

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



TEAM ARMY
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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

12 November 2017

Sunday

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

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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DZRH NEWS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 3PM

PILIPINAS ID
WEEKDAYS
6AM & 7PM
WEEKENDS
5AM

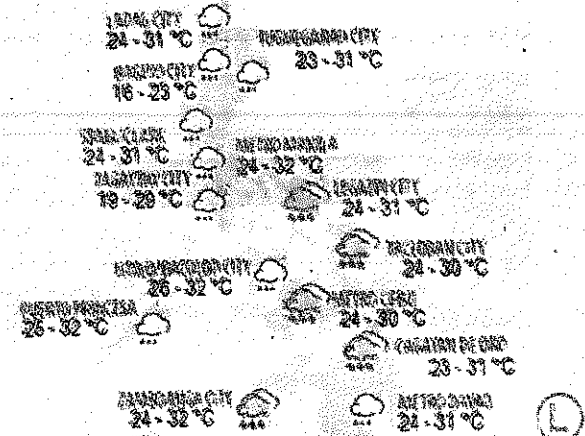
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SABIDO NG PAGKALAKAS

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SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:55 AM	5:26 PM	11:32 PM	12:31 PM
WAXING QUARTER	WAXING MOON	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
4:34 AM Nov 11	4:07 PM Nov 11	MAHILA SOUTH HARBOUR 11:31 AM 4:58 PM	2:01 AM 1:12 PM

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST NOVEMBER 12, 2017 SUNDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA
ESTIMATED AT 875 KM EAST OF DAVAO CITY, DAVAO DEL SUR
(As of 4:00 AM - November 11, 2017)



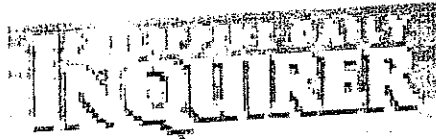
EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	NOV 13 NOV 14 NOV 15			EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	NOV 13 NOV 14 NOV 15		
	MON	TUE	WED		MON	TUE	WED
METRO MANILA	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 30 °C	25 °C 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	23 °C 31 °C	23 °C 31 °C	23 °C 30 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	25 °C 31 °C	26 °C 31 °C	26 °C 32 °C
LAOAG	24 °C 31 °C	23 °C 31 °C	23 °C 31 °C	METRO CEBU	24 °C 30 °C	26 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C
BAGUIO	16 °C 23 °C	15 °C 23 °C	16 °C 22 °C	TACLOBAN	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C
SBMA' CLARK	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
TAGAYTAY	20 °C 28 °C	21 °C 28 °C	21 °C 28 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C
LEGAZPI	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C

Partly cloudy to all times cloudy with rainshowers

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

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DUTERTE SEES DRUG WAR SUPPORT AT SUMMIT

STORY BY AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

President Duterte appears confident the presence of world leaders, including US President Donald Trump, for a series of summit meetings hosted by Manila next week will help muffle international criticism of his bloody war on drugs. New York-based Human Rights Watch expects Mr. Duterte's foreign guests to give "a diplomatic blind eye" to thousands of Filipinos killed in the antidrug campaign. Amnesty International says many of the regional leaders attending the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are also shadowed by human rights controversies and unlikely to raise the same issue with their host.

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President Duterte will host world leaders in Manila starting today, hoping their presence will quiet international criticism over his deadly drug war, which rights groups say may be a crime against humanity. Mr. Duterte goes into the event appearing confident that even his most outrageous remarks and actions will be ignored, having boasted in the lead-up he once stabbed someone to death, while at the same time proposing to host a global human rights summit.

US President Donald Trump will be among leaders from 19 countries, plus the heads of the United Nations and European Union, coming for the talks, which will begin with a banquet on Sunday night followed by summits on Monday and Tuesday.

But rights groups have expressed alarm and disappointment that Trump and most others are likely to endorse or stay silent over Mr. Duterte's violent rule, which has seen thousands of people killed.

"Duterte will enjoy the gift of tacit silence from East Asian leaders on his murderous drug

war during the upcoming summit," Human Rights Watch deputy Asia director Phelim Kine told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

"We can expect East Asian leaders to exercise a diplomatic blind eye to the killings of thousands of Filipinos over the past 16 months as part of Duterte's drug war." Mr. Duterte won last year's presidential elections after promising to eradicate illegal drugs with an unprecedented crackdown that would see up to 100,000 people killed.

Since he took office, police have reported killing 3,967 people in the crackdown. Another 2,290 people have been murdered in drug-related crimes, while thousands of other deaths remain unsolved, according to government data.

Many Filipinos back Mr. Duterte, believing he is taking necessary measures to fight crime.

But rights groups warn he may be orchestrating a crime against humanity.

Amnesty International accuses police of shooting dead defenseless people and paying assassins to murder addicts.

Rights groups say police are following Mr. Duterte's incitements to kill, citing comments of his such as he would be "happy to slaughter" three million addicts.

Domestic opponents have appealed to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate, pointing to the jailing of opponents, a compliant

Congress and intimidated judiciary as reasons to step in.

But the ICC has yet to respond and, despite some vocal critics in the West, Mr. Duterte goes into the Manila summits full of confidence that Trump and the others will effectively endorse his rule by not speaking against the killings.

In Vietnam on Thursday on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit, Mr. Duterte boasted that when he was 16 he stabbed to death someone for looking at him the wrong way.

A 'great job'

He then offered to host a global summit on human rights, but insisted that the alleged crimes of the United States, France and other nations also be investigated.

Mr. Duterte, 72, last year branded former US President Barack Obama a "son of a whore" for criticizing the drug war.

But Trump and Mr. Duterte have expressed mutual admiration for each other. Trump told the Philippine President in a telephone call in April that he was doing a "great job" with his campaign against drugs.

They are expected to hold one-on-one talks on Monday and, if Trump does not bring up any hu-

man rights concerns, Mr. Duterte is widely expected to trumpet the meeting as an endorsement.

"We will be extremely disappointed if Trump does not raise it," Amnesty's Philippine director, Jose Noel Olano, told reporters on Saturday.

Blanket support

Mr. Duterte is hosting the two days of summits as the rotating chair of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

He can expect blanket support from his Asean colleagues, many of whom are also shadowed by human rights controversies.

"From the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, to a sweeping crackdown on all forms of dissent in Cambodia to the thousands killed in Philippines, human rights are under siege across Southeast Asia," Rachel Chhoa-Howard, a Philippine researcher with Amnesty, told AFP.

The premiers of China and Russia, two other important Duterte backers, will also be in Manila.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is another key backer of Mr. Duterte, with the pair having established a warm relationship. -AFP

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Trump meets Rody: See you in Manila

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

DA NANG – Manila is on his mind.
United States President Donald Trump made it clear to President Duterte that he is seeing him in Manila today for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and East Asia summits. “See you tomorrow,” Trump was quoted yesterday as telling Duterte when they bumped into each other during a break at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders’ Forum here.

Trump said he was looking forward to meeting Duterte in Manila, where the US leader is expected to stay until Wednesday.

A photo posted by presidential special assistant Christopher Bong Go showed Duterte and Trump in a huddle along with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. Duterte had a brief chat with Trump during the leaders’ retreat.

“It was brief meeting. It was warm and cordial,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said yesterday in a press briefing.

“It shows that the two leaders were genuinely pleased to have finally met each other,” Roque added.

