

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



**TEAM ARMY**

**Serving the people. Securing the land.**

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**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**16 November 2017**

**Thursday**

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

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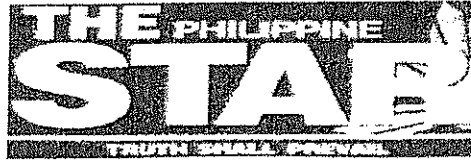
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MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11AM & 5PM

**PILIPINAS ID**  
WEEKDAYS  
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM  
WEEKENDS  
6AM

**AIR 21**  
CARRY THE PHILIPPINE NEWS

Panahon.TV

SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:57 AM	5:24 PM	3:55 AM	4:04 PM
LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
4:36 AM NOV 11	7:42 PM NOV 16	MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 2:12 PM 0.25 Meter       9:02 PM 0.66 Meter	

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST NOVEMBER 16, 2017 | THURSDAY**

TROUGH OF A LOW PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF MINDANAO, NORTHEAST MINDORO, AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON (As of 4:00 AM - November 15, 2017)

LAOAG CITY 24 - 30 °C	TUGUEGARAO CITY 23 - 30 °C
BAGUIO CITY 15 - 23 °C	
SBMA/CLARK 24 - 31 °C	METRO MANILA 24 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 20 - 28 °C	LEGAZPI CITY 25 - 30 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 31 °C	TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 25 - 31 °C	METRO CEBU 25 - 31 °C
	CAGAYAN DE ORO 25 - 31 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 33 °C	METRO DAVAO 23 - 31 °C

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	NOV 17			NOV 18			NOV 19			EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	NOV 17			NOV 18			NOV 19		
	FRI	SAT	SUN	FRI	SAT	SUN	FRI	SAT	SUN		FRI	SAT	SUN	FRI	SAT	SUN	FRI	SAT	SUN
METRO MANILA	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 31°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24°C 30°C	24°C 29°C	23°C 30°C												
TUGUEGARAO	23°C 30°C	22°C 30°C	23°C 30°C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	24°C 30°C	24°C 30°C	25°C 31°C												
LADAG	23°C 31°C	23°C 31°C	24°C 32°C	METRO CEBU	24°C 30°C	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C												
BAGUIO	16°C 24°C	16°C 25°C	16°C 24°C	TACLOBAN	24°C 30°C	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C												
SBMA/CLARK	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24°C 30°C	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C												
TAGAYTAY	20°C 27°C	21°C 28°C	21°C 28°C	METRO DAVAO	23°C 30°C	24°C 31°C	24°C 32°C												
LEGAZPI	24°C 30°C	25°C 31°C	25°C 31°C	ZAMBOANGA	23°C 32°C	23°C 32°C	24°C 33°C												

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

16 November 2017

## INQUIRER

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# Du30: China to fast-track sea talks

FROM A1

By Philip C. Tubeza  
@pctubezaINQ

China has promised the Philippines that it would fast-track the negotiations for the proposed code of conduct for claimants in the South China Sea, according to President Duterte.

Mr. Duterte said he pressed Chinese officials to provide a date for the approval of the code of conduct and he was told that the Chinese side would “really fast-track” it.

“I said ... ‘We’ll just observe certain norms of conduct and we were pressing China to set a date,’” Mr. Duterte said at a news conference after the close of the Association of Southeast

“We can’t finish this if you say you got to China and give them a copy of the arbitral ruling. It does not end there,” said Mr. Duterte, referring to the July 2016 ruling of the United Nations-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration that invalidated China’s sweeping claims in the South China Sea on historical grounds and clarified the Philippines’ rights to its 370-km exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the waterway.

China has dismissed that ruling as a “sham” and did not participate in the arbitration case that the Philippines filed during the time of Mr. Duterte’s predecessor.

“If you start to claim upward, there’s Taiwan also claiming a part of what is being claimed by China itself,” Mr. Duterte said.

Asian Nations (Asean) Summit.

“And China said, ‘Do not just hurry up, but we will consider really fast-tracking this code of conduct,’” he added.

### Negotiations

China and the 10-member Asean agreed in Manila on Monday to start the formal negotiations on a code of conduct for claimants in the South China Sea to prevent the escalation of the maritime dispute.

China claims nearly all of the 3.5-million-square-kilometer South China Sea, including portions claimed by Asean members Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Taiwan also has claims in the waterway, where \$3 trillion in global trade passes every year.

Before meeting Chinese

“And there’s Vietnam having a problem also with China and of certain islands there. So the only way is really to talk dialogue, ask for a peaceful resolution and how can we go about using [the] West Philippine Sea,” he added, referring to the waters within the country’s EEZ in the South China Sea.

The President said China assured him that “overflight in space above and the use of the [South]...China Sea will proceed—and it was a promise of China—unbridled, unfettered and we can use the space.”

### Improved situation

“But I have told them—and every time that we talk about claims and ownership I’ve always [brought along] our military generals—I told China that I will have to confront China on

President Xi Jinping over the weekend in Da Nang, Vietnam, Mr. Duterte said he would press China to “hurry” in adopting a code of conduct because Asean was worried about the militarization of the South China Sea.

There were also concerns that the negotiations would again drag on for years.

The idea of a code of conduct was first brought up in the mid-1990s while talks for a framework for negotiations for the code began only in 2011.

Chinese and Asean diplomats approved the framework in August.

### Other rivals

Mr. Duterte said a code of conduct was needed because it was not only China that the Philippines had to contend with in the South China Sea.

the arbitral ruling once maybe in ... during my term,” he said.

Mr. Duterte told the East Asia Summit on Tuesday that the situation in the South China Sea had improved with the agreement between Asean and China to start negotiations for the adoption of a code of conduct, according to presidential spokesperson Harry Roque.

Roque said Mr. Duterte also expressed grave concern over tensions on the Korean Peninsula, which he described as “a major flash point in the region.”

“[He] strongly urged [North Korea] to immediately comply with its obligations and arrive at relevant resolutions,” Roque said. “He also expressed support for initiatives to improve territorial relations to establish permanent and lasting peace [on] the Korean Peninsula.” INQ

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The Manila Times

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# China pledges P1B for Marawi rehab

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

**C**HINA has pledged 150 million renminbi (RMB) or about P1.15 billion in grants to the Philippines for the relief and rehabilitation of war-torn Marawi City.

The pledge was made by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, who met with President Rodrigo Duterte in Malacañang on Wednesday.

In his remarks during a joint news conference with Duterte, Li said China was supportive of the Philippine government's efforts to combat terrorism.

"In my talks with Mr. President we also talked about the cooperation between our two countries regarding defense affairs and counter-terrorism. The Chinese side supports the efforts made by Mr. President

► Pledge: A2

and the Philippine government in upholding the security and stability of your country," Li said.

"The Chinese government will provide 150 million RMB Yuan of grants for the rebuilding and improvement of livelihood in Marawi to demonstrate the support of the Chinese people," he added.

The pledge comes nearly a month after the end of a five-month battle with the Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute terrorists, who occupied parts of Marawi, the country's Islamic capital.

The agreement for the grant, titled "Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation," was signed by Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd and China's Vice Commerce Minister Fu Ziyang in the presence of Duterte and Li.

The Chinese premier expressed confidence that the Duterte administration would be able to complete Marawi's rehabilitation "at a very early date."

"We have full confidence that under your leadership, Mr. President, and the leadership of your government, the rebuilding of Marawi will be completed at – in a very early date and the local people will embrace even better life," Li said.

During the expanded bilateral meeting with Li, Duterte highlighted China's dedication to support his government when it "badly" needed the help of other countries in stopping the armed conflict in Marawi.

The Philippine government liberated Marawi City on October 17, after state troops neutralized terror leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute.

Duterte proudly relayed to Li that Hapilon was killed using one of the rifles donated by China to the Philippines.

"We look forward to a more robust, more productive relations in the days to come. Let me also assure you that during the critical stage of the Marawi incident, where we needed help badly, it was China who responded immediately to our cry for help,"

Duterte said.

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"I am happy to report to you that one of the rifles that you gave us killed Hapilon, who was the leader or the emir that they (IS) named in the Philippines," he added.

Li praised the Philippines for successfully combating terror acts perpetrated by the militants in Marawi City.

"The Philippines, in terms of upholding national security and fighting terrorist crimes, has played a very important role. China and other members of the international community formally support the fight against terrorism in all forms. Your victory against terrorism is result of your own efforts," he said.

