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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

07 October 2017

Saturday

NEWS HEADLINES

07 OCTOBER 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
KOKO BARES HALF OF PDP-LABAN'S SENATE SLATE

'TRUTH, JUSTICE NOT A NUMBERS GAME'

Numbers count over truth and justice, spokesperson for Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno said yesterday, a day after the House Justice committee voted 20-2 to proceed with the impeachment case against her.

JOY DE LEON: SO SORRY FOR DEPRESSION STATEMENT

BATCH WANTS DRUG SUSPECTS ALIVE

JOY DE LEON: SO SORRY FOR DEPRESSION STATEMENT

FUTURE DOC HEALS DEPRESSION WITH ART

MADRID COURT STOPS CATALAN CRY

THERE'S ONLY 1 EJK CASE; WAIT...

PAL gov't reach P6-B settlement

Mayor surrenders with Pacquiao help

did 'Play' students fare in XI science test?

LV shooter eyed Chicago, Boston

were the dateless benefit at the ball?

PETRON XCS BETTER ENGINE PROTECTION vs. standard fuels

Body's PACC can't touch ombudsman - Koko

Morales: I have nothing to hide, nothing to fear

Erreno impeachment just a matter of time - lawmakers

Palmer's opponent make reciprocal visits

Palmer's opponent make reciprocal visits

Manila Standard
PAL pays P6-B fee

Reds deny alliance with 'yellow army'

Hano pol evades raid, surrenders to Pacquiao

Morales: I can stand my ground

PDP spokesman renounces claim on EJK, says 'no case' after all

Complaints vs. Sereno out of whack

can

Nobel Peace Prize for no nuke advocates

Body: US helped bankroll my 2010 campaign

The Manila Times
From my mail: 'Yellows and Reds are the real threats to Philippine democracy?'

Palace to challenge probe before SC

Mayor surrenders after drug lab found in his resort

3 DEAD, 33 INJURED IN WATER TANK EXPLOSION

PDP-Laban to field Farinas, Roman, Tolentino

More bishops volunteer sanctuary to EJK witnesses

Duterte fires 2 Palace execs for corruption

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PANAHON TV

www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS - FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 7, 2017 | SATURDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA
765 KM EAST-NORTHEAST OF VIRAC, CATANDUANES
(As of 4:00 PM - October 6, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE 5:46 AM

SUNSET 5:41 PM

MOONRISE 7:06 PM

MOONSET 6:56 AM

FULL MOON OCT 8 0:46 AM

LAST QUARTER OCT 12 0:25 PM

LOW TIDE 4:52 PM
0.21 Meter

HIGH TIDE 11:07 PM
0.81 Meter

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

METRO MANILA	TAGAYTAY	TACLOBAN	
26 - 31 °C	26 - 30 °C	20 - 28 °C	20 - 27 °C
TUGUEGARAO	LEGAZPI	CAGAYAN DE ORO	
26 - 31 °C	26 - 30 °C	26 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C
LAOAG	PUERTO PRINCESA	METRO DAVAO	
26 - 31 °C	26 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	26 - 30 °C
BAGUIO	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	ZAMBOANGA	
16 - 21 °C	16 - 21 °C	25 - 30 °C	26 - 30 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	METRO CEBU		
26 - 31 °C	26 - 30 °C	26 - 30 °C	26 - 30 °C

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

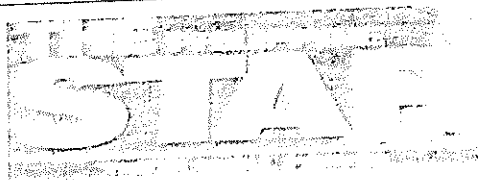
AIR 21
SRGT KO, PADALA MO!

PILIPINAS HD

WEEKDAYS
6AM, 6:30 PM & 9PM

WEEKENDS
6AM

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Morales: I have nothing to hide, nothing to fear

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales is defiant in the face of President Duterte's tirades against her, stressing yesterday that "I can stand my ground" because "I have nothing to hide" and that an impeachment case against her would even be welcome.

"It has been booted about since last year, so never mind," Morales said in a television interview. "I'm being scared? No, never, I have nothing to hide."

In a speech on Wednesday, Duterte threatened to file an impeachment case against Morales over the alleged illegally obtained documents concerning his and his family's bank transactions.

Duterte said the supposed bank documents were fabricated and he believed Morales "was part of the conspiracy" to oust him from office.

Morales said she could not be intimidated. She recalled an instance in 2012 when a hand

Turn to Page 6

grenade was left outside her home.

At the time, Morales, who testified against the late chief justice Renato Corona in his impeachment trial, exchanged contradicting statements over allegations made by Corona that she was used as a tool by the past administration in its bid to oust him.

Corona was convicted after he was found guilty of betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution for not being truthful about his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) as required under the Constitution.

"I'm a fatalist, if it comes, it comes," Morales said.

Last week, Duterte said he will also have the ombudsman investigated over the alleged corrupt practices in the agency such as "fixing" of cases by state prosecutors in exchange for bribe money.

Duterte signed on Oct. 4 an executive order creating the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission, which might usurp the investigative power of the ombudsman on public officials.

Solidarity mass

Also yesterday, various opposition groups held a "solidarity mass" outside the ombudsman's office in Quezon City to show their support for

Morales.

The mass, co-celebrated by running priest Robert Reyes, was attended by critics of the Duterte administration and former social welfare secretary Corazon Soliman, former education secretary Armin Luistro, former Commission on Human Rights chairperson Etta Rosales and Magdalo party-list Rep Gary Alejano.

The mass was also attended by members of various organizations including Tindig Pilipinas, SilentNoMore PH, Magdalo, Prayer Battalion for Truth and Justice, among others.

Soliman questioned Duterte's creation of an anti-corruption commission amid the ombudsman's recent pronouncement that it had started a fact-finding investigation on Duterte and his family's alleged hidden wealth.

"Why are you creating that now, because you are under investigation? Do you really have a billion or a million?" Soliman asked in Filipino.

For his part, Alejano said the creation of the commission is clearly a "threat and intimidation" by Duterte against the ombudsman.

"Timing is very important because the President is under investigation; if

he wants to stop corruption, he should have done that on his first day in office," Alejano said.

Meanwhile, Luistro said Morales opted not to attend the mass to avoid unnecessary criticisms.

The ombudsman, however, issued a statement which was read after the mass by Office of the Ombudsman Community Coordination Bureau director Rhodora Galicia.

"The Office of the Ombudsman is grateful for your expression of solidarity in support of the institution and its steadfast commitment to uphold the rule of law and perform its constitutional mandate. We join you in praying for our country," the ombudsman's statement read.

Duterte's recent tirades against Morales and her office stemmed from the pronouncement of overall deputy ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang last week that the anti-graft body has already launched a fact-finding investigation on a complaint filed by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV during the campaign period for the May 2016 elections concerning Duterte and his family's alleged unexplained wealth supposedly hidden in several bank accounts.

The President has also lashed out at the ombudsman for criticizing his war on drugs that resulted in the killings of drug suspects.

Carandang said the ombudsman has obtained several bank documents from the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) which show that Duterte and his family have over P1 billion worth of transactions in several banks from 2006 to 2016.

But in a statement issued also last week, the AMLC denied providing any bank records to the ombudsman. The AMLC further said it has yet to evaluate if there is ground to initiate an investigation on Duterte's bank transactions.

Following the AMLC's statement, Duterte accused the ombudsman of illegally obtaining his and his family's bank records as it did not have any permission from either council or court.

Administrative charges of grave misconduct, gross dishonesty and gross negligence constituting betrayal of public trust were filed on Tuesday by former congressmen Jacinto Paras and Glenn Chong before the Office of the President against Carandang and several other ombudsman officials in connection with the release of the questionable bank documents.

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INQUIRER

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Du30 to Army: Lease lands, move to Clark

by Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

President Duterte on Thursday urged the military to lease out its remaining lands in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, to raise more funds for its modernization program.

Mr. Duterte said leasing out military land in Fort Bonifacio—the location of the headquarters of the Philippine Army and the Philippine Marines, as well as Bonifacio Naval Station—would raise “trillions” of pesos for the Armed Forces.

Wish list

“This is not for sale like the others. No. No. Just lease (them out), 50 years, and you have the income,” the President said in a

speech in Fort Bonifacio.

“So, aside from the regular annual budgetary needs that you have, you’d have your own wish list (like) what’s the ideal helicopters, for example. You know that’s very important in the insertion of troops right now in Mindanao,” he said.

“These are the things that you have to improve on. And that is my deal. I said, ‘Nobody is taking your land, it’s yours. Go into a joint venture or lease it on a long-term (basis). The money that is generated would be yours.’”

