

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



# **TEAM ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)  
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**24 May 2017**

**Wednesday**

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

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**24 MAY 2017**

| <b>PAGE NR.</b>          | <b>TITLE</b>  | <b>WRITER</b>     | <b>NEWSPAPER</b>   |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| 1                        | Weather Forecast  |                   | PDI p.A19  |
| <b>NATIONAL NEWS</b>     |   |                   |  |
| 2-3                      | Du30 declares martial law in South                                  | Leila Salaverria  | PDI p.A1   |
| <b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b> |   |                   |  |
| 4                        | Militiaman released ahead of peace talks                            | Mike Crismundo    | Manila Bulletin p.12   |
| 5                        | Military, Is bandits at 'war' in Marawi                             | Moh Saaduddin     | Mla Times p.A7   |
| 6                        | Troops clash with Hapilon group in Marawi City                      | Victor Reyes      | Malaya p.B6  |
| 7                        | Troops hunt down Abu leader, Maute cohorts                          | Mario Mallari     | Daily Tribune p.A1   |
| 8                        | Photo: The govt sends more troops to Marawi City                    |                   | The Standard p.A1  |
| <b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>  |   |                   |  |
| 9                        | Marawi under siege; Maute, Abu join forces                          | Jaime Laude       | The Phl Star p.14  |
| 10                       | Envoy: Russia has no military interest in SEA                       | Leila Salaverria  | PDI p.A13  |
| 11                       | Court again stops arrest Misuari                                    | Judy Quiros       | PDI p.A6   |
| 12                       | Death of bomber huge loss of BIFF –AFP                              | Francis Wakefield | Mla Bulletin p.13  |
| 13                       | 92 AFP personnel axed for drugs                                     | Zaida Palanca     | Peoples Tonight p.3  |
| 14                       | CAFGU member, pinalaya na ng NPA                                    | Mike Crismundo    | Bulgar p.5   |
| 15                       | NPA frees militiaman  | Ben Serrano       | The Phl Star p.14  |
| <b>ONLINE NEWS</b>       |   |                   |  |
| 16                       | Gov't forces, Maute group clash in Marawi City                      |                   | <a href="http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com">www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com</a> |
| 17                       | Heavy fighting breaks out in Marawi City ahead of Ramadan           |                   | <a href="http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com">www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com</a> |
| 19-20                    | Soldiers, Maute group battle in Marawi City                         |                   | <a href="http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com">www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com</a> |
| 21                       | AFP's DSSP 'Kapayaan' very effective vs terrorism                   |                   | <a href="http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com">www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com</a> |
| 22                       | PATH TOWARDS PEACE   Three (3) NPAs Surrenders to 8IB in Impasugong |                   | <a href="http://www.dwdd.com.ph">www.dwdd.com.ph</a>                                 |

24 May 2017



Page: 119

**PANAHON TV**

www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

---

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MAY 24, 2017 | WEDNESDAY**

SOUTHWESTERLY SURFACE WINDFLOW AFFECTING LUZON (As of 5:00 PM - May 23, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>SUNRISE</b><br><br>6:27 AM                | <b>SUNSET</b><br><br>6:19 PM                  |
| <b>MOONRISE</b><br><br>3:57 AM               | <b>MOONSET</b><br><br>4:45 PM                 |
| <b>LAST QUARTER</b><br>MAY 19<br>8:33 AM     | <b>NEW MOON</b><br>MAY 26<br>3:44 AM          |
| <b>LOW TIDE</b><br><br>3:47 PM<br>0.12 Meter | <b>HIGH TIDE</b><br><br>8:45 AM<br>0.82 Meter |

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

---

|                     | MAY 25         | MAY 26         | MAY 25                 | MAY 26         | MAY 25         | MAY 26                |                |                |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>METRO MANILA</b> | <br>25 - 33 °C | <br>26 - 33 °C | <b>TAGAYTAY</b>        | <br>24 - 31 °C | <br>24 - 31 °C | <b>TACLOBAN</b>       | <br>25 - 31 °C | <br>25 - 31 °C |
| <b>TUGUEGARAO</b>   | <br>25 - 34 °C | <br>24 - 32 °C | <b>LEGAZPI</b>         | <br>26 - 33 °C | <br>26 - 33 °C | <b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b> | <br>25 - 32 °C | <br>25 - 32 °C |
| <b>LAOAG</b>        | <br>24 - 33 °C | <br>24 - 32 °C | <b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b> | <br>26 - 33 °C | <br>26 - 33 °C | <b>METRO DAVAO</b>    | <br>26 - 33 °C | <br>26 - 33 °C |
| <b>BAGUIO</b>       | <br>16 - 25 °C | <br>15 - 24 °C | <b>ILOILO/BACLOD</b>   | <br>26 - 33 °C | <br>26 - 33 °C | <b>ZAMBOANGA</b>      | <br>24 - 33 °C | <br>25 - 33 °C |
| <b>SBMA/CLARK</b>   | <br>24 - 31 °C | <br>24 - 31 °C | <b>METRO CEBU</b>      | <br>26 - 32 °C | <br>26 - 32 °C |                       |                |                |

**SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!**

Watch PanahonTV on DZRH News Television from Monday to Friday at 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM, and via Pilipinas HD at 6:00 AM, 6:30 PM and 9:00 PM.

24 May 2017



Page: 41

# Du30 declares martial law in South

**By Leila B. Salaverria,  
Richel Umel,  
Edwin Fernandez  
and Julie Alipala  
@inqmindanao**

President Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao on Tuesday night after fighting raged in Marawi City between government forces and militants linked to the Islamic State (IS) group.

Mr. Duterte made the declaration from Moscow, where he was on a four-day official visit.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said the declaration took effect at 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

He said the declaration was good for 60 days.

"[Deputy Executive Secretary Menardo] Guevarra has clarified that this is possible on the grounds of existence of rebellion because of what is happening in Mindanao based on Article 7, Section 18 of the Constitution. This is good for 60 days," Abella said.

Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said Mr. Duterte decided to cut short his visit to Russia before he could embark on any of the activities on his schedule.

Mr. Duterte is returning to Manila to submit a report to Congress within 48 hours of the declaration of martial law, as required by the Constitution.

Mr. Duterte's meeting with Russian President Vladimir

Putin and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev will be postponed, but a phone call between Mr. Duterte and Putin is being planned, Cayetano said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, also traveling with Mr. Duterte, said the whole of Mindanao was placed under martial law even if the clashes were only Marawi because there were also problems in other parts of the island.

With the declaration of martial law, there could be warrantless arrests and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

Lorenzana said the declaration would also allow security forces to control movements in Mindanao, helping them go after criminals.

He said state forces were in control and expected to contain the situation.

Abella said as much.

"The government is in full control of the situation and is fully aware that the Maute/[IS] and similar groups have the capability, though limited, to disturb the peace. These have shown no hesitation in causing havoc, taking innocent lives and destroying property," he said.

Abella said Mr. Duterte met with his adviser before declaring martial law in Mindanao.

The clashes between government security forces and dozens of suspected local terrorists—including a group led by Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon—erupted around 2 p.m.

The fighting dragged on for

hours, wounding at least one soldier and triggering mass evacuations as explosions reverberated in the city, the military said.

The military's Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) said on Tuesday night the situation in Marawi City was "under control of the city officials."

"Our soldiers and policemen continue to conduct mopping up operations to clear Marawi from remnants of the Maute [group] in order to protect our citizens," Westmincom said in a statement.

Earlier, Col. Jo-ar Herrera, spokesperson for the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the gun battle started when government security forces raided an apartment in Barangay Basak in Marawi hours earlier. The apartment was adjacent to the headquarters of the Lanao del Sur provincial police office and was reportedly used by Hapilon and several Maute group members as a rendezvous site.

President Duterte had earlier blamed the Maute group for a night market bombing in Davao City that killed 15 people in September last year.

Hapilon's Abu Sayyaf faction has pledged allegiance to IS in hopes of getting financial assistance from the Middle Eastern terror group.

A series of clashes between the Maute group and the military near the town of Piagapo, Lanao del Sur, last month left at least 37 militants dead, including a Malaysian and three Indone-

sians, according to the military.

"The military operation focused on the alleged presence of Isnilon Hapilon with 15 fully armed Maute group members, who occupied an apartment as their rendezvous in Marawi City," Herrera said.

In Manila, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Armed Forces spokesperson, said "sporadic firefight" continued into Tuesday evening, and that troops were under orders to press the assault until Hapilon was captured or killed.

"We are also acting on reports of armed men occupying the hospital and some other buildings," he said, adding that the operation was initiated by a joint military-police team. "We have enough troops and law enforcers on the ground as well all the appropriate equipment to support our troops."

Speaking from Moscow earlier, Lorenzana said more troops would be sent to reinforce the city, where at least three buildings were seen burning and electricity was cut off on Tuesday night.

"At this point in time, it's hard to go out on the street, we don't know who the enemy is. We are blacked out and the fires are continuing," local broadcaster Ayubkhan Saripada said.

The fighting took place as a large pre-Ramadan gathering of Muslims ended in Marawi, a predominantly Muslim city of more than 200,000. Ramadan could start on Friday or Saturday, depending on the sighting of the full moon.

Senior Supt. Oscar Nantes, provincial police director, said clashes also took place in Barangay Caloocan and in other areas of Marawi.

Two bomber planes took turns pounding the positions of the militants starting at 3:30 p.m., Nantes said.

"We can hear automatic gunshots from our current location," he told the Inquirer by phone.

Sporadic gunfire could also be heard in the city's downtown, according to Zia Alonto Adiong, a member of the 24-seat Regional Assembly of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

He said a large number of residents had already fled their homes.

Nantes said policemen, backed by armored personnel carriers, also battled Maute group members, who wore khaki uniforms and black masks along the streets leading to the Amai PakPak provincial hospital.

At one point, a Maute member hoisted an IS flag in an area fronting the hospital.

"Maute group members mingle with civilians. It's scary," Macatoon Sam, a resident, posted on social media.

Sam said Maute members also stood in the middle of the road as if waiting for soldiers to come as people sought cover from bullets.

"Let's pray for Marawi, let's pray for the people," another resident, Layok Macatoono, posted on his social media account. INQ

24 May 2017

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 12

## Militiaman released ahead of peace talks

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

**T**ANDAG CITY – The militiaman, who was abducted by Communist rebels six days ago in this city, was released by the custodial force of the New People's Army (NPA) Monday in Palo Cinco, Barangay Buenavista here.

Jeremias E. Estrada, a member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) Active Auxiliary (CAA), was turned over by officers of the guerilla-Front Committee 30 of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee to Tandag City Mayor Alexander Pimentel at 1:30 p.m. on Monday.

According to the NPA, Estrada was released as a form of goodwill ahead of the Fifth Round of Peace Talks between the Philippine Government (GRP) and

the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the political organization of the Communist movement, which starts Saturday in Noordwijk Ann-see, The Netherlands.

Estrada was taken from his residence in Purok Lansones, Barangay San Agustin Norte here at 7 a.m. last Wednesday by about 30 heavily armed insurgents.

His abduction was condemned by the local government unit officials and the AFP, according to Capt. Al Anthony Pueblos, spokesperson of the Army's 36th Infantry Battalion (36th IB) said.

Pimentel thanked the NPA for letting Estrada return to his family and for treating him well during his captivity.

The released CAA member was snatched at his home at 7 a.m. last Wednesday May 17, 2017 by the NPA.

4

24 May 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 17

# Military, IS bandits at 'war' in Marawi

BY MOH SAADUDDIN

**A**N intense firefight between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and members of the Maute Group started late afternoon on Tuesday in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, amid fear of local residents that a "great war" will come to the city.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said it initiated the firefight after receiving reports on the presence of armed men in the city. The intelligence community said the bandits took over Amai Pakpak Medical Hospital and hoisted the Islamic State black flag around 2:40 p.m.

