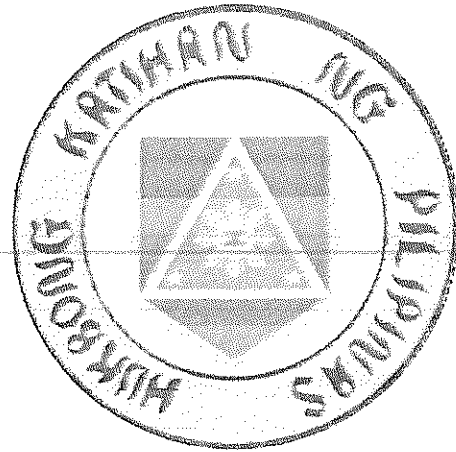


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY
Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS
15 October 2017

Sunday

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

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INQUIRER

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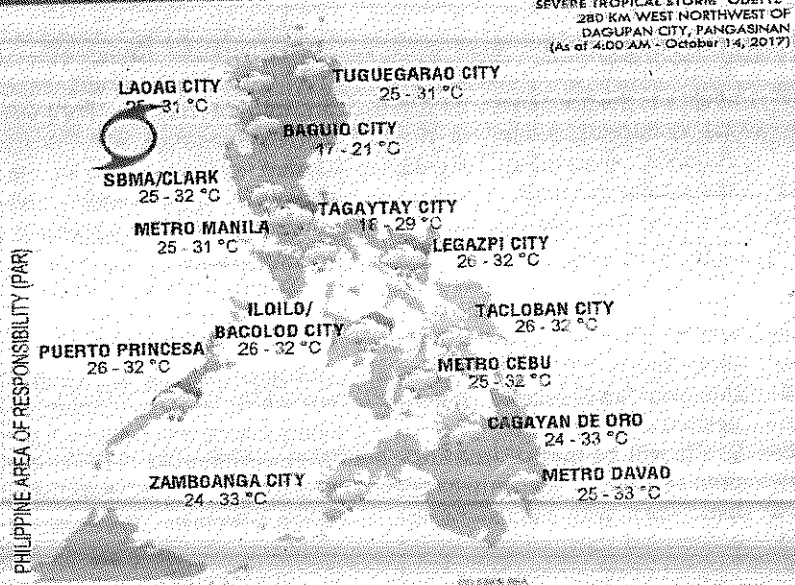
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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 15, 2017 | SUNDAY

SEVERE TROPICAL STORM "ODETTE"
280 KM WEST NORTHWEST OF
DAGUPAN CITY, PANGASINAN
(As of 4:00 AM - October 14, 2017)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	5:47 AM	SUNSET	5:36 PM
MOONRISE	1:37 AM	MOONSET	2:32 PM
LAST QUARTER	OCT 12 8:25 AM	NEW MOON	OCT 30 1:30 PM
LOW TIDE	1:50 PM 0.04 Meter	HIGH TIDE	5:03 AM 1.05 Meter

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

	OCT 15	OCT 17	OCT 15	OCT 17	OCT 15	OCT 17
METRO MANILA	25-32°C	25-32°C	18-29°C	17-29°C	25-33°C	25-33°C
TUGUEGARAO	25-32°C	24-32°C	26-31°C	25-32°C	24-33°C	24-32°C
LAOAG	25-32°C	25-33°C	26-31°C	25-31°C	25-32°C	24-33°C
BAGUIO	17-22°C	18-22°C	26-31°C	26-31°C	24-33°C	24-33°C
SBMA/CLARK	25-32°C	25-33°C	26-33°C	25-32°C		

DZRHNEWS
TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINAS 10

AIR 21
SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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

15 October

INQUIRY

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HEAVY FIGHTING RAGES ON EVE OF 'DEADLINE'

STORY BY GEOFFREY MAITEM AND RICHEL UJEL

Fighting intensified in Marawi on Saturday as elite platoons of Marines and Army Scout Rangers braved booby traps and stormed the perimeters of a 3-hectare area still being held by desperate Islamic State-inspired extremists on the eve of the military's 'target' date to completely retake the devastated Islamic city.

FROM A1

MARAWI CITY—Fighting intensified here on Saturday as elite platoons of government troops stormed the perimeters of a 3-hectare area still being held by Islamic State-inspired extremists ahead of the military's "target" to end the conflict on Sunday.

The military did not hold a press briefing but it was apparent from the fighting's intensity that enemy snipers were very active against attacking Marines and Army Scout Rangers.