The President made the statement at the installation of the Army’s new commanding general, Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista, who took over from the retired Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda.

Among those present were

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año.

Army representative

Mr. Duterte said he would appoint Miranda to the board of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority in November so the military would have a representative in the agency.

The President conceded that Fort Bonifacio might have a “sentimental” value for the military but he added that it must learn to “move on.”

“You can help the country by trying to look for money for your own (use). And this (land deal) could involve trillions,” he said.

Mr. Duterte said the military could transfer its facilities in Fort Bonifacio to Clark Field in

Pampanga or to any other military base “that’s not operating.”

“You can convert it to an ordinary camp, then with an airstrip. Just look for one. I’ll give you this place, all of this with one sole condition—everything that you earn will go directly to you,” he said.

‘Our deal’

“So that’s our deal. Accept it during my time. You have no other time. I will give it to you and you can fund the modernization. Buy all the equipment you need...to meet the challenges way, way ahead,” he added.

The government privatized 240 hectares of military land in Fort Bonifacio in the early 1990s to support the Armed Forces’ modernization program. INQ



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The Manila Times

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Govt to file raps vs Maute supporters

BY LLANESCA T. PANTI

THE government will file charges against any person or group who extended support to the Maute terrorists in Marawi City, a military official said Friday.

Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the military is gathering evidence against these groups and individuals.

"There have been those who have been partial to the rebels. As soon as we gather evidence that are good enough, we will initiate legal

action to make them answerable for their crimes," Padilla said in a news conference.

"The state has the right to defend itself, and we are in pursuit of restoration of rule of law and law and order in the area," he added.

The military official said the

Maute Group that has been battling government troops since May is still holding 40 hostages. He said the information came from 17 hostages rescued by the military last week.

"Based on the debriefing that was conducted on the rescued hostages, they have passed the information to us that there are still 40 hostages in the area, along with 40 to 50 armed members of the [Maute] terrorist group," Padilla said.

"This [information] becomes a very important factor in planning our final push [of military operations] in areas held by the terrors

group. This is the reason why we are not saying a timeline on when our operations should end because there are still hostages [to be rescued]," he added.

But Padilla is confident that the clashes will be over "soon."

"We expect that this [Marawi conflict] won't last long, that it won't be around once we host the Asean meeting in November. We will finish the mission as soon as possible, and the area of all armed groups and rescue the hostages," he told reporters.

Padilla was referring to Manila's hosting of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean) Summit Leaders Meeting next month.

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MARILIA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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NPA ambush 'could hurt Negros tourism'

By **MARK L. GARCIA**

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental Vice Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson said the ambush in south Negros staged by the New People's Army (NPA) that wounded two foreigners could dampen tourism in the province.

"It could really affect our tourism as well as the peace and order situation of the province," Lacson said, referring to the ambush in Cauayan, Negros Occidental Tuesday.

Wounded were Karl Christer Arvidson, 48, of Brazil, Juliana Eeiko Palmero, 42, of Sweden, and Jason Tomayao, of his city.

All of them are being treated at a private hospital in Bacolod.

Authorities said the rebels were actually targeting a squad of policemen in a vehicle, but the volley of gunfire hit instead Arvidson, Palmero and Tomayao, who were in another vehicle.

Arvidson and Palmero, who were on their way to Sipalay City in a car driven by Tomayao, were reportedly traumatized by the incident.

"We do not want the incident on October 3 to escalate into a graver incident," Lacson said.

Officials of communist movement are calling for a renewal of hostilities with government troops, after peace negotiations failed.

But Lacson is optimistic a peaceful solution could still be reached. "I do hope our friends on the other side, es-

pecially the CPP-NPA here, are open to a localized peace accord," he said.

Col. Eliezer Losanes, Army 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, and Senior Supt. Rodolfo Castil, provincial police director of Negros Occidental, dismissed the ambush as an "isolated incident."

Lacson does not think so, noting that two months ago, six policemen were killed in an NPA ambush in Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental.

Losanes said the military will increase combat operations in Negros and contemplating the deployment of an additional company of CAFGU (Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit) in the area.

"There is no reason to worry," he said.

Chief Inspector Gary Alan Resuma, Cauayan police chief, said yesterday policemen were not the actual target of Tuesday's ambush, and that the officers' vehicle just happened to be near a police patrol vehicle.

Resuma said the situation in southern Negros has returned to normal.

He said he will recommend medals for the five unhurt Cauayan policemen, who shot it out with about 30 rebels for 15 minutes following the ambush in Cauayan.

Arvidson appeared to be traumatized still and Palmero was in pain, a source said. Tomayao who underwent surgery, was experiencing pain and had a hard time speaking.

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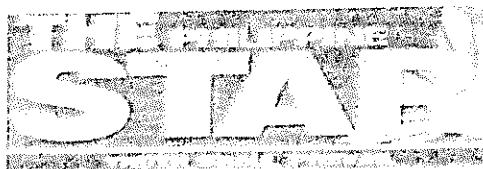
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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CHECKPOINT - A Soldier belonging to the Philippine Army's 6th Infantry Battalion clears a tricycle laden with passengers, mostly children that passed through the military checkpoint along the highway in Picong, Lanao del Sur. The military remains on alert in the province to prevent the spillover of the clashes from Marawi City. (Keith Bacongco)

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017

Army troops fire 105mm Howitzers to welcome President Duterte as he arrives for the command turnover ceremony for new Philippine Army chief Maj. Gen. Rolando Josecito Bautista at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City on Thursday. Bautista assumes command of the 37,000-strong Army forces, with thousands of them deployed in Marawi and nearby provinces

metro
EDITOR: NANCE A. SANGHVI

07 October 2017

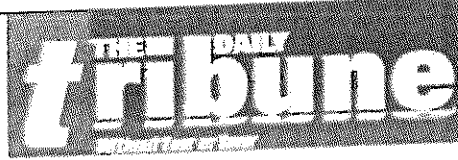
**Manda
Standard**

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WELCOME SALUTE. Philippine Army artillery men fire 105 howitzer cannons during the turnover ceremony of the Army commanding general at Fort Bonifacio Thursday. Newly installed Army chief Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista has said in his speech the Army hopes to end the war in Marawi City at the end of October. **AFP**

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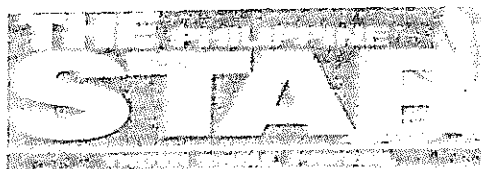


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May be end war? Philippine Army artillery personnel fire 105-howitzer cannons during the turn-over ceremony of the army commanding general at Fort Bonifacio the other day. Newly installed army commanding general Major General Rolando Bautista said in his speech the army hopes to end the war in Marawi at the end of October.

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AFP mulls raps vs groups involved in Marawi siege

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is mulling the possibility of taking legal action against groups linked to the attack in Marawi City, military spokesman Major

Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr said yesterday.

During the regular Mindanao Hour briefing at Malacañang yesterday, Padilla also assured the public that the AFP will never be involved in any destabilization plot against President Duterte.

He said the people can trust the Armed Forces to do what is right within their mandate in the Constitution.

Padilla explained that the military is conducting a "thorough research on these people because it may be possible that they had been part or accessory to the rebellion."

"These groups that we have been watching closely have exhibited indications that since the very beginning of the Marawi crisis, they may have been partial to the terrorists or the rebels in the areas," he said.

Padilla was commenting on reports that some groups are planning to file charges against the AFP for its offensive operations in Marawi.

"The reason I mentioned that is because of statements that have been recently said, and threats to file cases against the Armed Forces. And I'd just like to inform the public that these groups have been, from the very beginning, observed as being partial to the side of the rebels," Padilla said.

The AFP is digging deeper into the participation of these groups in the rebellion.

"And this is indicative of deeper and much more thorough information that we are now looking for that may, in all probability, link these groups to the destabilization occurring in the area," Padilla added.

Padilla invoked that "the state has the right to defend itself and the offensives carried out in Marawi were in pursuit of that because we would like to bring back the rule of law and law and order in the area."

Padilla expressed confidence that the Marawi crisis would

end before the Philippines hosts the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit this November.

He said the AFP will not declare an end of hostilities until the last terrorist offering resistance has been dealt with months after the Maute group attacked Marawi last May 23.

Once the fight against the Maute terrorists is over, Padilla said the AFP will continue to monitor the security landscape of Mindanao to ensure that there will be no repeat of the Marawi siege.

Clearing operations are also ongoing in the conflict areas, with more or less 200 buildings and facilities yet to be cleared of unexploded ordnances and improvised explosive devices planted by the terrorists.

