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NEWS CLIPPINGS

17 November 2017

Friday

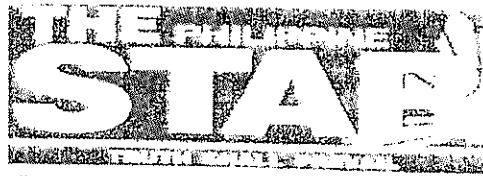
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	NOV 18 SAT	NOV 19 SUN	NOV 20 MON	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	NOV 18 SAT	NOV 19 SUN	NOV 20 MON
METRO MANILA	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	24°C 30°C	25°C 31°C	25°C 31°C
TUGUEGARAO	25°C 31°C	23°C 30°C	23°C 29°C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	26°C 31°C	26°C 32°C	26°C 32°C
LAOAG	24°C 31°C	23°C 31°C	23°C 30°C	METRO CEBU	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C
BAGUIO	17°C 25°C	16°C 23°C	16°C 23°C	TACLOBAN	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C
SBMA/ CLARK	24°C 32°C	24°C 31°C	25°C 31°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24°C 31°C	23°C 32°C	23°C 32°C
TAGAYTAY	20°C 26°C	19°C 26°C	19°C 27°C	METRO DAVAO	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	25°C 33°C
LEGAZPI	28°C 31°C	26°C 31°C	26°C 30°C	ZAMBOANGA	24°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	24°C 33°C

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with scattered showers.

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with occasional showers.

Cloudy skies with scattered showers.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
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DZRH NEWS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

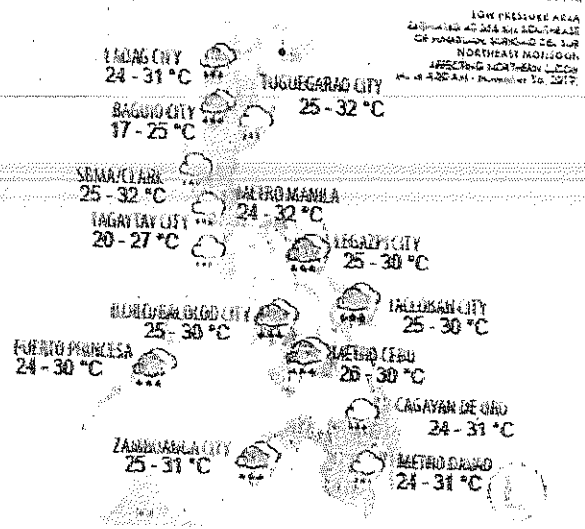
PILIPINAS ID
WEEKDAYS
6 AM, 6:30 PM & 9 PM
WEEKENDS
6 AM

AIR 21
SAGOT SA PULANG MARI

Panahon.TV

SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:58 AM	5:24 PM	4:45 AM	4:45 PM
LAST QUARTER	NEW MOON	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
4:36 AM NOV 17	7:42 PM NOV 18	MANILA SOUTH HARBOUR 3:54 AM 3:18 Meter	3:25 PM 3:55 Meter

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST NOVEMBER 17, 2017 | FRIDAY



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Asean SCS claimants should deal with China - Rody

By Ted Tuvera

President Duterte wants countries with similar South China Sea claims to negotiate directly with China instead of tapping other parties, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said yesterday.

At a Palace briefing, Roque said the Chief Executive openly advocated the preference of bilateral talks rather than

multilateral talks as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (Asean) standard way of proceeding for fellow countries with overlapping maritime claims with China in the regional bloc's Code of Conduct (CoC) that is currently being drafted.

Mr. Duterte chaired the regional bloc's summit that began the CoC negotiation for China and Asean South China Sea claimants

throughout 2017.

"I can confirm that the President has articulated his preference for bilateral talks rather than multilateral talks in resolving the disputes (between other South China Sea claimants and China) during the summit," Roque said.

"President Duterte has been consistent in that he is open to bilateral talks as far as resolving the conflict is concerned," he added.

Mr. Duterte, according to his spokesman, said repeatedly that he "does not see any utility in talking to third parties who are not parties to the conflict."

The bilateral option is also what Beijing's senior officials insisted on during the closed-door talks of the recently concluded Asean Summit hosted in Manila.

"China also raised or also stated

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that it has very good bilateral relations with all the claimant countries," Roque revealed.

"While they (China) have said that they are pursuing bilateral relations, they have done so with all the other claimant countries. And China assured us that they have excellent bilateral relations with all the claimant countries as of today," the Palace official added.

Apart from the Philippines, Asean member states Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam also claim sovereign rights over portions of the South China Sea.

Similarly, Taiwan is also a contending South China Sea claimant. Nonetheless, the "One China Policy" – which solely recognizes the Beijing government – is in effect.

With claimants apparently open to the thought of the bilateral option, Roque said the rest of Asean appears to be supportive of it.

"I think there is consensus among all claimant countries and among Southeast Asian countries that there is now easing of tension as a result of the South China Sea disputes," Roque said.

"I think the fact that countries have now adopted their current positions has led to further stability – it's stability in the region and has led to a tremendous reduction in tension, as far as claimant countries are concerned," he added.

Meanwhile, Manila and Beijing praised each other for already kicking off bilateral negotiations over its maritime feud ahead of an Asean Code of Conduct.

In the China-Philippines joint statement a day after the bilateral meeting between President Duterte and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang who was in Manila and departed yesterday, pointed out that "[b]oth sides welcome the implementation of the consensus between President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and President Xi Jinping to establish a bilateral consultation mechanism on the South China Sea as a way to manage and prevent incidents at sea,

enhance maritime dialog and cooperation, and pursue a stable growth of bilateral relations."

"Both sides affirm that contentious maritime issues are not the sum total of the Philippines-China bilateral relationship," it added.

"Both sides agree to continue discussions on confidence-building measures to increase mutual trust and confidence and to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities in the South China Sea that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability."

Roque also said that Mr. Duterte never took advantage of the 2016 International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea's (ITLOS) ruling that favored Manila's protest over Beijing's sweeping claim over portions of the South China Sea nor endorsed it as a reference in the Asean's CoC.

An international law expert, Roque explained that citing the arbitral ruling will have no effect for the rest of Asean claimants and that it might hamper China's commitment to adhere to the regional bloc's CoC.

"To begin with, the arbitral ruling is only binding on the Philippines and China. That is the effect of arbitral awards. It's only binding on parties thereto," Roque said.

"The arbitral ruling does not promote multilateral solution to the South China Sea because it's only binding on China and the Philippines."

"The award itself is self-executory. The Philippines does not have to do anything else to implement that decision. That's the distinction between international and domestic law.

"The statement or the ruling of the arbitral body is completely executory, nothing else is left to be done by anyone," Mr. Duterte's chief spokesman detailed in length.

11 documents adopted,

1 accord signed

The Asean under the leadership of the Philippines in 2017 has adopted a total of 11 outcome documents and signed an instrument focused on the promotion and

protection of migrant workers' rights in the region.