On Friday, Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., the deputy commander of Joint Task Group Lanao, said at least 80 buildings remained to be cleared in the shrinking main battle area.

Targets not deadline

He said the military was confident it could completely retake the city by Sunday, though this was actually not a "deadline."

"The military doesn't want to call it a deadline because it brings undue pressure on the troops. What we have are targets and Oct. 15 is one of the targets. Again, we do not want to consider it a deadline," Brawner said.

"Lives are at stake here.



SOLDIERING ON A soldier in full battle gear patrols a battle-scarred street in Marawi City on the eve of the Oct. 15 deadline that the military gave itself to end the crisis. —GEOFFREY MAITEM

The lives of the soldiers and the hostages may be unnecessarily placed in danger if we rush," he added.

Some 40 to 50 fighters of the Maute Group, Abu Sayyaf and their allies are still holed up in ruined buildings in a segment of the city's lakeside area and have laid more booby traps to slow the

advance of the soldiers, he said.

He said that on Thursday alone soldiers using K-9 bomb detection dogs recovered nine improvised explosive devices and 44 unexploded ordnances, as well as 28 bodies believed to be those of militants who had died during fierce government air strikes and artillery

fire early in the week.

Because members of the city's Management of the Dead and Missing Persons refused to go into the main battle area, the soldiers themselves placed the remains inside body bags.

Brawner said the extremists' resistance was expectedly strong as they were now con-

fined to a smaller area.

"As we have said in the past, as we assault the defensive positions of the Maute and they become confined to a smaller space, we anticipate more intense fighting," he said.

Soldiers nevertheless cleared 12 buildings and killed two more militants on Thursday, bringing the enemy's death toll to 813, the military said.

A total of 161 soldiers and policemen have also been killed in more than four months of fighting.

Safety of hostages

Brawner said the number of buildings still under enemy control was "still quite a space that we have to recover" and the advancing troops continued to be hampered by the presence of at least two dozen hostages and noncombatant relatives of the gunmen.

"Our primordial consideration is the safety of the hostages and the noncombatants," he said.

Brawner said the military would step up its final assault to neutralize the terror threat on the city.

"We will neutralize them, meaning, either they are captured or they surrender," he said. —JEOP-

FREY MAITEM AND RICHEL UMEL INQ

IN THE KNOW

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana initially set June 2 as the "target date" to free Marawi City after it was taken over by Islamic State-inspired terrorists on May 23.

Gen. Eduardo Año, AFP chief of staff, during a visit to Marawi, said the city could be liberated by Independence Day on June 12.

In July, Lorenzana said he hoped the conflict would end before Mr. Duterte's State of the Nation Address on July 24.

On Sept. 27, Lorenzana, giving an update to the House committee on Muslim affairs, said government troops might be able to retake the city in three days.

Unaware of the Oct. 1 deadline set by Lorenzana, troops continued to recapture more areas and kill more enemy fighters, said Col. Romeo Brawner, the deputy commander of Joint Task Force Ranao.

Lorenzana's latest estimate of the battle's end, which he claimed was relayed by troop commanders on the ground, did not match that of the military and sparked confusion among the thousands of evacuees who were looking forward to going home.

On the same day the defense chief met the House committee on Muslim affairs, Brawner said it might take the military "10 to 15 more days" to finish off the enemy.

"The military remains confident to end the Marawi crisis by Oct. 15, which will be followed by a second clearing operation before the rehabilitation starts," Brawner said. —INQUIRER RESEARCH

Source: Inquirer Archives

15 October 2017



Page: 1

PDEA being 'demonized' by Amnesty Int'l – Palace

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Malacañang yesterday decried the vilification campaign against the Duterte administration by Amnesty International (AI) in undermining the capabilities of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) to lead the war against illegal drugs.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said AI simply wanted to "demonize" the PDEA after President Duterte tasked the agency to take over the government's flagship campaign from the Philippine National Police (PNP).

"While Amnesty International is known to be disparaging of the frontline role of the PNP in the anti-illegal drug campaign, now it sees the relief of the agency as a mere public relations stunt," Abella lamented.

Turn to Page 8

PDEA From Page 1

"PDEA is the new object of AI's, and similar groups' ire and vilification. Nevertheless, the government will proceed in its drive to make the Philippines a crime- corruption- and illegal drug-free nation," he said.