## **P50B needed**

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said more than P50 billion would be needed to finance the repair and construction of government and private infrastructure.

On June 27, the Chinese government donated P15 million for the relief operations in Marawi.

Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua presented the check to President Duterte as a sign of the "flourishing partnership" between the Philippines and China.

As of September, China has donated a total of P85 million, according to Lorenzana.

## **14 deals**

Also on Wednesday, the Philippines and China signed 14 deals that involve infrastructure projects, including a massive drug rehabilitation center.

The deals include Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation; Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Promoting on Second Basket of Key Infrastructure Projects Cooperation; Exchange of Letters on Project of Dangerous Drugs Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers; Exchange of Letters on Project of Two Bridges Across Pasig River; Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on Industrial Parks Development; Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Promoting the Philippine National Railways South Long Hall Project Cooperation; Financing Cooperation Agreement on Chico River Pump Irrigation Project and New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project, among others.

"We express our gratitude to [Chinese] President Xi Jinping and kindly extend to him my warm feelings and including the Filipino people. We are gratified by the many things you've done so far. You have proven to be a good friend of the Philippines," Duterte told Li.

"We look forward to a more robust, more productive relations in the days to come. Maybe in the future, [the] Philippines would also show its debt of gratitude to China. And for all of the fundings of the public works, bridges and all, there is nothing more we can ask from your friendship," he added.

Li said the time has come for China and the Philippines to accelerate cooperation.

"We are now working together to sustain the momentum of China-Philippines relations and try to make up for the time or the good opportunities we missed in the past. We are accelerating the implementation of the relevant cooperation projects, and that is something that requires the joint efforts of both sides," he said.

**WITH LLANESCA T. PANTI**

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# Air, ground strikes vs BIFF men launched

By JAIME LAUDE and JOHN UNSON

**The military launched air and ground offensives against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao yesterday.**

Capt. Arvin Encinas, 6th Infantry Division spokesman, said soldiers of the 40th and 57th Infantry Battalions carried out the operations at around 3 a.m. after BIFF men were monitored massing in Barangays Meta and Timbangan.

"Ground troops are still conducting clearing operations as of this time," Encinas said yesterday afternoon.

There was no reported casualty on either side.

The military said another

group of BIFF gunmen planted a bomb along the road in Barangay Timbangan in an apparent attempt to prevent a convoy of soldiers from proceeding in the area.

No soldier was hurt in the bomb explosion.

The military has been pursuing BIFF men believed to be involved in the burning of the 80-year-old San Isidro de Labrador chapel and destruction of religious images, including the statue of the patron saint in Barangay

Labu-Labu since Thursday last week.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega said the military operations targeted BIFF leaders identified only as Herodin, Khadza and Lucman, believed to be henchmen of Iman Bongos, the self-proclaimed figurehead of the BIFF. The bandits were also tagged in recent harassments of Army detachments.

Ground troops are scouring the swamps at the boundary of Shariff Aguak and Datu Unsay in search of the bandits.

## 'Abhorrent desecration'

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo condemned

the attack on the chapel, saying it was "an abhorrent desecration of a place of Catholic worship."

"Such crime is most disturbing and provocative," Quevedo said even as he expressed hope that the incident would not affect the harmonious relationship between Muslims and Christians in the area.

Last June 23, BIFF men destroyed religious items in a chapel in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato.

Quevedo called on religious leaders to condemn such abuses and "help prevent religious bigotry, hostility and conflict."

– With Evelyn Macairan



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The Manila Times

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## Aerial attacks launched over BIFF base

THE military conducted aerial and artillery strikes over two *barangay* (villages) of Shariff Aguak in Maguindanao on Wednesday where an encampment of a Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) was sighted.

Captain Arvin Encinas, spokesman for the Philippine Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the "fire mission" was conducted at about 4 a.m. on Wednesday in the villages of Meta Data Unsay and Timbangan.

He said the targets were BIFF bandits temporarily encamped along the boundary of the said villages.

"The number [of BIFF members there] was undetermined and it is on the boundary of the two villages," Encinas told reporters over the phone.

Encinas also declined to disclose the aircraft unit used, by the 601st Infantry Brigade which is under the 6th Infantry Division.

"We have monitored [the whereabouts of the BIFF] and we received information from the civilian residents in the area. They were the ones who provided us specific reports," Encinas added.

As of press time, ground troops in the area were still conducting clearing operations and Encinas said they have yet to determine the number of casualties of the airstrikes and attacks from the BIFF side.

In August, the military, alongside the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, intensified operations against the BIFF that have staged a series of attacks in several villages in the region. **DEMPSEY REYES**

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The National Newspaper

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## Troops pound BIFF lair in Maguindanao

BY VICTOR REYES

MILITARY assets yesterday pounded a lair of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters at the boundary of Datu Unsay and Shariff Aguak towns in Maguindanao.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said clearing operations were underway and there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Encinas said 105-mm howitzers and air assets began bombarding the temporary camp of the BIFF at the boundary of Barangay Meta in Datu Usan and Barangay Timbangan in Shariff Aguak at around

4 a.m.

Encinas could not immediately say how many BIFF men were in the camp at the time of the bombardment. He said the group was under BIFF leader Ismael Abubakar, alias Commander Bungos.

Bungos said the bombardment was after civilian informants reported the presence of the camp.

"Ground troops are now conducting clearing operations as of this time,"

said Encinas yesterday afternoon. He said the clearing operations were being conducted by forces from the Army's 601st Brigade.

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## CPP takes responsibility for death of kid in ambush

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Communist Party of the Philippines has taken full responsibility for the death of a four-month-old baby girl during a rebel ambush that targeted policemen in Tikalaan town in Bukidnon Thursday last week.

In a statement, the CPP said rebel forces will draw lessons from the incident that also resulted in the death of a policeman and wounding of two civilians and three policemen.

The movement extended its “deepest condolences” to the family of the infant, Machorao Malysa of Kili-Kili, Wao town in Lanao del Sur, who was hit by stray bullets during the ambush.

The CPP said it is waiting for the final results of the ongoing investigation on the incident.

Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva, commander of the Army’s 4th Infantry Division, said the killing of the infant and the policemen was “plain murder.”

“If they wanted to offer indemnification to the family, it would be best if they surrender the perpetrators to justice,” Villanueva said, adding the perpetrators will be held accountable.

“The mere fact that the NPAs are guilty of the murder case, they shall be punished and put behind bars. We will ensure that justice will be given to the families of the victims. There will be no let up on our operation,” said Villanueva.

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Pahina. 3

### **NPA napatay sa Agusan**

**NASAWI** ang hinihinalang miyembro ng New People's Army matapos makaengkwentro ang tropa ng mga sundalo sa bayan ng San Luis, Agusan del Sur.

Ayon kay Lt. Col. Rommel Pagayon, commander ng 26th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army, nakuha mula sa bangkay ng hindi pa nakikilalang rebelde ang isang M14 rifle at isang AK47.

Natagpuan din malapit sa bangkay ang 6 na backpack, isang 2-way radio, mga gamot at mga subersibong dokumento.