On Thursday, two days after the conclusion of the 31st Asean Summit in Manila, the bloc released the chairman's statement where the report on a "productive and fruitful deliberations" was noted.

The bloc adopted the Asean Declaration to Prevent and Combat Cybercrime, the Declaration on Innovation, the Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women's Economic Empowerment in Asean and the Declaration on 'Culture of Prevention' for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society.

Documents focused on health were also recognized and adopted by the leaders namely the Declaration on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), the Asean Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management, and the Asean Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition.

Among others, the heads also adopted the Declaration on the Adoption of the Asean Youth Development Index, the Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the Asean Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals, the Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-23) and the Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in Asean.

Lastly, the Asean Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers hailed as the centerpiece of the Philippines' chairmanship was signed.

The chairman statement reads that its approval "registered" the leaders' commitment to the protection and promotion of the rights of Asean migrant workers in the region.

Following its finalization, the Asean Labor Ministers will now proceed with the development of an action plan to translate the Asean

Consensus into concrete actions.

Asean Summit success earns global world recognition – Palace

"The tremendous success of the recently concluded 31st Association of the Asean Summit and Related Summits has earned President Duterte respect as a "recognized leader" in the world community, Malacañang said Thursday.

In a Palace briefing, Roque said that owing to the successful hosting of the Philippines of the Asean Summit, "the world community now recognizes not only the fact that the Philippine President is not just a President of the Philippines, a leader of Southeast Asia, but also a recognized leader in the international community.

"And they have also given notice that the Philippines is able to competently host a meeting of this scale and scope. And the fact that there was no untoward incident proves that the Philippines is safe to visit," he added.

The Palace official thanked the Filipino people for their cooperation in keeping the peace throughout the course of the Summit.

Roque said keeping the peace is vital in any major gathering of world leaders as any untoward incident would be a embarrassment to the host country and could have a negative impact on the tourism industry.

"All that could have happened was one explosion, even if no one was hurt, for us to have a major disaster in our hands. But thanks to the cooperation of the Filipino people, we averted such incidents he said.

"Now that all the guests are gone, there's a sigh of relief that there was not one untoward incident. And the fact that there was no untoward incident proves that the Philippines is safe to visit," Roque said.

"Congratulations to the rest of the Filipino people," he added, but also extended Malacañang apology to the people who were inconvenienced by the various measures put in place for the event.

With P

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Asean soft- pedals sea row

Chairman's statement skirts China's militarization in SCS

By Sara Susanne D. Fabunan

THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations has taken a soft stance on China's militarization of the disputed South China Sea, failing to come up even with a date for much-ballyhooed negotiations to begin with Beijing on a binding Code of Conduct for countries with competing territorial claims in the area.

The chairman's statement which was released Thursday or two days after the 31st Asean Summit concluded, said the date for negotiations would be announced in early 2018 during the 20th Asean-China summit in Vietnam.

"In view of the positive momentum, we looked forward to the announcement of the start of substantive negotiations on the COC with China at the 20th Asean-China Summit and the subsequent convening of the 23rd Asean-China Joint Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC in Vietnam in early 2018," the Chairman's statement

said, referring to an earlier, non-binding Declaration of Code of Conduct with China.

"We discussed the matters relating to the South China Sea and took note of the improving relations between Asean and China and, in this regard, are encouraged by the adoption of the framework of the Code of Conduct for the South China Sea [COC], which will facilitate the work and negotiation for the conclusion of a substantive and effective COC," the statement said.

The statement ran counter to the earlier announcements that the Asean would announce the

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Asean ...

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specific date for the start of the COC negotiations.

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Robespierre Bolivar, however, said if a joint working group on the DOC devoted its time to the COC, “how can you say that’s clearly not the start of the COC negotiation?”

“That’s the name of the working group but the COC is part of its agenda,” he said.

His explanation, however, was not reflected in the customary Asean joint communique, that referred only to the “full implementation of the DOC.”

The Declaration of Code of Conduct was signed in 2002 between China and Asean, a non-binding edict aimed at reducing tensions in the region and preventing claimant countries—China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan—from aggressively pursuing their claims.

The DOC, however, has not stopped China from building military structures on some of the disputed isles in the South China Sea.

The COC, on the other hand, seeks to make the DOC principles binding on all signatories.

In the 28-page Asean Chairman’s statement, there is no mention of China’s militarization of the South China Sea, only a reference to the vague need for “non-militarization and self restraint.”

The Asean Chairman—the Philippines holds the rotating position this year—also took note that Asean and China have

successfully tested the hotline among foreign ministries on how to manage maritime emergencies.

“In our view, these are practical measures that could reduce tensions, and the risk of accidents, misunderstandings and miscalculation,” the statement said.

The creation of the COC, the Asean said, must be “legally binding” to put a stop to “unilateral actions” in the South China Sea.

Signing China up to a code that it must abide by, and can be enforced, has long been a goal for Asean’s claimant members Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, and Malaysia.

China claims most of the oil-resource-rich South China Sea where a total of \$5 trillion worth of trade passes through the disputed waters every year, citing its nine-dash line policy based on an ancient Chinese map.

But the Arbitral Tribunal has ruled in favor of the Philippines and declared China’s claim as excessive and illegal to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Chairman’s statement was released to the public at around 11:05 a.m. on Thursday, almost two days after the conclusion of Asean Summit and hours after Chinese Premier Li Keqiang left the Philippines.

It was a first time in history of the Asean Summit that the customary chairman’s statement was released a few days late.

In the Summit last April, the chairman’s statement was already available the morning after the summit concluded.

In 2016, when Laos is the

host of the Asean Summit, the customary joint communique was released shortly before the closing ceremonies.

Bolivar, declined to explain the delay, but said Wednesday that the statement was “still being proofread.”

The Philippines is also a claimant country in the disputed sea.

But since he assumed the presidency, President Rodrigo Duterte has downplayed its claim, and even the Philippines’ victory in the arbitration case against China, for the sake of boosting economic ties with Beijing, which has offered Manila billions in loans and grants.

Meanwhile, during the official state visit of Li, both the Philippines and China have agreed to avoid force to resolve their differences over the disputed South China Sea.

Based on the joint statement released to the public, both countries agreed that “there should be no violence or threats of violence and the dispute should be resolved via talks between the relevant sovereign countries.”

“Both sides believe that the maritime dispute is not the full sum of the China-Philippines relationship,” the statement said.

Before leaving the country, Li said China is committed to helping the Asean sustain economic growth in the region.

In his speech during the 12th East Asia Summit Tuesday, Li called on the East Asian countries to uphold the current trend of economic globalization and regional integration and pursue trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, effectively

countering the “de-globalization” policy advocated by US President Donald Trump.

“We must uphold this open, inclusive and win-win cooperation at a higher level and work toward an early establishment of an East Asia Economic Community,” Li said, noting that EAS since its inception 12 years ago has grown into an important platform for dialogue and cooperation for countries from within and outside the region.

