

*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

06 October 2017

Friday

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

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


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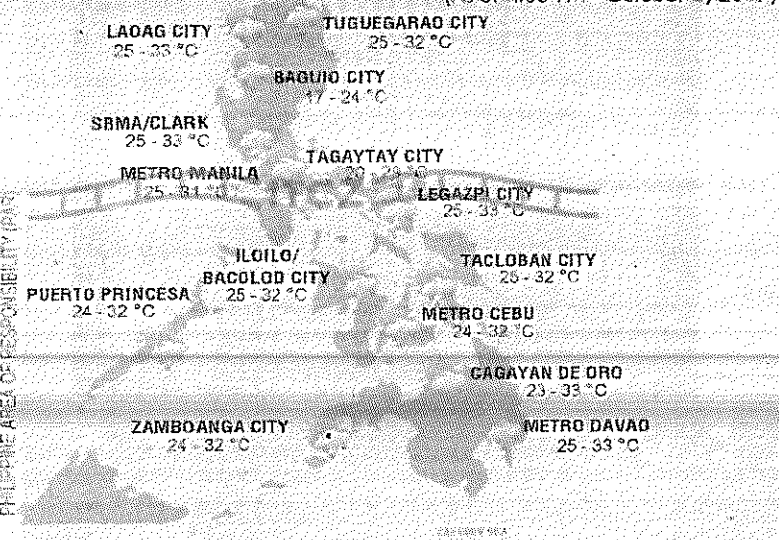
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




PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS – FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 6, 2017 | FRIDAY**















**INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE  
AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON  
(As of 4:00 PM - October 5, 2017)**




**LAOAG CITY** 25 - 33 °C  
**TUGUEGARAO CITY** 25 - 32 °C  
**BAGUIO CITY** 17 - 24 °C  
**SRMA/CLARK** 25 - 33 °C  
**TAGAYTAY CITY** 19 - 30 °C  
**METRO MANILA** 25 - 31 °C  
**LEGAZPI CITY** 25 - 33 °C  
**ILOILO/ BACOLOD CITY** 25 - 32 °C  
**TACLOBAN CITY** 25 - 32 °C  
**PUERTO PRINCESA** 24 - 32 °C  
**METRO CEBU** 24 - 32 °C  
**CAGAYAN DE ORO** 23 - 33 °C  
**ZAMBOANGA CITY** 24 - 32 °C  
**METRO DAVAO** 25 - 33 °C


|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>SUNRISE</b>   | <b>SUNSET</b>   |
| <br>5:46 AM                 | <br>5:42 PM                  |
| <b>MOONRISE</b>  | <b>MOONSET</b>  |
| <br>5:33 PM                 | <br>5:03 AM                  |
| <b>FULL MOON</b>   | <b>LAST QUARTER</b>   |
| <br>OCT 8<br>5:40 AM        | <br>OCT 16<br>8:25 PM        |
| <b>LOW TIDE</b>  | <b>HIGH TIDE</b>  |
| <br>4:40 PM<br>0.25 Meter | <br>10:31 AM<br>0.90 Meter |


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

| MUNICIPALITY        |   | OCT 5      |            | OCT 6                  |   |
|---------------------|---|------------|------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>METRO MANILA</b> |  | 25 - 32 °C | 24 - 30 °C | <b>TAGAYTAY</b>        |    |
|                     |   |            |            | 19 - 30 °C             | 19 - 29 °C  |
| <b>TUGUEGARAO</b>   |  | 25 - 33 °C | 25 - 31 °C | <b>LEGAZPI</b>         |    |
|                     |   |            |            | 24 - 31 °C             | 24 - 30 °C  |
| <b>LAOAG</b>        |  | 26 - 32 °C | 25 - 31 °C | <b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b> |    |
|                     |   |            |            | 25 - 32 °C             | 25 - 32 °C  |
| <b>BAGUIO</b>       |  | 17 - 24 °C | 16 - 23 °C | <b>ILOILO/ BACOLOD</b> |    |
|                     |   |            |            | 25 - 32 °C             | 24 - 31 °C  |
| <b>SBMA/ CLARK</b>  |  | 25 - 33 °C | 25 - 31 °C | <b>METRO CEBU</b>      |    |
|                     |   |            |            | 25 - 32 °C             | 25 - 30 °C  |
|                     |   |            |            | <b>TACLOBAN</b>        |  |
|                     |   |            |            | 24 - 31 °C             | 24 - 31 °C  |
|                     |   |            |            | <b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>  |  |
|                     |   |            |            | 23 - 32 °C             | 23 - 31 °C  |
|                     |   |            |            | <b>METRO DAVAO</b>     |  |
|                     |   |            |            | 25 - 32 °C             | 25 - 33 °C  |
|                     |   |            |            | <b>ZAMBOANGA</b>       |  |
|                     |   |            |            | 24 - 33 °C             | 24 - 33 °C  |




**MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11 AM & 5 PM**





**SABOT KO, PADALA MO!**



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

6 October

INQUIRER

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# KOKO BERATES BATO: WHERE'S PEACE, ORDER?

STORY BY PATHRICIA ANN V. ROXAS, JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE AND MADONNA T. VIOLA

'Shape up,' Senate President tells PNP chief after motorcycle-riding gunmen kill a town councilor and his son. Dela Rosa orders regional police directors: Solve drive-by killings or get sacked.

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## FROM A1

By Patricia Ann V. Roxas,  
Jeannette I. Andrade  
and Madonna T. Viola  
@Team\_Inquirer

"Where is the peace and order that [Philippine National Police Director General Ronald] dela Rosa says the people are ungrateful for?" Senate President Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III demanded to know on Thursday, two days after motorcycle-riding gunmen shot dead a councilor and the local official's teenage son in Oriental Mindoro province.

The killings of Puerto Galera Councilor Melchor Arago and his 15-year-old son, Kenneth, came two days after Dela Rosa called critics of unlawful killings in President Duterte's brutal war on drugs "ingrates."

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday after the Catholic Church disclosed that police officers who had carried out unlawful killings in the campaign against drugs had asked for Church protection to be able to tell all, Dela Rosa claimed even the critics of the killings bene-

fited from the peace and order brought about by the crackdown on illegal drugs.

But Pimentel, Mr. Duterte's right-hand man in the Senate, said the killings of the Aragos were "yet another murder" carried out by motorcycle-riding gunmen, in a "now [familiar] modus operandi."

More than 2,000 people have died in such drive-by shootings, which have terrorized the slums of Metro Manila where the victims are mostly small-time drug users.

### 'Shape up'

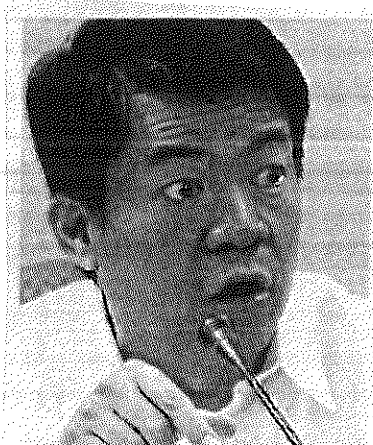
Fed up with the killings, Pimentel told the PNP to "shape up."

"Criminals are ... emboldened by what they see as the incompetence of the PNP in catching them," he said in a statement.

Pimentel said Arago, 52, was in his car parked in front of his house in Barangay Tabinay, Puerto Galera, on Tuesday when two motorcycle-riding men drove up to the vehicle and shot him through the window.

Just then, the boy Kenneth came out of the house and the gunmen shot him, too.

2



Aquilino Pimentel III



Ronald dela Rosa

Police arrested two men on Wednesday, after a witness identified them as the killers of the Aragos.

The suspects—Tirso Tito, 39, and Rogelio Sto. Tomas, 47, both from Lipa City, Batangas province—were arrested at a checkpoint in Barangay Poblacion, in San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro, said Supt. Imelda Tolentino, spokesperson for the Mararopa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) police.

Tito and Sto. Tomas were positively identified by the witness, a scavenger who was looking for discarded bottles and scrap metal in front of the

Arago residence when the attack happened.

#### Separate probe

Oriental Mindoro Vice Gov. Humerlito Dolor said the provincial board would conduct a separate investigation into the killings.

The PNP claims a downtrend in crime incidents, saying the “total crime volume” went down by 7 percent nationwide from January to August this year as a result of the war on drugs.

But Dela Rosa has expressed alarm at a surge in killings carried out by motorcycle-riding gunmen.

Speaking in a radio interview on Thursday, the PNP chief said

he had ordered all regional police directors to solve murder cases involving motorcycle-riding gunmen or be sacked.