Abella said Malacañang remains "hopeful" that PDEA operations "will not be jeopardized by the interference of outside agencies that fail to appreciate our desire, not for a drug-tolerant but drug-free nation."

Duterte on Thursday ordered the PNP to pull out from the war against drugs and tasked the PDEA to take the lead in the anti-drug campaign.

The PNP's "Oplan Tokhang," the flagship campaign against illegal drugs, was halted along with "Oplan Double Barrel Reloaded" and other anti-illegal drug operations in the field.

Duterte signed a memorandum on Wednesday directing the PNP, along with the National Bureau of Investigation, Armed Forces of the Philippines as well as the Bureau of Customs and all other agencies to refrain from spearheading drug operations.

The order also covers all ad hoc anti-drug task forces.

Duterte had said his order was to "satisfy" the call of rights groups and the international community to tone

down his brutal campaign against drugs.

Al, however, said Duterte's decision to shift the responsibility of pursuing the campaign against drugs could be just a "short term" public relations stunt to appease the growing criticism.

James Gomez, the watchdog's international director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, said putting PDEA in charge was just meant to squelch public furor over the mounting number of dead people, most of whom are poor and young.

Gomez said Duterte had done this before when the police were temporarily ordered to cease conducting anti-drugs raids following the outrage over the killing of a South Korean businessman inside the PNP headquarters.

No reforms were done and Duterte immediately reinstated the PNP to the drug war under "Oplan Double Barrel Reloaded."

Gomez said the government should end the brutal war and adopt a policy that would respect and protect human rights.

Duterte on Friday said he would maintain a hands-off policy in the campaign against illegal drugs since he has already tasked PDEA to lead the campaign.

He added critics and human rights advocates who were noisy about the killings will be "winning" in his decision to pull out the PNP from the drug war.

Duterte said he gave the authority to PDEA in a bid to shield the PNP and law enforcement agencies from the accusations of summary kill-

ings of drug suspects.

In a television interview on Friday night, Duterte admitted his decision would have serious consequences on the drug problem. He did not elaborate.

More money for PDEA

On the other hand, a party-list congressman proposed giving more support and budget to the PDEA.

"Congress should give PDEA between P10 billion and P15 billion so it can hire more agents and personnel to be more effective in the anti-drug war," Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza said.

"They need it because they are undermanned, under-equipped. If they are not given the necessary funding support, they will fail," he said.

Atienza said the P900-million funding for next year for the anti-drug campaign of the PNP should be realigned to augment PDEA's P2.6-billion budget.

"Since the PNP has been directed to stop conducting anti-drug operations, necessarily, that fund should be transferred to PDEA," he added.

Atienza supported the President's decision to transfer the lead role on the anti-drug war from the PNP to PDEA.

"We should all rally around President Duterte's decision to give the PDEA this job. After all, the PDEA is the primary agency tasked with the government's anti-drug effort. The police, on the other hand, should concentrate on apprehending criminals roaming the country today," he said.

- With Jess Diaz

15 October 2017



Page. 12

2 Reds killed in Cotabato firefight

By ZAIDA DELOS REYES-PALANCA

TWO suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) were killed in an encounter with government forces yesterday morning in a remote area of Bgy. Batasa, Makilala, North Cotabato.

Accordingly, elements of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion, under the supervision of Col. Harold Agramosa, were on combat operation in the area when they encountered some 20 rebels at 5 a.m.

A firefight immediately occurred that resulted in the killing of two rebels belonging to Guerilla Front (GF) 15.

The rebel group was said to be actively operating in the province of North Cotabato.

Recovered at the encounter site were two high-powered firearms.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWS PAPER

Page: 2

Duterte returning to Marawi City

By GENALYN D. KABILING

President Duterte will return to war-ravaged Marawi City "in a few days," when the deadly siege of the Islamic State-linked rebels has been resolved.

In his visit to Dumaguete City last Friday, the President said he hopes the conflict in Marawi City will end "soon so we can move forward."

"We are now in the fourth month of fighting but hopefully, it will be over soon. I'm going there maybe... well I'm going there somehow, in a few days pag matapos na unta na [when it's already done]," he said in his remarks.

"I tell the people in both camps of the terror-

ists and our forces that nobody wins the fight," he said.

The President has visited Marawi City six times to boost the morale of government troops since the clashes with the rebels erupted last May 23.

He last visited the strife-torn area on October 2.