Duterte and Trump will likely talk about the North Korean threat and the overall security situation in the region, particularly the South China Sea dispute. Human rights is unlikely to be on the agenda.

Roque said Duterte has expressed concerns over the ramifications of an outbreak of hostilities in the Korean Peninsula. “He has warned against what he has described as another nuclear holocaust and he has encouraged all states to communicate with each other,” Roque said, citing the Chief Executive’s recent visit to Japan.

“So yes, I confirm that the Philippine President has

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Trump From Page 1

attached tremendous importance to what will happen in North Korea and has recognized that any resort to the use of force, particularly nuclear weapons, would result in dire consequences to the entire region," Roque said, adding, "and will adversely affect the economic development that we are currently achieving in the

Philippines."

With China's provocative actions in the South China Sea, Roque said the issue is expected to be discussed by the two leaders.

"And although I would suppose it would be safe to assume that the discussion on West Philippine Sea will take place because in the remark of the US President,

he also said that the interest of the United States is to maintain freedom of navigation 'in crucial waterways,'" Roque said.

"I think the President of the Philippines joins the rest of the world in maintaining that there should be freedom of navigation in a very crucial sea passage, sea lane passage," Roque added.

"The West Philippine Sea, as you know, is one of the busiest sea routes in the

world. And it is to the interest of everyone that countries in the region, including the claimants to the disputed islands and waters of the West Philippine Sea, should recognize the principle of freedom of navigation," Roque added.

Last Friday, Duterte said he expected an "interesting time" with Trump during their meeting in Manila.

In other photos, Duterte was seen shaking hands with Mexican President Enrique

Peña Nieto and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

Earlier, Duterte was with other world leaders in the APEC Economic Leaders Retreat 1 titled "Growth inclusion and sustainable employment in the digital age."

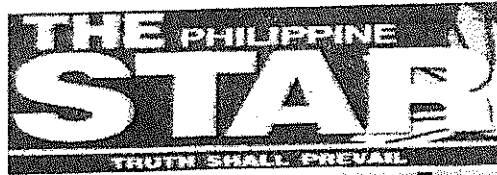
It was after this activity that Trump and Duterte met briefly before they went to the APEC Garden at the Intercontinental Da Nang for the APEC "family photo."

In the photo, Duterte was at the back row, flanked by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski.

Duterte was able to meet and talk with top world leaders on the sidelines of the APEC summit. He had bilateral meetings with Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Duterte was unable to attend the Gala dinner hosted by President Tran Dai Quang last Friday.

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More than 500 Reds surrender, avail of aid

By JAIME LAUDE

More than 500 New People's Army (NPA) rebels have surrendered this year, availing of the financial package offered by the government for them to return to the fold of law.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said the rebel returnees had availed of the government's Comprehensive Local Integral Program (CLIP), that also includes livelihood projects.

"NPA rebels who surrendered to the authorities have already reached to 531 since termination of the peace negotiation with the communist organization on Feb. 4," said AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo.

Five of the NPA returnees came from the Ilocos Region while the rest came from Mindanao and the Visayas.

Lt. Col. Eugenio Julio Osias IV, commander of the Army's 81st Infantry Battalion based in Ilocos Sur, said P444,000 in cash were handed out by the provincial government to the five NPA rebels surrenderees.

As to the NPA hardcore, sustained military campaign has resulted to the killing of 736 rebels from Feb. 4 to the present.

Of this number, 121 insurgents were killed by government troops during combat operations while 94 others were arrested.

Government forces also recovered 578 high powered-firearms from the slain and arrested rebels.

"It is apparent that hardships inside the NPA organization are now taking its toll on its members, leading them to cross the line to join mainstream society," AFP chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero said.

Guerrero said the AFP welcomes the rebel surrenderees, adding that they will all receive financial assistance and livelihood projects through the government's integration program.

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Air strikes send 200 families fleeing from homes

By MALU CADELINA MANAR

KIDAPAWAN CITY – At least 200 families from two villages in Carmen, North Cotabato have evacuated to safer areas in nearby Aleosan town, after the Army launched intense air-to-ground military offensives against the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) since Wednesday, a military official said.

Capt. Napoleon Alcarioto, head of the Civil Military Operations (CMO) of the Army's 602nd Brigade, said the evacuees have sought temporary shelter in Baran-

gay Lawili, Aleosan.

He said the internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been given initial assistance, like food relief, by the local government units of Carmen and Aleosan.

Other evacuees have reportedly sought refuge in their relatives' houses, according to Alcarioto.

The Army official said they used MG520 attack helicopters as they launched air strikes, since Wednesday. The air assault is now on its fourth day this Saturday, Alcarioto stressed.

"On the ground, our men recovered a number of personal belongings of these

BIFF members, which led us to believe that some of them could have been hit during the military air strikes," said Alcarioto.

The military offensives took place after some 30 fully armed ISIS-inspired BIFF were sighted in Barangay Tongganon and nearby village in Bentangan, also in Carmen, on Tuesday.

The presence of the armed group, allegedly led by a certain Esmael Abdulmalik or Commander Abu Torayfe, caused panic among residents and immediately sought refuge to other areas so to prevent from being caught in crossfires.

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The Manila Times

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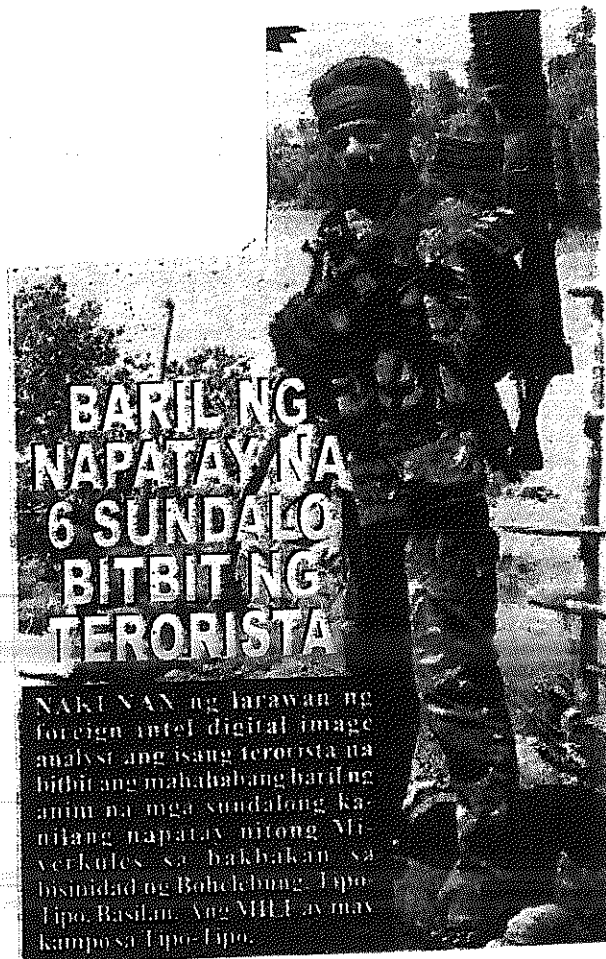
5 NPA REBELS ARRESTED IN SOUTH COTABATO