“If you (regional police directors) do not solve those cases, the public will think that the police are tolerating them because they also want the victims dead,” Dela Rosa said, recalling his instruction to the regional police chiefs during a command conference at PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City, on Wednesday.

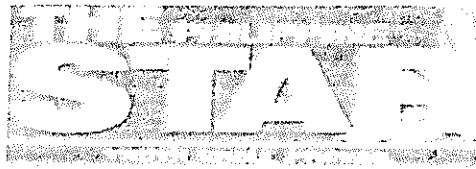
Pimentel, citing information from the PNP, said in his statement that there had been 6,225 drug-related killings from July 2016 to September 2017.

Of those deaths, he said, 3,850 were killings during police operations, while 2,990 were cases under investigation—or unsolved killings.

Pimentel said the large number of unsolved killings was “unacceptable.”

“One homicide is one unnecessary death too many. Add the large number of unsolved killings, made worse by some of the victims being minors, and you start wondering what the police are there for,” he said. INQ

4 October 2017



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# House finds ground in CJ impeach case

By DELON PORCALLA and JESS DIAZ

There are "sufficient grounds" to pursue the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, the House committee on justice ruled yesterday in a vote of 25-2.

"The chair hereby declares the complaint sufficient in grounds. There is sufficient ground to impeach... that the complaint alleges sufficient ground for impeachment and we will now move to the next stage, which is the determination of probable cause," committee chairman Oriental Mindoro Rep. Reynaldo Umali said after the voting.

He said the committee would begin scrutinizing 27 allegations against Sereno cited by lawyer Lorenzo Gadon in his impeachment complaint.

"In determining grounds, we take into consideration the pleadings filed by both parties, if there are sufficient grounds to conduct further hearings," Umali said.

Turn to Page 8

He said lawmakers are still discussing whether to allow Sereno herself to cross-examine witnesses, possibly including six of her colleagues in the 15-man Supreme Court.

As he had stated, Umali said Sereno would be given the chance to cross-examine the witnesses but only upon approval of committee members. Sereno's lawyers earlier said they - not the Chief Justice - would attend any impeachment hearing.

"This may be an interesting proceeding that may happen before this committee because, if we allow cross examination by either party, then this will enrich our proceedings," said Umali.

"If we allow (only) the lawyers of Sereno, how can we cross examine the lawyers? How can we ask clarificatory questions from (a lawyer) who is not a party himself or herself?"

Sereno spokesperson Josa Deinla insisted that the Chief Justice's lawyers have the right to cross-examine witnesses. She again argued Gadon's complaint should be dismissed for being baseless and unfounded.

"Sufficiency in grounds means that, necessarily, these should be unlawful or illegal acts and they are of such nature that they would strike at the very core of the essence of government," she said.

"*Tbig sabihin, sobrang grave ang mga acts na ito, dapat mabigat, hindi gaya ng mga paratang ni Gadon* (It means, such acts should be severe, heavy, not like the ones alleged by Gadon)," Deinla explained, as she warned the Umali panel against issuing a subpoena to Sereno, the head of a co-equal and independent branch of government.

"In our view, she cannot be subpoenaed as she has the right to send lawyers to answer accusations against her in impeachment proceedings," she pointed out.

For opposition lawmakers, the committee vote was apparently meant to railroad the impeachment of Sereno.

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Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said the justice committee "put the cart before the horse when it precipitately and prematurely voted that there are sufficient grounds" to impeach Sereno "based on the pleadings even before any discussion was conducted on the alleged grounds."

He said determination of "sufficiency of the (impeachment) grounds involves discussion and deliberation which were not held prior to the voting."

"My suggestion that the 27 grounds alleged for impeachment must be discussed and voted upon separately was ignored by the committee," he said.

Like Lagman, Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate described the justice committee decision as "precipitate without thorough discussions."

"What is happening here is the impeachment of no less than the Chief Justice, the head of a co-equal branch of government. Let us discuss it properly, thoroughly and extensively. Let us not rush it," he said.

"If this would be the norm in the justice committee, then it appears that the impeachment of the chief justice is now certain. With threats of impeachment proceedings against critics of the present administration, this creates a chilling perception that impeachment is being used as a weapon of retaliation," he said.

### Fake news

Gabriela Rep. Arlene Brosas said the decision to proceed with Sereno's impeachment "is yet again another display of the Duterte administration's political arm-twisting and bullying, in an apparent bid to silence further criticism at the expense of the spirit of democracy and established rules on impeachment proceedings."

"The complaint itself is one big fake news for its hollow allegations. Despite this, the committee proceeded to approve en masse the impeachment complaint without a thorough examination of each ground for impeachment. House members who wanted to express their views were not allowed to speak," she said.

"Such dirty ploy only further exposes Duterte's desperation to use tyrannical methods against political opposition and will further stoke more dissent against his regime," she added.

Brosas called on the people "to exercise vigilance at a time when all indications increasingly point to a looming Duterte dictatorship - from the rising drug-related killings, postponement of the barangay

- Email add: oacpa

and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, political harassment of opposition, and activation of vigilante-style witch-hunt against supposed enemies of the state."

She said Duterte's instruction to lawmaker-allies to have Sereno and Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales impeached "is part of his efforts to shut down checks and balances" and pave the way for a dictatorship "amid growing criticisms on his bloody war on drugs and failed economic policies."

For his part, Akbayan Rep. Tom Villarin decried the committee's barring non-members from sharing their views on moves to impeach Sereno.

"It is highly regrettable that we, fellow elected representatives of the people, were not allowed to speak our minds in opposition to the impeachment of the chief justice," Villarin said.

"While we acknowledge that non-committee members cannot cast their votes, tradition allows House members to at least express their opinion, in the spirit of being representatives to a democratic institution," he said.

"We, however, maintain our stand that the entire proceeding further enables a creeping authoritarian rule under a strongman in Malacañang," he pointed out.

At yesterday's hearing, some justice committee members reminded non-members that they could not participate in deliberations on the impeachment complaint against Sereno.

### Opposition voice

In a letter to Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, Lagman said the seven-member "genuine opposition" should be allowed representation in the justice committee so it could join in the deliberation on the impeachment complaint against Sereno.

Lagman said the justice panel is supposed to have 55 members. At present, the committee has 51 members - 48 from the majority and three from the minority, or with four slots vacant.

He added minority leader and Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez and his six deputies sit in the committee on justice as ex-officio members with privileges as regular members, like the right to vote.

"It stands to reason and consistent with experience that our opposition group should be given membership in the committee on justice with the undersigned and Tomasito Villarin of Akbayan as nominees," he added.

Shortly after the 17th Congress convened in July last year, the Lagman group fought it out with Suarez and his followers for the minority leadership.

Under the rules on the election of speaker, whoever gets the second highest number of votes becomes the minority leader.



6 October



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# Audit team sent to Army unit

by **Tonette Orejas**  
ottoejasINQ

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO**  
—The Army is sending an audit team to check the financial records of the 7th Infantry Division (ID) in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija province, following claims of anomalies there made by an Army corporal.

The external audit was requested by the then division commander, Maj. Gen. Angelito De Leon, days before he retired.

“I was advised that they are sending an audit team as soon as possible,” De Leon told the inquirer by phone.

De Leon made the request after an internal audit of the division’s financial records going back to October 2015 concluded that “transactions were in accor-

dance with prescribed accounting and auditing regulations.”

## 2014 deals

Asked if the audit would include 2014 transactions, De Leon said: “I would assume yes.” That was the year when the supposed irregularities took place, according to the whistleblower, Cpl. Melvin Alfonso.

De Leon earlier confirmed that Alfonso had been a member of the division’s service battalion until 2016, when the corporal asked to be transferred to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

Alfonso went into hiding, claiming that the military had been hunting him down and had placed the houses of his relatives in Zamboanga City under surveillance.

It was not clear who was the

division commander when Alfonso supposedly discovered the irregularities involving funds dubbed as return to sender (RTS).

RTS refers to portions of operational funds allocated to the 7th ID which were allegedly withdrawn and pocketed by senior officers.

## Strict control

Maj. Gen. Hernando Iriberry served as 7th ID commander from July 23, 2013, to Feb. 7, 2014; Brig. Gen. Vic Castro from Feb. 7 to April 2, 2014; and Maj. Gen. Glorioso Miranda from April 2, 2014, to Oct. 15, 2015.

Iriberry and Castro have retired.

The former Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang Jr., said his predeces-

sor, Emmanuel Bautista, installed anticorruption measures in the organization and its operational systems.

De Leon, who assumed command on Oct. 15, 2015, said the present system at the division had “very strict fiscal and control measures.”