Duterte explained that the resolution of the Marawi conflict has taken so long due to the government's calibrated operations against the rebels.

Apart from the presence of hostages, the terror group has positioned snipers and scattered improvised explosive devices, he added.

He admitted that it was "very appalling" that the rebels have not yet run out of weapons and ammunition since the siege in Marawi was launched last May 23.

"We did not expect the resistance and the resurface in that dimension," he said.

15 October 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A3

Duterte: Marawi fighting 'almost over'

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

THE end is near for the conflict in Marawi City, President Rodrigo Duterte said, as the military makes its final push to liberate the strife-torn Islamic city.

In an interview aired over state-run PTV4 on Friday night, Duterte claimed the Marawi conflict was "almost over" but added the government forces could not advance their offensives against the terrorists because they have to consider the lives of the remaining hostages.

He said it could have been easier for the state forces to "drop a hundred bombs" in places where the extremists were still holed up, including the mosques, but he chose to end the battle "peacefully."

"It [Marawi crisis] is almost over. Almost is because of the lives of the hostages," the President said.

"We tried our very best to end this war peacefully. I never had the intention to destroy the holy shrines of the Islam faith. *E madali mo lang pulugin yung mosque* [It's easy to destroy the mosques]. You just drop about a hundred bombs there and *tapos lahat* [it's done], but you know, you have to be very careful about sensitivity of people," he added.

On Tuesday, the President said

he hopes the crisis in Marawi would be resolved in one week.

"We are also suffering from a severe case of terrorism. We're coping up. We hope that it would be finished in about one week. We have suffered casualties, the biggest so far in my present year. And I am sad that terrorism has arrived in my land," he said.

Duterte earlier said that government planned to finish the battle with the Maute group last September but that did not materialize.

In a chance interview on Wednesday, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said security forces are exhausting all means to end the armed conflict in Marawi City "within the next few days."

On Monday, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesman Maj.

Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. said government forces were still engaged in a firefight with around 40 to 50 Islamist fighters.

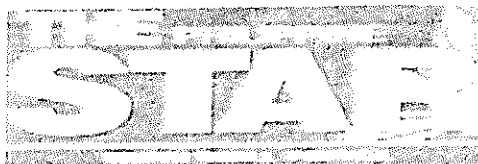
On May 23, Maute fighters stormed Marawi City while the military was conducting a man-hunt operation against Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

It was believed that the Maute group and Hapilon, the purported emir of IS in Southeast Asia, were conniving to establish an enclave for fighters in Southeast Asia.

Duterte, in a bid to thwart the Islamist extremists' plan, placed Mindanao under martial law. The order stays until December 31.

Since the Marawi crisis erupted up to Thursday, 813 terrorists, 160 security personnel and 47 civilians have been killed.

15 October 2017



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'Mosques in Marawi were not bombed to protect OFWs'

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

President Duterte had in mind the welfare of about 2.5 million Filipinos working in the Middle East when he ordered the military to avoid destroying mosques during the battle against the Maute group in Marawi City.

Duterte said he is planning to go back to Marawi even amidst security concerns.

Apart from the safety of the hostages, Duterte said he does not want to show disrespect to Islam.

As president, Duterte said he needed to weigh the issues concerning religion and the road to peace and development as well as the welfare of Filipino workers abroad.

"Every time I sit down to decide before I sleep, whether to just allow the bombing of the mosques to end the fighting," he said he had to listen to his military advisers.

"And I could very well understand the frustration of the military and the police. I know that. But as a leader, I have to think a thousand times before I decide on a very precipitate

action," he said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, for his part, warned the remaining Maute terrorists they will all die if they do not surrender.

He said fighting the government forces would be a hopeless case for terrorists.

"We accept them if they will surrender. We will not kill them," Lorenzana said.

Troops, using a bullhorn, are calling on the terrorists to come out and surrender.

Lorenzana said two weeks ago at least three terrorists came out and surrendered.

However, those who remained inside the battle area continued to fight, leaving a junior Army officer killed and 11 soldiers wounded two days ago, Lorenzana said.

"My message to them, your case is already hopeless, you will all die there if you will not surrender. Believe me, the soldiers will not let you live if you keep fighting. It will be good for you to surrender and have the chance to face the music and be rehabilitated into the society," Lorenzana said.

– With Roel Pareño

15 October 2017

Page. 2

Maute paubos na ang mga bala at bomba, LPG na ang gamit - AFP

PAUBOS na ang mga bala at bomba na ginagamit ng Maute group laban sa mga tauhan ng militar.