To attain these goals, China proposed six-point proposal, namely: speed up regional integration; promote sustainable development; advance social development; jointly tackle non-traditional security threats; develop new approaches to security; and improve the regional security architecture.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, who met with Li, said the Philippines should make up for the time lost due to misunderstandings over the South China Sea.

Pimentel said ties should be “immune to the issues of the day, and built on the friendship” of the two nations, not just their governments.

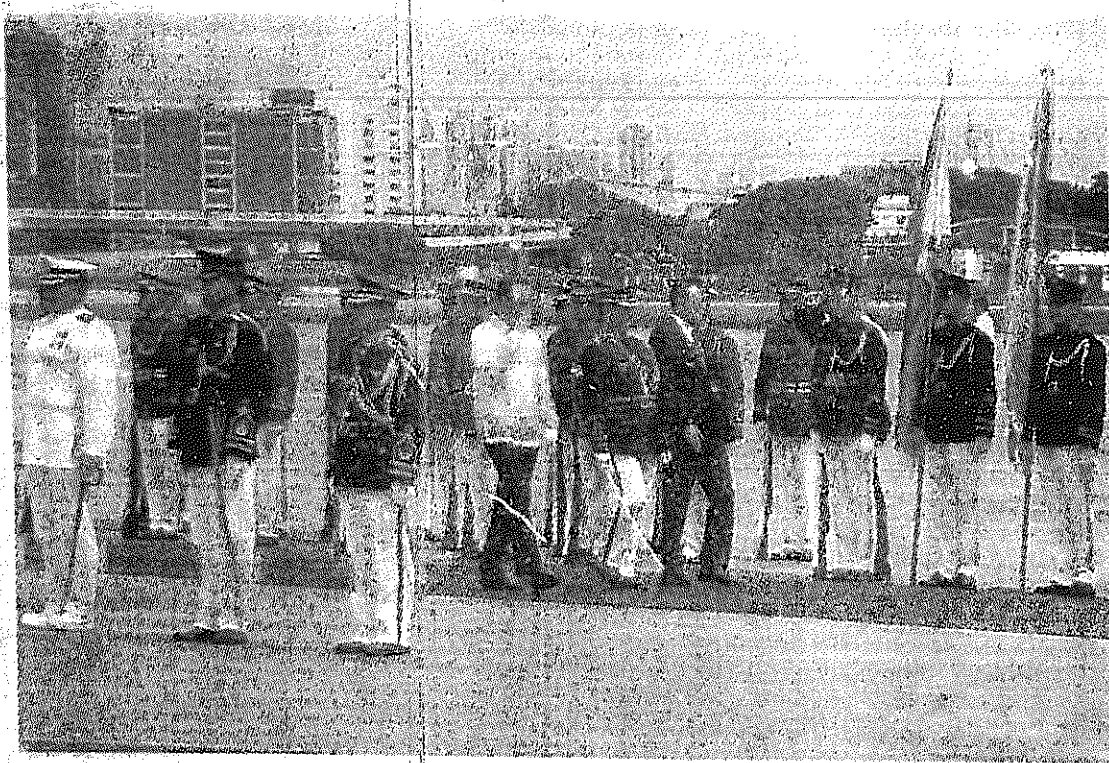
The meeting, hosted by Li, was held at the Conrad Hotel in Pasay City, and included Senate Majority Floor Leader Vicente Sotto III, Senators Juan Miguel Zubiri, Emmanuel Pacquiao, and Sherwin Gatchalian.

“Our discussion focused on how we can bring China and the Philippines closer together, not just through normal diplomatic channels, but also channels like party-to-party and parliament-to-parliament,” said Pimentel. **With Rey E. Requejo and Macon Ramos-Araneta**

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Full military honors The departure of China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang was given by the Philippine government full military honors at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Bay 47 ramp area terminal, led by DFA chief Peter Cayetano together with Philippine Ambassador to China Jose Santiago Sta. Romana and MIAA general manager Ed Monreal.

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(A) November 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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New Eastmincon chief steps up anti-NPA ops

BY VICTOR REYES

NEWLY-INSTALLED AFP Eastern Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal vowed to step up operations against the New People's Army which recently launched attacks in the Caraga region.

Interviewed after taking over the helm of the Eastmincom from now Armed Forces chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, Madrigal said stopping rebel recruitment and extortion will be given priority.

"We will address their recruitment, stop the recruitment especially in the IP (indigenous people) areas...If their recruitment continues, there will be no end to this problem," said Madrigal.

Madrigal said there is a need to destroy the support system and the underground mass organization of the communists but admitted other stakeholders, including local government units, will have to support the drive.

"This is not only about vigilance. We also need to address the

livelihood (problem), deliver basic services so that we can gain the support of the people, especially in the far-flung areas," said Madrigal.

Madrigal also vowed to stop extortion activities, which is the major source of funds of the rebels. These rebel extortion activities are usually aimed at big companies, businessmen, and even local government officials.

"Secondly, we will address their extortion. The reason why some are joining the NPA is because of money. So we have to address their extortion activities. If we address that, it will have an effect on their recruitment capability," said Madrigal.

As to the NPA fighters, Madrigal said combat operations will be intensified in the Eastmincom areas. "Our focused military operations to address this group will be continuous," he said.

The areas of responsibility of Eastmincom are the entire Caraga and Davao regions and parts of Northern Mindanao and Soccsargen regions.

Madrigal could not say the number of rebels operating in the Eastmincom area but said the bulk of the entire NPA strength is operating there. Military estimates placed the strength of the NPA between 3,000 to 4,000 throughout the country.

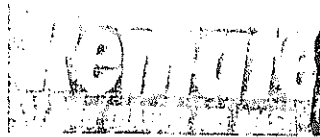
As to the recent atrocities of the rebels in the Caraga region, Madrigal said these are meant to instill fear among potential victims, noting that many companies are not heeding their extortion demands.

NPA rebels recently stepped up attacks in the Caraga region, including an ambush on Thursday last week in Talakag, Bukidnon. The ambush left a policeman and a four-month-old baby girl dead and five others injured.

The rebels also abducted two policemen in Placer, Surigao del Norte, attacked a military detachment in Alegria, Agusan del Norte, both on Monday; and burned two trucks and attacked a military detachment in separate incidents on Tuesday in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte, among others.

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Pahina. 3

2 bata, 4 pa dinukot ng Sayyaf

DINUKOT ng bandidong grupong Abu Sayyaf ang anim na sibilyan kabilang ang dalawang bata sa Brgy. Latih, Patikul, Sulu kamakalawa.

Batay sa nakuhang impormasyon mula kay Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana commander ng Joint Task Force Sulu, labinlimang armadong lalaki na hinihinang miyembro ng ASG ang dumukot sa mga biktima.

