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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

05 October 2017

Thursday

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

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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 5, 2017 | THURSDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA
235 KM EAST OF CASIGURAN, AURORA
INTER-TROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING VISAYAS
(As of 4:00 PM - October 4, 2017)

LAOAG CITY 25 - 33 °C

TUGUEGARAO CITY 24 - 32 °C

BAGUIO CITY 17 - 25

SEMA/CLARK 24 - 33 °C

METRO MANILA 24 - 32 °C

TAGAYTAY CITY 20 - 29 °C

LEGAZPI CITY 25 - 31 °C

ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 31 °C

TACLOBAN CITY 25 - 32 °C

PUERTO PRINCESA 24 - 31 °C

METRO CEBU 24 - 32 °C

GAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 33 °C

ZAMBOANGA CITY 23 - 31 °C

METRO DAVAO 24 - 32 °C

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:46 AM	5:43 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:33 PM	5:03 AM
FIRST QUARTER	FULL MOON
SEP 28 10:54 AM	OCT 5 2:49 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
4:23 PM	9:41 AM
0:24 Mister	0:05 Mister

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

METRO MANILA		TAGAYTAY		TACLOBAN	
23 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	21 - 29 °C	19 - 29 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO		LEGAZPI		GAGAYAN DE ORO	
23 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C
LAOAG		PUERTO PRINCESA		METRO DAVAO	
24 - 33 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
BAGUIO		ILOILO/BACOLOD		ZAMBOANGA	
16 - 24 °C	16 - 23 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	23 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK		METRO CEBU			
24 - 32 °C	23 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C		

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

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

05 October 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1

Duterte: Impeach Morales, Serenio

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday said he would pursue impeachment complaints against Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales and Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, accusing them of being part of a "conspiracy" to oust him through a probe into his supposed ill-gotten wealth.

"We will file an impeachment case against her (Morales) and I would tend to believe that she was part of the conspiracy, those fabricated papers," Duterte said, referring to the documents obtained by the Office of the Ombudsman from the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) regarding his and his family's bank accounts.

The President said the Ombudsman "allowed herself to be used" by Sen. An-

tonio Trillanes 4th "to bring this government or this country down to the dogs."

"She should not have gone there especially if the evidence was illegally obtained. AMLC says they didn't release it. They washed their hands. So where did they get that? Because the only source is AMLC," he added.

Duterte said the grounds for impeachment against Morales would be

►ImpeachA8

■ IMPEACH FROM A1

Duterte: Impeach Morales

“selective justice” and the “use of falsified documents.”

“She berates people for delay of justice and yet, the Ombudsman is the number one [official] who’s doing selective justice,” he claimed.

Morales’ office has started looking into the wealth of the President and his family, and is coordinating with the AMLC.

Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang maintained that his office had observed “confidentiality” concerning the investigation on Duterte and his family’s alleged unexplained wealth.

He was referring to the complaint that Trillanes filed against Duterte before the Ombudsman before the May 2016 elections.

Trillanes claimed that the former Davao City mayor had more than P2 billion in undeclared wealth in the form of deposits and credits in several bank accounts under his and his family members’ names.

Carandang said bank documents from AMLC showed that the Duterte family had over P1 billion worth of transactions in several banks from 2006 to 2016.

But in a statement issued on Thursday, the AMLC denied providing any bank records to the Ombudsman or Trillanes.

The AMLC also said it had yet to evaluate

if there were grounds to initiate an investigation into Duterte’s bank transactions.

Wrong math

Duterte has said he would not submit himself to the Ombudsman’s jurisdiction.

He said that even if the supposed bank documents were authentic, these could not be used in court because these were illegally obtained.

He also noted that the computation of his supposed bank transactions was erroneous, which was why they ran into hundreds of millions.

“*Sabi ko* (I said), ‘In the end, to their sorrow, they would discover that there’s no such things as that amount,’” the President said.

‘Luxurious lifestyle’

The President also backed efforts to impeach Sereno for alleged corruption, citing the chief justice’s supposed luxurious lifestyle.

He said Sereno was liable for graft for staying in luxury hotels when she travelled abroad, among others.

“Your problem, Sereno, is you are the one who would define yourself and the

things that you want in this life. The simple things for you, you bled the government with your attorney’s fees,” Duterte said.

The President was referring to the supposedly exorbitant fees Sereno received from the government as a lawyer in the international arbitration case involving Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, which, according to the chief justice’s critics, was not in her statement of assets, liabilities and net worth.

“I challenge them. Why don’t we go to Congress? The three of us... we will bring the passbook or the statement of the central bank. I will ask for it myself. Then let’s show it there,” Duterte said.

Sauce for the gander

Asked if his move was not tantamount to disrupting checks and balances in the government, Duterte said: “I didn’t start this ruckus.”

“Sauce for the gander is sauce for the goose. You [dismissed a store owner... from the government], so why should they exempt the chief justice?” the President added.

Sereno faces an impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Lorenzo Gadon for alleged corruption, betrayal of public trust, and culpable violations of the Constitution.

The House Committee on Justice will hold a hearing on Thursday to determine the sufficiency of grounds in the impeachment complaint against Sereno.

