

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



**TEAM ARMY**

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

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

23 November 2017

Thursday

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

November 2017

# BusinessMirror

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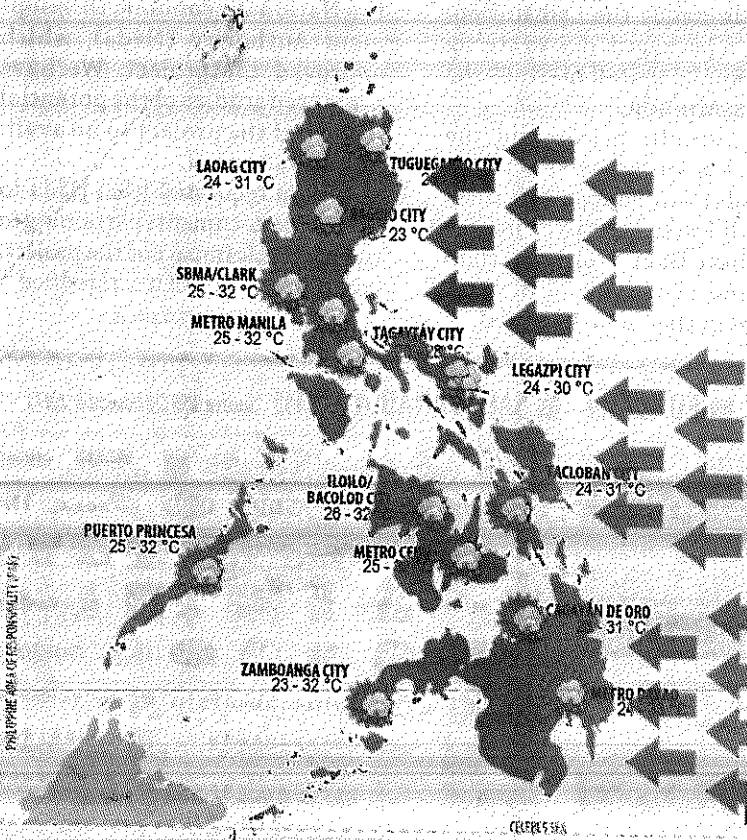


**TODAY'S WEATHER**

NOVEMBER 23, 2017 | THURSDAY

EASTERLIES

AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY  
(As of 4:00 PM - November 22, 2017)



3-DAY EXTENDED FORECAST	NOV 24 Friday	NOV 25 Saturday	NOV 26 Sunday
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METRO MANILA	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
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TUGUEGARAO	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 32 °C
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LAOAG	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C
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BAGUIO	15 - 22 °C	15 - 22 °C	16 - 23 °C
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SBMA/CLARK	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
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TAGAYTAY	19 - 27 °C	19 - 27 °C	21 - 28 °C
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LEGAZPI	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
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PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C
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ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	26 - 32 °C
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METRO CEBU	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
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TACLOBAN CITY	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
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CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
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ZAMBOANGA CITY	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C
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METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C
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METRO CEBU	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
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TACLOBAN CITY	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
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CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
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ZAMBOANGA CITY	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C
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METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C
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3-DAY EXTENDED FORECAST	NOV 24 Friday	NOV 25 Saturday	NOV 26 Sunday
METRO CEBU	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
TACLOBAN	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 31 °C	23 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C

METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C
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ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	23 - 32 °C
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SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
6:01 AM	5:24 PM	9:37 AM	9:17 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
NOV 18 7:42 PM	NOV 27 1:03 AM	6:16 AM -0.09 Meter	11:42 PM 1.07 Meter

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The Manila Times

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# US Navy aircraft crashes in PH Sea

## 8 rescued, 3 missing

**T**OKYO: Eight people have been rescued after a US military aircraft with 11 people aboard crashed into the Philippine Sea en route to an aircraft carrier, Japan said Wednesday.

Japanese and American rescuers scrambled to reach the downed aircraft in seas off the remote Japanese reef of Okinotori, in the latest accident to hit American armed forces in East Asia.

The government in Tokyo said it had been informed eight people had been plucked to safety, and that US authorities had said engine trouble was the suspected cause of the accident.

"Personnel recovery is under way and their condition will be evaluated by USS Ronald Reagan medical staff."

►Crashes **A2**

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a US Navy statement said.

"The aircraft was en route to the US Navy aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, which is currently operating in the Philippine Sea."

In Tokyo, Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said a joint operation had been launched.

"Currently, a search-and-rescue mission is being conducted in the area by the US side as well as the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force," he told reporters.

"From the US military, we have

received an initial report that engine trouble might be the cause," he said.

In Manila, the US Embassy confirmed the crash and said the names of the crew and passengers were being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

There was no immediate information on what kind of aircraft was involved, but over 60 planes and helicopters of different types operate from the USS Ronald Reagan, according to the carrier group's website.

These include F/A-18 Super Hornet

fighters, early warning and electronic attack planes, transports, and AH-60 Seahawk multi-purpose helicopters.

The US military has a heavy presence in the western Pacific, with tens of thousands of troops and billions of dollars' worth of hardware stationed throughout Japan and South Korea.

US military vessels have been involved in a number of accidents in recent months in East Asia.

The USS John S. McCain collided with a tanker off Singapore in Au-

gust, killing 10 sailors and injuring five others.

Two months earlier in June, the USS Fitzgerald and a cargo ship smashed into each other off Japan, leaving seven sailors dead.

There were also two more, lesser-known incidents. In January USS Anietam ran aground near its base in Japan, and in May, USS Lake Champlain collided with a South Korean fishing vessel.

The Ronald Reagan last week was one of three American aircraft

carriers that held rare joint drills in the region, joined separately by Japanese navy and South Korean warships over the weekend.

The nuclear-powered Reagan is one of 10 Nimitz class supercarriers, which the US Navy describes as the largest warships in the world. The Reagan has a crew of 4,225 and is 333 meters long.