People inside the hospital were able to upload photos of the terrorists who were seen blocking the gate using a police patrol car with the IS flag.

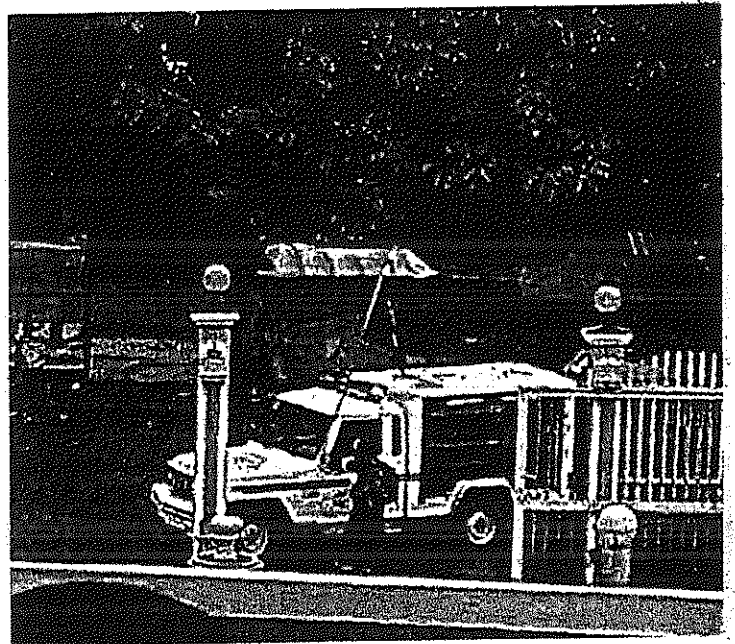
A clash erupted a few minutes later in Barangay Basak Malulut when the bandits reportedly ambushed a responding team of military forces.

Another firefight broke out in Barangay Caloocan, with the terrorists continuously hoisting the IS flag in Marawi City "to destroy the peace-loving people of Lanao del Sur," the local residents told *The Manila Times*.

The Philippine Army used ground troops with aerial support and artillery attacks, the residents said, while the IS bandits roamed the city waving the IS flag.

A report said the terrorists took over the city jail around 6 p.m.

Humanitarian groups dispatched their teams to check on the plight of civilians and the patients in the hospital.



**UNDER ATTACK** This photo shared on social media shows terrorists blocking the gate using a police patrol car with the Islamic State flag on its hood. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The provincial government urged civilians to stay inside their houses.

Last week, several local residents living near the 103rd Infantry Bri-

gade started vacating their homes after hearing rumors that the IS bandits will stage massive attacks on the city.

24 May 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

Page: 36

## Troops clash with Hapilon group in Marawi City

BY VICTOR REYES

GOVERNMENT forces clashed with the group of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon in Marawi City yesterday afternoon, four months after he was suspected to have died in an air strike in Butig town in Lanao del Sur.

Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, spokesman of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said Hapilon was with members of the Maute Group when the fighting broke out at a residential area in Barangay Basak around 2 p.m.

Hapilon and a handful of his men went from his bailiwick province of Basilan to Lanao del Sur to get in touch with the Maute Group as part of an effort to establish a caliphate of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

The Abu Sayyaf, the Maute Group, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and the Ansar Khalifa Philippines have pledged allegiance to the ISIS. The military said groups are seeking recognition from ISIS to get funds.

Air Force fighter jets bombed the lair of Hapilon and his Maute Group in Butig town on January 26, leading to the death of 15 terrorists, including an Indonesian identified only as Mohisen.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año has said Hapilon was seriously injured in the air strike. Last month, President Duterte said Hapilon may have died.

Herrera said government troops launched a "surgical operation" against the group of Hapilon based after community members reported to have sighted the armed group.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the operation was initiated by the military and the police, contrary to rumors that the armed group was the one that started the fight.

"Please do not believe propaganda from other groups," said Padilla.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokeswoman of the AFP's Western Mindanao Command, said the sympathizers of the armed group launched diversionary attacks to ease pressure on the core group.

Petinglay said the diversionary attacks included the firing of firearms near a hospital "though these are already contained."

She belied reports on social media that the group has taken over a hospital. "There is no truth to reports that 250 to 300 men occupied it. But it's true that there is ongoing exchange of fire as of now in Barangay Basak," she said.

As to reports that the group burned a police station, Petinglay said: "We have no report on that... There is actually a lot of disinformation."

Padilla said as of 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, military operations in Marawi City were ongoing and "sporadic firefight is still continuing."

The US State Department has a bounty of up to \$5 million for Hapilon's arrest.