Meanwhile, Padilla said that 17 hostages were recently rescued by the AFP, while around 40 hostages still remain inside the conflict zone. He said the rescue of the remaining hostages will be the subject of AFP's operations in the coming days.

Padilla added that the military is grateful to the President for his announcement that Filipino soldiers will get higher salaries by next year.

Padilla noted that the alleged destabilization efforts would fail because "we have a commander-in-chief who has *malasakit* for every soldier and is keeping his end of the bargain of taking care of every uniformed man doing his job."

Chief Supt. Reuben Theodore Sindac, director of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police, said six policemen have died while 61 others were wounded in the fighting in Marawi City since May 23.

He said that Police Officer 1 Mohaimin Nato has remained missing since the hostilities started in Marawi.

- With John Unson

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The Manila Times

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'Diversionary terror attacks to replicate Marawi siege'

BY DEMPSEY REYES

REPORTS of planned "diversionary attacks" by terrorists are being received by the military during its ongoing operations in Marawi City against the Islamic State (IS)-linked Maute Group, according to the newly-installed commanding general of the Philippine Army.

In an interview with reporters on Thursday, Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista said they have been receiving such reports since the start of the siege of the city by the Maute Group on May 23.

"[As] part of the diversionary attacks, they will disrupt peaceful municipalities and replicate the Marawi siege," Bautista told reporters at the sidelines of the 58th Change of Command ceremony for the new Philippine Army commander in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Defense and security officials have been announcing deadlines for ending the siege of the capital

city of Lanao del Sur in southern Mindanao but have failed to deliver on them.

The most recent deadline set by the military was announced by Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., commander of the Armed Forces' Western Mindanao Command.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in September said the fighting would not last until the beginning of October but this deadline was unmet.

For Bautista, the war would not last until November, when meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will be held in

Clark, Pampanga.

He said military operations would not stop in Marawi even if it was liberated from the Maute Group bandits.

"Our operations in Marawi will not stop. As we liberate downtown Marawi, [the operations] will continue. We have consolidated reports [of the planned attacks]," according to Bautista.

In the meantime, he said, it will be necessary to retain martial law in Mindanao to pursue the rehabilitation phase of Marawi City.

"Martial law has been a big help for us. Imagine, we can accost suspected terrorists. If there is no martial law, we would be charged [if we did that]," Bautista added.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the whole of Mindanao shortly after the Marawi siege began.

If he had his way, Bautista said, he would want to return to Marawi City to finish off the siege but that he would have to wait for instructions from Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año.

Bautista was the commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division and Joint Task Force Marawi when he was named by President Rodrigo Duterte as the chief of the 87,000-strong Philippine Army, replacing Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, who will retire on October 8.

Aside from reports of the diversionary attacks, Bautista said they are also receiving reports that the two remaining terror leaders of the Maute Group were among the casualties of the siege in Marawi City.

He added that ground commanders obtained reports that the Islamic State's Southeast Asian "emir" Isnilon Hapilon and Omarkhayam Maute, one of the top Maute brothers, had been killed.

"There were reports that they are already dead but then again those will be subject for validation, the deaths of Hapilon and the others," Bautista said.

In September, Año said Abdullah, Otho and Maddie Maute—the Maute brothers leading the terror group—were already dead.

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INQUIRER

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ACCESS TO FACEBOOK

SOCIAL MEDIA GIVE IS GUNMEN PROPAGANDA OUTLET

MARAWI CITY—Social media again gave terrorists lingering in this city an outlet for propaganda and a way to taunt authorities who had projected victory in the coming days against homegrown groups clinging to the belief they belonged to the Islamic State (IS).

Someone calling himself Semion Al Mujaheed, who claims to be spokesperson for Dawlah Islamiyah (IS) here, said that despite "relentless airstrikes" and "assaults by American-supported *kuffar* (nonbelievers)" the terrorists' fighting spirit remained high.

There was no way to check the authenticity of Mujaheed's claim that he belonged to IS.

"We swear by Allah!" Mujaheed said in a Facebook post on Thursday.

"The lions of East Asia in Marawi will let you taste the same humiliation and defeat that you suffered in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan," said the post, apparently referring to US forces fighting in the three countries.

US record

But the war records of the United States against terror in the three countries were erroneously referred to as "defeats" by Mujaheed, or whoever he is.

In Iraq, US-allied forces had taken control of Mosul, the IS capital, and had driven out hundreds of IS fighters. In Syria, US-allied forces are near victory in taking back Raqa, another IS capital. In Afghanistan, US



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Facebook accommodated this photo of a terrorist in Marawi City flashing the *tawheed* sign (oneness of Allah) inside the main battle area. This photo was posted on Thursday.

forces are sending more troops to battle with Taliban, another criminal group masquerading as Islamists.

Mujaheed belittled the military report that soldiers had killed 765 terrorists since the war began on May 23.

A certain Samsudin Marawi, who also claims to be an IS pro-

pagandist, said in another Facebook post on Thursday that the casualty figure being cited by the military was based on "lies and deception."

"From the start, our number was only 184. That's the truth," he said. He did not say how many were left alive.

Like Mujaheed, Marawi said the terrorists would continue to fight to stay in Marawi.

Omar selfie

He also released photos of Omar Maute, a key terrorist leader, showing him preparing to feast on a young coconut and what appeared to be his selfie inside the main battle area.

A Marawi City resident, however, said Omar's photo might have been taken outside the city and it might be old. "There is no forest inside the city," said the resident, who declined to be identified.

Replying to earlier statements made by Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. that the terrorists were running out of bullets and other supplies and many wanted to surrender already, the two claiming to be IS spokespersons said: "The Dawlah will never surrender!"

In another Facebook post written in Maranao, Marawi said: "We are doing well, by Allah's will."

Brawner said the appeal for the terrorists to surrender stayed. "But if they don't want to surrender and continue fighting, our troops will finish them," Brawner said. —A/LANNAWAL INQ

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3-17-17
MARILIA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Trooper killed by sniper fire in Marawi raises government death toll to 155

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Friday said that another soldier was killed when he

was hit by sniper fire in the continuing battle in Marawi City.

AFP spokesman Major Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said the death of the still unidentified soldier ► 11

brought to 155 the total number of government soldiers killed in the Marawi conflict which is nearing its fifth month on October 23.

Joint Task Force Marawi said a total of 753 Islamic State-inspired Maute Group terrorists have so far been killed in the fighting while recovered firearms number 805. The killed civilians remain at 47 while those rescued have reached 1,750.

"Early this (Friday) morning, we had an incident when we were operating in an area and incurred another casualty through sniper fire. And it's a sad development because we were expecting that as we engaged more in these remaining areas and have better control of the peripheral areas, we'd be able to minimize that," General Padilla said during the Mindanao Hour in Malacañang.

Padilla said fighting continues in an area of about seven to eight hectares in

Marawi. "This is where most of the encounters with the enemy are occurring" he said. "Unfortunately, we still face a very tenacious enemy who is determined to defend their area," he added.

With regards to the rescue of 17 hostages – nine men and eight women – General Padilla said, "There were conflicting reports that some were surrenderees from the inside. I'd like to correct that. This might have been a mix-up between the hostages that were rescued and they may have been alluding to the nine men."

Padilla also said that based on the debriefing done on the individuals, the remaining hostages number about 40, while the Maute-ISIS members are about 40 to 50.

The information learned from the debriefing of the rescued hostages, he said, is a very important factor in the planning for the remaining areas held by the terrorists, Padilla said.

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Pahina. 2

1 sundalo utas sa sniper ng Maute

Sa pagpalo kahapon ng ika-137 araw ng Marawi crisis ay isa pang sundalo ang nasawi matapos na tamaan ng sniper ng Maute-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (Maute-ISIS) kaugnay ng patuloy na bakhakan sa lungsod.

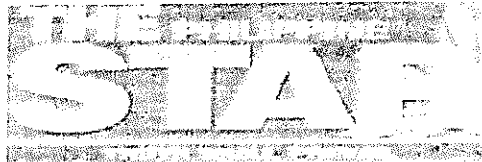
Sinabi ni AFP Deputy Chief for Plans (J5) at AFP Spokesman Major Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., ang nasabing sundalo na tumanggi muna nitong tukuyin ang pagkakakilanlan na ika-156 na nasawi sa bakhakan.

Umaabot naman sa 753 ang Maute-ISIS fighters ang napapatay simula nang sumiklab ang krisis sa lugar noong Mayo 23 ng taong ito.

Nasa 47 namang sibilyan ang napaslang at 1,750 ang nasagip ng security forces sa battle zone na mga hostages at naipit sa bakhakan. - Joy Cantos -

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Some cops involved in gov't destabilization – Aguirre

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II and National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Oscar Albayaalde suspect that some members of the police force are involved in a destabilization plot against the Duterte administration.

