa, due to security concerns of the court personnel.

"We have to wait for the Supreme Court's action on our request... because once granted, the cases would move faster since the proceedings will start with the same court and there will be no need to transfer the case while the hearing is already ongoing," Aguirre said.

The Justice chief said the prosecutors handling the rebellion charges filed against suspected Maute members have filed a motion to suspend the arraignment and hearing of the cases while the High Tribunal has yet to issue its ruling.

"I hope it will be approved soon. The situation there is becoming critical as more Maute members are being arrested and subjected to inquest," Aguirre stressed.

June 2017

# INQUIRER

Page: 123

## BOMB MATERIALS, GUN PARTS SEIZED

# GUNMAKERS FOR REBELS NABBED IN MAGUINDANAO DRUG RAID

### PANDAG, MAGUINDANAO

—Five suspected Islamic State sympathizers, who police said made guns for the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and their allies, were arrested in an antidrug raid in this town on Wednesday, an Army official said.

Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, commander of the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion, said police arrested Dante Karatuan, 34; Roy Datukali, 22; Jomar Jainal, 20; Gale Mangandaong, 20; and Jerry Talib, 39, in a house in Barangay Kayaga here for allegedly trading illegal drugs and supplying firearms to rebels.

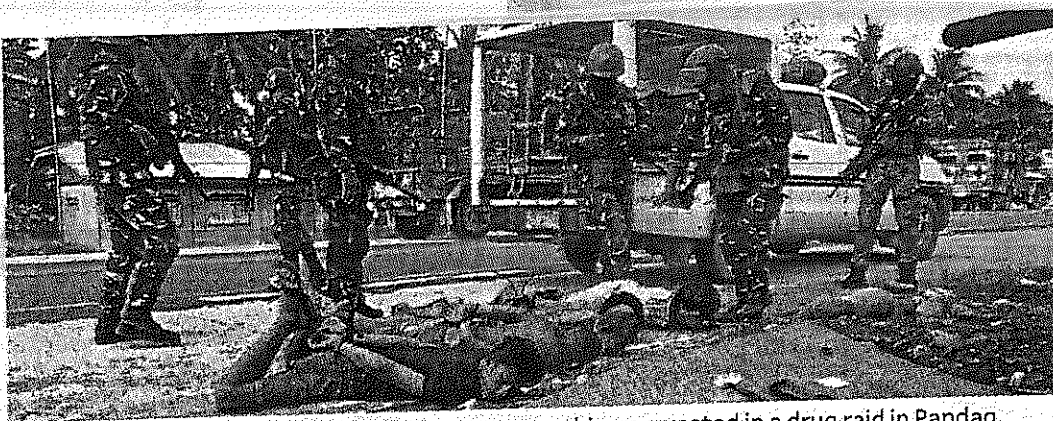
The raid, led by Cabunoc and Senior Supt. Agustin Tello, Maguindanao police director,

about his supply source.

He said authorities were trying to determine whether the suspects also supplied guns to the Maute terror group, which government forces have been battling since May 23 when its members occupied sections of Marawi City in Lanao del Sur province.

Cabunoc said the gun-making equipment recovered during the raid were capable of fabricating replicas of Barrett sniper rifles that the BIFF and their allies had been using.

He said the suspects would be charged with violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act and with illegal possession of firearms. —EDWIN FERNANDEZ INO



Soldiers secure five suspected Islamic State sympathizers arrested in a drug raid in Pandag, Maguindanao province. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

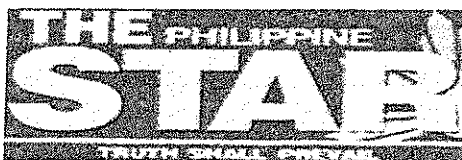
yielded not only "shabu" (methamphetamine hydrochloride) but also explosives, guns and equipment used in manufacturing firearms.

Government troops also recovered ingredients for the manufacture of improvised explosive devices, a laptop computer, gun parts, a fragmentation grenade,

camera and P16,000 in cash.

Cabunoc said the suspects' arrest came after a drug peddler, who police arrested on Tuesday, informed authorities

30 June 2017



Page: 6

# MILF attacks N. Cotabato village

By JOHN UNSON

**NORTH COTABATO** – Marauding members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday attacked militiamen guarding the remote Barangay Bualan in Pikit town, sending hundreds of villagers running for their lives.

Local officials told reporters the group, led by Abdurashid Ali, a senior leader in the MILF 105th Base Command, retreated after the barangay *tanods* and members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) outflanked them.

At least three MILF men were wounded in the incident, which lasted for about 30 minutes.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, public affairs chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said Ali, also known as Commander RP, led the incursion into the barangay's Sitio Valencia, which lies near the border of Pikit and Aleosan towns in North Cotabato.

Although outnumbered, the barangay *tanods* and CAFGUs managed to outflank Ali's group, forcing them to retreat carrying three wounded companions. Early this year, Ali lost two of his men when they attempted to rob farmers of their cattle.

Encinas said Army units in Pikit and Aleosan towns are now guarding the conflict-stricken village to prevent a repeat of the incident. The North Cotabato provincial police office also tightened security in areas vulnerable to attacks by Ali's group.

He added that the MILF rebels waged the attack out of a personal grudge and that this would not in anyway jeopardize ongoing peace negotiations.

There is an existing truce between the government and the MILF binding both sides to peacefully resolve their issues.

A resident of Pigkawayan town, which was recently attacked by the Bangsamoro Islamic-Freedom Fighters, said they are "prepared to defend communities from lawless elements."

There were reports that civilians in Pigkawayan-Pikit, Aleosan, Libunga and Midsayap Alamada towns, which border the Liguasan Marsh, have consolidated their ranks out of fear that the Marawi attack might spill over to their localities.

– With Jaime Laude

7 June 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

Page: 14

## MILF members attack barangay peacekeepers

MEMBERS of the 105th Base Command of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday attacked civilian security personnel of a barangay in Aleosan town, North Cotabato.

No one was reported killed or injured in the fighting in Sitio Valencia in Barangay Bualan, said Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division in Maguindanao.

Encinas said the attack was due to "rido" or clan war, involving one of the MILF members and a member of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT).

"This is a personal grudge. It just happened that one of those involved is a member of the MILF," said Encinas.

Encinas said an undetermined number of MILF men under Abdul Rasid Ali, alias Commander RP, attacked the

BPAT position at around 5:50 a.m. and disengaged after 30 minutes of firefight.

The military intervened to prevent an escalation of the conflict, he said.

The MILF signed a peace accord with government in March 2014. A new law is being crafted to establish a new political entity in Mindanao in place of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. – *Victor Reyes*

70 June 2017



Page: 9

## *Rody gives soldiers, cops medals, ride on presidential plane*

DAVAO CITY – A ride on the presidential plane and a medal to boot.

President Duterte took 15 soldiers and policemen wounded in the battle of Marawi on his presidential plane and awarded them Wounded Personnel Medals.

Duterte personally pinned the medals on the troopers, who were still in their hospital gowns.

He handed cash to each of the soldiers and policemen and inquired about their situation.