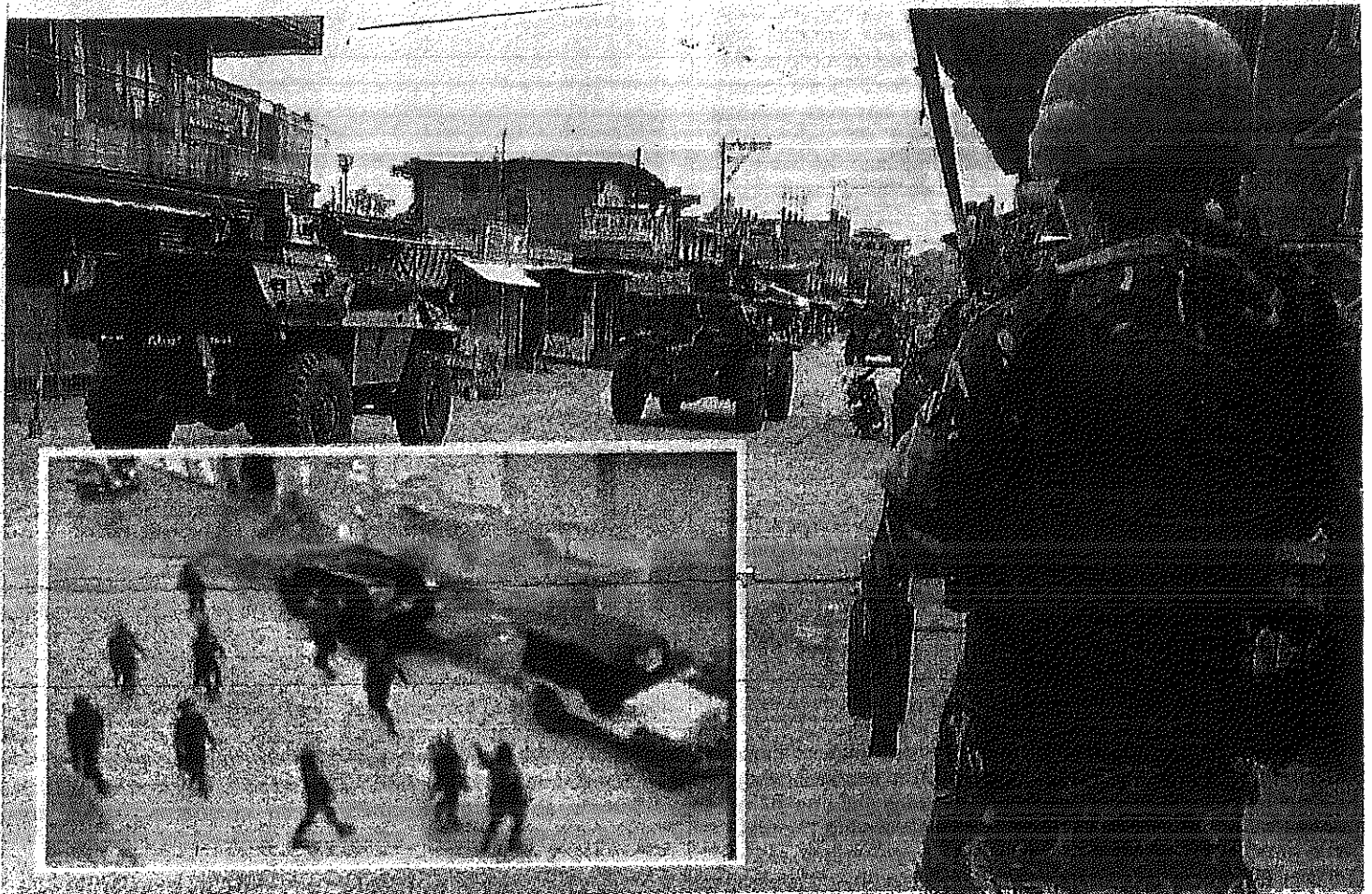
Some residents fled Marawi when the fighting erupted and soldiers blocked off roads. Officials urged residents to avoid spreading rumors that rebels has seized a hospital. – *With Reuters*



24 May 2017

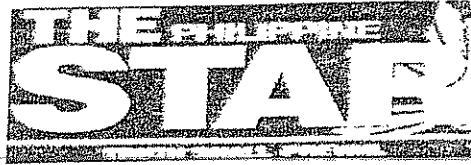
**Maute  
Standard**

Page:   A1  



The government sends more troops to Marawi City amid heavy fighting with members of the Maute Group (inset) aimed at taking out Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon. From the Facebook post of Mohamman Manshawi

24 May 2017



Page: 14

# Marawi under seige; Maute, Abu join forces

By JAIME LAUDE

**Marawi City is under siege, prompting the military to place the entire city under red alert last night.**

The city also suffered power outages and poor cellular phone signals. All entry and exit points of the city were blocked.

Intermittent bursts of gunfire continued as of last night, with flames and smoke still billowing in some areas in the city as the fighting between government security forces and the Islamic State-inspired Maute group, headed by Abu Sayyaf commander Isnilon Hapilon, turned into street skirmishes.

While there were only 15 Maute fighters, their sympathizers, according to the military, apparently joined them, triggering street fighting that resulted in the closure of the Marawi-Iligan highway. Initial reports said five soldiers were wounded.

The city government ad-

vised residents to stay home and keep off the streets.

The firefight started when the Mautes, knowing they had sympathizers in the area, fired at government troops, said Capt. Joan Petinglay, spokesperson for the Western Mindanao Command.

As fighting raged, the terror group's sympathizers launched a diversionary tactic by firing shots in other areas to ease the pressure against the main force of the Maute, whose members took up positions in different areas in Barangay Basak.

A report said the city police headquarters was burning last night. The military did not confirm the report.

"There is so much disinformation coming out in social media. Actually it is an operation launched by

our forces because of reports that remnants of the Maute group were in the area," Petinglay said.

She belied residents' accounts that around 250 to 300 Mautes were involved in the fighting and that some of them occupied the Amai Pakpak Medical Center and burned the city jail.

Petinglay confirmed that there was a gunshot fired near the hospital, but clarified that the building was neither attacked nor taken over by Maute members.

Meanwhile, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla called on residents to "remain calm and stay in their respective homes or evacuate to safe areas if they still can."

"We also appeal to all our citizens to provide information on enemy locations and their movements so we can swiftly conclude this important security operation," Padilla said.

The security council of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) condemned the attack.

"We strongly condemn these acts of terror against the people of Marawi City. I swear to take necessary action immediately," ARMM Gov. Mujiv Hataman said.

"Words may seem useless right now, as no words can express how we feel as we share in the fear and anger of our people there in Marawi City. These acts of terror are happening in a historic, predominantly Muslim city. People sowing terror and who say it is being done in the name of Islam should be ashamed of what they are doing," he said.

The attack was launched as President Duterte started his official visit to Russia, accompanied by top security officials including national police chief Ronald dela Rosa. – With John Unson, Ben Serrano

24 May 2017



Page: A13

# Envoy: Russia has no military interest in SEA

By Leila B. Salaverria  
@LeilasINQ

MOSCOW—The interests of the Philippines and Russia are converging, but Moscow has no intention of becoming a military power in the Southeast Asian region even if it is beefing up defense ties with Manila, according to Philippine Ambassador to Russia Carlos Sorreta.