FIVE members of the Main Regional Guerrilla Unit (MRGU-Front 73) of the New People's Army (NPA) were arrested in Lake Sebu of South Cotabato, the police said on Friday. Senior Supt. Franklin Alvero, South Cotabato provincial police director, said the MRGU-Front 73 NPA guerrillas had long been reported operating in the outlying villages in Lake Sebu and are believed to be collecting revolutionary taxes from businessmen in South Cotabato. Joint elements of the Lake Sebu police operatives and the 27th Infantry Battalion arrested the rebels at a checkpoint in Sinditaba Ilogaw in Barangay Jashman. They were identified as Ronald Kulaman Joland, alias Karding, 19; Joey Inson Salon, alias Jack and Jordan, 24; Encarnacion Comello Sangco, 33; Hanna Blasan Adam and Bryan Dialoring Moca, alias Brown, both 21. Alvero confirmed that the NPA rebels were hardcore members of Platoon Samsung of the MRGU-Front 73 operating in South Cotabato, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat. They were led by a certain Kumander Billy and believed to be responsible for burning passenger buses of the Yellow Bus Line companies. Confiscated from them were two hand grenades, a caliber .45 pistol with ammunition, one 9mm pistol and a caliber .357 pistol. Meanwhile, North Cotabato Gov. Lala Mendoza released P1.1-million checks for livelihood assistance to the 18 former NPA who surrendered to the 39th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army. Col. Harold Argamosa, 39th IB commander, said Mendoza and Interior and Local Government provincial officer Ali Abdullah handed the checks to the former guerrillas, most of them women, during the Provincial Peace and Order meeting at the provincial capitol complex on Thursday.

JERRY N. ADLAW

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Pahina. 6

SUNDALO TEPOK SA TANDEM

NORTH COTABAIO – Isang sundalo ang namatay nang barilin ng riding in-tandem, kamakalawa sa Bgy. Poblacion, Carmen sa lalawigan ng Iloilo.

Kinilala ang biktima na si Pfc. Restuben Baguiran, nakatalaga sa 6th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army (PA) sa naturang lalawigan.

Ayon sa ulat, Julian si Baguiran ng kanyang motorsiklo nang humarag sa daanan nito ang dalawang hindi kilalang salarin na nakasakay din sa motorsiklo at agad pinagbabari ang biktima.

Inimbestigahan na ng pulisya ang motibo sa paganap na krimen.

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WAIT-AND-SEE

NOY, JOMA WEIGH IN ON REVOLUTIONARY GOV'T

By Nikko Dizon and Karlos Manlupig
@Team_Inquirer

President Duterte's threat to form a revolutionary government sounded familiar to two prominent individuals who had been up close to what a revolution meant—former President Benigno Aquino III whose mother was the country's first revolutionary government leader and Jose Ma. Sison who founded a communist movement that continues to wage a countryside revolution.

Aquino, whose mother the late democracy icon Cory initially ruled under a revolutionary government setup, said he was adopting a wait-and-see attitude toward Mr. Duterte's threat.

"Shall we say that we keep our ears open and our eyes also. We are very closely watching a lot of things," the former president said at a press conference at his Times Street home after posting a P40,000 bail for a case stemming from the 2015 Mamasapano debate.

Sison, in a Facebook interview, said Mr. Duterte's threat was actually a good idea but only if it meant the people taking power.

Real revolution

A revolutionary government, said Sison, "was OK if its decree-making powers will not be used to push for a fascist dictatorship."

Aquino said he could not comment further on an issue he has no personal knowledge of. Aquino had earned the ire of Mr. Duterte after commenting that the numbers showed there had been no stark improvement in the antidrug campaign despite the number of killings in Mr. Duterte's war on drugs.

Sison said he would support Mr. Duterte's revolutionary government if it meant rebel forces determining government agenda.

"In this framework, the three veterans of the Kabataang Makabayan—Duterte,

Nur Misuari and me—could come together," Sison said, referring to the underground youth organization formed by the Left.

Under a propeople revolutionary government, Sison said Mr. Duterte would not have to worry anymore about loyalties because he would be supported by warm bodies, the people.

Mass arrest

In a taped interview aired on government television channel PTV 4 on Oct. 13, Mr. Duterte ranted about the possibility of declaring a revolutionary government to defeat forces trying to destabilize his administration.

"If your destabilization is becoming worse and chaotic, I will not hesitate to declare a revolutionary government," Mr. Duterte said in that interview.

"I will arrest all of you and we can go to a full-scale war against the Reds," the President said, adding his revolutionary government would be similar to that declared by Cory shortly after the downfall of the late dictator Marcos in 1986.

Mr. Duterte, however, appeared to backtrack on his threat. Commenting on a statement made by Vice President Leni Robredo about being assured by top defense officials that the military does not support a revolutionary government, Mr. Duterte said: "OK, then we will not have a revolutionary government."

Rallies set

But supporters of Mr. Duterte were not giving up. Rallies were set on Nov. 30 in Davao City, Cebu City, North Cotabato and Manila to press for a revolutionary government that would be federal in character.

Opposition legislator Rep. Tom Villarin, of the partylist group Akbayan, said a revolutionary government would be like Mr. Duterte overthrowing himself and reinstalling himself in power. INQ

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INQUIRER

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Most Pinoys favor martial law extension in Mindanao

Majority of adult Filipinos support the extension of martial law in Mindanao until the end of the year, the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey showed.

Results of the Third Quarter 2017 Social Weather Survey conducted from Sept. 23-27 showed that 54 percent of 1,500 adult Filipinos interviewed agreed with the President's proposal to extend martial law in Mindanao until Dec. 31, while 30 percent disagreed.

This resulted in a net agreement score (percent agree minus percent disagree) of +24, classified by SWS as "moderately strong."

The President imposed a 60-day martial rule in Mindanao on May 23 in the wake of terrorist attacks by the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Maute group in Marawi City.

After the 60-day period, President Duterte asked the Congress to extend his martial law proclamation, a proposal approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives meeting jointly on July 22.

On Oct. 16, Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and Maute terror group leader Omar Maute, the two leaders of the IS-inspired terrorists, were killed in fighting with the government troops.

The next day, five months since the start of the battle that left more than 1,000 people dead including more than 800 terrorists, Mr. Duterte declared



Troops enter a village in Marawi City in the early days of the Marawi siege and the declaration of martial law in Mindanao.

—JEFFREY MAITEM

Marawi "liberated from terrorist influence."

Net agreement with the President's proposal to extend martial law was "very strong" +41 in Mindanao: It was "moderately strong" in the Visayas at +22, in Balance Luzon at +18 and in Metro Manila at +16.

By socioeconomic class, support for Mr. Duterte's move to extend martial law in Mindanao was stronger among Class ABC (extremely strong +51), compared to Class D (moderately strong +26), and Class E (neutral +4)

By gender, men are more supportive of the martial law extension (very strong +34) compared to women (moderately strong +13).

[SWS terminology for net agreement: +50 and above, "extremely strong"; +30 to +49, "very strong"; +10 to +29, "moderately strong", +9 to -9,

"neutral"; -10 to -29, "moderately weak"; -30 to -49, "very weak"; -50 and below, "extremely weak." The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The same survey found 54 percent agreeing with the Congress' approval of extension, but 28 percent disagreed for a net agreement of "moderately strong" +25.

By location, net agreement with the approval of Congress was highest in Mindanao at "very strong" +42. It was "moderately strong" +22 in both Metro Manila and Balance Luzon, while it was +16 in the Visayas, also classified "moderately strong."