Asked to confirm the existence of RTS funds through which soldiers allegedly got between P5,000 and P10,000, De Leon said, “None.”

Alfonso supposedly informed President Duterte about the supposed irregularities in the 7th ID in a letter in May 2017.

He claimed that for every RTS, staffers at the division’s management and fiscal office got between P5,000 and P10,000 from their superior officers. INQ

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## Ex-Army chief appointed to BCDA

**PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte yesterday bared that he is appointing outgoing Philippine Army chief Glorioso Miranda to the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).**

Duterte made this announcement at the Philippine Army's change of command ceremony in Fort Bonifacio, where Miranda relinquished his post to Lt. Gen. Rolando Bautista.

"Talagang sumasaludo ako kay General Miranda, that's why automatic, he will be a member of the board [of the BCDA]," Duterte said in his speech.

The President said Miranda may assume his new post as early as November this year. He is set to step down as Army chief on Sunday.

Duterte said appointing a former military man to the BCDA is part of his plan to use proceeds from the lease of military lands to fund the modernization of the Armed Forces.

"Lahat ng kikitain niyo, diretso sa inyo. Gawin niyo ang gusto niyong gawin to modernize," the President said.

Duterte also reiterated his desire to leave the presidency with a stronger military capable of meeting various challenges.

"We need equipment to meet the challenge," Duterte said.

The BCDA, a government-owned and controlled cor-

poration, is mandated to transform former US military bases for "alternative productive civilian use."

Among its converted properties are the location of the Bonifacio Global City in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, and of the Newport City at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

Also yesterday, the new Army chief wants to return to Marawi City to finish the fight against Islamic State-inspired Maute terrorists.

Bautista said the military has yet to verify reports that terror leaders Omar Maute and Isnilon Hapilon have been killed in the battle, which has been going on for nearly five months and has left more than 800 dead.

The former chief of Joint Task Force Marawi also expressed hopes that the conflict-stricken city would be liberated before the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Leaders Meeting in November, when heads of state are expected to gather in the country.

Meanwhile, President Duterte has elevated a Quezon City judge to the Court of Appeals (CA).

Duterte appointed Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Tita Marilyn Payoyo-Villordon, replacing retired CA Justice Francisco Acosta. **Efren Montano**

6 October 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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# Sexual harassment charges filed vs Army colonel

BY PETER J. G. TABINGO

COL. Jessie Mario B. Dosado, former commanding officer of the Philippine Army Procurement Center (PAPC), has been charged with three counts of sexual harassment before the Sandiganbayan.

The charges were based on separate complaints filed with the Deputy Ombudsman for Military and other Law Enforcement Offices (MOLEO) by a subordinate female military officer and a non-uniformed personnel who were both members of the accused's staff.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales approved the filing of the charges last August 24 based on the information prepared by graft investigation and prosecution officer

Rolando W. Cervantes.

The first complainant, a non-commissioned officer, said Dosado forced her to watch him having sex with a female companion on May 16, 2013. At one point, she said the accused even invited her to join in.

The civilian complainant cited two incidents, the first on October 22, 2013 when a fully naked Dosado allegedly demanded that she wipe his back and to give him a bath, and the second occurring three days later wherein the defendant asked her questions while holding his penis and facing her.

In the latter occasion, the complainant said Dosado asked, "Day, anong nararambaman mo Day, nakita mo na nakahubad ako?" and, "Sinong malaki sa amin ng ari

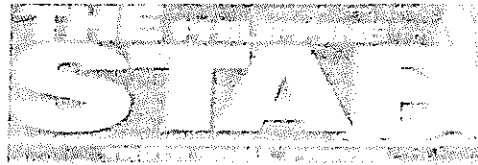
ni Dennis?" all the while applying lotion on himself.

The prosecution said the demands for sexual favors, advances, and gestures from the defendant "resulted in a hostile or offensive working environment" for the two complainants who both signified their willingness to testify in court against Dosado.

Sexual harassment is considered a minor criminal offense and does not require bail. It carries a penalty of Imprisonment or fine or both at the discretion of the court.

Sandiganbayan records show Dosado is facing charges of graft and falsification of public documents in connection with the alleged anomalous procurement of P5.103 million worth of military uniforms and other supplies and equipment in 2003.

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## Army officer faces sexual harassment raps

A ranking officer of the Philippine Army is facing criminal charges before the Sandiganbayan over alleged sexual advances on his subordinates in 2013.

Filed by the Deputy Ombudsman for the Military and Other Law Enforcement Offices, the charges against Col. Jessie Mario Dosado involve three counts of violation of Republic Act 7877 or the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995.

On May 16, 2013, Dosado, then the commanding officer of the Philippine Army Procurement Center, allegedly ordered a female subordinate with the rank of mas-

ter sergeant to watch him have sex with "Miss Glacy."

The subordinate supposedly obliged but Dosado was not contented and asked her "to join them in an orgy"

On Oct. 22, 2013, Dosado, during his term as assistant chief of the Philippine Army Staff and Logistics office, alleged ordered his secretary to wipe his back and give him a bath while he was naked.

The sexual advances were supposedly repeated on Oct. 25, 2013, when Dosada allegedly ordered the same secretary to apply lotion on his genitals, asked her how she feels about seeing him

naked and compared his size to another man.

All the three instances supposedly took place at the Philippine Army headquarters at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

The prosecution said the "sexual favors and gestures" demanded by Dosado "resulted in a hostile or offensive working environment" for the two female subordinates, who are set to testify against Dosado.

Bail is not required for sexual harassment cases as the penalty is usually a fine, but the court may still impose a prison sentence.

– Elizabeth Marcelo

6 October 2017

**M Manila  
Standard**

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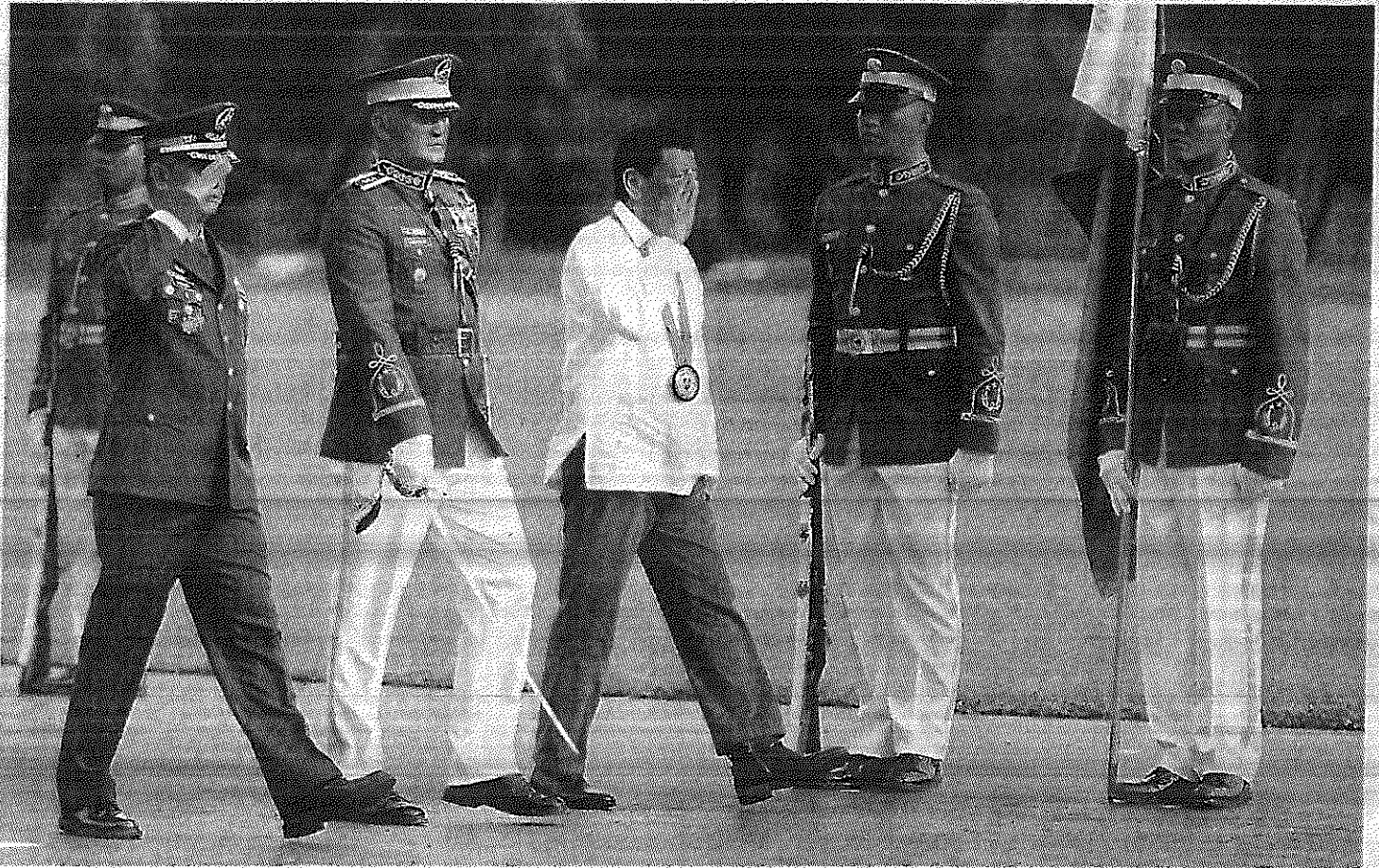


