

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



**TEAM ARMY**

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

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**OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**02 October 2017**

**Monday**

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

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BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 2, 2017 | MONDAY

**LOW PRESSURE AREA**  
410 KM WEST-NORTHWEST OF  
CORON, PALAWAN  
(As of 4:00 AM - October 1, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>SUNRISE</b>       | <b>SUNSET</b>    |
| 5:46 AM              | 5:45 PM          |
| <b>MOONRISE</b>      | <b>MOONSET</b>   |
| 3:20 PM              | 2:24 AM          |
| <b>FIRST QUARTER</b> | <b>FULL MOON</b> |
| SEP 26<br>10:54 AM   | OCT 6<br>2:40 AM |
| <b>LOW TIDE</b>      | <b>HIGH TIDE</b> |
| MANILA SOUTH HARBOR  |                  |
| 3:02 PM              | 6:58 AM          |
| 0.16 Meter           | 0.97 Meter       |

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

2017 OCT 1 OCT 2 OCT 3 OCT 4 OCT 5 OCT 6

|                     |            |            |                        |            |            |                       |            |            |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>METRO MANILA</b> | 24 - 32 °C | 25 - 32 °C | <b>TAGAYTAY</b>        | 21 - 29 °C | 21 - 29 °C | <b>TACLOBAN</b>       | 24 - 32 °C | 24 - 32 °C |
| <b>TUGUEGARAO</b>   | 24 - 32 °C | 24 - 32 °C | <b>LEGAZPI</b>         | 24 - 32 °C | 24 - 31 °C | <b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b> | 24 - 32 °C | 24 - 31 °C |
| <b>LAOAG</b>        | 25 - 33 °C | 25 - 31 °C | <b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b> | 25 - 30 °C | 25 - 31 °C | <b>METRO DAVAO</b>    | 25 - 32 °C | 25 - 32 °C |
| <b>BAGUIO</b>       | 17 - 26 °C | 17 - 25 °C | <b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>  | 25 - 32 °C | 25 - 32 °C | <b>ZAMBOANGA</b>      | 25 - 32 °C | 25 - 33 °C |
| <b>SBMA/CLARK</b>   | 25 - 31 °C | 25 - 31 °C | <b>METRO CEBU</b>      | 25 - 30 °C | 25 - 31 °C |                       |            |            |

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11 AM & 5 PM

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

02 October 2017

INQUIRER

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# DUTERTE WON'T SUBMIT TO OMBUDSMAN PROBE

STORY BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

The President says allegations that he had amassed billions in unexplained wealth are fabricated and the evidence illegally obtained, as he challenges the Ombudsman and the Chief Justice to resign along with him.

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## FROM A1

By Philip C. Tubeza  
@pctubezaINQ

President Duterte on Saturday night said he was not submitting himself to the jurisdiction of the Office of the Ombudsman, a constitutional body investigating allegations that he had amassed more than a billion pesos in unexplained wealth.

Mr. Duterte said submitting himself to the agency's jurisdiction would be a "lousy thing" to do, claiming that the allegations against him were fabricated and the evidence illegally obtained.

In a speech before the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Davao City, Mr. Duterte also challenged Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales to "resign" with him.

He added that he would let the military decide should he and the Ombudsman not agree on the outcome of a case that he was encouraging men in uniform, who had been "unjustly convicted" by the Ombudsman, to file against the agency.

Reacting to the President's earlier threat to form a commission that would investigate the Office of the Ombudsman, Morales on Friday said Mr. Duterte had nothing to fear if he had nothing to hide.

## 'Onion-skinned'

The President also defended himself from criticism from IBP national president Abdiel Dan Elijah Fajardo that he was being "onion-skinned."

Mr. Duterte said he had the constitutional right to reply to the allegations against him and to protect the honor of his family.

"You just say, 'Do not be onion-skinned.' Who are you to tell me in the face of fabricated evidence?" he said.

Mr. Duterte said the allegations against him were "fabricated and the evidence illegally obtained" by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Arthur Carandang.

Inhibiting herself from the case, Morales has authorized Carandang to investigate the bank transactions of the President and his family based on the complaint filed by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV against the President.

Morales is an aunt of Mr. Duterte's son-in-law, Manases Carpio, the husband of Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio.

"Waving fabricated evidence in front, lying through his teeth in front of the nation. And then you want me to submit to the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman and who will now investigate?" the President said.

Mr. Duterte said he would have the National Bureau of Investigation look into alleged corruption in the Office of the Ombudsman, particularly in cases involving policemen and soldiers.

He said he would talk to the policemen, soldiers and generals who were “unjustly convicted” after the Ombudsman filed cases against them.

#### **Military as arbiter**

“I will encourage them to file a case. And when the time comes, if we cannot agree with each other, then let us decide to submit it to the Armed Forces because there will be trouble,” said the President, who is also the Commander in Chief of all military forces.

He told Carandang to pray.

“I’m not threatening you. But if the Philippines goes to the dogs, I will go after you first,” he said.

Mr. Duterte said he would have Carandang, and not Morales, summoned before the NBI investigation.

“But certainly this Carandang, I can summon him because he committed a crime. Not an administrative one. I’m not trying him, because I’m not a judge. But he has to answer for this, or else, I will go there and bring him to the NBI,” he added.

Following the President’s threats, Trillanes on Sunday called on the people and cause-oriented groups to rally behind Morales and Carandang so that they would be able to fulfill their duty to hold liable corrupt officials.