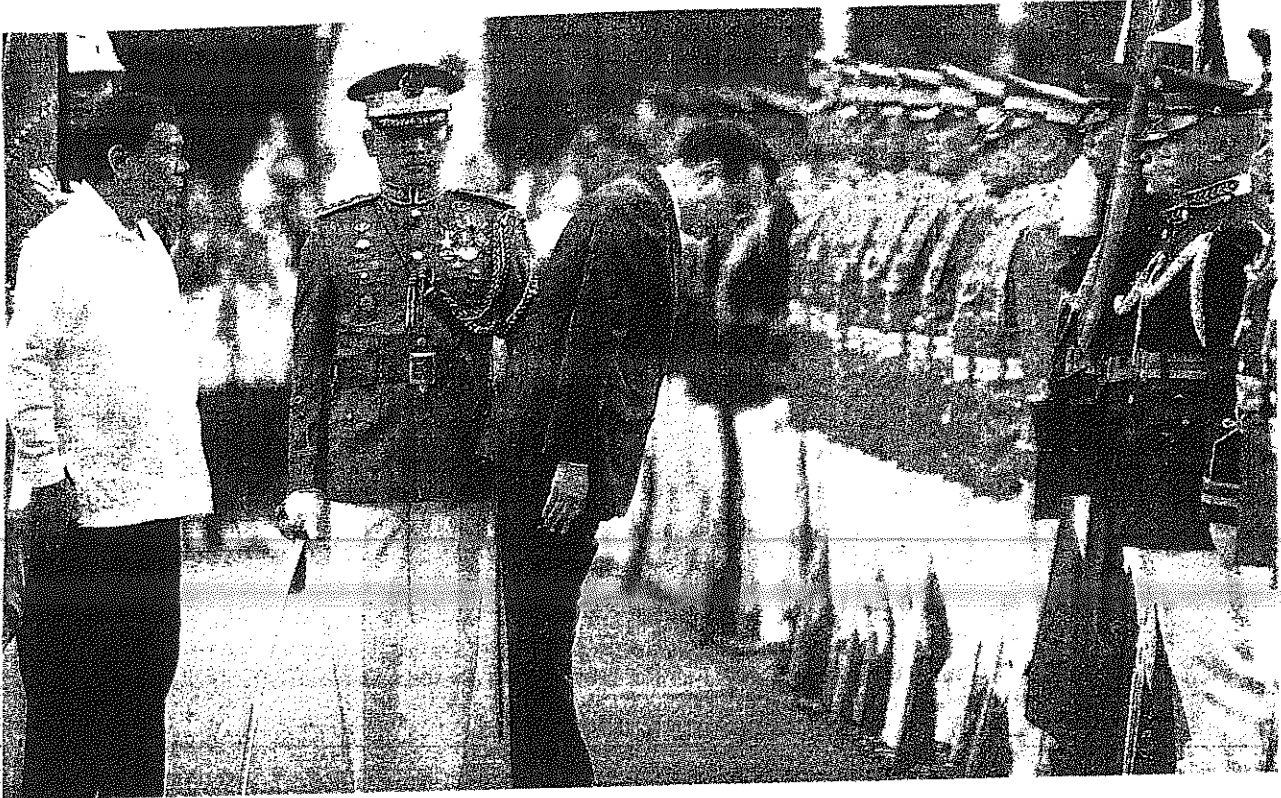
Ayon sa mga awtoridad, hindi pa naibababa mula sa bundok ang bangkay ng riapaslang dahil maputik at matarik ang lugar. Nakikipag-ugnayan na ang mga sundalo sa ilang residente sa malalapit na barangay para makilala ang napatay na lalaki.

**JEFF GALLOS**

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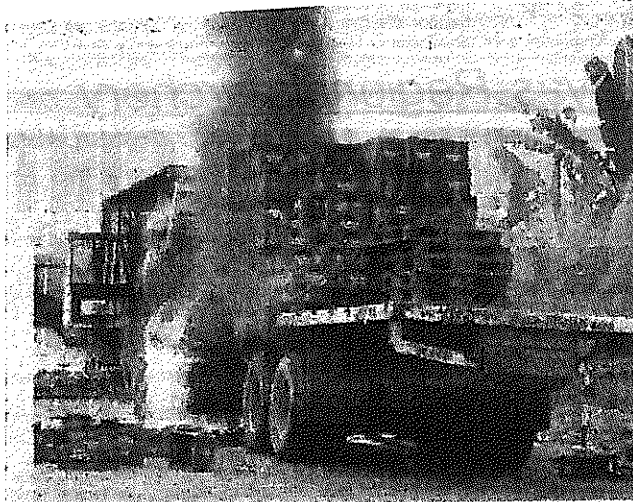
**PREMIER AT PALACE** President Rodrigo Duterte looks on as China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang bows before honor guards during his official visit in Malacañang. SEE PHOTO

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**POLICE FILES**

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**HINARANG** at sinunog ng mga nagpakilalang miyembro ng NPA ang dalawang truck na may kargang mga botelya ng beer at sigarelyo sa Barangay Cuyago, Jabonga, Agusan del Norte kamakalawa. Pinababa muna ng mga armadong kalalakihan ang driver at pahinante ng mga naturang truck bago sinilaban. Pinadiskarga rin ang mga kargang sigarilyo at ipinamigay sa mga tao bago ito sinunog. Kinumpirma ng lider ng NPA na si “Kumander Oto” ng Guerilla Front Committee 16 ang panununog sa truck.

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## Trump pledges \$16.3 M for Phl drug war, Marawi

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

Despite concerns over drug-related killings, US President Donald Trump announced Washington's \$2-million support for drug demand reduction programs in the Philippines.

A White House statement released yesterday said the announcement of the US support for the Philippines' drug demand reduction programs was made by Trump during his trip to Manila.

In the same statement, Trump announced an additional \$14.3 million in aid for the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

The White House said the fund is to address the humanitarian needs of 360,000 evacuees and support the speedy recovery of the war-torn city by jumpstarting livelihood programs and promoting alternatives to violent extremism.

The Islamic State-linked Maute group laid siege to Marawi on May 23, leaving over a thousand people dead and hundreds of thousands more wounded and displaced.

For his part, Duterte thanked Trump for the delivery of more than \$1 billion in foreign assistance to the Philippines over the past eight years.

The Philippines and the US released a joint statement sending a clear message to the region about the strength of the alliance and continued close bilateral cooperation on mutual interests and shared regional challenges.

The Philippines and the US stressed that human rights are essential issues in the light of concerns over drug-related killings under the Duterte administration.

"The two sides underscored that human rights and the dignity of human life are essential, and agreed to continue mainstreaming the human rights agenda in their national programs to promote the welfare of all sectors, including the most vulnerable groups," according to the joint statement of the Philippines and the US released by the White House on Tuesday following the bilateral meeting between Duterte and Trump.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque on Monday said the human rights issue was not discussed during the bilateral meeting between Duterte and Trump.

But White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the human rights issue was mentioned briefly during the meeting.

The statement said the two leaders discussed the ongoing campaign in the Philippines against criminality, including illegal drugs.

"Both sides acknowledged that illegal drug use is a problem afflicting both countries and committed to share best practices in the areas of prevention; enforcement, including capacity-building and transparency in investigations; and rehabilitation," the statement said.

The US embassy in Manila said Trump skipped the East Asia Summit (EAS) on his final day of a 12-day tour, citing delay in meeting schedule in Manila.

"President Trump extended his stay to attend the EAS Launch and EAS. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) meeting schedule for today was delayed," said US embassy press attaché Molly Koscina.

"In order for the President to maintain his departure schedule, he had to leave before the plenary session," she said.

Trump was able to deliver his final remarks during a lunch with other leaders hosted by President Duterte. He was represented by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson at the EAS.

US Congressmen James McGovern and Randy Hultgren, co-chairs of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, urged Trump to use his meeting with Duterte as an opportunity to express US concern over the reported extrajudicial killings

associated in the Philippine government's war on drugs.

The two lawmakers released their letter sent to Trump that mentioned a commission hearing earlier this year, which included strong evidence that police have killed 7,000 alleged drug dealers and users without charges or trial since the Philippine government launched its campaign against narcotics.

### Maritime issues

The White House also announced the first-ever US-ASEAN Maritime Exercises to be held in 2018.

The White House statement on Trump's trip to the Philippines said the American president and Duterte noted the US aid of \$65 million to enhance the Philippines' maritime security capabilities.

Leaders of ASEAN, the European Union and the US committed to ensure maritime security, the rights of freedom of navigation and overflight, non-militarization in the South China Sea and other lawful uses of the sea.

In the joint statement of the ASEAN-US summit on the two sides stressed their support for mutual respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality and political independence of all nations by firmly upholding the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the ASEAN Charter and international law, and the right of every nation to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion.

A joint statement of the Philippines and the US issued by the White House on Tuesday following the bilateral meeting between Duterte and Trump said both sides reiterated their commitment to uphold their principles, including the freedom of navigation and overflight, and the exercise of self-restraint.

Trump and Duterte stressed the importance of peacefully resolving disputes in the South China Sea, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

### Horrible relationship

Trump called the Philippines the "most prime piece of real estate from a military standpoint."

He said the US just could not have been treated nicer because of the problems of the Duterte administration and former US president Barack Obama.

"And as you know, we were having a lot of problems with the Philippines. The relationship with the past administration was horrible, to use a nice word. I would say 'horrible' is putting it mildly," Trump said in a press gaggle after the EAS in Manila on his way back to Washington.

He said a "very, very strong" relationship with the Philippines is important for trade and then military purposes.

"It is a strategic location – the most strategic location. And, if you look at it, it's called the most prime piece of real estate from a military standpoint," Trump stressed.

"So it's very important that we get along with the Philippines, and we really do. We have a very good relationship. I would actually say probably better than ever before," he added.