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Barangay, SK polls postponed

Duterte signs into law bill resetting it from Oct. 23, 2017, to May 14, 2018

By **ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS**

President Duterte on Monday signed Republic Act (RA) 10952 postponing this year's Barangay and Sangguniang

Kabataan (SK) elections from October 23, 2017, to May 14, 2018, Malacañang confirmed Wednesday morning.

An amount of ₱6,090,324,325.16 is also considered as continuing appropriations and shall be ▶4

used exclusively for the conduct of the barangay and SK registration and elections next year.

Subsequent synchronized barangay and SK elections will be held on the second Monday of May, 2020 "and every three years thereafter," based on RA 10952.

The twin elections was supposed to be held on October 31, 2016 but was postponed to October 23 this year. The decision to postpone the polls anew was due to Duterte's repeated claims that drug syndicates would take advantage of the elections.

The President has also repeatedly claimed that 40 percent of all barangay chairmen are involved in illegal drugs.

Based on the new law, all incumbent barangay and SK officials will remain in office until their successors are duly elected, or until an incumbent official is sooner "removed or sus-

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Barangay, SK polls...

◀1

pending for cause.”

“Barangay officials who are ex-officio members of the Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Panlalawigan, as the case may be, shall continue to serve as such members in the Sanggunian concerned until the next barangay

election,” it added.

Until their successors are duly elected, incumbent SK officials are prohibited from using their fund except for youth development and empowerment programs as provided for by the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015.

President Duterte had earlier agreed with the suggestion of the House of Representatives that incumbent barangay officials will be on hold-over positions until their successors are elected.

He, however, said that he is “not interested” in appointing barangay officials as suggested by the Congress.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec), meanwhile, is mandated to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the new law within 15 days after taking effect. The law will take effect immediately after being published in the Official Gazette or in two newspapers of general circulation.

Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said with the postponement, they will now have to make adjustments to their current preparations and also continue their activities for the 2019 mid-term polls.

“Adjustments will be made to

the Comelec’s current preparations, taking the new date of elections into consideration, and continuing on going activities for the 2019 exercise,” he said in a statement.

“Work goes on for us,” added Jimenez.

Still, the poll body welcomed the news of the postponement of the village and youth polls which was signed into law by President Duterte Monday.

In view of this development, Comelec Chairman J. Andres D. Bautista has ordered the suspension of all activities in relation to the Oct. 23 electoral exercise.

Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police (PNP) lifted the implementation of the gun ban following the suspension of the elections.

Supt. Vimelee Madrid, PNP deputy spokesperson, explained that the President’s signature on election postponement as automatically lifted the gun ban implementation.

Madrid explained that the conduct of checkpoint is a normal law enforcement operation with or without gun ban. In most cases, unlicensed guns are being captured in checkpoints.

From October 1 up to Wednesday morning, 52 people were arrested across the country for violating the gun ban. (With reports from Leslie Ann G. Aquino and Aaron B. Recuenco)

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Marawi general is new Army chief

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Wednesday confirmed that Major General Rolando Joselito D. Bautista has been designated as the new commanding general of the 85,000-strong Philippine Army.

Bautista is currently leading operations against Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City.

Bautista, who replaces Lt. Gen. Glorioso V. Miranda, is currently the commander of the Philippine Army's 1st Infantry (Tabak) Division based in Zamboangs and also the commander of the AFP Joint Task Force Marawi, whose main mission is to liberate the whole of Marawi City from Maute terrorists who occupied the city last May 23, 2017.

Miranda, who is set to retire from the military service on October 8 at the age of 56, assumed the top Army post on Dec 9, 2016.

According to Philippine Army spokesman Lt. Col. Rey Tiongson, Bautista will be the 59th Army chief.

He is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandiwa" Class of 1985 and former commander of the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

Tiongson said the testimonial parade and review in honor of Miranda and the Army Change of Command Ceremony will be held at Army Grandstand, Fort Andres Bonifacio, Taguig City, at 1 p.m. today.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Public Affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo described Bautista as a seasoned commander who is quiet, unassuming, and decisive and who leads his men from the front.

"These qualities, aside from his sterling combat and academic records earned for him the command of 1st Infantry "Tabak" Division after his successful stint as Brigade Commander of 104th Brigade in Basilan," Arevalo said.

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Bautista new commanding general of Army

By Marlo J. Mallari

President Duterte has named Army 1st Infantry Division (ID) chief Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista, who is leading the ongoing military offensives against Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi City, as new commanding general of the 85,000-strong Philippine Army.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandiwa" Class of 1985, Bautista was President Duterte's first appointed Presidential Security Group (PSG) commander.

Bautista will succeed Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda of PMA "Matikas" Class of 1983 who is reaching the mandatory

retirement age of 56.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, public affairs chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), welcomed the promotion of Bautista.

"The AFP welcomes the new team player in MGen Rolando Joselito Bautista – the newly designated commanding general of the Philippine Army. He has gone through all echelons of command, including that of the Presidential Security Group charged with the protection of the President and Commander-in-Chief Rodrigo Duterte," Arevalo said.

"A seasoned commander, quiet and unassuming, he is decisive

who leads his men from the front," he added.

Bautista was appointed by Duterte as his first PSG commander upon the latter's assumption as President in 2016.

As 1st ID commander, Bautista is currently leading the military's final push against the Islamic State-inspired terrorists who had laid siege in Marawi City since May 23.