In a statement, Trillanes told Mr. Duterte “to stop making threats against people who are standing for the truth and what is right.”

He urged Mr. Duterte not to hide under the power of the presidency.

“Be man enough to face the accusations against you. If you are not hiding anything, sign a [bank] waiver so that the truth would be known,” he said.

#### **Challenge to Sereno, Morales**

As for Sereno and Morales, the President accused the two officials of “letting themselves be used” against his administration and challenged them to resign along with him.

“I said I am ready to lose the presidency, my honor, my life and the presidency. I now challenge Carpio (Morales) to resign with me, and this Supreme Court justice,” Mr. Duterte said.

He also accused the Ombudsman of selective justice. “Why is it that our cases that are not even true are being (investigated) first?”

Investigations by the Office of the Ombudsman are being deliberately delayed for a fee so some corruption cases would not stand a chance at the Sandiganbayan, Deputy Minority Leader Harry Roque Jr. of the Kabayan party-list group said on Sunday.

Mr. Duterte did not initially name Sereno, but he castigated the Chief Justice later in his speech, alleging she was “corrupt.”

“I challenge the two [Sereno and Morales]. We will go to Congress (and), in a simple cere-

mony, we sign the letter of resignation ... then let us open all the books, including yours,” he said.

“Who will decide? The Armed Forces and the police will decide it for us so that the country will not descend into chaos,” the President said.

He said his critics were accusing him of having over a billion pesos because they “added up” the different transactions involving his bank accounts.

#### **Corona precedent**

“They counted it all over again. What happened to Corona is happening to me,” Mr. Duterte said, referring to the bank transactions of former Chief Justice Renato Corona that were totaled by a prosecution witness at his impeachment trial.

At the Senate impeachment trial in 2012, Corona was found guilty of not declaring certain bank deposits in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth, and was subsequently ousted.

Mr. Duterte said his life savings did not go beyond P40 million, including the wealth he inherited from his parents.

“I could not have survived 22 years (in politics) if you, who are Davao residents, know that I am a thief,” he said in his speech in Davao City.

Under the Constitution, the President is immune from suits while in office. Mr. Duterte can be sued once his term ends.

—WITH REPORTS FROM VINCE F. NONATO AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO INQ

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# Rody dares Sereno, Morales: Let's resign

## *Morales ignores call; Sereno won't comment*

By EDITH REGALADO and ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte dared Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales to resign with him as he vowed not to recognize the investigation to be conducted by the anti-graft body on his alleged ill-gotten wealth.

Duterte accused both Morales and Sereno of corruption.

He also slammed Morales for "selective justice," claiming that while it is looking into accusations that he has unexplained wealth, it sat on similar complaints involving other officials in the past.

"I will not submit jurisdiction to the ombudsman because it's a lousy thing," the President said in an expletive-laden speech during the oath-taking of new officers of the Integrated Bar of the Phil-

ippines (IBP) local chapter in Davao City last Saturday.

"How come the complaints against us were prioritized - the complaints against us that are not true?" he asked.

Duterte said Morales and Sereno have allowed themselves to be used in efforts to destroy him and eventually oust him from office.

He said it would be best for the three of them to just step down together because they seemed to be the ones causing

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## Rody dares From Page 1

trouble for the country.

"I will not die if I lose the presidency," Duterte said.

"I challenge the two, we will go to Congress, in a simple ceremony, we sign the letter of resignation. *Sige nga* (Come on). Then let us open all the books, including yours," Duterte added.

Duterte said he would allow the security forces to step in if they fail to reach an agreement.

"Who will decide? The Armed Forces and the police will decide it for us so that the nation would not plunge into chaos," he said.

Duterte has been under fire for his war on drugs and his refusal to sign waivers so the public could scrutinize his bank accounts. The ombudsman is investigating his alleged ill-gotten wealth as claimed by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

Duterte then turned the tables on the ombudsman and said he would have the anti-graft body investigated instead. Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone said there is no law barring the ombudsman from being investigated as well.

"The Armed Forces knows this because I gave money to the policemen who were charged before. I asked money from friends, 'help them because the ombudsman investigator is asking money from them,'" the President said.

Duterte said he would order the military to make an inventory of the policemen and soldiers who had to pay investigators in exchange for the dismissal of their cases.

"I will ask for the records and I will have (them) analyzed, and I will talk to the policemen, I will talk to the generals, and I will talk to the people who were unjustly convicted. And I will encourage them to file a case. And when the time comes, if we cannot agree with each other, then let us decide to submit it to the Armed Forces because there will be chaos," the President said.

While he has to deal with a lot of criticisms, the President has escaped an impeachment case at the House of Representatives filed by Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejandro, who accused the President of

having a hand in the killings related to the drug war as well as sacrificing the country's territory to China. This gives him immunity from impeachment for a year.

Protests against his drug war and alleged extrajudicial killings have also fallen short of asking him to step down from office.

On the other hand, while the Palace is denying a hand in the impeachment complaints against Sereno and Morales, critics said Duterte and his allies were out to push them out of the way for being uncooperative.

The House has found the impeachment case against Sereno "sufficient in form and substance" based on various grounds while Morales is also facing impeachment complaints.

Duterte also raised in his speech the allegation against Sereno that she did not declare the P37-million professional fee she received as a private lawyer who represented the government in the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. case.

### No comment

Morales and Sereno opted not to respond to the latest tirades of the President.

"The Office has already stated its position, to abide by its constitutional duty," Morales said.