Duterte met the 15 wounded troopers Wednesday night after announcing he would make his plane available for use of the military for emergencies.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año and Special Assistant to the President Christopher Go joined the President

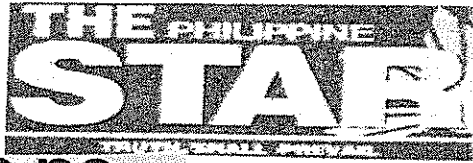
in meeting the 15 soldiers.

The soldiers were among those injured in the battle in Marawi City between government forces and the Maute group.

The 15 soldiers were confined at the Camp Edilberto Evangelista station hospital before undergoing further treatment at the V. Luna Hospital.

The awardees were 1Lt. Jerison Jurilla, 2Lt. Nicko James Cabrera, 1Lt. Jobert Jude, 1Lt. Jackeri dela Peña, 1Lt. Joseph Galapia, PO1 Israel Ayson, Sgt. Eugene Calipes, Sgt. Rogelio Mirabete, S/Sgt. Joy Santander, Pvt. McRiel Omilig, P/Insp. Lorenz Paul Caveria, Sgt. Hermes Orel II, Cpl. Fernando Monderin Jr., PO1 Erwin Dizon and Pfc. Michael Ivan Paningbatan. – **Edith Regalado, Christina Mendez, Marvin Sy, Emmanuel Tupas**

June 2017



Page: 1

## Duterte vows no IS-type brutality

More than a month after declaring martial law in Mindanao, President Duterte has vowed to wage war on terror with ferocity, but without the brutality that the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute group is committing in Marawi City.

Duterte said on Tuesday night that martial law would remain until the last terrorist is out of Mindanao.

He said he would consult with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo

Turn to Page 3

Año and Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa before lifting martial law.

"For as long as they say it's not yet safe for anybody and everybody, martial law will remain in Mindanao and maybe, in some parts of the Visayas, if there is a spillover," he said.

Duterte lashed out at the Maute group for its lack of ideology and senseless killing of civilians.

"We do not decapitate, we do not hang people. All we need is one shot, if it goes down, that's it," he said, adding that the Philippines has to abide by the rules of United Nations in the fight against the terror groups.

"I will not be part of any cruelty or brutality, but we will have the ferocity to defend our values, democracy and sovereignty," he said.

Duterte, who had a full working schedule yesterday shuttling from Manila to Pampanga, was set to fly back to Davao last night.

In another event at the Manila Hotel, the President said he is unsure how long martial law in Mindanao would last.

"It is not my option, I will listen to defense and police officials and ask for their recommendations. If they say not yet, I cannot do anything," he said, adding he would also seek Congress' approval if martial law needs to go beyond 60 days as mandated by the Constitution.

Before his speech in Clark air base, Duterte cited the illegal drug trade in Marawi, which he believed helped fund terrorism.

It was Lorenzana, Año and Dela Rosa who urged the Chief Executive to take a stronger action against the Maute group.

Duterte also reiterated his support for the men who implemented his orders.

"I will never allow a policeman or a military man go to prison for doing his duty. That was my order. Everything that happens now is in accordance with my

order, with martial law. I and I alone will be responsible for the things happening now and in the coming days," he said.

### More time in Mindanao

Meanwhile, unless the President has important engagements in Malacañang or in Metro Manila, he will spend most of his time in the next few weeks in Mindanao.

Duterte said he would also oversee the continued military assault against the IS-inspired Maute group in Marawi City.

The President is set to visit the city today weeks after he was prevailed upon by security officials not to go to the besieged town.

"I would be spending more time in Mindanao because there is still fighting. Every now and then, I go to the brigades to check on their morale, readiness and everything," he said.

Duterte stressed that he would not be seen much in Malacañang in the next few weeks unless there is an important appointment.

For the past few weeks, the President had been prevailed upon by security officials not to enter Marawi as they deemed it still unsafe and dangerous because of remnants of Maute terrorists still holed up in the area.

"Gusto kong pumunta ng (I want to go to) Marawi. I think I'll go there on Friday. It's about too late in the day to be hesitating to go there. I will go there... Eh 'di kung walang swerte, eh 'di uwi ako dito cargo rin (If I have no luck, I will come home here also as cargo), C-130," the President said during the 120th anniversary celebration of the Presidential Security Group Wednesday at Malacañang.

The President said he could just be sitting in his office while people as well as government forces suffer in Marawi.

He also explained that for the many days that people did not see him, he went on certain trips he had to take without people knowing about them.

He said he has been making the rounds of the military and police camps to make sure that the morale of the troops is high.

– Christina Mendez, Edith Regalado

70 June 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

Page: 31

# Duterte: Marawi conflict over 'in a matter of days'

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said government is winning the war against the Maute Group and foresees the conflict in Marawi City ending "in a matter of days."

"The way it is evolving now, I think it will be a matter of days ... matatapos na (it is ending). We are winning the war, do not worry," the President said during his visit to the PNP Regional Office in Camp Mervido in Davao City.

Duterte said the Marawi conflict, which started on May 23, could not drag on for another month because

a lot of lives have been lost and soldiers are tired.

As of yesterday, the fighting has left 299 Maute members, 71 soldiers and policemen, and 44 civilians dead, according to military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla. He also said the Maute members remain confined in portions of four barangays in the city.

The President imposed martial law on May 23 in Mindanao hours after the Maute group, which is aligning itself with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, attacked the city and engaged government forces in a firefight.

Duterte said he would have the first batch of firearms donated by China distributed to Marawi to help boost the capability of government forces, especially snipers.

Asked if he would visit Marawi soon, the President in a chance interview said there are some schedules he could not make public because of security risks but advised the media to start camping in Marawi.

"I will not tell you the hour baka pati ako ma-snipe," he said but stressed the importance of visiting the city, especially the troops, to boost their morale.

The President the other day said he wants to visit Marawi today, when he marks his first year in office as president.

During his speech Thursday night, however, he said he might just visit one military brigade. He said he was advised by the Presidential Security Group not to make any announcement about his plans and to just make the visit without fanfare and publicity.

Padilla said the Armed Forces, like the public, is getting impatient with the delayed resolution of the

FROM PAGE B1

## DUTERTE

armed conflict which is on its 38th day today.

Padilla said the military is raring to start rehabilitation and reconstruction work for the city, in coordination with other government agencies.

"We are also anxious to finish this fight and that's why even our wounded soldiers are willing to go back to battle to finish it," said Padilla. "We want to help our Maranao brothers bring back their city and put everything to order."

Asked what the military is doing to hasten the resolution of the conflict, Padilla said: "We are doing everything to hasten it but as I mentioned, the complexity of the battlefield remains to be a main consideration."

He did not elaborate as to the measures being done to hasten the liberation of Marawi but said the "clearing IEDs (improvised explosive devices) laid by the enemy

is a matter that cannot be rushed because we don't want to put the lives of soldiers at risk."

Padilla also said the 17 civilians, whose bodies were recovered last Wednesday, were shot from behind, based on initial findings by the PNP Scene of the Crime Operatives.

"All were executed or shot from behind in the head area, execution style and five of them were beheaded," said Padilla. "Their heads were found separated from their body," he said of the beheading victims.

The 17 cadavers were found by soldiers, policemen and fire bureau personnel during a clearing operation in Barangay Gadungan. The cadavers were already in advance state of decomposition.

## REHABILITATION

Public Works Secretary Mark Villar said there would be no delay in the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

He said the government is aware of the mistakes or causes of delay in the rehabilitation of the areas hit by typhoon "Yolanda" in 2013.