Support for Congress' July 22 decision was stronger among Class ABC at +49, while it was +28 and +6 among Class D and Class E, respectively.

—INQUIRER RESEARCH

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512 NPAs surrender since talks hit a snag

By AARON REGUENCO

More than 500 communist rebels have surrendered to the government since the peace talks between the government and the New People's Army (NPA) was terminated in February this year, the military said yesterday.

Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief military information officer, said that for this month alone, a total of 18 communist rebels have decided to surrender, including a 16-year-old boy in T'boli town of South Cotabato.

"The continuous surrender of NPA members is indicative of the organization's dwindling strength," said Arevalo.

He pointed out that the 512 who surrendered since last February 4 have also turned over the firearms issued to them when they joined the NPA's armed struggle. As a result, a total of 578 high-powered and low-powered firearms from the NPAs have been seized.

"This is also a clear manifestation of our successful intensified combat, intelligence, and civil-military operations, particularly in North-eastern Mindanao which is the NPA's area of concentration," said Arevalo.

The official also disclosed that since February this year, the military has killed 121 other communist rebels and 94 were arrested in various parts of the country.

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N. Korea, Marawi siege, sea feud top ASEAN Summit worries

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southeast Asia started banding its unwieldy cluster of fledgling democracies, monarchies, and authoritarian regimes into an European Union-like collective half a century ago, but the diverse region of 620 million people remains hampered by conflicts, poverty, human rights crises and other issues.

It has nevertheless evolved into an important arena of discourse, power plays, and influence that gathers world leaders in annual summits.

Leaders of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) will mark the 10-nation bloc's 50th anniversary with handshakes, unity photo-ops and pageantry in a gala dinner on Sunday. They'll gather for two days of summitry under tight security in Manila starting Monday and meet world leaders led by President Donald Trump to tackle a slew of security worries.

A list of the most pressing issues:

North Korea

Manila is the last stop on Trump's Asian swing where he's expected to

lobby for more punitive action, including diplomatic sanctions, against Pyongyang over its nuclear program. He'll generally find a receptive audience, with the summit's foul-mouthed host, President Rodrigo Duterte, having called North Korea's leader a "crazy son of a bitch" with a "chubby face that looks kind" but who could wipe the region off the map with his "dangerous toys."

China, which wields considerable influence on ASEAN, will, however, be a tempering presence. It has called for dialogue with North Korea and urged the United States to tone down its rhetoric, arguing that sanctions alone cannot solve the impasse.

ASEAN leaders will likely stick to their expression of alarm over Pyongyang's ballistic missile and nuclear tests and press their call for North Korea to return to long-stalled denuclearization talks.

Muslim militants

The siege by pro-Islamic State group militants that left at least 1,172 combatants and civilians dead and left swaths of the southern Philippine city of Marawi in smoldering rubbles will be on every

leader's mind in Manila.

Although Philippine troops have essentially crushed the five-month insurrection, the massive militant attack served as a reality check for governments of the new scale of havoc IS-aligned militants could wreak on urban areas.

Consequently, the main summit venue in a theater complex by Manila Bay has been placed in a security lockdown and declared a no-fly and no-sail zone. Nearly 60,000 police and military personnel will keep watch in Manila and Clark Freeport to the north where some of the leaders will land and senior diplomats are meeting.

Duterte plans to brief leaders on how Filipino forces quelled the siege. ASEAN states and their Asian and Western counterparts find a common interest in addressing the resurgent threat of terrorism and radicalization without much friction.

Rohingya dilemma

Alarm over violence in Myanmar's western Rakhine state that has forced more than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee to Bangladesh will likely stay off ASEAN's formal agenda and summit communique. That's because its member

states, which include Myanmar, uphold a bedrock policy of non-interference in each other's domestic affairs.

While the policy has held back the regional group from taking a stronger and more relevant stance on such calamities in step with much of the international community, it has allowed ASEAN to endure as a club of nations with disparate backgrounds.

Individually, however, heads of state can raise concern and outrage over the Rohingya crisis during their so-called "retreat," a free-for-all but closed-door session. Malaysia, among others, is expected to push Myanmar to take stronger steps to address the humanitarian problem, which has caused many of the Rohingya to flee to its territory. Malaysia has also pushed the Philippine host to allow a stronger statement on the crisis, causing some tension.

"If it will be discussed, it will be up to Myanmar to raise the issue because this a domestic concern for them," said Robespierre Bolivar, spokesman of Manila's Department of Foreign Affairs.

South China Sea

The leaders of China and ASEAN,

which includes four member states directly involved in South China Sea territorial disputes, are expected to announce the start of negotiations on a so-called "code of conduct" in the contested waters based on a framework or outline that their foreign ministers endorsed in August.

Both sides would laud such progress, which China acquiesced to after the Philippines under Duterte backed down from being one of Beijing's most virulent US-backed critics. Duterte pursued a policy of rapprochement with Beijing and has not immediately pushed for Chinese compliance with an arbitration ruling by a UN-aligned tribunal that invalidated China's expansive claims in the strategic waterway.

"There is more cooperative spirit in managing, in reducing the tensions there," Bolivar said.

ASEAN, however, has been dismissed as an ineffective broker largely because it tends to get paralyzed by indecision due to its consensual decision-making style when many of its member states are either aligned with China or the US. The two-page framework took 15 years to conclude and lacked key provisions, including a dispute-settlement mechanism, that China opposes.

"The biggest problem is our insistence that, for some reason, ASEAN has to solve this, which it's not equipped to do, and we shouldn't force it to," said Greg Poling, a Washington-based South China Sea expert.

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Negotiations for binding South China Sea code may likely begin

E. ROY C. MABASA and ELLSON A. QUISWORO

The leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China are poised to give the green light to start negotiations for a binding Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea when they meet in Manila on Tuesday.

"We expect the leaders to announce the negotiations but the actual start of the negotiations will probably happen sometime next year," Foreign Affairs spokesman Robespierre Bolivar said during a press conference at the International Media Center over the weekend.

The DFA spokesman said the leaders on November 13 are expected to take note of the adoption and to announce the formal start of the negotiations of the actual COC that was adopted last August 6 during a meeting of foreign ministers in Manila.

He explained that the framework is the outline of the actual Code and basis for the negotiation.

Bolivar said the Philippines will play a lead role since it will take over as country coordinator of ASEAN-China relations starting next year when the negotiations are starting up.

The COC refers to a set of rules to be followed by nations when engaging with one another over disputes in the South China Sea, which regional power China has a blanket "historical" claim over.

The South China Sea is by far the most volatile waterway in the world no thanks to these territorial head-butting. It is also arguably the major vital wa-

terway, as \$3.37 trillion worth of trade passed through there in 2016.

The previous year, \$3.26 trillion in world trade passed through the South China Sea.

To address the growing tension in the waters, the ASEAN and China agreed to set up a COC during a 2002 summit.

President Duterte, who has shown good working relationship with Beijing since taking over in Malacañang on June 30, 2016, sits as ASEAN chairman this year.

"Seeing that we've had the declaration of the conduct of parties in the South China Sea since 2002, and there is a commitment from leaders since way back in 2002 to have a Code of Conduct, the fact that we have the framework [which is] the outline of the code of conduct, and we expect leaders to announce the start of the negotiations...I think we've come a pretty long way during the ASEAN Philippine chairmanship," Bolivar said.