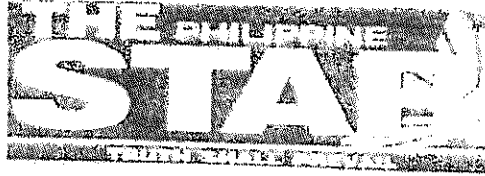
Sa inisyal na ulat, tinutukan umano ng bari ng teroristang grupo ang lahat ng kaniyang makasalubong.

Bago tumakas, dinampot ng mga armado ang anim na sibilyan, kabilang ang isang 7-anyos na bata.

Kinilala ang mga biktima na sina Jessy Trinidad, 55 taong gulang; Nene Trinidad 56 taong gulang; Lucy Hapole, 21 taong gulang; Aalioh Trinidad, 22 taong gulang; isang 12 taong gulang at 7 taong gulang na bata.

Samantala, nagpadala na ng karagdagan pwersa ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa lugar para magsagawa ng hot pursuit operation laban sa naturang grupo. **JGALLOS**

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Jail guard killed by NPA rebels

Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels shot dead a jail guard in Placer, Masbate on Wednesday.

Jail Officer 3 Allan Albuero, 46, had just boarded his Mazda pick-up in front of his house in Barangay Matagangtang at about 7:20 a.m. when two men approached and shot him several times.

Five bullet shells for a caliber .45 pistol were recovered at the scene.

Witnesses said around 30 rebels served as lookouts

during the shooting.

Meanwhile, Pfc. Ryan Belga, 23, died in an encounter with rebels in Barangay Balanac, Ligao, Albay on Tuesday.

Soldiers of the 83rd Infantry Battalion were conducting combat operations when the clash occurred.

In Iloilo also on Tuesday, NPA rebels poured gasoline and set on fire two delivery trucks in Barangay Agdum, Miagao.

– Emmanuel Tupas, Celso Amo

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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• **No more stragglers
in Marawi – AFP**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) expressed belief yesterday that there are no more Maute stragglers inside Marawi City. In a press briefing, AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, said this after the Joint Task Force Marawi has not received any reports of any encounters taking place between possible remnants of the terror group and government troops at the main battle area (MBA) where previous fighting took place. The last encounter took place last Nov. 5, 2017 when 12 Maute stragglers were killed following heavy exchange of gunfire in the main battle area (MBA). Colonel Romeo Brawner, the deputy commander of Joint Task Force Lanao, earlier said that 12 Maute terrorists were killed following a firefight that started in the early morning of November 5 and lasted till the afternoon. (Francis T. Wakefield)

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INQUIRER

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Leni calls for unified action for Marawi

By DJ Yap,
Allan Nawal
and Divina Suson
@Team_inquirer

Pictures of Marawi's destruction came to life for Vice President Leni Robredo when she visited the city's so-called Ground Zero for the first time after it was declared free from Islamic State (IS) terrorists, a tour that she said was "somewhat overwhelming."

"Of course we have seen pictures, but actually seeing it is different," Robredo said in a statement released by her office on her trip to Marawi.

"I was even asking: If this is what I feel as a nonresident, what more those people who really live here?" Robredo said.

President Duterte last month declared Marawi liberated from IS after five months of fighting between terrorists and government forces.

Duplication

After the trip, the vice president said there was a need for a

"whole of nation" approach to rebuilding Marawi.

She said efforts to help the city should be unified "in order to avoid duplication." Robredo's visit coincided with that of Sara Duterte, Davao City mayor and Mr. Duterte's daughter. The two, however, did not cross paths in Marawi.

Amid Robredo's call for a unified effort, Sara and Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano were also in the city to give aid in a separate mission.

Robredo, who arrived earlier, and Sara appeared to have similar itineraries in Marawi. They both visited St. Mary's Cathedral but some two hours apart.

The vice president, who was with private sector partners, met with residents allowed to return to the city at the Islamic Center and distributed supplies for Mindanao State University's training center. Robredo later met behind closed doors with local officials.

Sara proceeded to the village of Basak Malutlut and met with

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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VP Leni visits, extends aid to Marawi folk

By **RAYMUND F. ANTONIO**

Vice President Ma. Leonor “Leni” Robredo set foot in the Marawi City battle area on Thursday to distribute aid packages to displaced residents and find out their other needs and concerns.

Robredo said she felt overwhelmed when she personally saw the devastation left by the months-long clashes between government troops and the local terrorist group.

“Siyempre may nakikita na tayo sa pictures, pero iba pa rin kapag actual mong nakita. Iyong tinatanong ko nga, kung ito iyong naramdaman ko [kahit] hindi ako tagarito, ano pa kaya [para] sa mga tagarito talaga?” she said of her visit.

Partners of Robredo’s anti-poverty program, “Angat Buhay,” from the private sector accompanied her during her visit to turnover

₱500,000 worth of medicines to Amai Pakpak Medical Center and the City Health Center of Marawi.

They also extended the financial assistance from the Naga City government and school supplies for grade school students.

The Office of the Vice President’s partner, RAF International Forwarding, also pledged to pay for the rental of the vehicle that will transport displaced residents back to the besieged city.

The Vice President said that the “whole-of-nation” approach is needed to rebuild the Lanao del Sur capital, urging unity and convergence in assisting the affected communities.

The Vice President said it is important to prioritize livelihood development for the initial nine barangays whose residents have returned to the city after months of evacuation.

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LENI ROBREDO IN MARAWI: Seeing Marawi in ruins is different from the pictures. --PHOTO FROM OVP

residents at the village's elementary school.

2 sets of aid

Local officials, led by Marawi Mayor Majul Gandamra, met separately with Robredo and Sara's group.

They received medicines,

cash, school supplies from Robredo's group and two checks worth P5 million each from the group of Sara.

In her statement, Robredo said it was important for planners to involve residents of Marawi in the process of rebuilding their communities.

She said the sooner the rehabilitation work was done, the better it would be for residents to "recover from their grief."

"The longer it takes us to rehabilitate, the more the people will feel downtrodden," Robredo said.

Jobs, Robredo said, were key

to helping the people of Marawi rise again.

'Biggest help'

"The biggest help, really, is livelihood," Robredo said.

Sara's group also believed that employment was key to the quicker rebuilding of Marawi.


Taguig City, Sara said, was offering skills training and childhood care. Her visit to students of Basak Malutlut Elementary School, the Davao mayor said, was to "inspire them to study harder and finish their education."

She also said the new group that she formed for her father, Tapang at Malasakit, would build a memorial in Marawi "to serve as an antiterror and peace monument."

After visiting soldiers who fought and were still stationed in Marawi, Robredo was asked if she saw the need to lift martial law in Mindanao now that Marawi had been liberated. She refused to give a categorical answer, saying the military was in the best position to know. INQ

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Mayor Sara makes surprise visit to Marawi's ground zero

DAVAO CITY – Mayor Sara Duterte honored the fallen soldiers and those killed during the months-long siege of Marawi City during an unannounced visit to ground zero on Thursday.