Trump congratulated Duterte on the recent liberation of Marawi City from Islamic terrorists.

Duterte, for his part, thanked Trump for US support in defeating the militant group.

The US has provided over \$85 million in counterterrorism-related equipment, training and support to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, as reinforced by the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.



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**FIGHTING BIFF**

# AIRSTRIKES START VS MORO REBELS IN MAGUINDANAO

Barely a month after the end of the siege in Marawi City, military aircraft started striking boundary areas of Shariff Aguak and Datu Unsay towns in Maguindanao province, where the military said another Islamic State (IS)-inspired armed group had been massing up.

Two MG-520 attack helicopters of the Philippine Army's 6th Infantry Division, on Wednesday morning, took turns dropping bombs on areas in Barangay Timbangan in Shariff Aguak and Barangay Meta in Datu Unsay, identified as lair of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

"We will sustain this offensive to flush the [members of] BIFF out of their hideouts at the peripheries of Shariff Aguak and Datu Unsay," said Capt. John Arvin Encinas, 6th ID spokesperson.

### Operation coordinated

Encinas said the airstrikes were meant for BIFF subcommander Ismael Abubakar, alias Commander Bungos, whose group had been hiding in the mountainous areas of the towns.

Encinas, however, assured that the highway linking Cotabato City and Isulan town in Sultan Kudarat province, remained passable with more soldiers maintaining checkpoints along the route.

He said the operation against BIFF had been coordinated with the government's ceasefire panel and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

### No evacuation

No civilian evacuation was reported since the areas subjected to airstrikes were far from populated communities, Encinas said.

Since June this year, the MILF has been working with the government in pursuing another faction of the BIFF led by Esmael Abdulmalik, also known as Commander Torayfe, in Maguindanao.

More than 50 BIFF and 10 MILF members have been killed in the joint government and MILF operation in the towns of Datu Piang, Datu Salibo, Datu Shariff Saydona and Shariff Aguak since the start of the fighting.

### Raising IS flag

The hostilities started when Abdulmalik and his men tried to raise the IS flag in a remote village in Datu Salibo, a move opposed by the MILF.

The MILF, under its ceasefire accord with the government, had agreed to help the Armed Forces of the Philippines fight criminals and terrorists in areas under its control.

Soldiers reported seeing Abdulmalik's group last week in a remote village in Carmen town in North Cotabato province, prompting the military to launch airstrikes.

"There's no letup in our operation against them," Encinas said. —EWIN O. FERNANDEZ/INO

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## Sayyaf men kidnap 6 civilians in Sulu

Suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits kidnapped six civilians, including two children, in Patikul, Sulu on Tuesday, the military reported yesterday.

The victims were identified as Jessy, 55; Nene, 56; Aloh, 22, all surnamed Trinidad, and Lucy, 21; Junjun, 13; and Nelson, 7, all surnamed Hapole.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force Sulu commander, said the bandits took the victims at gunpoint from their houses at Kalimayahan Village in Barangay Latih at around 8:45 p.m.

"The incident again showed that notorious kidnapers in Sulu are victimizing even their fellow Tausugs and those

who have less in life. Such hostility reminds us that security is everybody's responsibility," Sobejana said.

He said the civilians could be used by the bandits as human shields during military operations in the province.

The military has intensified its operations to neutralize the bandits and rescue the remaining hostages.

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding nine other Filipinos, including five fishermen they took from the waters off Panguratan town last Oct. 14.

Five Indonesians, a Vietnamese and a Dutch man are also being held captive by the bandits.

– Jaime Laude

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## DND: Japan donates 5 leased aircraft to Phl Navy

By JAIME LAUDE

The five surveillance and patrol aircraft that the Japanese government earlier leased to the Philippines, in support of the country's territorial and maritime air monitoring, have been donated by Tokyo to the

Philippine Navy, the Department of National Defense (DND) said yesterday.

Highlighting last Monday's bilateral defense talks between the Philippine and Japanese governments held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) was the

donation of TC-90 Beechcraft surveillance and patrol planes.

Two of the five TC-90s were delivered to the Navy last March, with three more scheduled for delivery in the first quarter of next year.

All retired patrol and monitoring trainer planes of Japan's

Maritime Self Defense Force, these TC-90s were initially leased by Tokyo to the Philippine government at a token price.

Transfer of the TC-90s was initiated by the Aquino administration, then in search for much needed air assets that it

could use to patrol and guard the country's maritime and territorial domain over the hotly disputed South China Sea.

The Japanese government decided to cancel the lease agreement and instead donate the five planes to the Navy, Director Arsenio Andolong,

DND spokesman, said.

Andolong said defense undersecretary for finance, munitions, installations and materiel Raymundo Elefante signed the documents in the presence of his Japanese counterpart for the official transfer of the aircraft.

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The Manila Times

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## Muslims unimpressed with military campaign vs Maute

MARAWI City may have been freed from the clutches of the Maute terror group but many Filipinos Muslims were unimpressed by the months-long military operation in the Islamic City, a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey revealed

on Wednesday.

The third quarter poll conducted from September 23 to 27, 2017, showed that 29 percent of Filipinos Muslims were satisfied with the military action, while

► **UnimpressedA2**

26 percent were not satisfied for a net satisfaction rating of three percent.

On the national scale, less than half of Filipinos were satisfied with the government operations against the Maute group (66 percent satisfied against 18 percent dissatisfied.)

Sixteen percent of the respondents were undecided.

The 48 percent nationwide rating was lower by two percentage points compared with June's 50 percent.

The slight drop was due to the 54 percent net satisfaction rating of those polled in Metro Manila, 14 percentage points lower than the 68 percent score in June.

The net satisfaction of the people in Mindanao, which was placed under martial law by President Rodrigo Duterte in May, also dropped by four points (from 58 percent to 54 percent.

The net satisfaction score among those in Luzon hardly changed at 42 percent from 41 percent three months ago, while those in Visayas gave an increased net satisfaction rating of 49 percent or three percentage points.

Meanwhile, the same survey showed only 29 percent (54 percent agree, 25 percent disagree) of Filipinos believe that the military can suppress terrorist groups even without martial law.

The 29 percent is a rating classified as moderately strong.

The September 2017 SWS poll used face-to-face interviews of 1,500 adults nationwide, with 600 people surveyed in Balance Luzon, 300 each in Metro Manila, the Visayas and Mindanao.

It has a margin of error of three percent for national percentages, four percent for Balance Luzon, and six percent each for Metro Manila, the Visayas and Mindanao.

**LLANESCA T. PANTI**

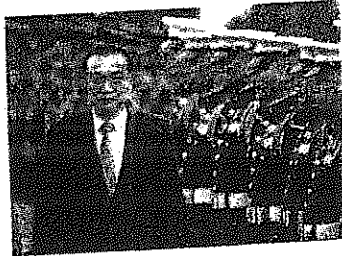
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## China backs binding code of conduct in South China Sea

CHINA is now in favor of crafting a binding code of conduct in the South China Sea. President Rodrigo Duterte said at the conclusion of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) meetings hosted by Manila.



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Duterte said China's turnaround was one of the landmark outcomes of the Asean meetings chaired by the Philippines on top of the signing of an agreement for the protection of promotion of the rights of migrant workers in Southeast Asia.

"At the ministerial level of the Asean, they are working on it (code of conduct). China has graciously agreed to a code of conduct, binds itself to the agreement. The overflight in space above and the use of the [South] China Sea will proceed. It was a promise of China, [that it will be] unbridled, unfettered, that we can use the space," Duterte said.

The President recalled a conversation between himself and a Chinese official, who he did not name: "One of the officials of China asked me, 'You are the President of your country, right?' 'Yes, correct.' And he said, 'And you are very much interested in the protection of the lives of your people?' 'Yes.' He said, 'China [is], too. We do not want to lose a single life just because we are quarreling over a vast expanse of water.'"

Four claimants in the South China Sea dispute are Asean members: the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam. The non-Asean claimants are China and Taiwan.

"I said to China, we'll just observe certain norms of conduct. We were pressing China to set a date, and China said, do not just hurry up, but we will consider, really, the fast-tracking [of] this code of conduct," Duterte added.

The claims of the Asean members are based on their respective exclusive economic zones (EEZ) which is 200 nautical miles from their territorial waters as provided under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

China and Taiwan have similar claims. Beijing is claiming the entire South China Sea based on its "nine-dash line" theory.