Aguirre and Albayaalde met yesterday and discussed the recent killings of teenagers.

They wondered why the policemen allegedly killed 17-year-old Kian delos Santos even when there were closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in the area, as if wanting to broadcast the killing.

"It seemed that it was calculated and that they wanted the policemen to be blamed. When the policemen are blamed, it would reflect on the President," Aguirre said.

When asked if he believes that some policemen are in connivance with the destabilization plot, the justice secretary said, "That is very possible. I believe that is what the President said... This could be by the police who are in cahoots with destabilizers and some people in the religious and human rights group."

He believes that the matter is already being looked into by the PNP-Internal Affairs Service.

Following reports of a destabilization plot against the administration as revealed by President Duterte, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is monitoring the "security landscape" to deter any groups that might try to disrupt the government.

While AFP spokesman Major Gen. Restituto Padilla refuses to confirm the alliance between the Liberal Party (LP) and communist groups, he said the AFP is focused on the movements of some armed groups perceived to be not allies of the government.

With regard to the shifting of alliances between political groups and communist rebels, Padilla expressed belief that the President has enough information regarding the matter since he is the commander-in-chief.

"The President has access to more information than we do. Because most of our agencies submit to the President information. And we submit to him as well what only comes from our part," he said.

"So we do continue to monitor the security landscape, and that includes other areas not only in Mindanao but the entirety of the archipelago," Padilla said.

When pressed further, Padilla confirmed that the military is watching closely the communist rebels in case they step up attacks.

He added that the AFP has intensified monitoring of the communist New People's Army to deter any unlawful activities of the group following Duterte's call to stop the peace talks.

The NFA has been involved not just in extortion activities, but in destroying and burning equipment, primarily construction and farm implements that affect the livelihood of farmers and other marginalized sectors.

"So, if that happens, the most affected are the poor, which we do not want to happen. That's why

we take pains to work closely with big companies who are in agriculture; we take pains to work with construction companies to secure them if they have any threats," he explained.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa said on Thursday that opposition groups are "capitalizing" on the misdeeds of policemen to destroy the Duterte administration.

"The misdeeds of police scoundrels will be capitalized on by the opposition and anti-Duterte administration to destroy us because PNP is not really the target... the real target is the President," Dela Rosa said in a speech at the 116th Police Service Anniversary in Camp Florendo, La Union.

"They want to destroy the President through the PNP because they know that we are the organization closest to the heart of the President because he trusts us in implementing his centerpiece project on drug war," he added.

He claimed critics magnify simple police abuses or wrongdoing "in order to bring down the Duterte administration."

He said he has advised his men to do their job properly and weed their own ranks of erring personnel.

"Let's be vigilant against our erring personnel. Being law enforcers, we face criticisms from various sectors. We endure the risks and danger not only in the conduct of operations, but also in rescuing and recovering victims of disasters," he said. – With Christina Mendez, Jun Elias

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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AFP confirms oust-Duterte move

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS
and FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) confirmed President Duterte's claims that armed groups are planning to oust the Chief Executive.

AFP spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, during the Mindanao Hour/Bangon Marawi press briefing, however, said he is unsure whether the Liberal Party (LP) is involved in such moves.)

"Yung pagpa-plano, meron po kaming nakikita na iba. At hindi lang naman po 'yung oposisyon ang ano dito. Kaya ang binabantayan po talaga ng Armed Forces ay 'yung mga armadong grupo (If we're talking about plans, yes, we have monitored some groups planning the ouster. We're not just talking about the opposition that's why we're really monitoring the armed groups)," he said.

Most of them are Reds and the armed elements in Mindanao. There may be [involvement of the Yellows] but I am not privy

to this information yet," he added.

According to Padilla, the AFP is only monitoring the country's security landscape and not the side of politics.

Military takeover

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said that the President is serious when he said that he is willing to be replaced by the military with a new leader if allegations that he has ill-gotten wealth is true.

In a statement sent through text, Lorenzana said he believes the Chief Executive only made the challenge to reiterate that he has no more than ₱40-million life savings.

"Maraming beses na niyang sinabi iyun (He has said that a lot of times already). We think he is serious and he means it. But it is just to emphasize that contrary to claims by his detractors - he only has no more than ₱40-million life savings," Lorenzana said.

President Duterte recently said the military could launch a coup attempt to drive him out of power if it believes he is corrupt.

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MAINTA
Standard

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Reds deny alliance with 'yellow army'

By John Paolo Bencito

THE military on Friday said that they are monitoring any possible actions by communist rebels and the opposition "yellow forces" who might be planning to overthrow President Rodrigo Duterte, and said attempts to destabilize the administration would not come from its ranks.

The Communist Party of the Philippines, meanwhile, denied conspiring with the political opposition to oust the President, but praised any initiatives against "Duterte's tyranny."

In a Palace briefing, Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said they were monitoring armed groups that might move against the government.

"If the President is saying that there are people planning against him — we're seeing other forces involved, not just the opposition," Padilla said in Filipino.

Padilla said those plotting against the President were "the Reds and armed elements in Mindanao."

"The objective of the NPA [New People's Army] is actually to take hold of the whole Philippines," he said.

As for the political opposition, Padilla said there may be "one or two of them" helping anti-government groups.

"So, this kind of a connection may be part of those [plots] that are being reported," he added.

The military will not join any groups that want to destabilize the government, Padilla said.

"The Armed Forces, as you have seen in these past few years and recent months, has exhibited its very constitutionally based activities or actions," he said.

Next page

Top administration officials earlier accused the "yellow" opposition, referring to the Liberal Party; the communists; and some members of the clergy of launching "black operations" against the President. They also cited the involvement of some businessmen, members of the media and bloggers.

Communist rebels denied forming an alliance with the Liberal Party to topple the Duterte administration.

"The CPP and other Left political forces may have no formal alliance with the Liberal Party and its affiliates but can recognize their initiatives and action as serving the same purpose of resisting Duterte's tyranny," the CPP said.

The communist rebels said that the President's pronouncements may only inspire further attacks on the political opposition.

"It appears that such claims aim to set the stage to clampdown on the political opposition and all other forces standing up against moves to establishing Duterte's authoritarian rule," the CPP said.

They also scored Duterte for being intolerant of all opposition and dissent, saying he was intent on monopolizing political power.

"Duterte wants to clamp down and silence all who disagree with his policies and methods. He has threatened to impose martial law. His officials and loyalists have openly declared plans to use all means to have all those who dissent to be imprisoned," the leftists said.

Earlier, the Liberal Party branded accusations of an ouster plot as another "diversionary tactic" to divert public attention from the President's real problems.

LP President Senator Francis Pangilinan said it was a "fake ouster plot," because even Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana had said he had not monitored it.

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AFP, PNP monitoring armed groups in destabil plot

By Mario J. Mallari and Julius N. Leonen

Amid reports of supposed destabilization plot against the Duterte administration, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is closely monitoring armed threat groups, particularly the New People's Army (NPA) that may take advantage of the situation.

Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr., AFP spokesman, stressed that any destabilization attempt will not come from the ranks of the uniformed

services as he cited the Commander in Chief's all-out support to the troops.

"Any destabilization that we hear will not come from the ranks of the Armed Forces because we have a commander in chief who has concern for every soldier, taking care of every uniformed men who are doing their job," said Padilla.

President Duterte is known for his closeness to both the AFP and the

Turn to page 7

(PNP). He has spent so much of his time visiting camps throughout the country to be with the troops.

Duterte also promised to double the salary of the troops.

No less than Duterte earlier revealed that the political opposition, whom he calls the "yellows", and the communist group are now conspiring to oust him.

However, Padilla said that the military is not focused on the political side but is closely monitoring armed anti-government groups that could exploit the situation.

"The Armed Forces is on guard against the armed groups...on the side of politics, others are monitoring that," said Padilla.

The AFP spokesman, however, did not totally dismiss the possibility that anti-government groups may form an alliance.

"(Those) that are against government are not only individuals, there are groups, many groups. And it may not be far-fetched that one or two of them may be also assisting other groups that are against government," said Padilla.

Earlier, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana

said that they have not monitored any plot to destabilize the Duterte administration.

The AFP also vowed to crush any attempt to disrupt the democratic ways in the country by any group.

"The AFP will not allow any attempt that would tend to undermine the stability of our government," said Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs chief.

"We will frustrate any efforts that will cause the disruption of our democratic way of life. That is and shall always be our commitment to the nation and our people," he added.

NCRPO chief sees destabil angle in teeners' deaths

On the part of the PNP, the deaths of three teenagers allegedly perpetrated by policemen may be part of a destabilization plot to sabotage the Duterte administration's war on drugs, according to National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Oscar Albayalde.