Prior to his stint as PSG commander in July 2016, Bautista served as commander of the Army's 104th Brigade operating in Basilan against the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group.

Bautista bested two of his mistahs from the PMA Class of

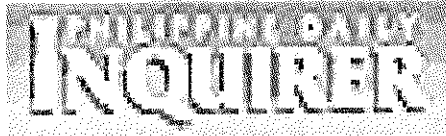


BAUTISTA

1985, namely, Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., and Southern Luzon Command head Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal.

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ISIS-MAUTE NEMESIS

MARAWI COMMANDER IS ARMY CHIEF

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday confirmed that Maj. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista is the Army chief, replacing Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda who is retiring today.

Bautista is the ground commander of the ongoing operations against Islamic State-inspired Maute-Abu Sayyaf terrorist groups that attacked Marawi City on May 23.

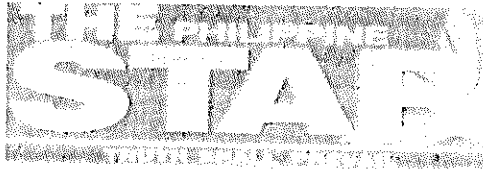
Bautista was also the first

commander of the Presidential Security Group under President Duterte.

Bautista belongs to the Philippine Military Academy "Sandiwa" Class of 1985.

"A seasoned commander, quiet and unassuming, he is decisive, who leads his men from the front. These qualities, aside from his sterling combat and academic records earned for him the command of 1st Infantry 'Tabak' Division after his successful stint as Brigade Commander of 104th Brigade in Basilan," the AFP said. INQ

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New Army chief named

President Duterte has named Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista, former Presidential Security Group commander, as chief of the Philippine Army.

Bautista is replacing Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda during today's turnover rites at the Army headquarters at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig.

Miranda, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983, will retire four days ahead of his mandatory retirement age of 56 on Oct. 8.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana confirmed Bautista's designation as Army chief. – **Jaime Laude**

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Army, cops team up against NPA

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY—The Army and the Philippine National Police (PNP) are beefing up their forces in Negros and Panay Islands to address threats posed by the New People's Army (NPA).

"We are closely coordinating our joint efforts, but we also need the help of local communities," said Maj. Gen. Jon Aying, commander of the Army 3rd Infantry Division (3ID).

The military-police coordination comes after the NPA guerrillas ambushed a police vehicle in Cauayan town, Negros Occidental, Tuesday. No policemen were hurt, but three civilians in another vehicle were wounded.

The ambush is the latest in a series of attacks carried out by the NPA the police since June 18, when rebels stormed the police station of Maasin town, Iloilo, and disarmed cops there.

On July 21, six officers were killed in an NPA ambush in Guihulngan City, Nergros Oriental.

Police units and local officials in both Negros and Panay continue to receive threats from the NPA.

Aying told Manila Bulletin that anti-insurgency measures are in place even if two battalions under the 3ID are still deployed in Marawi City.

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132 loose firearms seized in Lanao del Sur

By **NONOY E LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Warring clans in Lanao del Sur yielded more than a hundred unlicensed firearms to members of “Oplan Reaper”, which is composed of soldiers and local government officials in Lanao del Sur.

Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Spokesman Army Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay said that through the combined efforts of the Joint Task Force Central and local government units, Oplan Reaper has been able to seize 132 high-powered and low-powered firearms that belong to warring families in the coastal municipalities of Kapatagan, Balabagan, Malabang, Picong and Marogong, all in Lanao del Sur.

Oplan Reaper was formed on July 1 with the mission to address the problem of clan wars in the province that were sparked by land disputes and political differences.

Joint Task Force ZamPeLan Commander Maj Gen Arnel Dela Vega said Oplan Reaper was launched by the troops of the Sixth Infantry Battalion, with the cooperation of Development Support and Security Plan Kapayapaan of the AFP and the Ranao Ragat Inter-Agency Task Force.

The oplan was tasked to conduct “rido” settlement among warring families in the province, according to Dela Vega.

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BURNING OF TRUCKS, HEAVY EQUIPMENT

ATTACK STILL A PUZZLE AS MORE TROOPS SENT TO AIRPORT PROJECT

By Michael B. Jaucian
@InquirerSLB

DARAGA, ALBAY—Security had been tripled at the construction site of the Bicol International Airport (BIA) project days after an attack being blamed on New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas but which a project contractor doubted.

Col. Alden Juan Masagca, the Army's 901st Infantry Brigade commanding officer, said more soldiers were deployed to the project site to protect pieces of equipment, machinery and vehicles being used in the construction of what could be Bicol's biggest infrastructure project.

Masagca said soldiers would be conducting patrols 24 hours to prevent another attack.

Act of destruction

Machinery, pieces of equipment and trucks were burned during the attack on Sept. 28 blamed on NPA guerrillas. The equipment and machinery belonged to one of the contractors of the project, E.M. Cuerpo Inc.

Another contractor involved in the project, Sunwest Construction and Development Corp., lost a locally assembled jeep during the attack.

"With the presence of government troops, we would prevent another sabotage," Masagca said. The attack, he said, "delayed the program of work and what the attackers have done was really an act of destruction."

Aside from guarding the BIA project site, soldiers were also guarding other vital installations in Albay province.