Asean has an existing Declaration of Code of Conduct with China that provides that "parties should undertake to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability including, among others, refraining from action of inhabiting on the presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, cays, and other features and to handle their differences in a constructive manner."

The non-legally binding Asean declaration, however, did not stop China from making aggressive moves in the South China Sea, prompting Manila to sue Beijing before the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2013.

The tribunal ruled in favor of the Philippines in July 2016 by rejecting China's nine-dash line theory. It declared the Kalayaan (Spratly) Islands, Panganiban (Mischief) Reef, Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal and Recto (Reed) Bank in South China Sea to be all within the EEZ of the Philippines.

Duterte, however, has said he would not insist on the ruling of the tribunal based in The Hague, which China refuses to recognize.

**LLANESCA T. PANTI**

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## 6 residents abducted by Sayyaf in Sulu

By Francisco Tuyay

THE Abu Sayyaf terrorist group struck anew, as they kidnapped six innocent civilians, including two children at a remote village in Sulu Tuesday.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said the latest ASG hostage victims include three members of the Trinidad clan identified as Jessy, 55; Nene, 56 and Aloh, 22; three members of the Hapole family—Lucy, 21, and minors Junjun, 13 and Nelson, 7.

He said the victims were forcibly taken at gunpoint by the armed bandits at Phase 4, Kalamayahan Village, Brgy Latih, Patikul, Sulu at about 8:45 p.m.

Sobejana said at least 15 armed men believed to be members of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom group swooped down on the said village and took the victims.

The latest kidnapping act by the ASG was immediately reported by concerned citizens to the Joint Task Force Sulu prompting the police operatives to dispatch quick reaction teams to verify the report parallel to the conduct of pursuit operations against the perpetrators.

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The Manila Times

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## Task force to speed up Marawi power restoration

A TASK force, composed of the National Electrification Administration (NEA), several electric cooperatives (ECs) and allied organizations, was established to accelerate restoration of power in Marawi City after the end of the five-month battle between government troops and the Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute group.

The task force has been given 15 to 30 days to finish all the power restoration and rehabilitation works in the city.

Dubbed as Marawi PRRD Task Force, it is comprised of the Association of Mindanao Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (Amreco), Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc., National Association of General Managers of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (Nagmec), National Center of Electric Cooperative Consumers, Inc. and other partner entities.

Amreco and Nagmec have initially pledged to deploy crew and equipment.

NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong expressed gratitude to the ECs that responded to the

call to extend the necessary assistance to Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative (Lasureco), currently under oversight of Task Force Duterte Lanao Sur Power (Tfdlsp).

He added that the agency is mobilizing 34 ECs all over Mindanao to help Lasureco and Marawi City as well as the Tfdlsp.

NEA extended to Lasureco a P150-million loan for the construction materials needed to restore distribution lines. The amount will be converted into subsidy chargeable to the funds allotted for the reconstruction of the affected area.

Earlier this month, Lasureco received from NEA a P6-million loan for its operational expenditures.

NEA said the power coop's operational expenditures were supposed to come from their collection revenue but was heavily affected by the Marawi siege.

The amount was part of the P298-million calamity loans NEA has given from January to September this year.

**JORDEENE SHEEX LAGARE**

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## Abu Sayyaf abduct 6 civilians

A group of armed men believed to be members of the Abu Sayyaf Group abducted six individuals in Patikul, Sulu Tuesday night, the military said.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu, said Jessy Trinidad, 55; Nene Trinidad, 56; Aloh Trinidad, 22; Lucy Hapole, 21; Junjun Hapole, 13; and Nelson Hapole, 7 were kidnapped in Kalimayahan Village, Barangay Latih at 8:45 p.m. The incident was reported by concerned citizens to JTF Sulu and members of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

The military and the police "hastily dispatched" quick reaction teams to verify the report and conduct pursuit operations.

"This incident again demonstrates that the notorious kidnapers in Sulu are victimizing anybody including their fellow Tausugs even those who have less in life," Sobejana said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Such hostility reminds us that security is everybody's responsibility," he added.

**DEMPSEY REYES**



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**Malaya**  
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## Abu Sayyaf kidnaps 6, including 2 kids, in Sulu

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Abu Sayyaf abducted six people, including two children, in Patikul town in Sulu on Tuesday night, bringing to 24 the number of kidnap victims now in the hands of the group in the province.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the military's Joint Task Force Sulu, said the victims included seven-year-old Nelson and 13-year-old Junjun, both surnamed Hapole.

The other victims were identified as Jessy Trinidad, 55; his wife Nene Trinidad, 56; Aloh Trini-

dad, 22; and Lucy Hapole, 21.

Sobejana said the six were snatched at gunpoint by around 15 Abu Sayyaf members in Phase 4, Kalimayahan Village in Barangay Latih in Patikul town at around 8:45 p.m.

"This incident again demonstrates that the notorious kidnapers in Sulu are victimizing anybody including their fellow Tausugs, even those who have less in life. Such hostility reminds us that security is everybody's responsibility," said Sobejana.

He urged Sulu residents to be pro-active, particularly in reporting suspicious people in their

communities, so that authorities can take prompt action and prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

Sobejana said the victims were seized to gain ransom, though he said the victims are not moneyed.

"Secondly, the victims may be used as shield from our relentless operations against them (Abu Sayyaf members)," he said.

He said the latest kidnapping brought to 24 the number of victims in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu, including the five fishermen seized by the group off Pangutaran town in Sulu last October 14.

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## Japan gives PH 5 planes under lease

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Japanese defense ministry has donated five TC-90 patrol aircraft which it leased to the Philippine military in March for monitoring of the country's vast maritime territory.

"The term was changed from lease to grant," said Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, confirming Japan's donation of the five aircraft, which were leased by Japan for \$28,200 per annum.

The agreement to donate the aircraft was signed last Monday at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila, at

the sidelines of the just-concluded Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit.

Defense Undersecretary for Finance and Materiel Raymundo Elefante signed the agreement with his Japanese counterpart.

Discussions for the lease of the aircraft began in the Aquino administration and finalized under the current administration.

Two of the aircraft were delivered last March and the three others are due to be transferred to the Philippine military in the first quarter of next year, said DND public affairs chief Arsenio Andolong.

Andolong and Elefante said changes to the Japanese constitution, which prohibited the donation of its military equipment to another country, paved the way for the donation of the aircraft.

Elefante said the donation of the aircraft will bolster the capability of the Armed Forces in monitoring the country's vast territory. "Our patrol will become regular," he said.

Andolong said the five aircraft will be used to conduct patrols and maritime surveillance, including in the disputed areas in the South China Sea, also known as the West Philippine Sea.

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# Palace welcomes continued public support to war vs terror

Malacañang on Wednesday expressed its gratitude to the public for its continuing support to the government's efforts to quell the Maute terrorist group, which laid siege to Marawi City for five months, following a recent survey which showed majority of respondents saying they are satisfied with the performance of President Rodrigo Duterte and his government in dealing with the terrorists.

A Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey, which was conducted from September 23 to 27, showed that 66 percent of Filipinos were contented with the government's action to suppress the Maute group while 18 percent were dissatisfied and 16 percent were undecided.

The September 2017 survey also showed that net satisfaction with President Duterte's performance, and the national administration's performance on fighting terrorism and reconciliation with Muslim rebels, was highest among those who were satisfied with the

government's actions in suppressing the Maute group.

Net satisfaction with Pres. Duterte was a very good +67 among those who are very satisfied with the government's action in suppressing the Maute group. It was also a very good +52 among those who are somewhat satisfied.

"We are grateful for our people's continuing satisfaction with the government's action in suppressing the Maute Group," Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said in a statement.

"Indeed, it was President Duterte's swift and decisive leadership which thwarted the Daesh-inspired Maute Group to establish a caliphate in Marawi City and in Mindanao," Roque said.

President Duterte placed the whole of Mindanao under martial law on May 23 after Islamic State-inspired Maute members, aided by several Abu Sayyaf and foreign terrorists, attacked Marawi City.

The city was finally liberated last

October after five months of intense urban warfare which resulted in the deaths of 962 terrorists and 165 state forces.

The military said its troops continue to pursue a number of Maute stragglers believed to be still hiding within the main battle area.

Military operations are also continuing to neutralize other armed terror groups, particularly the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), in Mindanao.

Roque assured that "security forces would remain proactive in monitoring and dealing with these evil forces" even as he urged the public to stand united in the fight against terror.

"We, therefore, call on our people to stand united and work as one nation as we hunt down all lawless elements who are out to destroy the peace prevailing in our communities," Roque said.