"No need to add more," Morales, who earlier stated that her office would not be intimidated by Duterte, stressed.

Sereno's lawyer and spokesman, Carlo Cruz, said Sereno would not issue any statement. Sereno's camp has earlier denied the allegations against her and said she would resign.

### Duterte warns Carandang

Duterte also lambasted overall Deputy Ombudsman Arthur Carandang, who said a fact-finding investigation would be conducted to look into Trillanes' claims as the President indeed had millions in his bank accounts.

But the Anti-Money Laundering Council has denied being the source of the documents attached in Trillanes' complaint. It also described the total amount in the alleged bank accounts as "wrong and misleading" because the debits and credits representing the outflows and inflows of funds were added together.

Duterte warned Carandang that he would blame him if the situation in the

country deteriorates.

"Imagine this, Carandang, *magdasal ka lang* (just pray), Carandang. I'm not threatening you. *Pagka nagkal\*\*\*\* - I\*\*\*\* ang Pilipinas, uunahin kita* (If the Philippines goes to the dogs, I will deal with you first)," the President said without elaborating.

### IBP also slammed

The President likewise assailed the IBP for releasing a statement asking him not to be onion-skinned when accused of wrongdoing.

In the statement, the IBP, the official organization of all Philippine lawyers, reminded Duterte that public office is a "public trust" and a government official holds his life open to public scrutiny.

The IBP also described as "constitutionally suspect" the creation of a body that effectively defeats the independence and flexibility needed by the Ombudsman in the discharge of her duties.

The group's remarks did not sit well with Duterte, who insisted that he could not remain silent in the face of what he called "fabricated" evidence.

"Onion-skinned, you repeat a lie every day... If I tell that everyday, can you bear

it?" the President said.

"What about my children? Onion-skinned? Will I tell them 'you adopt the hide of a bull, or a carabao, or a rhinoceros. Son of a b\*\*\*\* Onion-skinned? Everyone is onion-skinned including my grandchildren. You will call me onion-skinned for a fabricated hundreds of billions," he added.

Duterte claimed that the allegations against him constitute an attack against his honor.

"Have you forgotten that there is honor? What if I tell you that her children are not yours because she committed infidelity? What will you do? That is an attack against honor," he said.

Duterte insisted that the income of his family came from legitimate sources. He said his partner Honeylet supplies meat in market stalls while his family owns a lumber yard.

"(Can we not) persevere in this life to make a living?" the President said.

At the end of his speech, Duterte apologized to IBP members for his outbursts and assured them that he would not condone any form of corruption. – **With Michael Punongbayan, Edu Punay, Delon Porcalla**



02 October 2017

The Manila Times

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## Army uncovers BIFF graves in Maguindanao

**SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao:** The Philippine Army discovered at least 10 gravesites of slain members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Datu Salibo town of Maguindanao.

Troops of the 57th Infantry Battalion (57th IB) and members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front Task Force Ittihad under Commander Khem on Thursday overran the BIFF encampment in Barangay Tee, Datu Salibo and found a cadaver in what was believe to be used as a graveyard of the bandits.

Also seized were four improvised explosive devices, a home-

made M79 grenade launcher, two M14 rifles, an M16 rifle, and an Islamic State flag.

The military said the cadaver belongs to Ansari Alimama, a BIFF member from Butig, Lanao del Sur. It was turned over to Datu Salibo Police Station for disposition.

Major Gen. Arnel dela Vega, Joint Task Force Central commander, said personnel of the 32nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal team of the 2nd Mechanized Battalion also carried out safety procedure on the recovered explosives.

**JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL**

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## 52 NPA rebels surrender in September

Fifty-two New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas surrendered to the military in September, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) bared yesterday.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo attributed the surrender of the guerrillas to the intensified

military operations against the rebel group. He also expects more surrenderees in the coming months.

"The surge of NPA surrenderees over the past month is a positive result of the AFP's robust and incessant combined intelligence, combat and civil-military operations," Arevalo said.

"It is also a product of the active cooperation of our stakeholders, particularly of the support given by the communities and local government units within our areas of operation," he said.

The AFP said the surrender indicated the weakening of the communist movement and

its political arm, the National Democratic Front.

The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"The surrenderees said they have been experiencing hardships within the organization," Arevalo said.

– Michael Punongbayan

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Army infantry members celebrate after their graduation at Camp Melchor dela Cruz in Gamu, Isabela on Friday.

ARTEMIO DUMLAO



02 October 2017

The Manila Times

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## Troops hear Mass as Marawi fighting wanes

THE war in Marawi City has waned, a military commander said on Sunday, allowing government troops to hear Mass for the first time since the battle with the IS-linked Maute group erupted more than four months ago.

No new casualties were reported on this day, although the military continued to operate in the capital of Lanao del Sur, carefully clearing the area of improvised explosive devices (IED) left behind by fleeing Maute members.

"Our operations continue but so far, there is no change to our casualty figures," Col Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Joint Task Group Ranao, said in an interview on Sunday.

Asked if the war would end Sunday, Sept. 30, as had been expected "No, it will not end by [Sunday]," he replied.

Brawner said, however, resistance from the enemy was "waning," compared with its strength in the early days of the fighting that first erupted on May 23 when Islamist extremists sought to establish an independent state.

That "act of rebellion" had prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law in Mindanao, which Congress extended until December.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana acknowledged the fierceness of the war could not simply end by virtue of

► **MassA2**

### MASS FROM A1

## Marawi war still on

deadline, saying it might drag on further.