“The Philippine pivot to Russia at the same time, again by coincidence, ends up meeting up with Russia’s rebalance to Asia. I think the timing is great and we should take advantage of that,” Sorreta told reporters covering President Duterte’s visit to Moscow on Tuesday.

He said, however, that the Philippines’ value to Russia was as an economic partner, and Moscow was eager to perk up sluggish

trade between the two nations.

Even Russia’s sale of arms to the Philippines would be a purely business transaction, as it would come with no strings attached, Sorreta said.

## Economic relations

“Russia has emphasized economic [relations]. They don’t want to be a military power in our region. They have no interest in competing with the existing power dynamics. They want to engage our region, Southeast Asia, purely on economic, cultural, people-to-people [terms],” he said.

Sorreta also noted that in Southeast Asia, Russia has the lowest engagement with the Philippines, which is why boosting ties with Manila would be one of the “strongest manifestations” of its new emphasis on the region.

would be unconditional.

“I think one of the best arguments is there are no conditionalities. The arms will be sold and they trust us to use [them] properly,” he said.

“I have always believed our brave men and women in uniform should not be going to battle carrying arms attached to strings that run all the way to Washington . . . that’s what’s been happening,” he added.

In trade, Sorreta said the Philippines was looking to export agricultural products, especially banana, to Russia.

“Russia is a huge market for bananas. They love bananas. They import one billion dollars worth of bananas a year. One billion, can you imagine that?” he said.

The Philippines exports a few agricultural products to Russia, such as dried mangoes,

dessicated coconut, coconut oil and coco sugar.

Mr. Duterte arrived in Moscow past 11 p.m. on Monday (early Tuesday in Manila) for a four-day official visit.

He was welcomed by Russian Ambassador to the Philippines Igor Khoavaev and Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Vladimirovich Morgulov and given military honors at the Vnukovo Airport.

## Western ‘double talk’

Mr. Duterte’s trip to Russia is part of his “independent foreign policy” that has seen him shifting away from the United States, the Philippines’ longtime ally, which he has accused of hypocrisy and of meddling in his country’s affairs for criticizing his bloody war on drugs.

He aired similar sentiments

The Philippines and Russia are expected to sign a defense cooperation agreement during Mr. Duterte’s visit, but no deals for strategic partnership and joint military exercises are on the table.

Sorreta said the two countries would soon exchange military attachés but this would not be for a “defense presence.”

“I think a military attaché is a good way, for example we want to buy products, he will make sure things are going well,” he said.

## Arms sales to PH

Plans for Moscow to sell weapons to the Philippine military were discussed during Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana’s visit to Moscow last December.

Sorreta said any Russian weapons sale to the Philippines

against the West in an interview he gave to Russian television network RT before flying to Moscow.

“I am now working on alliance with China, and I hope to start a good working relationship with Russia. Why? Because the Western world, the EU and everything—it’s all this double talk,” he said.

Mr. Duterte has also embraced China as an ally, thanking it profusely for the economic aid and grants it has promised to give the Philippines after his visit to Beijing last October.



WATCH THE VIDEO

<http://inq.news/DuterteInRussia>

OFFICE OF

24 May 2017



Page: A6

# Court again stops arrest of Misuari

A trial court has suspended the implementation of the warrants of arrest against Moro leader Nur Misuari for another six months to allow him to continue holding talks on the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

In her May 16 decision, a copy of which was obtained by reporters on Tuesday, Judge Maria Rowena Modesto-San Pedro of the Regional Trial Court Branch 158 in Pasig City granted Misuari's petition not to arrest him on charges connected to the siege of Zamboanga City in 2013 by MNLF forces.

The first suspension of the implementation of the warrants she had ordered lapsed on April 27.

"The Court recognizes that the six-month period is too short to attain the much desired peace in Southern Philippines through the active participation of accused Misuari in the GPH-MNLF Peace Process or Peace Talks," Modesto-San Pedro said.

The judge also noted that the prosecution has not filed



Nur Misuari

any opposition to Misuari's motion dated May 5 seeking an extension of the suspension of the warrants.

Modesto-San Pedro ordered the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the National Bureau of Investigation, and other law enforcement agencies not to implement the arrest warrants against Misuari until Nov. 16.

She also directed Misuari, the Department of Justice and the Office of the Presidential

Adviser on the Peace Process to submit a monthly report to the court on the progress of the government-MILF peace process.

The government and the MNLF panels were scheduled to discuss the proposed new Bangsamoro entity under the agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Misuari had been charged with rebellion and crimes against humanity for the over 100 deaths during the siege and the displacement of over 120,000 people in Zamboanga City.

Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Isabelle Salazar has said that while the people of Zamboanga supported Duterte's peace initiatives, Misuari "has to be made accountable for his alleged crimes."

"For the moment, we express strong support to the bold and fresh initiatives of President Duterte to seek sustainable peace with justice in the land," she said.

She promised, however, that the city government would "pursue our cases in court against him and the MNLF members responsible for the siege." —JUDY QUIROS INQ

24 May 2017

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

Page: 13

# Death of bomber huge loss for BIFF — AFP

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

**T**he Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday said that the death of a notorious leader and bomber of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) will further degrade their operations especially in Central Mindanao.

Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., commander of the AFP Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), said the death of BIFF bomb instructor Murad Ali in Barangay Capiton, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, on Monday served as a big blow to the group.

"This recent operational accomplishment will seriously degrade the BIFF, which propagates terrorism by conducting bombing activities in Central Mindanao," Galvez said.

"Ali was a notorious bomb instructor and a protégée of the late Basit Usman. Just like Usman, he was an expert bomb trainer of newly recruited BIFF members," he added.

Aside from neutralizing Ali, military and police operatives also seized several firearms and war materials in the series

of joint operations launched in Maguindanao at 1 a.m. Monday.

Operatives of the 603rd Brigade, composed of troops from the 5th Special Forces Battalion and the 19th Infantry Battalion, and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (CIDG-ARMM) conducted joint operations at the ARMM housing project, resulting to the death of Ali.