"We've already seen the mistake from the past and we will not repeat that," Villar said referring to criticisms against the previous government for delayed assistance to Yolanda victims especially in terms of housing.

Villar said the government is preparing a master plan that involves short, medium, and long-term measures.

"The President wants to implement the rehabilitation very quickly. So we've been preparing for this over the past few weeks and currently ongoing iyung master plan," he said.

Villar said at present, the priority is to improve evacuation centers located Mindanao. He said the tent city for the evacuees is also just temporary. — *With Victor Reyes*

OFFICE OF



30 June 2017

# The Manila Times

Page:   A1  

## Marawi crisis to end 'in a matter of days'

THE ongoing siege in Marawi City could be over "in a matter of days," President Rodrigo Duterte said on Thursday, as he expressed confidence the government would win its war against the Islamic State (IS)-linked fighters.

Speaking before policemen at Camp Quintin Mercedo in Davao City, Duterte said he was hoping the fighting would not last for another month as casualties have mounted.

"The way it's evolving now, I think it will be a matter of days. Before the

end of the month, *matatapos na* [it will be over]. We are winning the war, do not worry," Duterte said in his speech.

"So I'm really very sad. I'm sorry to everybody, particularly civilians

► **CrisisA8**

in Marawi. They got caught in the crossfire. But I said, more than everybody else, I'm the one most hurt. I was the one who ordered to implement martial law. But if I didn't do this, I would be guilty of the violation of the Constitution," he added.

The President said that fighting in Marawi is "slowing down" which indicates "that there is less resistance now."

The military earlier set June 2 as its deadline to free Marawi of armed elements belonging to the Maute group, but failed to meet its self-imposed deadline. It again set a June 12 deadline to liberate Marawi City, but failed anew to wipe the city of terrorists.

Top security brass have expressed hope the siege in Marawi City could be ended before the President delivers his second State of the Nation Address.

The Maute men attacked Marawi on May 23, forcing the President to impose military rule over Mindanao.

### 17 executed

As of 6 p.m. on June 28, 303 terrorists have been killed while 75 government troops have died in the fighting.

The number of civilians killed in Marawi is now 44, following the recovery of 17 decomposing cadavers.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) confirmed on Thursday that the 17 bodies retrieved by government security forces had traces of execution initiated by the Maute group.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, said that among the recovered 17 civilian bodies, 12 were shot from behind while five were decapitated.

"Based on the initial report submitted by the SOCO (scene of the crime operatives), they were all executed...and some were shot from the back of their heads and five of those [bodies] were believed to be beheaded," he told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Rescued civilians totaled 1,711, while firearms recovered reached 362, the Palace said.

Padilla said government troops were pursuing the Maute

men and looking for booby traps and hidden improvised explosives.

He also called on the public to have more patience with the military to resolve the armed conflict.

The military, he said, has installed Joint Task Force Group Ranao that will coordinate with members of local government units and other national agencies in preparation of the next phase of operations—the reconstruction, rehabilitation and rebuilding of Marawi City.

### Fast rehab vowed

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Thursday pledged

to expedite the rehabilitation of strife-torn Marawi City, saying that the rebuilding effort would not suffer the same fate as the slow recovery program in the aftermath of Super typhoon Yolanda that wreaked havoc in the Visayas in 2013.

In a news conference in Malacañang, Public Works Secretary Mark Villar said the government had learned from the previous Aquino administration, thus, would not allow affected families in Marawi City to suffer for long.

"The President is very clear on this and he expressed his disappointment in the facilities for Yolanda before. And definitely, *hindi na po mauulit yung nangyari* [It will not happen again]," Villar told reporters.

The DPWH chief said a master plan for the rehabilitation of the war-torn city was in place.

"Currently, we're coordinating with our ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) counterpart in order to implement [the plan] very quickly," Villar said.

Villar said the government was ensuring that basic needs, such as electricity and water, of the displaced persons were addressed.

The Palace earlier announced a P20-billion budget for Marawi's rehabilitation.

The President may visit Marawi City to mark his first year in office on Friday, the Palace said.

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE AND DEMPSEY REYES**

June 2017

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

Page: 10

# Planned GenSan bombings foiled with arrest of local terrorist

By **AARON RECUENCO**  
and **JOSEPH JOBELAG**

**P**olice have foiled the planned series of bombings in General Santos City following the arrest of a member of an extremist gang who was among those tasked to plot the improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Supt. Romeo Galgo, spokesman of the Northern Mindanao regional police, said an intense manhunt was already launched against the two companions of the arrested suspect,

20-year-old Abdulaziz Mangambit Tungan.

Tungan, a native of Maasin town of Sarangani, is reportedly a member of the Ansar Al-Khalifa Philippines, an extremist group which pledged allegiance to the ISIS (Islamic Stat of Iraq and Syria) along with the Maute Group.

"With his arrest, we were able to thwart their bombing plans, word of which we have been receiving in the past weeks," said Gonda.

The intelligence reports said a terror group was planning bombing activities in General Santos City with the City

Hall, churches and malls as targets. Police sources said the intent was to expand the militants' activities beyond Marawi and to shake up Mindanao.

Police intelligence operatives then conducted a background check on Ansar Al-Khalifa and found out about one of the very few surviving members of the group identified as Ramram Tungan.

It will be recalled that the leader of the Ansar Al-Khalida, Mohammad Jaafar "Tokboy" Maguid, was killed in a police operation early this year. Maguid, before his death, had been

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in constant meeting with the Maute brothers allegedly on how to help the ISIS establish a firm footing in Mindanao through a virtual caliphate.

Maguid's death meant the reduction of the operational capability of the group.

Police then launched a massive search for Tungan who turned out to be included in the list of the persons that the Defense department wanted arrested in connection with the Marawi City attack.

"He was seen standing beside the church of a religious sect, suspiciously uneasy. He attempted to run when his arrest was announced but he was immediately cornered," said Gonda, adding that the arrest occurred on Wednesday morning.

A hand grenade was seized from Tungan and that will be used in the filing of criminal charges against him. Local police investigators are grilling Tungan as to the whereabouts of his two companions.

The entire Mindanao is currently under the state of martial law following the Marawi City attack on May 23. Efforts to purge Maute gunmen in Marawi City are on-going.

Supt. Romeo Galgo, regional police spokesperson, said the suspect as Abdulaziz Mangambit, a resident of Barangay Daliao, Maasin, Sarangani was included in the arrest order number 2 issued by martial law administrator Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Mangambit was said to be the aide of AKP leader Mohammad Jaafar Maguid alias Commander Tokboy who was killed in an encounter with government forces in Kiamba, Sarangani last January.

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June 2017



Page: 3

# Duterte: War against IS will go beyond 10 years

By Ted Tuvera and Angie M. Rosales

Even after a decade, the Islamic State-inspired warfare will continue to persist, President Duterte yesterday said in a speech in Davao City.

The Commander-in-Chief indicated that his deadline for state security forces to wipe out the siege in Marawi is until the end of July.

"There is no telling when will this end. I hope this fight would not last for another month," he said.

"But I am telling you, these enemies will still be around for another 10 years," Duterte added, referring to the IS-inspired militants currently occupying the Islamic City of Marawi City in Lanao del Sur.