The drills come as tensions persist between Washington and North Korea over its missile and nuclear program.

**AFP AND DEMPSEY REYES**

23 November 2017

INQUIRER

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# DUTERTE CANCELS TALKS WITH REDS



**THIRD ROUND OF TALKS** Fidel Agcaoili (left), chief negotiator of the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines, and his government counterpart, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, shake hands after the signing of supplemental guidelines of the Joint Monitoring Committee that will facilitate the processing of human rights complaints during the third round of peace talks in January. —KARLOS MANLUPIG

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## FROM A1

"I no longer want to talk, especially after their last ambush of a police officer where a 4-month-old girl who was in the arms of the mother [was killed]," he said.

The baby was killed when NPA members ambushed a police vehicle in Barangay Tikalaan, Talakag, Bukidnon, on Nov. 11. The baby and her mother were in a Toyota Fortuner that was behind the police vehicle.

The CPP has been waging an insurgency since 1968 to overthrow a system that has created one of Asia's biggest rich-poor divides.

### On and off

Peace talks to end the conflict, which the military says has claimed 30,000 lives, have been conducted on-and-off for three decades.

They were revived last year after Mr. Duterte, a self-declared socialist, was elected President, with Norway and the Netherlands hosting the negotiations.

Dureza said the termination of peace talks with the communist rebels was an unfortunate development.

"Never before have we all reached this far in our negotiations with them," he said.

He said Mr. Duterte had taken unprecedented steps and had walked the extra mile to bring peace. "However, the CPP

and its armed elements have not shown reciprocity," he said.

Dureza said there would be "no peace negotiations anymore" with the insurgents "until such time as the desired enabling environment conducive to a change in the government's position becomes evident."

He said the government would continue to "closely watch the developments" to determine if the talks could

resume later on.

### Gratitude to Norway

"We have expressed our deep gratitude to the Royal Norwegian Government for its strong support as we also expressed to their officials our regrets for this turn of events," Dureza said.

Norway has been a facilitator in the peace process between the government and the NDFP since 2001.

"Despite this setback, [hopefully only temporary], we remain steadfast and undeterred in our unrelenting journey for sustainable and just peace," Dureza said.

"I now call on everyone: Let's all stay the course together," he added.

The peace talks bogged down in May when the government peace panel withdrew from the fifth round of negotiations in the Dutch city of Noord-

wijk after the CPP ordered the NPA to step up attacks against security forces.

The CPP issued the order after Mr. Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao after Islamic State-inspired terrorists laid siege to Marawi City in late May.

Formal talks between the government and the CPP were supposed to resume in September but the President was angered by the NPA ambush on convoy of the Presidential Security Group in Arakan, North Cotabato, in July.

Mr. Duterte insisted that there should be a ceasefire before the talks could proceed.

### Gloomy Christmas

A Catholic priest predicted that the coming Yuletide season would be gloomy and violent because of the scuttled talks.

Fr. Pete Montallana recalled that the people in remote areas, particularly the indigenous people in the Sierra Madre, felt safe when the government and rebels stopped hostilities in Christmases past.

"Let the people celebrate Christmas without the feeling of fear around them," Montallana said as he called on Mr. Duterte and the communist leaders to resume the talks and continue the traditional Yuletide ceasefire.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, for his part, advised the communist rebels to just surrender, saying the defense establishment would be relentless against the NPA. —WITH REPORTS FROM JEANNETTE T. ANDRADE, DELFIN T. MALLARI JR. AND AFP INQ.

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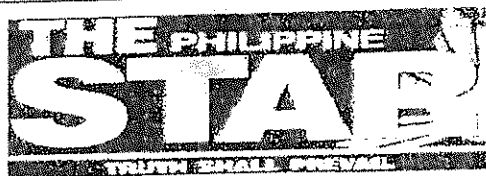
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**PRESIDENT Duterte, with his generals standing beside him, reassures that he will improve the operational capabilities of the military in a message to wounded soldiers during a visit to the Army General Hospital in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. (Presidential photo)**

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## Troops overrun BIFF lairs in N. Cotabato

By JOHN UNSON

**NORTH COTABATO** - Soldiers recovered on Tuesday the camps put up by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in two barangays in North Cotabato.

Soldiers of the 6th Infantry Division overran the BIFF lairs in Barangays Tonganon and Bentangan, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. Western Mindanao Command chief, said yesterday.

Around 3,000 residents were displaced when the militants attacked the villages recently.

Local officials and community elders said BIFF leader Esmael Abdulmalik and his followers were forced to abandon their positions after the military launched air and

ground strikes.

The BIFF set up their camps in Saidona and Salibo towns in Maguindanao early this year, but relocated to Carmen and Aloesan in North Cotabato to elude military operations aided by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas.

At least 29 BIFF men were killed in encounters with government troops and MILF fighters from July to September.

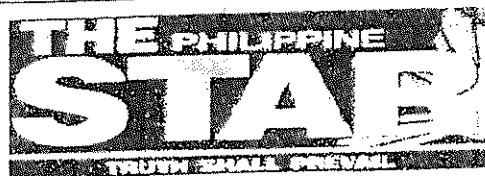
The MILF is bound by the 1997 Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities to cooperate with the government in neutralizing criminals and terrorists in flashpoint areas in Mindanao.

Pursuit operations for Abdulmalik and his group are ongoing.

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## 8 Sayyaf men arrested in Sulu, Zamboanga

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Six suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits were arrested in Sulu on Monday night.

Two others were collared in this city on Tuesday.

Omar Amping, 39; Gabby Juwa, 35; Jadi Luhadi, 21; Alcimel Abdulla, 18; Madi Jalilul, 19, and Sakkam Dekani, 60, were on two speedboats when they were intercepted

in the vicinity of Banguingui island off the waters of Sulu at about 8:32 p.m.

Rear Admiral Rene Medina, Naval Forces Western Mindanao commander, said he deployed a naval team after militiamen spotted the bandits harassing a fishing boat near Saluping island in Basilan on Sunday.