The operation was conducted on the strength of search warrants issued for violation of Republic Act 9516 or "An Act Imposing Stiffer Penalties for Certain Violations of Illegal/Unlawful Possession of Explosives and RA 10591 or illegal possession of firearms issued by Judge Alexander M. Betoya of the Regional Trial Court of Cotabato City.

Among the items seized were 60mm HE mortar rounds; a fragmentation grenade; an Ingram; and suspected components of an Improvised Explosive Device, composed of seven pieces of nine-volt battery, 16 blasting caps, nine battery connectors, four sets of cutting tools, four cellular phones, a radio, a detonating cord, a GPS, and a laptop.

24 May 2017



Page. 3

## 92 AFP personnel axed for drugs

By **ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA**

**NINETY-TWO personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) were dismissed from service after they tested positive in using prohibited drugs from 2016 to the first**

**quarter of 2017.**

This was according to Department of National Defense (DND) Public Affairs Service (PAS) chief, Director Arsenio Andolong

Discharged from the service were one military officer, 64 enlisted personnel, 14 civilian active aux-

iliaries (CAAs), four civilian employees and nine enlisted personnel.

The nine enlisted personnel were dismissed from the service on the first quarter this year.

Andolong said the dismissal from service of the AFP personnel is part of

the DND's support in the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

He said a total of 30,974 military officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employees of the AFP were subjected to drug testing for CY 2016 and an additional 1,821 were tested for the 1st Quarter of 2017.

As part of their support to President Rodrigo Duterte's priority thrust against the proliferation of illegal drugs, the DND conducted a DND-wide orientation seminar workshop yesterday at the AFP Commissioned Officers Club in Camp Aguinaldo.

The seminar with a theme "A Drug-Free Defense is a Credible Defense," was attended by representatives from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), Department of Health (DoH), Civil Service Commission (CSC), and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Discussed during the seminar were the Global and National Drug Situation, Government Efforts, Programs and Activities on Drug Prevention and Control; Treatment and Rehabilitation, Guidelines for a Drug-Free Workplace, and the Reintegration and Transformation Program of the National Government.

13

24 May 2017



Pahina. 5

## CAFGU member, pinalaya na ng NPA

**TANDAG CITY** - Makalipas ang anim na araw na pagkakabihag, pinalaya na nitong Lunes ng New People's Army (NPA) ang dinukot nitong tauhan ng Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) sa Palo Cinco, Barangay Buenavista, Tandag City, Surigao del Sur. Kinilala ang pinalayang

CAFGU member na si Jeremias E. Estrada, kasapi ng Matho Patrol Base, sa Bgy. Matho sa bayan ng Cortes.

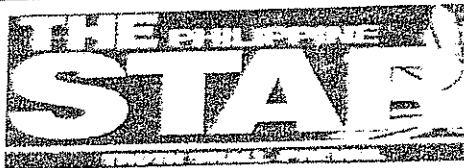
Pinalaya si Estrada ng guerilla-Front Committee 30 ng NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee sa ilang lokal na opisyal, sa pangunguna ni Tandag City Mayor Alexander Pimentel, at

mga mamamahayag bandang 1:30 ng hapon sa Tandag City, bago siya ibinalik sa mga kaanak.

Bandang 7:00 ng umaga nitong Mayo 17 nang dukutin ng NPA si Estrada mula sa kanyang bahay sa Purok Lansones, Bgy. San Agustin Norte, Tandag City.

**Mike U. Crismundo**

24 May 2017



Page: 4

### **NPA frees militiaman**

**BUTUAN CITY**– A member of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit kidnapped by New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Tandag City was freed on Monday.

Jeremias Estrada, 58, was released to members of the local crisis committee led by Mayor Alexander Pimentel and third party facilitators in Sitio Palo Cinco, Barangay Buenavista.

Estrada was taken from his home in Purok Lansones, Barangay San Agustin Norte on May 17. – **Ben Serrano**

15



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

## ONLINE NEWS

24 MAY 2017

[www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com](http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com)

### Gov't forces, Maute group clash in Marawi City

From CNN Philippines (May 23): Gov't forces, Maute group clash in Marawi City

Government forces clashed with members of the rebel group Maute in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur on Tuesday.

Reports said armed men have taken over the Amai Pakpak Medical Center, with the group allegedly replacing the Philippine flag with a black flag, supposedly representing the Islamic State (ISIS).

They have also reportedly blocked checkpoints in the vicinity.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) First Infantry Division Spokesman Lt. Col. Jo-Ar Herrera said the firefight started 2 p.m. at Barangay Basak Malutlut.

"Nakatanggap po tayo ng report from the community, meron silang nakitang mga armado...na-check po natin na ito pala yung ano, yung core group ng Maute, so nag-launch po tayo ng surgical operation para i-neutralize 'yung grupo na may planong mag-ano ng terorismo sa Marawi City," Herrera said. [Translation: We received a report from the community, they saw armed men...we checked that this is the core group of Maute, so we launched a surgical operation to neutralize the group planning to incite terrorism in Marawi City.]

He added Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon was among the 15 armed men seen in the area.

Herrera said while firefight has ended, clearing operations are still ongoing, as at least five members of the government force sustained injuries.

Redoble Adonis of Camp Ranao said a group inspired by ISIS attacked the 103rd Brigade, situated at Camp Ranao in Marawi City.

"The AFP members directly blocked their way resulting to exchange of fire. Accordingly, not less than 500 members of Maute (ISIS) tried to penetrate the camp. GT Marawi situated at Campo Ranaw, Marawi City is about 300 meters from the place of the attacked," Adonis said.

However, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said a combined military and police force initiated the operation in Marawi.

"We received reliable info on Hapilon and a number of his cohorts. Updates to follow as the operation is still ongoing," Padilla said.

Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra told CNN Philippines' News Night the hospital under siege is just about 2 km away from the city hall.

"Right now, based on initial information, no casualties reported...we are coordinating with the military. wala po silang casualties na sinabi," Gandamra said.