Mindanao has been placed under martial law since May 23 for a period of 60 days. It is set to expire on July 24, the day when Duterte is set to deliver his second State of the Nation Address.

Meanwhile, Senators Gregorio Honasan and Chiz Escudero yesterday said that the government should refrain from setting a deadline to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), putting to an end the crisis in Marawi now



DUTERTE

running in more than a month, as it will only prove to be unrealistic.

Besides being unrealistic, Sen. Gregorio Honasan said that it's impractical in putting up to impose a deadline to the said armed conflict as there are some variables that will have to be considered.

"We set deadlines in the past. And it's very difficult. There are certain variables such economic, political, ideological and the most important part involves the refugees. How many thousands of them are out there now? More than 300,000 were displaced. How can you restore their means of

livelihood?" he asked.

What is clear though is that the imposition of martial law is only good for a period of 60 days and Congress will have decide if such proclamation will have to be extended or not, Honasan said.

Based on his assessment, the AFP appear to be already on clearing period and hopefully end soon the skirmishes with the extremist group.

While the government may set up a deadline, there's no assurance that not a single member of the terrorist Maute group will be left behind, he said.

But Honasan, chairman of the Senate committee on national defense and security, expressed belief that since the military is gaining ground, they will soon be conducting clearing operations and Marawi City will be physically cleared sooner than expected.

Escudero, at a news forum at the Senate, agreed with the position of his colleague, saying that a deadline is impractical as the actual situation on the ground will dictate when the crisis will end.

"Whether it's a target or moving target, I guess it would be better if there's no deadline at all cost

that the military will have to meet as it may only risk the lives of our soldiers," he said.

The senator also expressed belief that Duterte will not accede to putting up a deadline, especially if it will cost the lives of the soldiers.

Under Section 18, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution, Congress may, in regular or special session and voting jointly, extend the proclamation of martial law for a period to be determined by lawmakers, if invasion or rebellion still persist and public safety requires it.

Meanwhile, Duterte defended retired military officials who joined him in his Russian trip for free.

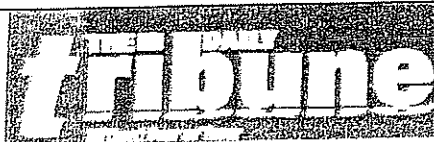
He was reacting to the earlier statement of former President Fidel Ramos who said that those who joined his abbreviated trip merely "junketed."

"The trip was of help. So what if they join my flight free of charge? Even if I'm alone on a plane or if I ask others to join me, the price is still the same," Duterte said.

"Despite my six-hour stay in Russia, we were able to collect investments and support from their government and business leaders," he added.



June 2017



Page: 2

## Bomb try foiled in GenSan

By Mario J. Mallari

Government security forces foiled an alleged plot by the Islamic State-inspired Ansar Al-Khilafah Philippines (AKP) to conduct bombings in General Santos City following the arrest of one of its members on Wednesday, police said yesterday.

Nabbed was Abdulaziz Mangambit Tungan, 20, alias Ramram, who was included in the Arrest Order 2 issued by martial law administrator Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in connection to the ongoing Marawi City siege.

Supt. Romeo Galgo, spokesman for the Central Mindanao regional police, said that Tungan was collared by joint elements of the Sarangani Provincial Police Office, General Santos City Police Station and the military's Joint Task Force GenSan.

Galgo said that Tungan is a close aide of AKP leader Mohammad Maguid, alias Tokboy, who was previously killed by government security forces during an operation in Sarangani province.

Tungan was arrested while standing uneasy beside the Iglesia ni Cristo church in Barangay Cahumpang, General Santos City at

around 8:30 a.m.

Galgo said that the presence of Tungan, who is staying at a boarding house at Lower Acharon, Barangay Cahumpang, was reported to the authorities by barangay officials in the area.

According to Galgo, authorities have previously received information that a terrorist group was planning to conduct "major bombing activities in General Santos City targeting city hall, back of city hall, SP building, churches and malls."

"With his arrest, we deterred the plan bombings which came out last Sunday," Galgo said.

"He is now under interrogation," Galgo said of Tungan.

Tungan yielded one fragmentation grenade when he was collared after attempting to run away from the government troops.

Galgo said that the government categorized AKP, one of the terrorist groups aligned with Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute group, as "IS sympathizers."

"When Maguid was still alive, a video of his meeting with leaders of Maute in Marawi City. How deep is their relationship, we would not know yet," Galgo said.

30 June 2017

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

## Muslims fear Marawi fighting may deepen communal discord

By **REUTERS**

**MARAWI CITY** - When a small army of militants allied to Islamic State (IS) took over parts of Marawi City last month, many of the Muslims were alarmed.

Although the Philippines which is predominantly Catholic has endured bouts of insurrection by Muslim groups for centuries, Christians and Muslims mostly live together peacefully. Now, many Muslims say, the vicious urban battle with government forces for control of Marawi may intensify the divide.

Civilians who have fled the fighting say the militants spread rumors on social media and by word of mouth that Christian soldiers were committing excesses against the largely Muslim population, and urged locals to take up arms.

"They are using the discrimination, neglect and social injustices against us, the minority, to sow hate and anger,"

said Musa Diamla, a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a rebel group that has signed a ceasefire with the government.

For hundreds of years, the Moro people resisted Manila's rule and the term "Bangsamoro" - meaning "nation of Moros" - was coined in the second half of the 20th century as many sought and fought for independence, or at least autonomy.

Multiple peace pacts with Moro groups have since collapsed or run into delays, consigning Mindanao to economic neglect and poverty, and fuelling a culture of insurgency and banditry.

"Reforms have not taken root in the south due to conflict driven by the Moro struggle for self-determination," said Julkipli Wadi, former dean of the Institute of Islamic Studies at Manila's University of the Philippines.

"As the peace process dragged on indefinitely, this created frustration for the Moro youth and this is the reason they are prone to embrace radical ideology," he said.

70 June 2017



Page:   A1  

## Defer talks with Reds — Davao traders

By Anna Leah E. Gonzales and Maricel V. Cruz

TWO business leaders of Davao City on Thursday urged the government to put off its peace talks

with the communist National Democratic Front until the group could demonstrate its sincerity in pursuing peace.

Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. president Ronald Go and Pilipino Banana

Growers and Exporters Association president Alexander Valoria appealed to the government to heed Senator Panfilo Lacson's call and take into account the damage being inflicted by the communist

*Next page*

insurgents on Mindanao's businesses.

The two made their plea even as a lawmaker on Thursday urged the Duterte administration to pursue the resumption of its peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front, calling it a "saving grace" for his presidency.

Rep. Ariel Casilao made the call as President Rodrigo Duterte is scheduled to deliver his second State of the Nation Address on July 24, when he is expected to speak of the government's desire to end Asia's longest running communist insurgency.

"We all know that his appointments of the progressive Cabinet members are connected with the talks with the NDFP, hence, his pro-people governance is only manifestation of his peace agenda and inclusive governance," Casilao said.

Valoria said the NDF obviously had no control over its armed unit—the New People's Army—which had continued its attacks on government installations and on private businesses, especially those operating banana and pineapple plantations in Mindanao.



7 June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A2

## PH open to military drills with China

THE Philippines is open to holding joint military exercises with China, Malacañang said on Thursday as Manila seeks to quell the threat posed by Islamic State-linked fighters.