Medina said an M16 rifle and ammunition were recovered from the suspects.

Amping is ranked fourth on the list of most wanted personalities in Zamboanga City and has five standing warrants of arrest.

“The cooperation of stakeholders prompted the immediate reaction of our forces to arrest the suspects and prevent kidnapping,” Medina said.

The military intensified naval patrol in strategic areas to prevent piracy, kidnapping

and terrorism.

Meanwhile, Jalani Mahutong Abirin, 50, alias Master, and Said Abubakar Omar, 40, alias Tikboy, were nabbed in a raid on Sitio Malasugat, Barangay Sangali in this city.

Aribin has a standing warrant of arrest for kidnapping and serious illegal detention, murder and robbery with homicide.

Omar is facing murder charges.

B

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# INQUIRER

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## TERROR FIGHT

# BIFF CAMPS IN COTABATO SEIZED AFTER MILITARY OPS

CARMEN, NORTH COTABATO—The military on Wednesday said it seized two camps of Islamic State-inspired militants in hinterland villages in the boundary of Carmen and Aleosan towns in North Cotabato province after days of airstrikes and artillery attacks.

Capt. Arvin John Encinas, spokesperson for the 6th Infantry Division (ID) based in Maguindanao province, said the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade seized the camps of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in the villages of Tonganon in Aleosan and Bentangan here.

Encinas said their reports indicated that the BIFF faction led by Esmael Abdulmalik, alias Commander Abu Torayfe, suffered casualties and had abandoned the camps following the bombings.

"We have reports about it but we cannot confirm [the number of casualties] since there was no body count," he said.

The camps, Encinas said, could accommodate as many as 100 people at a given time. These areas have several nipa huts, trenches and caves.

Encinas, however, said soldiers had lost track of Torayfe's group.

earlier, Lt. Col. Gerry Besana, chief of the 6th ID's civil military operations, said intelligence information showed Torayfe's group could be codling several foreign fighters.

The group left the adjoining towns of Datu Salibo, Shariff Saydona, Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano in Maguindanao due to military operations backed by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) last month.

Torayfe's group moved to the borders of this town and Aleosan last week but their presence was monitored by Army intelligence operatives and MILF rebels.

It was also last week when the military decided to launch what it called "surgical operations" against Torayfe's group.

Some 200 families who fled their homes at the height of the operations against the BIFF had returned to their villages, disaster response officials in Carmen and Aleosan said. —EDWIN FERNANDEZ INQ



A soldier inspects belongings left by Moro rebels in a camp in North Cotabato.

—CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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### CAFGU DETACHMENT INATAKE

## 3 pulis sugatan sa NPA raid

Ni TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY – Tatlong pulis ang nasugatan kahapon makaraang salakayin ng New People's Army (NPA) ang detachment ng Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) sa bayan ng Sibalom sa Antique.

Kinilala ni Supt Gilbert Gorero, tagapagsalita ng Police Regional Office (PRO)-6, ang mga nasugatan na sina PO3s Michael Alejo, Salvador Cordero, at Gabby Orantes.

Ayon kay Colonel Pio Diñoso, commander ng 301st Infantry Brigade

(301 IB), nauna rito ay nagpasabog ang NPA ng improvised explosive device (IED) sa CAFGU detachment bandang 9:25 ng umaga kahapon.

Sa panayam sa telepono, sinabi ni Diñoso na hindi ang Army kundi mga pulis ang rumesponde sa insidente.

Sakay ang mga pulis sa kanilang mobile patrol car nang pasabugan ng isa pang IED.

Sinabi ni Diñoso na hindi naman posible na sinamantala ng NPA na hindi pa nakabalik ang 82nd

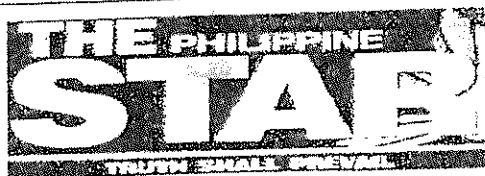
Infantry Battalion (82 IB) sa orihinal na headquarters ng mga ito sa katimugang Iloilo, na malapit lamang sa pinangyarihan ng pag-atake.

Ang 82 IB, na sumasaklaw sa Antique, ay nasa Marawi City, Lanao del Sur pa rin para sa clearing operations.

Hunyo ngayong taon nang salakayin ng NPA ang himpilan ng pulisya sa bayan ng Maasin sa Iloilo. Nangyari ang pag-atake isang araw makaraang ipadala ang puwersa ng 82 IB sa Marawi City.

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## 5 cops hurt in Antique, Ecija NPA attacks

Five police officers were wounded in attacks perpetrated by suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Antique and Nueva Ecija in the past two days.

Police Officer 3 Gabby Orantes of the Sibalom police in Antique was hit by shrapnel in the stomach in a roadside bombing in Barangay Bontol at about 9:25 a.m. on Tuesday.

PO3s Michael Alejo and Salvador Cordero were wounded in the ensuing gunfight.

The policemen were in two vehicles when the bomb exploded.

Prior to the bomb attack, NPA guerrillas strafed a military detachment in Barangay Bulalacao also in Sibalom. There was no reported casualty among government-troopers.

In Nueva Ecija, PO3 Jose Ira Nimenzo and PO1 Rommel Gabia were responding to a shooting in Sitio Calvelo, Barangay Putlan, Carranglan yesterday when they were waylaid.

### 3 NPA camps seized

Meanwhile, three NPA camps have been seized in Luzon since Sunday.

Lt. Col. Isagani Nato, Northern Luzon Command spokesman, said rebel camps in Barangay Malinao, Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija; Besao, Mountain Province and Darnac West, Boliney, Abra were recovered by personnel of the 56th Infantry Battalion, 7th Infantry Division and 24th IB, respectively.