During a press briefing yesterday, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II recounted his short meeting with Albayalde, who stressed that around 500 youths who were arrested in anti-drug operations were captured alive.

Aguirre said that Albayalde wanted to meet with him yesterday to discuss the possibility of

providing police with the "immediate legal component on the war on drugs."

Albayalde, according to Aguirre, insisted that only 17-year-old Kian Loyd delos Santos, 19-year-old Carl Angelo Arnaiz and 14-year-old Reynaldo "Kulot" de Guzman ended up dead in anti-drug operations.

"It appears that (the killings are) calculated (to spark) in order for the policemen to be blamed," the Justice chief told reporters.

"When police are blamed it would reflect on the President," Aguirre lamented.

With this, Aguirre reiterated Duterte's pronouncements that killings could be of destabilization efforts against the administration, adding that there may be police scalawags who are "in cahoots with destabilizers."

Moreover, the Justice chief bared that the NCRPO chief wanted the Department of Justice (DoJ) to be able to provide legal assistance to policemen who would require legal advice in the performance of their duty amid the war on drugs.

But Aguirre said he has yet to commit to Albayalde's request, explaining that DoJ is lacking over 1,000 prosecutors in its work force. He added the such legal assistance component is also being before Congress.

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AFP monitors oust plan vs Duterte

By ARGYLL B. GEDUCOS

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) confirmed President Duterte's claims that armed groups are planning to oust the country's chief executive.

AFP spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, during the Mindanao Hour/Bangon Marawi press briefing, however, said he is unsure whether the Liberal Party (LP) is involved in such moves.

"Yung pagpa-plano, meron po kaming nakikita na iba. At hindi lang naman po 'yung oposisyon ang ano dito. Kaya ang binabantayan po talaga ng Armed Forces ay 'yung mga armadong grupo," he said.

"Most of them are Reds and the armed elements in Mindanao. There may be but I am not

privy to this information yet," he added.

According to Padilla, the AFP is only monitoring the country's security landscape and not the side of politics.

"Ang NPA (New People's Army) po ay patuloy naming mino-monitor," he said.

"The objective of the NPA is actually to take hold of the whole Philippines and government. So that is why, always, they are coming from a very hard bargaining position," he added.

Padilla, meanwhile, assured the public that plans to destabilize the government will not come from the AFP due to the continuous support given by President Duterte.

This after the President announced on Thursday the increase in the salary of soldiers.

Padilla, during the same press briefing, said that the AFP is grateful for all the support Duterte has been giving them.

"Kung ito'y ili-link natin sa mga usapang destabilisasyon, 'yung usapan na 'yan na naririnig natin, hindi ho manggagaling sa hanay ng Armed Forces 'yan," Padilla assured.

"We have a Commander-in-Chief who has malasakit (care) for every soldier and is doing his end of the bargain of taking care of every uniformed men who are doing their job," he added.

"Mapagkakatiwalaan niyo po ang inyong Armed Forces na gagawin natin ang nararapat lamang. At ito 'yung nakalagay na mandato na dapat naming gampanan sa ating Constitution," he continued.

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President: AFP could oust me

In the face of allegations of having hidden wealth, President Duterte has said that the Armed Forces of the Philippines could launch a coup attempt to drive him out of power if it believes he is corrupt.

The President, showing no interest in clinging to power, said he could be replaced with a new leader whom the people would support.

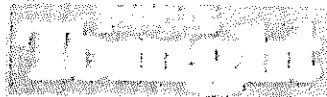
"Sabi ko sa military listening during the ceremony. You have all the intelligence and apparatus. If you think that I'm corrupt and I am not worth the position, oust me, please," he said during a food expo in Pasay City last Thursday.

"Tanggalin ninyo ako through a coup d'etat or whatever you want. Then find a leader that maybe the Filipino nation would be happy listening to," he added.

Duterte, in an earlier speech at the Philippine Army turnover ceremony in Taguig City, said the military could oust him if he lied about his wealth. The commander-in-chief also reminded the military to remain loyal to the Constitution and the flag, not nurture loyalty to a person. **(Genalyn D. Kabling)**

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Military general reveals **Reds, armed groups** **plan Duterte ouster**

By EFREN MONTANO

THE Reds and other lawless armed groups in Mindanao are planning to mount destabilization moves against President Rodrigo Duterte.

"Most of them are Reds and the armed elements in Mindanao," Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla told reporters yesterday in a Palace briefing.

Padilla's confirmation came two days after Duterte said the communists and the "yellows," or organizations connected with

the Liberal Party (LP), were in alliance to oust him.

Asked about the involvement of the President's political opponents, Padilla said, "there may be but I am not privy to this information yet."

Duterte earlier said the LP and the communist rebels were reuniting to remove him from the presidency.

"The President has access to more information than we do. Because most of our agencies submit to the President information. And we submit to him as well what only comes from our part," Padilla said.

"So we do continue to monitor the security land-

scape, and that includes other areas not only in Mindanao but the entirety of the archipelago," he added.

Duterte's political foes were not the only one planning for his removal in office, according to Padilla.

"So far, kung ang ibig sabihin ng ating mahal na Pangulo ay 'yung pagpapano, meron po kaming nakikita na iba. At hindi lang naman po 'yung oposisyon ang ano dito. Kaya ang binabantayan po talaga ng Armed Forces ay 'yung mga armadong grupo," he said.

He said groups against the President may be form-

ing an alliance to remove the chief executive.

"Because the groups that are against government are not only individuals. Kasi kaya nga groups, madami 'yan. And it may not be far-fetched that one or two of them may be also assisting other groups that are against government," he said.

Padilla also bared that the NPA objective is actually to take hold of the whole Philippines.

It will be recalled that Duterte virtually junked peace talks with the Reds with their continued attacks against government forces.

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PUBLIC FILES

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AFP blangko sa 'Yellows, Reds conspiracy' info ni Duterte

INAMIN ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Major Gen Restituto Padilla na wala silang impormasyon kaugnay sa pahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na nagsasabwatan ang amiyang "Dilawan" o mga nasa Liberal Party (LP) at ang mga "Reds" o mga makakaliwang grupo laban sa kanyang administrasyon.

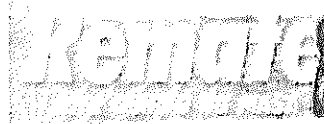
Sinabi ni Gen. Padilla, posibleng may ganitong pagkilos gaya ng sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte pero

wala siyang direktang impormasyon dito.

Ayon kay Padilla, may "access" ang pangulo para sa mas maraming impormasyon maliban sa mga nanggagaling sa AFP.

Nakatutok naman umano ang AFP sa pagbantay sa galaw ng mga armadong grupo gaya ng New People's Army (NPA) at iba pang armed groups sa Mindanao habang may ibang grupo o ahensyang nakaa-monitor sa pulitika.

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Pahina. 2

DESTAB VS DUTERTE NATUNUGAN NG AFP

MAY mga nakaplanong de-stabilization plot ang mga makakaliwa at armadong grupo mula sa Mindanao laban kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Armed Forces of the

Philippines spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Jr., sa Mindanao Hour briefing sa Kalayaan Hall, Malakanyang na binabantayan nilang mabuti ang mga grupong matagal nang may planong pabagsakin ang Duterte

administration at patalsikin sa puwesto ang Punong Ehekutibo.

"Kung ang ibig sabihin ng ating mahal na Pangulo ay 'yung pagpapalano, meron po kaming nakikita na iba. At hindi lang naman po 'yung oposisyon ang ano nito. Kaya ang binabantayan po talaga ng Armed Forces ay 'yung mga armadong grupo. Most of them are Reds and the armed elements in Mindanao," ayon kay Maj. Gen. Padilla.

Napaulat din aniya na may pagkilos mula sa 'diiawan' para pabagsakin ang Pangulong Duterte kung saan ay iba na aniya ang naka-monitor dito.

"Yung sa side ng politics, may iba pong nagmo-monitor. At sa amin pong side, hindi po

namin nakukitha ito kadalasan," ani Maj. Gen. Padilla.

Mino-monitor din aniya nila ang security landscape hindi lang sa Mindanao kundi sa iba pang bahagi ng bansa.

Patuloy na mino-monitor ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang mga lugar ng Maguindanao, Cotabato area at Lanao kung saan mayroong paggalaw ng mga grupong Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters na nagpapahawig ng kanilang pagsama o pakikipagsanib-puwera sa Maute group sa Marawi City.

Ani Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Jr., sa Mindanao Hour briefing sa Kalayaan Hall, Malakanyang na patuloy nilang babantayan ang mga nasabing lugar para lubu-

san nilang makontrol ang galaw ng masasamang elementong nabanggit.