Initial investigation by the military and Albay police said one of the possible motives for



Soldiers guard the perimeter of the construction site of Bicol International Airport in Daraga town, Albay province, even as residents near the area, like this farmer (top photo) drying corn on the road, seem to be unaffected by the Sept. 28 attack allegedly by communist guerrillas. —MICHAEL B. JAUCIAN

the attack was the refusal of E.M. Cuerpo Inc. to pay revolutionary tax to the guerrillas.

But Rene Cuerpo, president and CEO of the company, said he could not be a target of the guerrillas because he had not been approached by any guerrilla to demand payment of revolutionary tax.

Asked about the possibility of a rival company being behind the attack, Cuerpo said it

was very unlikely, too.

NPA guerrillas operating in Bicol had kept mum on the supposed attack on the airport project site. They normally own up to attacks.

12 No private armed groups

Asked if the attack could have been perpetrated by a private armed group (PAG), Masagca said no private armed group existed in Albay province.

"If there are PAGs being noted, maybe it is in Masbate province but only very few or most likely no more nowadays," Masagca said.

He said it was common knowledge that some contractors, especially those with projects in guerrilla zones, to negotiate with NPA to settle demands for revolutionary taxes. Masagca refused to elaborate. INQ

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INQUIRER

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8 terrorists yield with 9 hostages

By Jeffrey Maitem and Allan Nawal @inquirermindanao

MARAWI CITY—Eight gunmen believed to be members of the Maute terror group emerged from the battle zone here and surrendered to the military on Wednesday, a local official said.

The gunmen also turned over nine hostages to the military, according to Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesperson for the Lanao del Sur crisis management committee.

Adiong gave no further details, but he said the development was “clear evidence we are approaching the end of the war.”

Earlier reports said 17 hostages emerged from the battle zone as the military hit Maute positions with airstrikes.

Not confirmed by military

But the Joint Task Force Ranao said it could not confirm the reports.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the task force, said he could confirm only the surrender of three Maute gunmen and the rescue of five hostages over two weeks ago



Col. Romeo Brawner —RICHEL V. UMEI

and the rescue of Catholic priest Teresito Soganub before that.

Brawner also said he could also confirm the rescue of 1,733 hostages and civilians since May 23, when terrorists from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in the Middle East rampaged across Marawi.

The terrorists seized large parts of the city to establish an IS enclave in Southeast Asia.

More than 800 people have died in the fighting, including 155 government troops, as of Monday.

Brawner said the military had no information about the devel-

opment reported by Adiong.

“We will present them to the public if there are such hostages rescued from the front lines,” he said.

‘We’ll finish them’

Brawner said the military continued to persuade the remaining terrorists in the city to surrender.

“We are also trying to convince them to release the hostages and to surrender so that the crisis here will be over, but if they don’t want to surrender and continue fighting, our troops will finish them,” he said.

Brawner said it was likely the terrorists would eventually use the hostages as human shields to protect themselves as they escaped from Marawi.

The battle for control of the city becomes fiercer every day, as the terrorists run out of space to move, Brawner said.

He declined to say how large the remaining battle zone was but said the fighting may not last long, as the terrorists were running out of food, water, medicine and ammunition.

The military, however, could not launch a major as-

sault because that would endanger the lives of the hostages.

Going by information from escaped or rescued hostages, the military said 46 hostages, some of them children, remained in the hands of the terrorists.

“[O]ur ground commanders told us that this week is very critical,” Brawner said.

Duterte visit

President Duterte visited the troops on Monday and after getting briefed by the commanders on the situation said the battle for Marawi could be over soon.

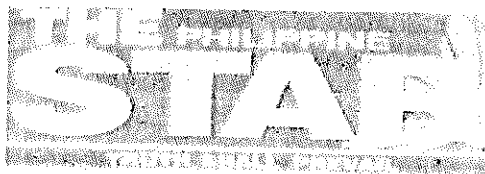
The troops are looking forward to going home and spending time with their families.

Sgt. Celso Ebanos of the Army’s 1st Scout Ranger Company said he would immediately apply for leave once the war was over.

“I have two children. My eldest is 6 and the second, 3. [My] second child had a birthday party recently and I wasn’t there,” said the 40-year-old native of Sultan Kudarat province.

Sgt. Jerry Villarosa, 38, said he was looking forward to a vacation “if my commanders will allow me to have one.” INQ

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AFP may be tapped vs int'l drug rings

By **ALEXIS ROMERO**

President Duterte alerted security forces on international syndicates behind the proliferation of illegal drugs in the Philippines as he vowed to run after groups that pose a threat to the country.

Duterte discussed the threat posed by Chinese gangsters and illegal drugs during a command conference with military officials last Tuesday at Malacañang.

"I was discussing with them about drugs, terrorism and China connections and problems that we also found in Marawi. It has nothing to do with China's government. We only have deep respect for these people," Duterte said during a dinner he hosted for columnists last

Tuesday.

"But the unfettered migration of Chinese criminals is the problem... the international gangsters are more dangerous," he added.

Saying the 14K triad based in Hong Kong and Bamboo gang of Taiwan have taken over the narcotics trade in the country, Duterte called the attention of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

"When you destroy my country, I will go after you. The act of one is the act of all. They are organized crime, peddlers... You have to fight the organization," he said.