– Jennifer Rendon, Michael Punongbayan, Emmanuel Tupas, Ramon Efren Lazaro

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## 3 cops hurt in NPA attack in Antique

By **TARA YAP**

**ILOILO CITY** – Three police officers were wounded when New People's Army (NPA) fighters attacked a detachment of the Citizens Armed Geographical Unit (CAFGU) in Sibalom town, Antique, Wednesday.

Supt. Gilbert Gorero, Police Regional Office for Western Visayas spokesperson, identified the officers as Michael Alejo, Salvador Cordero and Gabby Orantes.

Colonel Pio Diñoso, commander of the Army 301st Infantry Brigade (301 IB), said in a phone interview the NPA initially set off an improvised explosive device (IED) around 9:25 a.m. at the CAFGU detachment.

Diñoso said the Sibalom police sent three patrol cars to respond to the incident. The three officers were in a patrol car when another IED exploded.

Diñoso downplayed speculations that the NPA was taking advantage of the fact that the 82nd Infantry Battalion (82 IB) had not yet returned to its headquarters in southern Iloilo, which is near where the attack took place.

The 82 IB was still in Marawi City for clearing operations.

Last June, the NPA raided a police station in the Iloilo town of Maasin a day after 82 IB was deployed to Marawi.

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## 6 sa Abu Sayyaf-KFR arestado sa Sulu

Kinumpirma ng Philippine Navy, sa pamamagitan ng Naval Forces Western Mindanao, ang pagkakadakip sa anim na armadong lalaki na pinaniniwalaang mga miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group-Kidnap-for-

Ransom (ASG/KFRG) Group sa karagatan ng Sulu nitong Lunes.

Kinilala ni Rear Admiral Rene Medina, commander ng Naval Forces Western Mindanao, ang anim na naaresto na sina Omar Amping, 39; Gabby S. Juwa, 35; Jadi Luhadi, 21; Alcimel Abdulla, 18; Madi Jalilul, 19; at Sakkam Dekani, 60 anyos

Nabatid sa imbestigasyon na si Amping ay isang kilabot na gun-for-hire, ikaapat sa most wanted persons ng Zamboanga City, at may dalawang arrest warrant sa limang bilang ng murder

Nakumpiska rin mula sa mga bandido ang isang M16A1 rifle na may

tatlong mahahaba at isang maikling magazine na may 110 bala.

Ayon kay Medina, dinakip ang anim sa Bolod Island, Tonquill, Sulu bandang 8:32 ng gabi nitong Lunes.

Kaagad na sumailalim sa pagsusuring medikal ang anim na naaresto bago inumbestigahan ng pulisya at militar

Nauna rito, inulat ng isang miyembro ng Special CAFGU Active Auxilliary (SCAA) na tinatakot ang bangkang pangisda na FB Nancy 888, ng Nancy Fishing Company, at hinabol pa ng hindi natukoy na armadong grupo nitong gabi ng Nobyembre 19

**Francis T. Wakefield**

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### 3 kampo ng BIFF, nakubkob ng militar

Nakubkob ng mga tauhan ng Philippine Army ang tatlong kampo ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa North Cotabato, inihayag kahapon.

Ayon sa 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division, nakubkob ng mga tauhan ng 7th Infantry Battalion at 602nd Brigade ng Army ang tatlong kampo ng BIFF sa Barangay Tonganon at Bgy. Bentangan sa Carmen, North Cotabato.

Sinabi ni Capt Arvin Encinas, tagapagsalita ng 6th Infantry Division, na nadiskubre sa tatlong kampo ang ilang kubo, sari-saring bala at mga personal na gamit na inabandona ng pangkat ni Esmail Abdulmalik, alyas Kumander Abu Torayfe, ng BIFF-ISIS inspired group.

Kasabay nito, target ngayon ng operasyon ng militar ang isang malaking kuweba na kuta ng mga terorista sa North Cotabato.

Target din ng militar ang 10 high-value target at mga dayuhang terorista.

Nagsilikas ang mga residente nang unang salakayin at mapatay ang pitong miyembro ng BIFF, at 11 ang nasugatan sa inilunsad na air-to-ground assault ng militar sa North Cotabato.

**Fer Taboy**

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# VP Leni welcomes Duterte's statement against revolutionary gov't, martial law

By MERLINA HERNANDO-MALIPOT

Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo on Wednesday welcomed the pronouncement of President Duterte against declaring a revolutionary government and

martial law saying that the Filipino people deserve having public officials who honor the Constitution.

Robredo said that the latest statement of the President "clearly and definitively saying that he will not declare a revolutionary government nor impose martial law, is an important, and welcome, step towards allaying the fears of many Filipinos that a return to the chaos and uncertainty of a dictatorial regime may be imminent."

"It is our hope that this declaration will put an end to the dangerous and alarming proposals made in both traditional and social media the past month to set aside the certainty and security of our Constitution and laws in favor of dictatorial rule by way of either 'revolutionary government' or martial law," Robredo said in a statement.

"My position has always been clear — the Constitution is a covenant between our people and their government," Robredo said.

"It is our strongest guarantee that government, and the officials that serve in it, will always be accountable to the people they serve, and that the power they exercise will not be abused," she added.

Robredo noted that every public official — including the President and herself — "before assuming the duties of our respective offices, swears a solemn oath to uphold and defend the Constitution." She added that the authority and legitimacy of public officials "is anchored on our fidelity to the Constitution, and to the democratic principles enshrined within it." Thus, "setting aside the Constitution is a betrayal of this oath, and denies this authority and legitimacy."

Duterte's latest declaration, Robredo said, "should serve as a clear message to all our public officials and our people — the oaths we took will continue to be honored, and our Constitution, and the democratic republic it establishes, will be upheld and defended."

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## US Navy jet crashes into PH Sea

A US Navy aircraft with 11 people aboard has crashed into the Philippine Sea while en route to an aircraft carrier, the US said Wednesday, the latest accident to hit its armed forces in East Asia.

“A United States Navy aircraft carrying 11 crew and passengers crashed into the ocean southeast of Okinawa,” a statement from the Navy said.