The Presidential daughter laid flowers, lit candles, and offered prayers at the St. Mary's Cathedral in Marawi City.

The island remains under a state of martial law, with authorities not yet recommending the lifting of the declaration.

Mayor Duterte arrived in Marawi City via nearby Laguindingan Airport at around 10:30 a.m.

She also visited Malutlot Elementary School around noon and the Marawi City Hall.

Duterte was accompanied by Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano

also of Tapang at Malasakit Alliance for the Philippines. Both women wore red.

Davao City Information Officer Jefry Tupas said Cayetano and Duterte were in the area to assess interventions that the group could provide to Marawi City.

Earlier this month, Mayor Duterte called on the Davao City Council to authorize the release of P5 million to aid in the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

Tupas said Duterte was also present to personally hand over Davao City's aid to the local government of Marawi. Cayetano also handed over a counterpart amount from Taguig.

The council immediately approved the request, with the funding coming from the city's P96 million quick response fund. (Yas D. Ocampo)

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No more Maute stragglers in Marawi – AFP

The Armed Forces of the Philippines believes that there are no more Maute Group stragglers inside Marawi City.

In a press briefing, AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo said the Joint Task Force Marawi has not received any report of encounters between possible remnants of the terrorist group and government troops in the main battle area where previous fighting took place.

It has been more than a week since Nov. 5 when the last encounter took place in the MBA.

Twelve Maute stragglers were killed following heavy exchange of gunfire, Col. Romeo Brawner, the deputy commander of Joint Task Force Lanao, said.

Brawner believes that they are part of the remaining Maute-ISIS Group terrorists who attacked Marawi City last May 23.

Among those killed is Ibrahim Maute, alias "Abu Jamil," a cousin of brothers Omar and Abdullah Maute.

Arevalo said Brawner told him that there is a great possibility that all Maute stragglers have been neutralized.

"That was exactly my question kanina kay Col. Brawner at ang sabi nya sa ngayon ang nakikita nila ay na-neutralize na natin lahat ng stragglers na nandyan sa Marawi," Arevalo said.

"But be that as it may kung meron pa ring natitira we would like to ask them turn themselves in," he added.

Arevalo said in many cases, a straggler usually hides in basements

and other places, thus, preventing them from knowing what is happening in the outside world.

"Hindi pa nila alam exactly kung ano ang nangyayari, na tapos na pala ang bakbakan so we are hopeful ano na malaman na nila ito and they will either turnover their firearms or give up or they will suffer the same fate as that of their companions because we will not let terrorism to rule our country," he said. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

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INQUIRER

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MARAWI'S GRAND MOSQUE TO RISE AGAIN, LANAO DEL SUR OFFICIALS VOW

MARAWI CITY—The city's iconic Grand Mosque, heavily damaged by the five-month fighting between government forces and Islamic State-inspired militants here, will rise again from the ruins of war, local officials assured.

Lanao del Sur Vice Gov. Mamintal Adiong Jr. said the mosque, also known as Islamic Center among Marawi residents and which prominently sat on a 2,200 square meter area on Amai Disalongan Street here, was beyond repair, prompting the construction of another structure to ensure people's safety.

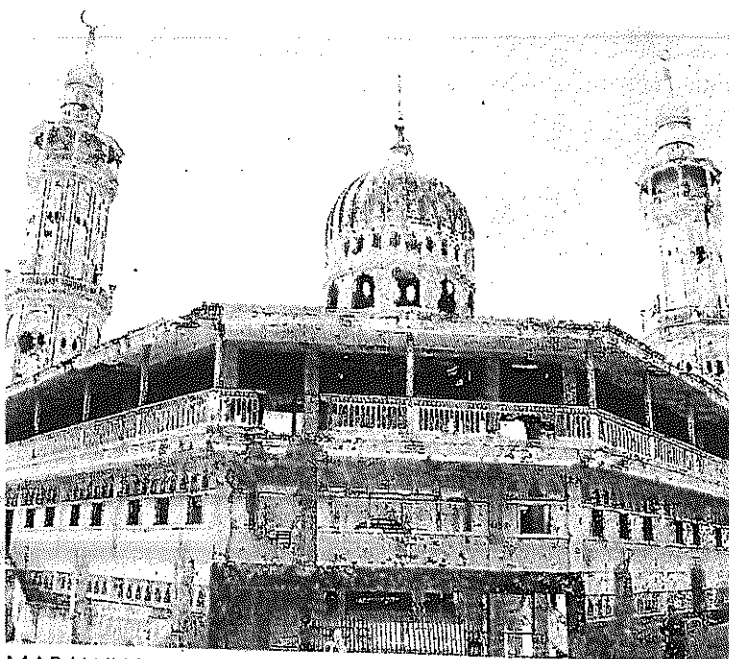
"The dome and the major parts of the structure had been riddled with bullets. The damage weakened the mosque's structure ... We need to build a new one," Adiong, a civil engineer, said.

Impractical

Repairing the mosque, he said, was impractical.

Adiong, who along with other Lanao del Sur officials visited the former main battle area here, said an initial fund to rebuild the Grand Mosque had been allocated by "Muslim countries." The vice governor, however, did not identify the donors or specified the amount of fund pledged.

Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra who also toured the



MARAWI ICON Lanao del Sur officials say repairing the iconic Grand Mosque, which was heavily damaged by the fighting between government troops and terrorists, is impractical. Funds are being pooled to build a new structure to replace the mosque. —JEFFREY MAITEM

main battle area, said he saw a large number of iconic structures that were destroyed by the fighting.

"I have mixed feelings about what I have seen," Gandamra said.

He said among the important structures damaged by the war were ancestral homes, including his family home.

Adiong said some buildings

and houses near the Grand Mosque, including "Kuta," the ancestral home of his clan, was flattened by the fighting and airstrikes conducted by the military.

"It is sacred for us because it is where our ancestors were buried," he added.

Adiong said while most structures could be rebuilt, he admitted that residents of

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Marawi could never replace homes and other places where they raised their families and which had sentimental value.

Beyond recognition

In Barangay Marinaut West, where the city's Rizal Park was located, debris was everywhere. The bust of Dr. Jose Rizal could no longer be seen, prompting a resident to remark that the war's first casualty was the national hero.

"If you ask who was the first to be decapitated, it was Rizal," Kadaffy Daromimbang said in jest as what remained of the national hero's bust was seen among the debris.

Mayor Benjie Balindong of Wato Balindong town said the village of Marinaut West was "beyond recognition."

An emotional Mayor Ali Sumandar of Piagapo town blamed the Maute terror group for the destruction of Marawi.

Ideology

"I am incensed at [members of the] Maute [group] because they forced their ideology [on the people], which they believed was correct," said Sumandar, whose town was also attacked by the group earlier.

Gandamra said rebuilding the city and bringing it close to what it used to be before the war broke out on May 23 would take time.

"It will take years to rebuild Marawi into a better city," he said.