The DFA official said the participating heads of state will take note of the adoption of the framework and then announce the formal start of the negotiations on November 13, the first day of the 31st ASEAN Summit.

Bolivar emphasized that this is the moment experts and observers of the maritime drama in the region have been waiting for.

"They've been asking, 'Where is the Code, where is the Code?' Now, we're actually starting to talk about the Code.

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Page. 1

MOST FILIPINOS BACK DUTERTE'S MARTIAL LAW

DA NANG, Vietnam—The Third Quarter 2017 Social Weather Survey, fielded on Sept. 23-27, found that more than half of the adult population of 106 million Filipinos agree with President Rodrigo Duterte's proposal to Congress for the extension of the proclamation of martial law in the whole of Mindanao until the end of the year.

It had sampling error margins of ± 3 percent for national percentages.

There are no official figures on how many constitute the adult population.

The latest Social Weather Stations survey revealed that the survey, fielded among 1,500 respondents, showed 54 percent of adult Filipinos agreed with Duterte's decision to ask Congress for the extension of martial law.

Of this number, 31 percent strongly agree, while 22 percent somewhat agree, correctly rounded.

Another 30 percent said they disagreed with the proposal to Congress to extend martial law in the whole of Mindanao until Dec. 31.

This gives a net agreement score of +24, classified by SWS as moderately strong.

The September 2017 survey also found another 54 percent agreed

Turn to A2

MOST...
From A1

and 28 percent disagreed with Congress' July 22 decision to approve PRRD's proposal to extend martial law in Mindanao.

Net satisfaction with Duterte's performance, meanwhile, was a moderate +12 among those who opposed his proposal to extend Martial Law in Mindanao, lower compared to those who supported his proposal (very good +68) and those who were undecided (good +46).

Net satisfaction with the overall National Administration was a good +34 among those who opposed President Duterte's proposal, lower compared to those who supported it (excellent +72) and those who were undecided (very good +57).

The Third Quarter 2017 Social

Weather Report findings on public satisfaction with the performance of Duterte and the overall National Administration were reported on Oct. 8, 2017 and Oct. 19, 2017, respectively.

In a news briefing at Da Nang, Vietnam, Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said they were thankful that many Filipinos still supported the extension of the Martial Law as shown in the latest survey.

"We're certainly thankful that the majority of the Filipino people have shown support for the declaration of martial law," Roque told reporters.

"So it could be that the number of individuals supporting could still increase," he added.

Roque said the declaration of martial law "was very much justified" and that the Palace appreciated "the support of the people for such a declaration." **John Paolo Bencito**

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INQUIRER

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SULU OPERATION

3 VIETNAMESE FISHERMEN RESCUED FROM ABU SAYYAF

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

DA NANG, VIETNAM—Philippine troops on Friday rescued three Vietnamese fishermen kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said yesterday.

Roque said security forces also recovered the body of the fourth Vietnamese kidnapping victim, who was already dead when he was found. Roque did not say if the casualty was killed during the rescue operation or if he had died of natural causes.

“(We) recovered four kidnap victims. Three were recovered alive while the fourth one was already lifeless. I can confirm that the fishermen are currently in the custody of the Philippine Navy,” Roque told a press conference.

“They’re being debriefed and will soon be seen by Vietnamese authorities,” he added.

The “recovery” of the kidnap victims happened while President Duterte was attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit here.

Roque said the President was not able to attend the gala dinner of Apec leaders on Friday night, in part, because he was supervising the recovery operations from here.

“He is (also) supervising and coordinating (the) safe recovery of Vietnamese captives of the Abu Sayyaf Group,” he said.

Roque denied that the government had paid any ransom to the bandits in exchange for the freedom of the three Vietnamese hostages.

“We have a policy against the payment of any sort of ransom,” he said.

Roque added that he was not aware that President Duterte had personally relayed the news of the rescue to his host, Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang. INQ

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Troops rescue 3 Vietnamese, recover corpse in Tawi-Tawi

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Government troops rescued three Vietnamese and recovered the remains of another during an operation Friday morning in an island off Tawi-Tawi, security officials said yesterday.

The victims, who were all crew members of MV Giang Hai 5, were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf off Pearl Bank, Pangutaran, Sulu last Feb. 25.

Rear Admiral Rene Medina, commander of Naval Forces Western Mindanao, identified those rescued as Buy Xuan Vien, Bui Trung Duc and Nguten Quang Huy.

The corpse was that of Nguyn Huu Trong, Medina said.

Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon Jr., Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi commander, said combined forces of the Marines and navy launched a special operation following reports on the whereabouts of the hostages.

Parcon said the troops tracked down the Abu Sayyaf and rescued the victims at about 7:45 a.m. near Kang Tipayan Island in Languyan town.

They found Huu Trong dead, apparently from a lingering illness during his captivity.

"We mean to intensify our offensives to pressure the (Abu Sayyaf) bandits to yield," Parcon said.

Medina said the naval forces transported the victims to this city for medical attention at Camp Navarro General Hospital.

Of the 17 crew members of the vessel, two were killed while attempting to escape

from the bandits. Ten were rescued by the troops, while the group of Xuan Vien was forcibly taken by the bandits to mainland Sulu.

The military reported that as of this date there are seven foreigners and nine Filipinos who are still being held by the Abu Sayyaf in the hinterlands of Sulu.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said relentless pursuit pressured the Abu Sayyaf to free its hostages.

Sobejana said there is a standing order from Armed Forces chief Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero to step up the offensive operations in crushing the Abu Sayyaf.

Why Duterte missed APEC dinner

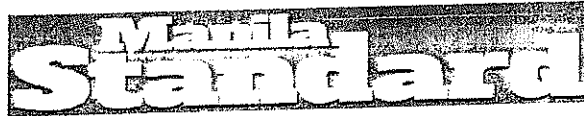
President Duterte skipped the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) gala dinner and cultural presentation hosted by Vietnam President Quang last Friday night in Da Nang.

Foreign Affairs Sec. Alan Peter Cayetano, who represented the President during the event, said Duterte wanted to rest due to his early schedule for the APEC leaders' retreat yesterday.

Presidential Spokesman Herminio Harry Roque Jr., however, said in a Facebook post that one of the reasons why Duterte skipped the dinner was because he was "supervising and coordinating the safe recovery of (the) Vietnamese captives."

– With Christina Mendez

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PH FORCES RESCUE 4 VIETNAMESE SAILORS

by Jenn Paolo Bencito

DA NANG, VIETNAM—Philippine authorities were able to recover four Vietnamese sailors who were abducted by the Abu Sayyaf on Friday but only three of them are alive, Malacañang said Saturday.

"I am able to confirm that Philippine authorities were able to recover four kidnapped victims. Three of them were recovered alive," Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said in a news briefing here. "Unfortunately, the fourth one was already lifeless when he was

recovered," he added.

Roque denied that there was ransom given for the sailors' release.

Roque said that Manila is saddened by the incident.

"The Philippine government expresses their condolences and sympathies to the family of the fourth Vietnamese fisherman who has been found dead," he said.

The President, who skipped the gala dinner for Apec leaders, wasn't able to attend the event

last night due to the recovery efforts for the Vietnamese sailors, Roque said.