In the meantime, the same survey showed that three out of five Filipinos believe that terrorist groups who invaded Marawi City

receive drug trade money.

Duterte had repeatedly said that drug money funded the Marawi siege:

The September 2017 survey found that 60 percent of respondents believe that terrorist groups who invaded Marawi City, such as Abu Sayyaf and the Maute group, are currently receiving money from the illegal drug trade while 11 percent say they do not believe, and 29 percent are undecided.

The belief that the terrorist groups that invaded Marawi City also receive money from the illegal drug trade was highest in Metro Manila at 72 percent, followed by Mindanao at 65 percent, Visayas at 60 percent, and Balance Luzon at 54 percent.

By education, the belief was highest among college graduates at 71 percent, followed by high school graduates at 66 percent, elementary school graduates at 53 percent, and non-elementary school graduates at 48 percent.

PNA

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Pahina. 5

## AFP OPS VS MAUTE APRUBI!

TUMATAMA paminsan-minsan ang resulta ng survey ng Social Weather Station tulad nitong nagsasabing nasisiyahan ang nakararaming Filipino sa aksyon ng pamahalaang Duterte sa Marawi City crisis.

At least 66 porsyento ng taumbayan ang satisfied sa limang-buwang operasyon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines at 18 porsyento lamang ang unsatisfied.

Tiyak, ang ilan dito sa mga "unsatisfied" ay naghangad na pulbusin kaagad ng AFP sa pamamagitan ng mga

bomber plane ang mga terrorist rebel na Maute Group at kaanib sa Islamic State for Iraq and Syria.

Maraming nagsabi sa akin noon na hindi na dapat patagalin bago durugin ang mga terorista.

Ang mga undecided na 16 percent ay maaaring hindi nakasunod sa mga pagbabalita ukol sa mga pangyayari.

Halimbawa, 'yung mga walang access sa mass media o yung iba ay sadyang walang pakialam at abala sa ibang bagay.

Maliwanag na todo-su-

porta ang majority of Filipinos sa liderato ni Pangulong Duterte, partikular na sa pakikipaggyera nito sa terorismo, krimen at mga sindikato sa illegal na droga.

Kinailangan lang na maging hinay-hinay ang AFP sa pagsukol sa mga terorista dahil hawak nila noon ang maraming hostage at marami

pang ibang sibilyan na naipit sa karahasan.

Ang mahalaga ay napatay na ang mga pinuno ng Maute at mga dayuhang kasamahan nila, kabilang na si Isnilon Hapilon, ang Malaysian emir ng ISIS.

Mabuti naman at hindi pinilipit ng SWS ang resulta ng survey nito. Haha!!!

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**POLICE FILES**

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## Maute-ISIS recruitment umaabot na sa CdeO - AFP

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY** – Inalerto ng militar ang local government units (LGUs) sa magkaibang mga siyudad na nasasakupan ng anim na mga rehiyon sa Mindanao.

Ito ay matapos nakumpirma na tuloy-tuloy ang umano ang recruitment

ng grupong Maute-ISIS sa mga kabataan partikular sa mga kolehiyo at unibersidad sa mga pangunahing syudad ng rehiyon.

Inihayag ni Joint Task Force Lanao deputy commander Col. Romeo Brawner na mula sa mga bayan ng Lanao del Sur ay pinasok narin ng terror symphatizers ang ilang mga siyudad para makapaglinlang ng kanilang magiging bagong mga miyembro.

Sinabi ni Brawner na partikular nilang finutugis ang isang nagnangalang Abu Dar na dating kabilang sa umaatake kasama sina Omar Maute at Isnilon Hapilon sa Marawi City.

Inihayag ng opisyal na mismong ang mga terorista ang nasa likod ng pangre-recruit lalo sa mga kaanak ng mga napatay ng Maute-ISIS combatants.

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Pahina. 14

### Air, ground strike inilunsad vs BIFF

Naglunsad na ng air strike at ground assault operations ang militar laban sa Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) na sumusuporta sa Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) sa balwarteng teritoryo ng mga kalaban sa Central Mindanao kahapon ng madaling araw.

Ayon kay Captain Arvin Encinas, dakong alas-4 ng madaling araw nang magpaulan sila ng

air at artillery fire mission sa mga Barangay Meta, Datu Unsay at sa Brgy. Timbangan, bayan ng Shariff Aguak sa Maguindanao.

Ginamitan ng bomber plane ng Philippine Air Force at 105 howitzer ang grupo ni BIFF Commander Buñgos.

Inihayag nito na ang hakbang ay bahagi ng kautusan ni AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero na lipulin ang nalalabi pang BIFF upang hindi na muling maulit pa ang Marawi City siege na kagagawan ng Maute-ISIS.

Samantala, ang insidente ay nagbunsod naman sa paglikas ng mga sibilyan sa takot na maipit sakaling magbakbakan ang magkabilang panig.

Nagpapatuloy naman ang opensiba ng militar laban sa BIFF na nasa likod ng paghahasik ng terorismo sa Central Mindanao. (Joy Cantos)

### Bar niratrat ng 4 sundalo: 1 dedo, 2 sugatan

NORTH COTABATO - Isa ang namatay habang dalawa naman ang nasugatan sa pamamail ng sundalo sa harap ng bar sa Cannery Road, Barangay Poblacion sa bayan ng Polomolok, South Cotabato, ayon sa ulat kahapon.

Kinilala ang namatay na si Aries John Ang, 23, ng Avocado St., Citizens Village, Polomolok habang sugatan naman sina John Angelo Felisilda, 18, senior high student; at Freddie Simacas, 27.

Nakatakdang kasuhan ang mga sundalo na sina

PFC Reynold Londres, 28; Staff Sergeant Trance, PFC Sabillo, at si Staff Sergeant Rebullos na pawang miyembro ng 27th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army.

Sinabi naman ni 2nd Lt. Ran Jan Palacios, spokesperson ng 27th IB Philippine Army, ginagampanan lamang ng mga sundalo ang kanilang trabaho nang naganap ang pamamail.

Sa ngayon ay nasa custodiya ng Polomolok PNP ang mga sundalo habang nagpapatuloy ang imbestigasyon. (Rhoderick Benitez)

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Pahina. 3

## Phil, Malaysia at Indonesia nagkaisa vs terorismo, piracy

NI JOY CANTOS

Upang mapalakas pa ang trilateral cooperative agreement sa paglaban kontra terorismo at piracy nagsagawa ng tatlong araw na port call visit ang mga delegado ng Malaysia at Indonesia forces sa Tawi-Tawi, ayon sa opisyal kahapon.

Sa report ni Joint Task Force (JTF) Tawi-Tawi Commander Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon, dakong alas-8:43 ng umaga kamakalawa nang dumaong sa Tawi –Tawi ang dalawang Navy frigates ng delegasyon ng Royal Malaysian Navy sa pamumuno ni Captain Zahari Bin Samsuri at ng Tentara Nasional Indonesia na pinamumunuan ni Colonel Nanan Isnandar.

Agad naman silang sinalubong ng JTF Tawi Tawi sa pamumuno ni Parcon at ng Naval Station Juan Magluyan sa Bryg. Batu-Batu, Panglima Sugala ng lalawigan.

Samantala, nag-courtesy call din ang Royal Malaysian Navy at Indonesian Navy kay Tawi-Tawi Gov. Rashidin Matba sa provincial capitol ng lalawigan na sinaksihan rin

ng mga lokal na opisyal sa lalawigan.

Nagsagawa rin ng trekking sa Bongao Peak kahapon ang delegasyon na sinundan ng boodle fight sa pananghalian bukod pa sa isinagawang serye ng "goodwill games" sa JTF Tawi-Tawi troops sa Panampangan Island.

"It's part of our mechanisms to strengthen the maritime operations and curtail piracy and other crimes perpetrated by extremists through a limited trilateral patrol with Malaysian and Indonesian navy forces," pahayag naman ni Lt. General Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., commander of the Western Mindanao Command.

Sinabi ni Galvez na mas patatatagin pa aniya ang kooperasyon ng Pilipinas sa kapitbahay na bansa upang matugunan ang anumang hamon sa seguridad sa kanyang-rehiyon laban sa smuggling, human trafficking, transshipment of drugs, piracy at sa high profile kidnapping.

"Surely, the commercial shipping corridors will be secured," dagdag ni Galvez.