Aside from the national government's assurance to help rebuild the city, local officials are also banking on the commitments of other groups and governments, including the United States, to bring back Marawi's grandeur.

"We express high hopes that they will fulfill their commitment," Gandamra added.

Rehabilitation

Usman Saranggani, administrator of Madalum town, was saddened by what he saw inside the former main battle area.

Like Gandamra, he said he was hopeful about the rehabilitation and development of the city.

"If Marawi will rise again from the ruins, it will become a tourist destination," Saranggani said.

Col. Generoso Ponio, the acting commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, said the military took the group of Lanao del Sur officials to the former main battle area to help them assess the extent of devastation and take part in the city's rehabilitation.

"It's their place so they should decide on what to do with it," Ponio said. —RICHEL

UMEL AND DIVINA SUSON INQ

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Military says 'ground zero' in Marawi stragglers-free

By Francisco Tuyay

THE Armed Forces declared Thursday that the center of fighting in Marawi City had been cleared of Maute stragglers, nearly six months since terrorists stormed the lakeshore southern capital city.

AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said after the defeat of the Islamic State-inspired composite terrorist group Maute and Abu Sayyaf Group in Marawi, security forces had not figured in any encounter with suspected stragglers believed still hiding in the main

battle area.

"But be that as it may, if there are still remaining, we would like to ask them to turn themselves in," Arevalo said.

He explained that in many cases, a straggler usually concealed themselves in basements and other places, thus preventing them from grasping the present environment in Marawi City.

"They don't know what is happening, that the fighting is already finished. So we are hopeful that if they happen to know the real situation, they either turn over their firearms or give up, otherwise

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Military...

From A1

they will suffer the same fate as that of their companions, because we will not let terrorism thrive and rule our country," Arevalo explained.

Earlier, Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Joint Task Force Ranao, said that 12 Maute terrorists were pinned down following a firefight that sparked early morning of Nov. 5, lasting till noon.

Brawner said the stragglers were part of the remaining Maute-IS terrorist following the killing of Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute, the emir of IS in Southeast Asia and chieftain of the Maute group respectively.

Among those killed in the last battle were Ibrahim Maute, also known as Abu Jamil, cousin of Maute brothers Omar and Abdullah.

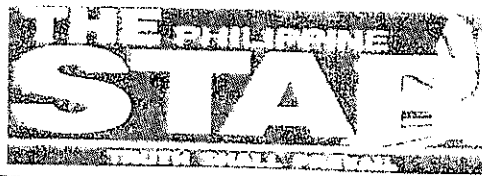
Arevalo, in his talk with Brawner, revealed the possibility that all Maute stragglers who took part in the Marawi City siege had been neutralized.

Government troops in Marawi are currently focused in their clearing operations in the Marawi City ruins to be able to expedite the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the war-torn city.

He said if indeed there were still stragglers hiding and just buying time for their escape, troops were ready to engage them, Arevalo said.

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Marawi cleared of terrorist stragglers

By JAIME LAUDE

Marawi has been cleared of both local and foreign terrorist stragglers, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) declared yesterday.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs office head, said sporadic fighting since Marawi was declared liberated from terrorists last month, has stopped.

"There is no more fighting. It is a clear indication that we have neutralized the remaining stragglers," Arevalo said.

He said soldiers did not find a single enemy in the main battle area in the last two weeks.

Arevalo said ground forces are now focused on clearing the area of debris, unexploded bombs as well as booby traps left by the terrorists in preparation for reconstruction and rehabilitation works.

Twelve foreign-looking terrorists were recently killed during a military "sweep" of the main battle zone.

At least 30 high-powered firearms submerged in Lake Lanao in front of buildings that Maute militants had occupied

in Barangay Marinaut were also recovered last weekend.

Arevalo said the AFP leadership believes that among the slain foreign terrorists was Malaysian bomber Amin Baku.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said Baku assumed leadership of the Maute group following the death of Isnilon Hapilon.

"Based on our observation, all the stragglers have been neutralized," Arevalo said.

Leni, Sara visit battle zone

As this developed, Vice President Leni Robredo and Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio visited the main battle area yesterday morning. They also both prayed and lighted candles at St. Mary's church, but their paths did not cross.

Zia Alonto Adiong, Task Force Bangon Marawi spokesman, said Robredo also visited the Amay Pakpak Hospital and donated medicine and relief packs.

Carpio, who came with Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano, distributed relief goods in Barangay Basak Malutlut.

Carpio handed the P5 million assistance from the Davao City government while Cayetano gave another P5 million from Taguig.

Neutral ground

"The main battle area is a neutral ground... Political differences should be set aside... We can actually work together to... help the people because this is a crisis," Adiong said.

In a post on Facebook, Robredo said it was "overwhelming to see the extent of the damage left by the siege."

"While the setback is disheartening, I believe it is high time for us to unite in making rehabilitation faster... The ruins left by the clashes remind us that we must take the voices of

the locals into consideration... Convergence is necessary to cover as much ground as possible in extending assistance to affected communities," she said.

Power supplier gets P150-M loan

Meanwhile, to speed up power restoration in Marawi, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) is extending a loan of P150 million to the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative Inc. (Lasureco).

NEA administrator Edgardo Masongsong said the amount would be used to procure construction materials to rehabilitate distribution lines in the city.

"There are 34 electric cooperatives all over Mindanao that we are mobilizing to help Lasureco," Masongsong said.

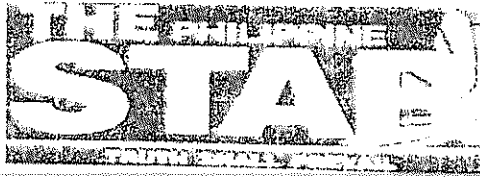
Lasureco is Marawi's major power supplier.

NEA said it expects to complete power restoration and rehabilitation works in Marawi in 15 to 30 days.

— With Roel Pareño, Edith Regalado, Danessa Rivera

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Sayyaf man arrested in Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY – An Abu Sayyaf bandit was arrested in Isabela, Basilan at past midnight yesterday.

Ustadz Warid Said, alias Ibno Ayob, was collared in his safehouse in Barangay Kumalarang.

The arrest was based on a warrant for kidnapping and serious illegal detention issued by Judge Leo Jay Principe.

– Roel Pareño

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NEWS

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PH welcomes P5.1B US aid for Marawi, war on drugs

By EFREN MONTANO

MALACANANG hailed yesterday the White House announcement that the US would pour in \$101.3 million, or P5.1 billion, to support the initiatives of the Duterte administration.

Earlier, the White House announced, upon President Donald Trump's return from his 12-day Asian swing, that the US government was pledging the amount to support the rehabilitation of Marawi City, the country's counter-terrorism efforts, and the administration's drug war.

The White House statement said an additional \$14.3 million, or P750 million, will be poured in for the rehabilitation of Marawi City; \$85 million for the counter terrorism-related equipment of the Philippines, training and support for its armed forces; and \$2 million, or roughly P101 million, to support the administration's drug war.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said it would have been better if Trump made the announcement during his three-day stay here in the Philippines so President Duterte would have shown the country's appreciation immediately.