Sinabi ni Task Group Ranac Deputy Commander Col Romeo Brawner na bukod sa mga liquefied petroleum gas tanks ay gumagamit na rin ang mga terorista ng mga pumalyang bala ng mortar ng mga sundalo.

Ang nasabing mga unexploded ordnance ay ginagawa nila bilang mga Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Sa pinakahuling tala ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ay aabot na sa halos 1,000 ang patay sa hanay ng mga miyembro ng Maute at Abu Sayyaf

Group.

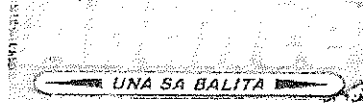
Nasa 80 mga bahay at gusali na lang ang kinakailangang ma-clear ng AFP at halos nasa loob na lamang ng tatlong ektaryang bahagi ng Marawi City ang naganap na labanan sa kasalukuyan.

Sinabi ni Brawner na

nakaligtas sa mga sumabog na bomba ang kanilang mga kalaban dahil nakagawa

ang mga ito ng underground na kanilang pinagtataguan.

15 October 2017



Pahina. 3

Tulong pinansyal sa AFP casualties sa Marawi bumuhos

Nadagdagan pa ang tulong para sa mga pamilya ng mga nasawing at nasugatang sundalo sa Marawi City. halagang P250,000. Mismong sina AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. General Salvador Melchor Mison Jr. at Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Arnel Duco at ibang AFP senior officials ang tumanggap ng tulong pinansyal ng Rotary Club. Sa ngayon ay umaabot na sa P200 milyon ang natatanggap na tulong ng AFP Marawi casualties simula nang magbukas ng bank account ang AFP para dito. Sa kasalukuyan 160 na mga sundalo at pulis na ang nagbuwis ng buhay matapos makipagsgupa sa Maute-ISIS terrorist group. (Red Fortaleza)

15 October 2017

Balita

Page. 3

ANG NANGUNGUNAN, PANGYABANG TATALOG NA BANSA P8.00

Trilateral air patrol vs terorismo

Ang trilateral air patrol sa pagitan ng Pilipinas, Malaysia at Indonesia ay para labanan ang terorismo sa Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, ayon sa Malacañang.

Ito ay matapos ilunsad ng Philippines, Malaysia, at Indonesia air forces ang joint air patrol sa Subang, Indonesia noong Oktubre 12. Si Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ang nagrepresenta sa Pilipinas sa nasabing paglulunsad.

Ito ang ipinahayag ni Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella sa state-run Radyo Pilipinas kahapon.

"The coordinated joint air

patrols were launched to better counter the movement of terrorist groups and to strengthen the security of our three nations and that of the region," sabi ni Abella.

"By sharing information and exchanging best practices, we hope to improve the interoperability of our forces and help better secure areas of common maritime interest," dagdag niya.

Nitong Hunyo, nagsanib-puwera ng tatlong nabanggit na bansa upang labanan ang terorismo at krimen sa Sulu Sea makaraang atakehin ng Daesh-inspired Maute Group ang Marawi City, Lanao del Sur noong Mayo ng kasalukuyang taon.

Ang pakikipaglaban sa teroristang grupo, na maglilimang buwan na, ang naging sanhi ng deklarasyon ng batas militar sa buong Mindanao na pinalawig hanggang sa katapusan ng taon.

Hanggang nitong Oktubre 12, iniulat ng AFP na aabot na sa kabuuang 813 kalaban ang napatay ng tropa ng pamahalaan habang 160 sundalo at pulis ang napatay sa engkuwentro.