"It was important for the Philippine President in fact to supervise the recovery efforts. I can confirm that the fishermen are currently in the custody of the Philippine Navy," he added.

Roque said that the rescued sailors are already being debriefed and will soon be seen by Vietnamese authorities.

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The Manila Times

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Troops rescue 3 kidnapped Vietnamese sailors in Tawi-Tawi

BY AL JACINTO AND JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

THE military recovered the body of an abducted Vietnamese sailor and rescued three others from the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in "special operations" launched on Friday in Tawi-Tawi.

Captain Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), said one of the sailors, Nguyen Huu Trong, died while in captivity while the three - Buy Xuan Vien, Bui Trung Duc and Nguten Quang Huy - were taken to a military hospital in Zamboanga City where doctors were examining them.

The hostages were rescued from

the hands of the ASG bandits at about 7:45 a.m. near Kang Tipayan Island in Languyan, Tawi-Tawi.

"Huu Trong was found dead when he was recovered by troops of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao and the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi. He succumbed to a lingering illness during his captivity," Petinglay said without elaborating on the details of the military opera-

tions that led to the safe release of the three other hostages.

Rear Admiral Rene Medina, chief of the naval forces in the region who played a key role in the recovery of the foreigners, said "the Vietnamese hostages were transported by Navy personnel to Zamboanga City for proper disposition and medical treatment."

"Through the operations conducted by our Marines and Navy [personnel], we successfully recovered the Vietnamese hostages off Tawi-Tawi waters and we mean to intensify our offensives to pressure the bandits to yield," Brigadier General Custodio Parcon Jr., commander of Joint Task Force Sulu, said.

It was unknown whether the hostages had been freed for ransom or not. No one among the officials gave details of the "special operations" that led to the release of the Vietnamese seamen.

The sailors were among 17 crew members of cargo ship MV Giang Hai 5 which the bandits hijacked on February 25 while it was sailing off of Pangutaran Island. Two of the crew were also killed by the Abu Sayyaf gunmen while attempting to escape while the rest had been recovered by soldiers.

The recovery of the sailors coincided with President Duterte's visit to Vietnam for the APEC summit. The ASG is still holding seven foreigners and nine Filipino hostages.

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3rd QUARTER REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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• 2 NPAs killed

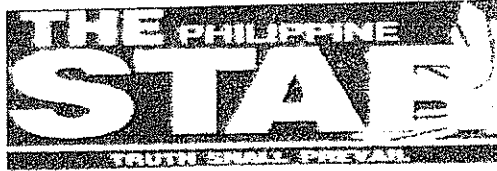
CAMP BANDASI, Butuan City – Two alleged members of the New People's Army (NPA) were killed, while an undetermined number of other rebels were believed wounded in a gunbattle Thursday afternoon with government forces at the Kiat Creek area, in Sitio Bagong Silang, Barangay Bayugan III, Rosario town, Agusan del Sur, a sketchy report reaching here on Saturday said. The identity of the slain alleged NPA rebels were not immediately known. However, the bodies were immediately brought Thursday night by the military and barangay officials to the barangay proper of Bayugan III for proper identification and burial. Village officials led by Barangay chairman Reynaldo Cuyos of Bayugan III urged residents to help identify the slain alleged NPAs for the relatives to properly claim their dead bodies.

• Arms cache found

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Soldiers of the Joint Task Force Zampelan, Western Mindanao Command discovered an arms cache during a military operation Friday morning against an alleged sympathizer of the Maute terrorist group in Lanao del Sur. Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., said yesterday troops of the 65th Infantry Battalion and the local police were able to unearth several armaments that were buried in Barangay Torogan in Maguing town in Lanao del Sur, which is 30 kilometers from Marawi City. The discovery was made at about 8:30 a.m. Friday, with authorities saying that the weapons may have come from a certain Alex Yungcao, a drug lord and sympathizer of the Maute group. Galvez said the cache consisted of two M60 machine guns, three M16 rifles, and two M203 grenade launchers. (Nonoy Lacson)

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2 militiamen slain by Sayyaf men

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Two militiamen were killed in an ambush staged by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in Tukuran, Basilan on Friday.

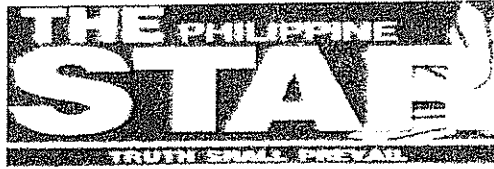
Hakim Asmawil and John Antang of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit Active Auxiliary were on their way to attend a congregation prayer when they were waylaid in Barangay Libug before 3 p.m.

The bandits are reportedly with the group of sub-leader Ajan Apino.

It was the second attack on government troops by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan in the past several days. The bandits reportedly beheaded two militiamen on Friday last week.

– Roel Pareño

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Cops probe Abu bomber for terror plot

By **EMMANUEL TUPAS**

Police yesterday confirmed they have in their custody a suspected Abu Sayyaf bomber in Quezon City and authorities are investigating if the suspect is planning to sow terror in Metro Manila.

Interior and Local Government officer-in-charge Catalino Cuy said based on their information, Abdulgaffar Jikiri, also known as Abu Bakar Jikiri, went to Metro Manila to avoid security forces in Mindanao pursuing him.

Jikiri and his two companions, Alim Sabtalin and Sadam Jhofar, were arrested at the Salam Compound in Barangay Culiati at around 5:15 p.m. Friday, Quezon City Police District director Chief Superintendent Guillermo Eleazar said in a text message.

They were charged before the Quezon City prosecutor's office for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition

and illegal possession of explosives.

At the time of Jikiri's arrest, two M203 rifle grenades and a .45 caliber pistol were found in his possession. Another .45 caliber pistol was confiscated from Jhofar.

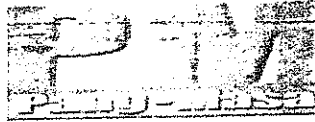
The joint operation was conducted by members of the National Intelligence Coordination Agency, National Bureau of Investigation and QCPD.

Jikiri's arrest is part of security operations aimed at disrupting possible attacks by suspected terrorists related to the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit next week.

Cuy said it is too early to tell if Jikiri's presence in Metro Manila has anything to do with the ASEAN summit.

"It's still under investigation," he said in a phone interview, adding probers are trying to determine how long Jikiri has been staying in the metropolis.

19 November 2017



Pahina. 2

3 Sayyaf timbog sa QC

Tatlong hinihinalang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang nadakip ng mga awtoridad sa operasyon na isinagawa sa kanilang tinutuluyang tahanan sa Brgy. Culiat, Quezon City kamakalawa ng hapon.

Ang pagkakaaresto ng tatlo ay bahagi ng isinagawang anti-criminality operations ng pulisya para matiyak ang katahimikan, kaayusan at kaligtasan ng mga delegado ng idaraos na 31^a Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) Summit sa bansa simula bukas, Nobyembre 13.

Ayon kay Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Director, P/Chief Supt. Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar, nagsasagawa na sila ng imbestigasyon upang kumpirmahin ang pagkakasangkot sa ASG ng mga naarestong sina Abdulgaffar Jikiri, alyas Abu Bakar Jikiri, 19, at residente ng 5 Al-Salaam St., 504-G Salaam Compound Brgy. Culiat; Sadam Jhofar, 24, at Alim Sabtalin, 19, kapwa ng 504-G, Salaam Compound, Brgy. Culiat.