"Sana sinabi na 'yan ni

President Trump doon sa bilateral nila, eh 'di tuwang-tuwa talaga lalo si President [Duterte] (I wish President Trump had said that during their bilateral meeting so President Duterte would be happier)," he told Palace reporters.

Duterte held a bilateral meeting with Trump on Monday on the sidelines of the 31st Association of Southeast Nations (Asean) Summit in Pasay City.

Malacañang said that Trump did not bring up the issue of human rights violations related to the country's drug war but revealed that Duterte discussed his drug campaign with Trump at length.

"That proves without doubt that the US President supports the war on drugs. Why would he otherwise give \$2 million to this cause if he thinks it's not being implemented correctly?" he added.

Before Trump left the country, he told Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, to tell Duterte that he enjoyed his stay in the Philippines and that he liked his Filipino counterpart.

"Thank you very much, I had a great time and tell Rodrigo I like him very much," Trump told Medialdea as the US President boarded the Air Force One plane on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Malacañang is not taking offense and

not slighted with Trump's mispronunciation of President Rodrigo Duterte's name.

"No slight taken, you know. I think that's another commonality between the two Presidents, they've made mistakes in names," Roque said yesterday in his regular briefing.

Trump upon his return at the White House made a report about his 12-day trip to Asia.

In a video tweeted by the State Department, Trump pronounced Duterte as "Duarte" as he extended the Philippines' gratitude to the people of the United States for their assistance in Marawi City.

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The Manila Times

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Campaign continues vs NPA in Mindanao

BY AL JACINTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Government operations against the New People's Army (NPA) continued in many areas in Mindanao as the communist group launched more attacks after the collapse of peace talks with the Duterte administration.

While the military offensives went on, NPA rebels abducted two policemen—Police Officer (PO)2 John Paul Doherte and his partner PO2 Alfredo Degamon Jr. in a daring assault in Placer town in Surigao del Norte.

The two policemen were guarding their post when the rebels arrived in two vans and abducted them last Monday.

The vehicles, believed to have been commandeered by the com-

munist guerrillas, were later found in Barangay Mabini, also in Placer.

The policemen are still missing.

The NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), had been abducting policemen and soldiers, tagging them as prisoners of war.

Its leaders have repeatedly warned they will strike hard against government forces after President Rodrigo Duterte scrapped the peace negotiations

with the CPP over the NPA's offensives across the country.

Earlier this month, NPA hitmen murdered a policeman in Davao at Barangay New Valencia, Tugbok district.

The rebels also killed a policeman and a four-month old infant and wounded five others in a recent ambush in Bukidnon province.

The NPA later apologized for the killing of the baby and said the incident was "a painful occurrence which was unforeseen."

It described the attack against the policemen as successful.

But the 403rd Infantry Brigade on Thursday accused the NPA of spreading lies and lame words in its bid to justify its lawlessness and banditry when it ambushed the policemen and civilians.

"The lies that are being spread by a certain Malem Mabini, a fake

name used by a person who obviously does not have the decency and the guts to make himself accountable for his statements, start with making people believe that their group flagged down two civilian vehicles tailing the PNP [Philippine National Police] patrol car so that the civilians onboard would evade being injured in the crime that they were about to commit.”

“Unfortunately, there were no such two vehicles. There was only the Toyota Fortuner, which was tailing the PNP patrol car. Most important, said civilian vehicle was not flagged down nor stopped by a so-called NPA blocking force. Otherwise, the driver would have stopped the vehicle in fear upon seeing unidentified armed men flagging their vehicle down in an isolated part of that Cagayan de Oro-Dominorog-Kalilangan

road,” Tagros said in a statement sent to *The Manila Times*.

He mentioned other attacks by rebels in Bukidnon—burning of three boom harvesters and one skidder owned by Del Monte Philippines Inc. in the village of Patpat in Malaybalay City on March 20, 2017; raiding of Maharlika Vic Lao Farm; and stealing of two shotguns and about 120 Peking ducks in the village of Tawas in Kitaotao town on June 29, 2017.

Burning of DOLE Palletizing Plant and indiscriminate firing at Sitio Gabunan in Barangay Casisang, Malaybalay City on September 6, 2017; raiding of Sumifro Repolidon Compound in Barangay Tugaya, Valencia City on September 9, 2017; and murdering Barangay Councilman Romeo Bantilan Jr. at his residence in Barangay White Kulaman, Kitaotao

town on October 8, 2017;

Attack on Davco Compound and burning of several equipment in Sitio Rang-ay in Barangay Merangeran, Quezon, on October 8, 2017; and the burning of DOLE Portable Banana Processor in Sitio Santa Cruz in Barangay Casisan, Malaybalay City on November 3, 2017.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr., newly-installed commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom), vowed to address extortion activities by the NPA and called for community support, particularly from the indigenous people (IP).

On Wednesday, he assumed the EastMinCom's top post, replacing Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, who was appointed as the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

WITH DEMPSEY REYES

17 November 2017

INQUIRER

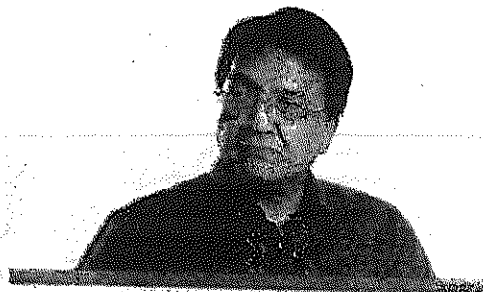
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Rebuilding the Marawi economy

We all know that rebuilding Marawi City after the recent hostilities there means much more than physical reconstruction. More daunting would be rebuilding lives and livelihoods. In the face of the city economy's recent history, this task will be extremely complex and tricky.

The immediate concern is to restore economic activity, which the months-long fighting put to a standstill. Clearly, restoring and sustaining the lives of the city population hinge on restoring their jobs and livelihoods. Until this is done, it is incumbent on the state to provide for their subsistence. Like it or not, this will mean outright subsidy by the government and Filipino taxpayers for the displaced Maranaw's basic human needs of food, clothing and shelter. Failure in meeting those needs would only fuel further disenchantment with the government and the Philippine state, for which esteem has already been eroded with the common sentiment that it was the government and its bombs that destroyed their homes. But this disenchantment did not start there; it has a much longer history rooted in age-old injustice in many forms, which had been the real origin of the decades-old Bangsamoro conflict. All this had been exacerbated by a history marked by a breakdown in governance and rule of law, abetted and reinforced by dark forces driven by greed for money and power.