Presidential Communications Assistant Secretary Ana Maria Paz Banaag said President Rodrigo Duterte had been vocal in his desire to enhance relations with China, particularly in the areas of security and defense.

"The relationship of China and the Philippines has improved during the President's time. The Philippines wanted to engage with China not only on economics and trade but also in security and defense, if and when," Banaag told reporters. "We welcome whatever assistance that the Chinese government can provide," she added.

On Wednesday, Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua said China would help the Philippines in its fight against terrorism. He added that Beijing was exploring the possibility of the Chinese military holding joint training and exercises and intelligence sharing with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"Terrorism is the enemy both China and the Philippines are facing. It requires

our two militaries to further enhance cooperation in this area," Zhao said during the turnover of Chinese military assistance to the Philippines in Pampanga.

Asked how China's latest pronouncement would affect the defense relations between the Philippines and the United States, Banaag said: "We cannot comment yet on how this would effect because it's not yet there, insofar as the treaties with the United States is concerned."

Duterte had earlier sought the assistance of other countries to rebuild Marawi City.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the firearms donated by China will be used by troops fighting members of the Maute Group in Marawi.

"I'm not sure what the timeline of the Army is but rest assured [the firearms] will come into play before this conflict in Marawi ends," Padilla told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

The military assistance from China consists of 90 units of sniper rifles, 3,000 units of M4 and six million rounds of assorted ammunition.

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE  
AND DEMPSEY REYES**

30 June 2017



Page: 3

## Gov't should also allot P20B for Marawi 'heroes' – Chiz

By Angie M. Rosales

Aside from the P20-billion rehabilitation fund for Marawi, government should also set up another P20 billion mainly for active Armed of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) members who are either killed or wounded in the line of duty.

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero yesterday proposed the setting up of a trust fund for the "gallantry, bravery and heroism of those who make the ultimate sacrifice for the flag, freedom and democracy.

"It can never be understated. We should honor them according to what they truly deserve," Escudero said.

President Duterte earlier had announced plans to set aside at least P20 billion to rebuild and rehabilitate Marawi City, which has practically reduced the area to ruins.

"Given the sad state of our military and police in terms of compensation and benefits with regard to their sworn duty to protect and secure the State, preserve and maintain peace and order, it is but imperative that we make comprehensive and institutional all reasonable assistance that may be accorded them by the State," Escudero said.

Escudero, in his Senate Bill 1491 or the proposed Comprehensive Social Benefit Program of the Government, envisioned the institutionalization of the trust fund, which will be established and developed by the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Department of the Interior and

Local Government (DILG).

This will cover the necessities and basic needs of the families and dependents of soldiers, policemen, policewomen who are killed or wounded in legitimate operations sanctioned by the government.

"The officers, men and women of the AFP and the PNP deserve nothing less than a reasonable and tangible recognition of their dedication and commitment to the country, especially their families who, when they are killed or wounded in action or operation, are somewhat left hollow both emotionally, spiritually and financially," the lawmaker said.

The P20 billion, which will be earmarked for the trust fund, will be used to finance five types of assistance: full scholarship, financial, shelter, health and medical care and cost of living.

The trust fund will be implemented and managed by a board composed of the Office of the President, the DILG, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Finance, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Commission on Higher Education, the AFP and the PNP.

Escudero, who chairs the Senate committee on education, arts and culture, said the biggest chunk of the trust fund will go to the education of the children of military and police officers killed in action.

He said children of a soldier or police officer killed while in the performance of duty will be given priority in any applicable law providing free tertiary education.

June 2017



Page. 2

## Military: 17 bodies shot in the head

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said that the 17 bodies recovered in Barangay Gadungan, Marawi City, on Wednesday, were all shot in the head based on the initial findings of the Philippine National Police-Scene of the Crime Operatives (PNP-SOCO).

In a press briefing, Padilla said the information was part of the findings given to them by police authorities Thursday morning.

The bodies of 17 people who were all executed were recovered by government troops, the PNP, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and civilian volunteers during the retrieval operations in Barangay Gadungan at 11:40 a.m. Wednesday.

"Lahat po ito ay naexecute o binaril at ang pawang pagkakatapatay sa kanila ay binaril sa likuran, sa may uluhan at execution style," Padilla said.

"At iyung lima dun ay sinasabing naputulan po ng ulo. Iyan po ay naging bahagi na rin ng report ngayong umaga na binigay sa atin," he added.

Padilla said with the recovery of the 17 bodies, the total number of civilians killed as a result of the Marawi siege is now 44.

Meanwhile, Padilla said the Joint Task Group Lanao are coordinating with the local government and other national agencies to prepare for the eventual rehabilitation of Marawi City.

"Oras na nag declare na po tigil putukan ay iyum po ang pagkakaroon ng rehabilitation, reconstruction at rebuilding ng Marawi," Padilla said.

Padilla also said that as the people are already growing impatient due to the prolonged conflict, they also feel the same way.

The fighting in Marawi City which already on its 37th day started last May 23, 2017.

"Kung kayo ay mainip, nalinip na rin po ang buong gobyerno upang gawin ang kanilang kaukulang mga responsibilidad," Padilla said.

"We are doing everything to hasten it, but as I mentioned the complexity of the battlefield remains to be a main consideration because we don't like to put our troops unnecessarily at least and the same time the lives that are still there," he said. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

June 2017



Page. 2

## Cases vs Mautes hit snag

**By Hector Lawas**

THE rebellion cases against arrested members and supporters of the Maute Group pending before the Cagayan de Oro regional trial court have hit a snag.

Government prosecutors sought suspension of all proceedings in the cases pending resolution by the Supreme Court of its request for the transfer of the cases' venue to Taguig City.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said prosecutors handling the Maute cases filed a motion for the suspension of

arraignment of the accused and hearing of the rebellion cases.

"We have to wait for the Supreme Court action on our request for transfer of the cases to Taguig City because if that is granted, the cases would move faster since the proceedings will start with the same court and there will be no need for transfer of the case while the hearing is already ongoing," he explained.

As this developed, a source in the SC revealed that the high bench has already approved in principle the government's request for a change in ven-

ue.

The source bared Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Aranal-Sereno will pass around anytime a draft resolution for the mechanics of the "change of venue."

In his letter dated June 19, Aguirre asked the SC that the Taguig Regional Trial Court be designated as a special court to handle cases against the Maute Group.

The justice chief said he feared for the safety of the prosecutors, judges and court personnel if the hearings will be heard in Cagayan de Oro City.

25

June 2017

**POLICE FILES**

Page. 2

## Maute-ISIS kay Duterte: Payagan pumagitna ang MILF para matapos na ang bakbakan

**ITINAHAMON** Numano ng ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria)-Maute leader na si Abdullah Maute si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na madaliin na sila na pulbusin kung ito ang ninanais ng gobyerno.

Ito ang mapangahas na mensahe ni Maute sa ginagalang nila na Muslim leader na si Aghakan Shariff atiyas Bin Laden nang makapasok siya sa kuta ng mga terorista noong fina-pos ang pag-oberba ng Ramadan sa Marawi City.