**RIGHT AWAY, SIR.** President Rodrigo Duterte (left) sits next to newly installed Army Commanding General Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista (center) and military chief Gen. Eduardo Año (right) during the turnover ceremony at Fort Bonifacio Thursday. Bautista said in his speech the Army hoped to end the war in Marawi at the end of October. **AFP**

4 October 2017

# The Manila Times

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**President Rodrigo Duterte salutes during the Army change of command ceremony at Fort Bonifacio on Thursday. Maj. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista took his new post as Army chief, replacing Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda.**

**PHOTO BY RUSSELL PALMA**

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## TENACIOUS TERRORIST RESISTANCE

# GOV'T TROOPS RESCUE 17 MORE HOSTAGES IN MARAWI

**By Leila B. Salaverria,  
Jeffrey Maitem,  
Richel V. Umel  
and Divina Suson  
@Team\_Inquirer**

terrorists who had pledged allegiance to the IS jihadist group in the Middle East as “rebels” and their attack on Marawi to establish an IS enclave in Southeast Asia as “rebellion.”

“While rebels remain holed up in a small portion of the city, they show tenacity and resistance,” he said.

“Military operations are focused and intense and necessitate time to rescue remaining hostages, and bring to a decisive conclusion the Marawi rebellion,” he added.

The battle for control of Marawi has gone on for more than four months.

More than 900 people have died in the fighting, including 753 terrorists, 155 soldiers and police, and 47 civilians.

### Terror leaders still alive

The leaders of the terrorists—Abu Sayyaf commander Isnilon Hapilon and Maute group chieftain Omarkhayam Maute—are still in the battle zone, according to the military.

“We talked to one of the [rescued] hostages and he

confirmed that Hapilon and Omar were still alive and inside,” said Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Joint Task Force Ranao.

He said the rescued hostages were in good health, except for one who had injuries and had to be taken to hospital.

Brawner said the military was interviewing the former hostages, especially the men, to determine if they had been involved in fighting.

“Maybe they fought along with the [terrorists], but we have to know for sure. We have a process that we follow,” he said.

### Bombs found

On Wednesday afternoon, Brawner said the troops recovered nine improvised bombs and 20 blasting caps in a house in Matampay village that was used by the terrorists as a bomb-making factory.

“Our soldiers were in the process of cleaning the village in preparation for the end of the war when they discovered these [improvised bombs] in a plastic drum,” Brawner said.

Brawner could not say when the fighting would end.

He said the three-day time frame mentioned by officials in Manila was just an estimate.

While the terrorists were cornered in a small part of the city, he said, the troops could not launch a make-or-break assault because it could endanger the lives of the remaining hostages.

Forty unidentified bodies recovered from the battle zone were buried in the public cemetery on Thursday.

Anir Mindalano, chief of Marawi’s disaster risk management office, told reporters that going by the bullet wounds on the bodies, 80 percent of those buried were terrorists.

Mindalano said the bodies were retrieved from the war zone and no one came to claim the remains.

He said his group would exhume the body of a Marine who was buried in the cemetery.

The Marine was Pfc. Alejandro Balian, who was identified through DNA match with a member of his family, Mindalano said. INQ

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## ISIS plan to replicate 'Marawi' exposed

**By John Paolo Bencito and Macon Ramos-Araneta**

ISLAMIC State-inspired forces are planning to infiltrate other municipalities in Mindanao in a bid to "replicate" the siege Marawi City, newly appointed Philippine Army commanding general Maj. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista said Thursday.

Bautista, who led ground operations against Maute terrorists before being appointed to the Army top post, cited reports that the pro-ISIS Maute group wants to replicate in other municipalities what they did to Marawi, as part of diversionary tactics.

He said it would be

*Next page*

### ISIS...

*From A1*

necessary to implement military rule in Mindanao as the rehabilitation efforts continue.

"Martial law is a big help. Our operation does not stop when we liberate downtown Marawi," he said.

Bautista likewise said that they are still verifying reports that the so-called 'emir' of Islamic State forces in Southeast Asia, Isnilon Hapilon and other

top leaders of the rebellion were dead.

He said the Marawi crisis would be over by the time of the 31st Asean Summit in November.

Bautista, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Sandiwa Class of 1985, was commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Joint Task Force Marawi before his appointment as Army chief.

He had also served as commander of the Presidential Security Group early into Duterte's tenure.



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## Defense chief sees end to Marawi crisis in 10-15 days

**From page 1**

“Now, I can understand the reluctance to finish the job end of September because they were actually thinking of saving the civilians inside...if they went in there full blast, they could have killed everybody,” Lorenzana stressed.

“So now I see the wisdom of the military commanders on the ground to do it slowly and carefully...every life that we can save there is worth the delay,” he added.

Malacañang, for its part, yesterday noted that Maute militants continue to display resistance against government forces despite pushing and constricting the enemies into a tighter space.

“While rebels remain holed up in a small portion of the city, they show tenacity and resistance,” presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, in a statement, said.

But military operations, he added, are continuing without let-up in a final push to finally end the four-month rebellion.

“Military operations are focused and intense and necessitate time to rescue remaining hostages, and bring to a decisive conclusion the Marawi rebellion,” Abella stressed.

Malacañang also welcomed the rescue of 17 hostages from Maute terrorists, saying the military is focused on bringing the Marawi rebellion to a decisive end.

“Government troops have successfully rescued 17 Maute hostages. We see this as a positive development toward the liberation of Marawi from the hands of terrorists,” the Palace official stressed.

Rescued hostages are now at 1,733 while Marawi City residents

slain or executed by the bandits are put at 47.

The number of slain lawless elements is placed at 753 while government losses are at 155 since fighting started last May 23 after a botched attempt to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and his cohorts.

### **P10-B Marawi rehab**

Meanwhile, the Senate finance committee has allotted P10 billion for the rehabilitation of Marawi City in 2018, under the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund.

This was announced by Sen. Loren Legarda, committee chairman, during her sponsorship speech on the proposed 2018 budget.

According to the lawmaker, the Senate supports the move of the House of Representatives to provide for the rehabilitation of the war-torn city, however the committee stood firm that the budget for the quick recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of Marawi should be increased.

Legarda said the P10 billion is on the top of the P5 billion given for 2017 from the Contingent Fund and funds of various government agencies.

She added the panel's proposal also includes a P500-million subsidy for a loan facility for Marawi residents which will enable them to rebuild their ruined houses.

“We hope that this process of heritage mapping and its intended outputs can hasten the psychological healing of the affected populace and strengthen our cultural bonds with our fellow Muslim Filipinos. These budgets go with our fervent prayer that we may immediately see hope, dignity, and peace restored in Marawi City and other affected areas,” Legarda stressed. **Ted Tuvera and PNA**

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Maute planning attacks in other areas: Army chief

BY VICTOR REYES

NEW Army chief Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista yesterday said the Maute Group is planning to "infiltrate" some areas and replicate its attack in Marawi City.

To thwart the plan, martial law declared by President Duterte in the entire Mindanao has to continue, he said in an interview at the Army headquarters in Fort Boni-

facio before he formally assumed the top Army post.

Bautista is also concurrent commander of the Joint Task Force Marawi and the 1st Infantry Division. His successors have not been named. His appointment as new Army chief was announced only last Wednesday.

Bautista said martial law is needed even during the rehabilitation of Marawi City.

"Yes, (it's) very important because there were reports they will infiltrate the controlled areas... (That's) part of their diversionary tactic, sow terror in peaceful municipalities and replicate the Marawi siege," said Bautista, without naming the municipalities.