"Ganun din po sa lugar ng Basilan, Jolo, and Tawi-Tawi areas, which continue to harbor elements of the ASG. And significantly, in the past few days, there were also incidents of attempted abductions and a few — I think one incident of successful abduction of locals which we would like to prevent," lahad ni Maj. Gen. Padilla.

Bukod dito, patuloy rin nilang mino-monitor sa pamamagitan ng mga ginagawang checkpoints sa iba ibang bahagi ng Mindanao ang patuloy na paggalaw ng mga armadong elemento.

Naging matagumpay aniya ang ginawang pagkumpiska sa illegal firearms na nasa isang lugar diyari sa may lugar ng Lanao na pinasok po ng mga tropa ng pamahalaan.

At sa kooperasyon ng lokal na pamahalaan ay nakumbinse aniya nila ang mga pamilva at indibidwal na naghahawak ng mga hindi lisensyadong baril na i-surrender ito.

KRIS JOSE

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2 PH Navy men charged with Viets' slaying

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Navy men responsible for the fatal shooting of two Vietnamese fishermen on Sept. 23 have been charged but details about their cases have yet to be released.

Chief Supt. Charlo Collado, Ilocos regional police director, would not say how many of the 49 Navy men on board the ship BRP Miguel Malvar had been charged and who filed the cases.

The bodies of Le Van Liem, 41, and Le Van Reo, 41, were found on the deck of their fishing boat when the Navy men boarded it at the West Philippine Sea off Bolinao town in Pangasinan province on Sept. 23.

The bodies bore bullet wounds.

The boat's captain Pham To, 34, and his crew, Phan Lam, 34, Nguyen Thanh Chi, 49, Phan Van Liem, 41, and Nguyen Van Trong, 41, had been detained in their fishing boat, which was towed to the wharf in Sual town in Pangasinan.

On Sept. 25, 49 personnel of the BRP Miguel Malvar sur-

rendered their firearms, including 10 M-16 rifles and two 50-caliber guns. Their movement had also been restricted while the ship's commanding officer had been relieved.

On Oct. 3, Chief Insp. Christopher Natnat, spokesperson of the Pangasinan provincial committee on illegal entrants, said the group had completed its investigation of the incident but he declined to give details.

Poaching

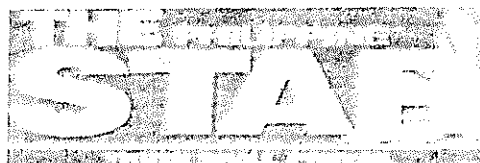
The Navy ship intercepted the Vietnamese fishing boat 34 nautical miles off Cape Bolinao. The boat was one of six fishing vessels found poaching in the country's exclusive economic zone.

The Navy men fired warning shots at the fishing boat's bow after it ignored their calls to surrender, the police said.

But an Inquirer source said the boat lifted anchor and sped off when it saw the Navy ship's spotlight that it thought came from a pirate ship. —GABRIEL

CARDINOZA INQ

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AT GROUND LEVEL

SATUR C. OCAMPO



A conspiracy specter, retreat from peace talks

Sensing that his ground base of support has been softening, President Duterte is conjuring a specter of conspiracy to oust him from power.

Growing more bilious and truculent towards those whom he accuses of scheming to besmirch him with allegations of corruption, or who staunchly stand up to his blusterings and accusations, he is getting even more reckless by the day. Now he is implicating Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales in his conjured conspiracy.

He wants both jurists – who have resolutely stood up to defend their rights and integrity and those of their constitutionally mandated offices – to be impeached. He says he himself (proud of being an ex-prosecutor) will file separate impeachment complaints against Sereno, on charges similar to those already cited in the complaint pending preliminary action in the House of Representatives; and against Morales, a case for allegedly practicing “selective justice” and for using “falsified evidence.”

Apparently, it matters not to Duterte that the Office of the Ombudsman is just in the stage of investigating a complaint formally filed before it, in compliance with its mandate. As Section 12, Article XI, of the 1987 Constitution states, “The Ombudsman and his Deputies, as protectors of the people, shall act promptly on complaints filed in any form or manner against public officials or employees of the Government...”

The two jurists have ignored his challenge for them to resign along with him. Morales, whose office is investigating his pre-presidential bank transactions based on a case filed by Sen. Antonio Trillanes, coolly issued the following statement:

“I will not be baited into abandoning my constitutional duties. If the President has charges against me, I will answer them in accordance with the law. I expect him to answer the charges against him in the same manner.” As public officials, she added, “we have sworn to uphold the rule of law. We should, as well, serve with honor, honesty and decency.”

For her part, Sereno has submitted to the House committee on justice, which is looking into the impeachment complaint, a point-by-point answer to the charges against her and insisted that her lawyers be allowed to cross-examine her accusers on her behalf, as is normally done in a criminal proceeding. On Thursday the House committee, packed with Duterte allies, voted to find the complaint sufficient in form. It will yet decide on the substance of the charges before submitting the complaint for voting to the chamber’s plenary.

Duterte had his first run-in with Sereno after the latter protested his public reading of an alleged list of drug lords and protectors that included the names of some judges (one of them already deceased). He has since had a number of verbal tussles with her.

Besides accusing Sereno and Morales of being part of the alleged conspiracy to unseat him, Duterte has gone further. Without citing any evidence whatsoever, he claims that the Left – which he befriended at the beginning of his term – has allied with the “Yellows” (the Liberal Party or the Cojuangco-Aquino political grouping) to push him out of

Malacañang

It’s an intriguing echo of the Ferdinand Marcos’ assertion that the Communist Party of the Philippines had forged an alliance with the “oligarchs” to bring down his government. Marcos used that lie as a basis for declaring nationwide martial law in September 1972.

Does Duterte now imply that he might reprise that fascist act 45 years ago? (He has already declared martial law in the whole of Mindanao.) Isn’t it bad enough that – by the acquiescence, indifference and inaction of succeeding governments, including his own – the majority of our people continue to endure the antidemocratic, unjust, and brutal legacies of the Marcos dictatorship?

Adding insult to injury, last year Duterte facilitated the political rehabilitation of the dictator, ousted by a peaceful popular uprising in 1986, by allowing the latter’s family to bury his remains, with rites for a “hero,” at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The Marcos political rehabilitation is one factor in Duterte’s falling out with the Left. Another was his turnabout in the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations which he had resumed last year, shifting in February to “all-out war” against the CPP-NPA. And now he has discarded his avowed “independent foreign policy,” sheepishly returning to the embrace of US imperialism.

Duterte has all but formally terminated the peace talks (through a written notice to the NDFP). Here’s his latest public statement:

“At this stage, I am not ready to talk to them (CPP-NPA/NDFP) because it is not good for the country... It would be good if it’s for the country. It would take some time... maybe another President... to do it.”

What did he mean by that? No matter. He has abandoned his promise to achieve peace and redress historical injustices within his term by bilaterally addressing the social, economic, and political roots of the prolonged armed conflict.

For instance, the GRP and NDFP reciprocal working committees on social and economic reforms have agreed that the distribution of land for free to landless farmers and farm workers shall be the basic principle of genuine agrarian reform. But his cabinet diehard neoliberal economic team rejects that principle, and with his acquiescence the team's stand constitutes his administration's policy.

Duterte now openly urges his defense secretary, national security adviser, and armed forces generals to pursue war against the New People's Army. Recently, he told AFP troops in Marawi that after completing their combat missions there against the Maute and Abu Sayyaf extremist groups, they should prepare to be redeployed against the NPA.

But mind the context of his latest statement: it would take another president to pursue the peace talks. A slip of the tongue? Maybe, but it betrays what's deep in Duterte's mind. It's possible that peace talks would resume after his exit, because his regime, like its predecessors, won't be able to defeat the revolutionary forces.

* * *
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ONLINE NEWS

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AFP: Armed groups, Reds out to destabilize gov't, oust Duterte

By: Nestor Corrales

The military on Friday confirmed that the communist rebels and other lawless armed groups in Mindanao are planning to mount destabilization moves against President Rodrigo Duterte. "Most of them are Reds and the armed elements in Mindanao," Major Gen. Restituto Padilla said in a Palace briefing.

His statement came two days after Duterte said the communists and the "yellows," or organizations connected with the Liberal Party (LP), were in alliance to oust him.

Asked about the involvement of the President's political opponents, Padilla said, "there may be but I am not privy to this information yet."

On Wednesday, Duterte said the LP and the communist rebels were reuniting to remove him from the presidency.

"The President has access to more information than we do. Because most of our agencies submit to the President information. And we submit to him as well what only comes from our part," Padilla said.

"So we do continue to monitor the security landscape, and that includes other areas not only in Mindanao but the entirety of the archipelago," he added.