Duterte said he has asked the military to work with the police to counter the threat posed by international drug rings.

"I told the police, how far

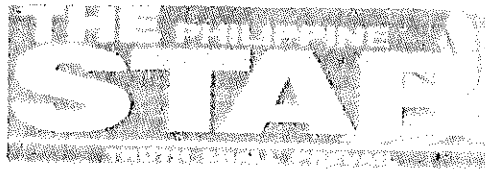
can you go? If they can't, I will just have to rely on the Army," he said.

The President also stressed that he does not mind being ousted because of his crackdown on illegal drugs, which has so far left thousands of people dead. He also gave assurance that his anti-drug campaign would run after drug offenders, regardless of their social status.

"I cannot stay beyond six years. My duty is to protect our people and country. I will not step down from the presidency being inutile, but I'd rather be ousted for doing the right thing. I am here to exact obedience, whether rich or poor," he said.

— **With Raymund Catindig, Jaime Laude, Emmanuel Tupas**

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17 Maute hostages rescued in Marawi

By ROEL PAREÑO and JAIME LAUDE

ZAMBOANGA CITY – At least 17 more civilians held hostage by the Maute group in Marawi were rescued yesterday.

Sources said five teachers of the Dansalan College were among those rescued and undergoing tactical debriefing.

Four Maute militants were also reportedly killed in the gunfight that preceded the rescue of the hostages.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana declined to give details, saying they did not want to derail ongoing efforts to rescue the remaining hostages.

Military officials had also refused to immediately confirm that Catholic priest Teresito "Chito" Sukanob was among the Maute hostages rescued by government troops last

month, saying they did not want to compromise ongoing operations.

More than 20 civilians taken by Maute militants who stormed Marawi on May 23 have yet to be rescued.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman, said the militants are now confined in an area of five to seven kilometers near Lake Lanao.

"As we have been saying, it will just be a matter of time," Arevalo said when asked when the fighting would end.

Col. Romeo Brawner, Task Group Ranao deputy commander, said several improvised bombs

and bomb materials were recovered at an abandoned house in Barangay Matampay during clearing operations yesterday.

Joint Task Group Ranao and local government personnel as well as barangay leaders have launched Brigada Marawi, a cleanup drive in seven barangays that have been cleared of Maute militants.

Brawner said the cleanup drive includes retrieval of abandoned motor vehicles, padlocking of abandoned houses and establishments and clearing of debris.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Western Mindanao Command chief, said the operation to retake Marawi is on its final week.

"We can see the end of the... Maute group. The success of our operation is irreversible," Galvez said.

– With John Unson

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17 more hostages rescued by troops in Marawi

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana confirmed on Wednesday that 17 more people held as hostages by the

Maute Group in Marawi City had been rescued.

Lorenzana said the hostages were nine males and nine females aged 18 to 75 years. They are ▶4

17 more hostages...

◀1

now in the hands of the military.

"Yes, it is true that 17 more hostages were rescued in Marawi – 9 males and 8 females ages ranging from 18 to 75. Details of the rescue are confidential because efforts to rescue the remaining hostages are ongoing," Lorenzana said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Joint Task Force Marawi had earlier said that 45 to 50 civilians remain in the hands of the Maute Group that occupied the city starting last May 23, 2017.

Joint Task Force Lanao chief Col. Romeo Brawner said six Maute men have been added to the list of fatalities on the side of the enemy. "So this brings to 759 the total number of terrorists killed since the war started."

There has not been a recent casualty on the side of the military, he added.

The total number of government fighters killed remains at 155.

Colonel Brawner said that on Tuesday, government troops were able to enter an abandoned house used by the Mautes to make improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Brawner said during their search at the house in barangay Matampay which is outside the main battle area, troops were able to seize nine IEDs and other components.

On Wednesday, he said, members of the military, police and Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) started Brigada Marawi to clean/clear the city of IEDs and other unexploded ordnance.

"While doing the clearing operation, we located the house used by the Maute to make IEDs. We were able to seize the IEDs and components," he said.

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Military reminds soldiers to preserve – not loot – Marawi properties

By **BONITA L. ERMAC**

MARAWI CITY — Military officials here have been consistent in reminding their personnel in the battle fronts to refrain from looting abandoned houses and other properties as any violators will be dealt with accordingly.

Col. Romeo Brawner, Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force Marawi, they will keep on reminding their men to “do their work by preserving the properties – and not to loot them.”

“On our part tuluy-tuloy iyong reminder ng mga sundalo na hindi na

tinrabaho ang magnakaw, kung di ay i-preserve dapat iyong mga properties na ito,” he said.

Brawner confirmed that there were some soldiers who have been caught looting in the area, especially during the first days of the crisis.

“May mga nahuli tayong mga sundalo na gumagawa nito, nahuli natin-sila, nakasuhanna and very soon may decision na po,” he said.

Details on how many were involved are being withheld, pending further investigation.

But Brawner was quick to add that

there were also policemen who were caught looting in the war-ravaged city.

“A criminal case will be filed against those who have committed the crime and they can be discharge from the service if proven otherwise,” said Brawner.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police, together with the local government of Marawi, have overseen the padlocking of houses and other structures to prevent looters from entering.

Patrols continue to be conducted in the villages of the city.