"Marawi City's complete liberation from pro-ISIS Maute terrorists is not going to happen on September 30," he said.

"The fierce war for Marawi that has raged for over four months may still drag on for 10 to 15 days," Lorenzana said in an interview on radio dzBB on Saturday.

This is not the first time that the government has set deadlines to the ongoing clashes in Marawi City.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) commander, said the war would be over in August while Lorenzana said it would end in September.

Based on the latest figures released by the military, the war has claimed the lives of 749 Maute members, 155 soldiers and 47 civilians. Recovered were 714 firearms.

About 300 government troops and officers attended the Mass held at the St. Mary's Cathedral

inside the war-torn city.

Among the ranking officials present were Maj. Gen. Danilo Pamonag, commander of Task Force Trident; Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division; and Brig. Gen. Melquiades Ordiales Jr., commander of Joint Task Group Tiger.

Brawner said the Mass was held since it was also the feast day of St. Therese, the patron saint of the military.

"So, the Mass was held since we are asking for blessings so that this war would be over soon and that our troops would be safe," he said.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian visited

the troops in Marawi on Sunday and pledged to help in releasing the budget for its rehabilitation.

Gatchalian is chairman of the Senate committee on economic development in charge with the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

"He (Gatchalian) visited the IDPs (internally displaced persons) and came here to find out how he can help further with the rehabilitation," Brawner said.

He said that aside from Marawi, there were also IDPs at Kagiaran, Lanao del Norte.

Galvez met Gatchalian, who joined soldiers in a boodleflight at the WestMinCom.

**DEMPSEY REYES**

02 October 2017



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# Sound of war blends with Marawi Mass hymns

MARAWI CITY—In a gathering that was both rich in symbolism and reminders of war's evils, at least 300 soldiers attended Mass at a church that represented religious tolerance in this predominantly Muslim city and which Islamic State (IS) followers desecrated to show their disdain for Christianity.

With sunlight piercing the bullet holes on its galvanized iron roof, the St. Mary's Cathedral came to life anew for the first time since war broke out on May 23 between government forces and hometown IS groups—Maute and Abu Sayyaf—that tried to establish an IS province.

The Mass, celebrated by a military chaplain, went on as gunfire and explosions outside the cathedral provided a booming background noise to prayers and hymns.

## Coincidences

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the anti-terrorism Joint Task Force Lanao, said the Mass was celebrated while government forces continued their assault on IS positions.

The Mass, which started at 7 a.m., was held in the same cathedral where the city's highest Catholic official, Vicar General Fr. Teresito Soganub, and 10 others were kept as captives by IS. The cathedral had been recently liberated by the Army

from terrorists.

Brawner said the celebration of Mass on Sunday also coincided with the feast of St. Therese, patron saint of soldiers. It also came on the fourth anniversary of the military's liberation of Zamboanga City

from followers of Moro leader Nur Misuari.

St. Mary's Cathedral, which had become a symbol of peaceful coexistence between Muslims and Catholics in the city, had been retaken by government soldiers on Aug. 25

after it became among the first structures ravaged by the terrorists.

Scenes of pillage unfolded as soldiers entered the cathedral to hear Mass. Catholic icons were scattered everywhere alongside bullet shells. Once

shiny floor tiles had been broken to pieces. IS had tried to raze the church.

## Mission continues

The cathedral was freed from occupation by IS a day after soldiers drove the terrorists away from the Islamic Center and Grand Mosque, two key Islamic facilities.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, then speaking for Joint Task Force Marawi, said that like the cathedral, the mosque had also been desecrated by Maute gunmen.

But the cathedral took the brunt of the attacks. Services at St. Mary's had to be put on hold until soldiers finished rebuilding some facilities and removing unexploded bombs and booby traps. —REPORTS FROM JEOFFREY MAITEM AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ

02 October 2017



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# Deadline to liberate Marawi City missed anew

By Mario J. Mallari

The government missed its latest "deadline" the other day to wrest control of Marawi City from pro-Islamic State terror groups.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, after the troops captured the White Mosque at the main battle area on Thursday, said that the conflict may be over by yesterday.

The defense chief actually said that he was told by ground commanders that the siege would end Sept. 30.

Even President Duterte expressed hopes that the siege

would be over by the end of last month.

But as of yesterday, reports showed that firefights are still ongoing in some parts of Marawi

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City and no declaration was made by the military that the Islamic City has been liberated from the IS-inspired terrorists.

Latest data from the military showed that a total of 749 terrorists and 155 government troops had been killed since the siege erupted last May 23. Forty-seven civilians have also died while 1,733 more have been rescued.

For several weeks now, government authorities have been saying that the siege is coming to an end with the military already on its "final push" against the IS-inspired terrorists.

Earlier, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año expressed confidence that the conflict will be over before he retires on Oct. 26 when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56.

Several "deadlines" have been set previously by government officials in ending the Marawi City siege which has been dragging for more than four months now.

During the early stages of the siege, there was so much confusion regarding the real situation on the

ground – with the military initially claiming that the conflict erupted when they attempted to arrest Isnailon Hapilon, the designated emir or leader of the IS in Southeast Asia.

It turned out, however, as evidenced by the continued resistance of the terrorists, that the occupation of Marawi City is well-planned – with the enemies managing to store huge cache of ammunition and high-powered firearms to key positions in the city.