President Duterte declared martial law in the entire Mindanao

See MAUTE ► Page B2

### MAUTE

hours after the Maute Group attacked Marawi City on May 23. The conflict is ongoing and has so far resulted in the death of 765 Maute members, 155 soldiers and policemen, and 47 civilians.

Duterte in July sought -- and got -- Congress' approval to extend martial law up to the end of the year. He said then the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups are planning to launch attacks in Basilan province and in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, General Santos and Zamboanga.

Bautista said martial law is a big help to the Armed Forces in going after terrorist forces. "Imagine, we can accost and question suspected terrorists (without warrant). If there is no martial law, we'll be charged," he said.

He also said he wants to continue leading the operations against the Maute in Marawi even as Army chief.

An Army chief does not have operational control over forces on the ground, although he has administrative supervision over them.

"That depends on the chief of staff (AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año) if he is going to allow me

to return there (in Marawi), which is what I really want. I want to return there and finish (the fight)," he said.

Incidentally, Año has said he sees the conflict ending before he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56 on October 26.

The military is hoping to end the fighting in one to two weeks. About 40-50 Maute men remain in the city.

Bautista said the military has received reports about the death of Abu Sayyaf senior leader Isnilon Hapilon who was among those who planned and is leading the Marawi battle, "but again that's subject to validation."

President Duterte, during the change of ceremony, directed the Armed Forces to review of military policies and procedures on addressing terrorism and urban warfare.

He reiterated he expects the operations in Marawi to end soon but acknowledged the challenges that confronted the government forces.

Duterte said he is not even surprised that the operations to rid Marawi of terrorists continue to drag on, saying the Maute are very familiar with the area. — *With Jocelyn Montemayor*

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**MARILIA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSMAGAZINE

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# Palace hails Maute hostage rescue

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

**M**alacañang said the liberation of the besieged Marawi City is now in sight following the rescue of 17 hostages of the Maute group by the military earlier this week.

"We see this as a positive development towards the liberation of Marawi from the hands of terrorists," Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

Abella said that despite the continued resistance of the remaining terrorists in Marawi, the government troops are not losing sight of their priority.

"While rebels remain holed up in a small portion of the city, they show tenacity and resistance," Abella said.

"Military operations are focused and intense and necessitate time to rescue remaining hostages, and bring to a decisive conclusion the Marawi rebellion," he said.

Citing information from the military, Abella said 1,750 civilians have been rescued by the government troops since the war started on May 23.

As of October 4, 47 civilians have been killed by the terrorists. Government troops killed 753 terrorists while incurring 155 casualties.

According to Defense Secretary

Delfin Lorenzana, the rescued hostages aged 18 to 75 years old are now in the hands of the military. He refused to divulge information as rescue operations were ongoing.

The Armed Forces Joint Task Force Marawi earlier said from 45 to 50 civilians remain in the hands of the terrorists.

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.

The war in Marawi, which enters its 137th day today, Friday, prompted the declaration of martial law in Mindanao and its extension until the last day of the year.

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### **6 Maute patay sa Marawi**

**NADAGDAGAN** pa ang bilang ng mga napapatay sa giyera laban sa Maute-ISIS group sa Marawi City matapos mapatumba ang anim na terorista.

Nabatid kahapon kay Joint Task Force Lanao deputy commander Col. Romeo Brawner, Jr. na nadiskubre sa main battle area ang anim pang bangkay na pininiwalaang bandido.

Sa ngayon ay nasa 759 na ang kabuuang mga nasasawi sa mahigit tatlong buwan nang bakbakan sa Marawi City kung saan ay 155 sa mga ito ay mga sundalo.

Muli ring nanindigan ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na patuloy na lumiliit ang pinagtataguan ng teroristang grupo.

Samantala, wala pa sa plano ng militar na irekomenda kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na bawiin na ang pagpapairal ng Martial Law sa Mindanao.

Sinabi ni incoming Army Chief Major General Rolando Joselito Bautista na malaking tulong sa kanila ang Martial Law para mapabilis at mas maging epektibo ang kanilang trabaho sa Marawi City at iba pang lugar.

Isiniwalat ni Bautista na may ibang grupo na nagtatangkang manggulo sa gagawing rehabilitasyon sa Marawi City o nagbabalak na umatake sa iba pang lugar sa Mindanao para bulabugin ang militar. Hanggang Disyembre 31 ng kasalukuyang taon ang pag-iral ng Martial law sa Mindanao. **JEFF G**

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## Duterte to troops: Oust me if I lie to you



KRIZJOHN ROSALES

President Duterte sits with new Army chief Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista during a change of command ceremony at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig yesterday. At right is Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

Badgered by critics for allegedly lying about his wealth, President Duterte is inviting the military to oust him if he is proven to be a liar.

"Please oust me if I tell a lie to you," Duterte said in remarks before officers and men of the Philippine Army at change of command ceremonies yesterday.

Duterte attended the transfer of command of the Philippine Army from Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda to Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista.

The President said the military should not be affected by criticisms against him specifically regarding his alleged ill-gotten wealth that opposition Sen Antonio Trillanes IV wants investigated.

"Never mind my politics. *Pang-ano lang 'yan, pampatawa lang 'yan* (It's just to make you laugh). *May trabaho never mind about 'yung ano... huwag kayong maniwala dyan* (My job... never mind about it, don't believe it)," he said.

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referring to claims by his detractors.

Duterte repeated his statement that he is ready to step down in case a big faction of the military declares a junta. He also reiterated that his wealth could never exceed P40 million "and that is my lifetime savings, including my hereditary properties, guns."

The President also told members of the Philippine Army to be "loyal to the flag" rather than to personalities.

On Wednesday, Duterte declared his critics from the Liberal Party are conspiring with communist rebels to remove him from post.

"Maintain your loyalty to the Constitution and to the flag. Do not nurture a personal or a person *diyari*. *Kaning lahat diyari sa gobyerno, dumadaan lang* (We in the government are just passing through)," Duterte pointed out.

"But it behooves upon you, I said, to see to it that this country will grow, prosper until the end of time," he said.

### AFP perks

In the same event, Duterte also reiterated that he has prioritized the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and has ordered the increase in salaries of the police and the military, effective January.

"I would want to leave the presidency with a strong Army and a strong police," he said.

In his speech, Duterte also cited the need to improve the country's infrastructure and airports to allow the country to continue in its path to prosperity.

"And I know that my Armed Forces and my police, PNP need to upgrade and new equipment to cope with the present challenges of today, especially terrorism," Duterte said.

At the same time, he bewailed the loss of many inno-

cent lives in the battle to liberate Marawi City from IS-inspired Maute group terrorists.

"And that is why to show my solidarity with you and of course the pain that I... my soldiers and my policemen are dying. And that is why if I could make it sometimes, I go to Marawi just to be with you and talk to you," he said.

Duterte said he feels the sacrifice of the soldiers and the people they are fighting for as he is the one who declared martial law in Mindanao.

"Because I declared martial law. I sent you there for some to die, to be brutal about it. I do not want it. I would never have thought I would have done it," he added.

Duterte justified anew the need for an iron hand response to quell terrorism in Mindanao.

"But because of the terroristic activities all over the world, we have to meet the challenges and in the process, *talagang i-declare ko* or else, I will be impeached for not only ignorance but maybe the outright gross negligence of a President," he said.

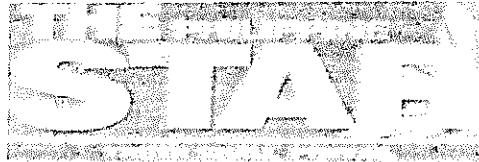
He maintained he needed to impose martial rule "for the higher interest of the nation because our duty, my duty are fundamentally the same," he said.

In his remarks, Duterte sounded like he was ruling out a peace deal with communist rebels, which he said is "not good for the country."

"You can just imagine we are fighting the New People's Army (NPA). At this stage, I am not ready to talk to them," Duterte said.

"If it's for the nation, it would be okay. But the way that it is now... maybe it would take some time to, maybe another president to do it," he added. – Christina Mendez, Alexis Romero

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## Phi, US to scale up military drills next year

By JAIME LAUDE

After the downgrading of military-to-military training between the Philippines and the United States for almost two years, both states have agreed to increase bilateral engagements next year to include territorial defense exercises. Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Eduardo Año said yesterday.

Año bared this on the sidelines of the turnover ceremony of 3,000 Chinese-made assault rifles to the Philippine government by China, through Beijing's Ambassador Zhao Jianhua, held at the canopy of the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

From a total of 258 joint military drills conducted year-round between Filipino and US servicemen last year and this year, it was agreed during the Mutual Defense Board-Security Engagement Board (MDB-SEB) meeting hosted by the US Pacific Command in Hawaii that next year's joint exercises would increase to 261.