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Military bishop reaches out to police in EJKs

THE country's military bishop is reaching out to policemen wanting to reveal information about the supposed summary killings stemming from the government's crackdown against illegal drugs.

Cebu Auxiliary Bishop Oscar Jaime Florencio, the concurrent Apostolic Administrator of the Military Ordinariate of the Philippines (MOP), said that he wants to help assess the testimonies of the policemen in drug slays.

"First, I also want to know their motives, then to help them deepen their confession, the sacramental confession," Florencio said.

Archbishop Socrates Villegas of Lingayen-Dagupan earlier revealed that some cops behind drug-related killings sought protection from the Church.

He said these law enforcers were prepared to come

forward and tell everything they know about the drug war as long as their safety is guaranteed.

"Their consciences are troubling them," Villegas said.

Florencio, who has about 150 police and military chaplains under the Ordinariate, said he will also ask his priests if they have received any "feelers" from policemen who want to testify against extrajudicial killings.

The bishop urged the chaplains to constantly remind the men in uniform that they are "sent to serve the people and not to condemn and kill them."

He also said that prayer and catechism are the best recourse amid the spate of killings.

The MOP is an ecclesiastical territory for the pastoral care of Catholic military and police personnel, their dependents and civilian employees. **Mia Billones**

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NPA rebels torch banana packing plant in S. Cotabato

By **JOSEPH JUBELAG**

T'BOLI, South Cotabato — Government forces have launched manhunt operations against New People's Army (NPA) rebels, who burned a packing plant of banana export firm Sumifro Corp. in T'boli, South Cotabato Monday night.

Chief Insp. Ramil Villagrancia, T'boli police chief, said policemen and Army troops were already hot on the trail of NPA rebels, led by a certain Commander Alfie, who stormed the banana packing plant and set it on fire in Ba-

rangay Laconon, Tboli shortly before midnight on Monday.

He said some 30 armed NPA guerrillas swooped down on the area and disarmed the security guards of the company before torching the plant and two water tankers.

The NPA also seized the security guards' firearms, including a 12-gauge shot gun and a .9mm pistol, and a hand-held radio.

Police said the damage was placed at ₱6 million.

Mayor Dibu Tuan said the NPA has claimed responsibility for the attack

reportedly as a punitive action against the company for giving low salaries to its workers and non-payment of advance rental fees to the local land owners.

He said at least 300 workers mostly members of T'boli and B'laan tribal groups have been displaced following the closure of the banana packing plant.

The recent NPA attack came amid the heightened security in the municipality following the disarming of a barangay secretary and members of Civilian Volunteers in Barangay Tudok, T'boli last September 27.

The NPA rebels stormed the houses of CVO leader Mario Palau and barangay secretary Imion Inggo who yielded M-16, Garand and carbine rifles.

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3 hurt in NPA attack

BACOLOD CITY – Two foreigners and a local civilian were injured in an ambush supposedly orchestrated by New People's Army (NPA) rebels Tuesday, along the national highway of Sitio Sojoton, Brgy. Caliling, Cauayan, south of Negros Occidental.

The foreigners were identified as Karl Christer Arvidson, 48; and Juliana Eelko Palmero, 42, both from Switzerland.

The local was known as Jason Tumayao, of Brgy. Alijiis, Bacolod City.

The three, who sustained gunshot wounds in different parts of their body, were treated at the Bacolod Adventist Medical Center and have since been declared out of danger.

Lt. Col. Antonio Turnog, commanding officer of the 1st Negros Island Geographical Battalion, believes the three civilians were not the real target of the ambush but rather a group of Cauayan policemen responding to a reported robbery near the area.

This was corroborated by Chief Inspector Gary Alan Resuma, Cauayan police chief, who, in a separate interview, related his men were traversing the same portion of the road as with the victims when the shooting began.

Not one of the police officers was hurt in the attack. **(Mark L. Garcia)**

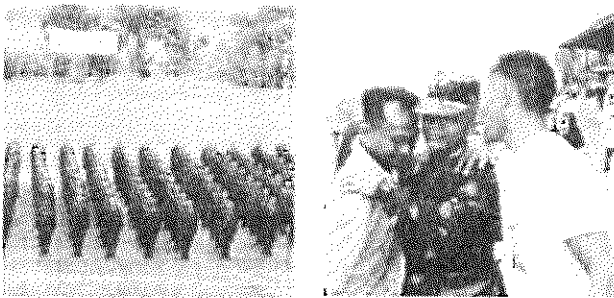
ONLINE NEWS

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<http://dwdd.com.ph>

STAR SOLDIERS | Cagayano Tops Candidate Soldier Course Class 454-2017

Avin Santoso



CAMP MELCHOR F DELA CRUZ, Upi, Gamu, Isabela (DWDD) – A Candidate Soldier (CS) from Cagayan Province, topped the recently concluded Candidate Soldier Course (CSC) Training Class: 454 - 2017 conducted at the 5th Division Training School, CMFDC, Gamu, Isabela.