Initially, the military said that only around 40 terrorists were involved in the siege only to account for more than 740 kills while resistance is still ongoing.

Ironically, Año urged military information officers to reject disinformation and deliberate sowing of confusion during a recent summit.

"I strongly urge our public affairs practitioners to continue to tell the truth. Refuse to be dragged into the trend of disinformation and deliberate sowing of confusion," General Año said.

The AFP chief also asked the participants of the two-day gathering not to feed the hatred, and instead "exhaust efforts to

present facts, value respect, and appreciate criticisms in the AFP's quest for an informed public and an elevated discourse."

## Slain terrorists rise to 749

The number of Maute group terrorists in the ongoing clearing operations in Marawi City has now climbed to 749.

According to Joint-Task Force Lanao deputy commander Col. Romeo Brawner, figures as of 6 a.m. Saturday showed an increase of 13 from Friday's data.

Civilians killed and executed by the lawless elements are still at 47 while rescued residents are at 1,733.

Recovered firearms are now at 714 while number of slain government troops are now at 155 or two higher than Friday's figures.

"Government forces will fight harder to accomplish the following the soonest possible time so that the rehabilitation of Marawi can continue unhampered: Rescue the remaining hostages, neutralize the Maute-ISIS terrorists and regain control of the whole Marawi City," Brawner said.

Fighting in Marawi City broke out after a botched attempt to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnailon Hapilon last May 23.

Earlier, Lorenzana said lives of surrendering Maute terrorists will be spared provided they surrender peacefully.

Lorenzana gave to assurance to Lanao Del Sur 2nd District Rep. Mauyag Papandayan who told him that some of the surviving terrorists have expressed their willingness to surrender.

"I told him (Papandayan) no problem, in fact Western Mindanao Command troops are going around with bullhorns daily in Marawi City (urging them to surrender). If they want to surrender, then they must come out with their hands up and our soldiers will not kill them, our troops don't kill surrendering people," Lorenzana said.

And once these terrorists surrender, the DND chief said it is up to the courts to determine what kind of charges and sanctions to be meted against them.

Earlier, Lorenzana said Maute Group resistance in Marawi City could crumble within three days time after another enclave of the terrorists, the White Mosque, was captured earlier Thursday.

He also estimated the remaining bandits to be around less than 100.

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## Not today, says military on end of Marawi conflict

BY VICTOR REYES

FIGHTING between soldiers and Maute Group members in Marawi City was still raging as of yesterday, negating projections made by President Duterte that the conflict would end by Saturday, and by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana who said it would be over by yesterday.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the military's Joint Task Force Ranao based in Marawi City, said government troops continued to assault enemy positions yesterday and could not say when operations to rid the city of about 50 Maute remnants would be over.

"It's still ongoing. Definitely, it's not going to be today," he said.

Brawner said the remnants, who are holding 40 to 50 hostages, continue to put up resistance in the main battle area which he said was less than nine hectares, although the resistance is not as strong compared to the early stage of the Marawi City siege which started on May 23.

On September 19, President Duterte said the fighting in Marawi City may be over within that month. Duterte said then the troops were on mopping-up operations. Last Wednesday, Lorenzana said the conflict may end by Sunday, citing assessments by military ground commanders. The following day, Lorenzana reiterated his projection, saying the size of the battle ground is down to one "one big block."

The conflict has resulted in the death of 749 Maute members, 155 soldiers and policemen, and 47 civilians. It has also led to the rescue of 1,733 civilians and recovery of 714 firearms.

Asked when the fighting will be over, Brawner said: "Let's just wait for what the SND (secretary of national defense) will say."

Yesterday morning, a military priest celebrated Mass at the St. Mary's Cathedral which was regained from Maute control on August 25. Brawner said it was the first Mass at the cathedral since the fighting broke out. The Mass was attended by around 300 soldiers, led by Joint Task Force Marawi commander Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista. During the mass, sounds of artillery assets delivering high-explosive rounds on enemy positions and gunfire could be heard.

"Mass held at St. Mary's Cathedral today, October 1, 7 a.m. while assaults of government forces on Maute-ISIS defensive positions are ongoing. Shots can be heard on videos," said Brawner, referring to short videos he recorded.

The Mass was held also to celebrate the feast of St. Therese, a patron saint of the military. It also marked the fourth anniversary of the liberation of parts of Zamboanga City from rogue members of the Moro National Liberation Front after several weeks of fighting.

Brawner said the military prayed the fighting in Marawi would end the soonest time possible and for the safety of the troops battling the Maute for the past 132 days.

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## Maute Group now less than 50, resistance has become 'weaker' —AFP

THE number of ISIS-inspired Maute Group members fighting in Marawi City has dwindled to less than 50, a military official said on Sunday.

Joint Task Force Lanao deputy commander Col. Romero Brawner said the terrorist group's re-

sistance has also become weaker even as the government failed to meet its Sept. 30 target announced by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana for ending the Marawi siege.

"Not yet. Not today," Brawner said.

A mass was held on Sunday at the Saint Mary's Cathedral for the first time since the Maute group attacked the city four months ago.

"Today [Sunday] is also the feast of St. Therese, one of the patron saints of the military. So we are

also seeking divine blessing so we can end this conflict as soon as possible," Brawner said.

A total of 749 members of the Maute group have been killed by government troops since the start of the conflict, while 155 security forces were slain

in action.

Last week, Lorenzana assured Maute members planning to surrender that they will not be killed if they decide to yield themselves.