Herein lies the formidable challenge in rebuilding the Marawi economy. The reality is, whatever the city economy was like before the conflict broke out had been borne out of decades of evolution of what International Alert calls the "shadow economy" that has flourished in Mindanao. This is the



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CIELITO F. HABITO

underground economy built on drugs, guns, kidnapping for ransom and smuggling. While accurate data can never be obtained, this shadow economy is estimated to be of a magnitude that rivals, and likely well exceeds, the size of the visible legal economy there. How else, some observers had pointed out, can one explain the proliferation of expensive high-end motor vehicles in the streets of Marawi, even as it lay at the heart of the poorest region of the country?

In the 2013 study "Out of the Shadows: Violent Conflict and the Real Economy of Mindanao," International Alert told of how as early as 2006, the US government suspected Marawi to be at the center of the drug trade in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The study documented activities of various players in Mindanao's illegal underground economy, which, even while data were spotty, allowed them to piece together an elaborate network of a shadow economy of mind-boggling magnitude. For many years, the criminal activities

of seven municipal mayors in the province of Lanao del Sur, known as the Lucky Seven Club and reportedly financed by an Iligan City-based businessman, have been open knowledge in the area. Their criminal activities included drugs, car theft, robbery and kidnapping. Perpetuating the network are allies in the police and judicial system who have kept such activities beyond the clutches of the law. The Duterte administration's war on drugs may have disrupted, albeit not stopped, these activities, and recent high-profile killings in the area suggest so. The discovery of caches of large amounts of cash and drugs amid the Marawi ruins indicates that the shadow economy had been alive and well in the city up to the eve of the Maute siege. Indications are that substantial numbers of Maranaw down to the poorest segments of society drew their livelihoods in this massive shadow economy. It was the Marawi economy that they had always known—and the forces behind them remain very much around.

Against this background, the challenge of rebuilding the Marawi economy looks daunting indeed. Well-meaning ideas range from spurring micro and small enterprises to attracting large business conglomerates to invest in the city and surrounding areas. But faced with competition from efforts to reentrench the shadow economy, coupled with underlying mistrust for the government and Manila-based big business not uncommon in the area, it is going to be tricky terrain on which to rebuild a local economy, to say the least.

cielito.habito@gmail.com

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SWS SURVEY

**GOV'T RATED
'GOOD' IN
TERROR FIGHT**

Six of 10 Filipinos are satisfied with the government's efforts in suppressing the Islamic State-inspired Maute group who went on a rampage and took over sections of Marawi City in May until they were flushed out by government forces in October, ending a five-month crisis, according to the results of a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

The survey, conducted from Sept. 23 to 27 this year while the battle was still raging, found that 66 percent of the 1,500 adult Filipinos interviewed were satisfied with the government's actions against the terrorist group while 18 percent were dissatisfied and 16 percent were undecided, resulting in a "good" +48 net satisfaction score (percent satisfied minus percent dissatisfied).

Net satisfaction with the government's efforts against terrorists was highest in Metro Manila and Mindanao at "very good" +54. It was "good" +49 in the Visayas and "good" +42 in Luzon.

The military said more than 1,000 people were killed in the 148-day battle to retake the city from terrorists.

INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ

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

ONLINE NEWS

17 NOVEMBER 2017

www.pna.gov.ph

PH soldiers' bravery recognized by Aussie PM

By Priam Nepomuceno November 16, 2017, 4:15 pm

MANILA -- The bravery and heroism of Filipino soldiers during the five-month battle to retake Marawi City from Maute Group terrorists were recognized by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull during his recent visit to the military headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"He (Turnbull) was very much appreciative of the sacrifices and the heroism of the Filipino soldiers," Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs spokesperson, Col. Edgard Arevalo, said.

Turnbull noted that terrorism and violent extremism are problems, not only of Australia and Asia, but the rest of the world and neutralizing such threats need the cooperation and coordination of all nations, Arevalo said.

"The rest of the world must unite to beat off this threat," Arevalo quoted the Australian Prime Minister as saying.

Some 165 Filipino soldiers and policemen perished in the five-month effort to retake Marawi City from the Maute terrorists.

Fighting began in the city when government troops tried to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader and ISIS "Emir" in Southeast Asia, Isnilon Hapilon, and his cohorts last May 23.

It was only declared over after Hapilon and Omar Maute, one of the Maute Group co-founders, was confirmed killed on October 23. (PNA)

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

www.pna.gov.ph

Japan's aircraft donation boosts PH maritime security

By Priam Nepomuceno November 16, 2017 12:26 pm

MANILA -- The Philippine military's capability to conduct surveillance, monitoring, and search-and-rescue missions over its vast maritime domain gets a boost after Japan donated five Beechcraft TC-90 turboprop aircraft, an official of the Department of National Defense said.

"We welcome that gesture of Japan and the addition of these five aircraft to our inventory will greatly enhance our capability to monitor and conduct search-and-rescue (operations) within our territory," chief of the department's public affairs office, Arsenio Andolong, said Wednesday.

This includes missions off the Philippine Rise, formerly known as Benham Rise, and the West Philippine Sea, Andolong said.

The agreement on the donation of the five TC-90s was signed during the bilateral talks between President Rodrigo Duterte and his Japanese counterpart, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, on the sidelines of the 31st ASEAN Summit early this week.

Initially, the airplanes were leased to the Philippine Navy to bolster its capability in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, limited transport, and maritime domain awareness, including maritime air surveillance and intelligence surveillance reconnaissance.

The lease agreement was USD7,000 yearly for the first four aircraft and USD200 annually for the fifth.

The TC-90, which is part of the Beechcraft King Air aircraft family, was offered by Japan shortly after the Agreement Concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology was finalized on Feb. 29 last year.

Two of the TC-90s were delivered to Sangley Point, Cavite last March 27, while the remaining three will be turned over in the first quarter of 2018.

The TC-90 has a range of more than 1,000 nautical miles and a cruising speed of 260 knots, and is capable of carrying eight passengers along with the pilot. (PNA)

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

Dwdd.com.ph

KFR | Armed Men abducts 6 Locals in Sulu

Alvin Santos

PATIKUL, Sulu (DWDD) – Fifteen unidentified armed men believed to be members of Abu Sayaff Kidnap-for-Ransom Group forcibly took at gunpoint six individuals in Phase 4, Kalimayahan Village, Brgy. Latih, Patikul, Sulu on Tuesday, 8:45 p.m.

SULU



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The victims are: Jessy Trinidad, 55; Nene Trinidad, 56; Aloh Trinidad, 22; Lucy Hapole, 21; Junjun Hapole, 13; and Nelson Hapole, 7 years old.

The abduction was immediately reported by concerned citizens to JTF Sulu and PNP that 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. Such hostility reminds us that security is everybody's responsibility" said Brig. Gen. Cirilito E. Sobejana, JTF Sulu Commander.

While the military is primarily responsible in serving the people and securing the land, concerned civilians are advised to take pro-active measures and ensure that anything unusual within their view are reported right away to the authorities to warrant prompt action and pre-empt any similar incident from happening. BGen Sobejana further said. JTF Sulu/ MCAG

WB

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