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Pahina. 4

### **CAFGU NATAGPUANG PATAY**

**NEGROS ORIENTAL** — Isang miyembro ng Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) na dinukot ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) ang natagpuang patay, kamakalawa sa Sta. Catalina sa lalawigan ito.

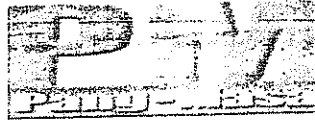
Kinilala ang biktima na si Gelino Vailoces, miyembro ng CAFGU na nakatalaga sa nasabing lalawigan.

Ayon sa ulat, dinukot ng mga NPA si Vailoces sa kanyang bahay at makalipas ang isang araw ay natagpuan ang bangkay nito na may tama ng bala.

Tinutugis na ngayon ng mga awtoridad ang mga rebeldeng pumatay sa biktima.



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Pahina. 2

## MAYORYANG PINOY PABOR SA PAGDUROG SA MAUTE

Lumabas sa isinagawang survey ng Social Weather Station (SWS) na mayorya ng Pilipino ang nagpahayag ng suporta sa ginawa ng gobyernong Duterte na pagdurog sa Maute-ISIS group na lumusob sa Marawi City sa nakalipas na limang buwan.

Sa isinagawang survey ng SWS mula September 23-27 sa may 1,500 respondents ay 66 percent ang kontento sa ginawang aksyon ng Duterte government at Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) upang durugin ang Maute-ISIS group habang nasa 18% naman ang hindi

pumabor at 16 percent ang undecided.

Dahil dito, ay mayroong net satisfaction rating na good +48 ang naging aksyon ng gobyerno laban sa Maute group.

Ang naging tanong sa SWS survey ay: "Gaano po kayo nasisiyahan o hindi nasisiyahan sa iki-

nikilos ng ating gobyerno ukol sa kanilang ginagawa upang masugpo ang grupong Maute na lumusob sa Marawi City?"

Mayorya din ng mga Pilipino ang kontento sa naging performance ni Pangulong Duterte at kanyang administrasyon

sa paglaban sa terorismo particular sa Maute group.

Nakakuha ng very good net satisfaction rating si Pangulong Duterte na +67 sa naging aksyon ng gobyerno laban sa terorismo.

Nakapagtala din ng very good net satisfac-

tion rating ang gobyerno sa paglaban nito sa terorismo hanggang sa magapi ang Maute group.

Magugunita na noong Oktubre 23 ay idineklara ni Pangulong Duterte na liberated na ang Marawi City mula sa terorismo matapos ang 4 na bu-

wang pakikipaglaban ng gobyerno sa Maute group.

Samantala, ikinatuwa naman ng Malacañang ang positibong resulta ng SWS survey kaugnay sa naging aksyon ng gobyerno laban sa Maute group. - *Rudy Andal*

### 6 katao dinukot ng Abu Sayyaf

Anim na katao ang dinukot ng mga armadong kalalakihan na nagpakilalang mga miyembro ng bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) nitong Martes ng gabí sa Brgy. Lath, Patikul, Sulu.

Ang mga binihag ay kinilalang sina Jessy Trinidad, 55; Nene Trinidad, 56; Aloh Trinidad, 22; Lucy

Hapole, 21; Junjun Hapole, 13 at Nelson Hapole, 7.

Batay sa ulat na nakarating kay Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, dakong alas-8:45 ng gabí nang mangyari ang pagdukot sa mga biktima sa Phase 4, Kalimayahan Village, Brgy. Lath.

Agad namang inireport ng mga concerned

citizen sa Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu at PNP ang nagresponde sa lugar, subalit nabigong abutan ang mga kidnaper na mabilis na tumakas tangay ang panibagong mga bihag.

Nagsagawa na ng search and rescue operations ang tropa ng militar upang tugisin ang mga kidnaper. - *Joy Cantos*

16 November 2017

The Manila Times

Page: 16

## IS in the Philippines

### Part 2 - Marawi aftermath

THE Islamic extremist leaders in the battle of Marawi—Isnilon Hapilon of IS and the Maute brothers Omarkhayam Romato and Abdullah of *Dawlah Islamiya*—were sent posthaste by the police Special Forces to *Jannah* with its 72 virgins (for each). But like the multi-headed Hydra of Greek mythology, once chopped off, more heads will regrow, and the current "Caliph" of IS in the Middle East, *Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi* has many candidates to choose from.

It is estimated that from 2013, 40,000 jihadists from 120 countries joined IS in Iraq and the civil war in Syria. What is disturbing is the approximately 1,000 Southeast Asian, including some from the Philippines, who trained and fought in these arenas. We don't know how many were killed, but as IS is crushed in these wars and continues to lose territories, especially after the liberation of Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria, these highly trained and motivated jihadists with their deadly skills are returning to their countries.

The ascendancy of IS and the decline in influence of al-Qaida saw the transfer of allegiance by countless terrorist groups to the former. Among them was the Abu Sayyaf (ASG), founded by Abdurajak Janjalani. After his death in 1998 and a series of assassinated



CELEBRITY  
DEMOCRACY  
POLITICAL  
INSTITUTE

LITO MONICO  
C. LORENZANA

successors, the ASG pledged allegiance to IS in 2014. Fighting for an independent Islamic State in Mindanao, it struck an alliance with the *Dawlah Islamiyah* of the Maute brothers to establish a foothold in Marawi.

In the Marawi siege, Philippine intelligence reports said that approximately 500 jihadists joined the battle, of which 80 were thought to be foreign fighters. About a dozen of the dead were identified as coming from Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Chechnya, Yemen, Indonesia, Malaysia. These survivors from Marawi could apply their murderous skills in other parts of the country. They could regroup and may not be able to do an encore in Marawi, but they could wreak havoc on communities all over the country like Cotabato, Zamboanga, Basilan and the Sulu provinces. What could be replicated are bomb-making skills and placement of improvised explosive devices (IED), and suicide bombers; both were applied with devastating effect against the US led-coalition armies in Iraq. God help us if the same is employed in our cities and populated areas like Metro Manila.

But how did our country decline to this condition where the Islamic radicals are threatening to dictate their lethal agenda?

Our relations with our Muslim brothers go back centuries. The Crescent Moon and the Star came to the Philippines long before the Cross and the Sword of the Catholic faith were planted in our shores. Predominant in the south, the Moros resisted the Spanish conquistador for centuries, along with the subsequent American and Japanese intrusions. In effect, the Muslims were never a "conquered people." But the enduring unresolved disputes involved the encroachments of the dominant "Christians" and the other "lowlanders" into their domain, constricting the Moros and their faith into pockets of territories, confined mostly within Mindanao.

Redress of these grievances centered on the economic, political, and cultural marginalization of the Moros were never seriously addressed by the Christian-dominated central government until the advent of the separatists Moros elevated the political and economic discourse through the articulate language of violence. From the Kamlon Rebellion in Sulu to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), wars were intermittently fought. But over the decades, the shortsightedness

of a highly centralized government exacerbated these conflicts, culminating in President Erap's "all-out war" that resulted in an ever-escalating mindless quid pro quo of blood for blood.

These conflicts are no longer just confined to the Philippines although the solutions should have been characteristically Filipino. These centuries-old injustices were cloaked and turned deadly with the passionate divergences in faith and culture. Samuel Huntington succinctly describe this in his book *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World Order*. He wrote: "The most important distinctions among peoples are no longer ideological, political or economic. They are cultural. New patterns of conflict will occur along the boundaries of different cultures and patterns of cohesion (and) will be found within cultural boundaries".

What at first was a countrywide Philippine problem could not simply be bottled up within national boundaries. It has broken out and taken on regional dimensions permeating Southeast Asia and beyond. Like that of the Middle East and the Levant, violence is a cancer that has metastasized.

Tomas Sanford reports: "Many conditions and features in Southeast Asia enable terrorism and insurgency: socioeconomic strain, sectarian friction, small groups of influential religious conservatives,

radical ideologies, large archipelagoes and porous borders, preexisting insurgencies, jihadi veterans, permissive immigration rules, and flexible and informal funding networks. And unlike the 1990s and the early 2000s, social media is now everywhere, allowing for easy communications, recruitment, and financial transactions."

But there are also mitigating factors that the DU30 government has in its favor. The two major separatist groups, the MILF and MNLF, with their weapons on stand-down, are assuming a "wait and see" posture and divining the body language of the Deegong government on the moves towards the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) that will provide the Muslims a modicum of autonomy in a federal set-up. On the international stage, the Muslim community rejected and condemned terrorist attacks all over the world: the Bali, Indonesian bombing perpetrated by the Jemaah Islamiyah was one example.