"We will not kill people who are surrendering. Our soldiers are not murder-

ers," Lorenzana said.

He said Lanao del Sur Rep. Mauyag Papan-dayan, chairman of the House Committee on Muslim Affairs, told him during the Marawi briefing that there were Maute members who have sent surrender feelers.



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# Military expects more rebels to surrender

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is expecting that more members from the New People's Army (NPA) will lay down their arms and surrender to the government.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo yesterday said this is just one of the many effects from the surrender of 52 communist rebels in September.

"The surge of NPA surrenders over the past month is a positive result of the AFP's robust and incessant combined intelligence, combat and civil-military operations. It is also a product of the active cooperation of our stakeholders, particularly of the support given by the communities and local government units within our areas of operation," he said

in a statement.

President Rodrigo Duterte, in his recent public speeches, even offered NPA rebels their own houses and join the military as soldiers should they lay down their weapons and surrender to the government.

"It is apparent through the statement of those who surrendered that their comrades

are now experiencing hardships within their organization, and they are willing to avail of the opportunities being offered by the government to former NPA rebels," the military official added.

Some seven communist rebels voluntarily surrendered and turned over two AK-47 rifles and a .45 cal. Remington to the Joint Task Force

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## From page 1

ZamPelau in Zamboanga Sibugay on September 20.

Meanwhile, the surrender of nine other NPA rebels to troops of the 33rd Infantry Battalion in Sultan Kudarat on September 23 yielded six improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

At present, the government offers financial and livelihood aid to rebel returnees under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP).

Meanwhile, a corresponding amount of assistance with additional capital will be given to former rebels who surrender firearms for their livelihood to help them go back to the fold of the law.

Arevalo said the operations against communist insurgents continue, noting that "the AFP has already neutralized 566 communist terrorists since the termination of peace talks on February 4, 2017."

Of this number, 378 voluntarily surrendered to military units or to local government units

within northeastern Mindanao, he stressed.

Ongoing combat operations led to the death of 118 NPA fighters, arrest 70 members, recovery of 159 firearms.

Meanwhile, a total of 133 weapons were surrendered or turned over by the rebels to government troops.

"The leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines salutes our brave soldiers on the field who continue to risk their lives in order to stop the violent activities being perpetrated by the communist terrorists New People's Army against our innocent citizens," AFP chief of staff General Eduardo Año said.

The NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front, has been fighting for many decades now in an effort to overthrow the democratic government and install a Maoist state in the country.

Government peace talks with the rebels has failed and fighting continues in many areas in the country.

**PNA**

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Marawi evacuees assured of peace as caravan from Baguio reaches Iligan

By **MARTIN A. SADONGDONG**

**ILIGAN CITY, Lanao del Norte** — Hundreds of internally displaced persons (IDPs) or "bakwits" and peace

advocates gathered at the public plaza here as the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)'s "Peace Buzz: Byaheng Kapayapaan" caravan reached its final **►4**

## Marawi evacuees assured... ◀1

destination, after travelling all the way from Baguio City in Northern Luzon.

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza, who had another meeting in Davao City, stressed in a video message that with the Filipinos' unified efforts and prayers, the rebuilding of structures damaged in the Marawi siege could be hastened.

"Dapat tayo ay isang dasal ang gagawin dahil isang mithiin lang ang in-aasam natin – kapayapaan. Hindi kayo pababayaan ng gobyerno. The social healing will start at sana ay magkaisa tayo sa gawain na ito," he said. "The work for peace is not only every September; it is a day-to-day activity."

Iligan City Mayor Celso Regencia called on the "weary and displaced" Maranaos to hang on as peace will eventually dawn in the land of Mindanao.

"All of us desire for peace. This is our dream in Mindanao. But this peace we're dreaming of is what we call 'idlas' (elusive), dili namin maabot (we cannot

achieve). We have to deliberately work together for peace so that it will finally dawn in our city, in Mindanao and in the whole Philippines."

The mayor added: "Walang kapayapaan kung hindi tayo magkakaisa (There will be no peace if we don't unite). Huwag tayo magpadiim sa takot (Let us not be held back by fear). He or she who fights to live, will live again."

Regencia said it is not only the 191,000 Marawi evacuees currently living in Iligan City who have suffered from the destruction of Marawi City but also every other Filipinos whose heart was filled with fear.

Peace is not only the absence of conflict or war, he said. "It should be based on justice, truth, and love."

OPAPP officials initiated the symbolic ringing of the Peace Gong, which was a gift by the Marawi local government unit (LGU) to Iligan LGU as a sign of gratitude for providing the victims of the siege food, shelter, job opportuni-

ties, and, most important, emotional support.

"Framed prayers" from the Cordillerans, handed over by Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan to OPAPP executives at the Peace Buzz last September 21, were turned over to Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra as a sign of their solidarity with the victims of the Marawi siege. OPAPP consultant Tom Killip handed the framed prayers.

The Peace Buzz was the highlight of OPAPP's month-long celebration of National Peace Consciousness Month in September. The theme for this year's celebration was "Puso para sa Kapayapaan, Magkaisa para sa Bayan."

Dureza said the Peace Buzz travelled nationwide to showcase the peace-building efforts of the government, raise public awareness, and promote a culture of peace through outreach programs to the public.

It was launched in Baguio City on September 21 with Cordillerans offering framed prayers for the people of Marawi, then proceeded to Quezon

City, then on to Legazpi City, Albay, where it was joined by Bb. Pilipinas Grand International 2017 and National Peace Ambassadors Elizabeth Clenci who entertained the children and disabled folks residing in Sagrada Familia Foundation.