The military official said Duterte's political opponents were not the only one planning for his removal in office.

"So far, kung ang ibig sabihin ng ating mahal na Pangulo ay 'yung pagpa-plano, meron po kaming nakikita na iba. At hindi lang naman po 'yung oposisyon ang ano dito. Kaya ang binabantayan po talaga ng Armed Forces ay 'yung mga armadong grupo," he said.

(So far, if the President refers to the ones that are planning, we are seeing something other than that. And it is not only the opposition, we are monitoring the armed groups.)

"Yung sa side ng politics, may iba pong nagmo-monitor (On the political side, there are other organizations monitoring that)," he added.

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He said groups against the President may be forming an alliance to remove the chief executive.

“Because the groups that are against government are not only individuals. Kasi kaya nga groups, madami ‘yan. And it may not be farfetched that one or two of them may be also assisting other groups that are against government,” he said.

Padilla hit the New People’s Army, saying their end goal was to take over the entire country. “The objective of the NPA is actually to take hold of the whole Philippines,” he said. The peace talks between the government and the communists collapsed after Duterte was irked with their continued attacks against government forces. /jpv

www.philstar.com

Destabilization plots won't come from military — AFP spokesman

By Ian Nicolas Cigaral

MANILA, Philippines — Any destabilization plot against the government will not come from the ranks of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, its spokesperson said a day after President Rodrigo Duterte told the military to kick him out of Malacañang if he is found guilty of corruption.

“At kung ito’y ili-link natin sa mga usapang destabilisasyon, ‘yung usapan na ‘yan na naririnig natin, hindi ho manggagaling sa hanay ng Armed Forces ‘yan,” AFP Spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said in a press conference on Friday.

“The Armed Forces, as you have seen in these past few years and recent months, has exhibited its very constitutionally-based activities or actions,” he added.

Padilla then thanked Duterte—who has been visiting military and police camps in the country to promise them higher pay and better armaments—for his announcement last Thursday to increase the salary of soldiers.

“Because we know that... we have a commander-in-chief who has malasakit for every soldier and is doing his end of the bargain of taking care of every uniformed men who are doing their job,” Padilla said.

Duterte recently accused the Liberal Party of conspiring with the Communist Party of the Philippines to oust him from office, and vowed to pursue the impeachment of Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales.

The president’s threat came days after the Office of the Ombudsman announced that it would investigate Duterte’s bank accounts, which allegedly contain millions of pesos that he did not declare in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth.

Supporting the conspiracy angle, the Office of the Solicitor General has vowed to exhaust all legal remedies to put Duterte’s critics behind bars.

Asked if the AFP has monitored such movements from LP and CPP, Padilla said the military is still watching over the “security landscape,” adding that Duterte has more access to information.

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While it is not the job of security forces to track political oppositions, Padilla also said the military is monitoring "armed elements" like leftist fighters and other rebel groups in Mindanao that might be planning to overthrow Duterte.

"Most of our agencies submit to the president information. And we submit to him as well what only comes from our part," the military spokesman said.

"Yung sa side ng politics, may iba pong nagmo-monitor. At sa amin pong side, hindi po namin nakukuha ito kadalasan," he added.

"The objective of the NPA (New People's Army) is actually to take hold of the whole Philippines," he also said, referring to the CPP's armed-wing.

Both LP senators and Reds recently denied conspiring to oust Duterte.

According to them, Duterte had been accusing his critics of destabilization attempts or plotting to oust him every time he needed to divert public attention from scandals hounding his administration.

On Thursday, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and AFP Public Affairs Office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said they have not monitored any destabilization plans.

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Government trooper killed by sniper fire in Marawi

By Ian Nicolas Cigaral

MANILA, Philippines — A government trooper was killed by a sniper fire in Marawi City on Friday morning, the military said as state forces continue to battle the dwindling forces of ISIS-inspired local terrorists months into the bloody standoff.

"There were about 155 already killed on our part," Armed Forces of the Philippines Spokesperson Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said in a press conference in Malacañang.

"It's a sad development because we were expecting that as we engaged more in these remaining areas and have better control of the peripheral areas in and out of this area, we'd be able to minimize that," he added.

A failed attempt by government troops to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon in Marawi on May 23 triggered the battle against the Maute group, homegrown jihadist militants who claim allegiance with ISIS and backed by some foreign fighters.

The urban warfare prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to place the entire Mindanao region under military rule. After the declaration reached the 60-day limit, Congress overwhelmingly voted to extend martial law in the strife-torn region until yearend.

Thousands of civilians have been displaced by the clashes while aerial bombardments and deadly street-to-street combat have left Marawi in ruins.

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As of October 5, the number of enemies neutralized remained at 735 while 1,750 civilians have been rescued.

The military originally sought to finish the operations against the Maute militants last June 2 but stiff resistance and the presence of trapped civilians prevented them from doing so.

According to Padilla, the remaining captives in Marawi are guarded by as much as 50 extremists, adding that advancing troops are making sure that hostages will be rescued without causing government casualties.

"So this will be the subject of our operations in the next few days and this is the reason also why we have not given out," the military spokesperson said.

www.philstar.com

40 hostages still inside Marawi, says AFP

By Ian Nicolas Cigaral

MANILA, Philippines — There are 40 hostages still held by ISIS-linked terrorists in the besieged Marawi City, the military said on Friday as security forces target to liberate the city before Southeast Asian leaders visit Manila for a November summit.

"Based on the debriefing that was conducted of all these individuals, we gathered based on their information passed on to us that there remains still about 40 hostages in the area," Armed Forces of the Philippines Spokesperson Maj. Gen Restituto Padilla Jr. said in a press conference.

According to Padilla, the remaining captives in Marawi are guarded by as much as 50 extremists, adding that advancing troops are making sure that hostages will be rescued without causing government casualties.

"So this will be the subject of our operations in the next few days and this is the reason also why we have not given out," the military spokesperson said.

"So this is something that is a good revelation on the part of the hostages that came out and were rescued. And this becomes a very important factor in the final planning for the final push we're doing for the remaining areas held by the terrorists," he added.

A failed attempt by government troops to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon in Marawi on May 23 triggered the battle against the Maute group, homegrown jihadist militants who claim allegiance with ISIS and backed by some foreign fighters.

The urban warfare prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to place the entire Mindanao region under military rule. After the declaration reached the 60-day limit, Congress overwhelmingly voted to extend martial law in the strife-torn region until yearend.

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Hapilon, the appointed emir of ISIS in the region, is wanted for the kidnapping of foreigners in the Philippines. The US government has put up a \$5-million bounty for his capture with his name on its "most wanted" terror list.

Meanwhile, as the security crisis drags on, Padilla, without giving exact dates, said state forces are eyeing to fully retake Marawi before the Philippines' hosting of the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit next month.

The military originally sought to finish the operations against the Maute militants last June 2 but stiff resistance and the presence of trapped civilians prevented them from doing so.

Duterte and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana last September said the Marawi crisis could be over "by the end of the month." But security forces later asked for an extension after failing to meet the announced September 30 deadline.

As of October 5, the number of enemies neutralized remained at 735 while troops killed-in-action reached 155. Meanwhile, 1,750 civilians have been rescued.

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UNITY THROUGH PROSPERITY | Army, LGU fight radicalization, taps Lumad Youth of Bukidnon

By Alvin Santiago

CAMP OSITO D. BAHIAN, Bukidnon (DWDD) – The local government unit of Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, in collaboration with the 403rd Infantry "Peacemaker" Brigade of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, conducted a three (3) – day Youth Leadership Summit from September 29 to October 1, 2017 for the youth leaders coming from the Bukidnon, Higaonon, and Umayamnon Tribes with the theme "*Kagpabaton-batona daw malambag sa bungkatol ha bulawan*" (Unity through prosperity).

The activity, which was held at Mt. Moriah Camp and Conference Center in Brgy. Patpat, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, aims to empower the Lumad youth by honing their leadership potentials and re-indoctrinating them about the cultures and traditions of their tribes so that they may become conduits of peace, development, and culture preservation in their respective communities. The activity also serves as a venue for spreading awareness among the youth on the radicalization and recruitment efforts of local terrorist groups and other lawless elements.

During the summit, the Lumad youth leaders were able to know and understand the different cultures, traditions, and rights of the Indigenous Peoples; the various government programs for the youth; and the prevailing issues and challenges that they face and how they could cope with them as they embark on their journey towards becoming community leaders who are committed on peace building and in the promotion of a culture of peace in our society.

In a simple Closing Ceremony on October 1, 2017, around 11:30 am, Atty. Nestor E. Cajés, Jr., the Provincial Administrator of Bukidnon, who acted as the Keynote Speaker, challenged the participants to go back to the culture of the Lumad and avoid violence as a means of airing one's grievances. He also mentioned that all people have equal rights regardless of tribe.