“Personnel recovery is under way and their condition will be evaluated by

*Next page*



**PLANE CRASH.** This handout picture taken on November 17, 2017 and released by the US Navy on November 22, 2017 shows a C-2A Greyhound (top L) assigned to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron launching from the flight deck of the Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier and flagship of Carrier Strike Group five, the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) in the Philippine Sea. Rescuers have plucked eight people to safety south of Japan on November 22 after a US Navy C2-A 'Greyhound' aircraft with 11 people on board came down in the Philippine Sea, the latest accident to hit US armed forces in East Asia. **(Story on Page 1) AFP**

**US...**

*From A1*

USS Ronald Reagan medical staff.

“The aircraft was en route to the US Navy aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, which is currently operating in the Philippine Sea.

“USS Ronald Reagan is conducting search and rescue operations. The cause of the crash is not known at this time.”

The US embassy in Manila did not say if there were casual-

ties from the crash.

But US Embassy Press Secretary Molly Koscina said the names of the crew and passengers were being withheld pending notification of their next of kin.

The US military has a heavy presence in the western Pacific, with tens of thousands of troops and hundreds of pieces of hardware stationed in Japan and South Korea.

The USS Ronald Reagan last week was one of three American aircraft carriers that held rare joint

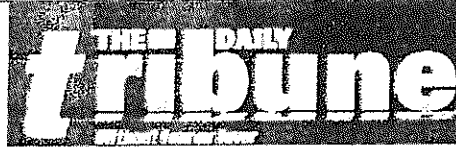
drills in the region, joined separately by Japanese navy and South Korean warships over the weekend.

The drills come as tensions persist between Washington and North Korea over its missile and nuclear program.

US military vessels have been involved in a number of accidents in recent months in East Asia.

The USS John S. McCain collided with a tanker off Singapore in August, killing 10 sailors and injuring five others. **AFP, Sara Susanne Fabunan**

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# Price cap on construction materials in Marawi ordered

By RICHMOND MERCURIO

**A price freeze on construction materials in Marawi and nearby areas will be implemented starting next week, the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) announced yesterday.**

The price ceiling is expected to "prevent undue increase in prices during the rehabilitation (of Marawi)," Trade Secretary and NPCC chair Ramon Lopez said.

"We will also put up

depots in the areas to ensure availability of construction materials directly from manufacturers," Lopez said.

A price freeze on basic necessities and prime commodities was automatically implemented

in Mindanao when President Duterte declared martial law on May 23.

The Department of Trade and Industry had rejected calls to extend the price freeze on basic goods in Mindanao until the end of the year, saying the NPCC had declared that prices and the supply situation in Mindanao are now stable.

Duterte declared Marawi liberated from terrorists on Oct. 17 after militant lead-

ers Omar Maute and Isnilon Hapilon were killed in military operations.

Lopez had earlier urged local and foreign businessmen to prepare for "numerous opportunities" in Marawi and other areas in Mindanao once the conflict is over.

"A lot of activities will really kick off. There will be a lot of opportunities in construction. It will even have a spillover effect in nearby areas," Lopez said.

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## Rebuilding Marawi: Four-lane highways, underground cables, promenade along river

By **ROY C. MABASA**

The government will flatten all buildings in the most affected areas in Marawi City to give way to the construction of new infrastructures such as two to four lane highways, underground electric cables and a promenade along the Agus River which will become a prime tourist attraction.

Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque Jr. laid down this plan during the conduct of the first "Bangon Marawi" press briefing in Marawi City.

Roque also disclosed that President Duterte is set to visit Marawi again in the middle of December to lead in the distribution of 500 units of houses built by government for the evacuees.

Roque said the government, through Bangon Marawi chair Eduardo Del Rosario, is currently in the process

of conducting post conflict assessment to determine how much will it take to rebuild Marawi by January 2018. He expects the estimate or the final figure to be finished by March 2018.

In terms of rebuilding Marawi, Roque said they have already identified about 200 to 250 hectares of land previously described as "ground zero" but will now be known as the most affected area which is home to 24 barangays.

"The plan is we will flatten all buildings in most affected areas and we will build new infra from two lane highways to four-lane highways. We will have underground electric cables instead of the usual posts and we will make a promenade in the Agus River which will become a prime tourist attraction," he said.

Meanwhile, the government will build a total of 6,300 temporary housing

units in an area about 3.5 kilometers away from the most affected area.

On top of that, Roque also said some 2,700 permanent housing will also be built for those families who did not have homes prior to the siege.

The government, he added, will provide the cost of the housing components for those who have land but whose houses were destroyed as a result of the conflict.

During the meeting, Roque said there were very important points raised pertaining to the rebuilding plan. One of the points was the commitment of Bangon Marawi to hold consultations and consider the religious beliefs and convictions of the residents.

"The government also committed that in the process of rebuilding Marawi, there will be regular and constant consultations with the stakeholders," he stressed.

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The Manila Times

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## 6 Sayyaf bandits arrested off Sulu

**ZAMBOANGA CITY:** Navy seals captured six suspected Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) members, one of them a notorious hired killer wanted in Zamboanga City for a string of criminal charges, who allegedly were harassing a fishing vessel.

Officials said the suspects – Omar Amping, 39, Gabby Juwa, 35, Jadi Luhadi, 21, Alcimel Abdulla, 18, Madi Jalilul, 19, and Sakkam Dekani, 60 – were chasing after a fishing vessel in two speedboats when soldiers intercepted and eventually arrested them on Monday evening off Bolod Island near Tongkil town in Sulu province.

Amping is wanted by Zamboanga police for the bombing at Plaza Pershing here in 2007 that

wounded over a dozen civilians.

Police authorities, then under Senior Supt. Manuel Barcena, also tagged Amping as a military informant, an allegation strongly belied by former Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga.

Barcena said three alleged bandits – Marjuni Ammala, Aristalon Isniril and Ronely Ahman – who were captured by the police, had tagged Amping as the one who recruited and provided them with the improvised explosive used in the attack.