Sa ulat ni Eleazar kay National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Chief, P/Director Oscar Albayalde, dakong alas-5:15 ng hapon nang maaresto ang mga suspek ng mga tauhan ng QCPD-District Special Operations Unit (DSOU) sa pangunguna ni P/Supt Rogarth Campo; NCRO-D6 National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), at ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)-Counter Terrorism Division, sa magkasabay na operasyon sa kanilang tahanan sa Salaam Compound.

Narekober mula kay Jikiri ang isang kalibre .45 pistola, M1911 US Army, isang magazine na may apat na live ammunition, dalawang M203 rifle grenades, at anim na cellular phones habang nakuha kay Sabtalin ang isang kalibre .9mm mga bala at isang cellular phone at nabawi kay Jhofar ang isang kalibre .45, colt M1911, mga bala at isang itim na sling bag. (*Mer Layson/Joy Cantos*)

12 November 2017



Pahina. 2

Philippine military inimitahan ni Putin sa Russia – Roque

Ipinahatid umano ni Russian President Vladimir Putin kay Pangulong Duterte ang imbitasyon para magsanay ang Philippine military sa Russia.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, batak din ng Russia na magtalaga ng military attaché sa Pilipinas.

Sinabi pa ni Roque na sa bilateral meeting nina Duterte at Putin, inihayag ng lider ng Russia na nais ng mga Russian companies na magnegosyo sa Pilipinas.

Gusto rin umano ng Russia na paigtingin pa ang ugnayan sa Pilipinas kung saan ipinanukala ang pagtatayo ng isang light rail line sa Baguio City.

Interesado rin umano ang Russia sa pag-import ng prutas at mga sariwa sa Pilipinas. (Malibit Escudero)

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Promote AFP, PNP members who fought in Marawi -- Castelo

QUEZON City Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo yesterday called on the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to give one-rank promotion to all uniformed personnel who served in Marawi.

"All officers and uniformed men and women who fought for our peace and security deserve automatic promotion to the next higher rank as a show of the nation's gratitude," said Castelo, who chairs the House committee on Metro Manila development.

Castelo called on Armed Forces chief of staff Rey Leonardo and Philippine National Police chief Ronald dela Rosa to immediately adopt the necessary measures and mechanisms to make the promotion effective as soon as possible.

"Our soldiers and policemen risked life and limb to make sure those terrorists who occupied



Castelo

Marawi and threatened our nation's peace and security would not succeed," Castelo said, stressing that one way to reward them is by giving them automatic promotion.

He said promotion among members of the armed forces and the police is not easily earned.

"Among them, there is no greater criterion for promotion than service to country in times of grave danger as those who served in Marawi showed," he pointed out.

Ryan Ponce Pacpaco

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REVOLUTIONARY

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Duterte: AFP mas gusto ang babaing Pangulo

NAGING sarcastic ang tugon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte nang siya'y tanungin kung ano ang kanyang reaksiyon sa ginawang pagtatanong ni Vice President Leni Robredo sa mga opisyal ng militar kaugnay sa isyu ng revolutionary government.

Sinabi ng pangulo na imanong din niya ang ilang opisyal ng Armed Forces of the Philippines kung ano ang kanilang saloobing sakaling itaguyod ang revolutionary government sa bansa.

Sumagot umano ang mga ito na tama ang ginawang pagtutol ni Robredo sa nasabing isyu.

Pabirong sinabi ng pangulo na susundin ng mga sundalo si Robredo dahil mas gusto nila ang isang babaeng pangulo.

Tama rin, ayon kay Duterte, ang ginawang pagta-

tanong sa isyu ni Robredo nang kausapin niya tungkol sa balitang pagtatayo ng revolutionary government si AFP Chief of Staff Rey Leonardo Guerrero.

Nauna nang sinabi ng pangulo na hindi siya magdadalang-isip na magtayo ng revolutionary government kapag nagpatuloy ang pagtatangka ng ilang grupo na pabagsakin ang kanyang administrasyon.

Ilang beses naring itinanggi ng U.S. na may kinalamana sila sa anumang balak na destabilisasyon laban sa kasalukuyang pamahalaan.

Pero sa kanyang mga naunang pahayag, sinabi ng pangulo na hindi na siya magtataka kung ang U.S. ay nasa likod ng mga pagtatanggakang itaob ang kanyang pamahalaan.

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ONLINE NEWS

12 NOVEMBER 2017

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RESCUED | 4 Vietnamese hostages recovered by troops in Tawi-Tawi

By [Alvin Santiago](#)



CAMP NAVARRO, Calarian, Zamboanga City (DWDD) – Four Vietnamese hostages were rescued in a military operation launched in Tawi-Tawi yesterday morning. Buy Xuan Vien, Bui Trung Duc, Nguten Quang Huy, and Nguyin Huu Trong were rescued from the hands of the Abu Sayyaf Group in a special operation launched near Kang Tipayan Island in Languyan, Tawi-Tawi at around 7:45am (November 10).

However, Huu Trong was found dead when he was recovered by troops of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao and the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi. Due to a lingering illness, Huu Trong succumbed to death during his captivity.

“The Vietnamese hostages were transported by navy personnel to Zamboanga City for proper disposition and medical treatment.” said Rear Admiral Rene Medina, the NFWM Commander.

“Through the operations conducted by our marines and navy, we successfully recovered the Vietnamese hostages off Tawi-Tawi waters, and we mean to intensify our offensives to pressure the bandits to yield.” said Brigadier General Custodio Parcon, Jr., commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu.

Said hostages, all crew members of Marine Vessel Giang Hai 5, were abducted by the Abu Sayyaf bandits off the waters of Pearl Bank, Pangutaran, Sulu on February 25, 2017.

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

Of the 17 crew members boarding the said vessel, two were killed while attempting to escape from the Abu Sayyaf. Ten were rescued by the troops, while the group of Xuan Vien was forcibly taken and transported by the bandits to mainland Sulu. As of this date, there are seven foreigners and nine Filipinos who are still held by the Abu Sayyaf in the hinterlands of Sulu.

"Operations by our ground units continue to yield positive results as we relentlessly pursue the bandits to thwart their kidnapping ploys and rescue their victims." said Lieutenant General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command.

"Through the resolve of our Joint Task Forces, we continue to reach our objectives with the end state of defeating the Abu Sayyaf," he added.

"My commendations to Joint Task Force Tawi-tawi and the Naval Forces Western Mindanao troops." **WESTMICOM/MCAG**

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

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SAFE AND CLEAR | 100% of Roads Cleared in Marawi Main Battle Area

By [Alvir Santiago](#) | [10:00 AM](#) | [10/10/2019](#)

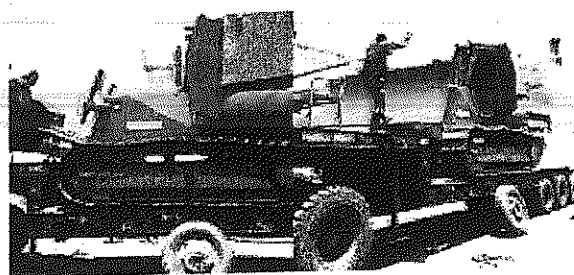
CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has already cleared 100% of roads in the main battle area of Marawi as recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts continue.