In Samar, it dropped in Catarman, Calbayog, and Catbalogan, then moved on to Davao City, followed by stops in Cotabato City and Marawi City, and finally ending in Iligan City.

#### Mass at cathedral

In Marawi, a Holy Mass was celebrated at the Saint Mary's Cathedral which was formerly occupied by Maute Group gunmen.

The cathedral was retaken by government troops late August, following fierce gunbattles with the ISIS-influenced terrorist group.

Close to a dozen people including Catholic priest Fr. Rey Teresito "Chito" Soganub were snatched by members of the Maute Group from the church after laying siege on the city last May 23.

Videos posted online also showed some members of the Maute group

desecrating the church and destroying a number of religious items inside.

Army Colonel Romeo Brawner, the Deputy Commander of Task Force Ranao, said yesterday's mass, attended by about 200-300 soldiers, was the first Eucharistic Celebration held there since the conflict broke out.

It fell on a date significant to soldiers, the feast day of St. Therese of the Child Jesus who is the patron saint of the military.

"We asked for blessings so that our troops will be shielded from harm," Brawner said.

#### More time

Brawner said that despite earlier pronouncements by Malacanang and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana that troops could end the conflict by October 1, soldiers still need more time to liberate the city from Maute terrorists.

"Hindi, hindi ngayon araw na ito (No, no not today)," Brawner said. "We'll just have to wait what the SND (Secretary of National Defense) will say." (With a report from Francis T. Wakefield)

04 October 2017



Pahina. 3

## Mga opisyal ng AFP binawalang pumatol sa fake news

**PINAGSABIHAN** ni Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año ang mga opisyal nito na umiwas sa pagkagat o paghahayag ng maling mga impormasyon o fake news.

Ayon kay Año, hindi dapat nagpapakaladkad o gumagaya ang mga opisyal ng AFP, lalo na ang mga inatasan magbigay ng impormasyon sa publiko o ang mga nasa Public Affairs Office, sa nauusong fake news na lumilikha lamang ng kalituhan.

"I strongly urge our public affairs practitioners to continue to tell the truth. Refuse to be dragged into the trend of disinformation and deliberate so-

wing of confusion," ani General Año.

Pinagsabihan din ng AFP chief ang mga sundalo nito na huwag mapikon at sa halip ay sikaping mailatag sa publiko ang tunay na pangyayari at manindigan pa rin sa pagrespeto sa opinyon ng iba kung nakatatanggap ng mga kritisismo.

Nais din ng heneral na samantalahin at gamitin ng mga opisyal ng AFP ang mga natututunan nito mula sa mga eksperto patungkol sa social media, cybersecurity, military-media dynamics at crisis communication para higit na mabigay sa taumbayan ang makatotohanang impormasyon at serbisyo. **JEFF GALLOS**

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An Army chaplain is shown in this video grab blessing soldiers who heard Mass at the first religious service in St. Mary's Cathedral since war started in Marawi City on May 23. —PHOTO COURTESY OF JOINT TASK FORCE RANAO

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**Standard**

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**KEN BACK.** The commanders of the Joint Task Force Marawi and the Joint Special Operations Task Force Trident crossed the Bayabao and Masui bridges for the first time since the start of the Marawi siege four months ago. Authorities estimate that the number of Maute fighters left in Marawi City has dwindled to less than 50. Mark Navales

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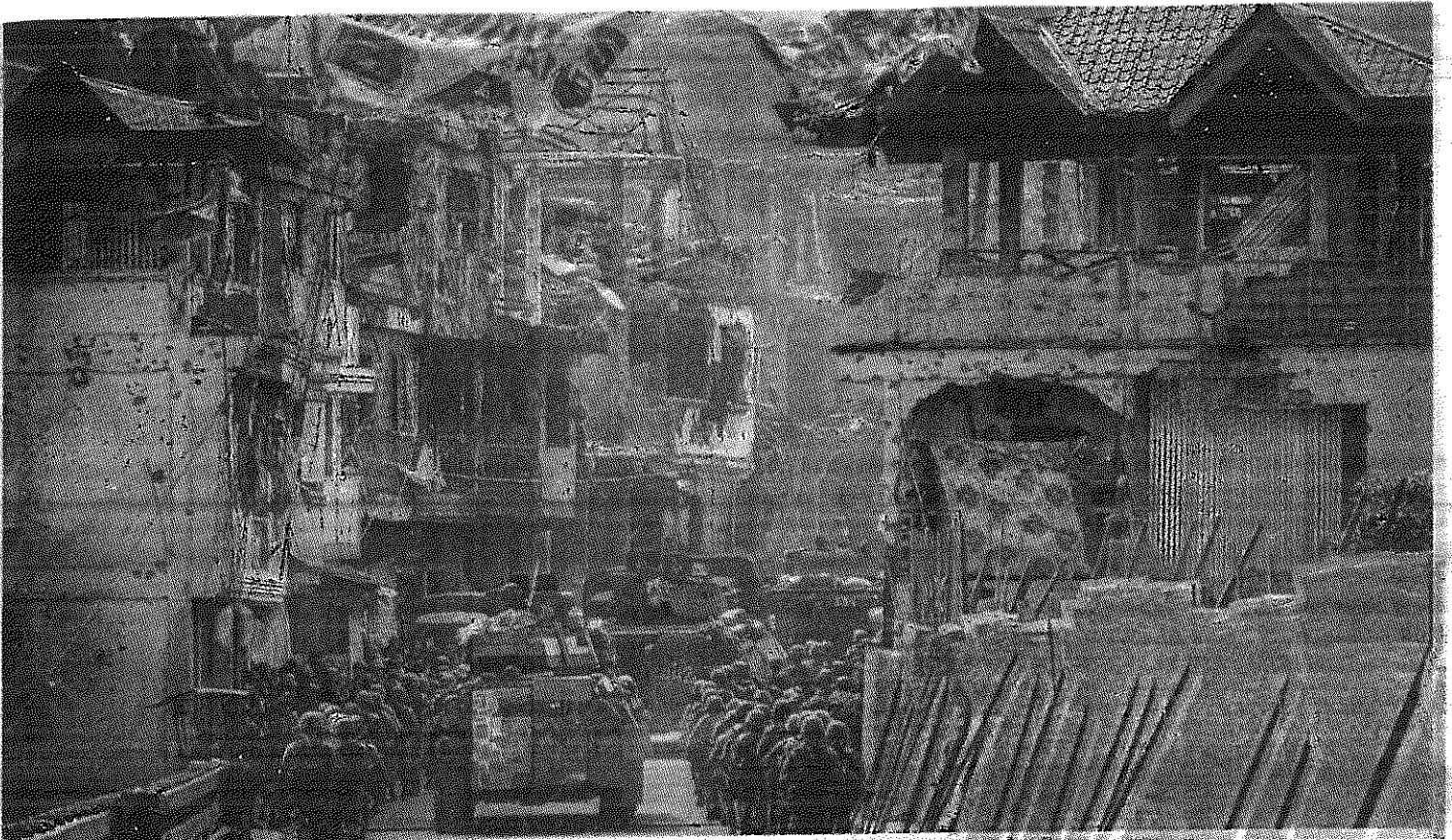