Soldiers also seized an M16 automatic rifle and dozens of ammunition from the bandits, who are being interrogated.

The capture of Amping and five others came after a pro-govern-

ment militiaman reported to the Philippine Navy under Rear Admiral Rene Medina that Amping's group was harassing the fishing vessel *Nancy 888* in the Sulu Sea.

The gunmen pursued the fishing boat from Saluping Island in Basilan until the soldiers, deployed by Medina to respond to the incident, caught up with the bandits and eventually arrested all of them.

Medina said the Quick Reaction Team of Naval Task Force 61 – with patrol craft *BRP Manuel Gomez* and one Navy Seal team – was immediately deployed to the area to save the fishing crew from possible hijacking and kidnapping.

He added that Amping's group was taken to the headquarters of

the Naval Forces Western Mindanao in Zamboanga.

"Further investigation revealed that Amping is a notorious gun-for-hire and ranked 4th in the Most Wanted List of Personalities in Zamboanga City with two standing warrants of arrest for five counts of murder," he disclosed.

Police previously arrested Amping but he was freed for unknown reason.

In 2010, his cousin Beniser, a former soldier who was also wanted by the police for multiple murder cases, was captured in Zamboanga.

Hired killers are actively operating in Zamboanga and had been blamed for many gun attacks there.

**AL JACINTO**

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# Military sets offensive as Duterte ends peace negotiations with Left

By RENE ACOSTA [@reneacostaBM](#)

**T**HE military is poised to conduct relentless combat operations against the New People's Army (NPA) after President Duterte stopped the peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the Department of National Defense (DND) said on Wednesday.

The DND said that President Duterte has been "fed up" by the communist group's tactic of talking peace with the government on one hand, while continuing to conduct attacks against government forces and even civilians, on the other.

"The President has had enough of the communist movement's penchant for double-talk and continued acts of atrocities against the Filipino people," the DND said in a news statement issued on Wednesday.

"In keeping with the President's guidance, the DND and AFP will continue to vigorously pursue operations against their armed components," the statement added.

The DND issued the statement immediately after Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Jesus S. Dureza announced that the government cancelling all planned meetings between the government and the rebels.

Dureza's pronouncements came after Duterte ordered the halt in talking peace with the communist group.

"Recent tragic and violent incidents all over the country committed by the communist rebels left the President with no other choice but to arrive at this decision. We take guidance from the President's recent announcements and declarations," Dureza said.

"This is an unfortunate development in our work for peace. Never before have we all reached this far in our negotiations with them," he added.

According to Dureza, the President has taken unprecedented steps and has walked the so-called extra mile to bring peace. However, the communist party and its armed elements have not shown reciprocity thus far.

To start the talks, Duterte last year ordered the release of more than 40 communist leaders identified by the Communist

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Party of the Philippines (CPP)-NDFP as peace consultants, including top-ranking NPA commanders like the couple Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, who are chairman and secretary-general, respectively, of the CPP Central Committee.

“There will be no peace negotiations anymore with the CPP/NPA/NDF until such time as the desired enabling environment conducive to a change in the government’s position becomes evident. We will closely watch the developments,” Dureza said.

Dureza also expressed “deep gratitude” to the Royal Norwegian Government for its strong support to the government of the Philippines-CPP-NDF peace negotiations.

Norway acted as the third-party facilitator for the talks.

“The President has had enough of the communist movement’s penchant for double-talk and continued acts of atrocities against the Filipino people.”—DND

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## MGA PULONG NG GOVT PEACE PANEL SA CPP-NPA-NDF, KANSELADO NA

OPISYAL nang inanunsyo kahapon ni Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza na kanselado na ang lahat ng nakaplanong pulong ng government peace panel sa Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front alinsunod sa direktiba ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na wala nang peace talks sa komunistang grupo.

Ang dahilan ay ang patuloy na insidente ng kara-

hasan sa iba't ibang panig ng bansa na kagagawan ng rebeldeng komunista.

Wala na aniyang ibang pagpipilian si Pangulong Duterte kundi ang tuluyan nang ibasura ang peace talks sa mga ito.

Para kay Sec. Dureza, 'unfortunate development' sa kanilang pagsusulong ng usapang-pangkapayapaan ang desisyon ng Chief Executive lalo pa't malayo na rin ang narating ng pakikipagnegosasyon ng pamaha-

laan sa komunistang grupo.

Masusi naman aniyang tututukan ang development para sa posibilidad na pagbago ng Isip ni Pangulong Duterte sa isyung ito.

Nagpasalamat naman si Sec. Dureza sa Royal Norwegian government dahil sa solido at malakas na suportang nito sa peace talks.

Nagpaabot naman si Dureza ng pagkalungkot sa mga opisyal ng Norwegian government dahil sa bagong development na ito.

Tuluyan nang pinatid ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang tanikala ng anomang uri ng komunikasyon sa CPP/NPA.

Sa naging talumpati ni Pangulong Duterte sa harap ng mga sugatang sundalo sa Philippine Army Hospital sa Taguig City, sinabi nito na 'di na niya itutuloy ang usapang-pangkapayapaan dahil sa ginagawang pananabotang he ng mga komunista sa

peace talks.

Nakabuwisit na aniya na maraming hinihinging kapalit ang mga negosyador na nasa Netherlands kaya tama lang na huwag nang ituloy ang peace talks.

Binigyang-diin ng Chief Executive sa harap ng mga kawal na titiyakin niyang mga bago ang mga baril at mga military hardware para sa Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Samantala, pinayuhan ng Punong Ehekutibo ang mga sundalo na maging alerto dahil tiyak na gaganti ang mga ito ngayong pinutol na niya ang peace talks.

Ani Pang. Duterte, "Tulal sinasabi ninyong Amboy ako... Duterte pasista... so be it, siges magwala na kayo."

Aniya, aarestuhin ang mga nasa likod ng pangangikil ng mga komunista na kadalasang ginagawa ng mga legal front organization nito.