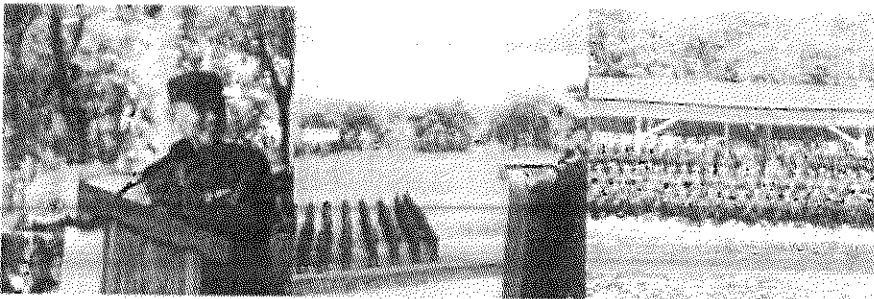
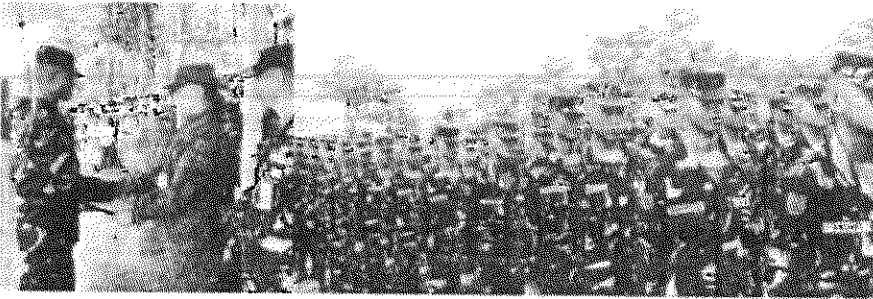
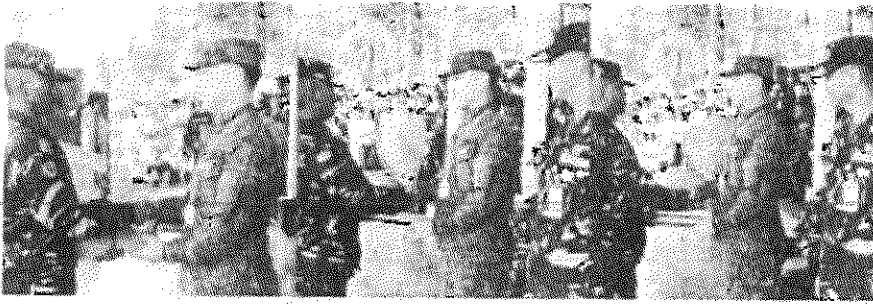
The Cagayanos' pride CS Jay Lord C. Pasaraba of Brgy Binag, Lal-Lo, Cagayan bested the other 132 members of his class by g

arning 90.24 percent- total grade from both academic and non-academic requirements of the four (4) month training

The other graduates who made it to the top of the CSC training were CS Rodel B. Cabagbag, who graduated number two with an average of 90.09 percent, and CS Rizaldo D. Agliam Jr. who bagged the third spot with an average of 89.74 percent. Meanwhile, CS Richard B. Aribbay received the Physical Fitness Award for obtaining the highest rating in Physical Fitness Test with a general average of 94.83 percent.

During the Graduation Ceremony, the Keynote Speaker, Maj Gen Paul Talay Atal, D.P.A., AFP, Commander, 5ID reminded the graduates of the challenges that they will be encountering in the field. "You are soldiers now and we are expecting you to carry the discipline that you acquired during your training. Always bear in mind that our job as soldiers is to protect our constitution, our government, our national territory, and our fellow Filipinos from all forms of terrorism and destabilization." Maj Gen Atal said. "Welcome to the AFP family and remember always that every soldier should be an epitome of excellence and discipline." Maj Gen Atal added. 5DPAO/MCAG

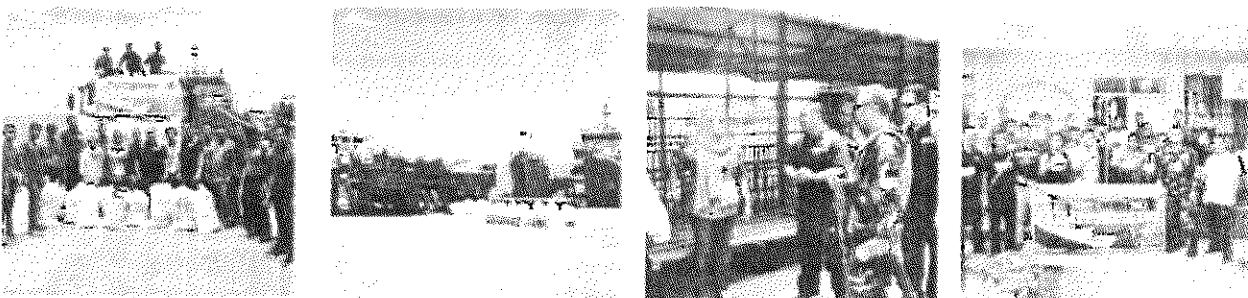
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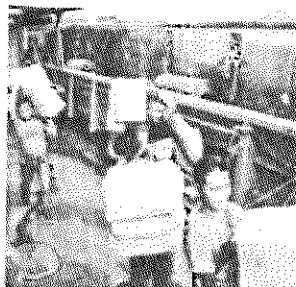
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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS | NAVFORCEN ferry gifts for wounded soldiers