Sinabi umano ni Abdul-lah na kung talagang gusto ng gobyerno na magka-roon ng kapayapaan, ay hayaan ang Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) na makapasok sa negosasyon para matigil ang karahasan.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi naman ni Presidential on the Peace Process Adviser

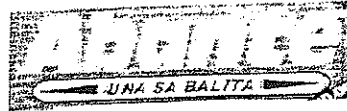
Secretary Jesus Dureza na kinikilala ng gobyerno ang pagsisikap para mailigtas ang mga naiipit pang sibilyan sa war zone.

Subalit iginiiit tute ang paninindigan ni Presidente Rodrigo Duterte na hindi kailanman makikipag-negosasyon sa panig ng mga terorista.

Tumanggi rin ang kalihim na bigyang kasagutan ang pag-urusap ni Shariff kay Abdullah sa loob ng war zone noong ipinatu-pad ng militar ang "humanitarian pause" sa Marawi City.

Una na ring nagsanib puwersa ang mga kinatawan ng gobyerno at MILF upang mabuo ang peace corridor na nasa likod ng maraming rescue efforts ng mga naiipit na sibilyan sa loob ng war zone simula magkagulo ang Marawi City.

June 2017



Pahina. 6

**Balitang VisMin Balitang VisMin Balitang VisMin**

**Kambal na may link sa Maute sumuko**

Isinasailalim na ngayon sa tactical interrogation ng pulisya ang kambal na magkapatid na kasapi ng criminal gang na may kaugnayan din sa teroristang Maute at Abu Sayyaf Group sa Talusan, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Ang kambal na sina Hussein Abbas Parail at Hassan Abbas Parail, kapwa residente ng Barangay Kasigpitan, Talusan, ay hawak na ng pulisya matapos boluntaryong sumuko.

Ayon kay Sr. Supt. Nestor Tiempo, acting provincial director ng Zamboanga Sibugay Police Provincial Office (PPO), ang magkapatid ay nasa ilalim ng Iting Abbas Criminal Group na kumikilos sa Zamboanga Sibugay at iba pang mga karatig na lugar at itinuturing nilang notorious dahil sangkot sila sa piracy, extortion at drug trade.

May nakabinbin ding warrant of arrest sa mga kasong robbery with homicide ang magkambal na inilabas ng korte sa Zamboanga Sibugay.

Isinailalim na rin sa paraffin test ang magkapatid sa Zamboanga Sibugay-PPO. (Betchai Julian)

June 2017

# The Manila Times

Page:   A1  

## Honor our soldiers killed in Marawi

**BY RIGOBERTO TIGLAO**  
Columnist

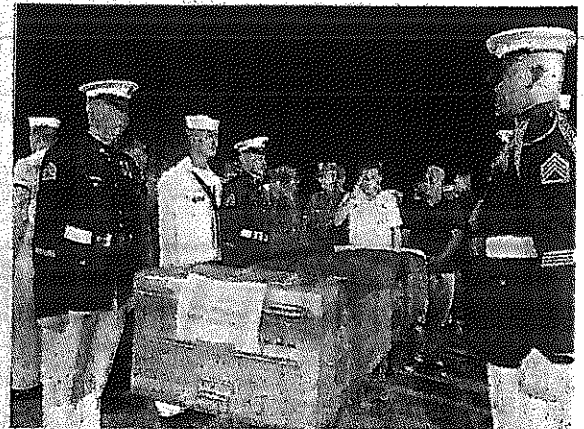
**B**ECAUSE of the wars of aggression of the United States, its use of mercenaries, and because of movies glorifying a romanticized warrior code, we forget the deeper meaning of the Republic's soldiers willing to die when ordered into battle by their commanders. They are dying for us the living, and for Filipinos still to live.

In contrast, the Islamic State terrorists are really fighting selfishly for themselves.

As jihadists, they believe that Allah looks down favorably at them, and will reward them in the afterlife with eternal happiness, starting with an orgy with 72 virgins, as the Koran claims.

But men never admit selfish agendas: the US invasion of, and near genocide, of Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria, has of course given them the justification that they are not just fighting for an after-life in ecstasy, but for the Ummah—the global community of all Muslims—which has been

► **Tiglao A6**



■ Duterte honoring Marines killed in Marawi on the arrival of their remains in Manila.

threatened with extinction by the modern "Crusaders."

Cloaking materialist, selfish agendas with sacred clothes has not been exclusive to the Muslim religion. The Crusades, first called by Pope Urban in 1095 and which lasted for two centuries, made up the first Holy War, with the purportedly noble cause of recovering the land where Christ lived and died from the heretic Muslims. Unsaid though was that it was really the drive for treasure by European lords, and for ignorant, impoverished peasants to get passports to heaven.

Even up to the modern era, religious wars have killed thousands and even hundreds of thousands, as in the European wars of religion (Catholicism vs Protestant branches from 1524 to 1648); the Jewish establishment of the State of Israel in Palestine; the Catholic-versus-Protestant "Troubles" in Northern Ireland; the India-Pakistani (Hindu vs Muslim) conflicts, the Yugoslav wars, and the Lebanese



**RIGOBERTO TIGLAO**

civil war. The conflict in Iraq and Syria is even to some extent due to the ruthless enmity between two branches of Islam, the larger Sunnis and the minority but often politically powerful Shia.

### Wars have been for nation-states

It is, however, false to assert that most wars of humankind were religious wars. In the book, *Encyclopedia of Wars*, authors Charles Phillips and Alan Axelrod claim that in their list of 1,763 wars, only 123 have been classified to involve a religious cause, accounting for less than 7 percent of all wars.

While these authors did not

conclude what has been the main cause of wars in modern history, another book *War: What Is It Good For?* by Jan Morris implied that the main reason for wars in the modern era has been for states to expand (among these, the Roman empire, the Third Reich, and the US hegemony), to consolidate their rule (the American Civil War), and defend themselves from other states' attempts at expansion (the two world wars).

The book's astonishing conclusion: Wars in general have reduced violence, since through wars, nation-states emerged that kept the peace over their subjects, in contrast to the endless, continuous fighting among tribes and even clans in areas where there were no nation-states. "Uncomfortable as the fact is, in the long run war has made the world safer and richer," Morris wrote. He cited statistics that showed that in the modern era of nation-states, murder rates (including those killed in wars) were one-tenth of the rate found among

28

Stone Age hunter-gatherers.

But wars aren't fought in the abstract. Most wars in the past and today are fought by flesh-and-blood soldiers, and for their nation-state, the most important organization that human beings are members of. The nation-state is the organization that determines the quality of the life they live now, and will determine the quality of life of their descendants. While soldiers often mouth slogans, that they are fighting for "God and country," the reality is that they are fighting solely for the nation-state.

### **Fighting for a fiction**

The IS-linked jihadists are fighting for the fiction of a paradise in an after-life, and for the Philippine nation to be incorporated in an Islamic-theocracy with little individual freedoms.

Our soldiers are fighting for the nation-state, the most important entity that determines the welfare of its current and future mem-

bers. The integrity of our nation-state's territory will be degraded if the IS-linked jihadists maintain their hold of Marawi.

This is why the most sacred symbol of a nation-state is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in nearly all countries' capitals. Such monuments are in honor of and in celebration of that fabulous mystery that make up heroes: Why would a human being offer his life to the extent that he would even die unknown, to a nation-state, which he would never see in the oblivion of his death?