KRIS JOSE

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## Peace talks, Yule truce with Reds, allies junked

By John Paolo Bencito

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday ordered the arrest of all the legal fronts of the communist New People's Army for allegedly conspiring against the government.

Also, Duterte said there will be no Christmas truce with the communist rebels, as the government formally announced the cancellation of peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front.

"I don't want to talk to them, especially after the last

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ambush on the police in which they killed a four-month-old baby," Duterte said in Filipino, referring to a Nov. 10 communist ambush in Talakag town in Bukidnon in which a baby was killed.

"If that's the way they're going to be, killing civilians, then let's not talk," he added.

In a speech at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, the President said of the rebels: "I will simply declare you all terrorists. Terrorista kayo pati 'yung mga legal front 'nyo, alam ko. Huwag na lang tayo magbolahan, galing ako diyan eh (You're terrorists and even your legal fronts are terrorists, I know. Let's not fool each other, I've been there)," he said.

"We will treat you as a criminal, period. And we will arrest everybody connected and even their legal fronts," the President added.

Duterte said the communist rebels will be treated as outlaws, since they are helping to topple the government or promote violence. He likewise invited the "legal fronts" such as the NDF to declare their "revolution" against him. **With AFP**

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### **Nalalabing miyembro ng Maute aktibo sa pagre-recruit**

Aktibo umano ang mga nalalabing kasapi ng Maute-ISIS sa pagre-recruit ng bagong miyembro dahil sa pinaplano umanong maglunsad muli ng pag-atake na tulad na ginawa nila sa Marawi sa Lanao del Sur.

Ito ang ibinulgar kahapon ni Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., Deputy ng Joint Task Force Lanao matapos silang makatanggap ng impormasyon sa umano'y aktibong pagre-recruit ng mga nalalabi pang Maute-ISIS.

Kabilang umano sa target ay ang Iligan City sa Lanao del Norte, Zamboanga City, Cagayan de Oro City, Cotabato City at iba pa.

Magugunita na ang Marawi City na winasak ng digmaan ay dumanas ng limang buwang krisis mula Mayo 23 ng taong ito hanggang Oktubre 23 o kabuuang 154 araw na katumbas ng limang buwan na kung saan ay mahigit isang libo ang nasawi na ang karamihan ay mga terorista.

Sa kasalukuyan ay nasa ilalim ng martial law ang buong rehiyon ng Mindanao na nag-ugat sa krisis sa Marawi City upang masupil ang rebelyon. Ang martial law ay tatagal hanggang Disyembre 31 ng taong ito na posibleng mapalawig pa. - *Joy Cantos* -

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### **Paghabol sa drug lords, protectors bahala ang AFP**

NAIS ni Minority Leader Danilo Suarez na ipaubaya sa Armed Forces of the Philippines ang kampanya laban sa droga.

Ani Suarez, kahit ibalik pa sa Philippine National Police ang pangunguna sa paglaban sa droga mula sa Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency ay mabibigo rin ang gobyerno.

Sa laki aniya ng shabu business sa bansa na nasa P600 bilyon hanggang P700 bilyong piso na matapos pabayaan sa loob ng anim na taon.

Binanggit din ng kongresista ang ulat ng United Nations ukol sa World Drug Report noong 2012 na ang Pilipinas ay may "highest rate" ng shabu sa buong East Asia.

Dahil dito, hinamon ni Suarez si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na habulin, kasuhan at ipakulong ang malalaking sindikato ng droga, player at protektor lalo na ang mga nasa PNP at local government.

Naniniwala ang mambabatas na makakayanan ng AFP na labanan ang pagkalat ng droga sa bansa at habulin ang mga drug lord at protektor.

Aniya, ito'y dahil ang mga sundalo ay disiplinado at kung ano ang iniutos o misyon ng mga ito ay ginagawa o ipinatutupad

MELIZA MALUNTAG

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## Australia, Southeast Asia join forces to choke militant financing

KUALA LUMPUR (APP) – Australia and Southeast Asia have joined forces to choke financing for militant networks, Australia's justice minister said Wednesday, amid recent concerns about the Islamic State (IS) group gaining a foothold in the region. IS militants seized the southern Philippine city of Marawi in May, a move Philippine officials and analysts say was part of the group's plan to establish a base in the region.

## Australia, Southeast Asia... ◀1

The new alliance aims to disrupt the funding of militant groups through enhanced financial intelligence sharing, Australian Justice Minister Michael Keenan said on Wednesday in Kuala Lumpur, where he is attending a counter-terrorism conference.

"The stability and security of Southeast Asia is of critical importance to Australia," said Keenan, who also assists Australian Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull on counter-terrorism issues.

Canberra "is committed to defeating the threat posed by terrorist groups, including ISIL, in the region," he added, referring to IS by another name.

Dozens of Australians were killed

in a militant attack on the Indonesian resort island of Bali in 2002, one of the worst such attacks in the region.

Keenan said under the new initiative – endorsed by representatives from across the region – participating states will "directly target and disrupt the funding lifeline of terrorist groups" by denying them access to the international financial system and other sources of funding.

Australia's financial intelligence agency AUSTRAC and the Philippines' Anti-Money Laundering Council will lead the group.

The creation of the alliance – named the South East Asia Counter Terrorism Financing Working Group – is the latest effort to enhance regional cooperation against mili-

itants.

Earlier this year, Australia sent two Orion aircraft to provide surveillance support to Philippine troops in their bloody five-month battle with militants to liberate Marawi.

Australia has been sharing intelligence with some Southeast Asian countries for many years but those arrangements need to be institutionalized, Keenan told reporters on Wednesday.

"We all know that the key weapon that we have in this war against terrorism is information. And... we must find ways that it is shared seamlessly and shared in a timely way."

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## WAR NEVER BEEN FOUGHT IN OUR LAND

In the history of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as far as I can remember, there has never been a war fought in the country as intense as the five-month all-out war using AFP and Philippine National Police resources in Marawi.