ILIGAN CITY (DWDD) – Naval Force Central (NAVFORCEN) representatives departed from the Captain Veloso Pier (CVP) in Naval Forces Central to Iligan City (via Cagayan de Oro) through Philippine Navy vessel BRP TAGBANUA (LC 296) for the scheduled gift-giving with wounded soldiers admitted at Camp Evangelista Station Hospital, 4th Infantry Division, Philippine Army, Cagayan de Oro City. **Tulong para sa mga sundalo** – For the sailor and Marines in Marawi City, three hundred (300) boxes of mineral water (4 gal/box), four-hundred (400) boxes of broken biscuits and eight (8) sacks of noodles were turned over by the representatives of Naval Forces Central to the Civil-Military Operations Unit Western Mindanao in Iligan City Pier. **Continuous Support for the Marawi Victims** – In partnership with ABS-CBN Station Cebu, one hundred sixty three (163) sacks of assorted goods and thirty five (35) sacks of used clothes were donated for the affected people in Marawi City. These were received by Ms. Maharlany Alonto, the Provincial Social Welfare Officer of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Lanao del Sur.

Visiting the wounded – There were thirty three (33) SM Gift Checks that were given to the wounded and confined soldiers in Camp Edilberto Evangelista Station Hospital by the representatives from Naval Forces Central. Psycho-social processing was also conducted. **NAVFORCEN/MCAG**



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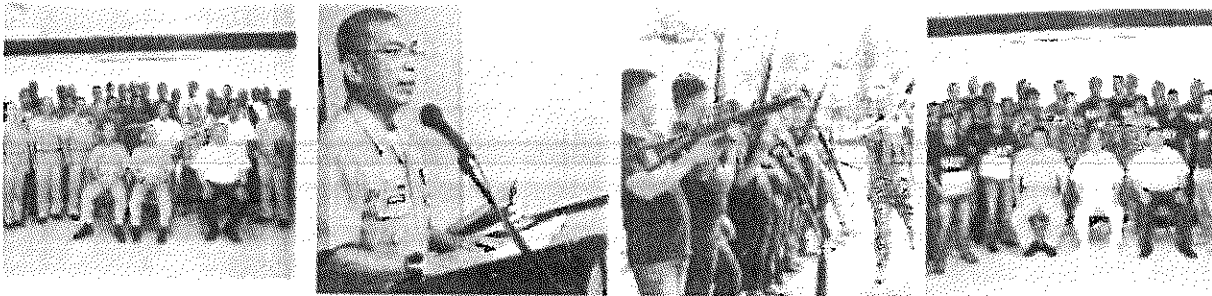
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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

<http://dwdd.com.ph>

ANTI TERRORISM | NAVFORCEN conduct Security Enhancement Training

Alvin Saciano



CEBU CITY, Cebu (DWDD) – A five-day Security Enhancement Training was conducted on September 25-29, 2017 at Naval Forces Central which was initiated by COMMO LOUMER P BERNABE AFF, who was also the Keynote Speaker, Guest of Honor during the Opening and Closing Ceremony.

The Security Enhancement Training was conducted through a series of lectures and practical exercises, including caliber 45/9mm Proficiency Training and Small Scale Combat Maneuvers with the personnel from Naval Special Operations Unit (NAVSOU-5).

Said training aimed to enhance the capacity of our security personnel from the resorts/hotels and tourism sites within Naval Forces Central Area of Responsibility in responding to threats, particularly terrorism.

This is also in line with the Central Command's campaign plan "Abante Visayas" and Security of Island and Coastal Tourism Resort/Sites from Acts of Terrorism and Criminality. **NAVFORCEN/MCAG**



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Troopers in Mindanao back to Samar soon: DND chief

By Roel Amazona October 4, 2017 2:57 pm

BORONGAN CITY, Eastern Samar -- The four military battalions deployed to Mindanao will soon return to Eastern Visayas to help curb insurgency in Leyte and Samar Islands.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, in a meeting with members of the Samar Island for Peace, Prosperity and Development (SIPPAD) on Tuesday, said the Philippine Army will create 10 new battalions in Mindanao within the year.

"There was an imbalance in the past years because some of the troops were sent to Mindanao, but we were able to get approval from the President to increase the population of our soldiers with additional 10,000 more this year," Lorenzana said.

The additional soldiers will form the 10 new battalions that will be assigned in Mindanao. Those military troops from other regions will be ordered to return to their mother units.

"They will return to help in maintaining peace and order in remote communities vulnerable to insurgency threats and help carry out development programs," Lorenzana said.

In the past four years, the Philippine Army's 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan City, Samar has sent four battalions to Mindanao to help address the spate of kidnappings perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf and fight Maute terror group in Marawi City.

These are the 63rd Infantry Battalion (IB), 34th IB, 46th IB from Samar provinces and 19th IB from Leyte.

Earlier, Samar province governors asked the government to consider strengthening the presence of military in remote communities to deter efforts of New People's Army to regain lost strongholds.

In response, Lorenzana urged local government officials to take part in the campaign against insurgency.

"Village officials must be pro-active to prevent radicals in penetrating their area. If they see suspicious people in their communities, they should ask them about their intention and tell police or the military about their presence," Lorenzana said.

SIPPAD is a group of non-political, multi-sectoral organizations headed by three Roman Catholic Church dioceses of Samar Island. (*PNA*)