There are eyewitness reports that the Marawi City Jail and the Dansaian Junior College were on fire.

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

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

[www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com](http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com)

## **Heavy fighting breaks out in Marawi City ahead of Ramadan**

From the Gulf News (May 23): Heavy fighting breaks out in Marawi City ahead of Ramadan

*Military reports presence of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon in the area*

**Clashes erupted Tuesday afternoon in Marawi City between security forces and members of the Maute terror in two villages of the city as sources said militants have seized several government installations.**

**Reports reaching Manila said heavy fighting broke out at around 3pm in the villages of Caloocan and Basak Malatut as police commandos, backed by units of the Philippine Army 103rd Brigade based in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, clashed with an armed group believed to be members of the Maute or the Dawaah Islamiyah, a group that had pledged allegiance to the Middle East and North Africa-based Daesh.**

**"I was told by my relatives in Marawi City that they had never witnessed fighting this heavy since the 1970s during the Moro uprising."** Liningding Abato Drieza told Gulf News in a phone interview from Cagayan de Oro.

**"The Maute are besieging the city jail and are trying to free some of their jailed comrades,"** he said, adding that the militants are already holding a number of hostages taken from a local hospital and have entered the campus of the Mindanao State University.

Certain areas of the city are also without power.

Cagayan de Oro City in Northern Mindanao is located a little more than a hundred kilometres away from Marawi City.

Armed Forces Spokesperson Brigadier Restituto Padilla said **they received information that Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon is in the area.**

Reports said the air force had launched air strikes against targets in Marawi City to dislodge the militants.

It can be recalled that in November 2016 and January 2017, Maute militants attacked and occupied the municipality of Butig in Lanao del Norte, resulting in dozens of casualties for both sides.

Butig is less than 50 kilometres away from Marawi City.

Lanao del Sur provincial police director, Senior Supt. Oscar Nantes, said the police, backed by the army, tried to serve search warrants when armed men opened fire.

Marawi City is located in a strategic area separating the Zamboanga peninsula in Western Mindanao, and Northern Mindanao.

Drieza said Marawi City residents are apprehensive that Martial Law would be declared if hostilities continue.

The fighting also took place as Muslims set to observe Ramadan fasting month.

The Maute has founded by brothers Omar and Abdulla Maute who had been exposed to radical Islamic teachings during their time in the Middle East.

Successive government offensives against the Maute group over the past several month had resulted in the death of some of its members. According to the military, the radical organisation were recruiting youngsters to its fold in recent weeks.

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

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

[www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com](http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com)

## **Clash erupts as troops raid Marawi hideout of IS-linked fighters**

From GMA News (May 23): **Clash erupts as troops raid Marawi hideout of IS-linked fighters**

Updated 8:37pm - **Five soldiers were wounded on Tuesday in a clash when they raided an apartment where Islamic State-linked militants were hiding in Marawi City, the army said.**

**The focus of the raid was about 15 militants belonging to the Maute group, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State in the Middle East.**

The fighting was still going on by nightfall.

Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera, an army spokesman, said **the military was acting on information that Isnifon Hapilon, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf group, was among the militants hiding in the apartment in Marawi City.**

The US State Department has a bounty of up to \$5 million for his arrest.

The Maute and Abu Sayyaf have an alliance and are both linked with Islamic State, a source of growing concern for President Rodrigo Duterte, who has warned of the expanding influence of the militants in the Philippines.

### **No hospital takeover**

For her part, Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command, belied reports that a hospital was taken over by the bandits.

**"There is no truth to reports that 250 to 300 men occupied it. But its true that there is ongoing exchange of fire as of now in Barangay Basak,"** she said.

Myrna Jo Henry, information officer of the Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said a crisis committee has been activated by Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Mujib Hataman to validate reports and assess the situation in the city.

**Henry said they are trying to validate reports that the armed group occupied the Amai Pakpak Medical Center and a Bureau of Jail Management and Penology facility.**

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

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

[www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com](http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com)

## **Soldiers, Maute group battle in Marawi City**

From MindaNews (May 23): Soldiers, Maute group battle in Marawi City

**Suspected members of the Maute group ambushed Tuesday troops from the 1st Infantry Division and policemen in downtown Marawi City and took control of parts of the area causing panic among residents.**

Retired colonel Tatar Boriongan, Lanao Del Sur Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office chief said **the clash erupted around 2pm at the lower portion of the Mindanao State University Compound in Marawi City's Basak Malulut village.**

"Civilians now are in panic, there is tension in many corners of the downtown area. so we advised the public to stay in their houses as situation is still unpredictable." Boriongan said.

**He said even their team could not get out of the office due to reports that the Maute group had put up checkpoints.**

He added they were still trying to ascertain if there had been civilian casualties.

**1st Infantry Division spokesperson Lt Col Joar Herrera said they conducted law enforcement operation on Tuesday afternoon together with police forces in the province in response to reports that suspected terrorists led by Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon were conducting community organizing among residents.**

**But upon reaching Basak Malulut gunfire greeted the government forces forcing them to fire back. Herrera said.**

Reports reaching the Nonviolent Peace Force (NP), an institution working for civilian protection, said **the armed men who ambushed the soldiers and policemen positioned themselves at a mosque.**

As of Tuesday afternoon there were no reports of casualties on either side.

Kamran Shah of NP said **"the situation is pretty bad. There are eight areas in Marawi being controlled by the armed group. Officials are not allowing people to move around and it's really difficult to move around because the firefight continues."**

**The armed group has reportedly taken control of Barangays Saber, Sarimanok, Mapandi, Amai Pakpak, the area near the provincial jail, Malulut, and Calookan.**

"Basak Malulut is just near Langcap where the police headquarters is located and at Mindanao State University-main campus," Nohman Khalil of NP said.

**Resident Norhanidah Macatoon posted on Facebook photos seemingly grabbed from a CCTV footage in her house, of armed men with high-powered firearms wearing camouflage parading near Masjid Abubakar Markaz where the heavy clash took place.**

**"Allahu Akbar! Brothers and Sisters please stay in your houses".**

**A flag of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) was hoisted inside Amai Pakpak Hospital,** which is near the city hall and the Army's brigade station. a report confirmed by the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Humanitarian Emergency Action Response Team (ARMM-HEART).