Firstly, the failure of AFP/PNP intelligence. How can the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups generate such manpower and weapons to last them for five months? The tunnels and stockpiles of arms and ammunitions were unimaginable. The

airstrikes, tanks, canons and howitzer were no match. The safety of the hostages of course were primary concern of our troops during the operations.

Secondly, the failure of the barangays to detect such buildup without their connivance. The firepower that the IS terrorists had was, of course, no match to the firepower of the AFP/PNP in the end.

Thirdly, the financier of the terrorists.

These are the three factors that contributed to the five-

month siege that cost lives and billions of pesos to suppress an isolated war never been fought in our land. It is said and I quote: "To the victors belong the spoils of war."

To all those who died in defense of our country, heartfelt condolence. May their families take pride that their loved ones died in defense of our country so that peace may reign. I salute you.

JOEL R. HINLO,  
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# AFP Supports Decision to Stop Peace talks with CPP-NDF-NPA

Alvin Santiago



**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) supports the decision of President Rodrigo Duterte to stop the Peace Talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines – National Democratic Front – New People’s Army (CPP-NDF-NPA).

This was the message made by AFP Chief of Staff Gen Rey Leonardo Guerrero that was released by AFP spokesperson MGen Restituto Padilla.

The AFP also assured the public that it will continue with its mandate to protect our communities from the threat of Communist terrorist.

In the past few weeks, the NPA has been consistent with its terroristic activities, like the ambush they did last November 9 on a police vehicle in Bukidnon that killed a police officer, and unfortunately brutally killing a 4-month old child that was hit by stray bullets.

The AFP is calling on the public to support the Peace and Development efforts of the government, that was previously hampered by attacks and sabotage by the NPA’s, by depriving them of any assistance or refuge. Any information that could lead to the arrest, surrender or defeat of the communist terrorist would mean a difference in our fight for a more peaceful and developing nation. **AFP PAO/MCAG**

www.pna.gov.ph

## Military plays key role in Marawi rehab: AFP chief

By Priam Nepomuceno November 22, 2017, 4:24 pm

**MANILA** -- Aside from winning the fight against the Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) plays a key role in the ongoing efforts to rehabilitate and reconstruct the war-torn city.

"The role of the military as far as rebuilding Marawi is concerned is two folds, one is the maintenance of security and peace and order and the other is the support that we can provide as far as rebuilding and recovery efforts are concerned," AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero said in a press briefing in Marawi Wednesday.

By support, the AFP chief was referring to ongoing clearing operations in the so-called Main Battle Area, recovering cadavers and unexploded ordnance left by the Maute terrorists.

Military units in Marawi City are also helping in the post-conflict needs assessment being conducted by Joint Task Force "Bangon Marawi" headed by Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council headed by Secretary Eduardo Del Rosario, Guerrero added.

"Just recently our ground commander (1st Infantry Division commander) Brig. Gen. Rosseler Murillo has already (given) the go-signal for our teams, post conflict needs assessment teams to enter the area for them to be able to conduct their business," the AFP chief added.

An estimated 933 Maute Group terrorists and their allies were reported killed in the five-month campaign to retake the city from the lawless elements.

On the other hand, 165 government troops and 47 civilians were also killed in the conflict which started after security operatives tried to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader and ISIS emir in Southeast Asia, Isnifon Hapilon, last May 23.

Fighting was only declared over after the military confirmed the death of Hapilon and Maute Group co-founder Omar Maute last October 23. **(PNA)**

www.pna.gov.ph

## AFP gears up for possible NPA attacks after peace talks cancellation

By Priam Nepomuceno November 22, 2017, 4:10 pm

**MANILA** -- Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief-of-Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero said the military would do its best to protect and defend all peace-loving communities from the attacks of the communist rebels.

This after President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the cancellation of all planned meetings aimed at reviving the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) Wednesday following a series of atrocities conducted by the rebels.

"We support the President's decision to cancel talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF and will continue to safeguard our communities against attacks by the NPAs," he added.

In line with this, Guerrero urged the public to continue supporting the AFP's peace and development efforts.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza, in a statement, said atrocities and other violent incidents committed by the rebels forced the Chief Executive to come about with the decision cancelling all planned meetings with the rebel group.

"Recent tragic and violent incidents all over the country committed by the communist rebels left the President with no other choice but to arrive at this decision. We take guidance from the President's recent announcements and declarations. This is an unfortunate development in our work for peace. Never before have we all reached this far in our negotiations with them," he added.

Duterte suspended the peace talks between the government and the CPP-NPA-NDF last February 4 following a series of atrocities conducted by rebel forces against unarmed security troops and civilians. *(PNA)*

www.pna.gov.ph

## DND: PRRD tired of rebels' 'double-talk' on peace

By Priam Nepomuceno November 22, 2017, 1:50 pm

**MANILA** -- President Rodrigo Duterte has had enough of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) double-talk and continued atrocities against the Filipino people, a defense official said Wednesday.

"The President has had enough of the Communist movement's penchant for double-talk and continued acts of atrocities against the Filipino people. In keeping with the President's guidance, the DND (Department of National Defense) and AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) will continue to vigorously pursue operations against their armed components," DND public affairs office chief Arsenio Andolong said after Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza announced the cancellation of planned meetings to revive peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF.

Dureza, in a statement, said that atrocities and other violent incidents committed by the rebels forced the Chief Executive to decide to cancel all planned meetings with the CPP-NPA-NDF.

"Recent tragic and violent incidents all over the country committed by the communist rebels left the President with no other choice but to arrive at this decision. We take guidance from the President's recent announcements and declarations. This is an unfortunate development in our work for peace. Never before have we all reached this far in our negotiations with them," he added.

Peace talks between the Philippine government and the CPP-NPA-NDF were suspended last Feb. 4 following a series of atrocities conducted by rebel forces against unarmed security troops and civilians. **(PNA)**