The families of the fallen in Marawi are lucky that their sons and husbands aren't unknown. We have to honor them; newspapers should devote a whole page to identify them with their photos. I have a list only of the 45 out of the 72 reportedly killed, and I salute them:

Edwin V. Placido, John Carl C. Morales, Freddie Solar, Mcglenn Z. Abuyabor, Jessie B. Santos, Aldrin Dinglasan, Julhabir J. Dakkay,

Joseph P. Villanueva, Marlon V. Baldovino, Eric Jason J. Coros, Asah A. Sakiran, Throlen R. Lago, Rudy A. Espelimbargo, Benito G. Serrano, Elmer M. Anno, Fahiruddin K. Salahuddin, Philip G. Ao, Aliyasir I. Abdulla, Ricky A. Asan, Christopher C. dela Cruz, Nilo R. Donato Jr., Reymund A. Paracuelles, Johva M. Aquino, Eldon C. Rogador, William B. Tuanda Jr., Bermilou P. Pardo, Dhan Ryan A. Bayot, Angelo A. Estores Jr., Dondee D. Orboda, Elmer D. Bueno, Melvin S. Raton, Edmond D. Principe, Anthony C. Capulot, Kevin E. Sisiban, Arhanie O. Amlo, Jessrael O. Butalina, Reymar E. Carloto, Rowee M. Montalban, Marlo P. Rota, Junie Berth R. Purlas, Roel M. Cabonita, Ramon L. Montejo, Saed Abdul Rahman H. Palada, Mark Daryl A. Parba, Junaid S. Mama.

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June 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 16

## We can defeat the IS and the Mautes

First of 2 parts

**BY OMAR SOLITARIO ALI,  
FORMER MAYOR OF MARAWI CITY**

I AM a Muslim Filipino who wants peace above all for Islam and the Christian world, for my country, my family, my friends and everybody else. As a former mayor of Marawi City, I worked hard to help convince former Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to run for President. I basked in his victory as a great boon for every Mindanaoan and every other Filipino who believed in change. I supported his war on drugs and against the Mautes before many others did, and would like nothing better than to see his unqualified success. With the President's kind approval, Secretary Jess Dureza of the Office of Presidential Assistant for the Peace Process (OPAPP) appointed me as a consultant.

On May 23, 2017, when the Mautes attacked Marawi with the reported support of the Islamic State, and the President proclaimed martial law in the whole of Mindanao from Moscow, I was in Cagayan de Oro City with some 20 ulama, youth leaders and old friends from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), discussing how to counter the spread of radical Islam and its threat to our communities.

### Threat of attack

Two weeks before that, my brother Pre Salic, who also used to be a mayor of Marawi, had told me his fears that some radicals might be planning to attack Marawi. His in-laws and other relatives by affinity in Butig had been quietly relocating their kin out of Marawi, he said. I immediately sensed the danger and informed Secretary Dureza accordingly; the government, I thought, had to find ways of protecting the city and its inhabitants.

Like me, Pre abhors the radicals; our consultations with our ulama friends have led us to believe that ISIS radicalism was destroying Islam and Muslims all over the world. In Iraq alone, 24,000 Muslims were killed mostly by the IS in 2014. They devastated Iraq and Syria and are now launching terror bombings against Muslims in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Only very few non-Muslims have been killed. They obviously would like to destroy the Muslims so they could replace them with new Muslims who would put the line of warrior Islam above all, a perversion that is neither according to the Koran nor according to the Sunnah of the Prophet.

I learned that the fighting in Marawi, which broke out early that morning of May 23, involved about 40 foreigners, 150 or so Abu Sayyaf fighters, some 50 Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), and about 200 Mautes. At Chali Beach in Cagayan de Oro, I distributed some briefing materials on the radicals and their satanic schemes, and we tried not to be distracted by reports of the fighting. But as my wife and three small children had gone to Marawi to visit relatives that day, I could not help worrying about their safety. I had to call some friends in the OPAPP and some MILF officers linked to the peace process, and with their help I was able to get my family out of harm's

way before the fighting escalated.

But in the next few days I learned that I had been ordered arrested by the Department of National Defense, along with my brother Pre and three other members of my family, on suspicion of being supporters or financiers of the Mautes.

How could this be? We are not supporters of Maute, never have been, and never will be. And financiers! With what? We are not paupers nor panhandlers, but some of my political supporters are convinced I would not have lost my electoral fight in 2016, which remains the subject of a Commission on Elections protest, if only I had more money and lesser moral principles. The arrest order was the cruellest joke, one that threatened not only our personal liberties but also our personal security and safety. But I continue to hope and trust in President Duterte. He knows the truth, and he knows me.

### The reluctant candidate

Life is a puzzle, a game of twists and turns, friendships and betrayals, difficulties and blessings. When President Duterte was in the middle of his "*urong sulong*"—"I am not running, whoever compels me to run, I will kill him"—in the months prior to the election, I was one of those who attended most of the meetings to soften his resistance, subtly pressuring him to run by showing the widespread clamor of the people for a simple, strong leadership for change. People could have accepted his "I am not running" language, but they were given hope by the hints that he would eventually run through his succeeding pronouncements. "If I am the President, I will kill the criminals and fatten the sharks of Manila Bay, imprison the corrupt, leak poverty and unemployment, and solve our brother Muslims demand for righting the historical injustice done to them, by changing the Constitution and making the Philippines a Federal Republic to free all our regions from the domination of Imperial Manila and thereby allow every region to bring out their long suppressed unique productive skills and advantages."

For me, his promise of federalization and my fantasies of a Muslim state with a chief minister, a state supreme court, a state parliament, a state police, and state control of the day-to-day local needs of our people like education, health services, electricity, water works and economic priorities (these I have seen in my study tours abroad) are a fulfillment of a long dream. In one of the assemblies in a resort in Iligan City, while we were again discussing how to persuade him to run, I said in jest that, "*total mahilig magsabi ang kapatid nating si Digong na 'papatayin' kita'... sabihin natin sa kanya na kapag hindi siya tumakbo... papatayin ko siya, isasakay ko sa kabayo at gagawin kong El Cid para mabuhayan ng loob at lumaban ang ating mga kababayan sa likod niya*". (Since our brother Digong likes to say "I will kill you, let's tell him that if he doesn't run, we will kill him, and place him on a horse like El Cid so our countrymen who support him will have the courage to fight.)

June 2017



Page. 7



## Echoes From Johnny Dayang

### Beyond the Marawi crisis

**T**HE Marawi crisis has excruciatingly exposed the Maranos, the actual victims of this Islamic-led terrorist attack, to the painful realities of the conflict they, perhaps never expected to happen.

Tragically, in recent weeks, the level of discrimination hurled against them from some quarters has alarmingly increased. There's no gainsaying such bigotry may create unexpected future undercurrents. If that happens, the extremists will get the upper-hand in their propaganda campaign.

While there is optimism the conflict will be resolved shortly, strengthening the alliance and amity between Christians and Muslims, which has been emotionally robust during the height of the crisis, is an issue the government must seriously promote.

Stories of Maranaos facing danger to save Christians from Maute atrocities are all over. Reports of Muslims teaching Christian friends to say Muslim prayers to keep them from harm's way have affirmed the cliché that trust, more than religion, builds bridges.

For certain there are bad Muslims as there are depraved and bigoted Christians.

The accounts of Maranaos acting as good Samaritans should drastically change our misplaced perspective that Mindanao's woes are essen-

tially a religious matter. Historically, our perception of the Moro nation is inaccurate given that the roots of conflict in the South are actually the offshoot of colonial abuses.