But patience of even the majority moderate Muslims is running short. What we saw in Marawi are "the consequences of a failure of the Philippine government negotiations with Moro insurgents and the growing IS presence across the region—and ones that may be repeated across this large and restive region. ISIS could come to see this as its primary, extra-regional

destination as its fortunes continue to tumble in the Middle East and North Africa." (Anderson)

Before his report to the House committee of foreign affairs' subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the US Congress, Thomas Anderson came up with his conclusion, and I agree with him.

"The violence in Marawi is a stark warning of a convergence of several troublesome factors, including an expanding, insurgent-minded IS, radical ideologies, poor (and violent) governance, highly stressed communities, returning and regional foreign fighters, accessible funding, criminal activity, and adept use of social media."

And I might add, we can't allow the Islamic radicals to arrogate unto itself the initiative to settle the Philippine agenda. Marawi's rehabilitation will be the country's focus in the coming months. If it goes the way of the "Yolanda-Haiyan" template, Deegong may as well forget about the BBL, his federalism legacy, and kiss his hold on power goodbye.

*This article borrows from the testimony of Thomas Anderson, Director and Senior Fellow of the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS); and the book ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror, by Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan; and Samuel Huntington's "The Clash of Civilizations".*

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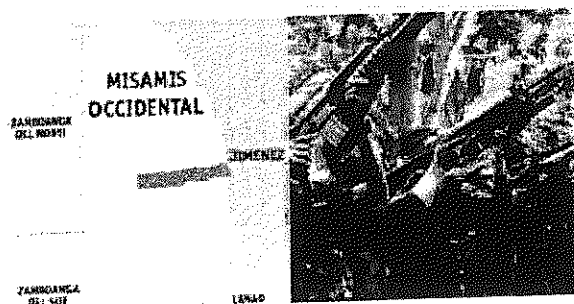
## ONLINE NEWS

16 NOVEMBER 2017

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# CAPTURED | NPA leader arrested in Misamis Occidental

Posted by Alvin Santiago on November 15, 2017 at 7:15 AM



**JIMENEZ, Misamis Occidental (DWDD)** –Authorities were able to apprehend a New People’s Army terrorist commander in an operation at Purok 6, Barangay National, Jimenez, Misamis Occidental.

The suspects was identified as Antonio Anding alias Kumander Brix, a resident of Barangay Upper Liason, Tambulig, Zamboanga Del Sur.

Anding did not resist arrest when presented with a Warrant of Arrest for the crimes of rebellion, robbery, frustrated murder and attempted murder.

The suspect is currently in the custody of the Molave Municipal Police Station while awaiting the decision and orders of the court. **AES**

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## **WHOSE WEAPON KILLED HAPILON? | Hosting Li, Duterte claims anew 'twas Chinese rifle, reviving questions**

By Reuters | November 15, 2017, 9:49 PM



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte walks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang upon arrival during Li Keqiang's official visit, at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, Philippines November 15, 2017. REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco

MANILA – Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday heaped praise on visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang for what he said was China's "critical" role in expediting the end of a five-month war with Islamist insurgents in a Philippine town.

Duterte credited China with supplying what he said was the rifle that on Oct. 16 killed Islamic State's regional point man, Isnilon Hapilon, and said he would present that weapon to China as a mark of appreciation for its help in the war in Marawi City.

"I am going to return to you the rifle so that the Chinese people would know, it was critical, it is a symbol of the critical help," Duterte told Li, the first Chinese premier to visit the Philippines in a decade.

There are doubts, however, about if it really was a Chinese sniper rifle that killed Hapilon, and uncertainty about whether the military has used any of the 6,100 guns Beijing has donated since June.

The Philippine defense minister recently said all those weapons were given to the police.

Sources from the military also explained to InterAksyon in an earlier interview that normally, soldier-snipers need months to familiarize themselves with the features of new weapons if they have been trained to handle, and been using, other models in the past.

Hapilon was killed by members of the 8th Scout Ranger Company. "Scout Ranger Books", a Facebook page of one of the ranger officers, gave a blow-by-blow account of the operation and said the shot that killed Hapilon came from a gun mounted on an armored vehicle.

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Members of the unit also told media the shot came from a fixed weapon controlled remotely. Such weapons are typically 50-calibre machine guns.

However, Duterte told Li on Wednesday, "The arms you gave us, helped abbreviate, shorten the military fight there."

### **Russian arms, too?**

On Friday, Duterte said something similar to Russian President Vladimir Putin. He told him Russia had "helped us turn the tide and to shorten the war" by supplying weapons that Philippine soldiers used to kill militant snipers in Marawi.

The Russian arms were actually delivered two days after military operations were declared over.

The conflict was the biggest and longest battle in the Philippines since World War Two. More than 1,000 people, most of them rebel gunmen, were killed and 353,000 civilians were displaced.

Duterte told Li China's help came at "the crucial moment when we needed most and there was nobody to help us at that time".

### **Australia, US provided technical support**

His remarks may not sit well with the United States and Australia, which from the early stages of the conflict were providing technical support to Philippine forces, including surveillance aircraft to pinpoint locations of militants.

Li said China would provide 150 million yuan (\$22.7 million) to help with reconstruction in Marawi. He praised Duterte for last year putting aside festering disputes with China and visiting Beijing, a trip he said was an "ice-breaker".

Philippine security analyst Renato De Castro said the information Duterte gave to Li about the rifles was inaccurate, but consistent with his policy of "total appeasement" of China.

"I'm really surprised, I don't know whether it's flattery or an outright lie," he told news channel ANC. – *With InterAksyon*

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## China pledges P1.15-B for Marawi; Duterte to gift rifle that killed Hapilon to Beijing

Published November 15, 2017 6:55pm  
By TRISHA MACAS, GMA News

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday announced his government's P1.15 billion donation to Marawi City.

"The Chinese government will provide 150 million RMB Yuan of grants for the rebuilding and improvement of livelihood in Marawi to demonstrate the support of the Chinese people," he said after his bilateral meeting with President Rodrigo Duterte in Malacañang.

"We have full confidence that under your leadership, Mr. President, and the leadership of your government, the rebuilding of Marawi will be completed at — in a very early date and the local people will embrace even better life," he added.

Marawi City was attacked by ISIS-inspired Maute group on May 22, forcing Duterte to return to the Philippines without completing his official visit to Russia and to declare martial law all over Mindanao.

In his opening statement during his bilateral meeting with Li, Duterte mentioned that one of the rifles that China gave to the Philippines killed Abu Sayyaf leader and supposed ISIS emir Isnilon Hapilon.

"And I am happy to report to you that one of the rifles that you gave us killed Hapilon, was the leader or the emir that they named in the Philippines.

Duterte said he would look for the soldier who fired the shot and return the rifle to the Chinese people as a symbol of their timely assistance to the country.

"And let me also assure you that during the critical stage of the Marawi incident, where we needed help badly, it was China who responded immediately for our cry for help," he said. —

**MDM, GMA News**

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## **Rebels seen in Negros militiaman's slay as security tightened in Davao region after cop's killing**

By Philippine News Agency | November 15, 2017, 8:06 AM



DUMAGUETE CITY — The New People's Army is believed to have executed a militiaman whose body was found late Monday, November 13, in Siaton town, Negros Oriental.

In the Davao region, the Army's 10th Infantry Division and Police Regional Office 11 intensified security operations following the killing of a police officer in Davao City by suspected rebel assassins.

In Negros, police reports said Gelino M. Valloces, 52, of Sitio Ondol, Barangay Talalak, Sta. Catalina, was seized from his home Monday morning.

The body of the member of the Special CAFGU Armed Auxiliary assigned to a detachment in Sitio Cuadra, Barangay Mantiquil, Siaton, was found later that day with gunshot wounds in the head and right knee.

In Davao, Major General Noel Clement said: "I have directed our troops to be vigilant not only during operations but also during administrative movement and when visiting their families."

PRO 11 director Chief Superintendent Manuel Gaerlan said he has ordered all city and municipal police stations and provincial offices to preempt rebel actions.

The measures followed the death of Police Officer 3 Wilfredo Garol Jr. of the Baguio police station, who was gunned down in Barangay New Valencia, Tugbok district on Monday.

That same day, rebels also seized PO2s Alfredo Lauro Degamon Jr. and John Paul Mondaya Doverte in Placer town, Surigao del Norte.