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He said that

"Kita tanan pareha ra tag katungod. Pareha ra tag katungodmupadayag sa atong mga kaligotgot, sa atong mga problema. Pero dili sakatong mga radical or extreme nga pamaagi. At the end of the day, walan sulbad ang problema.

Makita ninyo nga ang extremism dili maoy tubag saatong mga hinaing." (We all have equal rights. We have equal rights to express our grievances and our problems but not through radical or extreme means. At the end of the day, you'll realize that it is not the answer to our problems.)

Likewise, Atty. Richard D. Macas, the Provincial Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) of Bukidnon, urged the participants to advocate peace in their communities. He mentioned that *"Ang bungkatol ha bulawan kung atokining sabton mura kini ug Golden Rule. Nindot nga batasan nga iya sa tribu. Kita nga mga Lumad, by nature, peace-loving kita. Busa ato kining ipahayag saatong kumunidad."* (We could relate *Bungkatol ha Bulawan* to the Golden Rule. It is the good deeds of the tribe. By nature, we Lumads are peace-loving people and we need to advocate this to our tribes.)

Meanwhile, COL ERIC C VINOYA INF (GSC) PA, Commander, 403rd Infantry "Peacemaker" Brigade, expressed his gratitude to the Local Government Unit of Malaybalay City and to all participants and facilitators of the Youth Leadership Summit.

He also mentioned the importance of conducting the activity as a means of insulating our youth from the dangers of radicalization and exploitation and ensuring their bright future.

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our partners in peace, the Local Government Unit of Malaybalay City, Bukidnon under the leadership of Hon. Ignacio W. Zubiri, the City Mayor, for supporting the program. Likewise, I would also want to thank the facilitators and the participants of this leadership summit. It is very important that we insulate our youth, most especially the Lumads, from the perils of radicalization and violent extremism that is brought about by the exploitations being made by some ill-motivated organizations such as the CPP-NPA-NDF and other local terrorist groups and lawless elements. By empowering and capacitating them to become conduits of peace and development, we can ensure a bright future for Bukidnon and for our country." – says COL VINOYA. 403IBde/MCAG

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MULTI SECTORAL CONCERN | EMC holds 2nd Forum on Preventing Violent Extremism

Alvin Santiago

NSFA, Panacan, Davao City (DWDD) – A Multi-Sectoral Forum on Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism that will gather representatives from various sectors in CARAGA Region is being conducted by Eastern Mindanao Command (EMC), in coordination with the CARAGA Conference for Peace and Development today, October 6, 2017 at San Lorenzo Ruiz Formation Center, Butuan City.

Invited and expected personalities participating comes from the youth, security, religious, academe, Bangsamoro, Indigenous Peoples and other sectors in the said region.

The Forum is part of the continuing activity of Eastern Mindanao Command in sustaining peace while preventing violent extremism in its area of responsibility.

Last August 23, 2017, the same forum was conducted in Davao City to educate, aware, and draw input and support from various sectors in Davao Region to develop programs and activities in preventing extremism through the context of whole of nation approach.

Following EMC's forum, the 10th Infantry Division also supported and participated in the Peace Dialogue with the Multi-Sectoral Muslim Leaders of Davao Del Norte on September 26, 2017. The dialogue was devoted on consensus-building against terrorism and illegal drugs and has gathered several leaders of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos and other peace stakeholders in Davao Region.

On the other hand, Lt. General Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, Commander of Eastern Mindanao Command graced the forum in Butuan City. It was highlighted with the presentation of topics aligned on countering violent extremism from the three Resource Speakers:

Dr. Mark Anthony Torres of the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao based in Mindanao State University – Iligan will discuss the general perspective of Violent Extremism, the "push and pull" factors, Marawi perspective, and some recommendations based on the institution's research. Al Qualam Institute on Islamic Studies Director Mussollini Lidasan, on the other hand, will present the current programs and researches on preventing extremism, while Mr. Ednar Dayanghirang will present the prevention of violent extremism on the local government perspective by presenting the best practices of Davao Oriental.

The activity will end with the presentation of inputs and recommendations of the participants from various sectors to support in preventing terrorism.

The Multi-Sectoral Forum in Butuan City will be the second leg of the three Regional fora that are being conducted by EMC, while the third leg will be held in Region 12 on the last week of October 2017. **EMC/MCAG**

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RENEWED TIES | PRRD wants to strengthen Ph-US relations

By Alvin Santiago

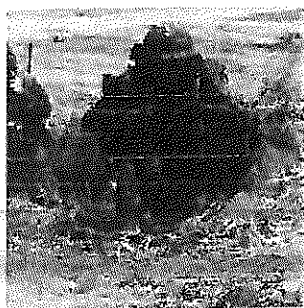
CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) –



The Philippines still considers the United States of America as its number one ally.

According to Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen Eduardo Año, President Rodrigo Duterte reiterated his desire to renew and further strengthen ties with the America.

This was evident when the Commander-in-Chief ordered the increase to 261 from 258 the various activities included in the annual Balikatan exercises for next year after it was initially lessened.



General Año added that the exercise would also re-include "territorial defense exercises" although this will not be done anywhere near the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

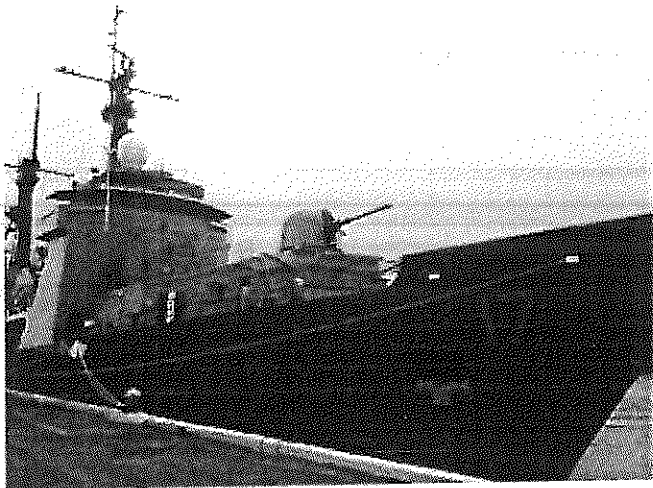
He stressed that there are now no limitations set for the conduct of Balikatan 2018.

The announcement was made by Gen Año after he formally received 3,000 new M4 assault rifles and millions of ammunitions yesterday, October 5, 2017, as part of the second batch of donation by the government of the People's Republic of China. **AES/ALS**

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PH warship now in Brunei to participate in Sultan's Golden Jubilee celebration

From Update Philippines (Oct 6): PH warship now in Brunei to participate in Sultan's Golden Jubilee celebration



Philippine Navy's third Del Pilar-class Frigate BRP Andres Bonifacio (FF17) is now in Brunei for a six-day goodwill visit and to participate in the Golden Jubilee celebration for Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah.

The said warship arrived in Muara International Port, Brunei Darussalam on October 3.

Aboard BRP Andres Bonifacio is the Philippine Navy delegation headed by Fleet-Marine Ready Force Commander Commodore Albert A Mogol.

Also onboard is the Naval Task Group 80.5 (NTG 80.5) composed of FF17 crew, an AgustaWestland 109 naval helicopter, a Naval Special Operations Team, a Marine Special Operation Team, a medical-dental team and other port visit directorate members.

Among the scheduled activities include courtesy call of commanders to Brunei military officials, participation in the Golden Anniversary parade, and goodwill games with Royal Brunei Navy (RBN).

After the 6-day visit to Brunei, BRP Andres Bonifacio will be heading to Malaysia for the Maritime Training Activity (MTA) Malaysia-Philippines (MALPHI) LAUT 20-17 which will take place October 16 to 25.

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Posted by [Retired Analyst](#)

LOOK: US, PH servicemen do drone operations



US Marines photo

Filipino and American servicemen have conducted a drone operations activity on October 2 as part of the inaugural US-PH KAMANDAG “Kaagapay Ng Mga Mandirigma Ng Dagat” exercise.

The operation of unmanned aerial surveillance system was conducted at Colonel Ernesto P. Ravina Air Base in at Crow Valley Gunnery Range, Capas Tarlac.

Elements of Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (BLT 3/5), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) are currently deployed in support of USMC 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade participating in exercise KAMANDAG.



US Marines photo

BLT 3/5 is also exploring state-of-the-art concepts and technologies as the dedicated force for Sea Dragon 2025, a Marine Corps initiative to prepare for future battles.

KAMANDAG focuses on enhancing counter terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) capabilities and conducting humanitarian and civic assistance projects.

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