The common struggle of the MNLF and MILF to establish self-autonomy is not about religion; it has something to do with feudal rights and the desire to regain ancestral domains and ethnic integrity. For if religion is an issue, why would Muslims send their kids to schools run by clerics and nuns?

The Maranaos of Marawi City, except those who have embraced fanaticism as a way of life, are not a hostile people. Fighting through the centuries against those who have violated them, they have remained civil and peace-loving, and have been willing to be part of a larger cosmopolitan society.

The Marawi siege is doubtless a painful chapter in modern Maranao history. This tragic episode, however, highlights in more definite terms the merits of a true Maranao - one who offers his life for a loved one, a friend, or a neighbor who is under threat or persecution.

As promised by President Rodrigo Duterte, himself a Maranao-blooded Christian, the Islamic city of Marawi will rise from the ashes. The fact remains that true Muslims, unlike the ISIS terrorists, have benevolent hearts.

92

## **ONLINE NEWS**

### **30 JUNE 2017**

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

#### **China donates firearms to PH; signals 'new era of bilateral friendship'**

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 29): China donates firearms to PH; signals 'new era of bilateral friendship'

The turnover Wednesday of rifles and ammunitions amounting to nearly Php50 million by China to the Philippines signals a "new era of bilateral friendship."

About 3,000 units of M-4 type assault rifles with more than five million ammunitions, and 90 units of sniper rifles with more than 800,000 ammunitions were received by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año from Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua in a ceremony that was attended by President Duterte.

"The donation of firearms to the Philippines is a demonstration of the growing relationship between China and the Philippines," Zhao said.

He clarified that the firearms donated were not paid, but instead marks a new era of bilateral relationship between the two militaries.

Also, Zhao expressed his sincere gratitude to Duterte and his friendly and cooperative policies towards China, while stressing that the donation serves as his country's aid to the Philippines in fighting the Maute terrorist group causing havoc in Marawi City for more than a month now.

"At this challenging and critical juncture [of the country], the donation of arms to the AFP will contribute to the success of the battle against the terrorists," he added.

"The Chinese government and military will continue to support the Filipinos' fight against terrorism," Zhao remarked.

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

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

## **Firearms, ammunitions from China to boost PH fight vs terrorism- Duterte**

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 29): **Firearms, ammunitions from China to boost PH fight vs terrorism- Duterte**

**President Rodrigo R. Duterte stressed that the firearms and ammunitions donated by China to the Philippines will be a big boost in the battle against terrorism.**

"When I first visited China in October 2016, our governments agreed on the need to address the emerging threats of terrorism and piracy in Mindanao," Duterte said as he witnessed the turnover ceremony of China's urgent military assistance gratis to the Philippines.

The President recalled that seven months after this visit, terrorist groups advocating different ideologies launched a rebellion in Marawi City, leading China to reiterate its offer to help.

**"With our troops' need to retake the city and with Beijing's willingness to unconditionally help the country, I saw this as a sign of goodwill on the part of our friends so I accepted the offer,"** he furthered.

**With this, the two governments formally entered into two agreements where China committed to turn over Php590 million worth of military equipment to help in the campaign against Islamic State-inspired terrorists.**

Expressing his gratitude to China for the aid, Duterte underscored that this is not only meant to strengthen the two countries' commitment to support each other in times of need, but also highlights the dawn of the new era in Philippine-Chinese relations.

At the same time, the President said he welcomes other international partners in rebuilding Marawi City, as he extends this partnership to allies who share in the principles of goodwill and non-interference to domestic affairs.

He also expressed confidence that through the support and assistance of the country's allies, as well as the unrelenting efforts of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police, the dark episode caused by the 'looming clouds' of terrorism will end and move on to restoring peace and order throughout Mindanao.

**The donated weapons include TY-85 7.62 mm sniper rifle, CS/LR4A high precision rifle, CQ-A5 5.56 automatic rifle, and ammunitions.**

These will pass the Department of Defense inventory and will be equally divided as needed by the security forces.

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## **Valiant uniformed personnel honored**

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 29): Valiant uniformed personnel honored

**President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on June 28, Wednesday recognized the gallantry of uniformed personnel wounded during an encounter against the Maute terror group in Marawi City.**

**The Chief Executive personally checked the condition of 15 wounded-in-action soldiers and policemen at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.**

"Congratulations ha. Bilib ako sa inyo," the President told the troopers.

He awarded each injured with the Wounded Personnel Medal.

The soldiers and policemen also received cash assistance which is sourced from the President's Social Fund.

They were flown via presidential plane from Cagayan de Oro on Wednesday.

**The President was accompanied by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año, and Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go.**

Last week, soldiers required by medical professionals to be transported to Manila for further treatment also used the presidential aircraft for their transfer.

Duterte has committed to visit government troops wounded and killed in clashes against the Maute militants, who launched a rebellion in the Islamic City last month.

The latest count, as of 6 p.m. of June 27, showed that government casualties has reached 71.

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

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

## **China eyes joint military exercises with PH**

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 29): **China eyes joint military exercises with PH**

**China intends to explore the possibility of joint training, intelligence-sharing, and military exercises with the Armed Forces of the Philippines to combat terrorism.**

**"Terrorism is the enemy of both China and the Philippines, thus requiring our two militaries to further enhance cooperation in the areas of fighting it bilaterally, and in the regional and international context," Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua said.**

**China turned over yesterday the donated 3,000 units of M-4 type assault rifles with more than five million ammunitions, and 90 units of sniper rifles with more than 800,000 ammunitions, as a demonstration of their support to the country's battle against terrorism.**

"Fighting against terrorism is extremely important. Not only should we acknowledge the symptoms, but we should also go to the root causes of terrorism," he stressed.

**Moreover, Zhao disclosed that the equipment brought to the Clark Airbase was only the first batch of China's donations with the second batch to be delivered in the coming months.**

"This is only the beginning. The Chinese government and military forces will continue to firmly support your fight against terrorism. Rest assured, we will help in the comprehensive settlement of the issue of terrorism in the Philippines," the official added.

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

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## **Government will not back down against terrorism-Duterte**

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 29): **Government will not back down against terrorism-Duterte**

**President Rodrigo R. Duterte reiterated that the government will not back down in its fight against terrorism.**

**In his speech during the turn over ceremony of military aid from China, the President said that he always mentioned about the looming dark clouds that is the coming of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-inspired terrorists in the country.**

**"We are fighting an enemy whose bankruptcy in their mind and heart is very clear. They have no objective, no ideology, not even relating to any supernatural or god, or at least to their fellow human beings. But their main task is just to destroy and kill. And we are in a very dangerous situation,"** he said.

Duterte described the ISIS as having no redeeming factor; adding that is not part of the Geneva Convention hence it is without established rules of fighting and all they do is just to kill and destroy.

**"They have to be dealt with the same ferocity, but not the brutality. We do not decapitate, we do not hang people. All we need is one shot and if he goes down, that's it. We cannot do the same thing they are doing because we are supposed to be a republic, a democracy and a member of the United Nations under a rule to be observed,"** he stressed.

In closing, he expressed hopes that the ongoing crisis in Marawi City will be over soon and that there will be no more deaths among uniformed personnel and civilians.