**WORSHIP RESUMES** Holy Mass is offered for the first time at the badly damaged St. Mary's Cathedral inside the war-torn city of Marawi since fighting broke out on May 23. About 300 government troops battling Maute terrorists assisted in the Eucharist.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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**No V-Day yet** Philippine Marines, marching in formation alongside armored personnel carriers, head to the frontline past damaged buildings in the Mapandi area of Marawi City as fighting between government troops and pro-Islamic State militants continues. The militants, who fly the black flag of the IS, have occupied parts of Marawi for three months now, defying airstrikes and artillery barrages, with parts of the city of 200,000 people left in ruins. AFP



## **ONLINE NEWS**

**02 OCTOBER 2017**

www.pna.gov.ph

# More NPA rebels to surrender in coming months: AFP

By Priam Nepomuceno

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday said it expects more New People's Army (NPA) members to give up and lay down their arms in the coming months.

The AFP made the statement following the surrender of 52 NPA rebels to government forces in September.

"The surge of NPA surrenders over the past month is a positive result of the AFP's robust and incessant combined intelligence, combat, and civil-military operations. It is also a product of the active cooperation of our stakeholders, particularly of the support given by the communities and local government units within our areas of operation," AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said in a statement.

"It is apparent through the statement of those who surrendered that their comrades are now experiencing hardships within their organization, and they are willing to avail of the opportunities being offered by the government to former NPA rebels," he added.

Some seven communist rebels voluntarily surrendered and turned over two AK47 rifles and a Caliber .45 Remington to the Joint Task Force ZamPeLan in Zamboanga Sibugay on September 20.

Meanwhile, the surrender of nine other NPA rebels to troops of the 33rd Infantry Battalion in Sultan Kudarat on September 23 yielded six improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

At present, the government offers financial and livelihood aid to rebel returnees under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP).

Meanwhile, a corresponding amount of assistance with additional capital will be given to former rebels who surrender firearms for their livelihood to help them go back to the fold of the law.

Arevalo added that the operations against communist insurgents continue, noting that "the AFP has already neutralized 566 communist terrorists since the termination of peace talks on February 4, 2017."

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Of this number, 378 voluntarily surrendered to military units or to the local government units within northeastern Mindanao, according to Arevalo.

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Meanwhile, a total of 133 weapons were surrendered or turned over by the rebels to government troops.

"The leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines salutes our brave soldiers on the field who continue to risk their lives in order to stop the violent activities being perpetrated by the communist terrorists New People's Army against our innocent citizens," AFP chief of staff General Eduardo Año said. *(PNA)*

www.pna.gov.ph

## Maute death toll now 749

By Priam Nepomuceno

The number of Maute group terrorists in the ongoing clearing operations in Marawi City has now climbed to 749.

According to Joint Task Force Lanao deputy commander Col. Romeo Brawner, figures are as of 6 a.m. Saturday showed an increase of 13 from Friday's data.

Civilians killed and executed by the lawless elements are still at 47 while rescued residents are at 1,733.

Recovered firearms are now at 714 while number of slain government troops are now at 155 or two higher than Friday's figures.

"Government forces will fight harder to accomplish the following the soonest possible time so that the rehabilitation of Marawi can continue unhampered: Rescue the remaining hostages, neutralize the Maute-ISIS terrorists and regain control of the whole Marawi City," Brawner said.

Fighting in Marawi City broke out after a botched attempt to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon last May 23.

Earlier, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said lives of surrendering Maute terrorists will be spared provided they surrender peacefully. (PNA)