"This means that we are leveling up the activities next year," Año, who headed the AFP delegation to the Hawaii MDB-SEB meeting, said.

Aside from the joint humanitarian and disaster response and counterterrorism drills, next year's bilateral military training will include territorial defense exercises.

President Duterte, upon his assumption to office, ordered the scaling-down of the joint military training with the US, saying only the Americans benefited from these activities.

The presidential directive has resulted in the scrapping of the joint Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) as well as the joint Amphibious Landing exercises (Phiblex).

CARAT is a naval joint engagement while Phiblex is a joint Marines exercises. All these exercises are aimed at training both forces in responding to any threats of invasion by foreign states by sea.

When reminded about this,

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Año explained the President's directive only covered last year and this year's activities.

"That was last year. Every year this changes as per the President's recent declaration, he now wants to be friendlier with the US—after all US is not our enemy and China is also not our enemies," Año said.

Asked for the specific instructions given by the President before the AFP chief left for Hawaii last week, Año said that he was ordered to continue the military engagement with the US being the Philippines number one ally.

Both the Philippines and the US are bound by the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), an agreement that requires any of the two parties to come to the defense of the other in an event of foreign invasion.

Next year's increased joint military drills, Año, explained, is not directed in any way to the ongoing territorial dispute in the West Philippine Sea.

He said that all these joint drills will be confined within the five areas of the country, as stipulated in the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) between the US and the Philippines.

Going along with this increased joint military drills, Año said the US will also start construction of their respective facilities in all five EDCA-agreed key military areas where their forces will be staying while on training in the country.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesman and the AFP deputy chief for plans and programs, agreed that joint exercises next year would be the same as previous years—only that three aspects have been added.

"It's just very minimal (increase). This year we focused more on HADR and counter-terrorism trainings, which will also be conducted again next year," Padilla said.

However he said that aside from the counterterrorism training scheduled next year, other activities have been designed and agreed on for territorial defense.

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Securing the land.



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**'WARMER' TIES**

# US STILL OUR TOP ALLY, SAYS AFP CHIEF

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año hailed the United States as the nation's "No. 1 ally" and announced a return of regular war games, following President Duterte's call for warmer ties.

Mr. Duterte last week vowed to be "friendly" with the United States, signaling an end to relentless criticism that included a vow to end all joint military exercises and branding then US President Barack Obama a "son of a whore."

Año, returning from Hawaii where he met US Pacific Command chief Adm. Harry Harris last week, said on Thursday the allies had agreed to increase joint military exercises for 2018 after they were scaled down this year.

"The President said: 'I want to be friendlier to the US.' So we have a closer relationship and more exercises," Año told reporters.

"He (Mr. Duterte) said to continue engagement with the

United States. They are still our No. 1 ally."

Año said the joint exercises next year would focus on counterterrorism, disaster response and even territorial defense.

As he sought to loosen his nation's alliance with the United States, Duterte also looked to build warmer relations with China and Russia.

During a visit to Beijing a year ago, he announced his nation's "separation" from the United States.

He later explained he was angry at Obama for criticizing his war on drugs, which had since seen thousands killed and led rights groups to warn Duterte might be orchestrating a crime against humanity.

Mr. Duterte said last week that the dispute was "water under the bridge" as he thanked the United States for helping the Philippines fight Islamic militants who have occupied parts of the southern city of Marawi since May 23.—AFP

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# INQUIRER

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## China turns over 3,000 guns to PH

By Nikko Dizon  
@NikkoDizonINQ

The Chinese government on Thursday turned over 3,000 units of assault rifles as part of its continuing "military assistance gratis" to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the Chinese weapons were supposed to go to the military, but President Duterte felt the police needed them more.

"We are lucky that the Chinese government provided the firearms," Lorenzana said at a news conference, where stacks of rifles were on display.

The M4 rifles will be turned over to the Philippine National Police for the use of its special units and not for policemen on foot patrol carrying out the government's war against illegal drugs, according to AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año.

The turnover ceremonies took place on Thursday at Camp Aguinaldo with Año, Lorenzana and Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua.

Aside from the assault rifles, the Chinese government also donated 3 million rounds

of ammunition and 90 scopes for the sniper rifles that were part of the first batch of weapons donated by China in June and received by Mr. Duterte himself.

The donation was coursed through the defense ministries of the two governments so that it would be the Department of National Defense and the AFP that would turn over the weapons to the PNP.

"The donation is military to military so it stands to reason that we should receive it first, then to be received by the chief of staff," Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana also said that it was the President who "directed" that the weapons be given to the PNP after its scuttled purchase of 26,000 assault rifles from the United States last year.

The US state department stopped the transaction with the PNP last year after two US senators proposed to restrict sales of firearms to the Philippines, raising concerns over human rights violations resulting from the government's unrepentant war against illegal drugs that has claimed the lives of thousands of poor Filipinos. —WITH A REPORT FROM REUTERS INQ

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## China turns over artillery, ammunition to DND

By Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday received artillery and ammunition from China's Ministry of National Defense as part of Beijing's military assistance to boost the Philippines' fight against terrorism in the country.

In a simple ceremony held yesterday at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Lorenzana accepted the military assistance from Chinese Ambassador to Manila Zhao Jianhua.

The assistance includes 3,000 rifles, ammunition and 30 pieces of sniper scopes.

Lorenzana said the military assistance made up the second batch of firearms and ammunition from the Chinese government.

Lorenzana said the firearms will be given to the Philippine National Police (PNP) as directed by President Rodrigo Duterte.

"According to the directive of the President they will be given to the National Police. If you remember the national police tried to buy 26,000 firearms from a dealer in the United States but it has taken them

too long to deliver," Lorenzana explained.

He said the firearms will just have to pass through the AFP's logistics people for record purposes first before they will be handed over to the police.

The DND secretary said the donation amounted to P168 million and is part of the memorandum of agreement between China and Philippines signed last August.



DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana tries a CQ-A5b (M4) rifle donated by the Chinese government.

AFP / Ted ALJIBE

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# INQUIRER

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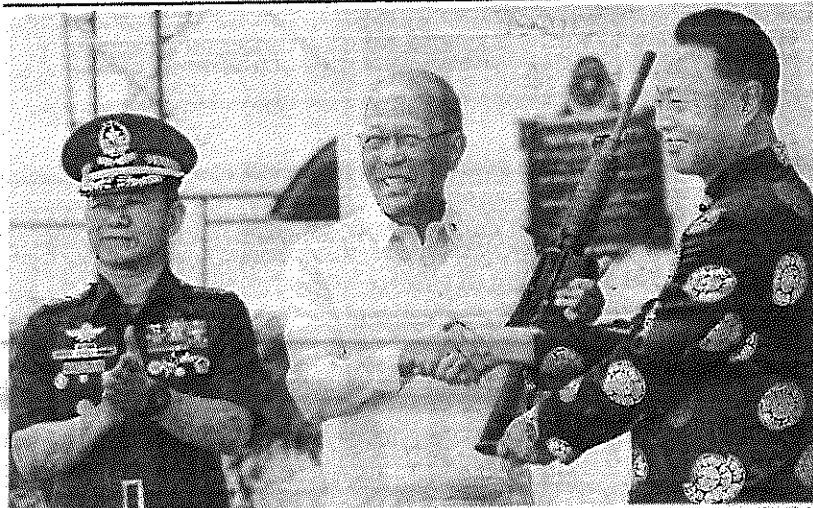
## CHINA TURNS OVER 3,000 GUNS TO PH

BE IN CHINA – Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año inspect the case-made assault rifles donated by Beijing during a turnover ceremony held at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City on Thursday. — NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

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China's Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jinghua (right) shakes hand with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (center) as Philippine military chief Eduardo Ano applauds during a ceremony for weapons donated by the Chinese government at the military headquarters yesterday. AFP/ TED ALJIBE

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# INQUIRER

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## Marawi, breeding ground

It's only a matter of days, different spokespersons for the military and even the defense secretary himself said: The end of the Marawi conflict is near. That may—finally—be so, but the destruction of Mindanao's famed "Islamic City" will continue to haunt island, nation and even region for a long time to come.

From its smoking ruins will rise a new generation of Muslims scandalized by the military airstrikes, radicalized by the brutal but heady experience of a war of attrition and open or susceptible or vulnerable to violent extremism. By no means are we saying that most Muslims in Marawi or in Mindanao will become members of the Islamic State because of the conflict; the great majority will pick up their lives, and resume contributing to community and country as they always have, as patriotic Filipinos and devout Muslims. But the destruction of Marawi is of such a scale, and the conflict of such international notoriety, that the crisis will prove to be a fertile breeding ground of extremists.