According to Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Chief, "our Construction Engineers from the Army, Air Force, and Navy have been working day in and day out to ensure that 100% of the primary roads and bridges in the main battle area (MBA) of Marawi are passable and cleared of unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices (IEDs)".

More than 500 military engineers are currently deployed in Marawi City as part of the Joint Engineer Task Group (JETG) led by Brigadier-General Arnold Fernandez. The task group is supporting the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation operations being led by Task Force Bangon Marawi.

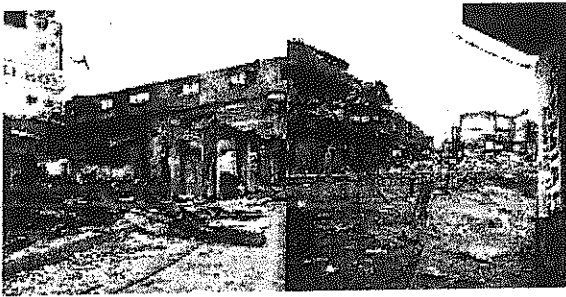
As of this report, the JETG has already completed the ground preparation of portions of temporary resettlement area in Sagon-songan while clearing operations continue in the MBA.



"Aside from engineer manpower, we have utilized our construction vehicles and equipment to clear-off rubbles and debris as well as in the demolition of buildings in the city's MBA. We are yet to identify possible dump sites locations for the unexploded ordnance and IEDs." Colonel Arevalo added.

Among the vehicles being used in the ground development operations are dozers, pay loaders, backhoe loaders, skid steers, road graders, and excavator.

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



The JETG is also tasked to support the restoration of essential services such as water and electricity to selected government centers, and places of worships. Among the establishments that need repair and rehabilitation are St. Mary's Church, Grand Mosque, and Bato Mosque.

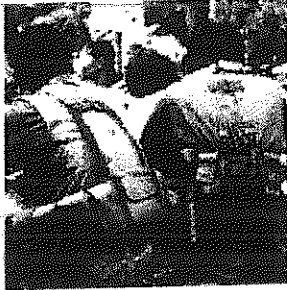
"The AFP lauds our Combat Engineers who, in the first weeks of the Marawi Crisis have been present in the main battle area to support our operating units. As we transition to the rehabilitation phase, their services will significantly be needed in order to successfully get Marawi back on its feet." General Rey Leonardo Guerrero, AFP Chief of Staff said.

"Rest assured that our troops will remain steadfast in its support operations towards the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi City." General Guerrero said. PAO AFP/MCAG

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NEW LIFE | NPA Surrenderers received Livelihood Cash Assistance

Aivin Santiago



CAMP GEN VICENTE LUKBAN, Catbalogan City, Samar (DWDD) – Six (6) former rebels (FRs) from the province of Northern Samar received a total of P 807,000.00 from the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) and Local Social Integration Program (LSIP) that help to provide livelihood assistance to the NPA surrenderers to start a new life.

The FRs were facilitated by the 803rd Infantry (Peacemaker) Brigade under the leadership of BGen Mario C Lacurom AFP with the strong participation from the Provincial Government of Northern Samar. The awarding of cash assistance was held at the Governor's Conference Room, New Capitol Building, Catarman, Northern Samar on November 8, 2017, at 9 o'clock in the morning.

The activity was attended by Hon. Jose L. Ong Jr., Provincial Governor, NSamar represented by Hon. Gary M. Lavin, Vice-Governor NSamar ;Brig. Gen. Mario G Lacurom AFP, Commander, 803rd Infantry Brigade; Ms. Jenny O Darish, Acting PSWD Officer; Rev. Fr. Fred I Placa; and Ms. Maricel Bantilo-Balasolla from OPAPP

The activity was highlighted by a remark from the most ranking NPA surrenderer who appreciated the CLIP and LSIP programs that will enable them to start a new living. In addition, their voluntary surrender to the government is a great realization on their part that the armed struggle they were fighting for a long period of time is not only futile and deceptive but also an unnecessary waste of lives. Likewise, he assured that the livelihood assistance given them will be used prudently and they will never again return to the NPA movement.

MGen Raul M Farnacio AFP, Commander 8ID, represented by BGen Mario G Lacurom AFP, sends his grateful appreciation to the Province of Northern Samar and Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) as partners in giving remunerations to the FRs. Likewise, he encourages the NPA rebels in the whole Eastern Visayas to lay down their arms, voluntarily submit themselves to the government, and live a normal life with their families by availing the CLIP and LSIP programs. **8DPAO/MCAG**

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SWIFT ACTION | 56IB Rescues Plane Crashes Survivors at Maria Aurora, Aurora

Arvir Santiago

FORT RAMON MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija (DWDD) – At half past noon on November 7, 2017, a Cessna plane piloted by Captain Joseph Albert Galvan, with his student Alexii Cay Trinidad, emergency landed somewhere along the forested and mountainous Maria Aurora, Aurora. The plane was enroute from Lingayen Air Strip to Baler, Aurora.

The Cessna plane with serial number 152 RPC-1995 is owned by Fly Fast Aviation. The pilot was able to make an SOS call after making the emergency landing.

Upon learning of the incident, the 56th Infantry Battalion under Lieutenant Colonel Edwin M Paredes immediately established an Incident Command Post (ICP) at Lublub Detachment, Barangay Lublub, Alfonso, Castañeda, Nueva Viscaya, together with the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO) Aurora headed by John Ryan Quirejero, the Philippine National Police (PNP) of Maria Aurora with Police Chief Inspector Balbuena, and the Chief Mechanic of Fly Fast Company, Mr. Rolly J. Nagallo. Likewise, a platoon of 56IB led by Lieutenant Romel Macalisang, along with their trained K9 Team, conducted search and rescue operations.

Military aircraft which was on standby alert at Clark Airbase, Pampanga to conduct aerial search and rescue operations was not able to enter the crash site due to bad weather. That left the army troops to move and find the crash site by foot, which took them a day to hike.

At about 1:35 p.m., the rescue team was finally able to locate the survivors, following the voice of

Trinidad who was calling for help. The wreckage was found at Barangay Decoliat, Maria Aurora, Aurora, 1,111 meters above sea level.

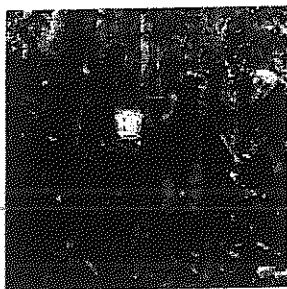


Capt Galvan suffered a head wound while Trinidad fractured her right leg. Troops immediately applied first aid and prepared to transfer the survivors to the nearest hospital in Baler or Cabanatuan City, however, the difficult terrain and inclement weather continue to pose a problem. The rescue team temporarily postponed their movement at around 6:40 in the evening to avoid further damage to the victims and rescuers for it will be more critical to push through the rescue.

The extrication of victims commenced at early dawn for the expected long hours of hiking while traversing the slippery and rugged terrain. Parents of Ms. Trinidad and other officials of local agencies stayed at Army Detachment and waited for the victims to be rescued while Lt Col Paredes and other 56IB personnel helped in clearing the path of the rescuers.

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At 5:50 in the afternoon, Lt Col Paredes turned over Capt Galvan and Ms. Trinidad to the personnel of Aurora PDRRMO. The rescue teams successfully completed the extrication of the two victims. 7DPAO.MCAG