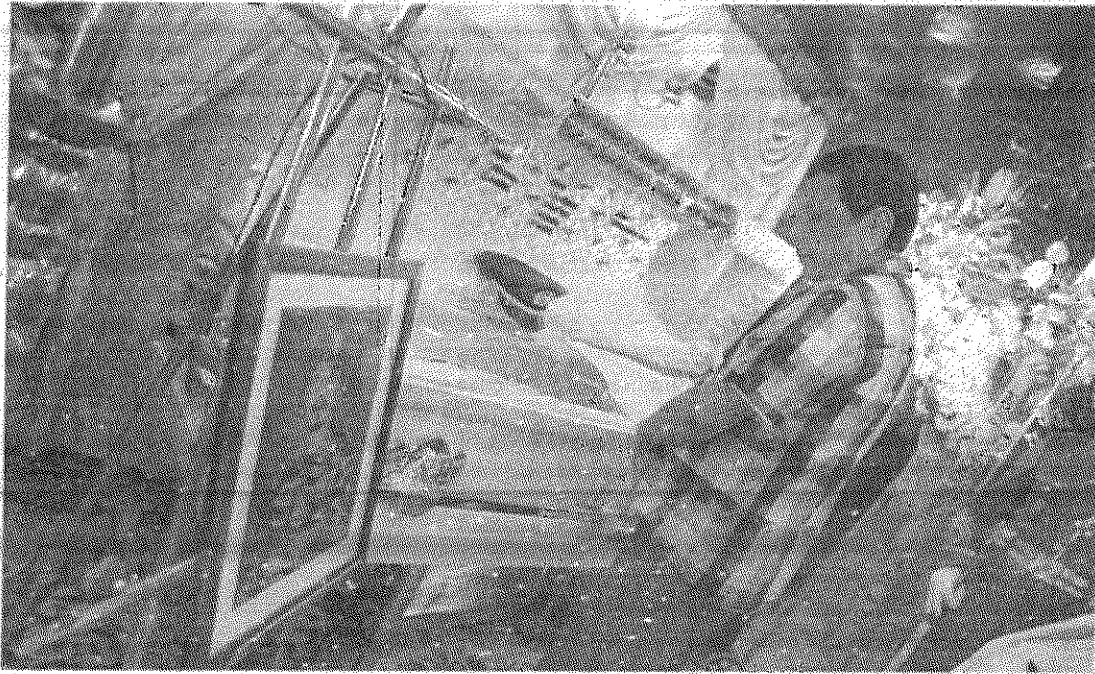
Nasa 47 sibilyan ang napatay ng mga terorista habang while 1,750 sibilyan ang na-rescue, sa ngayon, ng tropa.

**Argyll Cyrus
B. Geducos**

15 October 2017



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Heroism cited President Duterte attended the wake of a young army officer who died in Marawi City last Friday. Philippine Army 2nd Lt. Harold Mark Salvacion Juan was killed by a sniper of the Maute group while government troops were trying to corner the terrorists in Marawi. Juan, 28, a member of the Army's Special Forces, was posthumously awarded the Order of Lapu-Lapu, with the rank of Kalasag and was promoted one rank higher to 1st lieutenant.

ONLINE NEWS

15 OCTOBER 2017

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Ex-Army commander is new OCD-Bicol chief

Retired Brig. Gen. Claudio Yucot, former commander of the Philippine Army in Albay, on Thursday assumed his post as director of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) regional office for Bicol.

He replaced OIC for Bicol Eugene Cabrera, regional director of OCD-Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan).

Cabrera served in Bicol for two months. Yucot assured Bicolanos, during the change of command ceremony on Thursday, that he would do his best in serving the region.

"This is the last quarter of the year, and this is the time our 'visitors' will be coming -- we still have much to do. Starting today, I will hit the ground running to make sure what are expected of me shall be done," he said.

"Wala akong ibang maipapangako sa inyo kung hindi ang aking hard work, commitment at dedication to the duty (I cannot promise anything but my hard work, commitment and dedication to my duty)," Yucot added.

His appointment was signed by President Rodrigo Duterte last September 7.

The new OCD-Region 5 chief thanked Albayanos for being good to him while he was Army commander in the province even if he is not a native of Bicol.

"I have reached the peak of my career here. I've earned my star rank during my stay here as commanding officer of the 901st Infantry Brigade," he said.

Yucot was born in Bohol but is now a resident of Pili town in Camarines Sur where he decided to raise his family.

"This place is good for my family, this is payback time. I have to repay the goodness of the Bicolanos and my payment should be better -- this is to serve better," he said.

Yucot also served as Director of Army Personnel Management Center of the Philippine

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

Army at Fort Bonifacio in Metro Manila.

He said he applied as OCD chief a month before his retirement in the military service, since he still wants to serve the country.

Asked why he chose OCD, Yucoi said, "I believe the OCD is the best employment for me after retirement, since my knowledge in the military way back when I was assigned here, can be applied in the new field of my career. My harmonious relationship with the different agencies here in Bicol during my time as commanding officer is also an edge to be the new regional director of OCD."

Yucoi is a member of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Sinagtala Class of 1986.

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