As regular Opinion commentator Ambassador Macabangkit Lanto has argued in these pages:

"Without demeaning the gallantry of our soldiers and desecrating the memory of our fallen heroes, in my book the victors are the much vilified Maute-Abu Sayyaf extremists. Holding the nation figuratively hostage for more than 100 days is no small feat. They have proven that they are no longer the pushover ragtag group made up of the family members and other kin of the Dawla Islamiya founders, once driven from the towns of Butig and Piagapo, but well-organized, disciplined and brave soldiers of Islam who 'look at the barrel of the gun of the enemy and see paradise.'"

This example of battle-tested discipline, forged in the crucible of an unexpectedly protracted struggle, will inspire a number of young Muslims directly affected by the Marawi conflict or watching from other places, including Indonesia and Malaysia, to consider or even embrace the fundamentalist ideology of the IS. Some of them will weep over fair Marawi, and dedicate themselves to avenging its destruction.

Fifteen months into the Duterte presidency, the country is choking on controversies: a P6.4-billion shabu smuggling bid, over 10,000 cases of extrajudicial killings, stalled peace talks on the communist insurgency, impeachment cases filed or about to be filed against the very highest officials, worsening loss of control over the West Philippine Sea. The list goes on. But we must not lose sight of one of the worst crises at the present time, which has grave implications to the country's future: the Marawi conflict as breeding ground for IS sympathizers or members.

We realize that it's the IS propaganda to assert that the Philippine government is responsible for the destruction of the city (and that, in contrast, what the Maute group and that part of the Abu Sayyaf that aligned with IS wanted was to save the city, not destroy it).

But we also recognize that residents in Marawi and nearby areas already blame the government for executing a military strategy that relies too heavily on airstrikes. That is not propaganda; that is the reality on the ground. The extremists may have turned a police/military operation to serve a warrant of arrest into an occasion for a show of force, last May 23, but for many residents, the airstrikes were plain wrong: They sent the message that the Philippine government was ready to destroy a city in order to save it.

Experts on violent extremism have also warned against the use of airstrikes as simultaneously too much and too little. Bombing the areas where the extremists were believed to be caused a terrible amount of devastation; at the same time, bombing was not as effective as hoped for against targets who are well-entrenched.

Both the Philippine government and the country's many allies recognize the threat the Marawi aftermath poses; rehabilitation of the city is now a priority, and the United States and Australia are among those who have pledged a considerable amount of money to help fund the rehabilitation. If this too is botched, for instance by disenfranchising the actual residents of Marawi from any meaningful participation in the planning and execution of the rehabilitation initiative, Marawi as breeding ground will only become even more fertile.

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# Marawi City's St. Mary's Cathedral

**F**OR the first time since May 23, the day the Maute group laid siege to Marawi City, Mass was celebrated in St. Mary's Cathedral last Sunday, October 1, with about 300 soldiers taking time off the ongoing war to attend the ceremony.

The walls were pockmarked by bullet holes. The roof over the altar was gone. During the fighting, the Maute group had posted videos showing them destroying religious items and generally desecrating the church. The cathedral, along with mosques in the area, had been used as strongholds of the rebels fighting the advancing troops.

It was at the cathedral where Fr. Teresito Soganub was seized by the rebels and kept hostage along with several other people. St. Mary's was the parish church for the Catholics who make up 1 percent of Marawi's 160,000 population. It was accepted as part of the community although it showed no cross outside. "People didn't want a large symbol," Father Soganub said.

The Maranaos of Marawi City are one of the three major Muslim groups in Mindanao, the other two being the Maguindanao and the Tausug. Marawi is known as the spiritual center of the Maranaos, whose Muslim moral rules are part of the city code. But the people of Marawi also ac-

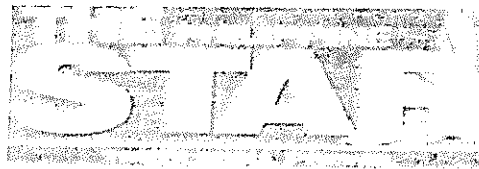
cepted the Christian church in their midst led by the bearded Father Soganub.

St. Mary's Cathedral was freed from occupation by the Maute late last August, along with two key Islamic institutions, the Grand Mosque and the Islamic Center. Like the cathedral, the mosques had also been desecrated by the rebels, Joint Task Force Marawi said. But the cathedral was so severely damaged that soldiers had to rebuild some structures and remove unexploded bombs left by the rebels as booby traps.

Even as Mass was celebrated in the cathedral last Sunday, gunfire and explosions could be heard in nearby areas. There had been hope that the Maute rebels could be rooted out of Marawi by last weekend, but the fighting continues to this day. The armed forces have chosen to move with all deliberate speed, so as to keep the destruction and the deaths of both combatants and hostages down.

We have waited 136 days since the fighting began on May 23 and Marawi has been retaken steadily street by street, building by building. The celebration at St. Mary's was a most significant event in the harrowing story of the Marawi siege. We can wait a few days, even weeks, more, truly confident that it will all soon be over.

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## GOTCHA JARIUS BONDOC



### Rody to generals: 'Oust me now if...'

**I**f you no longer believe me, oust me now." With that imperative President Rodrigo Duterte opened his meeting with the police-military brass in Malacañang Tuesday night. They were to confer on grave matters of state, he told newspaper columnists afterwards over late dinner. Topping their agenda was the Chinese Triads' burgeoning narco-trade. Hard decisions had to be made. But first Duterte needed assurance of the generals' confidence in his leadership. He was anxious that a senator's claims about him stashing unexplained multibillion pesos was stirring up doubts in their minds. More so since that senator, an ex-navy man, was like them from the close-knit Philippine Military Academy. He had to get that out of the way, Duterte recounted. It would have been pointless to discuss anything more if he didn't have their trust.

The spiel reveals what's occupying the President's mind. There's a "yellow conspiracy" to bring him down, Duterte went on. Pointing to the past administration, he said the schemers "can't accept electoral defeat and want to regain power." Not only is the arch-foe-senator part of the cabal, but the supposedly independent Chief Justice and Ombudsman also were letting themselves be used. The former Anti-Money Laundering Council head too was in on

appointments staff to reveal to them his public appearances, and bodyguards to seat them nearby, for proximity to power is power itself. They poison his mind about military uprising like the one that toppled Marcos or putsches against Cory Aquino, generals' withdrawal of support from Erap Estrada or mutinies a la Gloria Arroyo's time. Yet those too look far-fetched. Ingredients are missing for a military strike: a last-straw national issue, a galvanizing leader, churches' and business support, civil unrest, critical mass, media sympathy, good weather, perhaps even Uncle Sam. The senator didn't even have public credibility—until Duterte began taking him seriously. Why bother with him if he has nothing to hide?

What should worry Duterte are the gut issues. Public support for his war on drugs is waning because of growing perceptions that mostly innocents and penurious are being killed. Government is under-spending; the transportation department responsible for thousands of infra-works has launched none; as of last Aug. it had used up only 18 percent of its budget. Bureaucratic corruption and incompetence are scaring away investments. Joblessness is worsening. Rural and Muslim youth radicalization is intensifying. In vicious cycle, the only work left for the idle poor is to peddle

**The President sees impeachment and coup plots behind normal political sniping.**

30



it, as the senator's source on the alleged bank deposits. They purportedly would have him impeached the same way "the yellows" did in 2012 to Chief Justice Renato Corona. But he would beat them to it by exposing their corruption, Duterte growled. Unlike them, he said, he has only at most P40 million saved up through the decades starting with inheritance from his parents' lucrative ice plant which in those olden days was a monopolistic congressional franchise.

One wonders what kind of political intelligence Duterte is being fed. Malacñang Palace courtiers needlessly are unnerving him. To begin with, impeachment is next to impossible. It needs one-third of the House of Reps, or 98 of 293 members, to formalize any charges. Duterte's supermajority coalition there counts 286 versus a minority of only seven. Even if by miracle impeachment does get to the Senate for trial, it would take two-thirds, or 16 of 24 members, to convict. There are only six opposition senators against 17 pro. The numbers overwhelmingly negate impeachment. Besides, only once a year may an impeachment rap be filed. That happened only last Aug. The next long shot won't come till late 2018, giving Duterte more than enough time to rest easy. So what's bugging him?