"It caused panic to civilians inside the hospital but none of them are used as shields by the armed group. They only raised the black flag there," said Abul Alibasa, a resident of Marawi city who is monitoring the developments.

"There is also violence happening near Haifah Palace of Calookan of Marawi city," Alibasa said.

"All of the physicians and nurses on duty there are safe and okay per our communication. Employees are in hiding. May mga sundalo na daw duon sa may (There are soldiers at the) gate. Sana manegotiate nila (I hope they can negotiate) peacefully. Please spare the hapless patients at the hospital," said Omai Atar, wife of Marawi's sultan and an employee of Amai Pakpak hospital.

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

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

She said it would appear that the attacks in various parts of the city were simultaneously done.

"I heard bombs and gunfire. The ISIS flag was raised in our hospital," Dr. Sainuddon Moti said.

When asked how many patients were inside the hospital, he could not give a figure.

"But they are okay, they are okay," assured Atar.

The movement of the armed group within the city caused traffic congestion, said Drieza Lininding on Facebook.

"The Marawi City jail is also under siege. Oh my Allah, spare my family and relatives from any harm," Lininding added.

Maulana Macadato, who was inside his residence during the siege, was able to take hold of an ISIS flag carried by the group.

He said it would appear that the attackers were controlling the traffic.

"Meanwhile, as conflict escalates, we also have power interruption," said Javier Alonto, another resident.

Some teachers were able to get out of MSU and flee to Iligan City, about 40 kilometers away from Marawi.

#### **Calls for peaceful resolution**

Several Maranaos living in Marawi and other areas posted #savemarawi and #prayforMarawi on social media to call attention to the situation.

Mino Macalandap, a resident, posted: "It may have gone beyond man's control. I can only offer my prayers for my Lanao."

Akram Latip, a native of Lanao Sur, opined: "The best solution for Marawi City now is for the AFP to disengage the ISIS Group. If they push through with the military operation the city will be left with total destruction. Let the Local Executives, Ulama, Elders and other influential people talk with the ISIS Group and allow them to leave in peace. That's the best way to protect the civilians and avoid more casualties and destruction."

"Please keep the civilians safe in Marawi City. I call on the government to help the civilians evacuate the area safely. Many of the students are trapped in their schools, among them are my relatives. I pray to Allah swt to please keep them safe from harm," said Maisara Damdamun, a commissioner of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission.

"As the city becomes a battleground between armed groups and government forces, the Iligan-Marawi highway has been closed, prompting fears of a food shortage. I fear for the women and children who might be caught in the crossfire. And I pray for the safety and protection of MSU students, faculty, administration officials and staff and their families, and other residents there. May this disturbance be a short one," said James Mante, an alumnus of MSU.

Others posted tips on how to keep themselves safe.

"Let us all pray for the fast resolution of the crisis," Marawi-based lawyer Adom Macarambon pleaded.

ARMM Governor Mujiv Hataman called for an emergency meeting and activated a technical management group monitoring developments in Marawi.

The Maute group, which has claimed to embrace the ISIS cause, has been the target of military and police operations in recent months in Butig and Piagapo towns in Lanao del Sur.

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

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

[www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com](http://www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com)

## **AFP's DSSP 'Kapayaan' very effective vs terrorism**

From the Philippine News Agency (May 23): AFP's DSSP 'Kapayaan' very effective vs terrorism

**The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)'s Development Support and Security Plan (DSSP) "Kapayapaan" has proven to be very effective in the military's ongoing anti-terror campaign in Mindanao.**

**This was stressed by AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año, adding that this approach to attain national well-being through interplay of good governance, security, and development.**

"With this intensified holistic approach, we have made a lot of headway in our fight against terrorism. Efforts with the help of local leaders and the populace have significantly crippled the operations of ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria)-linked terrorist groups," he added.

**AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo earlier said that from Jan. 1 up to May 17, a total of 81 ASG bandits were killed, with another 50 surrendering, apprehension of 18 and captured of 70 high and low powered weapons seized from the brigands.**

Arevalo said the number of surrendered ASG terrorists is unheard as this is the first time the terrorists have opted to surrender en masse.

The AFP public affairs office chief said that the surrendered bandits are also claiming that their finances are going low due to their inability to kidnap new victims and ransom them, crimping on their ability to acquire weapons, food and other supplies.

This lack has caused the morale of the ASG members to plummet, making them prone to surrenders.

**"Kapayaan" was launched by the AFP last January. It succeeded "Bayanihan" which formally ended last Dec. 31, having been launched on Dec. 22, 2010.**

**While "Bayanihan"'s strategic approach is the whole-of-nation approach that focused on security aspect, "Kapayapaan" is centered on the AFP' support to the challenges on governance, development and security.**

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/990152>

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

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

[www.dwdd.com.ph](http://www.dwdd.com.ph)

## **PATH TOWARDS PEACE | Three (3) NPAs Surrenders to 8IB in Impasugong**

Alvin Santiago



**BUKIDNON (DWDD)** – Three member of the NPA surrenders to the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion as its Headquarters in Impasugong today.

According to 1LT Erwin P Bugarin, CMO Officer, 8th Infantry Battalion, in the morning of 22 May 2017, three members of the New People's Army surrendered themselves bringing along with them assorted firearms. Former rebels who previously surrendered facilitated the return of their comrades back to the government by taking initiative in making them understand to choose a peaceful path.

The Philippine Army welcomes all those who embrace the path towards peace and development. This is the product of us working together and helping those who got lost find their way back to their community. Armed Struggle will never be a solution to resolve issues nor will it be a way to achieving just and lasting peace.

By now, growing awareness spreads fast and their members now question the ideals of the organization which they are still a member of. It is never too late to give peace a chance. **8IB CMO / MCAG**

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

20