Palace intriguers likely are whispering to Duterte supposed coup plots. There are always such evildoers around any President. They exploit his insecurities and the loneliness at the top, giving false info in order to make the President dependent on them – the easier to engage in crookedness. Their tricks are many: they even bribe presidential

drugs, for which they get killed. Palace favorites escape punishment for allowing the smuggling of hundreds of kilos of shabu (meth) from China. Speaking of which, generals there are the very smugglers of shabu into the Philippines, to soften resistance to their sea-grabbing.

6 October

# INQUIRER

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## At the crux of nation-building lie exemplary public servants who demonstrate a steadfast commitment to serve above and beyond the call of duty.

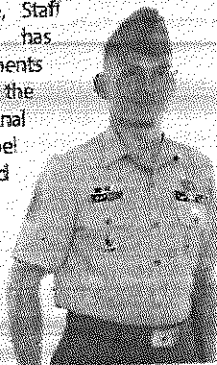
These are our Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos—our unsung teachers, soldiers, and police officers who go beyond excellence in the pursuit of selfless service for the nation and its citizenry.

This year, the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. (MBFI) awarded 10 Outstanding Filipinos, consisting of four teachers, three soldiers, and three police officers. Five of the 10 awardees come from Mindanao. Each awardee received a cash incentive of P1 million, a gold medalion, and a trophy.

Joining the ranks of 645 outstanding public servants recognized by MBFI since 1985, the awardees were honored during the formal conferment ceremonies last September 7, 2017 at the Metrobank Plaza, Makati City as part of Metrobank's 55th anniversary celebration.

### CARAGA's Lumad Hero

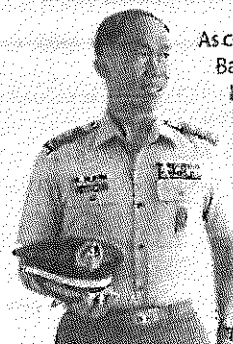
A native of the Banwaon tribe, Staff Sergeant Narding N. Pascual has spearheaded a series of engagements against the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) rebel units, the country's biggest armed formation. His efforts have caused a number of rebels to surrender, the recovery of firearms, takeover of encampments, and retrieval of paraphernalia and documents—thereby weakening insurgent operations in the area.



An advocate of nonviolent struggle, S5g. Pascual is instrumental in the realization of community development projects which have benefited his tribespeople. Among these projects are the construction of a two-classroom primary school building; a livelihood project in the form of a falcata tree plantation covering four hectares in the town; and the rural electrification project in Mahagsay, San Luis.

"A soldier should not only be a skilled leader in the battlefield, but more importantly a good servant of the community. As such, I always ensure I safeguard and advocate for the preservation of our ethnic culture," he said.

### Basilan's soldier-trailblazer



As commander of the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion deployed in Basilan, Lieutenant Colonel Elmer B. Suderio led a series of successful combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorists from 2015 to 2017. By employing several out-of-the-box methods to deal with enemies, he was able to neutralize highly-wanted terrorists and capture their

strongholds, consequently improving peace and order conditions in an area where war has long been a norm.

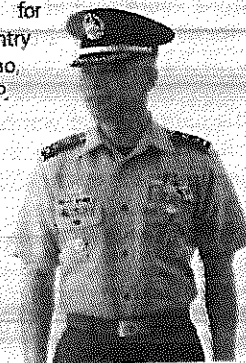
Backed by strong human rights advocacy, he is also known for having his soldiers provide humane treatment to captured terrorists—an effort which led to the recognition of 3SRBn as the best Scout Ranger Battalion in 2016.

Lt. Col. Suderio also collaborates with local chief executives to implement activities such as medical missions and community support programs. Through these civil military operations, he has helped bridge gaps between the military and the community.

"In a profession that tests values to their limits, our achievements and accomplishments should not compromise the best of human character," he said.

### Central Mindanao's Warrior-Peacekeeper

As Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations of the 6th Infantry Division in Central Mindanao, Lieutenant Colonel Ricky P. Bunayog has facilitated hundreds of combat operations against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and other armed lawless groups. These operations resulted to the neutralization of high-value criminals and the recovery of various war materials and ammunitions.



But Lt. Col. Bunayog's counterterrorism initiatives go beyond executing combat missions. He has been instrumental in the resolution of long-standing blood feuds in the province, colloquially known as 'rido'. He facilitated the settlement of ridos stemming from land conflicts and religious clashes in the five municipalities of Sultan Kudarat and ten municipalities of Maguindanao. On another front, he facilitated the construction of two Madrasahs, one elementary school, and the repair of school facilities in Maguindanao.

"To effect positive change in far-flung areas, being a warfighter is not enough. You should be a peace-builder—and that means ensuring that in your every deed, there is a convergence of security, development, and good governance," he said.

## ONLINE NEWS

06 OCTOBER 2017

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# SEASONED WARRIOR | New CGPA MGen Rolando Bautista AFP

*Arms Sanbano*

FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD) – President and Armed Forces of the Philippines Commander-in-Chief Rodrigo Roa Duterte will lead the turn-over of leadership at the Philippine Army today, October 5, 2017.

The AFP welcomes the new team player in Major General Rolando Joselito Bautista, as the next CGPA. He is the current Commander of the Joint Task Force Marawi, the overseer of the whole operations against the Daesh-inspired Maute terror group in Marawi City.



He is also the Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry "Tabak" Division, based in Zamboanga City, after his Brigade Commander of 104th Infantry Brigade in Basilan

He has gone through all echelons of command including that of the Presidential Security Group which is incharged with the protection of the President of the Republic and other high officials of the land.

He belongs to PMA "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 admiration and respect of the men and women under his command. AES/ALS

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

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## MILITARY AID | 3rd Batch of Chinese Weapons being readied

Army Services

**CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD)** – The Chinese government is already preparing the 3<sup>rd</sup> batch of weapons that they will be donating to the Armed forces of the Philippines in the coming months.

This was the announcement made by Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jinhua this morning, at the Turn Over Ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of weapons and equipment donated by China consisting of 3,000 M4 rifles, 3 million ammunition and 90 sniper scopes.



According to Zhao, the arms is the contribution of China to the Philippines in its campaign against terrorism and crime.

Aside from the firearms, Zhao added that they would also include different equipment in the next round of donations to help in the reconstruction of Marawi.

He also said that for this year, China has allotted P5.5 billion in donation for the Philippines for its Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations, including the recent donations of firearms.

All of these assistance by China was made possible through the initiative of President Rodrigo Duterte when he reinvigorated the relations between China and the Philippines. AES/ALS

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

www.pna.gov.ph

## PH, US to hold 261 military exercises in 2018

By Priam Nepomuceno

**MANILA** -- American and Filipino military units will have a total of 261 exercises for 2018, three events higher than scheduled this year.

This was disclosed by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson, Major Gen. Restituto Padilla, in a press briefing Thursday.

This came in wake of the just-concluded Mutual Defense Board-Security Engagement Board held in Hawaii last week.

He said the increase is not significant per se as some activities were only separated.

And while not giving the exact activities, Padilla said these include the usual expert exchanges, meetings, board exercises, consultations and continuing regular engagements like the annual "Balikatan" exercises.

He added that a number of American military officials would be arriving to discuss next year's "Balikatan." These include initial, mid, and final planning conferences and inspection of areas to be utilized for next year's event.

Padilla said the bulk of next year's "Balikatan" games are on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, counter-terrorism exercises and some territorial defense type activities. (PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

## Palace welcomes rescue of 17 Maute hostages

By Jose Cielito Reganit

**MANILA** -- Malacañang on Thursday welcomed the rescue of 17 hostages from Maute terrorists, saying the military is focused on bringing the Marawi rebellion to a decisive end.

"Government troops have successfully rescued 17 Maute hostages. We see this as a positive development towards the liberation of Marawi from the hands of terrorists," Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

Abella said the tenacity and resistance of the remaining rebels trapped in a small portion of Marawi City are making it difficult for state forces to rescue the other hostages, estimated by the military at about 40 people.

Military operations, he said, are nonetheless continuing without letup in a final push to finally end the four-month rebellion.

"While rebels remain holed up in a small portion of the city, they show tenacity and resistance. Military operations are focused and intense and necessitate time to rescue remaining hostages, and bring to a decisive conclusion the Marawi rebellion," Abella said.

The rescue of the 17 hostages was confirmed by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Wednesday.

According to Lorenzana, the rescued hostages are with the military. He, however, declined to divulge detailed information on the rescue as operations to free the other hostages are ongoing.

According to data provided by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), 1,750 civilians have been rescued by government troops since the Marawi rebellion began on May 23, 2017.

As of Wednesday, government troops have neutralized 753 extremists but have also incurred 155 casualties.

Meanwhile, the number of civilians killed in the war remains at 47. (PNA)